

# St. Stephanus Lutheran Church

Preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ for 131 Years

## C • O • N • N • E • C • T • I • N • G

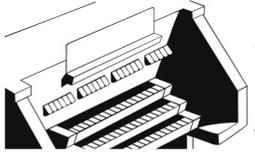


## with Jesus Christ and Each Other

October 31, 2021

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

From the  
**ORGANIST**



*A mighty fortress is our God, a trusty shield and weapon.*

So begins Martin Luther's hymn which became the anthem of the Protestant Reformation. Luther got his inspiration for this hymn from Psalm 46, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Before Luther's time, congregations rarely spoke, let alone sang, during a church service. The Divine Service was generally held in Latin. There were hymns sung in the common language of the people, but this was the exception - usually used on special occasions such as festivals. Luther took these hymns and often expanded the text

by adding verses, along with creating several hymns of his own to be used in regular worship. These hymns were meant to tell a certain message - the texts were set to tunes which followed the natural rhythm of speech rather than the strict metered melodies to which we're accustomed today. One excellent example of this is the hymn "Our Mighty Fortress". Luther's original tune was set to follow the German lyrics "Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott, ein gute Wehr und Waffen", which is in our hymnal as #656, with the tune in Rhythmic style - the rhythm of the music follows the spoken word. Through the seventeenth century, as congregations sang hymns in acoustically live buildings, mostly without organ accompaniment, the singing gradually slowed. The effect was multiplied over the course of several generations, and by the early eighteenth century, the singing was so slow that the rhythmic nuances of the tunes had been lost. Only a ponderous singing in nearly equal notes remained. When German hymns became popular in England during the nineteenth century through the translations of Catherine Winkworth, it was the equal-note versions then current that were adopted in British, and eventually American hymnals. The end result is seen in the second version of the hymn found in our hymnal, #657.

### Music in the service

578: Thy Strong Word

656: A Mighty Fortress

566: By Grace I'm Saved

645: Built on the Rock

Prelude: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" - setting by Jason D. Payne

Postlude: "O Lord, We Praise Thee" - setting by Kenneth T. Kosche

Bonus video on "A Mighty Fortress" can be seen here: <https://youtu.be/OTMPCchYeHU>

~The Organ Bench~

## Hymn of the Month

The hymn for this month is “Thy Strong Word.” Written by Rev. Dr. Martin Franzmann. October has for us at St. Stephanus the celebration of Confirmation and of the Reformation of Dr. Martin Luther and the emphasis on the power and efficacy of the Word of God for us – in Jesus and in the book we call the Bible. This hymn in its entirety takes us through the work of God from creation to fall, incarnation and redemption, and ultimately to the eternal praise of God. We also know that October is a month in which we begin to really notice the effects of shrinking daylight and the deeper darkness that starts to surround our days. The theme of light that runs through “Thy Strong Word” comes from Concordia Seminary’s motto of “Light from above” – blending our senses of hearing and sight together to see and experience the light that never goes dim in Jesus for us.



**Today’s Altar flowers are given by: Jane and Doug sell** in recognition of their 50th wedding anniversary on October 30, “The Lord hath helped us Hitherto” Hymn 33 found in the old blue The Lutheran Hymnal.

## Altar Flowers

### Coming soon



## Budget Meeting

The **IMPORTANT** Voter Meeting will be on Sunday **November 21<sup>st</sup>** after the service. This will be on ZOOM and the link will be sent out closer to the date of the meeting.

The **book study** on “The Color of Compromise” will **not** be meeting this week. We’ll resume on November 7th.



**We lift high** in our prayers these 8 confirmation students who will be confirmed **TODAY**

Sophie Baker

Oliver Bauch

Savannah Caquelin

Grace Connolly

Genna Curtis

Joshua Langemo

Zhenghong Schlechte

Micah Thompson

### **Essential Items Bag for Children Entering Foster Care**

In Minnesota, approximately 185 children each week go into foster care. These children have a story and a past, but did you know that most of these children enter into foster care with only the clothing on their back? The children go to an unfamiliar place, surrounded by unfamiliar faces, and may have to ask these strangers for a tooth-brush, shampoo and clean clothes. Safe Haven Foster Shoppe is dedicated to helping children find comfort while placed in foster care and provides essential items to foster children. Would you like to help fill a backpack or duffel bag to benefit a foster child? Items must be new. Each bag is personalized for child's age, gender, and size. If you would like to contribute any of the items below, contact [sheilaschlechte@yahoo.com](mailto:sheilaschlechte@yahoo.com) or call Sheila at 651-746-4966. A Thrivent grant is being used to assist in this project. For more information you can also go to [safehavenfostershoppe.org](http://safehavenfostershoppe.org)

### **Teen Bag {Ages 13 & Up – Size S, M, L, XL}**

- ✦ Large backpack or duffel bag
- ✦ One (1) Set of Pajamas
- ✦ One (1) Outfit
- ✦ Socks
- ✦ Underwear
- ✦ Blanket
- ✦ Pillow
- ✦ Toothbrush, Toothpaste & Floss
- ✦ Shampoo, Conditioner and Body wash
- ✦ Hair Brush and/or comb
- ✦ Deodorant
- ✦ Books

**November 1st is All Saints Day**, which will be celebrated in our service on November 7. This is a day that invites us to celebrate the saints of times past, to share in faith with those of times present, and to rejoice in anticipation of the generations of saints yet unborn who will keep and will pass along the faith until the end of earthly time. For the past few years we've been celebrating All Saints Day by gathering names and putting them on stars in front of church. We use the star imagery to connect to the promise God made to Abraham in Genesis and remind us of our connection to the body of Christ.

This year more than ever we want to lift up all the Saints, not just those who have died. But those who have walked with us throughout our faith lives. We'll be creating a video to share in worship and would love to highlight those Saints that have blessed your life! Please submit names and photos to [worship@saintstephanus.org](mailto:worship@saintstephanus.org) by Thursday, November 4th.

### **A month of Thanksgiving!**

During November we're spending some intentional time on gratitude. To help with that we'll be sharing a daily verse or passage from scripture to help focus our hearts. You can find these verse on our Facebook page, website, or receive them via text by texting [@sslcdaily](https://www.instagram.com/sslcdaily) to 81010.

## Prayer Requests

### Healing and Comfort

Bev Piepkorn  
Roger Binning  
Joanne Borocki  
Corine Goodrich  
Sarah Culbert  
Erin Betts

### Blessings/Guidance

Rich & Miriam Carter  
Concordia University

### Shut-ins

Sharon Kappes

## Week Ahead

### SUNDAY, October 31

9:30 AM ✚ Reformation/Confirmation Worship

### MONDAY, November 1

1:00 PM LWML Bible Study at Taste of Scandinavia

Office closed

### TUESDAY, November 2

Election Day, Office closed

### WEDNESDAY, November 3

THURSDAY, November 4

FRIDAY, November 5

SATURDAY, November 6

SUNDAY, November 7

9:30 AM ✚ (All Saints) Worship

✚ Communion Service



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[pastor@saintstephanus.org](mailto:pastor@saintstephanus.org)

Phone: (612) 208-7388

VICAR: Yohannes Ghebru  
[vicar@saintstephanus.org](mailto:vicar@saintstephanus.org)

DCE (Youth & Families): Megan Hoffman  
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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:  
Clarice Anderson  
[saintstephanus@comcast.net](mailto:saintstephanus@comcast.net)

WORSHIP LEADER: Bruce Anderson

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](http://www.saintstephanus.org)  
under the "WORSHIP" tab.

Worship Service Stream at  
[www.saintstephanus.org](http://www.saintstephanus.org)

Click the logo for  
Online Giving:



## Oct. 11-17 Contributions

General - \$9,717.12 20x5 - \$5.00

Concordia Academy - \$5.00 Missions - \$10.00

**Total - \$9,742.12 (\$7,250.00/week - \$31,400/month)**

## Upcoming Birthdays, Feasts & Commemoration

October 31: Grayson Cao, Madi Cao,  
Reformation Day

November 1:

November 2: Jeff Johnson

November 3:

November 4: Paivo Overfors

November 5: Phillip Temme

November 6: Isaac Baker

November 7: Kyle Munoz, Mark Lageson



# NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

November monthly group contact person:  
**Judy Brinkman**

Bill & Joan Baker, Joanne Borocki, Redazgi  
Habtezgi & Mana Goytom, Marc & Melissa  
Karger, Leonard & Katie Miller, Candace &  
Todd Pagel, Bev Piepkorn, Stephanie  
Sagstetter, Jim & Karen Siegel

### **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.