

April 6, 2023



# ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

## St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter

### ***PALM SUNDAY ARRIVED ONCE MORE, BRIGHT AND GLORIOUS***

*Clutching their palm branches, the people of St. Stephen processed into the sanctuary beneath a cross that seemed to reach the sun. Every year, some of the faces change but the faith remains the same in this traditional journey toward Easter.*  
(Photo by Colin Hackley)



## HOLY WEEK IS HERE

It's the most meaningful time of the church year, a marathon for pastors and church musicians, a collection of gripping stories, heart-rending moments and ultimate triumph. And it officially begins this evening. This is our schedule:



- Today – Maundy Thursday healing service, 7 p.m.
- Tomorrow – Good Friday, 7 p.m. (*Worship in person or livestream on Facebook*)
- Sunday – Easter! Pancake breakfast, 8:45! Easter egg hunt, 9:15! Liturgy, 10 a.m.! (*Worship in person or livestream on Facebook*)

## EASTER BONNET, ANYONE?

From left, Audrey Post, Sharon Simmons and Caroline Collins – who are encouraging as many of us as possible to wear something extra to church on Easter Sunday – had a “dry hat run” on Palm Sunday. They’re hoping to inspire you to trot out your favorite head covering – a hat, a scarf, a flower, even a ribbon – to celebrate on Easter Sunday. That goes for you, too, guys.

Don't have one at home? They invite us to check the table by the coffee pot at church for a hat to borrow – or check the black crate in the fellowship hall. (Photo by Terri Schmitt)



# TELLING THE EASTER STORY

*By Karen E. Olson (Excerpt from the March 30, 1991, edition of the Tallahassee Democrat)*

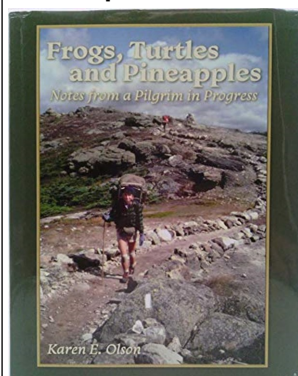
Once again, it's the high holy season of the Christian calendar – the festival celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus. Music, flowers, crowds of visitors all proclaim a surging sense of new life.

And once again, ministers find themselves wrestling with the age-old dilemma of finding new ways to tell the same story. In some respects, the Easter message is a minister's delight – so profound, upbeat and exciting that it can hardly fall flat. In other respects, it represents the preacher's greatest challenge.

"It's almost scarier to preach on Easter than any other Sunday," said the Rev. Sara Holben, associate pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church. "It is scary because it is so familiar sometimes people come and tune it out."

On one level, ministers said, they're telling a straightforward story of a love so strong it overcomes death. On another level, the message is so astonishing it transcends any efforts at human interpretation. To complicate matters further, Holben noted, the visitors who come only once a year hear only one chapter of that story. They've missed the preparation of Lent, the mourning of Good Friday.

So how do you nurture the mature believer, while reaching out to throngs of people who come only once a year – and whose faith is perhaps a marginal affair? Deep inside, Holben believes, all her listeners retain a haunting sense of their separation from God – a knowledge that they aren't what they were meant to be, and a longing for reconciliation.



"We have all done wrong, and we all need to know that there is love and hope...", agreed the Rev. Bob Tindale of Killearn United Methodist Church. "Easter is, of all holidays, certainly the symbol of that hope."

*You'll find this and more of Karen's stories in the book "Frogs, Turtles and Pineapples: Notes From a Pilgrim in Progress," available at church or from Karen.*

## OUR PIANO IS PAID FOR

*By Pastor Tom*

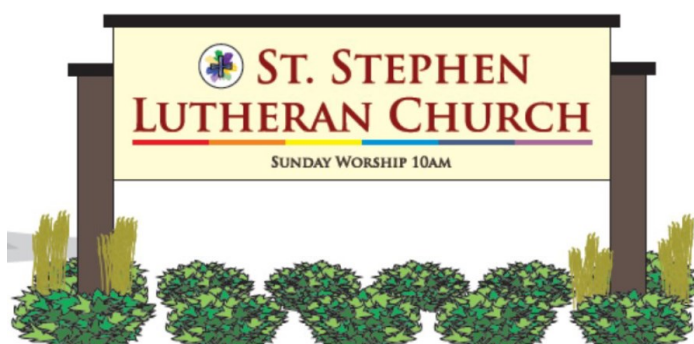
The fundraising for the piano is complete! Last week's generous giving to our new instrument in the sanctuary launched us \$94.93 over our goal of \$13,000. Thank you for the generous Easter gift to our music ministry!



## COMING UP NEXT: OUR NEW SIGN

*By Pastor Tom*

You may have noticed that our beloved sign, the one that lasted so many years along North Meridian Road, has been removed to make way for our new one. We had hoped it could be installed before Easter, but look for the new one April 16!



## ITEMS THAT OTHERS COULD USE

*By Sharon Simmons, outreach coordinator*

Do you have gently used blenders, crockpots or children's summer clothing that needs a new home? The International Rescue Committee has an urgent need for those items to help new residents settle into their Tallahassee homes. You can place them in the IRC collection tub in the fellowship hall – or let me know and I'll coordinate a drop-off.



In addition, we continue to collect the following household items and personal-hygiene items for IRC:

- Laundry detergent
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- General cleaning solvent and spray/wipes (such as Mr. Clean)
- Deodorant (male and female)
- Body lotion
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Body wash/bar soap
- Maxi pads
- Diapers

This is an ongoing collection. When the tub is full, IRC collects and distributes our items. Thank you for your help.

## 'AN EVENING IN TUSCANY'

KidSafe (of Lutheran Social Services of North Florida) is having a Dinner/ Cooking Class at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 20, at Aprons. Tickets are \$100 per person, and the menu has a Tuscan theme (Linguini Carbonara, for example). For more information or to make reservations for this fun fundraiser, email [info@lssnf.org](mailto:info@lssnf.org). By the way, Aprons Cooking School is at the Publix at 3521 Thomasville Road.



## COMING UP

- April 21: Camping trip
- July 30: Congregational meeting
- Oct. 29: Bishop Suarez visits us on Reformation Sunday



## MORE MIDWEEK UPDATES

- We could use more Publix or gas gift cards, for our Justice and Mercy Fund – which assists people in need who show up at church. (Place them in the offering plate, or send them to Lori in the church office. You can also make a monetary donation to Justice and Mercy instead.)



- 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 flower chart in the narthex. The cost is \$35, which you can place in the offering plate.
- Have any questions for our Church Council members? They're listed on our website, <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/about-us>.
- Have anything to add to a future newsletter? Email Lori at [sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com](mailto:sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com) or call 850-385-2728.



## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS



Gordon Fleischer - 04/06  
Colin Hackley - 04/06  
Vicki Guttenplan - 04/07  
Beth Alexander - 04/11  
Rudy Hehn - 04/12  
Donna Schiffer - 04/13  
Erik Robinson - 04/14  
Elizabeth Halvorson - 04/15  
Cassandra White - 04/16  
Colton Allen - 04/17  
Terri Schmitt - 04/17  
Tyler Notley - 04/18  
Russell Reardon - 04/26  
Colleen Holdcraft - 04/29

## IN THE WEEK AHEAD

**Tonight, April 6:**  
**7 p.m.** - Worship, Maundy Thursday

**Friday, April 7:**  
**7 p.m.** - Worship, Good Friday

**Sunday, April 9:**  
**8:45 a.m.** - Easter breakfast  
**9:15 a.m.** - Easter egg hunt  
**10 a.m.** - Worship, Easter Sunday

**Wednesday, April 12:**  
**7 p.m.** - Choir practice



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