

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

March 7, 2021
Third Sunday in Lent

Sir John Bowring (1792-1872) was a **English scholar**, linguist, and shoemaker who was a factor in British politics in Hong Kong, serving as consul and later governor of Hong Kong, member of the British Parliament, and later was knighted. By the age of sixteen he had mastered five languages, and went on to speak over one hundred languages. Bowring was also a champion of education for all and prison reform. In 1825

In 1825, Bowring published the book *Hymns by John Bowring*, which included a hymn based on Galatians 6:14, "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." Bowring's hymn, "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" may have been inspired by a sight in Macao, a Portuguese colony located near Hong Kong which had been recently hit by a typhoon, where he saw a large bronze cross which towered over the ruins of a cathedral.

The tune, RATHBUN, was composed by Ithamar Conkey (1815-1867), an English organist and choirmaster who was born and died in Exeter, England, but served for many years at a Baptist Church in Norwich, Connecticut. It is said that one Sunday during Lent, Conkey was so disappointed when only one choir member showed up for the morning service, that he left the service in disgust immediately after playing the prelude. That afternoon he thought of one of the hymns which was to have been sung, "In the Cross of Christ I Glory", and was inspired to write a new tune for the hymn which he named after that one faithful choir member, Beriah S. Rathbun. Of the event, Conkey commented, "the inspiration that came to me at that moment was vivid contrast to my feelings at the morning service." Conkey's tombstone in Exeter, England, bears the words, "In the Cross of Christ I Glory."

A setting of this hymn tune can be heard here: https://youtu.be/iNU-H_ZNC9Y

Other music in the service:

ELVET BANKS - settings by Robert Lind

~The Organ Bench~

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>

Stay Connected!

Have you found us on Facebook yet? During this season of being apart we're trying to engage members and congregational friends in prayer and conversation together through various Facebook posts. We invite you to join us: <https://www.facebook.com/SaintStephanusLCMS>.

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.

On the third Sunday of each month, our church collects your pocket change for "mites for missions" in the big mite box in the narthex. Please remember to bring your mite box from home or take one with you to fill for next month. These mites 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.

~Women's Ministry ~



Please look at the new flower chart and let Clarice (office) know what date you would like to have flowers signed up in your name along with 1 or 2 bouquets. Due to COVID there is no pen for you to use.

Altar Flowers

Basic Needs Drive! Now through Easter!

One of the long held traditions of Lent is almsgiving - the act of giving to those in need. The early church adopted this tradition as a way to respond to God's gifts to us, not as a mandate or way to earn salvation, but as an act of love and gratitude. During this season of Lent we're inviting you to take part in this tradition by donating to our Basic Needs Drive. We'll be collecting toiletries, and cleaning supplies that will be given out during the "**Feeding the Dream**" giveaways happening this Spring. For more information on how and what to donate visit our website at: www.saintstephanus.org/serving-frogtown.

Current Volunteer Opportunities:

Are you looking for a new way to get connected, and serve at SSLC? Check out the list below and see if there are any spaces where your gifts and passions align with a need. Many of these opportunities are important pieces in helping us continue to safely offer hybrid worship, and be a place of blessing in our community. Email the person listed with each opportunity for more information and to get your questions answered.

- **Worship Volunteers:**

Online Greeter & Prayers | Remote, YouTube greeter, and prayer gatherer, Sundays during worship. [Megan Hoffman - youth@saintstephanus.org]

Sanctuary Sanitizing | In Person, Sundays after worship [Pastor Thompson - athompson@saintstephanus.org]

Caretaker, Usher, and Communion Assistants | In Person, Sundays during worship. [Dan Savard - danielsavard@mac.com]

Lector | Remote, on your own time [Dan Savard - danielsavard@mac.com]

- **Ministry Volunteers:**

Storytime Video Readers | Remote, on your own time [Megan Hoffman - youth@saintstephanus.org]

Fare for All | In Person & involves lifting, happens monthly - can volunteer for one time only. [Cherie Fleischhacker - ckfle@yahoo.com]

Women's History Month!

March is National Women's History Month, and March 8th is International Women's Day! During this month we'll be highlighting women who have had an impact on our church history, but whose stories are not always well known. Have a suggestion of someone you'd like to see highlighted? Contact Megan at youth@saintstephanus.org



Dr. Rosa J. Young was an early leader in Lutheran education and missionary work. She helped to plant dozens of historically black Lutheran schools and chapels in the South. Throughout her life she taught over 2,000 students during a time when education for children of sharecroppers was limited. Dr. Young was a key influencer in the founding of Alabama Lutheran Academy and College in Selma Alabama, that school would go on to be Concordia College Selma. Want to learn more about her? Check out her autobiography, [Light in the Dark Belt](#), or visit <https://www.lcms.org/thefirstrosa> to view the documentary, "The First Rosa."



Communion

This Sunday (March 7), 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 your-

self 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.

Prayer Requests

Healing and Comfort

Lee & Lois Bruss
Dan Savard

Blessings/Guidance

Paul & Kristin Humber
Concordia Academy

Shut-ins

Lisa Bisping

Week Ahead

SUNDAY, March 7

Online services at www.saintstephanus.org

11 AM Sunday School on Zoom

MONDAY, March 8

TUESDAY, March 9

WEDNESDAY, March 10

7:15 PM Youth Group on Zoom

THURSDAY, March 11

FRIDAY, March 12

SATURDAY, March 13

SUNDAY, March 14

Online services at www.saintstephanus.org

11 AM Sunday School on Zoom



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VICAR: Yohannes Ghebru
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youth@saintstephanus.org

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:
Clarice Anderson
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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

Feb. 21-28 Contributions

General-\$10,582.00
20x5 - \$5.00
Concordia Academy - \$10.00
Missions - \$10.00

Total - \$10,607.00 (\$7,250.00/week - \$31,400/month)

Upcoming Birthdays, Feasts & Commemoration

March 7: Calvin Hanan, Dianne Warnest,
Karen Trudeau, *Perpetua & Felicitas, Martyrs*

March 8:

March 9: Jeff Wussler

March 10:

March 11: Brian Sell, Kayla Gundermann

March 12:

March 13: Corine Goodrich



March monthly group contact person:
Lu Clemmensen

Elizabeth Asefa, Dan Baker, Senait Berhe,
Mary & Ron Bisping, Matt & Jen Caquelin,
Lu Clemmensen, Matt & Tiffany Hanan,
Arnie Johnson & Eileen Vierow,
Amarti Maskalo

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:

