



“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

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

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Church Office:

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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, 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 that we may 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: 63; 61; 75; 73:4-5

THE RESPONSIVE INTROIT: (Ps.81:8, 11, 13, Luke 3:4 NKJV)

⁸ "Hear, O My people, and I will admonish you!

O Israel, if you will listen to Me!

¹¹ "But My people would not heed My voice,

And Israel would have none of Me.

¹³. "Oh, that My people would listen to Me,

That Israel would walk in My ways!

Luke 3:4 "The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.'"

Glory be to the Father...

THE EPISTLE LESSON: Philippians 1:3-11

Advent preparation: consider how we can be confident that we shall be prepared for Jesus' second coming, "He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ." (v.6) This is true for us who are in the fellowship of the gospel. With the gospel as our strength we will also abound in love and live with discernment approving those things that are good, that we may avoid those things that would rob us our faith, that we remain faithful until the day of Jesus Christ.

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 3:1-6

At the right point in history the prophecy was fulfilled and the John, who was to prepare the way of the Lord went out in the wilderness calling people to repentance, preparing them for the coming of the salvation of God. We still need to hear John's message that the Spirit might remove the barriers in our hearts and lives that stand in the way of the Lord.

THE SERMON: Malachi 3:1-4

Theme: John's Message Concerning Jesus

- I. Acknowledge the Glory of the Lord
- II. Purify Your Hearts and Lives
- III. Prepare an Acceptable Offering

CALENDAR

TODAY: Sunday school Christmas program practice will follow the service. Congregation **Christmas fellowship** and tree and church decorating follow the service with pot luck and carol singing. Please stay and join in the fellowship and praise!

TUESDAY: Elders meeting at 2:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY: Catechism class at 4:15 p.m. – 6:00. p.m.
Second of our midweek Advent meditations! Soup and sandwich supper serving begins at 6:00 p.m. Meditation begins at 7:00 p.m. Text: John 1:6-13.

NEXT SUNDAY: **Worship at 9:30.** Text: Philippians 4:4-7. Christmas Program Practice and Church Council meeting follow after the service. (This is our last scheduled program practice so please make every effort to be present and to have parts learned.)

FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesdays, December 12, 19 Midweek advent meditations. Theme of this years meditations is "The Word Became Flesh."

Sunday, December 23rd. The children's Christmas program will be presented at our 9:30 service time.

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

December 25th: **Christmas Day:** Festival Worship at 9:30 a.m.

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL:

Attendance: Dec. 2 Worship – 14, Sunday school - 3 Bible class - 6
Dec. 5 midweek Advent worship 13

Weekly Offerings Needed	\$ 1,221.00	Other offerings
Offerings Received	\$ 750.00	
Needed for Year:	\$56,165.00	
Received for Year:	\$48,326.00	

SERVING TODAY

Organist: Denise Barthels,

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

December cleaning: Barthels

CHRISTMAS BAGS DONATIONS: You can help defer this expense by placing your gift in the designated basket next to the mailbox table in the narthex.

CLC NEWS:

The Midwest Christian Women’s Retreat, sponsored by Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, will be held March 22-24, 2019, at the Riverport Inn & Suites, Winona, MN. Registration is \$75 and opens on January 1,2019 and will be limited to the first 120 applicants. Register at www.ladiesretreat.clclutheran.net. Choose the "Midwest Spring Retreat." Hotel reservations (separate from retreat registration) can be made by calling (507) 452-0606, with the special block rate for our group available now. Be sure to mention "retreat" to get the block rate. Deadline for both retreat registration and hotel reservations is Friday, February 22, 2019.

Urgent need for sponsors – The CLC KINSHIP Committee is seeking sponsors to support overseas orphans and seminary students. There are both students and orphans that will not have financial support starting in January if we do not find new sponsors. Please give this prayerful consideration. For more information, please see, email, or text Dan Roehl (danroehl@hotmail.com) / 507-381-2042).