



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



Sunday, the official sunrise will be an hour later than the day before. Yes, daylight saving time is returning. So when you climb into your jammies Saturday night, set your clocks forward one hour. (Photo by Jake Hartung)

'OUR NEIGHBORS ARE SUFFERING'

As always, the ELCA is at work in the world, particularly where people are hurting the most.

Dave Suhrweir asked us to pass along information about Lutheran Disaster Response. As its website states, "Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits. Your gifts designated for



'Eastern Europe Crisis Response' will be used entirely (100%) to provide support for people impacted by conflict in the region." To find out more, visit www.elca.org.

Also, Lutheran World Relief is active in Ukraine and elsewhere. Its message to

us: "Our neighbors in Ukraine are suffering and they need your love now." Search for "Lutheran World Relief" and designate where you want your offering to go. If you don't have computer access, call 1-800-597-5972. As it says on the website's donations



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

page: "Your emergency gift will deliver urgent support and care, like critically needed items for families who fled their homes, and medicine and supplies for clinics."

BACK TO THE CAMPGROUND

By Mark Greeley

It's once again time for the St. Stephen Annual Camping Trip! We have five sites reserved at St. George Island State Park for the weekend of April 22-24. We have a few additional sites reserved for Saturday night only, so people who think they may be into this idea but are only willing to put up with it for 24 hours have a good option there.

Loose schedule is arrival Friday night, beach/hike day Saturday, worship service Saturday night, pack up and head out Sunday. We have communal meals and plenty of experienced campers to help set up gear. It's really a big family when we're down there. And at all times there will be bacon. :)



The sites are not all spoken for, so please get in touch with me (markhoffmangreeley@gmail.com) or Colin Hackley (colin@typestyle.net) if you want to come.



LOOK, UP IN THE SKY: THE OWLS ARE BACK!

Here's some heartening news: The OWLS (which once upon a time stood for "Older Wiser Lutherans") are ready to spread their wings again. These get-togethers are open to anyone who's available at lunchtime. Mark your calendar for 11:30 a.m. next Tuesday, March 15, at Little Italy, 111 S. Magnolia Drive (in the courtyard of the Winn-Dixie shopping center). "We'll have outdoor seating," says Chief OWL Margaret Bowers. If you plan to be there and haven't RSVP'd yet, please call Margaret at 407-921-8671 or email her at ambowersfl@gmail.com

REMEMBERING STEVE MEYER



Debra and Steve Meyer with Jason (right) and Joey

Those of us who've worshipped at St. Stephen for a long time remember the Meyer family: Debbie and Steve, with sons Jason and Joey. Sad news: Rob Schiffer noticed an obituary this week for Steve. The online celebration of his life was held last September. He was 61.

When the Meyers lived here, Steve was a doctor with Capital Health Plan, Debbie was a Ph.D. student in accounting at FSU, and the boys were in school. The family joined St. Stephen in 1994. Two noteworthy quotes from Steve's obit: "Dr. Meyer served in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm, earning commendations and medals." And this: "He never met a person that wasn't his friend, and the world lost one of the truly caring people with his passing."

Not sure when the family moved away, but Steve eventually practiced medicine in Tampa and Lutz. According to the obituary, Joey (who apparently goes by Joel now) lives in Tallahassee. One more thing: Even after all these years, even after the Meyers had long since joined another church, Steve's obituary still lists St. Stephen as a choice for memorial donations. Rest in peace, Dr. Meyer.

COME TO COFFEE TALK

Coffee Talk had a successful launch last Sunday. Nothing fancy: You just show up around 9:15, grab some coffee, sneak a cookie or two, then gather with your churchmates – and with the Pastor, if you catch him before choir practice at 9:30 or so). As Pastor Tom said last week: “No agenda, no signup sheets, just free coffee (the good stuff!) and a St. Stephen family to catch up with. It’s Coffee Talk, and you’re invited!”

‘UNPLUG OURSELVES’: EXCERPT FROM SUNDAY’S SERMON

“One of my high-tech systems of organizing is to use those little yellow sticky notes. I can see you’re impressed! These notes act as reminders to call someone, as to-do lists, or to jot down thoughts or quotes that are particularly meaningful.... There was one I came across this week that I wrote down when we were living in Panama City.... The note says: ‘Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you.’”

“Lent is like that for me. It’s cathartic and cleansing. Lent gives us a long moment to unplug ourselves.... Lent pushes back against our society’s false teachings that more is better and our culture’s urging that the glow of a cellphone or computer screen is really warm enough for us. Lent pushes back and reminds us that simplicity, awareness and persistence are the way. Lent draws us to unplug and connect instead to the real source of energy and light. Unplug ourselves in order to connect with people in real presence – to find that in those connections there is a mutual sharing of energy flowing back and forth.



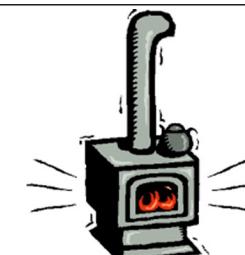
“You know you’re in the right connection when the other person is seeking to understand you and you are seeking to understand them without concern for what is going to be said next. It sounds easy but it’s not. A conversation where even silence is welcomed. I believe this to be a good way to describe being filled with the Holy Spirit....”

HAIKU CORNER

By Lex Lutheran

BRRRR

The first one to church
this Sunday better fire up
the potbellied stove.



SPRING FORWARD

The last one to church
this Sunday probably forgot
about daylight time.

BEYOND THE ONE-HOUR LEAP

Love to spring forward
a year or two, and leapfrog
past some of our woes.



MORE MIDWEEK UPDATES

- You have to forgive Margaret, but she's dying to show off these cute little grand-kids of hers – who, believe it or not, are already 6 months old.
- 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 2022 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@ststephenlutherantly.com or call 850-385-2728.



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Victor Muchuruza - 03/13

Chris Gossman - 03/19

Stephanie Leitch - 03/27

UPCOMING DATES

This Sunday:

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

Wednesday, March 16:

7 p.m. - Choir practice



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

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

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