



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



This week's rain might be taking a toll on our annual azalea explosion, but as of last Sunday they sure were lovely. Not just along Meridian Road, as always, but also in this corner by the fountain. It's one of many pockets of beauty at St. Stephen. Come take a look.

GOOD NOISE



By Pastor Tom

Sunday we'll celebrate the return of our Noisy Offering during the Children's Time portion of the service. Please bring whatever loose change you've accumulated in the past two years. We'll donate the proceeds to Lutheran World Relief, specifically to aid with food, shelter and emergency funds for refugees affected by the Ukraine crisis. If any of you kids want to tote the buckets through the sanctuary to gather the noisy coins, please come!

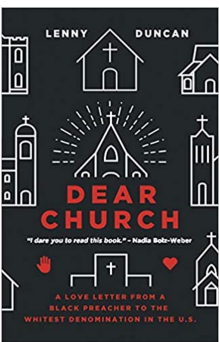


As a bonus, our gifts will be matched by the leading generosity of Nelsonville Lutheran Church and Peace Lutheran Church in Amherst, Wisconsin, among others. If you're able to make a special donation, please write "Ukraine gift" on your check to St. Stephen or visit LWR.ORG/CONGREGATIONS.

RIGHT AFTER EASTER, A NEW OPPORTUNITY

By Pastor Tom

Please come join us for Coffee Talk on Sunday mornings. It continues to be a good way for us to get back together in person, in a safe space, to begin rebuilding relationships with each other. We'll continue this for several more weeks and then transition to being together for a book study to begin April 24. Don't worry – there will still be coffee, and perhaps a muffin or two!



The book we'll study first is "Dear Church," by Lenny Duncan, an ELCA pastor of Jehu's Table in Brooklyn. As the book publicity states: "Lenny is an unlikely pastor. Formerly incarcerated, formerly homeless, and formerly unchurched, he is now a black preacher in the whitest denomination in the United States: the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America." And we need to listen to his wisdom. We'll meet from 9 to 9:30 a.m. Sunday, April 24, to discuss a chapter from the book. Let me know if you're interested in joining us and I'll order a book for you.

HELP SUPPORT 'WOMEN BUILD 2022'

By Caroline Collins

Big Bend Habitat for Humanity has designated its next home as Women Build 2022, completely sponsored by and built by women, for a woman with a family in need of affordable housing. I learned about it at a recent program hosted by Women Wednesdays. I'm not very handy with the tools of building, but this project called out to me, so I impulsively agreed to co-lead a team with my friend Gina Hogan Edwards. We're calling ourselves "The Fixie Chicks" because ... well, whimsical musical metaphors and cute logos make everything better.



Perhaps St. Stephen would want to create a team? Or perhaps you'd like to boost the Women Build 2022 effort by supporting our team. We don't have our build day(s) set yet because Habitat needs us to raise the majority of the funds before groundbreaking can be scheduled. You can help us in any of three ways:

1. Financial contributions: Just click on the link below, go to the DONATE button and enter the amount, then designate WOMEN WEDNESDAYS FIXIE CHICKS as your team! Here's the link: <https://bit.ly/FixieChicks>.
2. Join us onsite when we pick up our hammers and build!
3. On our build day(s), bring us food to support our sweaty work.

If you're interested in Option 2 or 3, please let me know at pinkandgreen850@gmail.com or 850-566-9990. Thank you!

'FINDING PEACE AND JOY': EXCERPT FROM SUNDAY'S SERMON

"Jesus won't answer all of life's questions for us, but he will teach us that we will be disappointed if we think healthy and carefree days will always be there. First, we must change our minds, and that change begins with repentance. Bad things will still happen to us ... unexpected tragedies will occur or we might live a long life, but still, one day, we will all die.

"That might be a jolting reality, but for us, according to Jesus, it is the only way to encounter life, be embraced by God and find our purpose in a new and truer way. Repentance is not a transaction that guarantees an easy, stress- or disease-free life. It is not about trying to make transactions with a demanding God, but a changing of the mind – where finding peace and joy occurs deep within, even when they are proving hard to find in life around us."

HAIKU CORNER

By Lex Lutheran

NOW THAT I'M 70

So many people
my age and younger appear
on the obit page.



LUNCH WITH A 4-YEAR-OLD

No time for nuggets.
Too many stories to tell
his new audience.



NO MORE WINTER'S NAP

With all these showers,
yawning trees can't help but sprout
itty-bitty leaves.



MORE MIDWEEK UPDATES

- We will be using Easter lilies to adorn the chancel area for Easter. Would you like to dedicate one or more? The cost is \$10 each and we'll have the dedication in the Easter bulletin. Look for the form in Sunday's bulletin. The deadline is April 10.



- Leo Sandon, a revered Distinguished Teaching Professor of Religion and American Studies at FSU and a good friend of St. Stephen, died Monday. He was 86. Some of you will recall that he headlined several lectures that St. Stephen hosted for the community, and even more of you will remember the excellent "Religion in America" columns he wrote for the *Tallahassee Democrat* for 25 years or so. Rest in peace, Professor.
- Mark Palmquist, who was active in leadership at St. Stephen for many years some time ago, died March 12. The Palmquist family, including daughters Greta, Becky and Heidi, joined St. Stephen in 1970. Mark was living in Gulf Breeze when he died, at age 85. Our sympathies to the Palmquist family.

- We snapped this photo of Caroline Collins' new sign yesterday. We had an appointment in the building where Caroline now practices – on Lee Avenue, between Sixth and Seventh. It's good to see where St. Stephen people use their talents for the good of the community. What about you? Do you have a sign or something else that advertises your God-given gifts? Or a photo of you on the job? We'd love to see it. (And maybe drum up some business for you.)



- Reminder: The annual camping trip is coming up fast – April 22-24 at St. George Island State Park. If you have any questions, get in touch with Mark Greeley (markhoffmangreeley@gmail.com) or Colin Hackley (colin@tpestyle.net).



- Calling all hikers of a certain shoe size: Jake Hartung has a special offer for you. "I wore these shoes for just a month and found out that they're not quite wide enough to be comfortable," he says. They're Merrell MOAB 2 Vent men's hiking shoes, size 9.5. "I bought them for \$110 and am hoping to get around \$60 for them, but I'd be happy to go lower if someone's genuinely interested."



- Now that Jake has broken the ice, how about you? Do you have any classified ads you'd like to place in the newsletter, free of charge? You know – items you'd like to give away or sell, items you'd like to acquire, that sort of thing. If so, send them in to Lori. Her contact info is below.
- 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@ststephenlutherantally.com or call 850-385-2728.



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS



Stephanie Leitch - 03/27
Davis Holdcraft - 04/01
Gordon Fleischer - 04/06
Colin Hackley - 04/06
Vicki Guttenplan - 04/07
Beth Alexander - 04/11
Elizabeth Halvorson - 04/15
Cassandra White - 04/16
Terri Schmitt - 04/17
Tyler Notley -- 04/18
Russell Reardon - 04/26
Sarah Bacani - 04/29
Colleen Holdcraft - 04/29

UPCOMING DATES

This Sunday:

10 a.m. - Worship with communion, Fourth Sunday in Lent

Wednesday, March 30:

7 p.m. - Choir practice



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

*Edited by Lex Lutheran. Designed by Lori Zengel, office manager, sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com.
Website: <http://www.ststephenlutherantally.com/>*

If you no longer want to receive this newsletter, please [unsubscribe](#). To unsubscribe please reply with "UNSUBSCRIBE" as the subject line.