



“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

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## 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

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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)

PRESERVICE PRAYER: Heavenly Father, most holy God, we who come before you today are sinful, and unworthy of your love. We confess our sins, seeking Your grace in Christ Jesus for pardon and peace. By Your Holy Spirit working through the gospel we hear this morning create clean hearts within us, and renew in us steadfast spirits, that we may know the joy of Your salvation and the peace and assurance of Your presence. Empowered by Your Holy Spirit, lead us on the path of repentance and life that is found in Your Son, Jesus Christ. It is in His name we pray. Amen.

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

HYMN 356: Jesus, Savior, Come to Me

1 Jesus, Savior, come to me; Let me ever be with Thee.  
Come and nevermore depart, Thou who reignest in my heart.

2 Lord, for Thee I ever sigh, Nothing else can satisfy.  
Ever do I cry to Thee: Jesus, Jesus, come to me!

3 Earthly joys can give no peace, Cannot bid my longing cease;  
Still to have my Jesus near, This is all my pleasure here.

5 Thou alone, my God and Lord, Art my Glory and Reward.  
Thou hast bled for me and died; In Thy wounds I safely hide.

7 Patiently I wait Thy Day; For this gift, O Lord, I pray,  
That, when death shall come to me, My dear Jesus Thou wilt be.

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

**C: Amen.**

P: God is light and 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

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Malachi 3:1-4

“Behold, I send My messenger,  
And he will prepare the way before Me.  
And the Lord, whom you seek,  
Will suddenly come to His temple,  
Even the Messenger of the covenant,  
In whom you delight.  
Behold, He is coming,”  
Says the Lord of hosts.

<sup>2</sup>“But who can endure the day of His coming?

And who can stand when He appears?

For He is like a refiner's fire

And like launderers' soap.

<sup>3</sup>He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver;

He will purify the sons of Levi,

And purge them as gold and silver,

That they may offer to the LORD

An offering in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup>“Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem  
Will be pleasant to the LORD,  
As in the days of old,  
As in former years. (NKJV)

**THE EPISTLE LESSON:** Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup> always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, <sup>5</sup> for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup> being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ; <sup>7</sup> just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.

<sup>9</sup> And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, <sup>10</sup> that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> being filled with the fruits of righteousness which *are* by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. (NKJV)

**THE APOSTLES CREED** (The Lutheran Hymnal p. 12)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

**HYMN 63:** On Jordan's banks the Baptist's Cry

1 On Jordan's banks the Baptist's cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Come, then, and hearken, for he brings  
Glad tidings from the King of kings.

2 Then cleansed be every Christian breast  
And furnished for so great a Guest.  
Yea, let us each our hearts prepare  
For Christ to come and enter there.

3 For Thou art our Salvation, Lord,  
Our Refuge, and our great Reward.  
Without Thy grace our souls must fade  
And wither like a flow'r decayed.

4 Lay on the sick Thy healing hand  
And make the fallen strong to stand;  
Show us the glory of Thy face  
Till beauty springs in every place.

5 All praise, eternal Son, to Thee,  
Whose advent sets Thy people free,  
Whom, with the Father, we adore,  
And Holy Ghost forevermore.

THE SERMON: Luke 3:1-6

Theme: Hearing John's Call to Repentance

- I. John Preached a Baptism of Repentance.
- II. John's Message Cleared the Way for the Lord.
- III. John's Message Opens our Eyes to See Our Salvation.

SERMON TEXT: Luke 3:1-6

Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying:

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;  
Make His paths straight.

<sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled  
And every mountain and hill brought low;  
The crooked places shall be made straight

And the rough ways smooth;

<sup>6</sup> And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' ” (NKJV)

## PRAYER; THE LORD'S PRAYER

### HYMN 75: Ye Sons of Men, Oh, Hearken

1 Ye sons of men, oh, hearken: Your heart and mind prepare;  
To hail th' Almighty Savior, O sinners, be your care.

He who of grace alone Our Life and Light was given,  
The promised Lord from heaven, Unto our world is shown.

2 Prepare the way before Him; Prepare for Him the best.  
Cast out whate'er offendeth This great, this heav'nly Guest.  
Make straight, make plain, the way: The lowly valleys raising,  
The heights of pride abasing, His path all even lay.

3 The humble heart and lowly God lifteth up on high;  
Beneath His feet in anguish The haughty soul shall lie.  
The heart, sincere and right, That heeds God's invitation  
And makes true preparation, It is the Lord's delight.

4 Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus, Turn not from me aside,  
And grant that I receive Thee This blessed Advent-tide.  
From stall and manger low Come Thou to dwell within me;  
Loud praises will I sing Thee And forth Thy glory show.

## BENEDICTION

**C: Amen.**

### HYMN 50:2,3: Thanks We Give and Adoration

2 Thanks we give and adoration For Thy Gospel's joyful sound.  
May the fruits of Thy salvation In our hearts and lives abound;  
Ever faithful, Ever faithful To the Truth may we be found!

3 So whene'er the signal's given Us from earth to call away,  
Borne on angels' wings to heaven, Glad the summons to obey,  
May we ever, May we ever Reign with Christ in endless day!

## CALENDAR

TODAY: Sunday school and Church decorating are scheduled to follow the service. Potluck meal and carol singing follow the decorating and Sunday school.

WEDNESDAY: The second of our midweek Advent meditations on the theme: **Sharing Our Christmas Blessings! The Blessing of Peace. Text Philippians 4:7.** Supper will be served beginning at 6:00 p.m. Our Advent meditation is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship with Holy Communion at 9:30. **We are moving communion a week earlier due to the Christmas program in the service on the 19<sup>th</sup>.** Sunday School and Bible class are scheduled to follow the service. Catechism class from 11:30-12:30. Sermon text: Zephaniah 3:14-18.

### FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

WEDNESDAYS, DECEMBER 15: Midweek Advent Services. The theme of this year meditations is: **Sharing Our Christmas Blessings!** Soup and Sandwich Suppers begin serving at 6:00 p.m. Advent meditation begins at 7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 19: Sunday school Christmas program in our morning worship service at 9:30 a.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24: Christmas Eve service at **6:00 p.m.**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25: Christmas Festival Worship at 9:30 a.m.

### SERVING TODAY

Organist: Denise Barthels

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL: Attendance: November 28 worship – 16 Sunday school – 4 Bible class - 7 December 1 – 12

Weekly Offerings Needed	\$ 1,285.00	Other Offerings:	
Offerings Received	\$ 1310.00	Missions	\$120.00
Needed for Year:	\$61,680.00	Prop Imprv. Fund	\$100.00
Received for Year:	\$54,830.00		

CLCNEWS: Pastor Neal Radichel of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, **has declined** the call to Living Savior Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie, MN. <> Pastor Sam Rodebaugh of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Winter Haven, Florida, **has received** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO.