



“Every  
valley shall  
be filled,  
and every mountain  
and hill shall be  
brought low, and the  
crooked shall be made  
straight, and the rough ways  
shall be made smooth; and  
all flesh shall see  
the salvation of God”

Luke 3:5-6

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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 (73:1-3)

HYMNS: 63; 61; 65; 73:5

THE EPISTLE LESSON: Romans 2:12-16

The law of God is clear and its judgment is universal. Those who have the Scriptures have a clear knowledge of God's law presented to them, and their failings are sins that can and will condemn them. Those who have not had the Scriptures are still without excuse for the natural knowledge of God's law is evident throughout the world, and they too shall be held accountable. The Lord knows the secrets of men's hearts. How then can we be saved? By the Lord's coming we are saved.

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 3:1-12

John the Baptist came to prepare the way of the Lord. He called for repentance. Even those whose lives were held up as examples for others had cause to repent, for true repentance calls for a change in heart. John pointed to Jesus whose coming would be with power, the power to save as well as the power to bring judgment on earth.

THE SERMON: Isaiah 40:1-10

Theme: God Comforts His People:

- I. With His Abundant Grace
- II. With the Gift of Repentance
- III. With His Infallibility
- IV. With His Coming

## CALENDAR

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

**WEDNESDAY:** The third of our Midweek Advent meditations. 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 third meditation's theme is "*Rejoice*" Sermon text: Philippians 4:4.

**FRIDAY:** The **Commissioning of CLC Foreign Missionary** Peter Evensen will take place at **4:00 pm** at Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. **Immanuel College Christmas Concert** is scheduled for **7:30 pm** at Messiah Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, WI.

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Worship with Holy Communion at 9:30. Our final **Christmas Program Practice** and Church Council follow the service. Sermon text: 1 Corinthians 1:26-29.

### FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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

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

### SERVING TODAY

Organist: Denise Barthels

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

Cleaning: Barthels

### OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL:

Attendance: December 6 Worship – 31 Sunday school – 3

No Bible Class – 10 December 9 Advent worship – 14

Weekly Offerings Needed	\$ 1,142.00	Other Offerings:	
Offerings Received	\$ 1,648.00	Property Imprv.	\$50.00
Needed for Year:	\$55,958.00		
Received for Year:	\$43,637.00		

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. If each communicant member could give a little, \$5 or \$10, it would help tremendously to set aside this budget shortfall.

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](mailto:cryan@page1printers.com).

NOMINATIONS for IMMANUEL PROFESSOR CALL: The Board of Regents for Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary invites "all pastors, professors, male teachers, and voting members of member congregations of the Church of the Lutheran Confession" (CLC Constitution) to nominate an individual or individuals to fill the vacancy which will be created on the Immanuel faculty by the retirement of Professor John Pfeiffer at the end of the 2015-16 academic year. The individual would teach at the high school (potentially), college, and seminary levels with an emphasis on courses in Hebrew (college) and Old Testament theology (seminary) and also in other theological disciplines. With the duties including teaching God's Word to adult males, the person is to be a male (1 Tim. 2:12). The position would, God-willing, commence with the 2016-17 academic year. Those submitting nominations are encouraged to include information regarding their nominee's educational background and teaching and/or professional experience, also indicating how the person might help our school in supervising extracurricular activities or serving in administrative positions. Please send your nominations postmarked or e-mailed no later than January 20, 2016, to: Mr. Craig Ryan, Secretary; ILC Board of Regents; 499 Country Lane; Fulda, MN 56131 (email: [cryan@page1printers.com](mailto:cryan@page1printers.com)).