



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 streamed on YouTube Channel: St. Paul CLC Austin.

Affiliated with
CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION

stpaulclcaustin.wordpress.com

www.CLClutheran.org

www.ilc.edu/home.htm

PRESERVICE 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. 22 Worship Supplement 2000)

HYMN 70: Hosanna to the Living Lord!

1 Hosanna to the living Lord! Hosanna to the th'Incarnate Word!
To Christ, Creator, Savior, King, Let earth, let heav'n, hosanna sing.

2 O Savior, with protecting care, Abide in this Thy house of prayer,
Where we Thy parting promise claim, Assembled in Thy sacred name.

3 But, chiefest, in our cleansed breast, Eternal, bid Thy Spirit rest
And make our secret soul to be A temple pure and worthy Thee.

4 So in the last and dreadful Day,
When earth and heav'n shall melt away,
Thy flock, redeemed from sinful stain,
Shall swell the sound of praise again.

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 EPISTLE LESSON: Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

⁵ Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.

⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (NKJV)

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 3:7-18

Then he said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

⁸ Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as *our* father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. ⁹ And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰ So the people asked him, saying, "What shall we do then?"

¹¹ He answered and said to them, "He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise."

¹² Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?"

¹³ And he said to them, “Collect no more than what is appointed for you.”

¹⁴ Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, “And what shall we do?”

So he said to them, “Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages.”

¹⁵ Now as the people were in expectation, and all reasoned in their hearts about John, whether he was the Christ *or* not, ¹⁶ John answered, saying to all, “I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸ And with many other exhortations he preached to the people. (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 68: The Advent of Our King

1 The advent of our King Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing In strains of holy joy.

2 The everlasting Son Incarnate deigns to be;
Himself a servant's form puts on To set His servants free.

3 O Zion's Daughter, rise To meet thy lowly King,
Nor let thy faithless heart despise The peace He comes to bring.

4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come again
And His true members all unite With Him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The old man all be put away, The new man now put on.

6 All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever One Through all eternity.

THE SERMON: Zephaniah 3:14-18a.

Theme: A Time for Rejoicing in Our Salvation

- I. The Lord Has Taken Away the Judgments Against Us
- II. The Lord is the Strength of Our Salvation
- III. The Lord Rejoices over Us!

SERMON TEXT: Zephaniah 3:14-18a.

¹⁴ Sing, O daughter of Zion!

Shout, O Israel!

Be glad and rejoice with all *your* heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The LORD has taken away your judgments,
He has cast out your enemy.

The King of Israel, the LORD, *is* in your midst;
You shall see disaster no more.

¹⁶ In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

“Do not fear;

Zion, let not your hands be weak.

¹⁷ The LORD your God in your midst,

The Mighty One, will save;

He will rejoice over you with gladness,

He will quiet *you* with His love,

He will rejoice over you with singing.”

¹⁸ “I will gather those who sorrow over the appointed assembly.” (NKJV)

PRAYER: THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN 66: Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne And ev'ry voice a song.

2 He comes the pris'ners to release, In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst, The iron fetters yield.

3 He comes, from thickest films of vice To clear the mental ray
And on the eye-balls of the blind To pour celestial day.

4 He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace T'enrich the humble poor.

5 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heaven's eternal arches ring With Thy beloved name.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

We observe the Scriptural practice of close communion. Since participation in communion is a confession of unity of teaching and faith, you will not want to commune with us until you have had a chance to compare your beliefs with ours. Please speak with the pastor to set up an appointment - we want to share this blessing with you!

PRAYER

BENEDICTION

C: Amen.

HYMN 97:1,2: Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

1 Let us all with gladsome voice Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice, His own Son hath given.

2 To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes We may reign in gladness.

CALENDAR

TODAY: Sunday school program practice and Bible class are scheduled to follow the service.

WEDNESDAY: The third of our midweek Advent meditations on the theme: **Sharing Our Christmas Blessings! The Blessing of Joy. Text 1 Peter 1:6-9.** Supper will be served beginning at 6:00 p.m. Our Advent meditation is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship including the Sunday school Christmas Program at 9:30. Sunday School and **Church council** are scheduled to follow the service. Catechism class from 11:30-12:30. Sermon text: Luke 2:10-11.

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: December 5 worship – 14 Sunday school – 4 No Bible class December 8 – 12

Weekly Offerings Needed	\$ 1,285.00	Other Offerings:	
Offerings Received	\$ 725.00	Prop Imprv. Fund	\$50.00
Needed for Year:	\$62,965.00	Memorial:	
Received for Year:	\$55,555.00	Edna Freese	\$75.00

CLCNEWS: Pastor Paul Krause of Trinity Lutheran Church, Watertown, SD and Zion Lutheran Church, Hidewood Township, SD, has received the call to Ascension Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA. <> Pastor Sam Rodebaugh of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Winter Haven, Florida, is **still considering** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO.