



# ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

## St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



### ‘ALLELUIA!’

With the roar of the organ, and with people literally dancing in the aisle, Easter triumphantly returned last Sunday to St. Stephen’s sanctuary – where 101 people welcomed it with open arms. What a musical feast: Katharine Gossman at the keyboard, Karl Barton on flute, Tom Buchanan on trumpet, 14 choir members proclaiming “Alleluia” in a majestic three-part round. And as Hector



Quinones sang “Now the Green Blade Rises,” dancers Rita Ford, Colleen Holdcraft, Ceilia Greeley and Violet Greeley portrayed those green blades – with the twin sisters even doing cartwheels.

In his greeting, in his children’s message (Surprise, kids! Doublemint gum wrappers with no gum inside! “Do not be afraid!”), in his sermon, during communion, Pastor Tom enthusiastically embodied his message that Easter is indeed a big deal.

As always, most of the worshippers dressed up a little more than on a typical Sunday. At the urging of Sharon Simmons and Caroline Collins, about 20 women even wore Easter hats. Besides Caroline (goofing around after church in this photo) and Sharon, the hat brigade included Janet Barber, Margaret Bowers, Jennifer Buchanan, Sue Canning, Caroline’s friend Ellelia, Barbara Ehlmann, Jan Harrison, Gladys Kane, Sandy Larson, Stephanie Leitch, Audrey Post, Donna Schiffer, Terri Schmitt, Jeanette Sickel, Astrid van der Mark and Cassandra White. (Photo by Ellelia)



Before the service, things were busy in the fellowship hall and beyond. “Our Easter breakfast turned out fabulous with our one-and-only Gordon Fleischer making his homemade pancakes,” said Margaret Bowers, care and hospitality coordinator. “Our great helper Greta Scavone stepped in to help make gluten-free pancakes.

“Special thanks to our queen of decorating, Carol Santos, and her trusty helper Terri. Everyone had a wonderful time eating and enjoying the fellowship. The Easter Egg Hunt was exciting for the children. We had nine of them hunting their little hearts out.

*[Pictured here are Ceilia Greeley, Violet Greeley and Margaret’s grandson Mateo.]* Pretty sure all eggs were found.”



## SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

Even the lilies surrounding the altar conveyed special messages on this special Sunday. Here are the names of the people who donated them, and the dedications they offered.

- Judi Duffy, “dedicated to the memory of Karl, Harriet and David Vetter, father, mother and brother, and to Charles Thomas Holdcraft, my former husband.”
- Bob & Linda Eshleman, “dedicated to the glory of God for our many blessings.”
- Jan Harrison, “in memory of loved ones.”
- Marilyn Larson, “dedicated to God’s glory.”
- Martha Marky, “dedicated to the glory of God.”
- Audrey Post, “in gratitude for my St. Stephen family.”
- Billie Reardon, “in honor and in memory of all those inurned in our columbarium.”
- Sharon Simmons, “dedicated to the glory of God in thanks for His many blessings.”
- Barbara Sullivan, “in memory of Jack Sullivan.”
- And Susan Warren, “dedicated in loving memory of Agnes, Grayce, Harriet and Edita for all their years of service to St. Stephen.”



## THREE GENERATIONS

The Easter service always offers an opportunity to see new faces along with



faces of dear ones we haven’t seen in a while. For example, here’s Andrea Notley with her dad, Tom Franklin – along with one of her sons, Nick (remember him, you longtime members of St. Stephen?), and Nick’s wife, Gloria. By the way, Nick and Gloria are expecting a baby girl in July. Said Andrea: “I’m one happy Grams!”

*(All Easter photos, except the one of Caroline and her bonnet, were taken by Colin Hackley.)*



# AN APPEAL FOR HELP

By Audrey Post

Jonas Holdcraft deserves a medal! Week after week, he sits in the back of the sanctuary, all alone, making sure the livestream of our worship services on Facebook is delivered without a hitch. Instead of a medal, though, he'd probably be happier with some help so he doesn't have to do it every Sunday.



The job is much easier now that we're not posting documents into the livestream, and it's pretty easy to learn. I've learned how, so you can teach an old(er) Lutheran a new trick. We have two others who've volunteered to learn how IF we can get four more people to sign up, for a total of eight. That way, no one must serve in this manner more than once every two months.

The people who worship at home really appreciate this aspect of our ministry. Jonas *[shown here in violin mode]* is a great teacher, and we'll prepare a cheat sheet to help you remember what to do. Jonas has carried the load long enough. Let's give the guy a break – and maybe a medal, too. *[Talk to Audrey or Pastor Tom if you want to sign up.]*

## 'THE PLANTING OF THAT GREAT SEED'

*This is an excerpt from an interview published Easter Sunday in The New York Times. Columnist Tish Harrison Warren spoke with emeritus professor of New Testament and former Church of England Bishop N.T. Wright, who Warren says has written over 80 books focused on Jesus and his first followers. Her question in Sunday's column: Did Jesus really rise from the dead? His answer: Of course.*

**WARREN:** Let's say that what the Gospels claim is true: Jesus is risen. It seems that the world keeps going and there's still oppression, suffering and grief. There's still death. So what difference does it make that Jesus is raised from the dead?

**WRIGHT:** It's exactly the same objection that people made right at the beginning, including during the public career of Jesus. He went about saying, "This is what it looks like when God becomes king." And people would say, well, there's still an awful lot of bad stuff going on. Caesar is still ruling the world. And Jesus constantly told stories to say, no, *this* is what God's kingdom looks like: It's like a seed that grows secretly. It's like somebody planting lots of seeds and some go bad. But look, there's a huge harvest coming up over here.

People regularly say, *if* there really was a God, *if* he really wanted to sort the place out, then he would come and, bang, it would be done. He would send in the tanks — metaphorically speaking, or perhaps not — and sort out the evil and wickedness in the world. But the Sermon on the Mount says that when God comes to sort out the world the *Jesus* way, he doesn't send in tanks. He sends in the poor and the brokenhearted and the hungry-for-justice people and the meek and the people who are ready to suffer for getting the world sorted out. The way the Sermon on the Mount works is exactly the same way that the gospel of the resurrection works. Jesus, risen from the dead, is the planting of that great seed. And now the plant has spread in all directions.

Obviously bad things happen. Bad things happen in and through the church. We all know that. I know that as well as anyone. But all sorts of great and good things *do* happen. Healing happens, hope happens, and ultimately it all goes back to this single seed of the raising of Jesus from the dead....



## ‘BRAVERY’:

### EXCERPT FROM PASTOR TOM’S SERMON

... It’s notable, don’t you think, that in all of the resurrection accounts it’s always the women who “get” Jesus first. I’m not saying they weren’t afraid, but the fear didn’t keep them away. I believe that their bravery, recognized here, has to do with life ... and the tremors of creation inherent in women.

We believe it to be the kind of groaning in labor pains that Paul talks about in Romans. That we ourselves groan in labor pains while we wait for adoption. That is, the redemption of our bodies.

You see, we don’t really know how to live until we consider deeply the reality of death. And when we go to the tomb, we are doing a courageous thing....

## FUN FOR A GOOD CAUSE

*By Audrey Post*

Calling all soccer players! Want to practice drills with coaching from FSU’s awesome women’s soccer team? Want to support a good cause at the same time? The 6th Annual Kickin’ It for Autism aims to raise awareness of autism and related disabilities while kindling a love for the game of soccer among people of any age, any neurodiversity and any skill level. Accommodations will be made for those needing them. Early-bird registration (ends 11:30 p.m. this Sunday) gets you a T-shirt, food from Gor-do’s and Hungry Howie’s and instruction from the reigning ACC champs and coaches for just \$10 per person. The event is set for 2-4 p.m. Sunday, April 23, at the FSU Soccer Complex. For more info and to register, go to <https://FSUCARD.com>.



## COMING UP

- April 20: “An Evening in Tuscany,” dinner/ cooking class/fundraiser for Kidsafe (of Lutheran Social Services of North Florida), 6:30 p.m., Aprons Cooking School, Publix, 3521 Thomasville Road. Email [info@lssnf.org](mailto:info@lssnf.org).
- April 21: Camping trip
- May 28: Pentecost (choir’s last anthem until after summer)
- 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



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  
Julia Bonfanti - 05/03  
Emily Jennings - 05/07  
Eva Mustian - 05/08  
Claire Claussen - 05/09

## IN THE WEEK AHEAD

**Sunday, April 16:**

**9a.m.** - Book study

**9:30 a.m.** - Choir practice

**10 a.m.** - Worship, Second Sunday of Easter

**Wednesday, April 19**

**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>.

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](mailto: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.*