



# ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

## St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



*The people on Ivy Green Trail have been longing for these bright green oak leaves to reappear. Similarly, the people of St. Stephen have been longing for Easter to reappear. The wait for Easter is almost over. Good Friday approaches.*

*See you there.*

## THREE DAYS TILL EASTER

This will be our first Easter back in our newly safe and snazzy sanctuary. Our first Easter with an unobstructed inside view of our stained glass. Our biggest crowd (we hope) since this pandemic latched onto us.

We trust you received your Easter-Sunday-at-St.-Stephen invitation in the mail. We hope to see an Easter bonnet or two. We expect to see Pastor Tom overjoyed.

But in order for us to put Easter Sunday in perspective, first we have an appointment with Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. This is our schedule for Holy Week and Easter:

- Maundy Thursday worship with communion, 7 p.m. today.
- Good Friday worship, 7 p.m. tomorrow.
- Easter Egg hunt, 9:30 a.m. Sunday.
- Easter worship with communion, 10 a.m. Sunday.



Maundy Thursday



Good Friday



Easter Sunday



## AS YOU PLAN FOR TONIGHT AND FRIDAY...



Please note that, alas, we have no one available to handle the technical end of virtual worship until Sunday. So if you want to take part in the Holy Week services, you have two options. You may attend in person (where we'll all be masked). Or you may download the worship guides for tonight and Friday, which Office Manager Lori will be sending by email, and conduct a quiet little offline worship service at home. Either way, the Holy Spirit will be at your side.

## SUNRISE INVITATION

At Grace Lutheran Church, our sister congregation across town, the Easter Son~Rise (sunrise) Service is a tradition. Once again this year, they plan to gather around the cross in their upper parking lot to announce the joyful news: "Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!" And they're inviting us to join them. The service lasts about 35 minutes. No communion. (No seating, either, so bring a portable chair if you like.) In case of rain, they'll duck inside their sanctuary. Grace is at 2919 Miccosukee Road.



## USHERS, SCRUBBERS, SAINTS

Only during last Sunday's final announcements, when Pastor Tom suggested that we avoid the usual doors when we departed, did most of us even notice that anything was amiss. The instant Pastor said that we'd had a cleanup episode in the narthex, a few dozen heads simultaneously swiveled. There was legendary usher Colin Hackley, on hands and knees, wearing disposable gloves, scrubbing the narthex tiles. Outside lay the narthex rug, temporarily out of commission.



Turns out that a very young visitor had had an upset stomach. (Parents, raise your hand if something similar ever took place with you and your kids.) These things happen, even at church.

When we asked Colin about it later, he was – as always – a modest Midwesterner and said it was a team effort. Apparently Erin Kenney, seated in the last few rows, was the eyewitness who alerted Colin. He and fellow super-usher Bob Eshleman devised a plan. "Bob stepped in to take the offering and run the other usher duties at the close of service, just like he stepped in to cover all the early things that day as well," Colin said. "And most important, Pastor Tom later worked with a vacuum, scrub brush and cleaning products to finish the job with the sanctuary carpet and narthex rug."

Dear visiting family, if you're reading this: We're so sorry you had a rough day, and we hope you come back.

## ROOKIE BAGGER AT MANNA

*By Judi Duffy*

Here in the midst of Volunteer Month, I recently took part in bagging groceries for Manna on Meridian, next door at Faith Presbyterian. (In case you're new to our community: Manna on Meridian is a food pantry operated by Faith, St. Stephen and a number of other churches, mostly but not exclusively on Meridian Road.) Volunteers meet to fill grocery bags for distribution to the hungry. (Cassandra White sends out an email with bagging dates.)

I joined about eight other women to create an assembly line around a table to fill the bags methodically and quickly. My assignment included rice, spaghetti and boxed mac & cheese. Men and young boys were there to carry the heavy bags. We filled 250 bags in an hour and 40 minutes.



This is an opportunity to meet new friends and experience the satisfaction of helping those who are less fortunate. Not only did I have fun, but from the exertion I slept better that night! I plan to go next month. Come and join me.



## OTHER WAYS TO SERVE



Wanna be an acolyte? Crucifer? Cup minister? Assisting minister? If you have an interest in any of these opportunities, speak with Pastor Tom or Beth Alexander, our worship coordinator. She'll coach you as much or as little as you like. Contact her at 850-702-4471 or [bethalex411@gmail.com](mailto:bethalex411@gmail.com).



## AIRBORNE AGAIN

St. Stephen's OWLs (Older, Wiser Lutherans) gathered at Café De Martin on Tuesday for their monthly lunch. Everyone was smiling – even Bob Eshleman, whose face you can't see. From left: Pastor Tom, Ann Hingst, Jim Christianson, Janet Barber, Sue Canning, Linda Eshleman, Faceless Bob Eshleman, organizer Margaret Bowers, Jan Harrison, Ruth Hartung, Judi Duffy, Emily Ruddell, Pastor Emeritus Emory Hingst and Billie Reardon. (Photo by Lex Lutheran)

## 'PULLED PORK, SLAW AND, BY THE WAY, I LOVE LSSNF'

Before we get to our weekly reminder about the upcoming fundraiser at Sonny's, here's a quiz: Are you familiar with what Lutheran Social Services of North Florida does? If you visit <https://lssnf.org/> you'll see that its primary focus is on KidSafe, which provides child safety seats for families living at or near the poverty level. That's why Dottie Hinkle, its executive director, is calling this fundraiser BBQ for Babies.



And did you know that several members and friends of St. Stephen help direct Lutheran Social Services? Barbara Ehlmann is president, and Hilary Dennis and Marilyn Larson are on the board.

OK, now it's time for the reminder. Make sure you've written this on your calendar for April 27: "Buy food at the Sonny's BBQ restaurant on Timberlane Road – and when I order, tell them I support

Lutheran Social Services of North Florida." (Hope you have a huge calendar.) Questions? Call or text Dottie at 850-241-6434.

# HAIKU CORNER

By Lex Lutheran

## AN EASTER TOAST

Some of you recall  
when our chalice on Easter  
was filled with champagne.



## INSTEAD OF AN EASTER-EGG HUNT...

How about if we  
thrill the children next year with  
a scrambled-egg hunt?

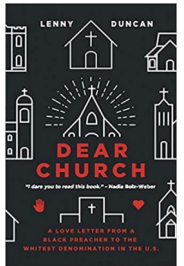
## HOOT

One big benefit  
of retirement: You have time  
to become an OWL.



# MORE MIDWEEK UPDATES

- Thanks to the participants who brought the Palm Sunday readings to life. Special thanks to the four youngest readers: Ceilia, Violet, Elliot and Graham.
- Following up on the recent news of former member Mark Palmquist's death, Mark Canning writes: "I heard from Heidi Palmquist. She wrote that her dad did not want a memorial service of any sort. So the family has no plans other than some sort of private affair. She did suggest that he would have liked it if people performed some volunteer work in his name. That sounds like him."
- Let Pastor Tom know if you want to take part in the new Sunday-morning book study beginning April 24. The first book will be "Dear Church," by Lenny Duncan, formerly incarcerated, formerly homeless, formerly unchurched, now a black preacher in the ultra-white ELCA. The group will meet from 9 to 9:30 a.m. or so. Pastor Tom can order a book for you.



- Reminder: The annual camping trip is coming up fast – April 22-24 at St. George Island State Park. Questions? Get in touch with Mark Greeley ([markhoffmangreeley@gmail.com](mailto:markhoffmangreeley@gmail.com)) or Colin Hackley ([colin@typestyle.net](mailto:colin@typestyle.net)).

- Have any classified ads you'd like to place in the newsletter, free? 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 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](mailto:sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com) or call 850-385-2728.



# UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

- 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

**Today, April 14:**

7 p.m. - Worship with communion, Maundy Thursday

**This Friday, April 15:**

7 p.m. - Worship, Good Friday

**This Sunday, April 17:**

9:30 a.m. - Easter Egg Hunt

10 a.m. - Worship with communion, Easter Sunday



**Wednesday, April 20:**

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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