St. Stephanus Lutheran Church

Preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ for 133 Years



July 30, 2023 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost



From the Organist

"I shall not abandon God for He does not abandon me." This is the translation of the hymn "Von Gott will ich nicht lassen". Ludwig Helmbold (1532-1598) a German hymn-writer and composer wrote in the style of Martin Luther, as far as tone and power, although several years later. Helmbold was serving as conrector, the cleric in charge of the parish, at Erfurt, Germany, in 1563 when a plague broke out, during which about 4000 of the inhabitants died. As all who could fled from the place, Helmbold, who remained behind, composed this hymn. In 1565, after the end of the plague, he was appointed dean at the local university, and was crowned as a poet by Emperor Maximilian II in 1566. However, due to his Protestantism he resigned that post a few years later. The melody from this hymn is based on

a secular song "Une jeune fillette de grand' valeur", a French folk song of the period. This is today's prescribed Hymn of the Day, so the prelude is a chorale based on the tune by J.S. Bach. The German music theologian Phillip Spitta wrote of the "joy motif" featured in this chorale, "permeates the piece winding above and around [the chorale melody] like a luxurious garland of amaranth." Only four lines of the melody are heard in the choral, played in the pedal. The prelude closes with a bell-like coda over a pedal point, perhaps illustrating the final lines of the hymn, "after death we will be buried deep in the earth; when we have slept, we will be awoken by God." In this "bell" coda, the c sharp note is heard seven times consecutively, indicative of the German funeral bell.

Music in the Service:

It's Hymn Sing Sunday!

Prelude: Von Gott will ich Nicht Lassen - BWV 658 - J.S. Bach

Postlude: Theme from Toccata in D Minor - Gordon Balch Nevin

Today's Altar flowers are given by: Lee & Lois Bruss





MaryAnn Weckwerth 107 Bridgewater Way APT#141 Stillwater MN, 55082 612-594-4380 Marlene Potter 3565 Pine Tree Dr. New Perspective APT #6 Arden Hills, MN. 55112



MaryAnn Weckwerth's family is asking for a card shower for her 90th birthday which is Aug. 5th.

Parish Life news: It's not too early to think about school supplies! In August, we will have a school theme for our giving tree. Simply take an ornament from the tree in the lobby that represents a school supply and bring it back with the real thing to put under the tree! If you have questions please contact Lynne Billing at 507-254-9920 or Tarrie Culbert at 763-807-5189.

Summer Storytime in Simon's Garden!

Children are invited to join us on Sundays in Simon's Garden for Sunday School Storytime. All ages are welcome - content is geared towards 3-8 year olds. Have a story you love? A special interest you'd like to share with the kids? We'd love to have you join us! Sign-up to be a story-time guest reader by emailing Megan at **youth@saintstephanus.org**

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.

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.

Prayer Requests

Healing and Comfort

Karen Trudeau Iack Rieth

Blessings/Guidance

Camp Omega

Week Ahead

SUNDAY, July 30

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

MONDAY, July 31
TUESDAY, Aug. 1
WEDNESDAY, Aug. 2
THURSDAY, Aug. 3
FRIDAY, Aug. 4
SATURDAY, Aug. 5
SUNDAY, Aug. 6

9:30 AM 🛧 Worship 10:45 AM Bible Study

10:45 AM Sunday School story time in the garden

♣ Communion Service

July Contributions (4 weeks)

- General Fund (for church expenses): \$17,434=\$4,359/wk. (need \$7,550/wk.)
- Restricted Funds (31): \$2,083=\$521/wk.
- Total Income (General fund & Restricted Funds): \$19,517=\$4,879/wk.

Contributions for 2023 (30 weeks)

- General fund (for church expenses): \$162,563 = \$5,419/wk. (need \$7,550/wk.)
- Restricted Funds (31): \$18,787 = \$626/wk.
- Total Income (General Fund & Restricted Funds): \$180,081 =\$6,002/wk.

Checking Account Balance (funds available to pay expenses): \$0

Funds in Restricted Accounts (31 accounts): \$49,947

Note: Current Expenses: \$222,943 Current expenses are \$32,383 higher than total income for 2023

July 31st payroll was deducted from checking account. Checking account overdrawn by \$1,262. \$1,262 was transferred from Rental Income to General –approved by PPC



Upcoming Birthdays, Feasts & Commemoration

July 30: Robert Barnes, Confessor & Martyr

July 31: Joseph of Arimathea

Aug. 1: Lee Bruss

Aug. 2: Masseret Kebede

Aug. 3: Emmy Treichel,

Joanna, Mary, & Salome, Myrrhbearers

Aug. 4:

Aug. 5: Mary Ann Weckwerth

Aug. 6:

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:





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VICAR: Yohannes Ghebru

vicar@saintstephanus.org

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