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**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

2100 16<sup>th</sup> 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 181, M & W, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

*Affiliated with*  
**CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION**  
[stpaulclcaustin.wordpress.com](http://stpaulclcaustin.wordpress.com)  
[www.CLClutheran.org](http://www.CLClutheran.org)  
[www.ilc.edu/home.htm](http://www.ilc.edu/home.htm)

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 (98:1,2,5)

HYMNS: 70; 63; 65; 23:4

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 40:1-10

The message to be delivered to God's people is one of comfort: tell the people that their warfare is over. This message would come from John the Baptist--his voice crying in the wilderness calling them to prepare the way of the Lord. Now there is peace with God. This peace doesn't come from man's good will, but from an amazing grace that comes from God who has given double grace for all our sin. This comes to us because the glory of the Lord has been revealed in the coming of Christ our Lord.

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 3:1-12

Matthew records the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy with the appearance of John preaching in the wilderness, calling people to repentance. He baptized people as they came confessing their sins. He condemned the hypocrisy of the Pharisees. He directed the people not to himself but to the Christ who was soon to appear and would baptize the people with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

THE SERMON: Romans 2:12-16

Theme: Judging Men's Hearts

- I. God's Answer to Man's Moral Persuasion
- II. Ignorance of the Law Is No Excuse
- III. Jesus Judging According to the Gospel

## CALENDAR

TODAY: Christmas Program Practice and Bible Class follow the service.

WEDNESDAY: Advent meditation at 7:00 p.m. Text: 2 Peter 1:19. Theme: the Star t Arise in Our Hearts. Soup and Sandwich Supper begins serving at 6:00 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent -Worship at 9:30 with Christmas Program Practice and Church council following the service. Sermon text: Luke 1:46-55.

### FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

December 24: Christmas Eve Children's service begins at **6:00** p.m.

December 25: Christmas Festival worship at 9:30 a.m.

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

### SERVING TODAY

Organist: Teresa Glocke

Ushers: Preston Johnson, Andy Ball, Joe Ubl, Ken Nickson

Cleaning: Nelson

### OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL:

Attendance: Dec. 7 Worship 30 Sunday school 6; No Bible Class,  
Christmas pot luck Midweek Advent Dec. 10 - 16

Weekly Offerings Needed	\$ 1,080.00	Other Offerings:
Offerings Received	1229.00	Missions - \$10.00
Needed for Year:	52,220.00	Memorials: Jacob and Martha
Received for Year:	44,762.00	Tuinder \$25.00 for missions.
		Roy Rhodes \$100 for Prop.
		Imprv. Fund

To date Christmas bag donations total \$25.00

**CLC NEWS:** The Rev. Wayne Eichstadt, co-pastor at Immanuel Lutheran, Mankato MN, has returned the call to Redemption Lutheran, Lynnwood WA. <> Calvary Lutheran, Marquette MI, has called the Rev. Frank Gantt, pastor of St. Luke's Lutheran, Lemmon SD.

**Immanuel Positions:** Immanuel Lutheran College is hiring a new dormitory supervisor for our female students and a new food services manager/head cook. Job descriptions are available from your pastor. To apply, please contact ILC President Steven Sippert (steve.sippert@ilc.edu / 715.836.6620) prior to the deadline on January 11, 2015.

**AT THE HOSPITAL:**

Hazel Egtvedt is recovering at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester from heart valve surgery she underwent on Friday afternoon.

Samantha Barthels was discharged from Methodist Hospital Thursday afternoon and is back at her temporary rental home in Rochester. Her parents are continuing to take turns serving as Samantha's care givers during this critical stage in her treatment. Pastor will be in Rochester from Sunday afternoon through Wednesday afternoon each week. Pastor can always be reached on his cell phone. Updates on Samantha's condition can be found on [caringbridge.org/visit/samanthabarthels](http://caringbridge.org/visit/samanthabarthels)

Please remember both Hazel and Samantha in your prayers.

**CALENDARS:** Our 2015 congregation calendars have arrived (courtesy of Worlein Funeral Home). Please feel free to take what you can use or even one for a friend. We have a good supply and it would be good to see them in people's homes.

**CHRISTMAS BAG DONATIONS:** Donations towards the cost of our traditional Christmas Eve bags containing candy and peanuts and fruit is now being received in the basket by the mailbox table in the narthex. Your support is appreciated.

**PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL:** Please note that Charter has changed the public access channel from channel 6 to channel 181. Our services should now be available on at 7:30 on Mondays and Wednesdays, on cable channel 181.