

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

Feb. 21, 2021
First Sunday in Lent

We are happy to share that we are opening the building for worship again offering Sundays in person on Sunday, February 21st.

Like many things right now though there will be some new procedures and precautions in place to help keep the risk of transmission low. And there will be some changes to the in-person experience while we transition from fully online to hybrid. We encourage you to read the document that was emailed out on Feb. 15, that lays out the complete plan. You can also find it on our website at saintstephanus.org.

Here are a few highlights for you to be aware of:

In person worship is maxed at 50 people, and all in-person attendees will need to register themselves, and their families **ahead of time** using this link: <https://bookapew.com/app/mn/sslc/>

- Masks and physical distancing will be required. Hand sanitizer will be located at multiple locations throughout the building.
- Arrows and signs will be used to maintain a single direction entrance and exit flow of the building.
- Bulletins will not be printed, please print your own to bring with you - or use a mobile device

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>

Communion

This Sunday (February 21st), we will celebrate The Lord's Supper together online. You will be able to participate in our normal way over YouTube.

How are we going to do this?

We ask that you prepare bread and wine (or grape juice) in your own home and set aside a place for them before the service. At the time of the Words of Institution, you are welcomed to speak them together with me and then receive the body and blood of Jesus. If you are in a family, you may distribute to each other using the words "The body of Christ for you" and "The blood of Christ for you." If you are by yourself, you may also join in speaking those words aloud to yourself and receiving the gift of Christ for you. For those who have not been instructed in the reception of the Lord's Supper, we invite you to share a blessing reflected from one of the readings, such as, "You are a temple of the Holy Spirit in whom God dwells" or "The grace of Jesus Christ lives in you" while making the sign of the cross on their head. If you feel like baking it yourself, we sent a recipe out at Christmas and would gladly send you it again if requested at saintstephanus@comcast.net or pastor@saintstephanus.org.



Martin Luther (1483-1546) wrote many hymns for worship in the people's native German language. Several of these were based on the Psalms, with today's focus on the hymn based on Psalm 130, "From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee", for which Luther penned both the text and the tune. Luther gave this introduction to the opening verse of this hymn as written in *Luther's Works*: "These are noble, passionate and very profound words of a truly penitent heart that is most deeply moved in its distress. In fact, this cannot be understood except by those who have felt and experienced it. We are all in deep and great misery, but we do not all feel our condition. Crying is nothing but a strong and earnest longing for God's grace, which does not arise in a person unless he sees in what depth he is lying."

Friedrich Wilhelm Zachau (1663-1712), notably teacher of Georg Frideric Handel, was a noted German organist and composer. Among his organ chorales is one based on the tune "Aus tiefer Not schrei ich zu dir", the tune Luther used for his hymn. This chorale can be heard here: <https://youtu.be/ZQ7OL-ukzfw>

Additional music for Sunday's service:

Ein Feste Burg Ist Unser Gott - chorale by Johann Gottfried Walther

Southwell - setting by Theodore Beck

~The Organ Bench~

CA Open House on February 23

Concordia Academy's in-person open house on Tuesday, February 23, 6:00-8:00 PM, gives parents and students a great chance to see how CA honors God through excellence in academics, arts, athletics, and more! COVID-19 safety protocols will be in place; reservations are required. Get more details and reserve your spot at www.concordiaacademy.com/openhouse.

Register for Concordia Academy Camps

This summer, Concordia Academy offers over 30 sports, arts, and STEM summer camps for elementary, middle, and high school students. New offerings include Cardboard Creations, Coding, Stop Motion Animation, and Sweet Treats & Healthy Eats! Go to www.concordiaacademy.com/camps to get details and register.



Looking for people to voluntarily clean after worship services. If interested please contact Pastor at pastor@saintstephanus.org or 612-208-7388



Please note that offerings are temporarily being counted every other week and not weekly. We will continue this schedule until we return to regular in-person worship or if our cash flow position requires us to return to weekly deposits. Thank you for your continued financial support of our ministries.

End of the Year Contribution Statements- The 2020 end-of-year contribution statements were emailed out several weeks ago. For those of you not receiving email your statements were mailed. If you have not received your statement please contact the church office (651)-228-1486 or Lynne Heuton (651)-315-4158.

2021 Offering Envelopes - There are still quite a few 2021 offering envelopes at the church office that have not been picked up. If you are unable to pick your envelopes up and would like them delivered please contact Lynne Heuton (651-315-4158) and we will make arrangements to get them to you.

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.

Fare for All will be having a drive through sale in the parking lot at St. Stephanus on Wednesday, March 3rd, from 2- 4 P.M.

Fare For All is a community-supported, non-profit program, open to all! The program provides easy access to low-cost, nutritious foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables and frozen meat packages.

St. Stephanus provides 3 volunteers to help load boxes to carts and deliver them to the cars. Volunteers should arrive to the church lobby at 1:40 and expect to finish by 4:15. A mask or face covering is required and safe distancing will be practiced.

To volunteer for this event, please contact Cherie Fleischhacker at ckfle@yahoo.com or 651-348-9051.

@Home Volunteer Opportunity (Youth and Adults): We are building a small team of people of online hosts who can rotate Sundays taking turns hosting our YouTube comment section on Sunday mornings. Time commitment for this is about 1 hour (length of worship service), once or twice a month (depending on size of team and personal availability), plus an initial training session with Megan (about 20 min on Zoom). This role is responsible for greeting people, sharing the peace, answering questions as they're able, and collecting prayers for worship. If you're interested in learning more, or helping please contact Megan at youth@saintstephanus.org Position open to anyone 8th grade and up!

Summer Week (Weekend?) of Service - Recruiting planning team members!

Our Youth are supposed to be heading out on a mission trip this summer - at least that's the rhythm we've created. But due to the pandemic we're choosing to keep things local this summer. And we're opening it up to the whole congregation. We're looking to recruit a team of planners who will help put together a week long, or long weekend of service, fellowship, and worship activities that'll have things for all ages, and abilities to participate in, as well as things that can be done with others, or at home if there is a need for quarantining. If this is something you're passionate about, you have an area you'd like to see included in our planning, or you're looking for a way to get connected we'd love to have you join us! Planning team is open to all members! Contact Megan to learn more, and/or sign up!

Storytime Readers Needed!

Twice a month we're posting storytime videos in our Family Ministry Facebook group for our littlest sisters and brothers. We'd love for them to see some other people from church so that when we return together they already recognize those smiling faces, and know they are already so loved by us. Are you willing to submit a story video and be part of this new ministry opportunity? Connect with Megan at youth@saintstephanus.org to learn more!

New Resource Folder for Kids, Youth, and Families!

Looking for a Lenten devotion to do with your family? Looking for those coloring sheets that connect with Sunday School but don't remember what email they were in? Looking for this session's confirmation assignments? You can find all our Youth, Kid, and family ministry resources in this folder <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13S59S2TV1aif2nRAXLGabbO-JfgjUQej?usp=sharing>

Prayer Requests

Healing and Comfort

Dan Savard

Blessings/Guidance

Rich & Miriam Carter
Concordia University

Shut-ins

Sharen Kappes

Week Ahead

SUNDAY, February 21

Online services at www.saintstephanus.org

MONDAY, February 22

TUESDAY, February 23

WEDNESDAY, February 24

THURSDAY, February 25

FRIDAY, February 26

SATURDAY, February 27

SUNDAY, February 28

Online services at www.saintstephanus.org



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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:



Feb. 1-14 Contributions

General-\$14,068.18 Lent - \$2.00

Sharing & Caring - \$100.00

Total - \$14,170.18 (\$6,717.00 needed weekly)

Upcoming Birthdays, Feasts & Commemoration

Feb. 21:

Feb. 22:

Feb. 23: *Polycarp of Smyrna, Pastor & Martyr*

Feb. 24: Jackie Preuss, *St. Matthias, Apostle*

Feb. 25: Lydia Bekele

Feb. 26: Andrew Fleischhacker

Feb. 27: Haikel Amare

Feb. 28: Rich Carter, Riley Bauch



February monthly group contact person:
Sheila Schlechte

Alandra Banaei, Roger and Nancy Binning,
Wendy Curtis, Ron Hoelscher, Marty & Janine
Langemo, Kyle Munoz, Shelley Novotny, Jay
& Sheila Schlechte, Jerry & Jackie Spiess,
Cindy Westphall, Joshua Yernberg

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.