

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

September 13, 2020

Fifteenth Sunday After 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>

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) visited the Neue Kirche (new church) in Arnstadt, Germany, which had been completed in 1683 after seven years of construction to replace the old church which had burned down in 1581. The organ of this church had been built from 1699 to 1703, was comprised of two manuals and twenty-one stops (very similar to the size of the organ here at St. Stephanus, which is two manuals and twenty-eight stops), and was inspected in June 1703 by the then eighteen year old Bach who was hired afterwards as organist of the church following a brilliant performance when testing the new organ. But after a couple of years, it was actually criticism of his organ playing that was given as one of the excuses for letting him go, specifically the use of too many curious variations and strange notes in his chorale preludes.

One piece composed during Bach's time in Arnstadt is the Prelude and Fugue in E Minor (BWV 533). This piece, sometimes called "The Cathedral", features pedal solos, shaking tremolos for both hands, and series of full chords for keyboard and pedals simultaneously - all elements which would serve to test an organ's sound and response. Towards the end of the fugue there is a passage where Bach makes the left hand stand out with dissonance against the right hand. This is the sort of "frembde Thone" (strange notes) to which people later objected in Arnstadt. This piece by a youthful and rather impetuous Bach is on one hand an excellent job application, and on the other a reason for dismissal.

A video of this Prelude and Fugue can be seen by clicking the link here: <https://youtu.be/Dp26tZfbJS4>

~The Organ Bench~

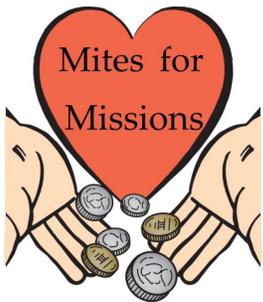


Voter's Meeting– Sunday Sept. 27th following the worship services. A ZOOM link will be emailed prior to the meeting.

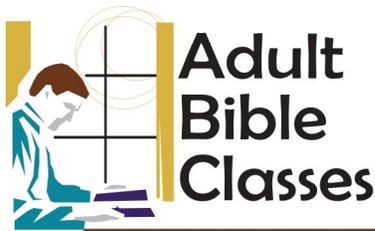


Tech Fund Update - In July we committed to make a significant investment of over \$18,000 in technology that would allow us to continue to live stream worship services even after we begin to meet in person. The technology was seen as an investment in our ministry to reach shut-ins, those too ill to attend worship, members traveling out of town, folks curious about St. Stephanus, and those who choose to avoid crowds due to COVID19 concerns. There will also be benefits that we haven't explored yet. Think about viewing worship

from home during a snow emergency or sharing ceremonies and celebrations live with remote relatives and friends. This investment was funded in part by the endowment fund with the balance dependent on donations from members. It was important to The Endowment Committee and to PPC that no general funds be used. The funding campaign was designed to run through last Sunday, September 6th. Normal counting and recording schedules have been modified due to the COVID19 environment and as a result an exact number is not available at this time. The final numbers will be made available at the **September 27 voters' meeting**. We are confident that the goal has been reached and the order for equipment has been placed. We will also provide an update on anticipated arrival dates and installation plan. We thank you for your encouragement and generous financial support. We continue to ask for God's guidance as we adapt our methods but not our message. Soli deo Gloria.



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.



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.

Subscribe to our “YouTube” channel!

Did you know when you subscribe to our “YouTube” channel you can get a notification each time we post a video? Subscribing is easy - all you need is a **Gmail account** to log-in! Once you're logged in you're also able to join us in the comments on Sunday morning, sharing the peace with others, requesting prayers, and being in fellowship. Need help? Contact Megan Hoffman or Dan Savard.

Wanting a way to do some socially distanced volunteering? Have some skill and ability putting things together? Feeding the Dream needs help putting together some shelves to store food and basic needs supplies. Contact me if you would be willing to help! - Pastor Thompson-

