



# ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

## St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter

### DON'T FORGET TO SPRING FORWARD!



This Saturday night, as you climb into your jammies, set your clocks ahead one hour. We're shifting to daylight time. Yes, it'll be darker Sunday morning, but it'll stay light longer in the evening. If you forget to fiddle with your clocks, well, you'll arrive at church around communion time ... and the rest of us will snicker softly. Don't want that!

**SPRING AHEAD!**

### NOTES FROM PASTOR TOM

- Please join me in welcoming Deacon Sue Mendenhall to St. Stephen this Sunday. She will share with us the good work from Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Florida. If you can, please also join me in making a special gift offering to camp ministry. I hope we'll have a few of the counselors from camp sharing music and stories with us!
- Concern over the spread of COVID-19 is increasing. So last Sunday I announced that during the Sharing of the Peace and the Lord's Prayer we'll refrain from handshakes and hand-holding. While I'm saddened that these important "touches" are lost during our worship together, it's best that we remain safe – and return to those important traditions once the threat has passed.
- Our sister Val Sullivan continues to improve and strengthen. She's now able to be in physical and occupational therapy. The next glorious step to recovery will be to have the trachea tube removed. That will allow eating and drinking along with spoken communication. Please continue to keep the Val & Val team in prayer. They hope to return to Tallahassee in April, if not sooner. Thank you, God, for hearing our prayers!
- Congregational "Vitality" is an intentional process by which we creatively pursue the future God has planned for us. Our next meeting is from 9 a.m. to noon (CDT) Saturday, March 14, at Messiah in Panama City. If you'd like to join the group, please let me know.



*Pot of Gold  
Potluck  
Sunday, March 15*

"Traditionally," says Margaret Bowers, "Irish foods are bacon, pork sausages, fried eggs (or scrambled), white pudding, black pudding, toast and fried tomato. Sautéed mushrooms are also sometimes included, as well as baked beans, hash browns and brown soda bread. Look for Sign-up Genius or bring what you want!"

## THREE WEEKS HOSTING AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT?

At our March 15 potluck, we'll hear from someone who's recruiting families to host international students for about three weeks this summer. He's a representative from Education First Homestay Programs, and he'll set up an informational table and be available for questions.

"Being a host family with EF is a unique, rewarding, fun and educational experience for all members of the family and an opportunity to create long-lasting relationships," the organization's website states. "Our EF host families get the chance to meet new international friends, and learn the interesting differences between various languages and cultures.... As a host family, you give them the opportunity to gain a deeper insight into your local culture, pick up expressions with much greater ease and return home with a more authentic accent."



See you at the potluck, one week from this Sunday.

## REMINDER FOR OUR CAMPERS

By Colin Hackley

Plans are afoot for a 2020 church camping trip. Ever since Hurricane Michael destroyed our beloved campground at Cape San Blas in 2018, St. Stephen campers have been adrift. Thankfully, Mark Greeley stepped forward this year and has booked the group campsite at St. George Island State Park for us starting Friday, April 17, and ending Sunday, April 19.



Truth in advertising: This campsite is not as plush as the Cape San Blas accommodations and only allows tent camping (RV camping is not permitted). While there are campground bathrooms in the nearby parking lot, there is not electricity at the site, and the shower house features refreshing cold water-only.

Still reading? The good news is that the site is right on the bayside (the group site is closer to the front gate of the park and should not be confused with the other campground farther to the east), and there will be opportunities for canoeing, bay wading and fishing near camp. The only Gulfside beach pavilion with restrooms is a bicycle or car ride away. Stargazing at the site should be top-notch, as that area has some of the darkest skies in the Panhandle. Less-adventurous souls who only want to join us for a day at the beach are welcome for as long as they can join us on Saturday.

Camping payments are made as you arrive: \$5 per night per adult and \$1 per night per kid.

Please contact Mark or me so we can add you to the email list and plan food accordingly.

## A SLICE OF LAST SUNDAY'S SERMON

"... But here is the thing, each temptation [offered to Jesus in the wilderness] is not about getting Jesus to do something naughty but to see if Jesus will compromise on God's plan. Will Jesus take matters into his own hands? The devil wants to know, 'Will his insecurities get the better of him when the temperature's turned up?' Jesus did not compromise that day, so Satan went away. And then the angels came. On this first Sunday of Lent ... planning our fasts and good deeds for the next forty days, we might ask ourselves: 'Will we compromise? Will we let distractions persevere?' They are good questions for us.... But what I really want to know is: How do the angels come to us?"

## WORD OF MOUTH: EXPERT INFANT FEEDING ADVICE

Some of you will recognize this cute rascal as Mateo, the grandson of Margaret Bowers. His mom, Annika Suarez, is a speech-language pathologist with Sunny Speech Inc. and a certified lactation counselor who works with infants and toddlers to resolve feeding difficulties. She's the featured speaker this coming Tuesday at a program the Healing Arts Alliance is presenting in our fellowship hall, starting at 6:30 p.m. You're invited to learn about promoting appropriate mouth development for your baby. Topics include:



- Types of bottles.
- Pacifiers.
- Appropriate foods for the baby.
- Best sippy cups.
- Weaning from the bottle and pacifier.
- Recognizing the signs of feeding problems and whom to contact.

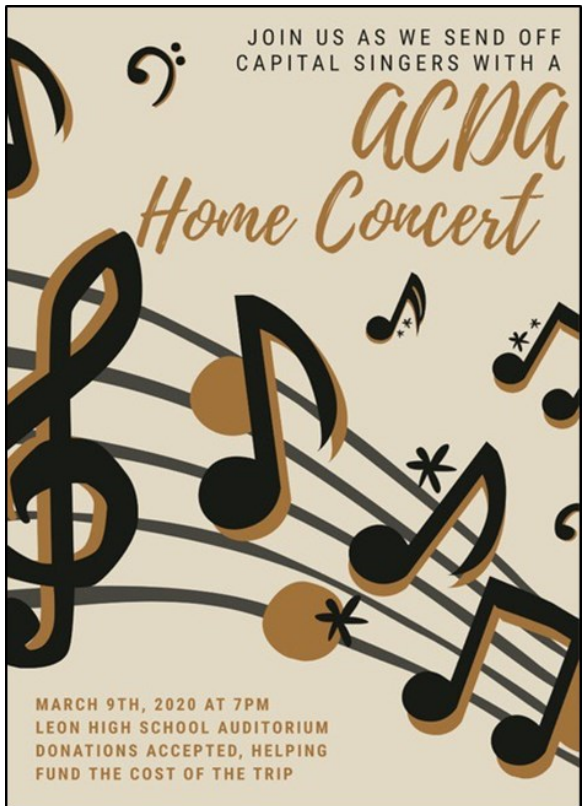
Refreshments and child care will be provided, so feel free to bring the family.

To learn more about Sunny Speech:

<https://healingartsalliance.org/united-states/tallahassee/holistic-health-experts-and-specialists/annika-suarez>

## MORE MIDWEEK UPDATES

- Gretchen Scoggin, formerly an active member of St. Stephen, recently passed away. A memorial service for her has been scheduled for 11 a.m. March 17 at Bevis Funeral Home, 200 John Knox Road.
- Isabel Barton invites us to a concert Monday for the Leon High Schools Capital Singers. They were chosen to perform at a chorus conference (ACDA) in Mobile, Alabama, and they'll be accepting donations to help pay for the trip. Monday's concert is set for 7 p.m. in the Leon High auditorium.
- Help support Lutheran Social Services of North Florida by attending the Young Actors Theatre's production of "Matilda" at 7 p.m. March 29. See Marilyn Larson, Hilary Dennis or Barbara Ehlmann for tickets and more information. Or call the office at (850) 575-4309.
- Ron's sister Pam, who lives in Seattle, the U.S. epicenter of the coronavirus, is a faithful Catholic and a gentle soul. This week she ended a text to her siblings that ended with this little prayer: "Lord, have mercy on our world. Make us more merciful to each other, not more fearful of each other." Amen.



## HOW YOU ACT WHEN NO ONE'S LOOKING

As he was pulling out of the parking lot at work at the end of the day, the narrowness of the campus parking spots finally got the best of him. Even though he could usually back up expertly even in his sleep, he had a sinking feeling that this time the edge of his right front fender had grazed the car next to him. He got out to check. Sure enough, there was a noticeable scratch, about a foot long.

Darn. What to do? He waited around for about half an hour. The other driver didn't show up. He couldn't just leave. But sticking a note on the windshield seemed too impersonal, and he imagined the other driver wouldn't react well. So, finally, he did what other people might think is extreme for a scratch: He called the campus police. The officer arrived. They talked. The driver left, but the officer waited around until the owner of the other car showed up. The officer explained the situation. He pointed out the scratch. Then he called the first driver with the news: The owner of the scratched car said that he wouldn't take any action, and that he appreciated our hero's conscientiousness. Case closed.

This isn't a story that would make the newspapers. But isn't it reassuring when someone does the right thing? Even when it's inconvenient? Even when it hardly seems worth the effort? Even when you and I aren't sure we would have bothered? Especially when our hero is someone from St. Stephen? Nicely done, Jake.



## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS:

**Robin Oliveri - 03/05**

**Linda Fevrier - 03/09**

**Victor Muchuruza - 03/13**

## UPCOMING DATES

### **This Sunday:**

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

**10 a.m.** - Worship, Second Sunday in Lent

### **Wednesday, March 11:**

**6 p.m.** - Church Vitality Prayer Group

**7 p.m.** - Choir practice

## SERVING THIS SUNDAY:

**Pastor Tom**, Presiding, Preaching; **Jennifer Dritt**, Assisting Minister; **Sandy Larson**, Cup Minister; **Vince Muchuruza**, Crucifer; **Judi Duffy**, Welcoming; **Phil Williams**, Walkways; **Bob Eshleman & Linda Eshleman**, Greeters; **Vivien Muchuruza**, Lector; **Terri Albrecht-Schmitt & Audrey Post**, Altar Guild; **Janet Barber & Sandy Davis**, Counters; **Pastor Tom**, Announcements



If you have news or photos to share,  
please send them to Lori at  
[ststephentallahassee@embarqmail.com](mailto:ststephentallahassee@embarqmail.com).

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

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The Rev. Tom Holdcraft, Pastor