

St. Stephanus Lutheran Church

Preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ for 133 Years

C • O • N • N • E • C • T • I • N • G



with Jesus Christ and Each Other

June 25, 2023

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost



From the Organist

In 1808, the **Russian Empire** marched into Finland and overthrew its Swedish rule. By the end of 1809, Finland had become subject to Russian rule and remained so until 1917. Nationalism is the term that describes a country, nationality, or ethnic group promoting the importance of its own culture through art, music, speech, etc. Throughout the last half of the nineteenth century, the Finnish people began a nationalist movement against the Russian Empire. This extremely powerful movement eventually helped Finland gain its independence at the end of World War I. However, in relation, censorship and heavy political oppression occurred, especially during the last two decades of Russian rule. One thing often repeated throughout history is that nationalism and political oppression often leads to some incredible music. In the midst of this Finnish nationalistic movement, composer Jean Sibelius (1865-1957) wrote and premiered one of his most

famous pieces, *Finlandia*. The piece itself was composed for an 1899 protest against the Russian censorship, and even had to be called different names, such as "Happy Feelings at the Awakening of Finnish Spring," because the name *Finlandia* was banned by the Russians. This piece was based on a poem by Finnish writer Zachria Topelius, *The Melting of the Ice on the Ulea River*, one section of which inspired Sibelius: "Whose slave am I that in the pride of my youth Needs stand in bond through endless winter? Noble son of Finland's blue lakes, I was born free and free I will die." A portion of this work includes a section which later was adapted with lyrics, "Finland, behold, thy daylight now is dawning, the threat of night has now been driven away...". This tune subsequently was adapted as the hymn tune *Finlandia*, the setting of our opening hymn "Be Still, My Soul."

Music in the Service:

752: Be Still, My Soul

659: Lord of Our Life

854: Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go

Prelude: Two settings on "Finlandia" - Kevin Hidebrand / Brenda Portman

Postlude: Fughetta on ISTE CONFESSOR - Healy Willan



Today's Altar flowers are given by: David & Diana Betts in celebration of our daughter Stephanie's 40th birthday today.



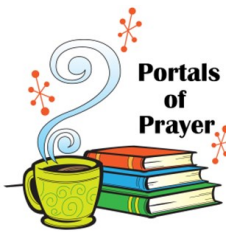
We need your help! Please look at the flower chart. There are still spots open to request flowers. The flowers may be dedicated to a special occasion, in thanks for something, in honor of a person or group, or just because you want to make sure we have flowers to praise and honor God. You are asked to take your flowers home right after the church service.

1 bouquet of flowers is \$27.50 and 2 bouquets of flowers are \$55.00. If paying by check, make it out to St. Stephanus Lutheran Church and in the memo write Flowers.

A reminder: If you drop off items, furniture or other items for the church please let the **office know** your name and the reason for dropping it off.

If you are leaving notes for staff members PLEASE DATE AND SIGN IT

HUMBLE REQUEST: If you or someone you know is in the hospital, nursing home or has an emergency, **PLEASE** call the **CHURCH OFFICE** to leave a message for Pastor Thompson. He would like to visit as soon as possible. Many times, members do not pass this information along and Pastor does not find out about it until after the fact.



Portals of Prayer books have arrived. They are located at the bottom of the lobby stairs in the revolving bookcase.



Phil Radtke will play a free half-hour noontime recital at Gloria Dei in St. Paul (700 Snelling Ave. S., St. Paul) on Friday, June 30. This recital is one of five in the month of June celebrating the new Letourneau pipe organ installed earlier this year. Phil will be playing a program including works by César Franck and Brahms as well as improvisation. A cookie and lemonade reception follows.

Prayer Requests

Healing and Comfort

Karen Trudeau
Rich Carter

Blessings/Guidance

International Association for
Refuges

Shut-ins

Marlene & Ed Potter
Sharen Kappes
MaryAnn Weckwerth

Week Ahead

SUNDAY, June 25

9:30 AM Worship
10:45 AM Bible Study
10:45 AM Sunday School story time in the garden

MONDAY, June 26

TUESDAY, June 27

WEDNESDAY, June 28

THURSDAY, June 29

FRIDAY, June 30

SATURDAY, July 1

SUNDAY, July 2

9:30 AM ✙ Worship
10:45 AM Bible Study
10:45 AM Sunday School story time in the garden

✙ Communion Service



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

WORSHIP LEADER: Bruce Anderson

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:
Clarice Anderson
saintstephanus@comcast.net

FACILITIES: Wayne Warnest

CUSTODIAN: 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

Submit prayer requests at
<https://forms.gle/JLDCstJFWRbu25PT7>

June Contributions (3 week) - counting for 6/8 incomplete

- General Fund (for church expenses): \$16,119 = \$5,373/wk. (need \$7,550/wk.)
- Restricted Funds (31): \$2,054 = \$685/wk
- Total Income (General fund & Restricted Funds): \$18,173 = \$6,058/wk

Contributions for 2023 (25 weeks)

- General fund (for church expenses): \$136,589 = \$5,464/wk. (need \$7,550/wk.)
- Restricted Funds (31): \$14,951 = \$598/wk.
- Total Income (General Fund & Restricted Funds): \$151,540 = \$6,062/wk.

Checking Account Balance (funds available to pay expenses): \$12,113

Funds in Restricted Accounts (31 accounts): \$50,680

Note: Current Expenses: \$181,287

Current expenses are \$29,747 higher than total income for 2023

Upcoming Birthdays, Feasts & Commemoration

June 25: Katie Schrader, Zhenghong Schlechte,

Presentation of the Augsburg Confession

June 26: Joan Brown, *Jeremiah*

June 27: Sophia Wehrmann, Tom Volker,

Cyril of Alexandria, Pastor & Confessor

June 28: *Irenaeus of Lyons, Pastor*

June 29: *St. Peter & St. Paul, Apostles*

June 30: Carol Donahoe

July 1:

July 2:



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.

Click the logo for Online Giving:

