

Prayer Requests

Healing and Comfort

Shirley Nuechterlein
Gene Heuton
Dennis Nuechterlein

Blessings/Guidance

Concordia Academy
Rich & Miriam Carter

Shut ins

Corene Diedrich
2057 Giesmann St.
Roseville, MN 55113

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, December 10

8:00 A.M. Traditional Worship
10:30 A.M. Contemporary Worship
2:00 P.M. Christmas Parents Day Out

MONDAY, December 11

TUESDAY, December 12

WEDNESDAY, December 13

5:15 P.M. Meal
6:30 P.M. Holden Evening Prayer

THURSDAY, December 14

FRIDAY, December 15

1:30 P.M. Feeding Frogtown @ St. Paul City School

SATURDAY, December 16

SUNDAY, December 17

8:00 A.M. Traditional Worship w/Communion
10:30 A.M. Contemporary Worship w/Communion

Upcoming Birthdays, Feasts & Commemoration

December 10:
December 11:
December 12: Erin Baker, Nathaniel Benke, Joan Johnson
December 13: *Lucia, Martyr*
December 14: Sebastian Caquelin, Bill Johnson
December 15:
December 16:

CELEBRATING



December contact persons: Lynne Heuton & Connie Peterson
Dan Baker, Clarence & Yoshiko Benson, Kyle & Cassandra Corey, Eugene & Lynne Heuton, Joan Johnson, Keith Rennerfeldt, Dan & Sharon Savard, Dale Trapp

St. Stephanus Lutheran Church
Preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ for 125 Years

C • O • N • N • E • C • T • I • N • G



with Jesus Christ and Each Other

Dec. 10, 2017



SECOND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

Welcome Visitors

Please sign the attendance register. If you desire a call from the pastor or are interested in membership, please note that on the attendance register.

Our Mission Statement:

To proclaim the gospel through word and sacrament to our membership, our communities and our world.

Our Vision:

Connecting people with Jesus Christ and each other through worship, learning and service.

Connecting Groups & Youth:

Much more than a Bible Study... come and find true Biblical Relationships. For more info, contact: Megan Huff meghuff@gmail.com

About Communion:

Non-alcoholic wine is offered in the center of the communion trays. It is distinctly lighter than the surrounding wine. Children who have not received instruction are invited to the rail to receive a blessing. Visitors are welcomed to the rail if you join us in confessing that the Lord gives not only bread and wine, but His very Body and Blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of our sins and to strengthen our union with Him and one another. Our Lord invites to this table those who (1) trust his words, (2) repent of all sins and (3) set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He has forgiven and loves us.

Sunday Services

Traditional Worship 8:00 AM
Education Hour 9:15 AM
Contemporary Worship 10:30 AM
Holy Communion at both services on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday of each month.
Eritrean Service 12 Noon



**St. Stephanus
Lutheran Church, LCMS**
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St Paul, MN 55104

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EMAIL: saintstephanus@comcast.net

PASTOR: Pastor Andrew Thompson
pastor@saintstephanus.org
Phone: (612) 208-7388

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday to Friday 9 AM to 1 PM
Bulletin Deadline: 11 AM Wed.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:
Clarice Anderson
saintstephanus@comcast.net

Central Lutheran School

775 Lexington Pkwy N
St Paul, MN 55104
PHONE: (651) 645-8649
EMAIL: school@clssp.org
WEB SITE: www.clssp.org

December 10 Worship Assistants

Preacher: Rev. Andrew Thompson
Acolytes: (8:00) Owen Schonebaum & Micah Thompson
(10:30) Oliver Bauch & Larissa Doran
Caretaker: (8:00) Joan Baker **(10:30)** Judy Brinkman
Video Ministry: Jeff Johnson
Communion Assistants: (8:00) (10:30)
Elder: (8:00) Matt Hanan **(10:30)** Keith Rennerfeldt
Greeters: (8:00) Marie Benson & B.J. Brown
(10:30) Janine, Marty & Zach Langemo
Lector: (8:00) Lois Thur **(10:30)** Karen Mohrland
Music: (8:00) Organ: Bruce Anderson, Cantor: John Schonebaum
(10:30) Worship Band
Soundboard: (8:00) Dan Savard **(10:30)** Marty Langemo
Ushers: (8:00) B.J. Brown, John Schonebaum, Scott & Corine Goodrich
(10:30) Todd Mohrland, Jon, Rich, Tarrie Culbert



Altar
Flowers

Today's Altar flowers are given by:

Dianne & Wayne Warnest
Erica Moore

Last Week's Contributions:

December 3 8:00 A.M. (78) 10:30 A.M. (82)

Current - \$ 9,251.25	Missions - \$151.00
Concordia - \$1.00	CLS - \$21.00
Thanksgiving - \$1.00	Advent - \$6.00
Total - \$ 9,431.25 (\$6,500 needed weekly)	

December 17 Worship Assistants

Preacher: Rev. Andrew Thompson
Acolytes: (8:00) Calvin Hanan & Jingyan Schlechte
(10:30) Savannah & Sebastian Caquelin
Caretaker: (8:00) John Schonebaum **(10:30)** Rich Culbert
Video Ministry: Jeff Johnson
Communion Assistants: (8:00) Matt Hanan, Megan Huff, John Schonebaum
(10:30) Gene Heuton, Akbar Muhammad, Dale Trapp
Elder: (8:00) Matt Hanan **(10:30)** Jerry Spiess
Greeters: (8:00) Corine Goodrich & Sheila Schlechte **(10:30)** Tarrie Culbert & Jerry Spiess
Lector: (8:00) Shelly Novotny **(10:30)** Terianne Bender
Music: (8:00) Organ: Bruce Anderson, Cantor: **(10:30)** Worship Band
Soundboard: (8:00) Scott Goodrich **(10:30)** Keith Rennerfeldt
Ushers: (8:00) Justin Baker, Collin Hanan, Reba & Walt Peterson
(10:30) Erica Moore, Bill, Jeremiah & Trent Willard

Join us for Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30 P.M. on Wednesdays in December (12/13 and 12/20) as we prepare for the celebration of Christmas. There will be a meal served starting at 5:15 P.M. in the Fireside Room.

Our Holiday schedule

Dec. 24 9:30 Sunday Service

4:00 Carols & Lessons

10:00 Special Candlelight with Communion

Dec. 25 9:30 with Communion

Dec. 31 9:30 1st Sunday of Christmas with Communion

Martha Sohn has a new book available, "God's COLORS for kids of all ages". This book grew out of her first book and collaboration with Marie Woller, "God's Alphabet for kids of all ages". With God's guidance, the next one is a reality! Praise God!
"God's COLORS for kids of all ages" is available from Martha, at \$25.00 per copy. Please contact Martha at marthasohn60@gmail.com.

Christmas Parents Day Out

Sunday, December 10th, 2-6pm

Kids will enjoy dinner, crafts and games while parents enjoy 4 hours to finish shopping, wrapping presents or just some peace and quiet.

\$25/per child (\$20 for each additional child.) All proceeds go to the Youth Group Mission Trip to Puerto Rico. Tell your family and friends. Everyone is welcome.

To sign up go to:

<https://goo.gl/b5e88y>

Contact Lynn Thompson at:

goodluna07@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Bible Study: will meet in the Fireside Room.

"Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith our God." So opens the King James version of Isaiah 40:1-11, the Old Testament reading for today, the second Sunday in Advent. And what more fitting to accompany such a lesson than Johann Olearius's hymn, "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"?

This hymn was not written as an Advent hymn. Olearius prepared it for inclusion in his hymnal *Geistliche Singe-Kunst*, Leipzig, 1671. This resource introduced many new hymns by Olearius, hymns that tended to be brief but carefully constructed. They were meant to provide something to sing for those days in the Church Year that had not already had a large body of hymnody devoted to them. "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People" was written for the Feast of St. John the Baptist on June 24. The first lesson for that day was Isaiah 40:1-5, of which Olearius's hymn is a paraphrase, the skill of which remains in Catherine Winkworth's translation. Stanzas 1 and 2 make clear the source of the comfort and peace which God speaks to His people: the forgiveness of their sins. "Tell her that her sins I cover," says God to His preachers. With the forgiveness of sins comes the conversion of "pining sadness" into "ever-springing gladness." Stanza 3 introduces John the Baptist, the "herald" who is "calling sinners to repentance," as well as the motif of leveling: "Let the valleys rise to meet Him / And the hills bow down to greet Him." Olearius's wording suggests that God is speaking here not primarily of topography, but of the hearts of men. The haughty are to be made humble, bowing before God, and the humble are to be exalted, standing confident in His presence. This application is made more explicit in the fourth stanza, where the straight and the plain are interpreted as "hearts" made "true and humble," though Olearius's German speaks more in terms of a humble mode of living. In the end, the message of comfort through the coming of God's kingdom in Christ will be made manifest to the entire world, as "all flesh shall see the token / That His Word is never broken."

The tune is known in Lutheran hymnody by the name "Freu dich sehr," for the text "Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele." The tune originated in the Genevan Psalter as the melody for the metrical version of Psalm 42, but among English-speaking Lutherans, the tune is now most closely associated with Olearius's hymn. Though not originally intended for Advent, "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People" surely embodies both the penitence and the joyful anticipation so characteristic of the season. John the Baptist, after all, figures prominently in the Advent observance, and his entire preaching was a testimony to Christ. Though Christ is not mentioned by name in the hymn, the fulfillment of Isaiah 40 in the preaching of John the Baptist reveals that Christ Jesus, the Lamb of God who by His sacrifice takes away the sin of the world, is the one who brings comfort to Jerusalem and to the world. (source: *The Free Lutheran Chorale-Book*)

~From the organ bench~