

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 21, 2021
Fifth Sunday in Lent

We are open again for worship with a few restrictions at this time. A complete list can be found 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 and bring with you. If you are not able to print one please contact the office so that the Pastor can get one for you. Thank you. We hope to lift this at some point in the future, but for now it is staying.



Communion

This Sunday (March 21), 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.

Sunday, March 21, marks the birthday of one of the most influential composers both in Lutheran music as well as across the realm of organ, keyboard, voice and instrumental music, Johann Sebastian Bach. Born in 1685 into a family of generations of musicians, Bach found himself an orphan by the age of ten, and was taken in by his older brother. Bach was known as a great performer with amazing technical skill, and also for being somewhat independent and arrogant which caused conflicts with his students and church officials.

After struggling with failing eyesight for several years, Bach had surgery in 1750 but the operation left him completely blind, and he soon afterwards suffered a stroke, dying on July 28, 1750.

Bach was more well known as an organist and performer than as a composer during his lifetime. Many of his compositions were retained by copies created by his several students. One of these compositions, the "Fantasia and Fugue in C Minor" was only discovered several years after his death in a roll of manuscripts belonging to one of Bach's students, Johann Tobias Krebs. In 1780 after Krebs's death and his estate was being settled, a large roll of manuscripts was destined to be thrown away as it was deemed to be old paper, within this roll was the only copy of the Bach composition in existence.

The Fantasia will be included in this Sunday's service as a celebration of Johann Sebastian Bach's birthday, but you'll need to watch the video for the exciting conclusion (fugue).

To mark the great composer's 336th birthday, here is a setting of BWV 537,

Fantasia and Fugue in C Minor: <https://youtu.be/0vt1khY4eyY>

Additional music in the service:

Fantasia in C Minor - BWV 537-1 - J.S. Bach

Erhalt Uns Herr bei deinem Wort - BWV anh. 50 - J.S. Bach

~The Organ Bench~

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 ~

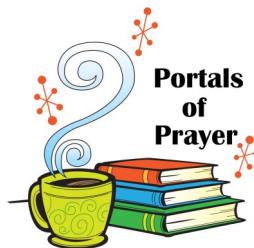


Altar Flowers

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. We will begin receiving flowers **after Easter**. Due to COVID there is no pen for you to use.

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>



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~

Food & Needs Notes

We have regularly occurring distributions on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at Church, and several other distributions are planned at the Brownstone (on University and Victoria) before Easter and Mother's Day.

Many things are taking place behind the scenes to provide healthy food to the community through the Summer in our produce distributions. Partnerships with Model Cities of St. Paul, St. Paul Fellowship, The Community Stabilization Project, Amery Farmers Collective and an organization in Minneapolis that will take leftovers from distributions to create meals for unhoused people are all in the works.

We pray for life, and life to the full, to be the story of each and every person created in the image of God, in time and into eternity. We are blessed and thankful to continue in these partnerships and this work to bring dignity and care to our neighbors. Be on the lookout in the months ahead for volunteer opportunities in support of God's call to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Basic Needs Drive! Happening Now!

Did you know that Ramsey County has a 10% food insecurity rate? That's about 54,220 people who do not have reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food. We believe that also includes access to basic needs for personal hygiene and household cleaning supplies. During the 2021 Lenten season we will be hosting a drive to create small and large boxes of basic need materials that will be given out during Feeding the Dream giveaways this Spring.

Packing for April Distribution: **Sunday, March 28th, 2-4P.M.**

Packing for May Distribution: **Sunday, April 25th, 2-4P.M.**

Email Lynn Thompson at goodluna07@gmail.com to reserve your volunteer space for each day!

Easter Recipes!

Easter will look a bit different this year than in past years, we won't be gathering for pancakes between services, but we hope to help you celebrate with your families. Do you have a favorite Easter recipe (Breakfast, brunch, dinner, fondue, etc.). We'd love to gather them together and then send out PDF cookbook for Easter to everyone. Send all recipes to Megan at youth@saintstephanus.org by **Saturday, March 27th**. Do you have a fun story or photos that go along with the recipe? Send those too!

Prayer Requests

Healing and Comfort

Blessings/Guidance

Johanna Heidorn
Concordia University

Shut-ins

Sharon Kappes

Week Ahead

SUNDAY, March 21

Online services at www.saintstephanus.org

11 AM

Sunday School on Zoom

MONDAY, March 22

TUESDAY, March 23

WEDNESDAY, March 24

7:15 PM

Youth Group on Zoom

THURSDAY, March 25

FRIDAY, March 26

SATURDAY, March 27

SUNDAY, March 28

Online services at www.saintstephanus.org

11 AM

Sunday School on Zoom



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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

March 7-14 Contributions

General-\$17,468.11

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

Upcoming Birthdays, Feasts & Commemoration

March 21: Bruce Anderson,

Johann Sebastian Bach

March 22: Al Benson

March 23:

March 24:

March 25: *The Annunciation of Our Lord*

March 26: Miriam Carter

March 27: Joshua Yernberg

March 28: Earl Berg, Ryan LeClair-Sura



**A Special
Birthday**

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:

