

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

May 2, 2021
Fifth Sunday of Easter

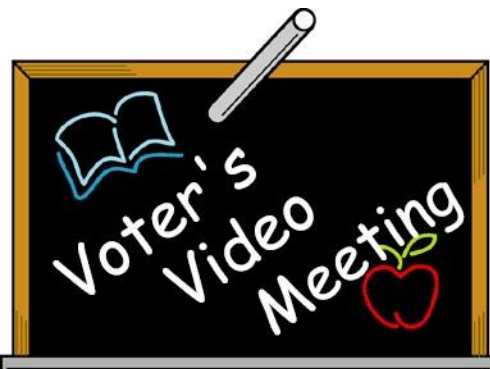
We are open again for worship with a few restrictions at this time. A complete list can be found at: saintstephanus.org

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.

Please remember to follow our procedures to come into the church (through the Lafond doors) and exit (through the door to Grotto unless the use of the lift is required). Again, we are asking for people **not** to stay in the Sanctuary after the service, but to have conversations outside, especially as the weather turns nice. Thank you.



There will be a Voters Meeting on Sunday May 16th at 11:00 AM. This will be a Zoom meeting and the link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86504854694?pwd=R1FtYzlwRTZxa2M3R1pmMDR3UWhUZz09>

Meeting ID: 865 0485 4694

Passcode: 732437

We will discuss reports with a highlight on the kitchen roofing project and the endowment fund application process.

From the **ORGANIST**



Today's prescribed Hymn of the Day, "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing", is one of those hymns that captures the joy of Easter. Easter is a time of rejoicing - what better way to rejoice than to throw a feast, and best of all a feast celebrating the joy of heaven? This hymn reflects the ancient Christian observance of the catechumenate. After a period of catechesis (teaching), converts joined the Church in the waning darkness of Easter dawn. Following Baptism, the neophytes were clothed with clean white garments, representing their new found righteousness in Christ, and were ushered in the earliest hours of the morning assembly of believers to receive the Eucharist.

The hymn begins by calling attention to the One who presides at His table: it is the Lamb's high feast, His royal banquet, His supper table, His body and blood given with bread and wine, so it is to Him that the Church offers her praises. The baptismal nature of this hymn appears in stanza 1: by referring to our victorious King as the one "who has washed us in the tide flowing from His pierced side," the truth is suggested that in the waters of the font, Christ lavishly bestows His blood-bought salvation purchased on the cross.

The second stanza continues the eucharistic theme as Christ, who has washed His Church with His blood, now grants the Church that same blood in the sacramental wine and His own body in the sacramental bread. Christ is characterized as both victim and priest: a victim upon the cross for sins (Isaiah 53:4-9) and a priest offering Himself to the Father in place of sinners (Hebrews 4:14). This victim and priest now stands as host at His own table (1 Corinthians 11:23-25).

Stanza 3 calls to mind the Passover of Israel and her rescue from death through the blood of a slain animal, a foreshadowing of the Passover sacrifice of our Easter Lamb, Jesus Christ; the power of His shed blood to cover sin is available to all who are washed in His name at the font. Death passes over them as it did the firstborn males of Israel, and they pass through those waters of Holy Baptism as Israel did through the Red Sea, with the foes of sin, death, and the devil drowned therein. Like the early catechumens, then, the Church returns to the table in stanza 4, offering her praises to the Christ who gives true manna from above in His true flesh present in the Sacrament.

The next three stanzas locate this hymn in the Church's Easter worship. The mighty Victim from the sky, the Son of God incarnate, now treads over hell's fierce powers. On account of Jesus' resurrection, no longer can death appall or the grave enthrall, for the baptized die in the expectation that they shall rise. Stanza 7 returns to the catechumenate, where not just the neophytes but all the Christians are "newborn souls" through the Easter victory of Jesus, which alone can destroy sin. A doxology closes the hymn. ~Source Pastor Richard Serina Jr., Lutheran Service Book Companion to the Hymns

"Sent Forth by God's Blessing" was written to direct us out into the world after we've celebrated the Lord's Supper and are preparing to depart the sanctuary. The tune, THE ASH GROVE, is a Welsh folk melody which was commonly set to a tragic ballad recounting a hunting accident ("Llwyn Onn"), although another ballad set to the music celebrated a happier tale. A setting of this tune can be seen here: https://youtu.be/JVAci_7Q6fc

Music in the Service:

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing - setting by Jacob B. Weber

Sent Forth by God's Blessing - setting by Melissa A. Kalbfleisch

~The Organ Bench~

Communion

This Sunday 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.



Did you know that the altar flowers are not paid for by the church budget? We need your help! 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 restrictions there is no pen for you to use. There are still spots open to request flowers. The flowers may be dedicated to a special occasion, in thanks for something, in honor of a person or group, or just because you want to make sure we have flowers to praise and honor God.

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>



The family of Carol Hirt invites you to a Celebration of Life service here at St. Stephanus on May 15th. Visitation is from 10:30-11:00 AM with the service beginning at 11:00. There will be a Luncheon following the service. The family has asked if you come please wear blue or floral in memory of Carol. Please sign up on the "Book A Pew" site as seats are limited: <https://bookapew.com/app/mn/sslc/>

Prayer Requests

Healing and Comfort

Joanne Borocki
Bev Piepkorn
Lois Bruss
Corine Goodrich

Blessings/Guidance

Johanna Heidorn
Concordia Academy

Shut-ins

Lisa Bisping

Week Ahead

SUNDAY, May 2

9:30 AM ✝ Worship In-Person and Online
11 AM Sunday School & Bible Study on Zoom

MONDAY, May 3

TUESDAY, May 4

WEDNESDAY, May 5

7:15 PM Youth Group on Zoom

THURSDAY, May 6

FRIDAY, May 7

SATURDAY, May 8

SUNDAY, May 9

9:30 AM Worship In-Person and Online
11 AM Sunday School & Bible Study on Zoom

✝ Communion Service



St. Stephanus
Lutheran Church, LCMS
739 Lafond Ave
St Paul, MN 55104

PHONE: (651) 228-1486
FAX: (651) 228-1487
WEB : www.saintstephanus.org
EMAIL: saintstephanus@comcast.net

PASTOR: Pastor Andrew Thompson
pastor@saintstephanus.org
Phone: (612) 208-7388

VICAR: Yohannes Ghebru
vicar@saintstephanus.org

DCE (Youth & Families): Megan Hoffman
youth@saintstephanus.org

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

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:



April 14-18 Contributions

General - \$10,456.00
Caring & Sharing - \$50.00
Good Friday - \$250.00
Missions - \$10.00
20x5 - \$5.00
Concordia Academy - \$10.00
Memorial - \$5,000
Technology Fund - \$450.00

Total - \$16,231.00 (\$7,250.00/week - \$31,400/month)

Upcoming Birthdays, Feasts & Commemoration

May 2: Shiori Konda-Muhammad,
Athanasius of Alexandria, Pastor & Confessor

May 3:

May 4: Jim Siegel,
Friedrich Wyneken, Pastor & Missionary

May 5: James Dahlke, Mana Goytom,
Frederick the Wise, Christian Ruler

May 6:

May 7: *C.F.W. Walther, Theologian*

May 8: Admasu Mekonen

May 9: *Job*



May monthly group contact persons:
Kathy Fox & Jan Uden

Bruce & Clarice Anderson, Jan & Ron Brubak,
Vicar Yohannes Ghebru, Marian Harmening,
Bill Johnson, Karen & Todd Mohrland, Eunice
Swenson, Emmy Treichel

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.