

# St. Stephanus Lutheran Church

Preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ for 133 Years

C • O • N • N • E • C • T • I • N • G

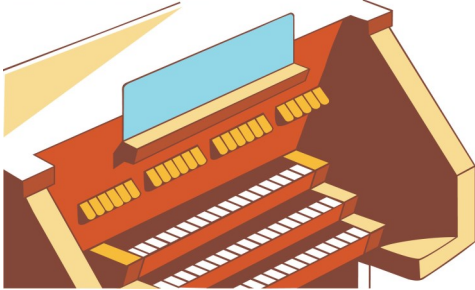


with Jesus Christ and Each Other

October 8, 2023

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

## From the **ORGANIST**



**"Gracious God, You send great blessings** new each morning all your days. For your mercies never-ending, for Your love we offer praise." This hymn, fitting for Stewardship Sunday, is set to the tune HOLY MANNA. The tradition of shape-note singing was developed in eighteenth-century New England and found its home in the rural South, especially Appalachia. This style uses notes in different shapes instead of the oval notes placed on the musical staff as we see in our hymnal today. The shape helped designate the pitch for those who didn't read music. Singers divided into their voices (soprano, alto, tenor and bass) forming a square with the conductor at the center - this allowed the conductor to keep time while the singers could stay on pitch by singing with the people around them. The tune

HOLY MANNA comes from this shape-note tradition with the lyrics "Brethren, we have met to worship." The lyrics of the hymn referenced earlier, "Gracious God, You send great blessings," reminds us that every one of our actions reflects back on the body of the believers as a whole. A set of variations on this tune will serve as our prelude today.

### **Music in the Service:**

Hymns: You pick 'em, I play 'em.

Prelude: Variations on "Holy Manna" - Charles Callahan

Postlude: Toccata on "St. Anne" - Michael Helman



Today's Altar flowers are given by:

**On September 24<sup>th</sup>**, 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.



**Enrich your marriage relationship!** Good communication makes a good marriage GREAT. Enhance your couple communication skills with a Lutheran Marriage Encounter experience! The next **VIRTUAL** (online) experience is scheduled **Nov. 3-5**. Apply now at [GodLovesMarriage.org](http://GodLovesMarriage.org), or contact Randy

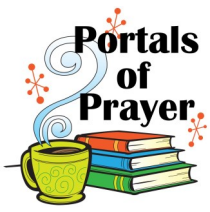
& Jill Sigler at [randjsigler@alloponone.com](mailto:randjsigler@alloponone.com) or (402) 560-3475 for more information. **Pre-registration is required** to receive the materials you'll need for your experience via snail mail - don't miss out!

### Subscribe to our "YouTube" channel!

Did you know when you subscribe to our "YouTube" channel you can get a notification each time we post a video? Subscribing is easy - all you need is a **Gmail account** to log-in! Once you're logged in you're also able to join us in the comments on Sunday morning, sharing the peace with others, requesting prayers, and being in fellowship. Need help? Contact Megan Hoffman or Dan Savard.



**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.



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

### **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 **TODAY** after worship in the fireside room, you can learn more about this issue, see two short video documentaries, and learn how God is using CWFEE 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.



### **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, CWFEE is focused on several key areas of rural development: Access to Education, Clean Water & Health Training, and Support for Families Impacted by Migration.



The Giving tree is back up in the lobby through the month of October with the purpose of helping our refugee family in the parsonage have warm clothes for winter. The ornaments on the tree have the family members' names, ages, and clothing needs. Chilly weather is on the way, so new or gently used warmer clothes really help them.

## Prayer Requests Healing and Comfort

Karen Trudeau  
Deb Holtz

## Blessings/Guidance

LINC  
Concordia University

## Shut-ins

Lorraine & Karen Byland  
Ron & Mary Bisping  
Larry Clemmensen

## Week Ahead

### SUNDAY, Oct. 8

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

### MONDAY, Oct. 9

### TUESDAY, Oct. 10

7:00 PM P.P.C.

### WEDNESDAY, Oct. 11

6:00 PM Confirmation

### THURSDAY, Oct. 12

### FRIDAY, Oct. 13

### SATURDAY, Oct. 14

### SUNDAY, October 15

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



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[pastor@saintstephanus.org](mailto:pastor@saintstephanus.org)  
Phone: (612) 208-7388

DCE (Youth & Families): Megan Hoffman  
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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:  
Clarice Anderson  
[saintstephanus@comcast.net](mailto:saintstephanus@comcast.net)

OFFICE HOURS:  
Monday to Friday 8 AM to 1 PM  
Bulletin Deadline: 11 AM Wed

Bible readings are located at  
[www.saintstephanus.org](http://www.saintstephanus.org)  
under the "WORSHIP" tab.

Worship Service Stream at  
[www.saintstephanus.org](http://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.

## October Contributions (1 week)

- General Fund (for church expenses): \$5,049 (need \$7,550/wk.)
- Restricted Funds: 0
- Total Income (General Fund & Restricted Funds): \$5,049

## Contributions for 2023 (40 weeks)

- General fund (for church expenses): \$222,083=\$5,552/wk. (need \$7,550/wk.)
- Restricted Funds: \$31,391=\$785/wk.
- Total Income (General Fund & Restricted Funds): \$253,474=\$6,337/wk.

Checking Account Balance (funds available to pay expenses): \$2,654

Funds in Restricted Accounts: \$48,801

## Note:

Current Expenses: \$291318

Current expenses are \$37,845 higher than total income for 2023

## Upcoming Birthdays, Feasts & Commemoration

Oct. 8: Marlene Potter

Oct. 9: LaVonne Karger, *Abraham*

Oct. 10:

Oct. 11: *Philip the Deacon*

Oct. 12:

Oct. 13: Genna Curtis

Oct. 14: Lynn Thompson, Oliver Bauch

Oct. 15:



## Serving in today's worship

Lector: Lois Thur

Communion Assistants:

Greeter: Rich Carter, Richard Johnson

Cantor: Bill Johnson