

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 17, 2024
Fifth Sunday in Lent Sunday



Prelude and Fugue in C Minor (BWV 549) is an early work by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), likely dating back to his first position at the New Church in Armstadt (1703-1707).. Originally written in the key of D minor, it was transposed down, likely to avoid a high 'd' in the opening pedal solo. The Prelude begins with a lengthy pedal solo in the tradition of North German composers, like Georg Böhm, an organist in Lüneburg, with whom a teenaged Bach had studied. This solo is introduced by a three-note trill, leading into an ominous solo pedal passage. The theme then moves into the manuals (keyboards), interspersed with repeated chords, until it

reaches its conclusion. The fugue, by contrast, has its subject introduced more quietly in the manuals, where it is developed, before its entry in the pedals. Large chords reappear at this point, before the piece returns to the freer style of the Prelude. This Prelude and Fugue will be played for our postlude today.

Julius Caesar adopted the Julian calendar in 45 B.C. to be used throughout the Roman Empire. However this calendar miscalculated the length of a year, losing about a day every 128 years. In 1700, most of present-day Germany had adopted the Gregorian calendar, as developed by Pope Gregory and his scientists in 1582; part of this adoption was that all dates prior to December 31, 1699 remain the same. I can only imagine the headaches involved in changing an entire calendar system in today's world. Coincidentally Bach's birth date written in the European tradition of DD-MM-YY would be 21-3-85, corresponding to the letters "B A C H E" - drop the last letter and it matches the symbolism Bach often used in his compositions and life.

If you want to hear some fantastic Bach music, performed on organ, piano, and other instruments, take in one of the free *Before Bach Birthday Bash* concerts put on by the Twin Cities chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Click this link for details: [Before Bach Birthday Bash](#)



Music in the Service:

Prelude: Harmonization & Chorale on "O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig" - BWV 618 - J.S. Bach

Postlude: Prelude and Fugue in C Minor - BWV 549 - J.S. Bach



Today's Altar flowers are given by: Lennea Lopez for the non-members who volunteer to help with the monthly food distribution.

Mark your calendars: Maundy Thursday (March 28) and Good Friday (March 29) worship services are at **7:00 PM**. Not at 7:30 as listed in the Connections newsletter.

Special Congregational Meeting



Special Voters Meeting TODAY!!

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 **TODAY after the Sunday Service**.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who worked at the Ordination/Installation meal and program. We simply have no words sufficient to express our heartfelt thanks for all those who made this event for Pastor Yohannes Ghebru a delightful occasion. ~Parish Life Committee~

Deep gratitude and thanksgiving for all who offered their time and service this last weekend to celebrate the Ordination and Installation of Pastor Yohannes Ghebru. Thank you so much, especially to all who served at lunch, those who set up, and those who helped to lead music in worship. It was a truly blessed day.

Now that Pastor Yohannes is officially a pastor of St. Stephanus, we are interested in forming a committee to explore what joint ministry and mission at St. Stephanus might look like, and what form and structure our shared life here will have. Members of the Eritrean Church and members of St. Stephanus will be joining together to help shape the direction of our life together. We'd like to have some membership of St. Stephanus who are willing to sit and have conversations about what this would be like with members of the Eritrean Church. Please let Pastor Thompson know if you would be interested in participating in the committee for these direct conversations, and be on the lookout for opportunities as members to share in bigger discussions about our direction forward.

Concordia

ACADEMY

Concordia Academy presents Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap"

March 15 at 7:00 PM & March 17 at 2:00 PM

Understudy Performances: March 16 at 7:00 PM

Tickets: \$5-\$10 ALL seats reserved. Order tickets online at

www.concordiaacademy.com/mousetrap.

Spring Has Sprung Let Your Creativity Bloom

Join the women of St. Stephanus on **Saturday April 13th from 8:30-12:00** for a morning of fellowship and creativity. You are invited to bring your own handiwork or participate in a learning session.

There will be 3 learning sessions available and space to sit and enjoy the company of others while you work on your projects.



The learning opportunities include:

Zentangle, a meditative art form that introduces drawing as a form of relaxation. Simple and EASY to follow instructions will be taught by Laura Treichel, a certified Zentangle instructor.



Fusible appliqué, an easy, fun way to create using fabric (no-sewing-machine needed). This will be led by Lynne Heuton



DIY knitting, with easy to follow instructions and supplies to start you out while in the company of more experienced knitters.

Schedule:

8:30 – Continental Brunch

9:00-10:00 – Learning Session I

10:30-11:30 – Learning Session II

Feel free to bring a bag lunch to stay and continue working.

Do you have a craft you would like to share? Bring your supplies. There will be space to set up and time for women to join you.

There is no charge for this event thanks to a Thrivent grant; however, to plan for food and supplies we do require advance registration.

Registration

Call (651) 315-4158 or email Lynne Heuton (lmheuton@gmail.com) with your reservation information or if you have questions

I will attend the Spring Creativity Event. I am interested in:

- ☐ Zentangle session I (9-10)
- ☐ Zentangle session II (10:30-11) this will be a different project and you can register for both.
- ☐ Fusible appliqué session I (9-10)
- ☐ Fusible appliqué session II (10:30-11) this will be the same project and will allow more time to practice.
- ☐ DIY Knitting
- ☐ I will bring my own project and look forward to working in the company of others

Feel free to invite a friend.

All supplies for the learning sessions will be provided.

Don't craft, don't worry. Feel free to stop by to observe and visit.

Prayer Requests

Healing/Peace

Don Johnson
Bev Piepkorn
Karen Trudeau

Comfort

Family of Sandy Wiczek
Family of Janet Zahler

Blessings/Guidance

LINC
Concordia University

Shut-ins

Kathy Fleischhacker
Marian Harmening
Bob Holtz

Week Ahead

SUNDAY, March 17

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

MONDAY, March 18

TUESDAY, March 19

WEDNESDAY, March 20

THURSDAY, March 21

4:00 PM Food distribution

FRIDAY, March 22

SATURDAY, March 23

1:00 PM Game day

SUNDAY, March 24 Palm Sunday

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

✝ Communion Service



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DCE (Youth & Families): Megan Hoffman

youth@saintstephanus.org

WORSHIP LEADER: Bruce Anderson

banderson@saintstephanus.org

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

Clarice Anderson

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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 communities and our world.

Our Vision:

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

March Contributions (2 weeks): Incomplete counting

General Fund (for church expenses): \$7,037= \$3,519/week (need \$8,504/week)

Restricted Funds: \$916=\$458/week

Total Income (General Fund and Restricted Funds): \$7,953=\$3,977/week

Contributions for 2024 (10 weeks):

General Fund (for church expenses): \$59,824= \$5,982/week (need \$8,504/week)

Restricted Funds: \$6,225=\$623/week

Total Income (General Fund and Restricted Funds): \$66,049=\$6,605/week

Checking Account Balance (funds available to pay expenses): \$10,025

Restricted Funds: \$57,730

Funds in Sharing and Caring: \$421

Note: Current Expenses: \$101,855

Current Expenses are \$35,806 higher than current income

Upcoming Birthdays,

Feasts & Commemoration

March 17: *Patrick, Missionary to Ireland*

March 18:

March 19: Sharon Savard, *St. Joseph,*

Guardian of Jesus

March 20:

March 21: Bruce Anderson,

Johann Sebastian Bach

March 22: Al Benson

March 23:

March 24:



Serving in today's worship

Lector: Lois Thur

Communion Assistants: Ron Brubak, Megan Huff

Greeter: Jerry & Jackie Spiess