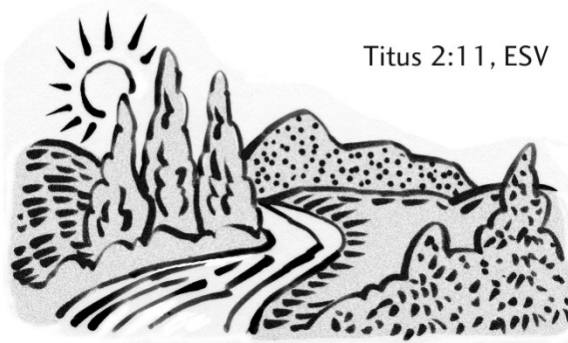


For the
Grace of God
has appeared,
bringing
Salvation
for all the people.



Titus 2:11, ESV

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

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
www.CLClutheran.org
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 was born to be our Savior. Help us remember always that it was His sacrifice upon the cross that purchased our peace. We ask that Your Spirit might bless our hearing of the Christmas gospel 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. 5 (105:1,2,8)

HYMNS: 136; 108; 718; 97

THE RESPONSIVE INTROIT: (Hosea 11:1; Jer. 31:15-17 NKJV)

"When Israel *was* a child, I loved him,

And out of Egypt I called My Son.

"A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation *and* bitter weeping,

Rachel weeping for her children,

Refusing to be comforted for her children,

Because they *are* no more."

¹⁶ Thus says the Lord: "Refrain your voice from weeping,

And your eyes from tears;

For your work shall be rewarded, says the Lord,

And they shall come back from the land of the enemy.

¹⁷ There is hope in your future, says the Lord,

That *your* children shall come back to their own border.

Glory be to the Father...

THE EPISTLE LESSON: Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18

Paul highlights the blessings that come to us from God the Father through our Lord Jesus Christ. These blessings were planned for us before the foundation of the world. Jesus was born into the world that we might receive as adoption as sons. God made us accepted in connection with His Beloved Son!

THE GOSPEL LESSON: John 1:1-18

The Word of God which was the Son of God, this Word through which all things were made is light and life for a sin darkened world. The Word became flesh and His glory is revealed. The blessings of grace and gospel truth came by Jesus Christ.

THE SERMON: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Theme: The Christmas Blessing of Christ’s Righteousness

- I. We Are Adorned in the Robes of Christ’s Righteousness.
- II. Christ’s Righteousness Has Spread through all the Earth.
- III. This Righteousness and its Spread is God’s Crown of Glory.

CALENDAR

TODAY: No Sunday school or Bible class. Holiday break

WEDNESDAY: No Catechism class this week. Catechism resumes on Wednesday January 8th

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship at 9:30 a.m. Sunday school follows the service. The adults will be taking down and packing away Christmas decorations. Text: Matthew 2:1-12

FUTURES DATES TO REMEMBER

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26: Annual Voters’ Meeting at 12:30 p.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. 22 worship - 61 (no Sunday school or Bible class)

December 24 - 30 December 25 - 16

Weekly Offerings Needed	\$ 1,252.00	Other Offerings:
Offerings Received	\$ 2,505.00	Missions \$130.00
Needed for Year:	\$63,852.00	Memorial Roger Johnson
	0	Missions \$
Received for Year:	\$54,503.00	25.00
	0	

CLCNEWS: Pastor Jim Albrecht, St. John's, Okabena, MN has declined the call to Berea, Sioux Falls, SD. <> Pastor Caleb Schaller, Messiah, Eau Claire WI has received the call to serve Trinity, Spokane, WA. <> Pastor Mike Wilke, Gethsemane, MI has received the call to serve Redeemer, Bowdle, SD and Zion, Ipswich, SD.

Hymn 105:1,2,8: Praise God the Lord, Ye Sons of Men

1. Praise God the Lord, Ye sons of men
Before His highest throne:
Today He opens heaven again
And give us His own Son.
And give us His own Son.

2. He leaves His heav'nly Father's throne,
Is born an Infant small,
And in a manger poor and lone,
Lies in a humble stall.
Lies in a humble stall.

8. He opens us again the door
Of Paradise today;
The Angel guards the gate no more
To God our thanks we pay.
To God our thanks we pay.