

# 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

Jan. 14, 2024

## Second Sunday after the Epiphany



### *From the Organist*

**Johann Ludwig Conrad Allendorf** was a Lutheran court preacher at Cöthen for a quarter century after Bach departed for Leipzig. During his tenure he wrote 132 hymns, “hymns of love to Christ, the Lamb of God, and the Bridegroom of the believing soul” although only five found their way into English. “Jesus ist kommen, Grund ewige Freude” (“Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure”) gained popularity in Germany during the 19th century. Four stanzas of the original 23 were included in Lutheran Worship and are also found in our hymnal today. The many stanzas help us gain a wider perspective on the dazzling variety of implications that Jesus’ arrival on earth has for humanity. Jesus comes as the source of eternal joy; with thundering power he shatters chains of death and sets us free from our bondage to fear; as Redeemer of the world he overwhelms Satan; he takes his place as the king of glory; he is the prince of and wellspring of life, he is the offering for our sins, he is the origin of blessing and the source of grace.

he takes his place as the king of glory; he is the prince of and wellspring of life, he is the offering for our sins, he is the origin of blessing and the source of grace.

The tune was originally known as CÖTHEN and is believed to have been joined to the text at the time the hymn was written. This is a perfect marriage, for the music’s majestic, processional character invites us to be not only witnesses to this great event but also active participants in past, present and future. In the course of the four stanzas we have a foot in the past as we ponder the miracle of the Word made flesh; we are grounded in the present as we reflect on what this means for our lives at this very moment (“See now the threatening strong one disarmed!”); and we face the future we ponder the implications of this mighty act of God’s love and what it means to “take the crown he has for you!”

It’s interesting to note that LSB places “Jesus Has Come” in its “Redeemer” section, whereas it was in the Epiphany section in Lutheran Worship and Christian Worship Supplement and under Advent in the older German hymnals. In the hymn’s context of

Christ as Redeemer, we gain a deeper awareness of how the text can shape and transform our lives of faith. It pronounces that Jesus’ triumph over Satan means that we no longer need be imprisoned by the fear of death, a fear that wrenches us away from God to worship the false idols of money, power, and control. We are free to live fully, free to receive God’s love with open arms, and free to return that love to God in greater measure through all the gifts of ministry God has given us. On top of all that, the hymn sends us forth in mission: Jesus has come! Now proclaim this great wonder!

*(Nancy Raabe - Center for Church Music - Reprinted with permission)*

### **Music in the Service**

533: Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure

402: The Only Son from Heaven

518: By All Your Saints in Warfare

**Prelude:** Partita on "Jesus Has Come" - John A. Behnke / Kevin Hillebrand

**Postlude:** Toccata on "Jesus Has Come" - John A. Behnke



**Today's Altar flowers are given by:** Kathy Fleischhacker and family in memory of Andrew Fleischhacker, Jr., who would have had his 73rd birthday on Jan. 15th.

**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.

**There will be a hospice and infant kit packing event** and bandage rolling for the Global Health Ministries on Saturday, January 20th. It will be happening with our Eritrean church family. We will meet at 10 A.M. in the Fireside room for brunch, do our activities, and finish up with dessert at noon. Ten to fifteen volunteers are needed. Please sign up at the Parish Life Board in the lobby.

Thank you!

**2023 Contribution Statements** - The 2023 contribution statements have been sent out. When you receive your statement, please review to ensure that it accurately reflects your 2023 contributions. If you have not received your statement or if there is a problem, please contact Lynne Heuton (651-315-4158) as soon as possible to allow corrections to be made in a timely manner.

**Passing of the Collection Plate** - On January 28th we are resuming the practice of passing the collection plate during the offertory. Passing the plate is a visible response to God's generosity. It is also symbolic of the congregation's shared responsibility for supporting the church and its ministries. It is a communal act of sharing one's blessing and resources. Details are being worked on that will allow us to acknowledge the gifts of electronic givers, guests, and givers sharing resources other than financial. To resume the practice, we need help to pass the plate among the pews. Here is an easy way to participate in the worship service. If you think you might be interested in helping contact Lynne Heuton or Megan Hoffman.



## REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 15TH!

Registration for the *Go First!* Ministry Conference will open on January 15, 2024 and will remain open until April 10, 2024. At this special event, we will gather with other disciples from across our district and beyond to learn and be encouraged, and to offer learning and encouragement to others.

***Do you have the gift of organization or hospitality?*** We will need volunteers with these gifts, among others, before, during, and after the conference. [Click here](#) to read descriptions of the volunteer areas available, prayerfully consider how you can help, and then check the box(es) in which you would like to serve.

For more information and to see a preview of the current speakers, please go to the [MN South district website](#).



## 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](mailto:stcroixriverzp@mnslwml.org)

or call 651-434-3261

## Prayer Requests

### Healing/Peace

Karen Trudeau  
Jeremy

### Blessings/Guidance

International Association for  
Refugees  
Concordia Academy

### Shut-ins

Lorraine & Karen Byland  
Ron & Mary Bisping  
Larry Clemmensen

## Week Ahead

### SUNDAY, Jan. 14

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

### MONDAY, Jan. 15

### TUESDAY, Jan. 16

### WEDNESDAY, Jan. 17

### THURSDAY, Jan. 18

### FRIDAY, Jan. 19

### SATURDAY, Jan. 20

### SUNDAY, Jan. 21

9:30 AM ✠ Contemporary Worship  
10:45 AM Bible Study & 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>

### 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.

### January Contributions (1 week):

General Fund (for church expenses): \$6,389 (need \$8,504/week)

Restricted Funds: \$1,140

Total Income (General Fund and Restricted Funds): \$7,529

### Contributions for 2024 (1 week):

General Fund (for church expenses): \$6,389 (need \$8,504/week)

Restricted Funds: \$1,140

Total Income (General Fund and Restricted Funds): \$7,529

Checking Account Balance (funds available to pay expenses): \$15,645

Funds in Sharing and Caring: \$161

Note: Current Expenses: \$29,547

Current income is \$22,018 higher than current income

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

Of the money borrowed, \$3,744 remain

## Upcoming Birthdays, Feasts & Commemoration

Jan. 14:

Jan. 15:

Jan. 16:

Jan. 17: Marie Benson

Jan. 18: Dustin Trudeau, *The Confession of St. Peter*

Jan. 19: Sheila Schlechte

Jan. 20: Lisa Bisping, Robert Holtz, *Sarah*

Jan. 21:



Serving in today's worship

Lector: Lois Thur

Communion Assistants:

Greeter: Rich Carter & Richard Johnson

Cantor: Bill Johnson