

# 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 29, 2020

First Sunday in Advent

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](http://www.saintstephanus.org) for more details. Here is a direct link to the "Sermons & Worship" links: <http://www.saintstephanus.org/sermons-2020>

**Happy New Year!** Well, at least Happy New Church Year! Today is the first Sunday in Advent, marking the beginning of the season of waiting. To begin this season, what could be more Lutheran and show the theme of Advent better than Luther's hymn "Savior of the Nations, Come"? Ambrose of Milan (340-397), the father of Latin hymnody, wrote the plainchant "Veni redemptor gentium". Martin Luther later translated the text into German, setting the words to the tune "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland", a plainsong melody as arranged by Johann Walter.

Johann Gottfried Walther (1684-1748), a German organist and composer and cousin of J.S. Bach, wrote a series of three chorales on this tune, which can be heard here: <https://youtu.be/LrA5-EAP80>

**We just passed Thanksgiving**, and I personally would like to give thanks to those who have been willing to give of their time and talents and sung for the weekly hymn recordings this past year: John Schonebaum, Jim Radtke, Lois Thur, and Jackie Spiess. ~The Organ Bench~

**Thank you** to the Men's club for the donation to this year's Advent wreath . ~Clarice Anderson~

# Reminder

**Just a reminder** all monies received by 12/31/2020 will be included on your 2020 statement. Any contributions received after this date will be put on your 2021 statement. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dale Trapp or Lynne Heuton.

## **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." Performance, November 29 at 2:00 P.M. The performance will be available via a live online audio stream, with a very limited number of live studio audience seats also available for 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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 thanks for the people who have been a blessing to us during this pandemic season. Check back next week for more!

- Thank you to our Sunday School Team, and Small Group and Bible Study leaders for the ways they have worked to keep us connected and in God's word this season. Thank you Jim Radtke, Lynn Thompson, Sheila Schlechte, Marty Langemo, Danielle Critchley Pastor Thompson, and Megan Hoffman.
- Thank you to our Parish Planning Council, Board of Lay Ministry, and our Re-opening committee who have continued to meet regularly, weigh hard decisions, seek God's direction and continue to lead through this season.
- Thank you to those who bring beauty to our space. To Dale Trapp for his work on Simon's Garden, and to Bruce and Clarice Anderson for keeping our altar flowers updated and looking great!

