

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

November 21, 2021

Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

From the
ORGANIST



Wow, another year has passed and today we celebrate the Last Sunday of the Church Year.

As a teenager, Isaac Watts (1675-1748) began complaining about the state of hymn singing in church, and was challenged by his father to write something better. The following week, Isaac presented his first hymn, "Behold the Glories of the Lamb." English churches of the time followed John Calvin's instruction to sing only psalms, and Watts wished to interject passion into the singing, saying of the Psalms, "they ought to be translated in such a manner as we have reason to believe David would have composed them if he had lived in our day." This led to Watts writing some of the most popular English hymns, such as "Joy to the World" (Psalm 98), "O God Our Help in Ages Past" (Psalm 90), and today's closing hymn, "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun" (Psalm 72). Watts realized that Psalm 72 contained too much a variety of spiritual dispositions to be contained into a single hymn, so he broke it into two parts. The first hymn was titled "The Kingdom of Christ" (Psalm 72:1-7), and the second was originally titled "Christ's Kingdom Among the Gentiles" (Psalm 72:8-19). In the first hymn, Watts focused on the establishment of Christ's kingdom, and in the second hymn, which we sing as our closing hymn today, the focus moved to the expanding rule of Christ within the kingdom. Our hymnal today contains five of the original eight stanzas. Overall, Watts is attributed for approximately 750 hymns, fifteen of which are included in our hymnal. The tune, DUKE STREET is attributed to John Hatten (d. 1793); some sources state the tune is named after the street on which Hatton lived in Lancaster, England while others link the name to a significant street in Liverpool, where the book first containing the tune was published.

Music in the service

506: Glory Be to God the Father

336: Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

832: Jesus Shall Reign

Prelude: Partita on "Azmon" - Paul Bouman

Communion: Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending - setting by Nancy Raabe

Postlude: Fanfare on "Duke Street" - John S. Dixon

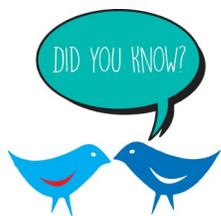
Hymn of the Month

The Hymn for this month is “Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending” by Charles Wesley. Typically, the readings for November look to the return of Christ in His glory before we pivot to the first coming of Christ in human flesh and we span the ending of the Church Year (and the Season of Pentecost) for the Season of Advent that culminates in our celebration of Christmas. This hymn, which our hymnals place in the Advent section, is an excellent hymn to focus our hearts and minds on both of these appearances of Jesus, one which has been and one which is longed for. This hymn was written by the incredibly prolific Charles Wesley, who wrote over 6,500 hymns – including “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” and “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” along with one of my favorites, “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.” - Pastor Thompson



Today's Altar flowers are given by: Lynne Heuton

Altar Flowers



BEFORE THE SERVICE:

There is a basket along with paper and pens, located on the table in the Narthex (where we keep the worship folders, offering plate and Kleenex). You may use the slips of paper in the basket to write your prayer request and place it in the collection box, from where it will be communicated to Pastor.

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>

Coming soon



Budget Meeting

The **IMPORTANT** Voter Meeting will be **TODAY November 21st** after the service. This will be on ZOOM. The link is:

<https://zoom.us/j/97793734958?pwd=MlFBVlRYYnFQYzBnU0I5WVNESHVqZz09> .



On the third Sunday of each month, our church collects your pocket change for “mites for missions”.

These mites are important and 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.

Do you see a need in the community that tugs at your heart?

What if you could be given \$250 to host a fundraiser, service activity or education event for this need? Would you like to know how? Most Thrivent members are allowed two grants per year. Non-Thrivent members can open a credit union account (with a minimum of \$1) to access one grant a year. St. Stephanus' Live Generously Action Committee is available to support you! Want an idea? Need help with applying for a grant? Want help with implementing the event, service or fundraiser? Please contact Cherie Fleischhacker at 651-348-9051 or ckfle@yahoo.com or Emmy Treichel at 651-645-3044 or emmytreichel@gmail.com

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 to 81010.



“Founded in 1913, the Men's club has been an organization of fellowship and fundraising to support the church in whatever needs we could. Throughout the years, we have seen many highs, and many lows. We have had many members that have gone on before us to meet our Heavenly Father. In recent years we have lost several key members of our organization, and have not been fortunate enough to have had replacement members step forward in an effort to keep our efforts viable. This has not happened overnight. We have been declining in membership for several years, and have come to the point of only four that show up regularly for monthly meetings. According to our bylaws, this does not even fill our elected chairs. It is with a heavy heart, that I have the unfortunate responsibility of informing the congregation that we have voted and passed the motion to dissolve the St. Stephanus Lutheran Church Men's Club. We would like to extend our gratitude to all those that have volunteered over the years to help with our Sauerkraut Suppers and Spaghetti Dinners, and going back a little further...our Hamburger Frys that were held on Rally Sunday in years past. Without the efforts of the church, we would not have lasted 108 years. God bless you all!

Dave Sura

SSLC Men's Club President (Formerly)

On a personal note, I would like to thank you for all the support you have given us through the years. It is harder to express than I have words on how much it hurts to have this club come to an end. My father loved the Men's Club, and all the good men that have gone before us that worked so hard through all the years to keep us alive...it truly is the end of an era.

Concordia ACADEMY

Concordia Academy Presents *Twelfth Night*

Tickets are now on sale for Concordia Academy's production of William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. In this hilarious and heartbreaking tale of unrequited love, twins Viola and Sebastian are separated in a shipwreck and find themselves in a strange land where they encounter love, confusion, and mistaken identity. Performances are November 19 and 20 at 7:00 PM and November 21 at 2:00 PM. Order tickets at www.concordiaacademy.com/12N. All seats are reserved.

Prayers for Foster Home Families

There is a shortage of foster homes to care for children. MN ADOPT's Fostering Network answers many questions about becoming a foster parent, children served in foster care, and the licensing process. For more information go to <https://www.mnadopt.org/fostering-network/> or listen to the Foster Care Licensing 101 podcast <https://www.mnadopt.org/education/webinar-library/fostercare101/>

Prayers for Adopting Families

There are approximately 733 children in MN in need of adoptive families. Most of the children have experienced trauma during their critical developmental years. Many will need additional educational, medical or psychological help as they grow toward maturity.

Families who adopt through foster care are meeting a direct, urgent need in our community by providing a safe, loving, permanent home for a child. These are children that will face staggering odds without the support and security of a permanent family as they reach adulthood.

Minnesota subsidizes costs so that families do not incur any adoption related fees. Additionally, families receive a one-time reimbursement after an adoption is completed, which covers court or travel fees incurred through the adoption process.

Children adopted from Minnesota foster care receive medical assistance and ongoing financial assistance depending on the needs of the child. This assistance, which is not available through Domestic Infant or International adoption, reduces some of the financial barriers that may exist for families.

If you or someone you know would like more information about how to adopt a MN waiting child, please go to <https://www.mnadopt.org/adoption-101/adoption-process/>.

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 or call Sheila at 651-746-4966. Bags will be delivered in early December. A Thrivent grant is being used to assist in this project. For more information you can also go to 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

Prayer Requests

Healing and Comfort

Bev Piepkorn
Roger Binning
Joanne Borocki
Corine Goodrich
Dean Bruss
Sarah Culbert
Erin Betts
Amy Haase
Brett Raben

Blessings/Guidance

Mission for Christ
Concordia University

Shut-ins

Sharen Kappes

Week Ahead

SUNDAY, November 21

9:30 AM ✠ Worship
Voter's meeting on ZOOM after church

MONDAY, November 22

TUESDAY, November 23

WEDNESDAY, November 24

THURSDAY, November 25

Thanksgiving Day/Office closed

FRIDAY, November 26

Office closed

SATURDAY, November 27

SUNDAY, November 28

9:30 AM ✠ Worship

✠ Communion Service



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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 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
under the "WORSHIP" tab.

Worship Service Stream at
www.saintstephanus.org

Click the logo for
Online Giving:



Oct. 25-31 Contributions

General - \$12,443.07

Total - \$12,443.07 (\$7,250.00/week - \$31,400/month)

Upcoming Birthdays, Feasts & Commemoration

November 21:

November 22: Wyatt Nissen

November 23: *Clement of Roame, Psator*

November 24:

November 25:

November 26: Guttu Hussein

November 27: Joan Baker

November 28: Dan Sagstetter



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.