



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 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. Grant that Your Spirit bless us and increase our faith, that we may grow in grace and in the assurance of eternal life that is ours in Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem. Amen.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE: p. 5 (105:1,2,8)

HYMNS: 708; 99; 76; 106:4,7

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 63:7-9

God looks upon His people and does much better than giving them what might be called the benefit of the doubt, or even a second chance. He sees them and says, "They are My people, they will not lie," so He became their Savior." He sees us as we are and still wants us as His people and sends us a Savior in Jesus the Babe of Bethlehem.

THE EPISTLE LESSON: 1 John 1:1-4

Jesus was from the beginning as the Son of God. He became flesh so that He might be seen and touched and even handled. In this way Jesus made known His salvation that we might know the life that comes to us from God. We have a true fellowship with one another, which is an extension of the true fellowship which God established with us in His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

THE SERMON: John 1:1-14

Theme: In Jesus' Birth the Word Became Flesh

- I. The Eternal Word by Whom All Things Were Made
- II. The Word that Brings Light to a Dark World
- III. The Word that Reveals God's Glory in His Grace and Truth

CALENDAR

TODAY: Sunday school and Bible class are in Christmas recess.

THURSDAY: New Year's Eve! Worship with Holy Communion at 7:00.
Sermon text: Lamentations 3:22-26

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship at 9:30 with Sunday school and Bible class following the service. Sermon text: Luke 2:22-32

FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

January 31: The annual voter's is scheduled to begin at 12:30 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 20 Worship – 35 Sunday school – 8
Christmas Eve 67 Christmas Day – 19

Weekly Offerings Needed	\$ 1,142.00	Other Offerings:	
Offerings Received	\$ 1,069.00	Missions.	\$50.00
Needed for Year:	\$58,242.00	Memorial:	
Received for Year:	\$46,033.00	Beverly Hungerford	\$25.00

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. If each communicant member could give a little, \$5 or \$10 designated for missions 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).