



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter

COMING TOMORROW: OUR VALENTINE'S PARTY

There's still time! As Cassandra White told us Sunday, she's eager to hear from us if we plan to attend the St. Stephen Valentine Social. She needs to know how many pizzas to order – so she can feed everyone who shows up solo, or with a sweetie, some pals, your family or however you choose. Cookies will be baked. Crafts will be made. Fun will be had! It all starts at 6:15 p.m. Friday, otherwise known as Valentine's Day, in our fellowship hall. Questions? RSVP? Call Terri at (850) 933-6173 or Cassandra at 402-689-8469.



IT'LL BE A SPEEDY POTLUCK

The word for our next potluck – which is Feb. 23 – is “quick.” You’re invited to please bring your favorite chili. (“It’s so fun to taste a variety of recipes!” says organizer Ruth Hartung.) Or some shredded cheddar cheese, sour cream, Fritos, brownies – you get the picture. Hector Quinones says he’ll bring his delicious flan. “We’re not going to worry much about who is bringing what,” says Ruth – “but ... lots of chili, por favor. Muchas gracias!”

The reason it’s so quick, of course, is that it’s squeezed between next Sunday’s liturgy and ...

... OUR ANNUAL TALENT SHOW!

The St. Stephen Mardi Gras Talent Show, created back in the golden era of Susan Hove, is only 10 days away. Excited? Of course you are! If you’ve never been, come



see what you’re missing. It’s fun, it’s goofy, it’s occasionally moving – and it’s a great way to see your churchmates (we’re looking at you, Dave Suhrweir, and you, Karl Barton) in a whole new light. The audience is the best, so grab a seat. And, yes, we’re always looking for undiscovered talent. MC Lex Lutheran is ready to take your call: (850) 222-5656. Or have your agent email him at rrhartung1@gmail.com. The show is scheduled to begin at (roughly) 12:15 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23. See you there.

VIDEO FOR VAL, ANYONE?

Will anyone volunteer to video the talent show? Our favorite Vals are still recuperating, and I bet they’d love to catch up on the hilarity later. (No posting on social media, though.)



MORE FOOD/GAS CARDS, PLEASE

By Pastor Tom

Periodically, people come by the church office in need of financial assistance. Sometimes we can offer food or gas cards from Publix or Walmart. Generally, we find that gift cards (although not perfect) are good ways to help people we don't know – and we reserve direct checks from the Justice and Mercy Account for people within the congregation who face emergencies.

The reason I'm writing is that our supply of gift cards is running low. If you're able to help out, let me add that increments of \$10 are best. Thank you so much for continuing to support this important ministry.



WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT...

(It's Pastor Tom again)

This is a good time for us to be open in our communication with each other in the event that someone asks you for monetary aid while at church. The best advice I can give you is to listen to your conscience. Your gut will reveal a lot. Don't feel pressured to give money out of your pocket to anyone at church, but please do err on the side of hospitality. If there's lunch in the fellowship hall, invite this person to share our food. If you need help, find an usher or me. Finally, if you DO give financial aid to someone, please be sure to inform me – so we're wise in disbursing our gifts.

A SLICE OF LAST SUNDAY'S SERMON

[On reinterpreting God's word:] "Reinterpret" does not mean to change – but to read it with the knowledge we are given....

MORE MIDWEEK UPDATES

- The OWLs will be gathering at Glory Days (1926 Capital Circle NE) this Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. RSVP to Nathan at nbasford@icloud.com.



- Last Sunday, there was a rumor that the updated church directories were awaiting us in the narthex. Actually, they'll be waiting for us THIS Sunday. Relive those days of yesteryear, when you were thrilled to see your name in the phone book! (Yes, our "thrill" threshold at St. Stephen is pretty low.)
- We'll be using the Arise liturgy for just the next two Sundays. Catch it before it disappears until next January!
- Many thanks to Margaret Bowers for all the work she's been doing to freshen up the children's nursery.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS:



Chris Reece - 02/15
Patrick Kennell - 02/18
Jennifer Ault - 02/22
Kadeem Thomas - 02/24
Lisa Medley - 02/25
Jackie Mustian - 02/25
Katharine Gossman - 02/26
Judi Duffy - 02/27
Rob Schiffer - 02/28

UPCOMING DATES

This Sunday:

8:45 a.m. - Sunday Church School **and** Adult Study

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

Tuesday, Feb. 18:

11:30 a.m. - OWLs gathering at Glory Days

Wednesday, Feb. 19:

6 p.m. - Church Vitality Prayer Group

7 p.m. - Choir practice

SERVING THIS SUNDAY:

Pastor Tom, Presiding, Preaching; **Rob Schiffer**, Assisting Minister; **Beth Alexander**, Cup Minister; **Jonas Holdcraft**, Crucifer; **Marilyn Larson**, Welcoming; **Jan Harrison & Marilyn Larson**, Greeters; **Graham Reece**, Lector; **Robin Oliveri & Billie Reardon**, Altar Guild; **Bob Eshleman & Linda Eshleman**, Counters; **Pastor Tom**, Announcements



If you have news or photos to share,
please send them to Lori at
ststephentallahassee@embarqmail.com.

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

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The Rev. Tom Holdcraft, Pastor

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