



“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.**

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**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)

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 that is ours in Christ Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem. Amen.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE: p. 15

HYMNS: 55; 69; 62; 127:4,5

THE RESPONSIVE INTROIT: (Psalm 71:14-18 NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> I will hope continually,

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

<sup>15</sup> My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness

**And Your salvation all the day, For I do not know *their* limits.**

<sup>16</sup> I will go in the strength of the Lord God;

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

<sup>17</sup> O God, You have taught me from my youth;

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

<sup>18</sup> 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.**

*Glory be to the Father...*

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 35:1-10

Isaiah presented the signs to watch for with the coming of the Lord. These signs were fulfilled with Jesus coming into the world. Jesus paved the Highway of Holiness that leads to heaven that we might have a life there with Him forevermore, a life without blemish, and that no one can spoil. This is the advent of the Lord we watch for.

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 11:2-11

December 15, 2019

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent

The imprisoned John the Baptist directed his disciples to Jesus that they might have the assurance that Jesus is the Christ. Jesus confirmed for them all that He is the Coming One. Jesus fulfilled the prophetic signs of Isaiah. Jesus praised John as a great prophet, and yet reminds us all of the greatness that awaits us at His second coming.

THE SERMON: James 5:7-11

Theme: Patience - an Advent Virtue

- I. Patient Anticipation of Jesus' Second Coming
- II. Patience with our Fellow Christian
- III. Patient Endurance, Advent Hope Disperses Despair

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

The most wondrous assurance of His peace that God brings us is found in *His coming to us* in a visible way. As penitent sinners receive His body and blood we also receive His personal intimate assurance that He abides with us in peace. It is therefore important that communicants be able to examine themselves and repent of their sins before receiving the sacrament. If you are a visitor here please arrange to speak with the pastor before communing with us.

CALENDAR

TODAY: Program practice and church council will follow immediately after the service. Parents please note that practice may need to extend a little beyond our normal time.

WEDNESDAY: Catechism from 4:30-6:00. **Soup and Sandwich Supper** begins serving at 6:00 p.m. **Midweek Advent meditation** at 7:00 p.m. Text: Luke 2:15-16, Theme: "**Lamb** in a Manger."

FRIDAY: Immanuel College will present a Sacred Christmas concert at Messiah Lutheran Church in Eau Claire beginning at 7:30 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship at 9:30 a.m. Sunday school children present the 2019 **Christmas program** "The Symbols of Christmas."

FUTURES DATES TO REMEMBER

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

December 25: CHRISTMAS Festival worship at 9:30 a.m.

SERVING TODAY

Organist: Denise Barthels

Ushers: Kwentin Stearns, Andy Ball, Joe Ubl, Ken Nickson

December Cleaning: Ubl

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL:

Attendance: Dec. 8 worship - 36 Sunday school - 11 no Bible class

December 11 - Advent worship - 13

Weekly Offerings Needed	\$ 1,252.00	Other Offerings:
Offerings Received	\$ 1572.00	Missions \$110.00
Needed for Year:	\$61,348.00	ILC Student Aid \$ 50.00
Received for Year:	\$50,600.00	Memorial Lincoln Cole Prop. Improv. Fund \$ 50.00

**CLCNEWS:** Pastor Jim Albrecht, St. John's, Okabena, MN has been called by Berea, Sioux Falls, SD. <> Pastor Andrew Schaller, Calvary, Marquette, MI has returned the call extended to him by the CLC Board of Missions to serve as the CLC's third foreign missionary. <> Pastor Norm Greve, St. Peter's, Iron River, MI has returned the call extended to him by Redeemer, Bowdle and Zion, Ipswich, SD.

**2020 CLC Mission Helper Trip** - The maximum number of applications have been accepted for the trip to Nepal this summer. If you would like to have your name placed on a waiting list, please contact Missionary Todd Ohlmann at [thohlmann@gmail.com](mailto:thohlmann@gmail.com).

**Don Skinner**, a longtime member of St. Paul's is now with the Lord. On the afternoon of December 11, at the Care Partners facility in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, the Lord in His mercy received Don Skinner to Himself in heaven. Don's victory service will be held at Messiah, Eau Claire on Friday, December 20. Visitation will begin at 3 pm, and the service at 4 pm. A meal will follow. Arrangements are pending. Sympathy card for daughter Lori

can be sent to: Lori Skinner 4609 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. NW, Rochester,  
MN 55901. Phyllis Skinner's address is: 4115 Jeffers RD, Apt  
220 Eau Claire, WI 54703