

# 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

March 3, 2024  
Third Sunday in Lent Sunday



**Martin Luther** (1483-1546) expressed the wish in his Latin Mass (*Formula missae*, 1523) that "we had as many songs as possible in the vernacular which the people could sing during mass." That same year, he wrote several paraphrases of biblical psalms, including Psalms 12 and 14, which are no longer sung; Psalm 130 ("From depths of woe I cry to Thee," LSB 607), and the hymn "May God Bestow on Us His Grace," a paraphrase of Psalm 67. Luther's psalm paraphrases served both as example and catalyst toward the goal of providing German songs for the congregation.

He likely wrote the paraphrase of Psalm 67 in late 1523, since the text first appears appended to the end of a 1524 German translation of the *Formula missae*. On May 6, 1524, a man was arrested in Magdeburg for singing Luther's versifications of Psalms 67 and 130 and selling copies of them. It is possible that the earliest surviving copy of Luther's psalm with music, a broadsheet with the title *Der Lxvi. Deus Misereatur* printed in Magdeburg in 1524, was one of those sold.

The tune ES WOLLE GOTT UNS GNÄDIG SEIN is the tune from the Magdeburg broadsheet, and is found in our hymnal as #823. Today we will sing this as our Hymn of the Day, set to the tune ELVET BANKS, a relatively new (20th century) tune by British composer David Lee, named for his alma mater, the University of Durham.

## Music in the Service:

579: The Law of God is Good and Wise  
824: May God Bestow on Us His Grace  
429: We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died  
425: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross  
645: Built on the Rock

**Prelude:** Prelude in D Minor - Paul Fey

**Offering:** May God Bestow on Us His Grace - setting by Robert Lind

**Postlude:** Allegro - Edward Redhead



Today's Altar flowers are given by: **Judy Brinkman and the St. Stephanus family** to Clarence & Yoshiko Benson and Kathy Fleischhacker. Our thoughts and prayers to you.



**March 10 Daylight Savings Time begins!** We will turn our clocks ahead (spring forward).

### **Dear Family of God at St. Stephanus,**

Our Vicar Yohannes Ghebru officially accepted the call to serve as Missionary Pastor at St. Stephanus! You are cordially invited to attend the service of Ordination and Installation for Yohannes on Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 11AM. This will be our only service that day as a joint service between the Eritrean and St. Stephanus worshipping communities with guests from the Minnesota South District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod as well. After the service, you are welcome to join us in the Fireside Room as we share in a meal and fellowship. Praise God who sends workers to answer His call!

**Ordination Meal Reservations are needed!!** Everyone is invited to the Ordination meal after the worship service on March 10<sup>th</sup>. There is no charge for this meal but we do need an accurate account and must give the caterers the numbers on Monday, March 4. You may register at the Parish Life table in the lobby on Sunday or call Emmy at (651)645-3044.

**Jonathan House is getting ready to grow the impact of our ministry of welcome**, and they are looking for teams of 3-4 people, ideally rooted in a congregation together, to make a 1-year commitment to walking in supportive friendship with an asylum-seeking friend living at the Jonathan House. Examples are helping residents get access to English training, groceries, clothing, mail, and transportation. Interested? Please reach out to Pastor Thompson [pastor@saintstephanus.org](mailto:pastor@saintstephanus.org). Their next group launches March 28, so don't wait to get in touch!

### **Special Congregational Meeting**



#### **Special Voters Meeting**

In accordance with Minnesota Statute 312.12, for us to sell the property at 734 Blair, the congregation must have a meeting and adopt a motion to sell the property. The house has been sold, we just need to have this meeting before we can close.

In accordance with the statute, notice must be given for that meeting. The meeting will be held on **Sunday, March 24, after the Palm Sunday Service.**

**A message from Sarah Culbert:** I am so thankful for everyone at St. Stephanus. Everyone has helped me grow in one way or another. Taylor and I would love to invite everyone to our wedding, but since that is just not possible, we would love to invite you all to our wedding shower. Taylor and I want to be able to celebrate our marriage with our communities, churches, family, and friends. We will be having an open house style shower on March 16th from 1-4 in the King of King's gym. There will be wedding games on the half hour and things for everyone to participate in and enjoy. We are basically throwing one big party! We would love to have you all there to join in the fun!

Love, Sarah Culbert (Mueller)

### Stay Connected!

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> .



**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.



**We are collecting toys** for the Ronald McDonald House thru March 17th. The toys must be **new and in original packaging** and not gift-wrapped. Please put them in the box marked "Ronald McDonald House Toys" in the lobby.

### Praising God for \$336 raised to Fight Human Trafficking

Thank you to the bakers and generous supporters that gave to our bake sale on Feb. 25. International Justice Mission is a Christian organization that fights human trafficking through pursuing policy change, seeking arrest of predators, and rescuing victims. To learn more or to give directly to this organization visit [International Justice Mission | End Modern Slavery for Good](#)



Registration for the *Go First! Ministry Conference* 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](#) .

## Prayer Requests

### Healing/Peace

Sharen Kappes  
Karen Trudeau

### Blessings/Guidance

Camp Omega  
Concordia University

### Shut-ins

Clarence & Yoshiko Benson  
Lisa Bisping  
Ruth Bittner

## Week Ahead

### SUNDAY, March 3

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

### MONDAY, March 4

### TUESDAY, March 5

6:00 AM Presidential Primary Voting

### WEDNESDAY, March 6

### THURSDAY, March 7

### FRIDAY, March 8

### SATURDAY, March 9

### SUNDAY, March 10

11:00 AM ✚ Ordination Worship  
12:00 PM lunch

✚ Communion Service



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PASTOR: Pastor Andrew Thompson

[pastor@saintstephanus.org](mailto:pastor@saintstephanus.org)

Phone: (612) 208-7388

### February Contributions (4 week):

**General Fund (for church expenses): \$19,541 = \$4,885/week (need \$8,504/week)**

Restricted Funds: \$3,787 = \$947/week

Total Income (General Fund and Restricted Funds): \$23,328 = \$5,832/week

### Contributions for 2024 (8 weeks):

**General Fund (for church expenses): \$51,894 = \$6,487/week (need \$8,504/week)**

Restricted Funds: \$5,309 = \$664/week

Total Income (General Fund and Restricted Funds): \$57,203 = \$7,150/week

**Checking Account Balance (funds available to pay expenses): \$16,399**

Restricted Funds: \$59,460

Funds in Sharing and Caring: \$421

Note: Current Expenses: \$85,021

Current Expenses are \$27,181 higher than current income

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>

## Upcoming Birthdays, Feasts & Commemoration

March 3:

March 4: Elizabeth Asefa

March 5: Marty Langemo

March 6: Todd Mohrland

March 7: Calvin Hanan, Karen Trudeau,

*Perpetua & Felicitas, Martyrs*

March 8:

March 9:

March 10:



## Serving in today's worship

**Lector:** Sheila Schlechte

**Communion Assistants:** Jim Radtke & Tricia Schmidt

**Greeter:** Jon & Rich Culbert

## 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.