

# 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 29, 2023

Twenty second Sunday after Pentecost



"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" was most likely written sometime between 1527 and 1529, a period that saw an epidemic hit Wittenberg, a serious illness befall Martin Luther (1483-1546), Turkish forces threatening the German borders, further threats from Catholic armies, and theological attacks from both Catholics and more radical Protestants. The hymn is often called the "battle hymn of the Reformation," but in Luther's day, it was thought of in different terms, as can be seen from the heading on an Augsburg broadsheet of 1529: "A hymn of comfort" - something that was sorely needed at the time. The hymn retained this designation at least until the middle of the seventeenth century,

at which time Lutheran hymnals took their versified psalms, which were traditionally placed together in a separate section of their own, and separated them into various topical categories. The placement of this hymn in a section dealing with the Church and the Word of God made it easier to think of it as a polemical hymn, expressing a controversial opinion.

The hymn has often been translated into English, but the translations most frequently found are Thomas Carlisle's 1831 text, "A safe stronghold our God is still," well known in Britain, and Frederick H. Hedge's version beginning "A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing," which is more popular in America. The Missouri Synod has historically used neither, but rather a translation from the 1868 *Church Book* of the General Council, a theologically conservative Lutheran body. In some ways, this translation (LSB 656), which stays quite close to the German, is a bit wooden; but it is sanctified by long use in the Synod. It is set to Luther's original version of the tune. The translation at 657 was first introduced to the Missouri Synod in the 1982 hymnal, Lutheran Worship.

Soli Deo Gloria!

## Music in the Service:

834: O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth

656: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

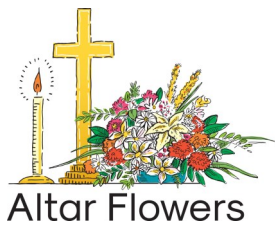
578: Thy Strong Word

566: By Grace I'm Saved

565: Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ

**Prelude:** Fantasie on "Ein Feste Burg" - Paul Fey

**Postlude:** Built on the Rock - setting by Jacob B. Weber



**Today's Altar flowers are given by: Doug & Pam Zimmerman** in honor of Emmy's 2nd birthday (10/21) and Grayson and Madi's 9th birthdays (10/31).



**Attention Singers:** This Sunday, October 29, is Reformation Sunday, and we would love to have a choir to sing during the service. And, of course, we would love to have you join us! We will be singing select hymn verses in Sunday morning's service. We will plan on meeting in the balcony by 8:30 Sunday morning for quick run-through, please join us!

**We are so thankful** for our church staff, and now that cold weather has come, we are especially thankful for Wayne Warnest. Although he is not doing maintenance at church anymore, as he was for 13 years, he still comes in the fall and begins the dirty job of getting the boiler ready for the yearly inspection. Then he will stop in every day to make sure all the radiators and the boiler is running to keep us warm. We are very thankful for him and his dedication.



**Today** we will be celebrating 2 students making their confirmation. They are Nora Brown and Simon Volker. Below are their confirmation verses.

**Nora Brown -**

<sup>20</sup> God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams!  
(Ephesians 3:20, The Message)

**Simon Volker -**

<sup>10</sup> fear not, for I am with you;  
be not dismayed, for I am your God;  
I will strengthen you, I will help you,  
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (Isaiah 41:10, English Standard Version)



**Before going to bed on Sat. Nov. 4,** remember to turn your clocks back 1 hour.

**Side note:** Worship service for Sunday, **Nov. 5 will begin at 11 AM** and a potluck lunch will follow the service with our Eritrean church family.

**Starting on November 5th-19th,** there will be a toy drive for the family living in the parsonage house. Donations of new or gently used toys can be brought and put in the donation box in the lobby. The children are two boys-ages 3 and 7, and a girl-age 5.

Thank you for helping out this family!



**All Saints Day Worship on Sunday, November 5th, at 11 A.M.**

This year we will worship together with our brothers and sisters of the Eritrean Lutheran Church for All Saints Day! Fellowship opportunities will continue after worship as we share a potluck meal and being God's family. As this is around the time of year St. Stephanus used to have the Sauerkraut Supper, feel free to bring some dishes reflecting the church's German heritage and tradition if you would like—but of course, any food choice will be appreciated!

**Please note the time change:** Day light saving time ends/clocks are turned back an hour AND Joint worship service will start at 11 A.M.

**Concordia Academy Craft Fair**

The Concordia Academy Holiday Craft Fair returns on **November 11** with almost 100 crafters and vendors, delicious treats, prize drawings, and lots of fun! Admission is free. Go to [www.concordiaacademy.com/craftfair](http://www.concordiaacademy.com/craftfair) for details!

## Prayer Requests Healing and Comfort

The family of Elim Mehari

Rich Carter

## Blessings/Guidance

Confirmants (Nora & Simon)

Lutheran Marriage  
Encounter gathering

Mission of Christ Network

Concordia Academy

## Week Ahead

SUNDAY, October 29

9:30 AM ✙ Reformation/Confirmation Worship  
10:45 AM Bible Study  
10:45 AM Sunday School

MONDAY, Oct. 30

TUESDAY, Oct. 31

WEDNESDAY, Nov. 1

THURSDAY, Nov. 2

FRIDAY, Nov. 3

SATURDAY, Nov. 4

Time Change turn clocks BACK

SUNDAY, Nov. 5

11:00 AM ✙ All Saints Day/Joint Worship with Eritrean  
Noon Potluck with Eritrean

✙ Communion Service



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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.

## Upcoming Birthdays, Feasts & Commemoration

Oct. 29:

Oct. 30:

Oct. 31: Grayson Cao, Madi Cao

Nov. 1: *All Saints' Day*

Nov. 2: Jeff Johnson

Nov. 3:

Nov. 4: Paivo Overfors

Nov. 5: Phillip Temme



## Serving in today's worship

Lector: Shelly Novotny

Communion Assistants: Ron Brubak & Megan Hoffman

Greeter: Tarrie Culbert & Emmy Treichel

Cantor: Festival Choir