

St. Stephanus Lutheran Church

Preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ for 133 Years



Jan. 7, 2024
Baptism of Our Lord

January 6 is the date to celebrate the day of Epiphany, ending the 12 days of Christmas. The word Epiphany is derived from Greek, meaning 'manifestation' or 'appearance'. Today's opening hymn, "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" is one of Philipp Nicolai's most famous hymns, along with "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying". This hymn which is based on several texts including Revelations 22:16 "I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star", fits the season of Epiphany as we celebrate Jesus as the Light of the World, along with the star over Bethlehem, which was followed by the Magi as we find in today's readings. Today's prelude will be two variations of the hymn, designed to fit with stanza 1, "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright! You shine with God's own truth and light, Aglow with grace and mercy!.", and one to fit with stanza 3, "Lord, when You look on us in love, At once there falls from God above A ray of purest pleasure." The postlude is a third variation, representing stanza 6, "What joy to know, when life is past, The Lord we love is first and last, The end and the beginning!"

Music in the Service:

395: O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright
407: To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord
590: Baptized into Your Name Most Holy
596: All Christians Who Have Been Baptized
601: All Who Believe and Are Baptized

Prelude: Partita on "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" - Walter L. Pelz

Postlude: Toccata on "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" - Walter L. Pelz



Today's Altar flowers are given by: Jane Sell

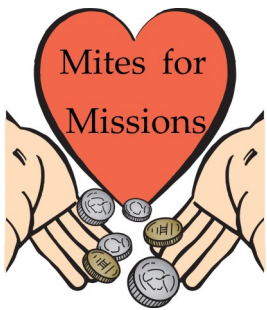
I want to thank everyone who signed up for flowers in 2023! I greatly appreciate your generosity to make our altar and worship so beautiful. ~Clarice Anderson~

The new flower chart for 2024 (January—December) is up and ready!



We need YOUR help! Please look at the flower chart. It is located between the narthex mailboxes and the elevator. There are still spots open to request flowers. The flowers may be dedicated to a special occasion, in thanks for something, in honor of a person or group, or just because you want to make sure we have flowers to praise and honor God. You are asked to take your flowers home right after the church service.

1 bouquet of flowers is \$27.50 and 2 bouquets of flowers are \$55.00. If paying by check make it out to St. Stephanus Lutheran Church and in the memo write Flowers.



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.



Have you found us on Facebook yet? We're trying to engage members and congregational friends in prayer and conversation together through various Facebook posts. We invite you to join us: <https://www.facebook.com/SaintStephanusLCMS> .

Lutheran Women in Mission Winter Workshop

“Walking a New Path”

St. Croix River and St. Paul Metro Zones welcome you to join us for a presentation and an open discussion on attracting and involving younger women in our local and zone groups.

Date: Saturday, January 27, 2024

Registration & Refreshments: 9:30 – 10 A.M.

Workshop: 10-11:30 A.M.

Suggested Donation: \$5 plus a special mite door offering

Location: St. Peter Lutheran Church

880 Neal Avenue So., Afton, MN 55001

RSVP by January 23, 2024 to Joyce Banttari,

St. Croix River Zone President at

stcroixriverzp@mnslwml.org

or call 651-434-3261

Workshop Leaders:

Tracy Eickhoff - LWML Minnesota South Committee on Young Women
Chairman and Vice President, Servant Resources

And

Rebekah Schoenfeld - LWML Minnesota South District Young Woman
Representative to the 2023 National Milwaukee Convention and
the 2022 St. Croix River Zone Young Woman Representative to the LWML
MN South District Convention.

Prayer Requests

Healing/Peace

Karen Trudeau
Jeremy

Blessings/Guidance

International Association for
Refugees
Concordia Academy

Shut-ins

Clarence & Yoshiko Benson
Lisa Bisping
Ruth Bittner

Week Ahead

SUNDAY, Jan. 7

9:30 AM ✙
10:45 AM

Traditional Worship
Bible Study & Sunday School

MONDAY, Jan. 8

TUESDAY, Jan. 9

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 10

THURSDAY, Jan. 11

FRIDAY, Jan. 12

SATURDAY, Jan. 13

SUNDAY, Jan. 14

9:30 AM
10:45 AM

Traditional Worship
Bible Study & Sunday School

✙ Communion Service



St. Stephanus
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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 communi-
ties and our world.

Our Vision:

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

December Contributions (5 weeks):

General Fund (for church expenses): \$48,645 = \$9,729/week (need \$7,550/week)

Restricted Funds: \$4,029 = \$806/week

Total Income (General Fund and Restricted Funds): \$52,674 = \$10,535/week

Contributions for 2023 (52 weeks):

General Fund (for church expenses): \$333,186 = \$6,407/week (need \$7,550/week)

Restricted Funds: \$82,410 = \$1,585/week

Total Income (General Fund and Restricted Funds): \$415,596 = \$7,992/week

Checking Account Balance (funds available to pay expenses): \$24,120

Funds in Sharing and Caring: \$161

Note: Current Expenses: \$405,552

Current income is \$10,044 higher than current expenses

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

Upcoming Birthdays, Feasts & Commemoration

Jan. 7: Beverly Piepkorn

Jan. 8:

Jan. 9:

Jan. 10: Basil the Great of Caesarea, Gregory of Nazianzus,
& Gregory of Nyssa, Pastors & Confessors

Jan. 11: Ed Potter, Redazgi Habtezezi

Jan. 12: Ron Bisping

Jan. 13:

Jan. 14:



Serving in today's worship

Lector: Sheila Schlechte

Communion Assistants: Tricia Schmidt & Jane Sell

Greeter: Matthew & Rich Culbert

Cantor: Jackie Spiess