

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

Aug. 2, 2020

Eighth Sunday After Trinity

We don't know who wrote the words to "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us." It first appeared in a children's hymnal compiled by Dorothy Thrupp in 1836, so some people think that Mrs. Thrupp wrote it—but that is far from certain.

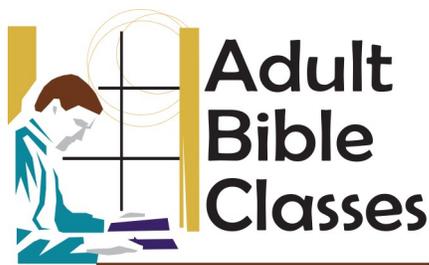
But it is clear enough what inspired the words. Two scriptures come to mind. The first is Psalm 23, which begins, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." The second is the tenth chapter of the Gospel of John, where Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd."

And we know who wrote the music. His name is William Bradbury. Bradbury was a gifted teenage music student in Boston when he met Lowell Mason at the Bowdoin Street Church. Mason was a well-known musician who wrote the music for "Joy to the World" and a number of other hymns. Mason took Bradbury under his wing, nurturing his musical abilities. After finishing school, Bradbury moved to New York City, where he worked as a church musician specializing in children's music. He wrote the music for what must be the favorite children's hymn of all time—"Jesus Loves Me." He intended "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us" to be a children's hymn, but it turned out that adults enjoyed singing it too. A story related to this hymn is told about Ira Stankey, a musician who worked closely with Dwight L. Moody. On one occasion, Stankey sang this song, "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" at a public gathering. Afterwards, one of the guests pulled him aside and asked if Stankey had served on guard duty on a particular night in a particular place. Stankey, who had served in the Union army, said that he had. The other man said that he had served in the Confederate army. On the evening in question, he had started to shoot a Union soldier when the Union soldier began to sing "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Me." The Confederate soldier, who had often heard his mother sing that song, couldn't do it. Singing "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" had saved Stankey's life. -Copyright, 2007, [Richard Niell Donovan](#), used by permission.

We will sing this hymn in our service today. Today's prelude is a setting of this hymn which incorporates a setting of an aria from a Bach Cantata, "Sheep May Safely Graze". The lyrics, written about Duke Christian of Sachsen-Weissenfels to mark his birthday, translate to "Sheep may safely graze where a caring shepherd guards them." Although Bach wrote the lyrics to flatter the local royalty, they do bear a relation to the aforementioned hymn, so the weaving of the two is understandable. A setting of the Bach Cantata, "Sheep May Safely Graze" can be seen here: <https://youtu.be/cZWpE8ZnuG4> In the video, you may see some things that are old and familiar, but who knows, you might see something new too!

~The Organ Bench~

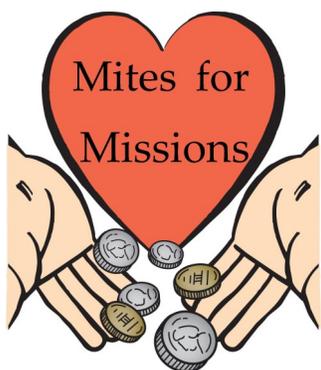
Although we won't have weekly services at church for the foreseeable future, there will still be a stream of regular Sunday worship available on Sunday morning! Please visit our website www.saintstephanus.org for more details. Here is a direct link to the "Sermons & Worship" links: <http://www.saintstephanus.org/sermons-2020>



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.

Stay Connected!

Have you found us on Facebook yet? During this season of being apart we're trying to engage members and congregational friends in prayer and conversation together through various Facebook posts. We invite you to join us: <https://www.facebook.com/SaintStephanusLCMS>.



On the third Sunday of each month, our church collects your pocket change for “mites for missions”. If you need a mite box please contact the church office and let me know how many boxes you would like. **If your mite box is full and you would like to drop it off or if you need a new mite box mailed to you please contact the church office to arrange a time.** These mites are important and go towards mission projects as well as provide aid to those seeking a Lutheran High School education, assisting seminary students with food/clothing, or help expand outreach to ethnic women and families to name just a few ways that your mites help the LWML reach the world. Thank you for your support.

