



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter

All Are Welcome!

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
Potluck Easter Breakfast
Sunday, April 20, 2025

Potluck 8:15am
Easter Egg Hunt 9:15am
Service 10:00am

Bring your favorite breakfast dish to share



HOLY WEEK IS HERE

Today (Thursday, April 17) is Maundy Thursday. Worship (including a healing service) begins at 7 p.m.

Tomorrow (April 18) is Good Friday. Worship begins at 7 p.m.

Sunday is Easter! As you see from Margaret Bowers' colorful poster above, the Easter potluck begins at (yawn) 8:15 a.m., and the hunt for Easter eggs begins at 9:15. The worship service, of course, begins at 10.





This was Easter Sunday 2023, photographed by Colin Hackley

IN THIS SPECIAL WEEK...

By Ron Hartung

As we approach Easter, the biggest Sunday of the church year, we all do what we can to prepare. In every household, that looks a little different. Some people have been looking forward to this day for months and can hardly wait.

Some people are wondering, “What can I wear? I like that dress from last year, but do those shoes really go with it?”

Some people have company coming over for an Easter meal. They have to not only sort out the menu and do the cooking but also, somehow, find time to clean the house – especially the guest bathroom.

Some people are having a rough week at work. The boost they got from last Sunday’s special Palm Sunday service has nearly faded.

Some people haven’t felt well for weeks, or months, or years. They pray to God for just enough energy to get out of bed, get ready, get to church on time and find someone kind to sit by – and then to have enough energy to get home.

Some people’s faith has been flickering, and they’re not sure they’ll show up. They hope to, but....

One person, Pastor Tom, is having the busiest week of the year. In addition to his regular pastoral duties, which probably are never “regular,” he’s been working on two sermons. And he had a Finance Committee meeting yesterday. And he had choir practice last night. And he has to come up with an extra-special children’s sermon for Sunday.

But at least he knows he’s not alone. He knows that Office Manager Lori will be on top of every detail. That Lawana, Sandy, Margaret, Carol and so many others will make sure the potluck breakfast goes off smoothly. That Emily and her team will give the kids an Easter Egg Hunt to remember. That Katharine, Karl and Tom will produce top-notch music. That the choir is cooking up something special. That Kirsten is scheduled to be his assisting minister. That his dear wife, Colleen, will be his cup minister. That the Reeces will be the lectors. That Sylvia and Cindy will be the tech team. That Colin, Jan, Patrick and Audrey will be ushers. That Rita will be the Altar Guild rep. That Kirsten and Rob will count the offerings afterward.

Pastor Tom knows, as he reminds us nearly every Sunday, that none of us are ever alone. That God always loves us and never abandons us. Even if the liturgy isn’t perfect. Even if some of us are late, or shaky, or absent, or singing the wrong notes, or not dressed to the nines. Even if the newsletter guy inadvertently leaves out important names.

More than ever, in a world that seems increasingly cuckoo, St. Stephen is our oasis. And our Sunday experiences together give us the strength to do what we can afterward, each in our own little ways, to make the world seem a little less cuckoo for maybe one other person. So thank God for our pastor and for our church family. May we never take him, or each other, for granted.

BEFORE YOU GO...

- 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

Sandy Lamb-Daniels - 04/17
Terri Schmitt - 04/17
Colleen Holdcraft - 04/29
Julia Bonfanti - 05/03
Emily Jennings - 05/07
Eva Mustian - 05/09
Claire Claussen - 05/09

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

COMING UP

Today:

Noon - Al-Anon meets in Pastor Emory Hingst Memorial Fellowship Hall, aka Hingst Hall (HH)
7 p.m. - Worship: Maundy Thursday
7 p.m. - AA meets in HH

This Friday:

10 a.m. - TOPS meets in HH
7 p.m. - Worship: Good Friday

This Saturday:

10 a.m. - Sew for Hope meets in HH

This Sunday:

8:15 a.m. - Easter Potluck Breakfast
9:15 a.m. - Easter Egg Hunt
9:30 a.m. - Choir practice
10 a.m. - Worship: Resurrection of Our Lord—Easter Sunday

Monday, April 21:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in HH
7 p.m. - TIMA meets in HH

Tuesday, April 22:

5 p.m. - NA meets in HH

Wednesday, April 23:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in HH
7 p.m. - Choir practice



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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The Rev. Tom Holdcraft, Pastor