



*O come, let us
worship and bow down,
let us kneel before
the Lord, our maker!
-Psalm 95:6*

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 181, M & W, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Affiliated with
CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION
stpaulclcaustin.wordpress.com
www.CLClutheran.org
www.ilc.edu/home.htm

PRAYER: PRESERVICE PRAYER: Heavenly Father, today I am approaching Your altar where I shall receive the true body and blood of Your Son sacrificed for me and my sin upon the cross. I know and confess my sin. I am unworthy of your forgiveness and salvation, but I come to you pleading the merits of Your Son. Bless my reception of this communion that I may gain confidence that You have forgiven all my sins. Help me to live according to Your holy will, defeating temptation in my daily life, and glorifying Your name before the world in all my words and actions. In Jesus' name. Amen

THE ORDER OF SERVICE: p.15

HYMNS: 39; 41; 307; 52

THE EPISTLE LESSON: Acts 17:15-34

The world has so many gods, and many continue to acknowledge gods from across the globe as being legitimate and good, but they do not know the one true God. Even though He is the Creator of all the earth, to the world He remains "The Unknown God." He reveals Himself to us in His Son who gained for us salvation, and the resurrection to everlasting life. This amazing truth of the resurrection is our hope, but to the world it remains foolishness.

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 16:13-20

Who does the world say Jesus is? The answers heard today are often farther from the truth than those recited by the disciples. Knowing who Jesus is central to our faith and our salvation. He is, as Peter confessed, the Christ the Son of the living God! This truth remains the rock upon which Christ's Church is built. All the evil in this world cannot undermine this truth that Jesus is your God and Savior. This truth is the key to forgiveness and the key to heaven itself!

THE SERMON: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Theme: Appearances Can be Deceiving

I. The Appearance of Power vs the Reality of God's Power

August 23, 2015

13th Sunday Pentecost

II. The Appearance of Character vs What God sees in the Heart

III. God's Direction for Life is by Faith, not by Sight

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Holy Communion is the most tremendous spiritual tranquilizer there is. It brings us spiritual tranquility despite our sins, and lets us face our Maker peacefully. Unfortunately, some people are already so tranquil they are practically spiritually asleep, as 1 Corinthians 11:27-30 says. The church is not doing people a favor if it serves communion to anyone who wants it, anymore than a doctor would be by handing out Valium to anyone who asked for it. Used incorrectly, Valium may put you to sleep - **permanently!** So may communion put one to sleep **spiritually**- if used improperly. That is one reason our church practices “close communion,” Taking care that those who participate in the Lord’s Supper are properly prepared to do so.

CALENDAR

TODAY: Pastor Barthels has a Board of Regents meeting in Eau Claire. He expects to return home very late this evening. In case of emergency he can be reached on his cell phone.

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship 9:30. Sermon text: Acts 20:17-38.

FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

September 13: **Church Picnic Sunday. Christian education Sunday.**

We would like the children to sing for the service the hymn they learned in Vacation Bible School this summer. It is Hymn 5 “Lord Open Thou My Heart to Hear.” The children from Divine Word are invited to join the Children from St. Paul’s in the singing of this anthem.

September 20: Sunday school begins.

September 27: Adult Bible class begins.

SERVING TODAY

Organist: Denise Barthels

Ushers: Andy Ball, Luke Berg, Leon Hellickson, Melvin Eichstadt

Cleaning: Nelson

Church Mowing for August: Katie Barthels

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL:

Attendance: August 16 Worship - 28

Weekly Offerings Needed	\$ 1,142.00	Other Offerings:	
Offerings Received	\$ 725.00	Prop. Imprv. Fund	\$250.00
Needed for Year:	\$38,628.00		
Received for Year:	\$28,477.00		

CLC NEWS: Please look at the **CLC financial report** found in our insert. July is the beginning of our fiscal year and Mission offerings \$18,000 below the monthly need. Also the ILC Student Aid Fund (SAF): continues to have a **negative** balance of almost \$4,000 as the new school year begins tomorrow. The loans and grants and scholarships the SAF funds are budgeted at \$140,000. While most funding comes from loan repayments and endowments, there is still a critical need for offering support, especially at this time.