

St. Stephanus Lutheran Church

Preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ for 130 Years

C • O • N • N • E • C • T • I • N • G



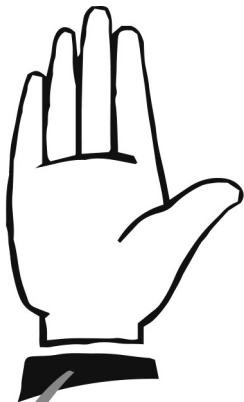
with Jesus Christ and Each Other

January 24, 2021

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

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>

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES - Your 2021 offering envelopes are available for pick up at the church office. Please call in advance (651-228-1486) to ensure Clarice will be available to let you in the building and set your envelopes out for easy and safe pick up. Consider picking up envelopes for your neighbors and family to help with distribution. If you would like your new envelope number to reference on your offering until you are able to pick up your envelope please contact the office. We realize that not everyone feels comfortable, or is able to visit the church. If you would like to have them delivered to your home please contact Lynne Heuton to make arrangements (651-315-4158) lmheuton@gmail.com



**VOTERS
MEETING**

Voter's meeting is schedule for Feb. 7th. The agenda will include a referendum to extend the Synodical triennium. The question before the congregations is this:

"Shall the Synod add a year to the current 2019–2022 triennium, allowing districts to hold their conventions in either 2021 or 2022, and moving the upcoming national Synod Convention from 2022 to 2023?" [Thereafter, the triennium cycle will continue forward from 2023 in three-year increments, as before (i.e., with district conventions held in 2025, 2028, etc., and Synod Conventions held in 2026, 2029, etc.).]

Vote: Yes or No.

Information on this matter has been provided in the President's letter (available online at www.lcms.org/delay-vote-letter) and in a response to frequently asked questions (www.lcms.org/delay-vote-faqs)."

Cards

There has been so much in these days to keep up with. One of the ways that we can continue to encourage each other in them is to write to each other, especially those who have recently lost a loved one.

Since I have been asked, contact information for the family of Carol Hirt is below:

Lisa Eckman (Carol's daughter)
2688 Lake Court Dr.
St. Paul, MN 55112

Also for Bev Piepkorn after the loss of her son Dan

Bev Piepkorn
2730 Hazelwood Street
#105
Maplewood, MN 55109

And Tricia Schmidt and family, whose mother LuAnn passed away

Tricia Schmidt
90 Maria Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55106

Today, the Third Sunday after the Epiphany, we hear in our Gospel reading about Jesus encouraging the new disciples to follow Him.

In the 8000s, a missionary from Wales who had endured severe persecution finally saw his first converts in a particularly brutal village in the Northern Indian province of Assam. A husband and wife, with their two children, professed faith in Christ and were baptised. Assam and its surrounding provinces was located in one of the most oppressive forms of Hinduism — a place where the caste system was entrenched, and where headhunters ruled. These provinces often prided themselves on the hostile reaction they gave foreigners. Their village leaders decided to make an example out of the husband. Arresting the family, they demanded that the father renounce Christ, or see his wife and children murdered. When he refused, his two children were executed by archers. Given another chance to recant, the man again refused, and his wife was killed. Still refusing to recant, this husband and father was martyred.

Witnesses later told the story to the Welsh missionary. The reports said that when asked to recant or see his children murdered, the man said: "I have decided to follow Jesus, and there is no turning back." After seeing his children killed, he reportedly said, "The world can be behind me, but the cross is still before me." And after seeing his wife pierced by the arrows, he said, "Though no one is here to go with me, still I will follow Jesus."

According to this missionary, when he returned to the village, a revival had broken out, and those who had murdered the first converts had since come to faith in Jesus themselves.

The Welsh man passed along these reports to the famous Indian evangelist Sandhu Sundar Singh. Singh had risen to prominence in India because he was training foreign missionaries, and a theme in his teaching had been the necessity of avoiding the cultural trappings of Western Christianity. He insisted that the missionaries now pouring into India focus on the essentials of the gospel while allowing the now vibrant Indian Christian community to develop their own Christian customs.

The accounts of the family that had been martyred in Assam were so astonishing and widely circulated that most Indian believers were familiar with it. So Singh took the martyr's last words, and put them to traditional Indian music in order to make one of the first uniquely Indian hymns. The song immediately became popular in Indian churches, and it remains a mainstay of worship music there to this day. Eventually some of the American missionaries returned from India and they brought that song with them. Finally it ended up with Canadian song writer George Beverley Shea, and he made it a staple at the Billy Graham crusades. (source: Pastor Brad Abley's Blog)

You can hear an arrangement of the hymn "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" here: <https://youtu.be/Dp4B7rBmH0U>

~The Organ Bench~

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>



Hello parents,

Studies show that our young people are growing increasingly farther away from their faith (Fuller Youth Institute). Our goal is to help you aid them. In the middle of February, we are starting a new series called Faith Legacy, which encourages parents to aid their children in carrying their faith throughout their lives. This is part of the field work experience, and I, Danielle Critchley, will be teaching.

There are five age groups, each with a different focus. The two younger groups will meet on Mondays from 8:00-9:00 P.M., and the three older groups will meet on Mondays from 7:30-8:30 P.M. 0-3 year old parents will meet on February 15th, preschool-2nd grade parents will meet on February 22nd, 3rd-6th graders and their parents will meet on March 8th, 7th-8th graders and their parents will meet March 15th, and high schoolers and their parents will meet on March 22nd. If you are interested, please visit <https://forms.gle/9cHm6yFwaen8BKoW7> and fill it out, regardless of whether or not you are busy that evening. We would like to have registration completed by or before January 25th so we know how much we need to order in supplies and have time to have items shipped.

I am also looking for a Thrivent grant sponsor to fund the series. The grant will provide the funding for materials that we will need for these activities. If you are interested in helping out with this, please contact me at critchld@csp.edu so that we can work out the details. Thank you!

I look forward to working with all of you in aiding your child in growing in their faith and keeping it through their whole lives.

Yours in Christ,
CSP DCE Field work student
Danielle Critchley



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[February 12-14, 2021](#)

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You Can Participate Privately from Your Home or Anywhere That Affords You Privacy as a Couple

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Questions? Contact us at info@godlovesmarriage.org

Pre-registration **is required** to send your encounter materials to you via snail mail-don't miss out!



LWML Winter Workshop Hosted by St. Paul Metro Zone

January 30, 2021 9-10 A.M.

A Facebook Live Event:

access the link through Emmaus Lutheran Church, St. Paul website:

<http://www.emmaus-lutheran-church.org> or Facebook page

Theme: Persevering with Hope

Speaker: Dr Reed Lessing, Concordia University

to speak on his book: Jeremiah: Overcoming Disasters

Hymn LSB 576 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

optional--to sing at home on your own

1 My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.

2 In ev'ry rough and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the vale.
When all around my soul gives way,
he then is all my hope and stay. [Refrain].

3 Not earth, nor hell, my soul can move;
I rest upon unchanging love
I trust his righteous character,
his counsel, promise, and his pow'r. [Refrain]

4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,
oh, may I then in him be found,
dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne. [Refrain]



Prayer Requests

Healing and Comfort

Reba Peterson

Blessings/Guidance

Paul & Kristen Humber
Concordia University

Shut-ins

Sharen Kappes

Week Ahead

SUNDAY, January 24

Online services at www.saintstephanus.org

MONDAY, January 25

TUESDAY, January 26

WEDNESDAY, January 27

THURSDAY, January 28

FRIDAY, January 29

SATURDAY, Jan. 30

SUNDAY, Jan. 31

Online services at www.saintstephanus.org



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VICAR: Yohannes Ghebru
vicar@saintstephanus.org

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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

Jan. 10– 17 Contributions

General - \$9,503.11 Missions - \$10.00
Total - \$9,513.11 (\$6,717.00 needed weekly)

Upcoming Birthdays, Feasts & Commemoration

Jan. 24: *St. Timothy, Pastor and Confessor*

Jan. 25: Fred Boterman, Noah Miller,
The Conversion of St. Paul

Jan. 26: *St. Titus, Pastor & Confessor*

Jan. 27: *John Chrysostom, Preacher*

Jan. 28:

Jan. 29: Michelle Connolly

Jan. 30:

Jan. 31: Annie Overfors



Birthdays

January contact persons: Jim Radtke & Sue Kressin

Carol Donahoe, Cherie Fleischhacker
Joan Johnson, Suzanne Johnston, Jon
Marschke, Anthony Nissen, Wyatt Nissen,
Tami Nissen-Omosowon, Ed & Marlene
Potter, Jim Radtke & Sue Kressin, Joe &
Kristen Rivera

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:

