

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

September 24, 2023
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



From the Organist

Johann Franck (1618-77), second in importance only to Paul Gerhardt among seventeenth-century German hymn writers, was a lawyer and politician in Gruben in Brandenburg. In 1646, Franck introduced a new work in a book of one hundred metrical paraphrases by Franck of the Lord's Prayer, and followed with an expanded version in a 1648 publication. This hymn, "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness," has continued in unbroken regular use in Lutheran churches in Germany and in other countries, both in its original German and many translations. It has been described as "perhaps the finest of all German hymns for the Holy Communion" by James Mearns. Catherine Winkworth (1827-78) was not the first translator of this hymn into English, but is the best known. She initially translated it using the poetic meter 88 88 77 77 instead of the original 88 88 88 88, so her translations could not be sung to the original tune. This led Winkworth to retranslate it, at which time she omitted three of the original nine stanzas. The tune, *Schmücke dich, o liebe*

seele, is derived from the first line of the text in German, and was composed by Johann Crüger, the publisher of the 1648 book in which Franck had first published the entire hymn. A partita, or set of variations, on this hymn tune as written by Johann Gottfried Walther (1684-1748), the German organist who was also contemporary and cousin of J.S. Bach, will be played for our prelude today.

Music in the Service:

782: Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings

742: For Me to Live is Jesus

826: Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying

Prelude: *Schmücke dich, o liebe seele* - Johann Gottfried Walther

Postlude: Postlude on "Hymn to Joy" - Jason D. Payne



Today's Altar flowers are given by: Akbar and Shiori Muhammad



Experience the gift of marriage encounter! Show your spouse how much you care by experiencing Lutheran Marriage Encounter together in the comfort of your own home! The next **VIRTUAL** (online) experience is scheduled **Nov. 3-5**. Apply now at GodLovesMarriage.org, or contact Randy & Jill Sigler at randjsigler@alloponone.com or (402) 560

-3475 for more information. **Pre-registration is required** to receive the materials you'll need for your experience via snail mail - don't miss out!



Voters meeting on Sunday, September 24th after service. You are invited to bring your favorite dish to share at the potluck where we will discuss general church business with a report from the Church Governance Committee.

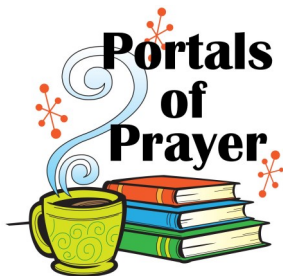
Vote to call Yohannes Ghebru to be the missionary pastor to the Eritrean Lutheran Church.

Mission Opportunity for St. Stephanus to call Missionary Pastor

The Eritrean Lutheran Church began as a home Bible study/fellowship group in the Twin Cities. When their group became too large to comfortably continue meeting in homes more than 20 years ago, Meazza Ogbazghi, a member of St. Stephanus, asked if St. Stephanus would allow space for their meetings within our church building. It grew from being a fellowship group into a worshipping community when a retired Lutheran Pastor from the Eritrean Lutheran Church (there is only one Lutheran church body in Eritrea) agreed to be their missionary Pastor. When the congregation looked into how they could officially be in fellowship with the LCMS, they learned it would require their pastor to attend some years of seminary classes. Due to his age and health issues, they did not want to place this burden upon him, but prayed that God would provide for them. For the past 5 years, our current Vicar, Yohannes Ghebru, has been attending seminary classes, working full time in the business world, and serving the Eritrean Lutheran Church. After his confirmation, God planted in his heart the desire to serve Him as a pastor but he did not then know the details of how and when. Growing up he saw others with bi-vocations, which meant they had full time work that provided income, but they also served the church on evenings and weekends. These experiences and the encouragement from others drew Yohannes into attending seminary classes with a wish that he might become a missionary pastor with a bi-vocation. For Yohannes to become an ordained Pastor in the LCMS, he must be called by an LCMS congregation. On Sunday, Sept. 11, Yohannes spoke both in our worship and at the Bible Listening hour. If you missed it, you can watch it here: [Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost](#) . At our voter's meeting on **Sept. 24**, we will be presented by the call committee on how we can support the Eritrean Lutheran Church by calling Yohannes Ghebru as a missionary Pastor. Please keep this in your prayers as we discern God's will. If you have further questions you may contact members of the call committee: Hanna Temme, Akbar Muhammad, Rich & Miriam Carter, or Emmy Treichel.



South Shore Trinity Lutheran (White Bear Lake) is holding their annual German dinner on Sunday October 8. Adults: \$15.00; Children 6-11: \$5.00; under 5 Free. Seating at 11:15 AM or 12:30 PM. Tickets must be purchased in Advance. **Deadline for tickets is Oct. 2.** If you would like more information, including a menu, check our bulletin board across from the restrooms/by the Fireside room.



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

~Clarice~



Who: Lutheran Women's Missionary League

What: LWML Capitol Conference Fall Rally

Where: Gathering Place Lutheran Ministries "lower fellowship hall" (there is an elevator)

3245 New Brighton Road, Arden Hills 55112

(2 miles N of hwy36 Fairview Ave exit, 3 blocks NW on New Brighton Road or

1 mile E of I35W County Rd D exit to Fairview Ave, then 3 blocks NW on New Brighton Road)

When: Saturday Oct 14, 2023

9:00am registration

9:30-11:30 program, lunch following

Registration \$10— program and lunch "A Taste of SE Asia"

Plan to attend?—group representatives please notify Beth by **October 8th** with number from your groups-leave a voice message 651 631-8956 or email stpaulmetrozp@mnslwml.org

****More information located on the bulletin board outside of the bathroom****



Sunday Oct. 1st and Oct. 8th have been designated as our Stewardship Sundays. On those dates we will take a moment to focus on all that God has provided through our membership at St. Stephanus. What are we grateful for and what is our response?

In the recent congregational survey we confirmed that members want St. Stephanus to remain vibrant and continue to do God's will. To do that we need you to

- be INvited
- be INterested
- be INformed
- be INvested
- be INtentional

We pray that we can count you IN as we look for ways to express our gratitude and move St. Stephanus forward.

Your Stewardship Committee
Lynne Heuton and Sue Kressin

Prayer Requests

Healing and Comfort

Mary Bisping
Karen Trudeau
Jack Rieth
Deb Holtz
Marian Harmening

Blessings/Guidance

Camp Omega
Concordia University

Shut-ins

Marlene & Ed Potter
Sharen Kappes

Week Ahead

SUNDAY, Sept. 24

9:30 AM Traditional Worship
10:45 AM Potluck & Voter's meeting

MONDAY, Sept. 25

TUESDAY, Sept. 26

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 27

6:00 PM Confirmation

THURSDAY, Sept. 28

FRIDAY, Sept. 29

SATURDAY, Sept. 30

SUNDAY, October 1

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

✚ Communion Service



St. Stephanus
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pastor@saintstephanus.org
Phone: (612) 208-7388

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

WORSHIP LEADER: Bruce Anderson
banderson@saintstephanus.org

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:
Clarice Anderson
saintstephanus@comcast.net

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>

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.

September Contributions (3 week)

- General Fund (for church expenses): \$16,062 = \$5,354 (need \$7,550/wk.)
- Restricted Funds: \$3,835=\$1,278/wk.
- Total Income: \$19,897=\$6,632

Contributions for 2023 (38 weeks)

- General fund (for church expenses): \$212,172=\$5,583/wk.
- Restricted Funds: \$30,391=\$800/wk.
- Total Income: \$242,563=\$6,383/wk.

Checking Account Balance (funds available to pay expenses): \$4,791

Funds in Restricted Accounts: \$54,311

Note: Current Expenses: \$272,623

Current expenses are \$30,061 higher than total income for 2023



SEPTEMBER
BIRTHDAYS

Upcoming Birthdays,

Feasts & Commemoration

Sept. 24: Avery Volker, Matt Rennerfeldt

Sept. 25:

Sept. 26:

Sept. 27: Savannah Caquelin

Sept. 28: Bill Osterndorf

Sept. 29: *St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist*

Sept. 30: *St. Michael & ALL Angels, Jerome,*

Translator of Holy Scripture

Oct. 1: Jonathan Culbert

Serving in today's worship

Lector: Dan Baker

Communion Assistants:

Greeter: Lynne Billing, Jan Uden

Cantor: