

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

December 13, 2020

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

This Sunday we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, with the Advent theme of "Joy". The author of "Hymn to Joy", Ludwig van Beethoven, was born in December, 1770. Although the exact date of his birth is unknown, he was baptized on December 17, and since the custom of the time was to baptize babies within 24 hours of birth, he most likely was born on December 16. Beethoven is primarily known for his piano and orchestral compositions, but he also served as organist early in his musical career. He wrote virtually no organ music, but among his few organ works is the "Fugue in D", which Beethoven wrote at the age of eleven or twelve. To celebrate this week's 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth, my video is the "Fugue in D": <https://youtu.be/xjO8ZvL7col>

~The Organ Bench~



We will continue to livestream the Sunday Services during Advent. Pastor Thompson will record a message that will be posted on Wednesdays during Advent.

Christmas Eve 6:30 P.M. Livestream

Christmas Day 9:30 A.M. Livestream

December 27 9:30 A.M. Livestream and **NO Bible Study**

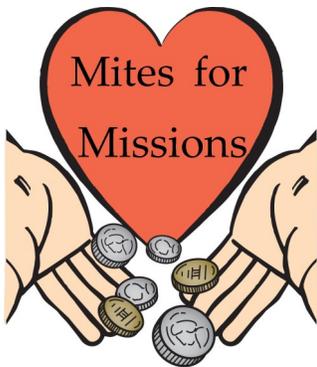
January 3 (2021) 9:30 A.M. Livestream



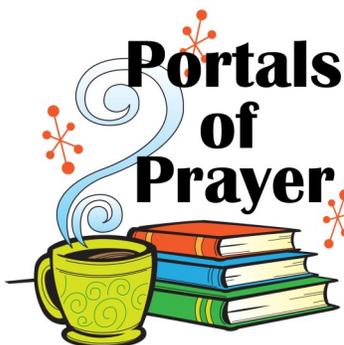
Just a reminder all monies received by 12/31/2020 will be included on your 2020 statement. Any contributions received after this date will be put on your 2021 statement. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dale Trapp or Lynne Heuton.

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.



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.



Portals of Prayer books have arrived. Please let me know if you would like a Large print or regular print book mailed to you. ~Clarice~

St. Stephanus TEAMS in ACTION

In the midst of global pandemic, groups at St. Stephanus have found ways to utilize several Thrivent Action Grants. Following is a sampling of ways Thrivent Grants are being used.

RONALD McDONALD HOUSE SHOWER

In the past, groups would prepare and serve a meal to families of children hospitalized at Gillette Children's Hospital. This was done at Ronald McDonald House in loving memory of our little brother, Simon, who received care at Gillette.

Those meals were closed in March. Using seed money from a Thrivent Action Grant, a group organized an outdoor "drive thru shower" to collect food pantry supplies for families to utilize while at Ronald McDonald House. Estimated value of items and cash given was \$1,700!

MASK SEWING

When hospitals began asking for homemade mask donations, grant money was used to purchase supplies for mask sewing. Supplies were distributed to individuals to fabricate masks for donation to care centers, hospitals, medical clinics, service organizations, etc. A conservative estimation of masks donated is 2000.

In addition, one of our members is part of a team sewing for Hennepin County Medical Center. That team has donated in excess of 18,000 individual masks.

CLEANING SUPPLIES and PERSONAL CARE SUPPLIES

The need for cleaning supplies in the community was made apparent.

Two grants were used, one for cleaning supplies and another for personal care supplies. Supplies were purchased and then delivered to St. Stephanus where they were distributed as needed into the community.

The following projects are now in progress:

HOSPICE KITS

Supplies are purchased to put together hospice kits. The assembly process to include volunteers is still in the discussion phase. Upon completion of this project, 150 hospice kits will have been delivered to Global Health Ministries for distribution to mission hospitals in Africa. Many might remember that Ruth Goehle is connected to this organization.

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

Grant money is being used to help supply the Little Food Pantry located at the edge of the church parking lot.

WARM WINTER WEAR

Thrivent grant is being used to purchase warm winter wear to distribute new residents of Jonathan House.

There is still time to apply for grants in 2020.

If you have questions about how apply for or use your Thrivent Grant, please contact Emmy Treichel at 651-645-3044 or Cherie Fleischhacker at ckfle1@yahoo.com or 651-348-9051.

Jonathan House has need for a twin-size bed frame. If you have one available and wish to donate to Jonathan House, please contact Josh Levin at joshl@iafr.org

Christmas Eve Digital Christmas Card - Deadline 12/20/20

We can't be together in person this year - but that doesn't mean we can't see each other! We are building a Christmas Card video to share with you on Christmas Eve - and we need your help! Please submit a photo of your family, and/or a short Christmas greeting (max 200 characters) to worship@saintstephanus.org by Sunday, December 20th.

Series of Thanks - Continued

We're continuing our series of Thanksgiving into December a bit.

Thank you to:

- Our musicians and lectors who have continued to bless our worship with their voices and talents.
- Our staff who have continued to find new unique ways to serve and complete their tasks during this pandemic.
- To our Food distribution volunteers, thank you for your faithful service to meet the needs of our community.
- To Jim Radtke, Sue Kressin, and Lee & Lois Bruss for your help with communion set-up and take down. And to Jane for your continued service in taking care of candles, and robes for Pastor and confirmation!

To you, the members of St. Stephanus, thank you for your support, trust, encouragement, and faithful stewardship of God's gifts in this season and always.

Student & Family Ministries:

We've gotten some requests for updates about what's happening with youth, kids, and family ministries. So once a month I'll include a few highlights here including ways you can be covering them in prayer during the next month.

- **Youth Group (Grades 7-12):** We meet weekly on Wednesdays for games, bible study, and prayer. During this month we are following along with Pastor Thompson's Advent devotional message for our Bible study time. We'll gather on the 20th (on ZOOM) for our annual Christmas Party.
- **Kids Ministry (Birth-6th grade):** In addition to Sunday School (grades pre-k to 6), we're doing an Advent Storytime in our Family Ministry Facebook Group on Wednesdays at 6:45. Stories for the week line up with the Advent theme word (Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love).
- **Please join us in praying for:**
 - Families who are doing distanced learning - For students who are feeling isolated from friends and teachers. For students who are struggling academically. For parents who are finding themselves to be bi-vocational educators, parents, in addition to other vocations.
 - For those who are, or have loved ones exposed or diagnosed with Covid. For many students this is one of the first big health scares they are experiencing.
 - For our seniors and other students), who are grieving the lost experiences they've expected this year to include. That they would find joy in new ways - and find space to honor those feelings of loss.

Prayer Requests

Healing and Comfort

John Schonebaum
Amy Sura
Mickey Zinter

Blessings/Guidance

Rich & Miriam Carter
Concordia Academy

Shut-ins

Lisa Bisping

Week Ahead

SUNDAY, December 13

Online services at www.saintstephanus.org

MONDAY, December 14

TUESDAY, December 15

WEDNESDAY, December 16

THURSDAY, December 17

FRIDAY, December 18

SATURDAY, December 19

SUNDAY, December 20

Online services at www.saintstephanus.org



St. Stephanus
Lutheran Church, LCMS
739 Lafond Ave
St Paul, MN 55104

PHONE: (651) 228-1486
FAX: (651) 228-1487
WEB : www.saintstephanus.org
EMAIL: saintstephanus@comcast.net

PASTOR: Pastor Andrew Thompson
pastor@saintstephanus.org
Phone: (612) 208-7388

VICAR: Yohannes Ghebru
vicar@saintstephanus.org

DCE: Megan Huff
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

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:



Nov. 30– Dec. 06 Contributions

General - \$3,755.00

Total - \$3,755.00 (\$6,717.00 needed weekly)

Upcoming Birthdays, Feasts & Commemoration

Dec. 13: *Lucia, Martyr*

Dec. 14: Bill Johnson, Lynne Billing,
Sebastian Caquelin

Dec. 15:

Dec. 16:

Dec. 17: *Daniel the Prophet and
the Three Young Men*

Dec. 18:

Dec. 19: Simeon Thompson, Trent Willard,
Adam & Eve

Dec. 20: *Katharina von Bora Luther*



December contact person: Lynne
Heuton

Erin Baker, Al Benson, Clarence & Yoshiko
Benson, Michelle Connolly, Lynne Heuton,
Allison Johnson, Jeff Johnson,
Admasu Mekonen & Diribe Desissa,
Connie Petersen, Steve Sohn

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.