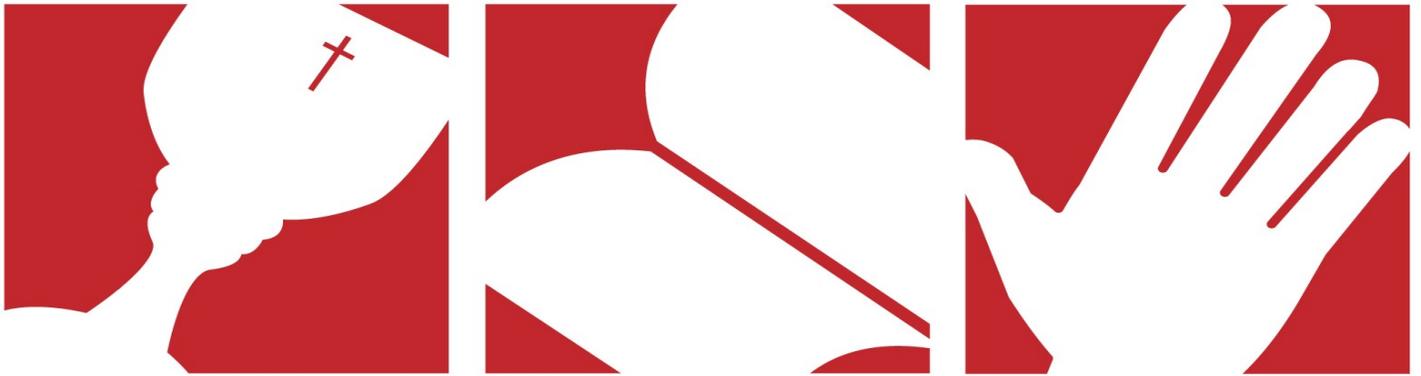


St. Stephanus Lutheran Church

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

November 15, 2020

Twenty-Fourth 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>

In a small cemetery of a parish churchyard in Olney, England, stands a granite tombstone with the following inscription: "John Newton (1725-1807), clerk, once an infidel and Libertine, a servant of slavers in Africa, was, by the rich mercy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, preserved, restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach the Faith he had long labored to destroy." This fitting testimonial, written by Newton himself prior to his death, describes aptly the unusual and colorful life of this man, one of the great evangelical preachers of the eighteenth century.

John Newton left home at the age of eleven to begin life as a seaman, with his early years consisting of one continuous round of rebellion and debauchery. Eventually Newton became captain of his own slave ship. On March 10, 1748, while returning to England from Africa, which turned out to be a particularly stormy voyage, Newton began reading a book by a Dutch monk, Thomas a Kempis. This book along with the stormy seas began Newton's conversion to Christianity. Although he continued as a slave captain for several years, he eventually became a strong crusader against slavery, returning to England, marrying, and studying for the ministry.

Newton's services were well attended, and included the abnormal practice of singing hymns that expressed faith instead of the usual singing of Psalms found in the Anglican church. Newton wrote the words to "Amazing Grace" in 1772, originally consisting of six stanzas and titled "Faith's Review and Expectation," and the words were set to an American folk melody entitled "Loving Lambs" and was first published in 1831 with the tune renamed to "New Britain".

A setting of this favorite hymn can be seen here: <https://youtu.be/moR9QWCFeyg>

CA Open House on November 17

Concordia Academy will be holding an in-person open house for prospective students and their parents on Tuesday, November 17, 6:00 - 8:00 P.M. While all available slots at the open house are full, interested families are encouraged to sign up on the waiting list. Details can be found on the RSVP page at www.concordiaacademy.com/openhouse .

CA Presents "It's a Wonderful Life" Radio Play

Ring in the Advent and Christmas season with Concordia Academy's Radio Play production of "It's A Wonderful Life." Performances, with two rotating casts, are November 20 at 7:00 P.M., November 21 at 2:00 and 7:00 P.M., November 22, at 2:00 P.M., November 27 at 7:00 P.M., November 28 at 2:00 and 7:00 P.M., and November 29 at 2:00 P.M.,. Each performance will be available via a live online audio stream, with a very limited number of live studio audience seats also available for each performance. Tickets for the live online audio stream are available for a free-will donation in any amount. Tickets for limited, in-person, studio audience reserved seats are \$20 for adults and \$15 for senior citizens and students. Go to www.concordiaacademy.com/wonderful for tickets and information.

A Month of Thanksgiving!

During this year when there is so much to be anxious about, so much heavy that is weighing on us all, we want to encourage each other to intentionally focus our hearts on gratitude this season. To help with this we're sharing daily scripture verses via text and on our website through Thanksgiving day. To receive the text messages sign-up by texting "@sslcword" to 81010. They are also linked on our homepage at saintstephanus.org

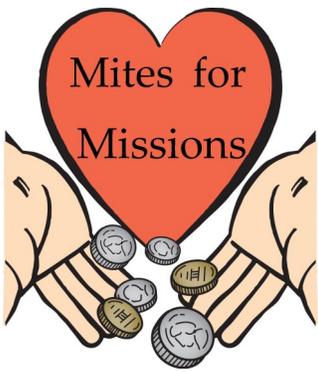
Coloring - it's not just for kids!

Coloring can be a great tool for mindfulness, and meditation. Our Sunday School kids are each coloring a page that when combined will be posters of the Beatitudes. If you'd like to join us email youth@saintstephanus.org to receive your own tile image to add to the posters!

A Series of Thanks! During this month of Thanksgiving we want to share a few things we're thankful for as a church. To kick this series off we'd like to thank everyone who donated towards the Technology Fund. Your donations have made it possible for us to stream in a high quality, professional way. Additionally the installation of this system will allow us to stay connected with those at home while we worship in person! We also want to thank Dan Savard for all the work he's done to figure out the technology, putting together services, running the stream, and keep us worshipping live each week!

A post-election prayer: Tuesdays on Facebook we try to share a prayer or a prayer prompt. This was the one we shared this week.

"Father of Nations, We are a divided country, differences and tensions feel palpable. In this post-election season help us to walk in love with our neighbors. May we be reminded that we are united in your love. We ask for your guidance to be people of peace, justice, and welcome. That in each interaction we have we see the face of you on those to whom we speak. Be with our leaders, both old and new, and guide them through this transition. Heal our divisions, and unite us O Lord. Amen."



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.

Prayers for Worship

As we've been gathering together for Worship we've been collecting prayers through our YouTube comments to use in worship. We recognize that not everyone is logged in or likes to have the comment section up during worship. If there are prayers you'd like us to include that week we invite you to submit them using this form: <https://forms.gle/JLDCstJFWRbu25PT7>

Welcome to our New Communicants: Lydia Bekele, Timothy Mohrland and Logan Curtis.



Voters Meeting November 22, 2020 after service

There will be a Voters Meeting after the service on **November 22, 2020**. The meeting will be a “Zoom” online meeting and the link is below. **The Agenda will include the 2021 Budget and the 2020 Annual Report. Also on the agenda will be:**

- Election of a pastor and lay person to attend Circuit Forum as congregation representatives
- Nominations of candidates for circuit visitor for the 2021-2024 triennium
- Participation in the triennial process for determining the District's priorities
- Election of Convention delegates (one pastoral, one lay, and one alternate lay, with an additional advisory lay delegate for multi-parish congregations)

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82127899085?pwd=K3ZFaG54Zmo3UzJmQVQ4K0FjdFg2UT09>

We Want to Hear From You - At the Nov 22nd Voters' meeting, in addition to approving the 2021 budget, we will be taking a poll related to returning to in-person worship. We want to determine how likely you are to attend in-person worship services this fall. The poll and additional detail will be explained at the meeting.

The Future

Many, many conversations have been had about what our future in food and food distribution are. Most of those conversations have held at their core the sacrificial question of "How do we continue to use what we have to bless and serve our neighbors?" I (Pastor) anticipate being able to present one path to you all at the November Voter's meeting for your consideration and support. In the meantime, thank you all for supporting so strongly this opportunity to bless and serve. So many people have worked many hours to lovingly care for their neighbor in this small way, and I am humbled by that sacrifice every time we work. Praise God for using us to be part of His way of giving daily bread.

Prayer Requests

Healing and Comfort

Carol Hirt

Blessings/Guidance

Concordia University
Paul & Kristin Humber

Shut-ins

Sharen Kappes

Week Ahead

SUNDAY, November 15

Online services at www.saintstephanus.org

MONDAY, November 16

TUESDAY, November 17

WEDNESDAY, November 18

THURSDAY, November 19

FRIDAY, November 20

SATURDAY, November 21

SUNDAY, November 22

Voters' Meeting on Zoom

Online services at www.saintstephanus.org



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VICAR: Yohannes Ghebru
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SSLCyouth@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:
Clarice Anderson
saintstephanus@comcast.net

WORSHIP LEADERS: Bruce Anderson
Amy Gundermann

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT:
Wayne Warnest
Admasu Mekonen

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

Nov. 2-8 Contributions

General - \$7,321

Technology - \$50.00

Total - \$7,371.00

(\$6,717.00 needed weekly)

Upcoming Birthdays, Feasts & Commemoration

Nov. 15: Kate Cao, Kaye Nuechterlein,
Owen Schonebaum

Nov. 16:

Nov. 17: Jackie Spiess

Nov. 18:

Nov. 19: Anthony Nissen,
Elizabeth of Hungary

Nov. 20:

Nov. 21:

Nov. 22: Wyatte Nissen



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

November contact person: Judy Brinkman

Bill & Joan Baker, Joanne Borocki, Redazgi Habtezgi & Mana Goytom, Marc & Melissa Karger, Leonard & Katie Miller, Candace & Todd Pagel, Bev Piepkorn, Stephanie Sagstetter, Jim & Karen Siegel

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.

Bible readings are located at www.saintstephanus.org under the "WORSHIP" tab.

Worship Service Stream at www.saintstephanus.org

Click the logo for
Online Giving:

