



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: 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 (798:1,4)

HYMNS: 70; 56; 74; 399:3,4

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Malachi 4:1-6

“The Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings.” While the Prophet reminds us of the coming last day when all shall be consumed, it is this comforting picture of our Savior that reassures us that we need not fear. The Lord brings us victory over the sin of this world, and protection from the judgment to come. The message of John the Baptist has come to us. John’s message of repentance turns the hearts of fathers to the children and children to the fathers. Our spiritual life begins at home as we grow in the Lord.

THE EPISTLE LESSON: 1 Timothy 6:11-16

“Lay hold on eternal life!” This is an important message for us in this advent season. It is time for us to turn away from the ways of the world and to pursue the Spirit given gifts of righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. We recall all that God the Father and our Lord Jesus have done for us and salvation, and we are moved by this gospel to take hold of the eternal life Jesus won for us that we may remain pure until the day of Jesus’ reappearing.

THE SERMON: Luke 17:20-30

Theme: The Coming of Christ’s Kingdom Not Easily Observed

I. The Subtle Appearing of Christ

December 6, 2015

2nd Sunday in Advent

II. The Sudden Appearing of Christ



CALENDAR

TODAY: **Christmas Program Practice** and Church Christmas decorating will follow the service. Our Christmas pot luck will follow at about 11:30.

WEDNESDAY: Midweek Advent meditations begin Soup and Sandwich supper begins serving at 6:00 p.m. and our Advent meditation begins at 7:00 p.m. Please come and join us as we prepare our hearts for our Savior's coming and celebrate the miracle of His birth. The theme for our midweek meditations this year is "Advent Readiness." Our second meditation's theme is "*Prepare*" Sermon text: Matthew 3:1-3.

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship at 9:30 with **Christmas Program Practice** and Bible Class following the service. Sermon text: Isaiah 40:1-10.

FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

December 16: **Midweek Advent Services** at 7:00. Soup and sandwich supper at 6:00 p.m. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

December 24: Christmas Eve Service (Children's Program) at 6:00 p.m.

December 25: Christmas Service at 9:30 a.m.

SERVING TODAY

Organist: Denise Barthels

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

Cleaning: Barthels

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL:

Attendance: November 29 Worship – 34 Sunday school – 2

Bible Class – 10 December 2 Advent worship – 16

Weekly Offerings Needed	\$ 1,142.00	Other Offerings:	
Offerings Received	\$ 989.00	Missions	\$25.00
Needed for Year:	\$54,816.00	ILC Student Aid	\$25.00
Received for Year:	\$41,989.00		

CLC BUDGET DEFICIT: Offerings so far this fiscal year are at historic lows. Mission offerings are \$65,000 below budget after the first 5 months of the fiscal year. This shortage has become critical. As we all gather to consider the gift God has given us in the birth of our Savior may we all

prayerfully consider what we might do to support the continued spread of that gospel message with our Mission offerings._

CLC NEWS: Professor John Pfeiffer has announced his retirement effective the end of the current school year in May of 2016.

NOMINATIONS FOR ILC PRESIDENT: The Board of Regents invites nominations for the office of President of Immanuel Lutheran College. The current term of Professor Steve Sippert expires June 30, 2016. All pastors, professors, male teachers, and voting members of the CLC are entitled to nominate a man from the faculty of Immanuel Lutheran College to serve a two-year term beginning July 1, 2016. Nominations must be written or E-mailed no later than midnight January 5, 2016 to: Mr. Craig Ryan; 499 Country Lane; Fulda, MN 56131; E-Mail: cryan@page1printers.com.

MAINTENANCE POSITION AT ILC With the retirement of Ron Porath at the end of March, Immanuel Lutheran College will have a vacancy in the position of a full-time maintenance man. Interested applicants may direct inquiries about the position, applications, and resumes to ILC president, Prof. Steve Sippert (steve.sippert@ilc.edu or 715-836-6620). The deadline for applications is January 10.

Immanuel Christmas Events: As Christmas approaches, there are a few upcoming Immanuel (ILC) events. On Sun., Dec. 13, 3 pm, there will be the piano/organ recital at the campus fieldhouse. The highlight of the music department will be the **Christmas concert at Messiah Lutheran Church in Eau Claire on Fri., Dec. 18, 7:30 pm**. This will include the flute choir, band, mass choir, and tour choir. The choir portion of the event is considered a sacred worship service as the students sing the Christmas Gospel message. This is always a spiritually edifying concert to help one focus, even in the midst of the busy holiday season, on the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This concert ends the busy Finals Week for the students as they conclude their first semester of the academic year with their various tests and projects. We pray the students will safely arrive at their homes in order to enjoy Christmas break with their families. The students resume classes on Jan. 11.