

# St. Stephanus Lutheran Church

Preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ for 133 Years



Nov. 26, 2023  
Last Sunday of the Church Year

**Matthew Bridges** (1800-1894), like several others of his era, started in the Anglican Church and then, although he had strongly critiqued Roman Catholicism as a younger man, became a Roman Catholic. This was during the time of the Oxford Movement in England, which centered on the claim that the Anglican Church had a lineal descent from the original Apostolic Church. Followers of this movement studied the ancient history of the church, its doctrine, and especially its liturgy, discovering a wealth of Greek and Latin hymnody from the earliest centuries of the Christian church. Several people focused on translating the Greek and Latin hymns, while other former Anglican poets, including Bridges, began writing original hymns for use in the Roman Catholic church.

Matthew Bridges penned the words to the hymn "Crown Him with Many Crowns", first publishing it in 1851 under the heading "In capite ejus, diademata multa" ("His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself"), Revelations 19:12 (NIV). The original six stanzas as written by Bridges mention six crowns. In the 1870s, some objections were raised to the text, specifically because of Bridges' references to the Virgin Mary, and as a response Godfrey Thring (1823-1903), an Anglican Priest, wrote a modified version published in 1874 under the title "Crown Him with crowns of gold." Our hymnal, like most current hymnals, uses a composite of the two versions using stanzas 1 through 3 by Bridges and stanzas 4 and 5 by Thring.

Every good hymn needs a stirring tune, and Sir George Job Elvy (1816-1893) was up to the task when he composed the tune DIADEMATA, meaning "crowns", which was first published to accompany these words in 1868 when the hymn was first introduced into an Anglican hymnal. Elvy served the royal family as organist, choirmaster, and composer for St. George's Chapel from 1835 to 1882, appropriately being a royal musician composing a coronation tune.

In 1925 Pope Pius XI established the Feast of Christ the King, to be celebrated on the last Sunday in the Church year, to remind Christians that their allegiance was to their ruler in heaven as opposed to earthly supremacy, opposing a claim by Benito Mussolini. Since then, the Lutheran Church, Anglicans, Presbyterians and Methodists all have added this day to their lectionary, and the fitting hymn "Crown Him with Many Crowns" will be sung as our opening hymn today, with a setting also serving as the postlude.

## Music in the Service:

**525:** Crown Him with Many Crowns

**532:** The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns

**812:** Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs

**Prelude:** Variations on "All Hail the Power" - Janet Linker

**Postlude:** Crown Him with Many Crowns - setting by Kenneth D. Varner



**Today's Altar flowers are given by:** Reba and Walt Peterson giving thanks of many blessings and in honor of Reba's birthday and their 62 wedding anniversary.

### **Family of God,**

Our brother in Christ Doug Sell passed away on Saturday after a very quick illness. Please keep Jane, Brian and Brad and their family in your prayers.

"Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.'" John 11:25

On Monday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> there will be a visitation at Muller-Bies in Roseville from 4 PM to 7 PM.

On Tuesday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, there will be a 10 AM visitation followed by a service at 11 AM.

There will be a lunch after the service, and interment at Ft. Snelling following the lunch.

Peace in Jesus,

Pastor Thompson

**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](http://www.concordiaacademy.com/elf).

**Prayer Requests**  
**Healing and Comfort**

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

**Blessings/Guidance**

International Association for  
 Refugees  
 Concordia Academy

**Shut-ins**

Marlene & Ed Potter  
 Sharen Kappes

**Week Ahead**

**SUNDAY, Nov. 26**

9:30 AM Traditional Worship  
 10:45 AM All ages service project

**MONDAY, Nov. 27**

**TUESDAY, Nov. 28**

**WEDNESDAY, Nov. 29**

**THURSDAY, Nov. 30**

**FRIDAY, Dec. 1**

**SATURDAY, Dec. 2**

**SUNDAY, Dec. 3**

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

✝ Communion Service



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PASTOR: Pastor Andrew Thompson

[pastor@saintstephanus.org](mailto:pastor@saintstephanus.org)

Phone: (612) 208-7388

DCE (Youth & Families): Megan Hoffman

[youth@saintstephanus.org](mailto:youth@saintstephanus.org)

WORSHIP LEADER: Bruce Anderson

[banderson@saintstephanus.org](mailto:banderson@saintstephanus.org)

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

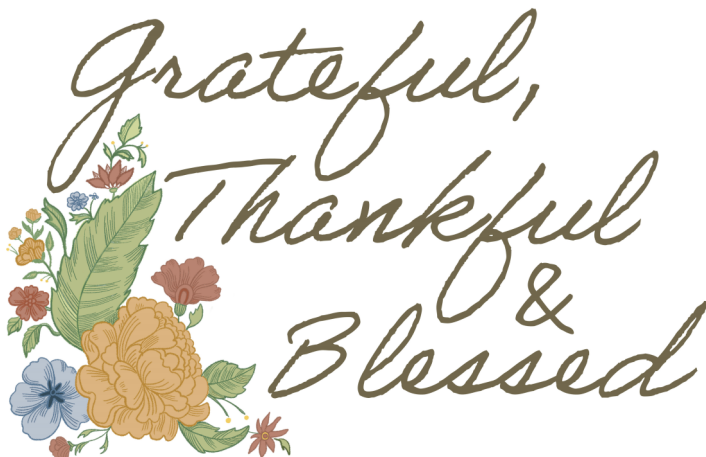
[www.saintstephanus.org](http://www.saintstephanus.org)  
 under the "WORSHIP" tab.

Worship Service Stream at

[www.saintstephanus.org](http://www.saintstephanus.org)

Submit prayer requests at

<https://forms.gle/JLDCstJFWRbu25PT7>



**Upcoming Birthdays,  
 Feasts & Commemoration**

Nov. 26: Guttu Hussein

Nov. 27: Joan Baker

Nov. 28: Dan Sagstetter

Nov. 29: Jill Katzenmaier, Reba Peterson, *Noah*

Nov. 30: Philip Preuss, *St. Andrew, Apostle*

Dec. 1:

Dec. 2:

Dec. 3:



**Serving in today's worship**

**Lector:** Shelly Novotny

**Communion Assistants:**

**Greeter:** Lynne Billing, Jan Uden

**Cantor:**

**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.