



“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)

PRESERVICE 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 so that we 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: 70; 63; 66; 73:5

THE INTROIT: (responsive reading) Psalm 71:14-18, Philippians 4:4

But I will hope continually,

**And will praise You yet more and more.**

My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness

*And* Your salvation all the day,

**For I do not know *their* limits.**

I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD;

**I will make mention of Your righteousness, of Yours only.**

O God, You have taught me from my youth;

**And to this *day* I declare Your wondrous works.**

Now also when *I am* old and grayheaded,

O God, do not forsake me,

**Until I declare Your strength to *this* generation,**

**Your power to everyone *who* is to come.**

**Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!**

*Glory be to the Father...*

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 35:1-10

With the coming of the Messiah life and hope and strength come to those who have been oppressed by sin and its curse. Signs of healing would indeed accompany the coming of the Christ so that all would know to follow Him. He leads us on the Highway of Holiness which only the Savior prepared. Here the redeemed shall walk; and the ransomed of the Lord shall return to Zion rejoicing.

THE EPISTLE LESSON: James 5:7-11

We need to be patient and enduring, establishing our hearts in the gospel of our salvation. Know that the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Let us not grumble against one another, but endure the trials of this life with patience. Remember the prophets of old, and how much they were called upon to endure by the Lord. Let them serve as our examples. We count them blessed who endure. The Lord is compassionate and merciful.

THE SERMON: Matthew 11:2-11

Theme: John the Baptist Teaches by Example

- I. John Shows Where to Turn in Tribulation
- II. John Receives the Comfort Found in Jesus
- III. John Exemplifies Greatness in the Kingdom of God

CALENDAR

TODAY: Sunday school and Bible Class follow after the service this morning.

WEDNESDAY: Midweek Advent meditations begin. Soup and Sandwich Supper begins at 6:00. Advent Meditation at 7:00 p.m. Theme: the Miraculous Wonders of the Unique Christ-Child: Manifest in His Humiliation. Text: Galatians 4:4-5.

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship at 9:30. Sunday school and Church Council follow the service. *Sermon text: Romans 1:1-7.*

FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

December 24: Christmas Eve service at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday December 25: Christmas festival worship at 9:30 a.m. No Sunday school or Bible class.

Sunday January 1: New Year's worship at 9:30. No Sunday school or Bible class.

SERVING TODAY

Organist: Denise Barthels

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

Cleaning: Hellickson

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL:

Attendance: December 4 Worship – 18 Sunday school – 2; Dec. 7  
Advent worship - 17

Weekly Offerings Needed	\$ 1,155.00	Other Offerings:
Offerings Received	\$983.00	ILC Student Aid Fund \$20.00
Needed for Year:	55,440.00	Memory of Lincoln Cole:
Received for Year:	44,228.92	Mission Devlp. Fund \$50.00

**CLC NEWS:** The Rev. Michael Wilke, pastor of Gethsemane Lutheran, Saginaw MI, has declined the call to Zion Lutheran, Lawrenceville GA. The Rev. Luke Bernthal, of Valentine NE, has accepted the call to St. Stephen Lutheran, Mountain View, and Hayward CA.

**Hymn 73:1-3 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates**

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates

Behold the King of Glory waits;  
The King of kings is drawing near,  
The Savior of the world is here.  
Life and salvation He doth bring,  
Wherefore rejoice and gladly sing:  
We praise Thee, Father, now  
Creator, wise art thou!

2. A Helper just He comes to thee,

His chariot is humility,  
His kingly crown is holiness,  
His scepter, pity in distress.  
The end of all our woe He brings,  
Wherefore the earth is glad and sings:  
We praise Thee, Savior, now,  
Mighty in deed art thou!

3. O blest the land, the city blest,

Where Christ the Ruler is confessed!  
O happy hearts and happy homes  
To whom this King in triumph comes!  
The cloudness Sun of joy He is,  
Who bringeth pure delight and bliss.  
We praise Thee, Spirit, now,  
Our Comforter art Thou!