



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO US

As Pastor Tom reminded us last Sunday, St. Stephen Lutheran Church was officially established Sept. 30, 1956. So here in our 70th year, one of our first activities will be to take a congregational photo! That's set for Sunday, Oct. 26, a day we'll also be enjoying a potluck feast. Worship. Photo. Lunch. Good.



PLANNING YOUR CHARITABLE LEGACY GIFTS: HOW IT WORKS



Hi! I am the Rev. Ana L. Lugo, Gift Planner for the ELCA Foundation to the Florida-Bahamas and Southeastern Synods. I'm happy to be joining you at St. Stephen this Sunday. I want to invite you to listen to my presentation "Planning Your Charitable Legacy Gifts: How It Works!" I will be illustrating how bequest language works; how charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts work; the benefits of giving from appreciated stocks; using your IRA for your charitable gifts; and more.

Throughout your life you have financially supported your church and other organizations. With charitable legacy gifts, your support will continue beyond your years. I listen to

what you wish to do and — utilizing different charitable vehicles, IRS rules and state laws — help figure out the best way to accomplish your goals.

There are no products or services to sell, and there is no charge for help. It is my ministry to serve. The size of your estate does not matter; it is what you want to accomplish with what you have to give that matters. You may call or email me anytime you wish to talk or work on your legacy gifts.

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SOCKS AND STUFF

By Sharon Simmons, outreach coordinator

SPEAKING OF PASTOR ANA: This Sunday she'll be our Ministry Minute speaker. She has served as the Florida-Bahamas Synod Regional Gift Planner since 2013 and was instrumental in guiding the formation of St. Stephen's Peace & Justice Endowment. Please plan to join Pastor Ana in Hingst Hall after the service for light refreshments and a question-and-answer time regarding legacy giving and planning.

SOCKS-A-MILLION: It's October, and that means the kickoff of our annual Socks for the Homeless drive, in partnership with New Mt. Zion AME Church. A tub in Hingst Hall is ready to receive new socks for men and women through Oct. 26. The socks will go to clients at Kearney Center.



COMMITTEE CHANGES: Dr. Cassandra White is taking the reins of the Ministry Minute. That's our monthly invitation to local nonprofits to share their mission and volunteer opportunities for interested church members. If you have a recommendation for a Ministry Minute speaker, please contact Cassandra at clwo73@truman.edu or 402-689-8469. Also, Caroline Collins is our liaison with Manna on Meridian, the community food pantry we participate in with Faith Presbyterian, Grace Lutheran and Trinity Methodist. Food is distributed monthly, and there are always opportunities to volunteer. It's also a great way for students to earn community-service points for scholarships. If you can help, contact Caroline at pinkandgreen850@gmail.com or 850-566-9990.



If you'd like to know the scope of our outreach initiatives, check our bulletin board in Hingst Hall.

A FINAL THANKS AND GOODBYE

Dear St. Stephen Family,

First, I apologize for my delay in sending this note. I have been traveling often to tend to my ailing parents. Things have stabilized, and thankfully I am back now and able to fully process this bitter-sweet farewell.



Words cannot fully express how deeply touched I am by the support, kindness, generosity and love you've shown me during my time at St. Stephen. Thanks to Ron for his patience with all of my grammatical errors (I'm sure he's cleaned this up, too); to Altar Guild diva Martha for showing me the inside workings of worship; to Sharon for her weekly "Hello" calls that always cheered me up; to Karen for her commitment to simplifying the budget process; to Jen Dritt, who was patient with me during my learning curve; to the Council members, who are all so committed to SSLC and have so much devotion and talent; to Rita, who has done everything asked of her

and will be a great replacement in the office; and to Pastor Tom, who has a magical way of capturing the relevant moment and expressing it in a profound and thoughtful way. Each of you has made such a lasting impact on me, and I will carry these memories with me. I am so grateful to have been part of such a wonderfully amazing community.

Thank you, once again, for everything! I will miss you all dearly and look forward to staying connected. With heartfelt gratitude and warmest wishes,
Lori (pictured with husband Scott in their new North Carolina surroundings)

BEST WISHES TO BARBARA AND BRYON

Sometimes you're standing around after church, exchanging news about this and that, and someone asks, "Hey, where have the So-and-Sos been? Have you seen them lately?" Every so often, people who've been valued members find a new church home. Such is the case with the Ehlmanns, and we asked them this week whether we could acknowledge their news here in the newsletter.

"We have not yet changed our membership," Barbara said, "but we are attending Trinity UMC on Park. They are another very welcoming church with fabulous music, and the size of the congregation is a bit more comfortable for us.

"Also, we are in the process of downsizing by purchasing a condo at the Tennyson on Monroe. Remodeling is needed before we move in, so we are busy with all that entails. Then we can walk to church and many other places downtown. Also, Bryon gets the Western view he has missed for many years."

We'll miss you, Barb and Bryon. God bless you, and thanks for the ways in which you've enriched St. Stephen.

J.S. BACH CELEBRATION THIS SUNDAY

St. Thomas Episcopal Church's first performance of the season for the Sundays at Four series will feature works by Johann Sebastian Bach performed by violinist Masayoshi Arakawa, cellist Boyan Bonev and St. Stephen's longtime flutist, Karl Barton. The concert will take place at 4 p.m. this Sunday in the sanctuary of St. Thomas Episcopal, 216 Remington Ave., in Thomasville. The concert will feature solo works for each of the three instruments and then combine all three for Bach's Sonata in G Major, BWV 1039, featuring themes that were among Bach's favorites. The concert is free and open to the public, with a suggested donation at the door of \$10. For additional information, call 229-227-6964 or email StThomas@rose.net.



ANOTHER SUNDAY-AFTERNOON CONCERT

In addition to Karl's Thomasville concert, there's a Tallahassee Youth Orchestra Fall Concert on Sunday. This one's at 3 p.m. at FSU's Opperman Music Hall, and violinist Astrid van der Mark is among the performers. The program includes:

- "The Montagues and the Capulets" from "Romeo & Juliet," Sergei Prokofiev, arr. Edmund J. Siennicki.
- "Roots," Gabrielle Liriano, conducted by Dr. Sanchez-Ballado.
- Danzón No. 2, Arturo Márquez.
- Selections from "Carmen" Suites No. 1 and No. 2, Georges Bizet.



Tickets are \$10/ \$5 children. For more information, visit

<https://checkout.square.site/merchant/1AQARWKFVNSWM/checkout/UETUHV7LAYRBMLN2ZWYXIPPH>

SOUPER SOUP SUPPER FOR SAFETY SEATS

By Dottie Hinkle, executive director, Lutheran Social Services of North Florida (aka KidSafe)



The magic word at KidSafe this month is SOUP! We are having our Super Soup Supper for Safety Seats event on Oct. 9 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Grace Lutheran Church. Everyone, especially everyone from St. Stephen, is invited to join us for an evening of delicious soup, bread and dessert. Suggested donation is \$20, and all proceeds will benefit our mission of providing new child safety seats to infants and children living in vulnerable

families in Leon and Gadsden counties. Everyone can help make this fundraiser a success:

- Sign up to donate a favorite soup or dessert to serve on Oct. 9.
- Buy one of our Friendship Soup Jars (\$15) in advance of the event (see Lawana).
- BUT, MOST OF ALL, JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP AND SUPPORT OF THE KIDSAFE PROGRAM.

‘PEOPLE LIKE JAMES’: EXCERPT FROM PASTOR TOM’S SERMON

It might sound strange to say, but I don’t think Jesus tells this parable [about the rich man and dirt-poor Lazarus] to reveal that being rich is a sin. What was/ is the sin is to look upon other people as somehow lesser than ourselves. Christ reminds us today to “see” the human beings around us who are in dire need. Whether it is because of illness, race, documentation or socioeconomic circumstances, we can be charitable and giving but still find ourselves dehumanizing the other.

At the congregation I served as youth director in Seminole, Florida, we had a “Lazarus.” His name was James. I would try to ignore James. I tried to keep communication as brief as possible with him because, well, I guess I thought I had more important things to attend to.

But James would call me from time to time and say, “Good morning, Tom. This is St. James from the Bible.” I’d chuckle and say, “Hi, James!” But I would secretly wonder, “Who says such a thing?” James would occasionally ask for rides to church on Sunday and to work with the gardeners on Thursday around the church. I would pick him up and take him to his assisted-living place.

There was this one particular Thursday when I must have lamented to Pastor Chip about having to go pick up James. Maybe I was concerned about the time lost on riding the mower, I don’t really remember. But what I will never forget is what Pastor Chip said to me during my time of “perceived” burden. He said, “We need people like James at Good Shepherd.” It took me a number of years to come to understand that wisdom fully. You see, I was doing a decent thing and I had well-meaning intentions, but I wasn’t really “seeing” James, and I wasn’t seeing him as my brother.

Jesus teaches us today to “see” the Lazaruses around us. To remember to be compassionate and to stop dehumanizing.

THANK GOODNESS

Here’s an excerpt from a recent edition of Fix the News, the weekly roundup of “Hidden stories of progress from around the world.” Want to subscribe? Visit <https://fixthenews.com/about>.

Vaccine skepticism is largely an American export. Outside the U.S., public confidence and uptake in vaccines remain broadly strong. Call it a reminder that routine shots are still a global norm, even if U.S. politics make it feel otherwise. (Source: *New York Times*)

BEFORE YOU GO...

- Need the contact information for a St. Stephen member? Use your digital directory. Don’t have it on your phone? Office Manager Rita can fix you up.
- 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 ask Rita to sign you up. Include the \$40 with your regular offering. And then take the flowers home!



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS



Vivian Halvorson - 10/2
Emery Oates - 10/8
Isabel Barton - 10/19
Val Kibler - 10/20
Dave Suhrweir - 10/21
Jim Sampson - 10/22
Audrey Post - 10/24
Barbara Ehlmann - 10/25
Graham Reece - 10/26
Anita Sawh - 10/26
Bern Mustian - 10/30

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:

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

This Sunday:

9 a.m. - Bible study

9:30 a.m. - Choir practice

10 a.m. - Worship: Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

11:30 a.m. - Rev. Ana L. Lugo in HH

Monday, October 6:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in HH

Tuesday, October 7:

5 p.m. - NA meets in HH

Wednesday, October 8:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in HH

7 p.m. - Choir

SERVING THIS WEEK

Pastor Tom, Preaching and Presiding; **Colleen Holdcraft**, Assisting Minister; **Beth Alexander**, Cup Minister; **Mark Greeley**, Lector; **Loraine Sundberg and Sandy Lamb-Daniels**, Tech Team; **Rita Ford and Anita Sawh**, Altar Guild; **Margaret Bowers and Loraine Sundberg**, Counters; **Isabel Barton**, Cantor; **Denise Bookwalter**, Announcements



If you have news or photos to share,
please send them to Rita at
sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com.

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

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, ELCA