



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter

THE ST. STEPHEN TABERNACLE CHOIR

- The choir is back in business! After a summer of humming to themselves and dreaming of Commander Katharine, our choir members will present an anthem this Sunday and for many Sundays to come. Let them know how much you appreciate their voices and their time.
- Think there’s a would-be choir member hiding inside you, yearning to spring forth and sing forth? Talk to Katharine. Choir practice is at 7 p.m. Wednesdays. It’s enriching and a ton of fun.
- Speaking of music: Many thanks to Karl Barton and Jordi Banitt for their glorious flute duet at the start of last Sunday’s service.



FOR YOU AND YOUR SOUP

How would you like to drink your soup from this handsome bowl? You can, in exchange for a \$15 donation to KidSAFE (aka Lutheran Social Services of North Florida), and Lawana Lamb-Daniels has a few bowls left. It holds 12 ounces of your favorite soup. See Lawana if you’re interested.

THE MANNA MEAT FLEET

A lot goes on behind the scenes to make the Manna on Meridian food pantry a success. For example, big stores such as Trader Joe’s and Publix make large quantities of meat and other items available — but the only way that food can get to the people who need it is if volunteers pick it up and deliver it to Manna headquarters.



Two St. Stephen volunteers, Caroline Collins and Colin Hackley, want you to know about another opportunity. Manna has a new partner, the Walmart on North Monroe Street. Now Manna’s organizers are seeking drivers with an SUV or a truck to choose one Monday (or more) to drive to that Walmart and pick up the meat. The Walmart people will wheel it out to you and help load your vehicle. Then you’ll deliver it to Manna, where volunteers will be available to help unload.

Here’s the timetable:

- Meet at Walmart at 8:30 a.m. for pickup.
- Drive to Manna.
- Unload and be done by 9:45 or 10 a.m.

Manna is seeking people who can help through the end of the year. Some volunteers have already stepped forward. If you’re interested, check with Caroline and she can help you find a suitable Monday (or more than one). Bless you.

‘HATE’: EXCERPT FROM PASTOR TOM’S SERMON

[T]he word “hate” is sometimes used in the Hebrew Bible (the First Testament) to mean “love less.” Commentator E. Trey Clark points to an example of this in Genesis, where the language said “Leah was hated” by Jacob, but the interpretation is really that Jacob loved Rachel more than Leah. He loved Leah less.

[So when Jesus says, “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brother and sister, yes, even life itself cannot be my disciple,” consider this:] Might Jesus be saying that those who want to follow him must love others less than God — even to such an extent that it might look like you’ve turned your back on family, possessions and even your own life? Or as biblical scholar Diane Chen puts it, “To be a follower of Jesus, one’s preferences (loyalty, love, and priority) must reside with Jesus over all people and all the other things one holds dear.”

We Americans are comfortable, and most of us believe there’s nothing wrong with the way we are. Our sense of privilege and blessing leads us to neglect hearing the way Jesus’ words condemn us and our government. His words cut deep when we look around at the arrogance of our leadership and the greed of the population....

Thankfully, we have ears to listen and eyes to see. We can practice saying goodbye to the things, people and comforts we treasure, and love, more than God. It’s one reason why the practice of tithing is so important to our spiritual maturity. It is a structured way to remind us owners that all wealth belongs to God.

We are followers of Jesus living in the most affluent nation, and we own almost everything. Jesus calls us to live as though we possess nothing but Him.

A HOPEFUL NEWS NUGGET

Sometimes, those of us who focus much attention on Washington, D.C., can lose hope. But I’ve felt more hopeful about our world ever since I subscribed to Fix the News, a weekly roundup of stories of progress. Interested? Find out more here: <https://fixthenews.com/about>. Here’s an excerpt from last week’s edition.

After more than a century of industrial abuse, the Chicago River is now seeing fish populations return, recreational use expand and pollution decline. Multi-billion-dollar investments in sewage treatment and stormwater infrastructure have transformed what was once an open sewer into a recovering urban waterway. *Source: [Inside Climate News](#)*

BEFORE YOU GO...

- A pharmacist from Publix will be at St. Stephen from 9:30 to 10 a.m. Sunday to administer flu shots and other vaccines. (But not COVID, alas.) Even if you didn’t fill out the appropriate form last Sunday, you still should be able to get a flu shot — the pharmacist expects to have extras. Line up in the office lobby. Questions? Check with Lawana.
- There’s another Interfaith Vigil for Immigration Justice scheduled for this Sunday at 5 p.m. at the Old Capitol. It’s being conducted in solidarity with the vigils at the Everglades Detention Center. As last week’s poster stated: “Leaders of faith and consciousness from around Florida are holding weekly faith vigils from 5-6 p.m. to stand together in prayer and witness against inhumane and unconstitutional treatment of our neighbors. Everyone is welcome at this peaceful gathering.”

- **New-grandparents alert! Sullivan Beth Holcombe was born Sept. 1 to St. Stephen alumni Rebecca and Connor Holcombe. Grandparents Phil and Sue Williams are (according to Facebook) “smitten.”**
- **Here’s a Facebook post from St. Stephen alumna Eunice Muchuruza: “We couldn’t be more proud of our daughter, Vivien! After much prayer, hard work, and dedication, she has officially committed to continue her academic and athletic journey at University of Miami. 🏈 🇺🇸 Go Canes! Congratulations, Viv! The best is yet to come.”**
- **Need the contact information for a St. Stephen member? Use your handy digital directory. Don’t have it on your phone? Office Manager Rita Ford 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!**



Bryon Ehlmann - 09/11
Aaron Halvorson - 09/14
Ron Hartung - 09/14
Ceilia Greeley - 09/23
Violet Greeley - 09/23
Kirsten Matthis - 09/23

SERVING THIS WEEK

Pastor Tom, Preaching and Presiding; **Beth Alexander**, Assisting Minister; **Colleen Holdcraft**, Cup Minister; **Astrid van der Mark**, Lector; **Caroline Collins and Sandy Lamb-Daniels**, Tech Team; **Rita Ford and Susan Warren**, Altar Guild; **Margaret Bowers and Patricia Handschy**, Counters; **Mark Canning**, Cantor; **Denise Bookwalter**, Announcements

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. - Book study

9:30 a.m. Choir practice

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

Monday, September 15:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in HH

Tuesday, September 16:

5 p.m. - NA meets in HH

Wednesday, September 17

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in HH

7 p.m. - Choir



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