

Light dawns for the righteous,  
and joy for the upright in heart.

Psalm 97:11



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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: 10:45 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](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 incarnation and birth, lead us to find our comfort and joy in knowing that Jesus came to be our Savior. Help us remember always that it was His sacrifice upon the cross that purchased our peace. As we this day receive His body and blood in the Blessed Sacrament, we ask that Your Spirit might bless us and increase our faith, that we may grow in grace and in the assurance of everlasting life in Christ Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem. Amen.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE: p. 15

HYMNS: 76, 65, 74; 95:7

THE RESPONSIVE INTROIT: (Psalm 85:8, 9, 12-13, 7 NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> I will hear what God the Lord will speak,

For He will speak peace

To His people and to His saints;

**But let them not turn back to folly.**

<sup>9</sup> Surely His salvation *is* near to those who fear Him,

**That glory may dwell in our land.**

<sup>12</sup> Yes, the Lord will give *what is* good;

**And our land will yield its increase.**

<sup>13</sup> Righteousness will go before Him,

**And shall make His footsteps *our* pathway.**

<sup>7</sup> Show us Your mercy, Lord,

**And grant us Your salvation.**

*Glory be to the Father...*

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11

This Messianic prophecy outlines the wonderful message of peace and joy which the Savior brings us. It also outlines the response of our hearts; we will greatly rejoice in the Lord for the righteousness and salvation with which He adorns us, His people gathered out of all nations.

THE GOSPEL LESSON: John 1:6-8, 19-28

John's mission was not to promote himself, but to direct the people to Jesus, the true Light, that we might believe. John testified to the greatness of Jesus' glory in sincere humility and faith. May we also follow John's example and glorify our Savior before the world.

THE SERMON: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

**Theme:** Living a Life that Points to Jesus this Christmas Season.

- I. A Life of Rejoicing in our Salvation
- II. A Life Fired Up by the Spirit
- III. A Life Confident of God’s Salvation

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

We observe the Scriptural practice of close communion. Since participation in communion is a confession of unity of teaching and faith, you will not want to commune with us until you have had a chance to compare your beliefs with ours. Please speak with the pastor to set up an appointment - we want to share this blessing with you!

CALENDAR

TODAY: Christmas Eve program practice and Bible Class follow the service.

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: 2 Peter 1:19

NEXT SUNDAY: Christmas Eve! **No** Sunday morning service. Christmas Eve service is set for 4:00.

FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER 25: Christmas Festival worship at 9:30.Text: Matthew 2:1-12

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

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL:

Attendance: Dec. 10 Worship - 26 Sunday school - 2,

Weekly Offerings Needed	\$ 1,207.00	Other Offerings:	
Offerings Received	\$799.00	Missions	\$25.00
Needed for Year:	\$60,350.00		
Received for Year:	\$49,585.00		

## SERVING TODAY

Organist: Denise Barthels

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

December Cleaning – Hellickson

### 500<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION GEMS FROM MARTIN LUTHER

*(Re: Repentance)*

“True is the proverb and better than everything they have hitherto taught about remorse: Never to sin again is repentance at its best; and a new life is the best of repentance.”

“Regret, the little black dog of a belated repentance, does not stop barking and biting the conscience, even though you know your sins are forgiven.”

“It will be no small gain for a penitent to lay hold, before all else, on the memory of his baptism, confidently to recall the promise of God which he has forsaken, and to plead it before the Lord, happy that he is still within the stronghold of salvation, is baptized, and abhors his wicked ingratitude of falling away from faith and its truth. For wondrously will his heart be comforted and he will be encouraged to hope for mercy when he considers that the divine promise which God made to him and which cannot lie is still intact and unchanged, nay, unchangeable by any sins, just as St. Paul says (2 Tim.2:13): ‘If we believe not, He continueth faithful, He cannot deny Himself.’ This truth of God, I say, will so sustain him that if all else goes to ruin, this faith of his will not fail him. For in it he has a shield against the assaults of the enemy, a reply to the sins that trouble his conscience, an antidote for the horror of death and the judgment, and, in fine, a comfort in every temptation, namely, the one truth that he expresses when he says: God is faithful in His promises; His sign have I received in Baptism; if God be for me, who is against me.” (What Luther Says; Vol III #3870, 3871, 3872 Concordia Publishing House)