



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 was born to be our Savior. Help us remember always that it was His sacrifice upon the cross that purchased our peace. May Your Spirit 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. 22 Worship Supplement 2000)

HYMN 90: Come, Your hearts and Voices Raising

1. Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing His love amazing, Worthy folk of Christendom.
2. Sin and death may well be groaning, Satan now may well be moaning;
We, our full salvation owning, Cast our every care away.
3. See how God, for us providing, Gave His Son and life abiding;
He our weary steps is guiding From earth's woe to heav'nly joy.
4. Christ, from heaven to us descending and in love our race befriending,
In our need His help extending, Saved us from the wily Foe.
5. Jacob's Star in all its splendor Beams with comfort sweet and tender
Forcing Satan to surrender, Breaking all the powers of hell.
6. From the bondage that oppressed us,
From sin's fetters that possessed us,
From the grief that sore distressed us, We the captives, now are free.
7. Oh, the joy beyond expressing When by faith we grasp this blessing
And to Thee we come confessing That our freedom thou hast wrought!

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: Hebrews 2:10-18

¹⁰ For it was fitting for Him, for whom *are* all things and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified *are* all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, ¹² saying:

“I will declare Your name to My brethren;

In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.”

¹³ And again:

“I will put My trust in Him.”

And again:

“*Here am I and the children whom God has given Me.*”

¹⁴ Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

¹⁶ For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore, in all things He had to be made like *His* brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted. (NKJV)

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 2:22-38

Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present *Him* to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, “A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵ And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name *was* Simeon, and this man *was* just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷ So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, ²⁸ he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said:

²⁹ “Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace,

According to Your word;

³⁰ For my eyes have seen Your salvation

³¹ Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples,

³² A light to *bring* revelation to the Gentiles,

And the glory of Your people Israel.”

³³ And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this *Child* is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against ³⁵ (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

³⁶ Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; ³⁷ and this woman *was* a widow of about

eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served *God* with fastings and prayers night and day. ³⁸ And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem. (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 98: Of the Father's Love Begotten

1 Of the Father's love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the Source, the Ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see Evermore and evermore.

2 Oh, that birth forever blessed When the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bore the Savior of our race,
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face Evermore and evermore.

3 O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing;
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev'ry voice in concert ring Evermore and evermore.

4 This is He whom Heav'n-taught singers Sang of old with one accord;
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets Promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the Long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord Evermore and evermore.

5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory Evermore and evermore.

THE SERMON: Isaiah 7:10-14.

Theme: Christmas! God's Sign Fulfilled!

I. The Lord Gives an Authenticating Sign

II. A Virgin Gives Birth to a Son!

SERMON TEXT: Isaiah 7:10-14

¹⁰Moreover the Lord spoke again to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹“Ask a sign for yourself from the LORD your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above.”

¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, nor will I test the LORD!”

¹³Then he said, “Hear now, O house of David! *Is it* a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. (NKJV)

PRAYER; THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN 105: Praise God the Lord, Ye sons of Men

1 Praise God the Lord, ye sons of men,
Before His highest throne; Today He opens heav'n again
And gives us His own Son, And gives 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.

3 He veils in flesh His pow'r divine
A servant's form to take; In want and lowliness must pine
Who heav'n and earth did make, Who heav'n and earth did make.

7 He serves that I a lord may be;
A great exchange indeed! Could Jesus' love do more for me
To help me in my need, To help me in my need?

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.

BENEDICTION

C: Amen.

HYMN 97: 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.

3 We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore Here on earth and yonder.

4 O Lord Christ, our Savior dear, Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year. Amen, Jesus, hear us!

CALENDAR

TODAY: Sunday school and Bible class and Catechism class are in holiday recess

MONDAY - TUESDAY: Pastor Barthels plans to be out of town to attend a funeral. He expects to be home again late Tuesday night.

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship at 9:30. Sunday School and Bible class and Catechism class are in holiday recess. Sermon text: Galatians 4:4-5.

FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

January 30, 2022: The **annual voters meeting** is scheduled for 12:30 p.m.

SERVING TODAY

Organist: Denise Barthels

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL: Attendance: December 19
 worship –35 No Sunday school or Bible class December 24 – 30
 December 25 -- 18

Weekly Offerings Needed	\$ 1,285.00	Other Offerings:
Offerings Received	\$ 1348.00	
Needed for Year:	\$65,535.00	
Received for Year:	\$58,413.00	

CLCNEWS: Pastor Paul Krause of Trinity Lutheran Church, Watertown, SD and Zion Lutheran Church, Hidewood Township, SD, **has returned** the call to Ascension Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA. <> Pastor Sam Rodebaugh of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Winter Haven, Florida, **has accepted** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO. <> ILC Professor John Ude **has been called** to be the pastor of Living Savior Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie, MN.