



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



THIS SHOULD BE ONE FUN WORKDAY

One thing you often hear when people walk into our newly rejuvenated sanctuary is: "Gee, it looks so much bigger!" True – but, of course, there's no furniture at the moment. That's about to change!

Bright and early at 8 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 22, all who are able are invited to help move the chairs, pews, organ, piano, altar and other ingredients back into the sanctuary. God willing, we plan to resume worshipping in this space Jan. 23. (Online worship will still be available, too, of course.)

Even if you're not quite ready for in-person worship, this workday can be your chance to wander around in the transformed sanctuary and get reacquainted with your churchmates. See you then. *(Photo by Colin Hackley. How many of you can ID those tiny Lutherans standing in the back?)*

REMEMBER THE MEETING

Jan. 23, the day we're hoping to re-enter the sanctuary for worship, also is the date of our congregational meeting, right after the liturgy. You'll receive information ahead of time about the main business: voting on next year's budget and electing new Council members. Everyone is welcome to attend, but only members of St. Stephen are eligible to vote. If you wish to become a member, please contact Pastor Tom.



EXCERPT FROM SUNDAY'S SERMON

"Just think how the world would change for the better if we were able to see how the same Spirit that possesses you and me also possesses the people we struggle with the most to be around. Yet, this is what being baptized by the Holy Spirit means. It allows us to let go and let God do what God does best. That is, touch hearts and lives.

"How has God touched you?"

Want to read Pastor Tom's sermons? Go to <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/>, look for the dropdown menu called "More," and click on "Sermons."

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Ministry of Reconciliation Sunday
January 30, 2022
A celebration of God's inclusive love

*Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
- 1 John 4:7*

Worship service 10 a.m., followed by video and guest speaker



Zoe Williams, Gender Chat Facilitator
"One Woman's Transition to Self-Acceptance"

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look upon his appearance or on the height of his stature . . . for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." - 1 Samuel 16:7

Free-will donations to Victory Institute may be given through the VENMO app @stephen-saint or by check payable to St. Stephen. Please note "for Victory Institute" on either method.

<https://victoryinstitute.org/>

Victory Institute is the only national organization dedicated to elevating openly LGBTQ leaders who can further equality at all levels of government. LGBTQ Victory Institute is a tax-exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; EIN 52-1835268

All are welcome, but space is limited. To reserve an in-person seat or request an Internet link to our worship service and guest speaker, call our church office M - F 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Service begins at 10 a.m. on the St. Stephen Lutheran Church Tallahassee's Facebook page.



St. Stephen Lutheran Church
2198 N. Meridian Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32303
(one block south of John Knox Rd.)
(850) 385-2728
<http://www.ststephenlutherantally.com>
<http://www.reconcilingworks.org>

HAIKU CORNER

By Lex Lutheran



WHEW

So glad that God called
Susan Hehn (and not me) to
preach to the children.



PARDON MY PLANT

If my front-porch fern
keeps expanding, guests will have
to use the back door.



POSE

Wings in, that egret
looks pitifully scrawny.
Wings out, majestic.



MORE MIDWEEK UPDATES



- Don't forget that the Outreach Committee is asking us to continue supporting the Kearney Center via New Bethel AME's TNT drive for toiletries and toilet paper. Please bring your items (bar soap, toothpaste, toilet paper, etc.) to the collection place outside the nursery by Thursday, Jan. 27.
- We haven't seen a press release yet, but it seems clear that the Reeces are now our official No. 1 lector/cantor family. Let's give them a round of applause.



- Do you have an anniversary, birthday or special memory you'd like to honor? Celebrate the occasion by sponsoring the flowers for our service. Sign up on the 2021 Flower Chart in the narthex. The cost is \$35, which you can place in the offering plate.
- Have anything to add to a future newsletter? Email Lori at sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com or call 850-385-2728.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS



Mark Canning - 01/13
Natalie Schiffer - 01/15
Nathan Basford - 01/19
Myrna Dowdell - 01/21
Stephen Barton - 01/22
Denise Bookwalter - 01/22
Ann Hingst - 01/22
Sandy Ness - 01/24
Gladys Kane - 01/28
Jennifer Buchanan - 01/29
Warren Schave - 01/31
Jayden Schiffer - 01/31

UPCOMING DATES

This Sunday:

10 a.m. - Worship, Second Sunday after Epiphany

Monday, January 17:

Office closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Wednesday, January 19:

Noon - Bible study

Saturday, January 22:

8 a.m. - Sanctuary Workday

Sunday, January 23:

10 a.m. - Worship with communion, Third Sunday after Epiphany

11:30 a.m. - Congregational meeting



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>.

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, ELCA
2198 N. Meridian Road | Tallahassee, FL 32303

The Rev. Tom Holdcraft, Pastor