

She will give birth to a son,  
and you are to give him the  
name Jesus, because he will  
save his people from their sins.



M a t t h e w 1 : 2 1

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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 as we once again celebrate Your Son's birth, lead us to find our comfort and joy in knowing that Jesus came to be our Savior. Help us remember always His sacrifice upon the cross that purchased our peace. As we receive His body and blood in the blessed sacrament, grant that Your Spirit bless us and increase our faith, that we may grow in grace and in the assurance of everlasting life that is ours in Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem. Amen.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE: p. 15

HYMNS: 90; 96; 106; 313:1

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 2:2-5

By sending His Son into the world in these latter days the Lord has established His house. We, the people of the nations, have been chosen and called by God to flow to Him that He might teach us His ways and grant us His peace.

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 1:26-38

God choose a lowly young virgin to be the mother of our Lord. In humble faith she accepted the calling of the Lord for her life. She did not think it preposterous, or impossible, or too great an imposition on her life. She simply replied, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." May God grant us such grace and faith in our hearts and for our lives.

THE SERMON: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Theme: Consider What God has Chosen.

- I. Consider Your Calling
- II. Consider How God Put to Shame the Great of this World
- III. Consider What God Chose to Do with You

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

If you are a visitor here you may find that that we regard the Lord's Supper with far greater seriousness than you may be accustomed

December 20, 2015

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

to. Please speak with the pastor first if you desire to commune.

Thank you!

## CALENDAR

**TODAY:** **Christmas Program Practice** and Church Council will follow the service. Also volunteers to help fill the Christmas bags for Christmas Eve would be appreciated. (There is a basket in the narthex for any donations to help offset the cost of the Christmas bags.)

**THURSDAY:** Christmas Eve! Children's Christmas Program begins at 6:00. Children participating in the program should be at church by 5:40 if at all possible.

**FRIDAY:** Christmas festival worship at 9:30 sermon text: Luke 1:46

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Worship 9:30. (Sunday school and Bible class are in holiday break.) Sermon text: John 1:1-14.

## FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

**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:** Eichstadt

## OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL:

Attendance: December 13 Worship – 40    Sunday school – 8

Bible Class – 10                      December 16 Advent worship – 11

Weekly Offerings Needed	\$ 1,142.00	Other Offerings:	
Offerings Received	\$ 1,302.00	Missions.	\$25.00
Needed for Year:	\$57,100.00		
Received for Year:	\$44,939.00		

**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.

**Prayers for India** - Massive flooding along the coastal regions of south-east India has caused the death of several hundred people and nearly 2 million have lost their homes. Many of our brothers and sisters in Christ of the BELC are among those who have lost homes, businesses, crops, food, and church buildings. **Because of the lower than usual balance in the Mission Development Fund (MDF) the CLC Board of Missions has only been able to provide minimal financial assistance at this time.** Please pray for the Lord's continued protection and provision for those who are suffering in India. And pray that He provides wisdom and resources to those who are working to assist the many who are in need.

**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)).