

St. Stephanus Lutheran Church

Preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ for 130 Years

C • O • N • N • E • C • T • I • N • G



with Jesus Christ and Each Other

May 31, 2020

Pentecost

Although we won't have weekly services at church for the foreseeable future, there will still be a stream of regular Sunday worship available on Sunday morning! Please visit our website www.saintstephanus.org for more details. Here is a direct link to the "Sermons & Worship" links: <http://www.saintstephanus.org/sermons-2020>

Pastor Thompson has **Bible Study on Sunday morning** at 11am. A link to Bible Study can be found on the website at www.saintstephanus.org/adult, along with worship services and other information. We are using Zoom, which is easy to use. You don't need to be able to speak or have video, you can just come listen in. Let us Shelter in the Word together in this time.

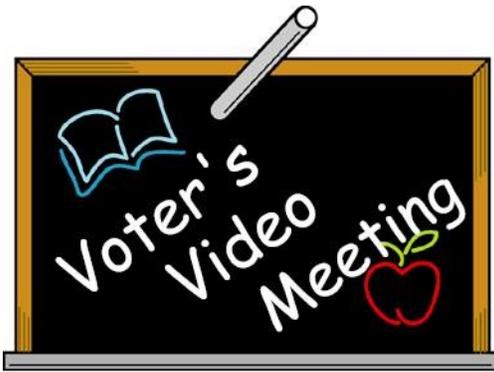
Today we celebrate Pentecost Sunday, when we commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles, in essence the birthday of the Church. This year, in lieu of balloons and streamers in the sanctuary and the special-effects flame shooting across the sanctuary during the Gospel reading, we will again be worshipping together yet in our own homes. However we are planning to have a festival treat of brass accompanying our hymns, with special thanks to Jim Radtke, John Schonebaum and Owen Schonebaum.

Although we won't sing it today, an excellent Pentecost hymn is "Come Down, O Love Divine" (#501 in our hymnal, you can see the words here: <https://hymnary.org/hymn/LSB2006/501>). The words to this hymn were written by Bianco da Siena (1350-1434), an Italian poet and wood worker who lived in Venice. The first stanza of this text addresses the Holy Spirit as "O Love divine" and "O Comforter," asking for His presence in our lives. The middle stanzas ask the Holy Spirit to purge us of all pride and evil passion, and to purify our love and light our path. The final stanza anticipates the greater love for God that will ensue from such purification, and recognizes that, as Paul wrote, "your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you" (1 Corinthians 6:19 NIV). The tune was composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), the chief figure in English music in the early 1900s, who named this tune after his home town. Since the past 2-1/2 months of stay-at-home have afforded more time to try new and different things (in isolation of course), I decided to take on an organ duet on this tune. Hopefully the effort paid off: <https://youtu.be/4zx2ZzgLrT4>

~The Organ Bench~

The office will remain open at this time. Feel free to call or email me with your questions, concerns, and prayer requests.

You are welcome to mail in your contribution straight to the church—the church’s address can be found on the next page. Reminder: there was an email sent out that included instructions on how to go to our website and get to the VAN-CO site to sign up for one time, weekly or monthly electronic giving.



NEXT Sunday, June 7th, 2020 following the 9:30 service there will be a Voter’s meeting. We will meet via “Zoom”. The link will be available closer to the date of the meeting. **We will be voting for PPC positions and having a financial update.**



Pentecost

