

St. Stephanus Lutheran Church

Preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ for 133 Years

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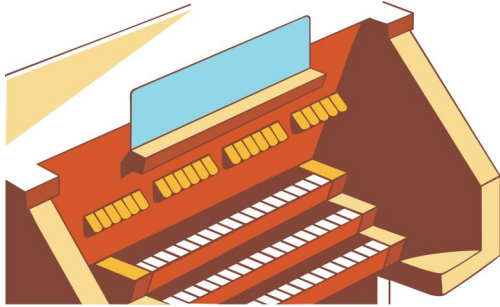


with Jesus Christ and Each Other

October 1, 2023

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

From the **ORGANIST**



Frances Ridley Havergal, the author of the hymn "Take My Life and Let It Be," recounts the event that led to its writing: "There were ten persons in the house, some unconverted and long prayed for, some converted but not rejoicing Christians. He gave me the prayer, "Lord give me *all* in this house!" And he just *did*! Before I left the house every one had got a blessing. The last night of my visit I was too happy to sleep, and passed most of the night in praise and renewal of my own consecration, and these little couplets formed themselves and chimed in my heart one after another, till they finished with, "*Ever*, ONLY, ALL for Thee!" This refers to a visit Havergal paid to Areley House in Worcestershire, England, which was at that time a resort and now a care home for people with dementia..

Havergal was known for her capabilities as linguist, musician poet, and an intense

commitment to God which she fervently shared. Stanza 4 brings to mind the story of the widow's mite found in Luke 21, and the example of the early Church, many members of which sold their possessions to distribute to those in need. It emphasizes the Christian's perspective that all we own belongs to God, and we offer it to His use (! Timothy 6:6-10), making it a fitting hymn for this Stewardship Sunday.

Music in the Service:

913: O Holy Spirit, Enter In

655: Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

783: Take My Life and Let It Be

543: What Wondrous Love Is This

704: Renew Me, O Eternal Light

Prelude: Take My Life and Let it Be - setting by William R. Brusick

Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness - setting by Dennis M. Zimmer

Postlude: Toccata in E Minor - Johann Pachelbel



Today's Altar flowers are given by:

On September 24th, the St. Stephanus Voter's Assembly extended a Divine Call to Yohannes Ghebru to serve as Missionary Pastor at St. Stephanus Lutheran Church. The process for calling someone from the Seminary is slightly different than calling a Pastor from another congregation. The Call Documents are now forwarded to the District President of the Minnesota South District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, who will then forward the documents to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO and the Cross-Cultural Ministry Center in Irvine, CA. Pending the successful completion of all academic programs and vicarage requirements that they have, Vicar Yohannes will then be able to formally make a decision on accepting or returning (declining) the call. I would anticipate this happening once this academic term ends in December. If all goes well, we would be looking at hosting an Ordination Service as early as late December or early January. We will keep you informed if anything changes and when that service will be, and give glory to God for God's work here at St. Stephanus.



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!

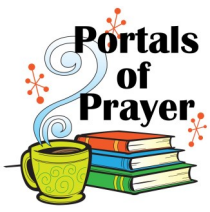
Stay Connected!

Have you found us on Facebook yet? We're trying to engage members and congregational friends in prayer and conversation together through various Facebook posts. We invite you to join us: <https://www.facebook.com/SaintStephanusLCMS> .



Concordia Academy Homecoming

You're invited to celebrate "Beacon Power" at Concordia Academy's homecoming on **Friday night, October 6**. An alumni tailgate party starts at 5:15, followed by a free outdoor family carnival at 5:30 and the football game vs. St. Croix Lutheran at 7:00. Admission to the football game is \$7, but children (8th grade and younger) and CA alumni are admitted at no charge. Get all the details at www.concordiaacademy.com/homecoming .



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



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.

Who are the "Left Behind" Children in China? How will they benefit from the October 15th Bake Sale?

The children of migrant laborers in China are frequently left behind at home while their parents move to other cities or provinces for work. These "left-behind children" in China total more than 70 million and struggle with the problems caused by the absence of one or both parents. In many rural communities, the percentage of left-behind children is over 50%, and can be even as high as 70-80%. The absence of one or both parents substantially worsens children's psychological development, emotional well-being, social functioning, and school performance.

On **October 8th**, after worship in the fireside room, you can learn more about this issue, see two short video documentaries, and learn how God is using CWF to serve this population.



Bake Sale October 15th

Bakers and buyers are needed! All money will go to Concordia Welfare Education Foundation and the work that they do in SE Asia.

BAKE SALE

What is the Concordia Welfare & Education Foundation?

This non-profit organization educates and equips the local advocates and organizations in rural Asia who are working to break the cycle of poverty in their own communities. This is made possible by cultivating trust-filled, long-term relationships with local partners and communities. Together with partners and local advocate teams, CWF is focused on several key areas of rural development: Access to Education, Clean Water & Health Training, and Support for Families Impacted by Migration.



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.

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 is located on the bulletin board outside of the bathrooms****

Prayer Requests Healing and Comfort

Reba Peterson
Mary Bisping
Karen Trudeau
Sarah Culbert
Jack Rieth
Deb Holtz
Marian Harmening

Blessings/Guidance

Jonathan Culbert
International Association for
Refugees
Concordia Academy

Shut-ins

Clarence & Yoshiko Benson
Lisa Bisping
Ruth Bittner

Week Ahead

SUNDAY, October 1

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

MONDAY, Oct. 2

TUESDAY, Oct. 3

WEDNESDAY, Oct. 4

6:00 PM Confirmation

THURSDAY, Oct. 5

FRIDAY, Oct. 6

SATURDAY, Oct. 7

SUNDAY, Oct. 8

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

✝ Communion Service



St. Stephanus
Lutheran Church, LCMS
739 Lafond Ave
St Paul, MN 55104

PHONE: (651) 228-1486
FAX: (651) 228-1487
WEB : www.saintstephanus.org
EMAIL: saintstephanus@comcast.net
PASTOR: Pastor Andrew Thompson
pastor@saintstephanus.org
Phone: (612) 208-7388

September Contributions (4 week)

- General Fund (for church expenses): \$17,765 = \$4,441 (need \$7,550/wk.)
- Restricted Funds: \$3,834=\$959/wk.
- Total Income: \$21,599=\$5,400/wk.

Contributions for 2023 (39 weeks)

- General fund (for church expenses): \$213,874=\$5,484/wk. (need \$7,550/wk.)
- Restricted Funds: \$30,391=\$779/wk.
- Total Income: \$244,265=\$6,263/wk.

Checking Account Balance (funds available to pay expenses): (\$2,911)

Funds in Restricted Accounts: \$44,890

Note: The checking account is overdrawn by \$2,911

The Sept. 29th payroll has been deducted

Current Expenses: \$288,592

Current expenses are \$44,327 higher than total income for 2023

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>



Upcoming Birthdays, Feasts & Commemoration

Oct. 1: Jonathan Culbert

Oct. 2: Stephanie Sagstetter

Oct.3:

Oct. 4: Emma Pagel

Oct. 5: Richard Culbert, Senait Berhe

Oct. 5:

Oct. 6:

Oct. 7: Peggy Karger,

Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, Pastor

Oct. 8: Marlene Potter

Serving in today's worship

Lector: Jay Schlechte

Communion Assistants: Matt Hanan, Lennea Lopez

Greeter: Mathew Culbert, Rich Culbert

Cantor: Lois Thur

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.