



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

2100 16th Street SW, Austin, MN 55912

Worship: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School and Bible Class: 10:45 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, Wed., 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: Blessed Lord, who has caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we might reverently hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of Your Holy Word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life which You have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ, through whose name alone we pray. Amen.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE: p. 5 (73:1-3)

HYMNS: 66; 63; 61; 779:1

THE RESPONSIVE INTROIT: (Psalm 85:7,1-3,6-7 NKJV)

Show us Your mercy, LORD,

And grant us Your salvation.

LORD, You have been favorable to Your land;

You have brought back the captivity of Jacob.

² You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people;

You have covered all their sin.

³ You have taken away all Your wrath;

You have turned from the fierceness of Your anger.

Will You not revive us again,

That Your people may rejoice in You?

⁷ Show us Your mercy, LORD,

And grant us Your salvation.

Glory be to the Father...

THE EPISTLE LESSON: 2 Peter 2:8-14

The Lord is coming, that is as sure as His words and promises are sure. He waits, seeking the salvation of souls. He will come, and then all that we know of this earth will be gone. We look for a new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 1:1-8

Mark directs our attention to John the Baptist as the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy announcing the coming of the Christ and calling for us all to prepare our hearts for Him, removing the obstacles of pride and self-righteousness. John sets us the example of humility.

THE SERMON: Isaiah 40:1-8

Theme: The Glory of the Coming Lord

- I. His Glory in Comforting His People
- II. His Glory Changing Men's Hearts
- III. The Glory of the Eternal Word

CALENDAR

TODAY: Christmas Eve program practice and church council follow the service. Any adults interesting in singing in a quartet please see Katie Barthels.

TUESDAY: Catechism class at 4:15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY: Midweek Advent meditation. Soup and sandwich supper serving begins at 6:00p.m. Meditation begins at 7:00 p.m. Theme for this year is *Stars of Promise*: Text: Numbers 24:17-19.

FRIDAY: Immanuel College Christmas Concert at Messiah Lutheran Church in Eau Claire. Choir concert begins at 7:30. Flute choir and ILHS band will perform before the sacred concert.

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship at 9:30. Program practice follows the service. *Sermon text: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24.*

FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER 13, 20: Midweek Advent services. Soup and sandwich suppers at 6:00. Advent meditations begin at 7:00. p.m.

DECEMBER 24: Christmas Eve! **No** Sunday morning service. Christmas Eve service is set for 4:00.

DECEMBER 25: Christmas Festival worship at 9:30.

DECEMBER 31: New Year's Eve Day morning worship only beginning at 9:30.

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL:

Attendance: Dec. 3 Worship - 20 Sunday school - 1,

Weekly Offerings Needed	\$ 1,207.00	Other Offerings:
Offerings Received	\$807.00	Memorials: Lincoln Cole
Needed for Year:	\$59,143.00	Prop. Imprv. Fund \$50.00
Received for Year:	\$48,786.00	

SERVING TODAY

Organist: Denise Barthels

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

December Cleaning – Hellickson

500th ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION

GEMS FROM MARTIN LUTHER

(Grace comes only through Christ)

“These promises of grace are all based on Christ from the beginning of the world, so that God promises this grace to no one in any other way than in Christ and through Christ. Christ in the Messenger of God’s promise to the entire world. This is also the reason why He came and let the promise go out through the Gospel into all the world; but before that time He always proclaimed it through the prophets. Therefore it is vain for anyone (as do the Jews) to expect the divine promise apart from Christ. Everything centers and terminates in Christ. The man who does not hear Him hears no promise of God. For just as He recognizes no law except Moses’ Law and the writings of the prophets, so He gives no promise except through Christ alone.” (What Luther Says; Vol II #1845, Concordia Publishing House)

DAILY DEVOTIONS BY CLC PASTORS: Now available on the home page of CLClutheran.org are daily devotions written and assembled by pastors of the CLC. You will find them under "Recommended Pages/Sites" on the right side of the site. Perhaps you would share the site on your personal social media outlets, or print a copy for a family member, friend, or neighbor who would benefit from these faith building encouragements based on God's Word. **If there is interest Pastor Barthels can print booklets.**