

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 28, 2021
First Sunday in Advent

From the
ORGANIST



Savior of the Nations, Come, today's hymn of the day was originally written in Latin by Ambrose of Milan (339-97), who is known as the "father of Latin hymnody," for taking the Eastern custom of singing hymns and bringing it to the West. Ambrose intended his hymns to be sung by the people, and Martin Luther, who mirrored that sentiment, translated the hymn into German. Although in medieval times the hymn was prescribed for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, Luther considered it an Advent hymn and in Lutheran tradition it is sung on the first Sunday in Advent. The tune is a simplified version of the chant *Veni redemptor gentium*, as modified by Luther. Other tunes derived from the same source include ERHALT UNS, HERR (*Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*) and VERLEIH UNS FRIEDEN (*Grant peace, we pray, in mercy, Lord*).

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) published the *Leipziger Choräle*, also known as the Great Eighteen Chorale Preludes during his time in Leipzig (1740-1750) based on earlier works from when he was a court organist in Weimar. This publication includes two "trilogies", one of which is the Advent hymn *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*. The first section of this trilogy, BWV 659, will serve as our prelude today. Bach borrowed the form of this piece from Dietrich Buxtehude, using the elements of the walking bass, a duet of middle voices, and a leading upper voice. When arranging the melody in the upper voice, Bach composed each phrase so it grows out of the chorale into a wonderful spun-out color. At the end of the third line of the verse, we experience a harmonic pause and an abrupt deceleration of the bass line, this is signifying everyone holding their breath in amazement - an oft-used trick by Bach when writing about the birth of Jesus. Another setting of the tune, by Johann Pachelbel, will serve as the postlude.

Music in the Service:

331: The Advent of Our King

332: Savior of the Nations, Come

336: Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

Prelude: Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland - BWV 659 - J.S. Bach

Postlude: Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland - Johann Pachelbel

~The Organ Bench~

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



Altar Flowers

Today's Altar flowers are given by: Walt & Reba Peterson in blessing and thanksgiving for our 60th wedding anniversary and Reba's birthday.

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/> .

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 28
9:30 AM Worship

MONDAY, November 29
Office closed

TUESDAY, November 30

WEDNESDAY, December 1

THURSDAY, December 2

FRIDAY, December 3

SATURDAY, December 4

SUNDAY, December 5
9:30 AM ✚ Worship

✚ Communion Service



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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:



Nov. 15-21 Contributions

General - \$16,951.54 20x5-\$5.00 Concordia Academy - \$10.00
Mission - \$10.00 Thanksgiving - \$81.00
Total - 17,057.54 (\$7,250.00/week - \$31,400/month)

Upcoming Birthdays, Feasts & Commemoration

November 28: Dan Sagstetter
November 29: Jill Katzenmaier, Reba Peterson,
Noah
November 30: Philip Preuss, *St. Andrew, Apostle*
December 1:
December 2:
December 3:
December 4: *John of Damascus, Theologian & Hymnwriter*
December 5: Cherie Fleischhacker



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

December monthly group contact person:
Lynne Heuton

Erin Baker, Sophie Baker, Al Benson,
Clarence & Yoshiko Benson, Michelle
Connolly, Cameron Connolly, Grace
Connolly, Admasu Mekonen & Diribe
Desissa, Connie Petersen, Steve Sohn

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.