



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

2100 16th Street SW, Austin, MN 55912

Worship: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School and Bible Class: 10:30 a.m.

Pastor Theodore W. Barthels

Phone: 507-433-1957

Cell: 507-219-2517

Church Office:

Phone: 507-433-8191

Worship Services broadcast on Austin Cable Channel 6, M & W, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Affiliated with
CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION

[HTTP://stpaulclcaustin.wordpress.com](http://stpaulclcaustin.wordpress.com)

www.CLClutheran.org

www.ilc.edu/home.htm

PRE-SERVICE PRAYER: Heavenly Father, in this Advent season it is time once again to prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Grant us the grace of Your Holy Spirit, that as we hear Your Word the Spirit may work in our hearts that we may come before You in true repentance, confessing our sin, and trusting in Jesus for full and free forgiveness. As we prepare to celebrate His birth, ready our hearts for His return that we may live before you for all eternity, in Jesus' name. Amen.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE: p. 5 (78)

HYMNS: 55; 62; 76; 645:5

THE EPISTLE LESSON: 1 Corinthians 1:26-29

We see our calling. It was not our wisdom or our power or our nobility that caused God to choose us for salvation. It was His grace. He choose that which the world sees as foolish, or weak, or common to put to shame that which is mighty. Jesus is our wisdom and righteousness and sanctification. We cannot glory in ourselves. We are led by the Spirit to glory in the Lord.

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 1:46-55

Mary's opening words not only give us a name for her song, but sets the tone for every Christian heart and life, especially in the Christmas season. My soul magnifies the Lord. It is the greatness of the glory of Lord who has revealed to us His salvation that causes our hearts to rejoice in God our Savior. This timeless truth, fulfilled in Christ, scatters the proud and exalts the lowly. Yes, Mary was blessed to be chosen as the mother of our Lord, but we also are richly blessed with the grace and mercy which has come to us in Christ Jesus.

THE SERMON: Isaiah 2:2-5

Theme: The Glory of Mount Zion Established in Jesus' Advent

I. The Mountain of the Lord's House Is Exalted

II. He Brings Us Personal Wisdom and Transformation

III. He Transforms the World with His Judgment and Peace

CALENDAR

TODAY: Sunday School (Program Practice) and Bible class will follow the service this morning. (Pastor will be spending some time with the program practice at the beginning and after Bible class).

TUESDAY: Christmas Eve worship at 6:00 p.m. The children should be here at 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY: Christmas Festival worship at 9:30 a.m.

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship at 9:30. Sunday school and Bible class will be on holiday break. Sermon text: 1 John 1:1-4.

FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

December 31: New Year's Eve worship with Holy Communion at 7:00 p.m.

January 5th: Christmas decoration removal following the service.

January 12th: Church council following the service.

January 26th: Annual voters' meeting at 12:30 p.m. (A pot luck lunch will follow after Bible Class.

SERVING TODAY

Organist: Denise Barthels

Ushers: Preston Johnson, Andy Ball, Lance Groth, Ken Nickson,

Cleaning: Larson

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL:

Attendance December 15 Worship – 35 No Bible class,

Sunday school – 8 Dec. 18 Midweek Advent Meditation – 19

Weekly Offerings Needed	\$ 1,045.00	Other Offerings / Memorials	
Offerings Received	844.00	Missions	\$10.00
Needed for Year:	51,195.00	Audio Visual fund	85.00
Received for Year:	44,573.55		

CHRISTMAS BAGS DONATIONS. Each Christmas Eve approximately 60 bags of fruit, nuts and candy and are given out to children and guests and families at the Christmas Eve service. **Your generous gifts make this possible.** Today is the final Sunday for donations for this purpose. Gifts can be placed in the designated basket in the narthex.

CLC NEWS: Pastor Michael Gurath of Holy Cross Lutheran in Phoenix AZ has declined the call to serve Living Hope Lutheran of Appleton, WI.

BIBLE READING PLAN: This 3 year plan devised by one of the members of Faith Lutheran in Ballwin, Missouri, is available for any who are interested. Average reading length is about a chapter a day Monday – Saturday of each week. It is a very workable aid to assist Bible readers to actually read through the entire Bible. Available on the table immediately outside the Nave by the calendars. **Special note receive your reading on your computer every day:** Use this link from Grace Lutheran in Fridley <http://threeyearbiblereadingplan.wordpress.com/>. You may also receive the selection from the Spokesman's "Daily Bread" devotional at: <http://glcdailydevotion.wordpress.com/clc/>. You may select to listen to them being read by Pastor Paul Naumann in the King James version.