

# St. Stephanus Lutheran Church

Preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ for 133 Years



Dec. 24, 2023  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

**The canticle assigned to daily Vespers** is the Magnificat, the song of Mary from Luke 1:46-55. When sung, it is preceded and followed by an antiphon, a single verse that connects the Magnificat with the holy day being observed. During the seven days before the eve of the Nativity of our Lord (December 17-23), the antiphons begin with the word "O" followed by a form of address to Christ. These antiphons were in use in Rome no later than the eighth century.

Each of these seven Great O Antiphons, as they are commonly called, is formulated as a prayer addressed to the Son of God and calling upon Him to come - that is, to return on the Last Day. Each antiphon begins with a title given to the Son in the Old Testament that testifies to a thoroughly Christian interpretation: "O Wisdom", "O Lord", "O Root of Jesse", "O Key of David", "O Dayspring", "O King of the Nations", and "O 'God with us'.

In the early 19th century, John Mason Neale, who was a major contributor to hymnology in the Anglican church, altered this Latin text into a hymn we now know as "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." The tune dates back to a 15th Century French missal, or prayer book, and was associated with a chant sung during funeral processions. Neale spent time in Portugal visiting churches and libraries, and it was in Lisbon that he discovered the prayer book with the tune now known as "VENI EMMANUEL."

## **Music in the Service:**

356: The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

357: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

355: O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide

**Prelude:** Partita on "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" - Kevin J. Sadowski

**Postlude:** "O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide" - Carlotta Ferrari

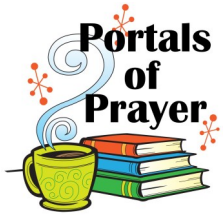
## **Christmas Eve Choral Service:**

**Prelude:** Christmas Chains - Brent Jorgensen

**Postlude:** "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen" - Alfred V. Fedak



Today's Altar flowers are given by: Lennea Lopez given in thanks and blessings for family.



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

~Clarice~



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

## 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.



**We want to thank** our St. Stephanus family for all of your gifts, cards, and prayers (and visits) during these transition months. Thank you and God bless to everyone, Clarence and Yoshiko Benson

**Thank you** to the 15 carolers who last Sunday had lunch together and then made much appreciated visits to nine of our homebound members.

**Thank you** to everyone who participated in the annual Giving Tree winter clothing drive for the International Institute. The contributions were delivered this past week. If you have yours yet, you can bring it-just put it in the big Giving Tree box in the lobby, which will remain up until January-there is a lot of winter left!

**Thank you to** Admasu and family for putting up the beautiful Christmas decorations. ~Emmy ~



**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

## Prayer Requests

### Healing/Peace

Chris Brooks  
Bill Baker  
Rich Carter  
Karen Arnold  
Deb Holtz  
Karen Trudeau  
Jeremy  
Dave & Mickey Zinter

### Blessings/Guidance

Camp Omega  
Concordia University

## Week Ahead

### SUNDAY, Dec. 24

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

### MONDAY, Dec. 25

### TUESDAY, Dec. 26

### WEDNESDAY, Dec. 27

### THURSDAY, Dec. 28

### FRIDAY, Dec. 29

### SATURDAY, Dec. 30

### SUNDAY, Dec. 31

9:30 AM ✝ Traditional Worship  
10:45 AM Bible Study  
10:45 AM 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](http://www.saintstephanus.org)

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 (3 weeks):

General Fund (for church expenses): \$26,671 = \$8,890/week (need \$7,550/week)

Restricted Funds: \$3,600 = \$1,200/week

Total Income (General Fund and Restricted Funds): \$30,271 = \$10,090/week

### Contributions for 2023 (50 weeks):

General Fund (for church expenses): \$311,213 = \$6,224/week (need \$7,550/week)

Restricted Funds: \$81,979 = \$1,640/week

Total Income (General Fund and Restricted Funds): \$393,192 = \$7,864/week

Checking Account Balance (funds available to pay expenses): \$9,058

Funds in Sharing and Caring: \$0

Note: Current Expenses: \$391,167

Current income is \$2,026 higher than current expenses

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

## Upcoming Birthdays, Feasts & Commemoration

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

Dec. 25: Jesus

Dec. 26: Asher Fleischhacker, *St. Stephen, Martyr*

Dec. 27: *St. John, Apostle & Evangelist*

Dec. 28: Elizabeth Sagstetter, *The Holy Innocents, Martyrs*

Dec. 29: *David*

Dec. 30: Mary Bisping

Dec. 31: *Eve of the Circumcision & Name of Jesus/New Year's Eve*



### Serving in today's worship

Lector: Shelly Novotny

Communion Assistants:

Greeter: Judy Brinkman & Colleen Heck

Cantor: