



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

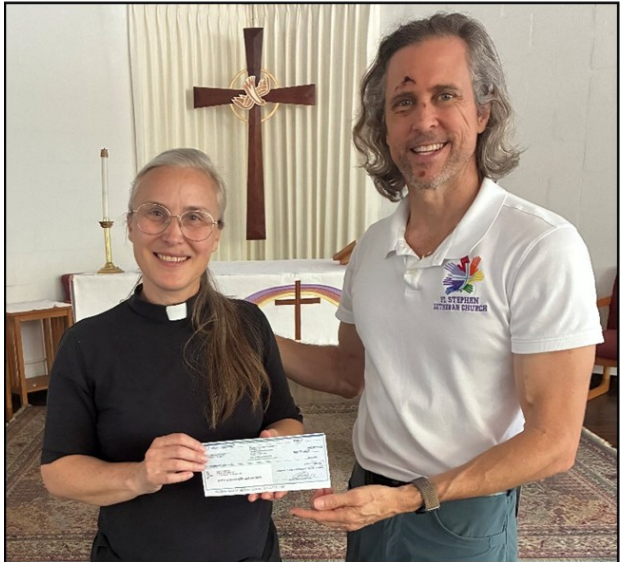
St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter

THESE CHECKS ARE IN THE RIGHT HANDS

By Pastor Tom

Below you'll see recipients of two of the Hingsts' Peace and Justice Endowment Fund grants, given recently to support ministries that work for justice and peace in our community.

Here I'm standing with Mother Rachel Hill. She and her husband were missionaries to Peru for over a decade. They were called to Tallahassee near the end of COVID and, because of the disruptions that the disease brought to society through sickness, death and displacement, she found that hungry people were being fed through Grace Mission but that a community needed to be rebuilt. During the lunch servings, they put one table out, and a few people stayed to eat.



That has grown to about 50-60 people being fed and staying to gather together. During my visit, I spoke to some clients, volunteers and other organizations such as Florida Blue and Sojourn Wellness who were onsite to offer care services. Mother Rachel does Bible Study and worship for the unsheltered patrons. The picture was taken in their sanctuary. Grace Mission also provides washer-and-dryer services once a week and has a shower to offer, as well as other services.

Below, the second photo shows the food pantry box we installed at the garden lot at Seminole Manor Neighborhood. A few years ago, Karen Olson (second person to the left of the box) introduced us to Adrian Fogelin (lower left, between the dog and Colleen Holdcraft). That introduction has grown to include ways we can partner with Seminole Manor to help care for the unsheltered in the area.

Chico Albertin (Andrea's husband, standing by the pantry box) built the box in his workshop. We installed it May 31 and held a prayer service there. (Other St. Stephen faces: Val Kibler and Sylvia Smith are left of Karen; Pastor Tom is right of the box, beside Sharon Simmons and Andrea Albertin. Photo by Craig Reeder.)



NO KINGS

As you probably know, a nationwide No Kings protest is scheduled for this Saturday. In Tallahassee, people will gather at the Old Capitol between 10 a.m. and noon. Here's some background from the organizers.

In America, we don't put up with would-be kings. NO KINGS is a national day of action and mass mobilization in response to increasing authoritarian excesses and corruption from Trump and his allies. We've watched as they've cracked down on free speech, detained people for their political views, threatened to deport American citizens, and defied the courts. They've done this all while continuing to serve and enrich their billionaire allies.



🕒 On Saturday, we're taking to the streets nationwide. We're not gathering to feed his ego. We're building a movement that leaves him behind.

🕒 In COLLABORATION with our LOCAL PARTNERS, we will come together once more to fight for our democracy and rule of law!

- Indivisible Tallahassee Action Group
- People Power of Florida
- Rising Voice Collective
- FSU Democrats
- Leon Democratic Environmental Caucus

The flag doesn't belong to Donald Trump. It belongs to us. We're not watching history happen. We're making it. On Saturday, we're showing up everywhere he isn't — to say no thrones, no crowns, no kings.

A core principle behind all No Kings events is a commitment to nonviolent action. We expect all participants to seek to de-escalate any potential confrontation with those who disagree with our values.

For more information: <https://www.mobilize.us/nokings/event/786069/>

SIT, STAY, EXERCISE

By Audrey Post



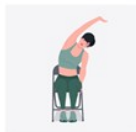
The OWLS, our Older, Wiser Lutherans, agreed at our monthly lunch Tuesday at Kool Beanz (yum!) to explore having a chair yoga class once a week in the fellowship hall. We have a certified yoga instructor willing to teach it, but the group would like a demonstration class to learn more about it before committing.



The demo class has been arranged, so please join us next Thursday, June 19, at 5 p.m. for a 30-minute chair yoga class with Fatimah Zaid Paul. There is no charge for this demo class, and chair yoga is a great way for people of all ages to exercise safely, because the danger of falling -- a big concern for those of us in the "older" demographic -- is greatly reduced. Plus, it's Juneteenth, a holiday, so come on over to Hingst Hall. Wear comfortable, loose clothing. Age is irrelevant; everyone is welcome!



Fatimah has been working with the Wellness Committee at the College of Medicine for the past few months, leading CardioFit sessions, chair yoga and stretching classes. I think you'll enjoy her. She worked as a physical fitness coach at Westminster Oaks for years until her retirement.



Hope to see a good crowd next Thursday, June 19, at 5 p.m. in Hingst Hall!

'AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO DRINK'

Outreach Coordinator Sharon Simmons announces that St. Stephen and our friends at New Mt. Zion AME Church have moved our annual Water Works collection. Starting this Sunday, she says, please bring cases of bottled water and place them on the designated pew in Hingst Hall. They'll all be taken to the Kearney Center on July 2.



FIX THE NEWS

These are recent excerpts from Fix The News, a “weekly roundup of stories of progress, mind-blowing science and the best bits of the internet.” In these days of nonstop bad news, some of us find them encouraging.

- In a rare consensus move, member states of the World Health Organization have approved a 20% increase for the 2026-27 budget. The agreement represents a shift toward more predictable, stable funding for global health governance. China will become the new top funder of the WHO, overtaking the United States, with a commitment of \$500 million over the next five years. The support is earmarked for global health initiatives including pandemic preparedness and disease control in low-income countries. (Source: *World Health Organization*)



- Scientists in Japan have created a biodegradable plastic that completely dissolves in seawater within hours. Unlike existing bioplastics, it leaves no microplastics or toxins behind. The innovation could revolutionize marine packaging and fishing gear — two major contributors to ocean waste — and is already being tested for real-world use. (Source: [Reuters](#))
- Trump may accidentally be accelerating the clean-energy transition. The administration's 'energy dominance' agenda, aimed at boosting fossil-fuel exports, is having an unexpected effect: making other countries nervous about oil dependency and pushing them faster toward renewables. In trying to stall the energy transition, he may be speeding it up. (Source: [Bloomberg](#))

ALWAYS THERE WITH US, NO MATTER WHAT: EXCERPT FROM PASTOR TOM'S SERMON

... The Book of Acts is quickly becoming my favorite book in the Bible. One of the things I love about it is that, in Acts, no one is stuck forever.

In this text there are stories of nurturing community and the finding of purpose. In Acts we find that each of us has a journey, a way, with the Lord. A journey that includes openness and opportunity but also gives realizations of failure and shame.

Peter saw the worst in himself in denying Jesus. None of the disciples were there at the cross. I should say, none of the *male* disciples except the unnamed one in John: the disciple whom Jesus loved and Mary the mother of Jesus, with other women Jesus followers. But all the others abandoned Jesus.

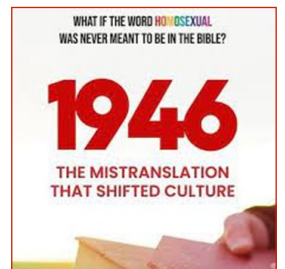
Yet, here's the thing: Jesus never let Peter and the others go. It was all necessary as part of their journey, and their life was the mission....

CASSANDRA SAYS...

- I have some information about the Pride Makers Market that I announced in church on Sunday. The Makers Market will be at the 926 Bar and Grill (outside) from 11 am to 3 pm Sunday. 926 is at 926 W. Tharpe St. and will be serving brunch.
- There will be another Pride Art Market at Common Ground Books the weekend following. That will be from 3 to 8 p.m. (also outside) on Sunday the 22nd. It will overlap with an event inside the bookstore where Terry Galloway (*the Mickee Faust*) will be signing copies of her memoir “Mean Little Deaf Queer.” Common Ground Books is now at 1102 S. Adams St.



- St. Stephen will host the Interfaith Pride Service at 7 p.m. next Wednesday, June 18. Please come for the celebration and support of the LGBTQIA+ community and local interfaith clergy partners. There will be light refreshments available after the service.
- What if the word “homosexual” was never meant to be in the Bible? The Mickee Faust Club, in partnership with the Tallahassee Film Society, is showing “1946: The Mistranslation That Shaped Culture” at the Challenger Learning Center IMAX Theatre. Time is 3 p.m. June 28. More information is available at <https://www.1946themovie.com>.



BEFORE YOU GO...



- Did you read about the creaky chair in last week’s newsletter? This week, someone replaced that chair with a silent one. Bet you can guess who. (Hint: His first name is “Pastor.”)
- You see all kinds of people at the cancer center, and everyone there has a story. Even if you don’t know their story, your heart goes out to them ... some more than others. Like the 30-ish couple who were there yesterday, looking as if this was their first visit. As the woman nervously checked in at the lab to have her blood drawn, her male companion waited in his plastic chair, head bowed, shoulders slumped inside a T-shirt that read: “Worry About Nothing, Pray About Everything.” Bless them both, God. Bless them all. Bless us all.
- 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 Lori to sign you up. Include the \$40 with your regular offering. And then take the flowers home!



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Billy Oates - 06/14
Tim Larson - 06/16
Ruth Hartung - 06/23
Steve Kunst - 06/23
Sandy Davis - 06/28
Sarah Barton - 07/03
Loraine Sundberg - 07/03
Karl Barton - 07/04
Tom Buchanan - 07/13
Jonas Holdcraft - 07/15

**If you have an upcoming birthday not listed above, let the church office know.*

HAPPY FATHERS DAY

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Invites ALL to join us for

Coffee & Donuts

To honor all of the men of St. Stephen

Sunday, June 15, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.

COMING UP

Today:

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

7 p.m. - AA meets in HH

This Friday:

10 a.m. - TOPS meets in HH

This Sunday:

8:30 a.m. - Coffee & Donuts Father's Day celebration

9:00 a.m. - Book study this week

9:30 a.m. - Choir practice

10 a.m. - Worship: The Holy Trinity

Monday, June 9:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in HH

Tuesday, June 10:

5 p.m. - NA meets in HH

Wednesday, June 11:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in HH

7 p.m. - Interfaith Pride Service in Sanctuary



If you have news or photos to share,
please send them to Lori at

sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com.

Don't forget our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/ststephentallahassee>.

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