

# 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 20, 2020

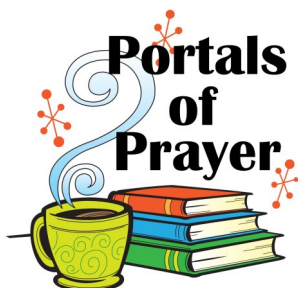
Fourth Sunday in Advent

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>

**On this Fourth Sunday of Advent**, we sing the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel". The Latin hymn "Veni, Veni, Emmanuel", dates back to the early 1700s, and traditionally is sung during the last seven days of Advent with one "O Antiphon" being sung each evening. The English translation was first done in about 1851 by the priest and scholar John Mason Neale, who also wrote lyrics to the carol "Good King Wenceslas." The tune dates back to 15th century France. A setting of this hymn can be heard here: <https://youtu.be/TfyliGLoa5U>

~The Organ Bench~

**The office will be closed Dec. 24 & 25. Please have all announcements to the office by Dec.22 (11:00 A.M.)**



**Portals  
of  
Prayer**

**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~

**The yearly Calendars** from Mueller Bies Funeral Home have arrived. If you would like 1 (or more) please let me know. ~Clarice~



**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

# 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.

## 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>

## 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.

## **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 to the new residents of Jonathan House.

**There is still time** to apply for grants in 2020.

If you have questions about how to apply for or use your Thrivent Grant, please contact Emmy Treichel at 651-645-3044 or Cherie Fleischhacker at [ckfle@yahoo.com](mailto:ckfle@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](mailto:joshl@iafr.org)

## Prayer Requests

### Healing and Comfort

John Schonebaum  
Amy Sura  
Mickey Zinter

### Blessings/Guidance

Paul & Kristen Humber  
Concordia University

### Shut-ins

Sharen Kappes

## Week Ahead

SUNDAY, December 20

Online services at [www.saintstephanus.org](http://www.saintstephanus.org)

MONDAY, December 21

TUESDAY, December 22

WEDNESDAY, December 23

THURSDAY, December 24

Office Closed

FRIDAY, December 25

Christmas Day

Office Closed

SATURDAY, December 26

SUNDAY, December 27

Online services at [www.saintstephanus.org](http://www.saintstephanus.org)



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VICAR: Yohannes Ghebru  
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DCE: Megan Huff  
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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:  
Clarice Anderson  
[saintstephanus@comcast.net](mailto: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

### Dec. 07-13 Contributions

General - \$8,133.95

Organ - \$410.00

Twin City Relief Fund - \$ 3,000

Total - \$11,543.95 (\$6,717.00 needed weekly)



### Upcoming Birthdays, Feasts & Commemoration

Dec. 20: *Katharina von Bora Luther*

Dec. 21: *St. Thomas, Apostle*

Dec. 22:

Dec. 23: Ben Mohrland, Wayne Warnest

Dec. 24: Erica Moore, Ron Brubak,

Wendy Curtis

Dec. 25: *Jesus*

Dec. 26: *St. Stephen, Martyr*

Dec. 27: *St. John, Apostle & Evangelist*

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.

Bible readings are located at [www.saintstephanus.org](http://www.saintstephanus.org) under the "WORSHIP" tab.

Worship Service Stream at [www.saintstephanus.org](http://www.saintstephanus.org)

Click the logo for Online Giving:

