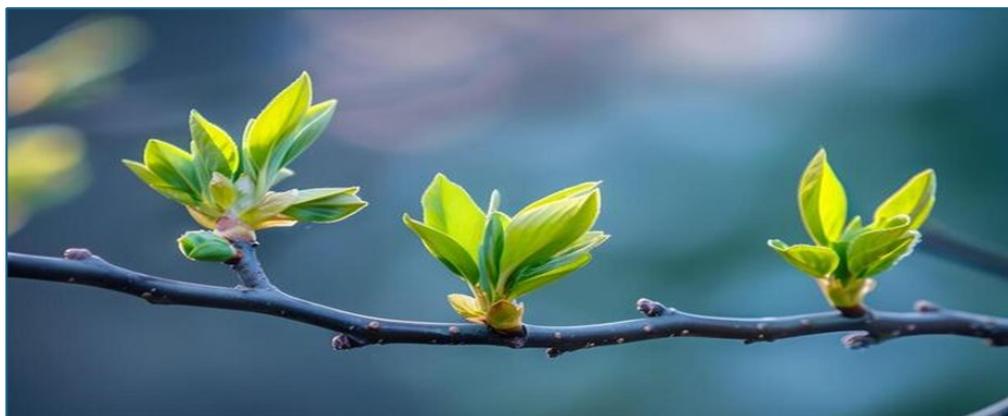




# ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



## HERE'S THE LATEST ON OUR SPIRITUAL RETREAT

*Responses are rolling in for our retreat at Goodwood on Saturday, April 11. There is still time to sign up if you haven't yet; registration forms are available in the narthex or from Rita in the church office. Forms are due by Sunday, March 15.*

*Carpooling is encouraged. If you would like company on the drive to Goodwood Gardens, please make arrangements with a fellow congregant. Contact information is available in the online church directory.*

*If you have any questions or concerns about participating, please reach out to retreat organizer Susan Hehn by emailing [susanjhehn@gmail.com](mailto:susanjhehn@gmail.com) or by texting [229-221-9710](tel:229-221-9710).*

*This is a wonderful opportunity for a full day of congregational fellowship and spiritual enrichment.*

*Your Planning Team,  
Susan Hehn, Barbara Sullivan,  
Jennifer Slusarz and Caroline Collins*

## HEARTFELT THANKS



I feel so blessed and thankful for my loving and caring church family. The food, flowers, gift basket, paper goods, cards and kind messages have kept me at peace while going through this sad time of losing our precious son. May God bless you all.

Jan Harrison

## SPRING FORWARD

Come Sunday morning, if you forgot to set your clocks ahead one hour the night before, your perfect-attendance award at church could be in jeopardy. Spring forward, fall back. Write yourself a reminder!



## LUNCHTIME LUTHERANS

Barbara Sullivan reports that the OWLs (Older, Wiser Lutherans ... otherwise known as "all St. Stephen people who are available to get away for a fun lunch") are meeting for lunch at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Little Italy. Please let her know whether you plan to be there.



## COUNCIL COMINGS AND GOINGS

Please thank Audrey Post, who's stepping down as communications coordinator, and Colleen Holdcraft, who's stepping up to that same post. God bless them both!



## GREETINGS, ST. STEPHEN CAMPERS

*By Mark Greeley*

The annual church camping trip is scheduled for the weekend of April 17-19 at St. Joseph Peninsula State Park. This is a great event every year: It never ever rains, and the mosquitoes only come by to gently fan you with their wings for a pleasant breeze. If you're interested in this event, check these details:



- We already have enough sites for everyone (got the reservations 11 months ago).
- The leaders handle the food. We don't eat fancy, but it's warm and filling and we cook it for you.
- Whether you want to stay 2 nights, 1 night or zero nights, you're welcome to come on out and spend some time with the group. There are friendly faces around from Friday morning to Sunday afternoon.
- If you need camping equipment, we can help. Talk to Colin Hackley or me.

In all seriousness, it's a fun weekend at a beautiful spot with time to walk, talk and beach — a chance to have campfires, sunsets and a Saturday-evening worship. Colin and I are your go-to people if you have questions.

*Colin's and Mark's contact information is in the St. Stephen digital directory. If you don't have that, ask Rita in the church office. (Photo by Colin)*

## YARDWORK 101

*By Rob Schiffer, grounds coordinator*

In advance of Easter Sunday, we'd like to hold a groundskeeping day. We're seeking volunteers to assist with a general sprucing-up of the church property. This event will take place this Saturday between 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Please RSVP to me ([robschiffer@gmail.com](mailto:robschiffer@gmail.com)) if you'd like to lend a hand. A headcount would help to better identify what we can hope to accomplish, and provide coffee and doughnuts for those participating.



## THEN, ONE WEEK LATER...

Thanks to Simone Schuster and others, San Luis Mission Park is about to get another cleanup. If you can help, show up at the park at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 14 (or 9:30 if you want to start out with coffee and pastries). No need to bring anything; gloves, pickers, buckets and other materials will be provided. (Please note: San Luis Mission Park is not the same as Mission San Luis. If you're unclear, Google Maps can help.)



## NOT YOUR FATHER'S BIBLE STUDY

Simone also has organized a new Bible study. It's aimed at young adults and young professionals — people who are in college or in their 30s. The group is reading through the Book of Isaiah and connecting with other young Christians. When: Mondays at 7 p.m. Where: Simone's house. To find out more (such as her address), call her at 727-420-6242.



## A PLACE AT THE TABLE

This week is Pride Week, and St. Stephen has partnered with Equality Florida to set up a table to meet people and celebrate from 2 to 7 p.m. Saturday at Cascades Park. We're looking for friendly folks to staff our table for an hour, hand out flyers, answer questions about St. Stephen and have fun. Please let Sylvia Smith know if you have any questions or would like to know how to sign up for this event.



## IF YOU'RE HANDY...

Judi Duffy is looking for a housecleaner who wants to work three hours a month or two hours twice a month. Also, she needs a handyman or handywoman who can lift anything greater than 7 pounds and can fix items too tall for Judi. Her number is in the church directory.



## LIKE THE WIND: EXCERPT FROM PASTOR TOM'S SERMON

The Pharisees and chief priest were misunderstanding Jesus and his message. This "misunderstanding" is the same one that other religious authorities have regarding Jesus. Enter Christian Nationalism, right? A movement that misunderstands in tragic and terrible ways about what Jesus calls us to see and know.

Which is (a) that God is out of our hands. Like the wind, God goes where God chooses, and we witness that movement at work in Jesus. And (b) that we are to submit to God, not to institutions, not to organizations – not to leaders who lead us away from loving God and loving neighbor. Not to authoritarianism nor the competitive nature of "saving souls" that is often seen in Christianity.

We listen and learn and move within the breath of God into relationship with God's luring Spirit, even when it blows us into places of risk.

## BEFORE YOU GO...

- We'll be using Easter lilies to adorn the chancel area for Easter Sunday. If you would like to dedicate one or more, complete the form in the narthex and drop it on the offering plate. You can also email Rita the dedication. The cost is \$10 each and the deadline is March 25.
- Karen Olson apparently had heard that some folks were thinking of bypassing the April 11 spiritual retreat because, well, they needed to work on their taxes. Here's a tip, she announced Sunday: File for an extension!
- Dear congregation, we found out Sunday that our financial giving is a little behind where it ought to be. As President Denise said in her announcements, we're just trying to keep up with the bills. So if you're a little behind, and if you're able ... bless you.



- Our diaper-drop collection for Refuge House is underway. Drop off diapers on the designated pew in Hingst Fellowship Hall.
- 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!
- And here is the classic car of the week: a 1955 Plymouth Savoy, which in this ad is a graduation present from Mom and Dad. "Delightfully modern through and through, Plymouth has captured the vigour [it's a Canadian ad] of youth in long, low lines that are motion-designed for The Forward Look!" May St. Stephen, too, be motion-designed for The Forward Look, if we can figure out what in the world it means.



## 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 Saturday:**

10 a.m. - Yard day

2 - 7 p.m - PRIDE Day at Cascades Park

**This Sunday:**

9 a.m. - Bible study

9:30 a.m. - Choir rehearsal

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

**Monday, March 9:**

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in HH

**Tuesday, March 10:**

5 p.m. - NA meets in HH

5:30 p.m. - Chair yoga

**Wednesday, March 11:**

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in HH

7 p.m. - Choir rehearsal

**Thursday, March 12:**

10 a.m. - Bible study

## SERVING THIS WEEK

**Pastor Tom Holdcraft**, Preaching and Presiding; **Audrey Post**, Assisting Minister; **Jen Dritt**, Cup Minister; **Jen/Elliot Reece**, Lector; **Ben Bush and Sandy Lamb-Daniels**, Tech Team; **Sandy Lamb-Daniels and Lawana Lamb-Daniels**, Altar Guild; **Margaret Bowers and Loraine Sundberg**, Counters; **Susan Hehn**, Cantor; **Denise Bookwalter**, Announcements

## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS



Robin Oliveri - 3/5  
Sylvia Smith - 3/6  
Victor Muchuruza - 3/13  
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  
Erik Robinson - 4/14



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