



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



This is how our sanctuary looked on Easter Sunday 2018. In our hearts, it always looks like this – pandemic or not. (Photo by Colin Hackley)

THE HOLIEST WEEK OF OUR YEAR IS HERE

Pastor Tom, the worship team, the musicians, the Zoom team, the Altar Guild, the Church Council, Office Manager Lori Zengel and others have been working hard to prepare for this week: Holy Week, the pathway to a jubilant Easter Sunday. Below are details about our upcoming worship opportunities, beginning today.

- **WALK WITH JESUS:** From now through Saturday, you can take part in a literal walk with Jesus – by following numbered ribbons with readings from the Gospel of John that allow you to socially distance at stages around the St. Stephen property. Feel free to take home one of the crosses you'll find at the last reading.



- **MAUNDY THURSDAY:** From noon to 1 p.m. today, Pastor Tom will be in the church parking lot to offer drive-up prayer and communion. Please come by during that time for fellowship and prayer and to receive the sacrament. The Maundy Thursday service is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. and will also include the celebration of communion. If you wish to partake of the Meal via Zoom, have your bread and wine/grape juice elements ready for worship.



- **GOOD FRIDAY:** The service begins at 6 p.m. It will include readings from lectors Beth Alexander, Judi Duffy, Colleen Holdcraft and Karen Olson. Karl Barton will carry in the large cross at the end of the service, with Pastor Tom and Isabel Barton sharing in the chanting.



- **EASTER SUNDAY.** The service begins at the usual time of 10 a.m. Yes, of course, we will have Holy Communion! Remember, too, that we'll be welcoming two new members during the Easter liturgy. There's nothing like celebrating Easter together, even when the world has temporarily redefined "together." May your week be truly holy, St. Stephen.



A PALM SUNDAY TO REMEMBER

Palm Sunday is always our gateway to Holy Week, and this year's service was particularly memorable. At least one worshipper was moved to tears. The Passion narrative featured a number of impressive voices. What would we have done without the Reece family? Jen was the narrator, Chris was Jesus, son Graham was Peter and son Elliot (making his reading debut) was Judas. Thank you, Reeces. Also lending their voices were Isabel Barton, Judi Duffy, Colleen Holdcraft and Karen Olson.

The narrative posed a challenge for the video camera. Because of COVID, of course, the readers couldn't gather before the altar in front of a microphone. Readers were scattered throughout the sanctuary. And because the camera remains pretty much stationary, most of the time it focused on the narrator, Jen. Nothing wrong with that – but a couple of Holdcrafts figured out a way to add visual variety using art related to Palm Sunday.



“The artwork came from the work of Sharon Simmons in preparing for the prayer walk,” Pastor Tom said. “I ‘stole’ them to add drama for the audience at home, but it was Jonas who pulled those pictures off Sharon's email and put them in sequence for our worship. I could not have done it without him and the knowledge he learned from Paul [van der Mark, our chief Zoom IT guy]. The pics were a late addition, so Jonas did not get any ‘credit’ in writing.” Until now.

“The incorporation of the artwork was a wonderful surprise to me,” said worship coordinator Beth Alexander. “I loved it!! Sharon spent a large portion of one day finding the pictures to include. I am thrilled they were used more than once! It made the readings more dramatic. Wonderful idea, Pastor!! And kudos to Jonas for seamless transitions.”

As always, the music was outstanding. Added to our usual musical firepower (Katharine Gossman on piano, Karl Barton on flute and Isabel Barton as cantor) was the always welcome trumpet of Tom Buchanan. Thank you, all. What a Sunday.

THE OPTION OF WORSHIPPING IN PERSON

By President Val Sullivan

We have surpassed the one-year mark of separation and social distancing because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We all long to sing as one, commune together at the rail and share the peace, in the exuberant way that St. Stephen does.

Your Worship Committee and Church Council are well aware of the desires to worship in person once again. Currently, we allow around 15 folks to be present for service in the sanctuary, and soon we'll be opening up to even more. Our worship leaders are still getting vaccinated, even though many of the rest of us have received both of our shots.

If you're interested in attending in person, please call the church office during the week to reserve a spot for you individually or with your family. This way, we can accommodate those in attendance with appropriate social distancing. Please continue to wear a mask throughout the service and anytime you're in the sanctuary with others (over the nose and mouth). We're continuing to monitor Synod guidance and CDC guidelines.

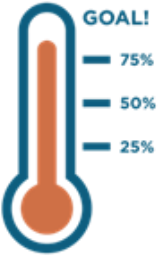
In the meantime, in an effort to help the congregation meet in a safe way, the Council has set aside Sunday, April 11, as a day for a congregational picnic. There will be grassy plots marked off for families, members and friends as well as areas designated on the sidewalk for those who'd rather not navigate the uneven ground. Again, masks are required. Feel free to draw a smile on your mask to share with our siblings in Christ.



OUR SANCTUARY PROJECT

By Pastor Tom

- Financial gifts contributed toward the sanctuary repair and other renovations now stand at \$114,675. On top of those gifts, another \$20,000 has been pledged. As often happens with church fundraising efforts, some of our members' situations have changed since our capital campaign began. That's why today's total of gifts and pledges is \$10,000 less than our previous report. Nevertheless, our capital campaign is in good shape and we're moving ahead. If you haven't had an opportunity to make a gift or pledge yet, please prayerfully consider doing so – and be sure to designate it to the Capital Campaign for the Sanctuary Project
- Our meeting with JJ, our architect with MLD Architects, revealed that the crack in the sanctuary floor is not a structural problem. That's good news. But it will need to be filled and skimmed with concrete before new flooring goes down. JJ also advised us that only the loose brick pavers that are laid into the sanctuary concrete need to be removed. The areas around the brick pavers will also need leveling with concrete. We asked JJ to add those items to the project list as well as five new doors around the sanctuary.
- JJ advised the Building Design Team to begin the process of selecting a general contractor for the job. The construction companies will contact JJ for project specifications



FREE Facebook Live Workshop



Charlotte Mather-Taylor, MBA
Executive Director
Area Agency on Aging of
Broward County



**Darlene Brown-Ponder, R.N.
B.S., CDP**
President
Tender Loving Care
Adult Day Health Center



Jocelyne Fliger, MSW
CEO/President
Elder Care Services, Inc.

Adult Day Services for Floridians with Dementia and their Family Caregivers: What to Know and Ask

KEY TOPICS:

- Overview of Florida's Network of Adult Day Services
- In-Home and Community Day Care Programs for Floridians with Dementia
- Strategies in Seeking Adult Day Services for Older Adults with Dementia
- Innovations in Delivery of Adult Day Services
- Caregiver Skills Training and Support
- Caregiving Resources

Join us

**THURSDAY
April 8, 2021**

**7pm - 8:15pm
Eastern Time**

@facebook.com/SupportACTS2

TO REGISTER & RECEIVE YOUR FREE WORKSHOP MATERIALS:

Please e-mail Tomeha Norton-Brown
at tnnorton@fsu.edu (for mail and
in-person distribution)

1-866-778-2724
tnnorton@fsu.edu
www.ACTS2Project.org



MISC.

- Lord, please work with those who think that somehow a mask works even if it's lazily drooping below the wearer's nose, or even just dangling from one ear. Please remind them that their snippet of cloth has no magical powers – it depends on the wearer to position it correctly. Amen.
- Lord, one more thing: You noticed, no doubt, that just one day after I wrote the self-righteous note above, I shopped for at least 10 minutes at Esposito's before realizing my mask was *down around my neck*. Oh, the shame. I had tied it on in the car on the way there but had lowered it to drink my ginger ale ... and then totally forgot about it. Sheesh.
- Want to provide altar flowers? For a donation of \$35, you'll also get an invitation to be among the handful of people who worship in person with Pastor Tom in the sanctuary. Afterward, the flowers are yours to keep. See Lori's contact information below.
- Have anything to add to a future newsletter? Email Lori at sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com or call 850-385-2728.



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Davis Holdcraft - 04/01
Gordon Fleischer - 04/06
Colin Hackley - 04/06
Vicki Guttenplan - 04/07
Beth Alexander - 04/11
Elizabeth Halvorson - 04/15
Ursula Morgan - 04/15
Cassandra White - 04/16
Terri Schmitt - 04/17
Tyler Notley - 04/18
Simon Kennell - 04/20
Colleen Holdcraft - 04/29
Sarah Bacani - 04/29

UPCOMING DATES

Today, April 1:

Noon - Drive-up prayer and communion

6 p.m. - Worship with communion (online), Maundy Thursday

Tomorrow, April 2:

6 p.m. - Worship (online), Good Friday

This Sunday:

10 a.m. - Worship with communion (online), Easter Sunday

Wednesday, April 7:

Noon - Bible study



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