

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

Dec. 3, 2023
First Sunday of Advent

Ambrose of Milan (340-397) created the hymn *Veni Redemptor Gentium* in the 4th century, at around the same time as the date of Christmas was first fixed by the Church. The second stanza of this hymn translates to "Redeemer of the gentiles, come", and these lyrics were adapted by Martin Luther in 1524 into the German hymn *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland*, ("Now come, Savior of the heathens"). Luther's publication was edited by the composer Johann Walter, who is given credit for the tune, which derived from the original's plainchant melody. Traditionally used for the first Sunday of Advent, this hymn is the basis of multiple cantatas as well as several chorales.

Music in the Service:

341: Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

332: Savior of the Nations, Come

331: The Advent of Our King

350: Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

354: Arise, O Christian People

Prelude: Partita on "Savior of the Nations, Come" - Jacob B. Weber

Postlude: Fugue on "Savior of the Nations, Come" - Jacob B. Weber



*First Sunday
of Advent*



Today's Altar flowers are given by: Lennea Lopez to Kathy Fox and Carol & Doug James for your faithful service to St. Stephanus.

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. 4th, there will be a visitation at Muller-Bies in Roseville from 4 PM to 7 PM.

On Tuesday, Dec. 5th, 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

Thank you to all who contributed toys and or winter clothing to the parsonage family! Our Giving Tree is back up and ornaments will be on the tree of winter clothing for our annual event-this year for the International Institute. You may contribute from **Dec. 3-17th**.

Christmas Caroling to our shut-ins is right around the corner! On **Dec. 17th** after Bible Study, please join us for a luncheon before we go out to spread some Christmas cheer! Sign up soon at the Parish Life table in the lobby-we need to know numbers to order lunch and know how many members we can visit.

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.

This Sunday, Bethany Ringdal, ministry leader with International Association for Refugees, will share with us during worship and also following worship in the Fireside Room. Jonathan House, a program of the International Association for Refugees, would like to extend heartfelt thanks to St. Stephanus for your support during the last year. The shelter and community we provide to asylum seekers in the Twin Cities would not be possible without you. Because of your generosity and open hearts, you have helped our asylum-seeking neighbors begin to rebuild their lives in the Twin Cities after experiencing trauma in their homeland and fleeing for their lives. To get stories about your asylum-seeking neighbors and invitations to support them, join our newsletter at www.jonathanhouse.org/connect.



Emmaus Lutheran will be hosting the daytime midweek Advent services again this year. They will be Wed., December 6, 13, and 20 at 11:30 AM. with lunch following. **Bethel Lutheran** will be hosting evening Advent services at 7:00 PM.



The poster features a vibrant, abstract background with swirling colors of purple, blue, and green, resembling a night sky or a nebula. A bright, multi-pointed star is positioned in the upper left. The text is overlaid on this background. At the top, the CSP logo is visible. The main title 'A CONCORDIA ST. PAUL Christmas' is prominently displayed in the center. Below it, the text describes the event as a festival service featuring choral and instrumental ensembles. The schedule for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday is listed at the bottom, along with the venue information and a QR code for tickets.

CSP CONCORDIA SAINT PAUL

A CONCORDIA ST. PAUL
Christmas
A FESTIVAL SERVICE FEATURING THE CHORAL
AND INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLES OF
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, ST. PAUL

FRI. 12/8 7:30 PM SAT. 12/9 4:30 PM SUN. 12/10 3:00 PM

 **Buetow Music Center Auditorium**
300 Hamline Avenue N, St. Paul, MN 55104
Complimentary Tickets: www.csp.edu/tickets | 1.866.488.4849
Reserved Seating, freewill offering will be taken

Original Artwork by Deb Stroh

Concordia University, St. Paul invites you to a festival concert of Scripture and song December 8-10 (7:30 PM, 4:30 PM, 3:00 PM respectively) featuring the Concert Band, Handbell Choir, Christus Chorus, and Jubilate Chorus. This concert is **FREE**, but **reservations are required**. Please visit csp.edu/tickets to reserve your seats.

The Sunday afternoon concert is very full, but space remains for Friday at 7:30 PM and Saturday at 4:30 PM.

Concordia ACADEMY

Concordia Academy Presents Glory to the Newborn King the Concordia Academy Christmas Concert featuring CA's Chamber Orchestra, Concert Band, Choirs, His People, and art students on **Dec. 9 at 7 PM & Dec. 10 at 3 PM**

Adults: \$8 Students & Senior Citizens: \$5.

Online ticketing and picking your seats at ConcordiaAcademy.com/christmas.

Prayer Requests

Healing

Karen Arnold
Bill Baker
Marian Harmening
Deb Holtz
Richard Roach
Karen Trudeau
Jeremy

Comfort

Family of Doug Sell

Blessings/Guidance

LINC
Concordia University

Shut-ins

Clarence & Yoshiko Benson
Lisa Bisping
Ruth Bittner

Week Ahead

SUNDAY, Dec. 3

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

MONDAY, Dec. 4

TUESDAY, Dec. 5

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 6

THURSDAY, Dec. 7

FRIDAY, Dec. 8

SATURDAY, Dec. 9

SUNDAY, Dec. 10

9:30 AM Contemporary Worship
10:45 AM Bible Study & Sunday School

✙ 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

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 communities and our world.

Our Vision:

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

November Contributions (4 weeks):

General Fund (for church expenses): \$19,471 = \$4,868/week (need \$7,550/week)

Restricted Funds: \$43,045 = \$10,761/week

Total Income (General Fund and Restricted Funds): \$62,516 = \$15,629/week

Contributions for 2023 (48 weeks):

General Fund (for church expenses): \$280,758 = \$5,849/week (need \$7,550/week)

Restricted Funds: \$79,619 = \$1,659/week

Total Income (General Fund and Restricted Funds): \$359,137 = \$7,482/week

Checking Account Balance (funds available to pay expenses): \$13,926

Funds in Restricted Accounts: \$79,619

Note: Current Expenses: \$354,954

Current Income is \$4,183 higher than current expenses

A loan of \$40,000 has been deposited into the checking account

The November 30th payroll has not been deducted from the checking account

Upcoming Birthdays, Feasts & Commemoration

Dec. 3:

Dec. 4: *John of Damascus, Theologian & Hymnwriter*

Dec. 5: Cherie Fleischhacker

Dec. 6: *Nicholas of Myra, Pastor*

Dec. 7: *Ambrose of Milan, Pastor & Hymnwriter*

Dec. 8:

Dec. 9:

Dec. 10:



Serving in today's worship

Lector: Shelly Schlechte

Communion Assistants: Matt Hanan, Jane Sell

Greeter: Matthew & Rich Culbert

Cantor: Jim Radtke