

# ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



## DO YOU REMEMBER WHICH **COLOR** YOU'RE INVITED TO WEAR SUNDAY?

Yes, it's red. Because this is Pentecost Sunday. Here's what we found at an ELCA site devoted to the significance of colors in the church year, <https://blogs.elca.org/worship/541/>:

"In the Christian tradition, colors are used for vestments and paraments, but a unified system of colors developed only gradually and haphazardly until and through the Middle Ages. Today, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America provides a system of colors for use by its congregations; for the most part, the same system is also used by Roman and Anglican churches, at least in the United States; and by many churches around the world, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

"Many of the colors associated with the seasons are closely linked with the experience of Christians in the Northern hemisphere. Christians in the Southern hemisphere will experience the church year differently in that context, perhaps calling forth different color associations. It is also helpful to realize that colors have different associations across the globe, just as they have had different associations over the course of the church's history. For example, white is the color North American and European Christians typically associate with Christmas and Easter, the color white signifying the purity of Christ, light or joy. In many Eastern cultures, however, white connotes mourning. Red, associated with energy, blood or fire among other things in Western culture, is the color associated with purity in India.

"The colors serve to adorn the worship space, and to call attention to the nature of the season or festival being celebrated."

Now, specifically regarding Pentecost, the website reports: "Red as the color of fire is used on this day when we remember the tongues of fire descended on the crowd in Jerusalem. In contrast to the color of scarlet, Pentecost's red is a bright color." (Hint: Scarlet will work just fine. St. Stephen is a forgiving place.)

## CLASS STARTS NEXT MONTH

By Pastor Tom

Our Confirmation for Adults group has reached consensus to begin classes on Tuesday, June 23, at 6 p.m.! Let's gather in the church lobby a little before 6. The community NA group is meeting in the fellowship hall from 5 to 6, so please avoid disturbing them.

Your homework, before we meet, is to purchase a Lutheran Study Bible (1st Edition). We have two left in our library that you can use if you can't buy one. There's some grant funding available as well. The link at the bottom of this article is from AbeBooks, and there are used LSBs for under \$10. Let me know if you have any questions.

Also, as you can see, my co-leader Dave Suhrweir has provided us with a general outline for our course. We will provide handouts each evening we meet to guide our topic and spur conversations.

So far, we have 13 or 14 people who are interested! And anyone who wants to join is welcome, even after the classes begin. I am thrilled that we have a healthy-sized group with a variety of ages and denominations! Dave and I want to hear about your faith journey.

<https://www.abebooks.com/servlet/BookDetailsPL?bi=31538424465>

<b>Bible Overview</b>
An Overview of the Bible
The Canon
Getting to Know the Books of the Bible
<b>Hebrew Scriptures</b>
The Pentateuch
A Brief Overview of the Historical Books
Wisdom and Poetry of the Old Testament
The Prophets of the Old Testament
<b>New Testament</b>
The Four Gospels
The Book of Acts
New Testament Letters
<b>Martin Luther and Lutheranism</b>
A Quick Look at Martin Luther and the Reformation
<b>The Old and the New</b>
Connections: Gospels and Hebrew Scriptures
Scriptural Law
<b>Theological Concepts</b>
Baptism
Holy Communion
Holy Trinity
Understanding Faith and Trust

## A CHOIR TO ADMIRE

Turn up your hearing aids this Sunday when the choir takes its place behind the altar. You'll want to cling to every note. Because this is the last time you'll hear our sopranos, altos, tenors and basses as a group until the end of summer, after their richly deserved hiatus.

While we're singing their praises, and while we're applauding Music Director Katharine Gossman for her magic touch, let's also celebrate this unusual fact: Not only did this year's choir *not shrink* as the season wore on, but actually it *grew*. Some of us who've been here awhile remember years when that was not the case at all.

"Simone Schuster has been very good at inviting people she knows to join the choir," Pastor Tom said. "And, of course, Katharine's expertise keeps people attending."



Katharine says this Sunday's anthem is a four-parter and will be sung a cappella. What a Pentecost bonus. Thank God for our choir: Jordi Banitt; Karl Barton; Melissa Barton; Mark Canning; Austin Cowan; Kirsten Ebbesen; Rita Ford; Alison Haney; Rudy Hehn; Susan Hehn; Colleen Holdcraft; Pastor Tom Holdcraft; Olivia James; Lawana Lamb-Daniels; Simone Schuster; Sylvia Smith; Dave Suhrweir; and Cassandra White

## 'AN UNBEARABLY HARD TIME'

*This is an update from Lori Zengel, dear friend of St. Stephen and former office manager here.*

Thank you to all of my St. Stephen family. It has been a hard couple of months, moving to Brevard, North Carolina, and less than a week later learning of my sister Tracy Tedder's cancer diagnosis. By that time, the aggressive bile-duct cancer had already spread to her liver and she had little energy/strength to do daily household chores, much less continue her job as controller for a science and technology firm. This resulted in her taking a leave of absence from her work. Her husband needed to continue working, so I am so grateful that I was available to help her. During March and April I spent my weekdays with her, helping with everything from feeding and cleaning to taking her to countless appointments for chemo, immunotherapy, receiving fluids, blood transfusions, paracentesis, blood work, etc....

On April 30 she had a scan to see how the tumors were responding to the treatments. The news was not what we had hoped for. The tumors had stopped growing, but they hadn't shrunk. Her oncologist was forthcoming with the news, and she decided she still wanted to continue treatment and was ready for the fight. Unfortunately, her body was so weak from the treatment and the cancer that she had a cardiac arrest and died soon after.

This has been an unbearably hard time, but I take comfort in knowing she had a great team of nurses, PAs and doctors who made her feel valued and respected. Her husband was unbelievably strong and loving during every moment, and her daughters were brave and supportive, even though they are way too young to have gone through this.

I want to send my appreciation to all of you at St. Stephen. Your cards and sentiments have been very therapeutic. And the lilies are just beautiful. Tracy would've loved them. I miss you all. I hope my next communication is under better circumstances.



## BEHIND THE SCENES

On the day before the St. Stephen Mother's Day parfait breakfast, there was lots of activity in and around the fellowship hall as preparations took place. Pictured above, making little plant pots for the congregational mother figures, are (clockwise from left) Jack, Susan and Mark Warren's grandson;



Mateo, Margaret Bowers' grandson; grandma Margaret herself; Pastor Tom; Anita Sawh; Rita Ford; and Wes, who is Jack's best pal. Not seen here are Ceilia and Violet, who were en route, and Carol Santos, who was taking care of other preparations for the big day. Attention, dads: Your day will be June 21. (Photo by Susan Warren)

## HERE'S WHAT WE'RE COLLECTING

Thanks to the efforts of Sharon Simmons and her crackerjack Outreach Committee, we're always collecting something, right? Those poor tubs in the fellowship hall never get a moment's rest. Right now, in advance of the annual Florida-Bahamas Synod Assembly, we've been asked to donate items for the HOPE Partnership. Specifically, any of the following items:



Florida-Bahamas  
Synod, ELCA

- Washcloths
- Men's and women's travel-size deodorant
- Travel-size conditioner
- Travel-size lotion
- Travel-size shaving cream
- Sports bras (S-XXL)
- Tampons, pads and panty liners
- Men's boxer briefs (S-XXL)
- Men's T-shirts (black, gray, navy, other dark colors) (S-XXL)
- Women's T-shirts (black, gray, navy, other dark colors) (S-XXL)
- Athletic gym shorts with drawstring (M-XXL)
- Razors
- Q-tips
- Plastic cups



By the way, Mark and Sue Canning will be our congregational representatives at the Synod Assembly.

## IN THE GARDEN: EXCERPT FROM PASTOR TOM'S SERMON

Ms. Halvorsen's garden never looked crowded. The carrots had quiet space between them. The lettuce heads spread wide, and even the tomato vines, though full, seemed disciplined in growth – each plant given room to breathe.

A young neighbor looked through the fence and watched Ms. Halvorsen pull up healthy green shoots and place them in a basket. "You're throwing those away?" the boy asked. "They look healthy." "They are healthy," Ms. Halvorsen said. "That's why they have to go."

The boy frowned, "I don't understand. Wouldn't more plants mean more food?" Ms. Halvorsen gave a knowing smile, stood up and stretched. Motioning, she said, "Come over here, and I'll show you."

The boy came and stood close. Ms. Halvorsen pointed to a cluster of young carrots, with their feathery tops tangled together. "If I leave them like this, they'll fight over everything – water, soil, sunlight, space. They'll grow thin, twisted and weak. Never becoming what they were meant to be.

"But if I thin them," she said, "the ones that remain will grow deep and strong. One good carrot is better than five stunted ones."

And so it is with our lives. We, too, are called to acknowledge the fact of our finiteness. Knowing this calling, we are able to take the life-giving chance of choosing what is essential.



### Host Details

Donna Schiffer & Rob Schiffer  
(850) 212-0101

### Host Note

Come join us for food, drinks (alcoholic and non), and music as we celebrate the end of 40 years of teaching.

Your favorite Hawaiian shirt or casual dress is recommended.

Please park directly in front of the clubhouse or, if full, drive past and turn right on Needle Palm Way and park there.

Please RSVP by May 23rd

## BEFORE YOU GO...

- Have any recent grads in your household? If so, we'd like to broadcast that news in an upcoming newsletter. Please notify Office Manager Rita at [sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com](mailto:sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com).
- Beth Alexander is heading down to Winter Garden to attend the graduation of former St. Stephen members Vince and Vivien Muchuruza – and she's offering to deliver any cards or gifts from the rest of us. If you want to take Beth up on her offer, you'll need to bring your items to church Sunday.
- If you have an anniversary, birthday, special memory or special St. Stephen person or program you'd like to honor, celebrate by sponsoring the altar flowers for our service. Sign up on the flower chart, out by the name tags, or ask Office Manager Rita to sign you up. Include the \$40 with your regular offering. And then take the flowers home!
- And pictured here is the newsletter editor's latest suggestion, in case the Church Council ever decides to provide him with a company car. It's a '54 Ford. Plus, just in time for Pentecost, it's red! God, watch over us as we drive through life.

**There's nothing like a FORD!**

Ford is truly unique in its class... in fact, there's nothing quite like a Ford anywhere! Why? Well, no other car gives you such clean, honest lines... such crisp, fresh styling. No other offers such smoothly tailored interiors, with rich fabrics and trim color-harmonized to your choice of body tones.

Of course there are other reasons, such as the convenient new Astra-Dial Control Panel... the availability of all the power assists... and, on the performance side, the most modern of power plants and the newest of front suspensions.

With all these advantages, it's no wonder you so often see two Fords possibly parked in driveways where there used to be one costly car.

**Ball-Joint Suspension**  
You'll find there's only one improved car with the new Ball-Joint Front Suspension... and that's the '54 Ford! It allows front wheels to step in and out of deeper holes with less shock to you... keeps your ride smooth... keeps handling crisp.

**Two New Deep-Block Engines**  
You choose between the industry's most modern engines... the 110-hp, Y-Block V-8 and 115-hp, L-Block Six. Both have blocks with extra-deep skirts for greater rigidity... smoother, quieter, longer engine life.

**5 optional power assists you'd expect to find only in the costliest cars**

**Master-Guide Power Steering**  
It does up to 75% of your steering work for you... yet you retain a natural steering feel.

**Ferdinastic Drive**  
The only automatic in its field to give you both torque converter smoothness and the "Gee" of an automatic intermediate gear.

**Power-Lift Windows**  
On all 4 windows... not just 2 as in some cars! A master control lets you open or close all windows from driver's seat. There's also an individual control at each window.

**Swift Sun Power Brakes**  
Power does up to one-third of your stopping for you. Keeps you more ahead in today's stop-and-go driving.

**4-Way Power Seat**  
Power allows front seat to **tilt** down as well as forward and **lock**... at a finger's touch. Gives exact position most comfortable to you.

**Your Ford Dealer cordially invites you to Test Drive a '54 FORD**

## COMING UP

### Today:

Noon - AI-Anon meets in Pastor Emory Hingst Memorial Fellowship Hall, aka Hingst Hall (HH)

7 p.m. - AA meets in HH

### This Friday:

9:30 a.m. - TOPS meets in HH

### This Sunday:

9:00 a.m. - Bible study

9:30 a.m. - Choir rehearsal

10 a.m. - Worship, Day of Pentecost

### Monday, May 25:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in HH

### Tuesday, May 26:

5 p.m. - NA meets in HH

### Wednesday, May 27:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in HH

### Thursday, May 28:

10 a.m. - Bible study

## SERVING THIS SUNDAY

**Pastor Tom Holdcraft**, Preaching and Presiding; **Kirsten Ebbesen**, Assisting Minister; **Rita Ford**, Cup Minister; **Greta Scavone**, Lector; **Audrey Post and Loraine Sundberg**, Tech Team; **Beth Alexander**, Altar Guild; **Loraine Sundberg and Marilyn Larson**, Counters; **Ann DelRossi and Jacob Nallapu**, Ushers; **Denise Bookwalter**, Announcements

## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS



Jennifer Dritt - 5/21  
Paxton Oates - 5/23  
Sandy Larson - 5/24  
Blake Simmons - 5/25  
Jake Hartung - 5/25  
Nicholas Oliveri - 5/25  
TJ Oliveri - 5/28  
Lawana Lamb-Daniels - 5/30  
Bevin Reardon - 6/3  
Billie Reardon - 6/3  
Lydia Bush - 6/4  
Simone Schuster - 6/4  
Susan Hehn - 6/11  
Billy Oates - 6/14



If you have news or photos to share,  
please send them to Rita at  
[sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com](mailto:sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com).

Don't forget our Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/ststephentallahassee>.

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, ELCA