

# 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. 17, 2023  
Third Sunday of Advent

"Jehovah, let me now adore you,  
For where, Lord, is there such a God as you?  
With joyful songs I come before you;  
Oh, let your Spirit teach my heart anew.  
To praise you in his name through whom alone  
Our songs can please you through your blessed Son!"

Two chorales based on the tune from this hymn found in our previous "red" and "blue" hymnals will be played as our prelude today.

Today's postlude is a setting of the Advent hymn "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You." Paul Gerhardt (1607-76) penned this hymn, which first appeared in a 1653 publication as ten stanzas under the heading "on the incarnation of Jesus Christ."

## Music in the Service:

- 346: When All the World Was Cursed
- 345: Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding
- 621: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
- 348: The King Shall Come When morning Dawns
- 349: Hark the Glad Sound

**Prelude:** Two chorales on "Dir, Dir Jehova" - Johann Gottlob Werner

**Postlude:** "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" - J. Beyer





Today's Altar flowers are given by: Lennea Lopez

**Christmas Eve coffee hour Christmas Party!** Our fourth Sunday of the month coffee hour for December is on Christmas Eve. There will be coffee provided as usual, but we are asking the congregation to provide the treat by bringing just a few Christmas cookies on that day. We will put them all on a platter (s) and enjoy a cookie potluck! Come and have some Christmas fellowship!

**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 2024 Offering Envelopes are out and ready for you to pick up!!

#### Christmas shut in list:

Clarence & Yoshiko Benson  
1670 Legacy Pkwy E  
Apt. 324  
Maplewood, MN. 55109

Lisa Bisping  
425 Labore Rd.  
Apt. 203  
Little Canada, MN. 55117

Ronald & Mary Bisping  
1897 Merrill St  
Roseville, MN. 55113

Larry Clemmensen  
Lyngblomsten Care Center  
1415 Almond Ave. # 239  
St. Paul, MN. 55108

Kathy Fleischhacker  
1840 University Ave. W  
Apt. 406  
St. Paul, MN. 55104

Marion Harmening  
3200 Lake Johanna Blvd.  
Apt. 367  
Arden Hills, MN. 55112

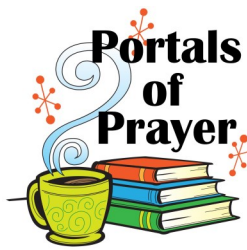
Bob Holtz  
3200 Lake Johanna Blvd.  
Apt. 305  
Arden Hills, MN. 55112

Sharen Kappes  
10826 Austin St.  
Apt.114  
Blain, MN. 55449

Beverly Piepkorn  
2730 Hazelwood St.  
Apt. 105  
Maplewood, MN. 55109

Ed & Marlene Potter  
3565 Pine Tree Dr.  
Apt. 6  
Arden Hills, MN. 55112





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

~Clarice~

### 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>



**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.

# Concordia

## ACADEMY

### Prepare for Christmas with CA's Online Advent Calendar

Concordia Academy would love to celebrate Advent and Christmas with you!

Each day from December 1-25, visit our [online Advent Calendar](https://www.concordiaacademy.com/advent) and open that day's window. You might find a classic -Beacon Christmas photo, a carol, a Bible verse, a special offer, or some other delightful holiday surprise. You could even find some chocolate! Go to [www.concordiaacademy.com/advent](https://www.concordiaacademy.com/advent) to join in the holiday fun.



## Prayer Requests

### Healing

Bill Baker  
Rich Carter  
Karen Arnold  
Deb Holtz  
Karen Trudeau  
Jeremy

### Blessings/Guidance

Mission of Christ Network  
Concordia Academy  
Birth of Beatrice Ruth Diedrich  
(daughter of Rachel (Bittner)  
Diedrich).

### Shut-ins

Marian Harmening  
Bob Holtz  
Bev. Piepkorn

## Week Ahead

### SUNDAY, Dec. 17

9:30 AM ✚ Traditional Worship  
10:45 AM Bible Study  
10:45 AM Sunday School  
Lunch followed by Caroling to shut-ins

### MONDAY, Dec. 18

### TUESDAY, Dec. 19

### WEDNESDAY, Dec. 20

### THURSDAY, Dec. 21

4:00 PM Food Distribution

### FRIDAY, Dec. 22

12:00 PM Blood Drive

### SATURDAY, Dec. 23

### SUNDAY, Dec. 24

9:30 AM Traditional Worship  
10:45 AM Bible Study & Sunday School  
4:30 PM ✚ Worship Lessons & Carols  
✚ Communion Service



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EMAIL: [saintstephanus@comcast.net](mailto:saintstephanus@comcast.net)

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>

### 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.

### December Contributions (2 weeks):

**General Fund (for church expenses): \$19,916=\$9,958/week (need \$7,550/week)**

Restricted Funds: \$3,575=\$1,788/week

Total Income (General Fund and Restricted Funds): \$23,491=\$11,746/week

**Contributions for 2023 (50 weeks):**

**General Fund (for church expenses): \$304,218= \$6,084/week (need \$7,550/week)**

Restricted Funds: \$81,954 = \$1,639/week

Total Income (General Fund and Restricted Funds): \$386,172 = \$7,723/week

**Checking Account Balance (funds available to pay expenses): \$13,276**

Funds in Sharing and Caring: \$251

Note: Current Expenses: \$388,391

Current expenses are \$2,219 higher than current income

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

## Upcoming Birthdays,

### Feasts & Commemoration

**Dec. 17:** *Daniel the Prophet and the Three Young Men*

**Dec. 18:**

**Dec. 19:** Simeon Thompson, *Adam & Eve*

**Dec. 20:** *Katharina von Bora Luther*

**Dec. 21:** *St. Thomas, Apostle*

**Dec. 22:**

**Dec. 23:** Ben Mohrland

**Dec. 24:** Erica Stauff, Ron Brubak, Wendy Curtis



### Serving in today's worship

**Lector:** Dan Baker

**Communion Assistants:** Megan Hoffman & Lennea Lopez

**Greeter:** Jackie & Jerry Spiess

**Cantor:** Lois Thur