

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

Nov. 19, 2023

Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost



From the Organist

Between 1618 and 1648, Europe, and especially Germany, was in the throes of the 'Thirty Years' War, during which the population suffered famine, disease, and the destruction of war. Martin Rinckart (1586-16490, a Lutheran Pastor serving in Eilenburg witnessed the destruction firsthand as he officiated at over four thousand funerals in the year 1637, when the city was struck by a plague. Following the plague came a great famine, in which street fights could erupt over a dead cat or crow. Rinckart helped organize emergency assistance, purchasing grain for the hungry out of his own pocket, and his door was often surrounded by crowds of poor, hungry people. He gave away everything but the barest scraps for his family, yet God gave the Rinckarts enough daily bread to live.

In 1639, Swedish soldiers threatened the city, demanding a payment of 30,000 thalers to keep the city safe. Rinckart pleaded to the Swedish commander that the devastated people could not pay, but his

plea was refused. He then led many citizens with him in earnest prayer and singing before the soldiers, and the commander was touched by the words of the hymn "When In the Hour of Deepest Need," and reduced the amount to 2,000 thalers.

Through all these burdens, Rinckart's spirit was not crushed. His attitude may be seen in the signet ring he wore that was inscribed with a single word: MVSICA. That a musician would carry a ring with the word "musica" on it is no surprise (Rinckart once held the musical office of cantor), but the word had another meaning for Rinckart: he explained it as abbreviating the sentence **Mein Vertrauen Steht In Christo Allein** ("my trust is in Christ alone"). Without question, Rinckart retained a trusting spirit in his Lord and in the certainty of His blessings. His hymn "Nun danket alle Gott" ("Now Thank We All Our God") demonstrates this unwavering trust.

This hymn was published in 1636 as a mealtime prayer. A 1630 manuscript including the hymn was given by Rinckart to his children, and the hymn has found its way into hymnals being closely associated with national festivals and occasions of thanksgiving.

Music in the Service:

Prelude: Thanksgiving Medley - Laurel Hunt Peterson

* For the Beauty of the Earth * Prayer of Thanksgiving * Count Your Many Blessings *

Postlude: Now Thank We All Our God - setting by David Cherwien



Today's Altar flowers are given by: Doug Zimmerman

Our dear sister in Christ Lois Holtz passed away last night. Lois was a gift to our life together, and we offer up our thanks and praise to God for her, and grieve together her loss. Please keep Bob and family in your prayers. Service is anticipated for next week, more details to come.

“Then I heard a voice from heaven say, ‘Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ “Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.” Revelation 14:13

Peace in Jesus,

Pastor Thompson

We have started 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!

Prayers for Worship

As we've been gathering together for Worship we've been collecting prayers through our YouTube comments to use in worship. We recognize that not everyone is logged in or likes to have the comment section up during worship. If there are prayers you'd like us to include that week we invite you to submit them using this form: <https://forms.gle/JLDCstJFWRbu25PT7>

Contribution Statements - Contribution statements have been sent out in advance of the year end. If you did not receive your statement please contact Lynne Heuton. These statements will allow you to review them for accuracy in advance of closing the books. As we approach the 2024 budget they will also allow you to review your giving to ensure it reflects your intentions.

Electronic Giving - There are many advantages to electronic giving. It provides a steady predictable contribution flow to the church and is an easy way for members to contribute. If you are interested in electronic giving but are unsure as to how to start or if you are currently giving electronically but would like to increase your contribution and need help navigating the VANCO site please contact Lynne Heuton for assistance.



Concordia Academy Presents *Elf The Musical*

Concordia Academy presents *Elf The Musical* on November 17-19 and 24-26. Based on the cherished 2003 New Line Cinema hit, *Elf The Musical* is a hilarious fish-out-of-water comedy following Buddy the Elf in his quest to find his true identity. Ticket prices range from \$8 to \$14, and all seating is reserved. For additional details and ticket orders, go to

www.concordiaacademy.com/elf.



TODAY there will be a voter's meeting after service, along with a snack potluck. Bring yourselves and an easy to clean up finger food to share while we take care of church business and the annual budget.

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.

Looking for a Thanksgiving worship service? Bethel Lutheran is having one on Tuesday, Nov. 21, at 6:30 PM

Holiday Meals for Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Support youth this holiday season by partnering with Face to Face. For youth experiencing homelessness and other challenges, eating a special meal can be an encouraging bright spot during the holiday season. On **Wednesday, November 22nd**, a meal will be served in celebration of Thanksgiving. Then on **Friday, December 22nd**, a soul-food themed meal will be available in celebration of the winter holidays. All food donations must be dropped off at SafeZone by 11:30am on the day of the meal. The SafeZone address is 130 7th Street East, Saint Paul, MN 55101.

Sign-up Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4DACA23AAFBCE8-45618808-face>

Guest Speaker on Sunday, December 3rd, from International Association for Refugees

Attend worship & Bible listening hour to hear Bethany Ringdal talk about faith and how God's hand is at work in the Jonathon House. Come and learn what is a refugee, how is a refugee different than an asylum seeker and how are both of these different than other immigration processes. Learn more about the mission at the Jonathon House.

Would you like \$250 to purchase supplies to help a cause or need?

There are only 2 months left in 2023 to apply for a Thrivent Action Grant. Some members of St. Stephanus have used these grants to purchase supplies to make hospice kits and newborn kits for Global Health Ministries. Members have used them to purchase warm clothes for refugee families, food to stock the pantry closet at the Ronald McDonald House, meals for special events at church, gifts to distribute to our shut-ins while caroling, clothing and personal care items for the homeless, etc. If you are a member of Thrivent, you are allowed to apply for two grants every year. If you are not a member, there is a way you can apply for a grant. It takes less than 10 minutes to apply for a grant. If you would like a suggestion on how to use a grant or would like assistance in applying and/or forming a team, please speak to Emmy Treichel or Cherie Fleischhacker.

Prayer Requests

Healing and Comfort

Family of Lois Holtz
Doug Sell
Jeremy
Richard Roach
Karen Arnold
Rich Carter
Karen Trudeau
Deb Holtz

Blessings/Guidance

International Association for
Refugees
Concordia Academy

Shut-ins

Marian Harmening
Bob & Lois Holtz
Bev. Piepkorn

Week Ahead

SUNDAY, Nov. 19

9:30 AM ✙ Contemporary Worship
10:45 AM Voter's Meeting

MONDAY, Nov. 20

TUESDAY, Nov. 21

WEDNESDAY, Nov. 22

THURSDAY, Nov. 23

Thanksgiving Day

FRIDAY, Nov. 24

SATURDAY, Nov. 25

SUNDAY, Nov. 26

9:30 AM Traditional Worship
10:45 AM Bible Study
10:45 AM Sunday School

✙ Communion Service



St. Stephanus
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PASTOR: Pastor Andrew Thompson

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 8 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 communi-
ties and our world.

Our Vision:

Connecting people with Jesus Christ and each
other through worship, learning and service.

November Contributions (2 weeks):

General Fund (for church expenses): \$6,771 = \$3,386/week (need \$7,550/week)

Restricted Funds: \$2,035 = \$1,018/week

Total Income (General Fund and Restricted Funds): \$8,806 = \$4,403/week

Contributions for 2023 (46 weeks):

General Fund (for church expenses): \$268,058 = \$5,827/week (need \$7,550/week)

Restricted Funds: \$37,369 = \$812/week

Total Income (General Fund and Restricted Funds): \$305,427 = \$6,640/week

Checking Account Balance (funds available to pay expenses): \$8,071.

Funds in Restricted Accounts: \$52,402

Note: Current Expenses: \$334,476

Current expenses are \$29,049 higher than the total income for 2023.

Upcoming Birthdays, Feasts & Commemoration

Nov. 19: *Elizabeth of Hungary*

Nov. 20:

Nov. 21:

Nov. 22:

Nov. 23: *Clement of Rome, Pastor*

Nov. 24:

Nov. 25:

Nov. 26: Guttu Hussein



Serving in today's worship

Lector: Jerry Spiess

Communion Assistants: Lennea Lopez & Tricia Schmidt

Greeter: Tarrie Culbert & Colleen Heck

Cantor: