



# ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

## St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter

### THIS SUNDAY: ROOF TALK

There's a meeting after worship this Sunday to discuss a new roof and other needed repairs.

Then on March 29 – one week from this Sunday – we'll have a congregational meeting after worship to vote on repairs and fundraising.

Topics for discussion include why we need a new roof; shingles versus metal roof; heating and air-conditioning issues; Hingst Hall renovation; timeline; and our Building Together Fund.

The Church Council values your opinion, so please plan to attend!



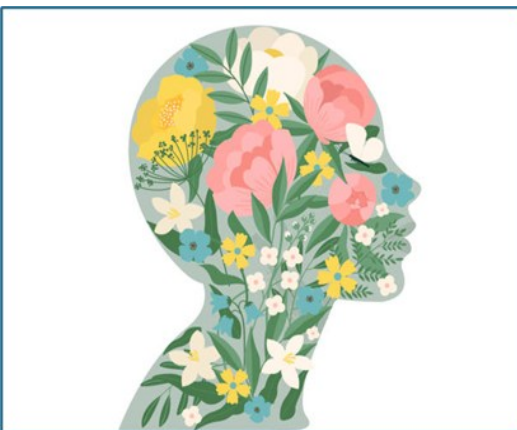
“Lord, please send me a sign that the church roof needs to be replaced.”

### AS EASTER APPROACHES

- March 29: Palm Sunday
- April 2: Maundy Thursday
- April 3: Good Friday
- April 5: Easter Sunday!



### LOOKING AHEAD TO OUR RETREAT



Good news! We have 43 people signed up to attend our Waiting for Eden spiritual retreat on April 11 at Goodwood Gardens Carriage House. For anyone who had not made a decision by last Sunday, the deadline has been extended to this Sunday, March 22.

While 43 is a beautiful number, we want as many of the congregation to attend as possible, lest you be missed. Join us if you can, whether in whole or in part.

### ‘WE FIND GOD’S PEACE HERE’: THE STORY OF GRACE MISSION

*The proceeds from this month’s Noisy Offering will go to Grace Mission. Last Sunday, we had a moving presentation from Mother Rachel Hill, Grace Mission’s vicar. Her slightly condensed message is below.*

Thirty years ago, the ministry of Grace Mission was begun in Frenchtown, specifically because there were so many very, very broken people living under the poverty line who were like sheep without a shepherd. Many of the downtown churches were not places that would welcome them in because maybe they smelled bad, maybe they looked bad – they weren’t the “right sort” of people.

And so Grace Mission was planted in response to that very real need that continues to this day. Some people at this time have nowhere to live. Others are couch-surfing from friend's house to friend's house. Some people are at the Kearney Center. We have folks struggling with addiction, other people struggling with their mental health, people who have recently been bereaved, lost a spouse, lost a source of income and suddenly find themselves in a situation they never dreamed they would be in. Grace Mission is a place where all are welcome.

We are there more than anything to be Jesus' hands and feet, so that Jesus can love these people through us, and show them how precious they are in his sight. So everything we do at Grace is designed to convey that message to all those who come in the door.



Last year you all chose for the first time to come alongside and partner with us through your endowment fund. I want to bless you for what you're doing there. That is so important. Everything we do at Grace is only done because we are surrounded by partners like yourselves. We don't receive any government funding or grants. It's all done as an expression of the love of the wider church, the Body of Christ.

I would like to ask you please to keep us in your prayers. That's the No. 1 thing we need. We are dealing with people who are so, so broken, and it's a hard ministry. So we need prayers for protection. We need prayers just that the Lord would wash off of us all the despair and sometimes the verbal abuse we encounter. But also prayers for the people coming, that they would find that Grace is a place where they find God's love, that their hearts would be softened. And we see that day after day. Many of them will tell you Grace is their safe space; they say, "We find God's peace here." And we want that to continue.

On our website ([www.gracemission.net](http://www.gracemission.net)) we have a place where you can sign up for volunteering. We would love to have you come and serve.

## SPICE IT UP, ST. STEPHEN

*By Sharon Simmons, outreach coordinator*

March 29 is SPICE IT UP SUNDAY at St. Stephen. The Outreach Committee is asking members of the congregation to bring a container of any spice (salt, pepper, garlic salt/powder, onion powder, actually any spice you like) and leave it in the designated tub in Hingst Hall. The spices will be taken to the Seminole Manor neighborhood for folks who make use of the free pantry. Everyone needs spices for a favorite recipe, so let's make it a spicy Sunday. We will only collect on this one Sunday but may have another collection in the future. Dollar Tree has loads of different spices at \$1.25.



## PASTOR TOM'S WELCOME FROM LAST SUNDAY

Sometimes in church we will hear the phrase "stuck in our sin." It connects to our humanity and our brokenness, but are we really stuck? In our lesson today from John, we will encounter the words "sin" and "sins" quite a bit, as the temple leaders and the disciples try to explain suffering in the world and reasons to exclude people from community. Jesus does talk about sin as something to be called out, but NOT something that permanently condemns someone nor something that cannot be reversed. Poor decisions can be changed, eyes can be opened and hearts softened. That's the beauty of growth.

Author Danielle Shroyers reminds us that there is a difference between *having* fallen and *being* fallen. Being fallen creatures means we're permanently stuck. That's not taught by Jesus. What is taught is that we may have fallen, but we CAN get up. Today, we pledge to rise up.

## BEFORE YOU GO...

- We'll be using Easter lilies to adorn the chancel area for Easter Sunday. If you'd like to dedicate one or more, complete the form in the narthex and drop it in the offering plate. You can also email Rita the dedication. The cost is \$10 each, and the deadline is March 25.
- Altar Guild members will be sprucing up the sanctuary on March 28 from 10 am to noon.
- March 29 is the last Sunday we'll be collecting diapers and wipes. Any size diapers are needed and welcome. Publix is having a great sale on them this week.
- If you have any questions about the upcoming church camping trip April 17-19, see Mark Greeley or Colin Hackley.
- Please remember that you can look up past sermons or newsletters that you missed. Visit our website: <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/>.
- 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



THE SATURDAY EVENING POST November 15, 1941

### THE BEAUTIFUL NEW CHRYSLER!

*Beautiful to look at!  
Beautifully engineered!  
Beautiful to ride in!  
Beautifully built!  
Beautiful to drive!*

**NOW - TRY FLUID DRIVING!**

YOU'RE in for the thrill of a lifetime when you take the wheel of the beautiful new Chrysler. Here's Fluid Driving at its amazing best... with two billion miles of owner experience behind it... with the added zest of Chrysler's newest, more powerful Spitfire engines... with a smoothness and effortlessness that outdoes even Chrysler's previous best! The new Spitfire engines reveal a host of new engineering miracles! With new manufacturing, new uses of Anola steel and Ollite metals, they are not only more powerful... they conserve fuel by delivering more power per gallon! They are the smoothest, longest-lived, most efficient engines of all the famous Chrysler power plants. Beautiful the new Chrysler is... and beautifully it performs! Chrysler dealers are eager to show you!

**MORE POWER PER GALLON -**  
Fluid Drive and Vocomatic Transmission... GET MODERN DESIGN

**Buy Chrysler!**

ask Rita to sign you up. Include the \$40 with your regular offering. And then take the flowers home!

- And pictured here is the St. Stephen Newsletter Editor's Classic Car of the Week. It's a mammoth green 1942 Chrysler, dwarfing the diminutive woman standing with arms akimbo. Those were exuberant times. Count 'em: There are 13 exclamation points in this ad. ("The new Spitfire engines reveal a host of new engineering miracles!") Little did the creators of the ad know that, shortly after it was published, the Japanese would bomb Pearl Harbor. Lord, watch over us as we drive through life.

## 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 a.m. - Bible study

9:30 a.m. - Choir rehearsal

10 a.m. - Worship: Fifth Sunday in Lent

11:30 a.m. - Open Forum

### Monday, March 23:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in HH

### Tuesday, March 24:

5 p.m. - NA meets in HH

5:30 p.m. - Chair yoga

### Wednesday, March 25:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in HH

7 p.m. - Choir rehearsal

### Thursday, March 26:

10 a.m. - Bible study

## SERVING THIS WEEK

**Pastor Tom Holdcraft**, Preaching and Presiding; **Beth Alexander**, Assisting Minister; **Loraine Sundberg**, Cup Minister; **Greta Scavone**, Lector; **Audrey Post and Caroline Collins**, Tech Team; **Linda Eshleman and Barbara Sullivan**, Altar Guild; **Billie Reardon and Kirsten Ebbesen**, Counters; **Pastor Tom**, Cantor; **Denise Bookwalter**, Announcements

## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS



**Chris Gossman - 3/19**  
**Diane Hines - 3/23**  
**Stephanie Leitch - 3/27**  
**Davis Holdcraft - 4/1**  
**Colin Hackley - 4/6**  
**Gordon Fleischer - 4/6**  
**Vicki Guttenplan - 4/7**  
**Beth Alexander - 4/11**  
**Rudy Hehn - 4/12**  
**Donna Schiffer - 4/13**  
**Erik Robinson - 4/14**  
**Elizabeth Halvorson - 4/15**  
**Cassandra White - 4/16**  
**Sandy Lamb-Daniels - 4/17**  
**Terri Schmitt - 4/17**



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