



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: Oh Lord God, our heavenly Father, who of Your great goodness and mercy has caused Your only begotten Son to become incarnate, that we through Him might be redeemed from sin and everlasting death; O Lord, we pray, enlighten our hearts that we may be truly thankful for His gracious incarnation, that we may be comforted by His birth in all time of tribulation and temptation, and in the end receive everlasting salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Savior. Amen

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

HYMNS: 108; 91; 98; 97

THE RESPONSIVE INTROIT: (Psalm 111:1,4,8 9 NKJV)

Praise the Lord!

I will praise the Lord with *my* whole heart,

In the assembly of the upright and *in* the congregation.

⁴He has made His wonderful works to be remembered;

The Lord *is* gracious and full of compassion.

⁷The works of His hands *are* verity and justice;

All His precepts *are* sure.

⁸They stand fast forever and ever,

And are done in truth and uprightness.

⁹He has sent redemption to His people;

He has commanded His covenant forever:

Holy and awesome *is* His name.

Glory be to the Father...

THE EPISTLE LESSON: Colossians 3:12-17

“Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly.” As we proceed through the Christmas season this is the Lord’s gift to us, even our salvation as the gospel of the Savior born in Bethlehem rules our hearts with His grace and peace and directs us in our lives as we love one another and join with our fellow believers, singing with grace in our hearts to the Lord.

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 2:25-40

We read of the joy of heart of these two believers as they saw the Word of the Lord fulfilled before their eyes as they beheld the baby Jesus. Simeon declared the Word fulfilled including that Jesus was to be a light a Gentiles. Anna gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Jesus to all who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

THE SERMON: Isaiah 45:22-25

Theme: The Lord Has Truly Kept His Word

- I. A Word Proclaiming Salvation to All People
- II. A Word in which Believers Find Righteousness and Strength

CALENDAR

TODAY: Sunday school and Bible class are on Holiday break.

TUESDAY: No Catechism class this week.

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship at 9:30 with Sunday school following the service. We will be taking down the Christmas tree and decorations following the service, and as time allows have a brief Bible class session.

FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL:

Attendance: Dec. 17 Worship - 32 Sunday school - 3, Bible class 14.

Dec. 24 – 40 December 25 - 23

Statement includes offerings December 17 through December 25

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------|---------|
| Weekly Offerings Needed | \$ 1,207.00 | Other Offerings: | |
| Offerings Received | \$6,972.00 | ILC student Aid | \$25.00 |
| Needed for Year: | \$62,764.00 | ILC Building Fund | \$25.00 |
| Received for Year: | \$56,537.00 | Missions | \$50.00 |

SERVING TODAY

Organist: Denise Barthels

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

December Cleaning – Hellickson **January Cleaning** -- Nelson

500th ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION
GEMS FROM MARTIN LUTHER

(Re: Conversion)

“You cannot make the new man; he must grow or be born. Just so a carpenter cannot build a tree; it must grow of itself, out of the ground. And so we, one and all, have not been made into children of Adam; we were born such and derive sin from our parents. Similarly, we cannot by any human efforts become children of God; but we must experience the new birth. ...

“Through a sees we are born again; for, as we see, nothing grows otherwise than through a seed. Did the old birth spring from a seed? Then the new must also spring from a seed. But what is this seed? Not flesh and blood. What then? It is nothing corruptible, but an eternal Word. ...

“But how does this new birth take place? After this manner: God lets the see fall into the hearts of men. Now, wherever it fastens on the heart, the Holy Spirit is present and makes a new man. Then the man becomes an entirely different being, a man of other thoughts, of other words and works.” (What Luther Says; Vol I #1027, 3871, 3872 Concordia Publishing House)