

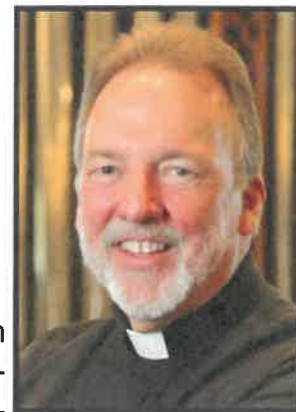
# *An Update from Pastor Jim*

5 August 2021

Dear Fellow Members of St. Stephen Lutheran Church,

Greeting in Jesus' name.

We have now been gathering on Sunday mornings, in our Sanctuary, for in-person worship since Easter (much longer than that on Wednesday nights) and we are slowly seeing individuals and families return to community worship, both at 9:30 on Sunday morning as well as 6:00 on Wednesday evening. I continue to encourage you to join us when you feel comfortable and are ready to be together with your faith family at St. Stephen. Next Sunday, August 15, at 9:30 am, we have a special opportunity to be together as a community of believers as we gather for an outdoor worship service on our north lawn. Worship will be led by "Revival" our contemporary worship band. Make sure you bring your own lawn chair. Communion will be served. I hope many of you will join us for this unique worship service.



The fund-raising effort this spring to gather money to purchase a live video system for our sanctuary is complete; the congregation raised the required \$23,000.00.. The system has been installed and we are currently live-streaming our 9:30 Sunday worship service. You can connect to that service on our website at, or any time after, 9:30 am on Sundays. On your computer or phone, go to [www.StStephenWBL.org](http://www.StStephenWBL.org) and click on the red arrow YouTube icon. We're still learning how to produce that live-stream service, so any suggestions are welcome; please direct them to me at the church office.

We are currently getting ready for Vacation Bible School. The whole facility is being decorated for the theme: "Knights of North Castle", based on the Armor of God text: "Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His power" Ephesians 6:10. We are expecting about 35 kids along with 10 adult or youth volunteers. Please keep everyone in your prayers this week for a fulfilling week for all.

Finally, another word about our Covid-19 precautions. The Church Council has approved that we will follow the Minnesota Department of Health and Center for Disease Control guidelines regarding our response to the global pandemic. Since this virus continues to change, unfortunately the MDH guidelines continue to change. Those guidelines currently recommend that everyone wear a mask indoors regardless of vaccination status. This is based on the statistic that says Ramsey County has moved from "moderate" transmission of the virus to "significant" transmission.

*"Because the Delta variant is shown to spread more easily, MDH and CDC recommend everyone, both fully vaccinated and unvaccinated, wear a mask in the following situations: In public, indoor settings in areas with substantial or high transmission.*

MDH website

May God continue to bless you all, keep you safe, and create in you unwavering trust in our faithful God.

Have a restful and refreshing rest of the summer.

In Christ's Service,

*Pastor Jim*

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, 1965 East County Road 'E', White Bear Lake, Minnesota, 55110  
[www.ststephenwbl.org](http://www.ststephenwbl.org); [office@ststephenwbl.org](mailto:office@ststephenwbl.org); 651-777-1107