



**“As the branch cannot  
bear fruit by itself,  
unless it abides in the vine,  
neither can you,  
unless you abide in me.”**

John 15:4

---

## **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: 10:30 a.m.

Pastor Theodore W. Barthels

Phone: 507-433-1957

Cell: 507-219-2517

Church Office:

Phone: 507-433-8191

**Worship Services streamed on YouTube Channel: St. Paul CLC Austin.**

*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)

May 2, 2021

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter

PRESERVICE PRAYER Heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for the salvation which You have provided to a fallen world by sending your Son to suffer and die for us upon the cross. We rejoice in Your grace that in raising Jesus from the dead You have proclaimed Your satisfaction with the ransom price He paid, so that we have remission of sins and everlasting life. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that our faith in Christ as our Risen and Ever-living Lord may be strengthened unto eternal life. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE: (p. 22 Worship Supplement 2000)

**HYMN 411:1-5 From Eternity, O God**

1 From eternity, O God, In Thy Son Thou didst elect me;  
Therefore, Father, on life's road Graciously to heav'n direct me;  
Send to me Thy Holy Spirit That His gifts I may inherit.

2 Though alive, I'm dead in sin, Lost to all good things by nature.  
Holy Ghost, change me within, Make of me a new-born creature;  
For the flesh works ruination And can never gain salvation.

3 Drive away the gloomy night Of my heart's perverse reflection;  
Quench all tho'ts that are not right, Hold my reason in subjection;  
Grant that I from Thee, with yearning, Wisdom always may be learning.

4 Oh, create a heart in me That in Thee, my God, believeth  
And o'er the iniquity Of my sins most truly grieveth.  
When dark hours of woe betide me, In the wounds of Jesus hide me.

5 As a branch upon a vine In my blessed Lord implant me;  
Ever of my Head divine To remain a member grant me.  
Oh, let Him, my Lord and Savior, Be my Life and Love forever!

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

**C: If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P: Together let us pray.

**C: Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.**

P: Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven! With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

## COLLECT FOR THE DAY

A NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Acts 8:26-40

Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert. <sup>27</sup> So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, <sup>28</sup> was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. <sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot."

<sup>30</sup> So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

<sup>31</sup> And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup> The place in the Scripture which he read was this:

“He was led as a sheep to the slaughter;  
And as a lamb before its shearer *is* silent,  
So He opened not His mouth.

<sup>33</sup> In His humiliation His justice was taken away,  
And who will declare His generation?  
For His life is taken from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup> So the eunuch answered Philip and said, “I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?” <sup>35</sup> Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. <sup>36</sup> Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, *here is* water. What hinders me from being baptized?”

<sup>37</sup> Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

<sup>38</sup> So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup> Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.

<sup>40</sup> But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea. (NKJV)

### THE EPISTLE LESSON: 1 John 3:18-24

My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. <sup>19</sup> And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. <sup>20</sup> For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. <sup>21</sup> Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. <sup>22</sup> And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. <sup>23</sup> And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.

<sup>24</sup> Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us. (NKJV)

## THE APOSTLES CREED

### **HYMN 439 O God of Mercy, God of Might**

1 O God of mercy, God of might,  
In love and pity infinite,  
Teach us, as ever in Thy sight,  
To live our life to Thee.

2 And Thou, who cam'st on earth to die  
That fallen man might live thereby,  
Oh, hear us; for to Thee we cry, In hope, O Lord, to Thee.

3 Teach us the lesson Thou hast taught,  
To feel for those Thy blood hath bo't,  
That ev'ry word and deed and tho't  
May work a work for Thee.

4 All are redeemed, both far and wide,  
Since Thou, O Lord, for all hast died,  
Oh, teach us, whatsoe'er betide,  
To love them all in Thee!

5. In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,  
Whate'er it be, 'tis ours to share;  
May we, when help is needed, there  
Give help as unto Thee!

6 And may Thy Holy Spirit move  
All those who live to live in love,  
Till Thou shalt greet in heaven above  
All those who live to Thee.

THE SERMON: John 15:1-8

Theme: Our Connection to Our Living, Lifegiving Savior

I. The Vital Nature of This Connection

II. The Blessings Flowing from This Connection

SERMON TEXT: John 15:1-8

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You are already clean

because of the word which I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

<sup>5</sup> “I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. <sup>8</sup> By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. (NKJV)

## PRAYER; THE LORD’S PRAYER

### **HYMN 433 Jesus, My Truth, My Way**

1 Jesus, my Truth, my Way, My sure, unerring Light,  
On Thee my feeble soul I stay, Which Thou wilt lead aright.

2 My Wisdom and my Guide, My Counselor Thou art:  
Oh, let me never leave Thy side, Nor from Thy paths depart!

3 Thou seest my feebleness; Jesus, be Thou my Pow’r,  
My Help and Refuge in distress, My Fortress and my Tow’r.

4 Myself I cannot save, Myself I cannot keep;  
But strength in Thee I surely have, Whose eyelids never sleep.

5 My soul to Thee alone Now, therefore, I commend.  
Thou, Jesus, having loved Thine own, Wilt love me to the end!

## BENEDICTION

**C: Amen.**

### **HYMN 453:1,2 We Are the Lord’s**

1 We are the Lord’s; His all-sufficient merit,  
Sealed on the cross, to us this grace accords.  
We are the Lord’s and all things shall inherit;  
Whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s.

2 We are the Lord's; then let us gladly tender  
Our souls to Him in deeds, not empty words.  
Let heart and tongue and life combine to render  
No doubtful witness that we are the Lord's.

### CALENDAR

TODAY: Thank you for coming to hear the Word.  
Used bulletins should either be taken home or deposited in the  
wastepaper basket at the narthex door. Your offerings may be placed in  
the offering plate at the rear of the nave. **Adult Bible Class** is scheduled  
to follow the service.

WEDNESDAY: Catechism class via Zoom beginning at 4:00 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship at 9:30. Sermon text: 1 John 4:1-11 Adult  
Bible class is scheduled to follow the service.

### FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

June 5: Minnesota Delegate Conference at Immanuel in Mankato from  
10:00a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

June 24- 27: CLC Convention in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Convention is  
scheduled for a Thursday – Sunday.

### SERVING TODAY

Organist: Denise Barthels

### OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL:

Attendance: April 25 worship – 19 Bible class -- 11

Weekly Offerings Needed	\$ 1,285.00	Other offerings
Offerings Received	\$1320.00	
Needed for Year:	\$21,845.00	
Received for Year:	\$21,110.00	

May Church Cleaning – Congregation Spring Cleaning!  
May Lawn Mowing -- Hellickson

**CLC NEWS:** Pastor Tom Naumann, Mt. Zion, Detroit, MI has been called by Redeemer, Cheyenne, WY. <> Recently colloquized Pastor Luke Willitz from Fairfax, MN has been called by Redeemer. Bowdle, SD/Zion, Ipswich, SD.

**Retirement Gift: Professor** John Reim has announced his retirement effective the end of the current academic year. His faithful service to our church and our school will be acknowledged during the ILC Class Day/Graduation festivities on May 21-22. Our custom is to present a monetary gift as a token of our appreciation. CLC members are invited to contribute to this gift which will be presented to him at Graduation. Please make your checks payable to Immanuel Lutheran College and indicate: "Prof. Reim Retirement." Send your gift to: Immanuel Lutheran College, 501 Grover Road, Eau Claire, WI 54701

**Prof. Reim Retirement Video-** If you attended Immanuel (Eau Claire) in the past 33 years, you are invited to partake in a commemoration video for Prof. John Reim. All that is needed is a short video clip of you saying, "Thank you Prof. Reim." If you wish to elaborate more and/or share memories, you are most welcome! Entries may be emailed to ILC student Sam Radermacher: samurade@ilc.edu by May 2 (TODAY).

**Porcupine Mountains Youth Camp-Out:**

- \* August 11-15, 2021
- \* For Grades 8-12
- \* Camp fee \$85 (from EC) or \$95 (from MN). Lodging and meals are included in this fee.

We'll camp at the Union Bay group campsite on Lake Superior. Activities will include devotions, group discussions, hiking, swimming, beach time, lots of different games, and many other activities. It's okay if you haven't camped before, we'll help you learn! We have a limit of 48 campers. Registration deadline is Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. Transportation will be provided from Eau Claire, WI. Once registration has closed, we'll send packing lists and forms to be completed by a parent or guardian. Check out the **Porcupine Mountains Camp-Out** Facebook page to see pictures. Register at [www.tinyurl.com/Porkies2021](http://www.tinyurl.com/Porkies2021) **Questions? Contact Adam Schmid: (608) 386-3714 [aschmidy2003@gmail.com](mailto:aschmidy2003@gmail.com).**

**THE BRANCHES TIME TO RENEW OR SUBSCRIBE--The Branches** magazine is a publication designed and published by women of the CLC. It's time to renew, subscribe for the first time, or purchase gift subscriptions for others in your life who may benefit. Mother's Day, confirmations, and graduations are upon us! A subscription makes a great, year-long gift. \$15 for 4, 24 page issues each year.