



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



Nothing says “Welcome to May” quite like these smiling cosmos flowers in one St. Stephen back yard.

THE LATEST FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

First, thanks to Pastor Tom and Jennifer Dritt, our treasurer, for keeping such a keen eye on our money matters.

As of the end of April, they tell us, St. Stephen is in the black by \$2,596.06. (“In the black,” of course, means that we took in more money than we spent.) For April itself, we finished the month in the black by \$1,720.06. Specifically, our expenses in April totaled \$19,679.16 but our collections totaled \$21,399.22. Well done, St. Stephen.

Now, a few more financial nuggets:

- Donations for the new chairs in the sanctuary now total \$4,300.02. That’s encouraging. We still need to collect roughly \$4,000 more.
- Our Noisy Offering two Sundays ago totaled \$127.18 for Lutheran Social Services of North Florida and its children’s safety-seat program. Thank you to everyone who noisily chipped in.
- Last Sunday, Pastor Tom reminded us of the bicycle we had begun

collecting money for. It’s for a young man who’s being helped by Capital City Youth Services. He’s in high school, has a job after school and travels to both on foot. A bike would make life much better for him. He has specific physical needs, so not just any bike will do. Jen Dritt did some shopping around and found one for \$500. Spontaneous giving began, and the final count was \$354. Pastor Tom is going to make up the



rest from his Justice and Mercy Fund. “Thank you,” Pastor said, “and thanks be to God for reminding us of the power of coming together in mission and compassion.”

- This morning, Pastor Tom found out other, disturbing information about this young man. “He sleeps in a stairwell at night,” Pastor said. “Please join me in praying that Capital City Youth Services can get him in suitable housing soon. Our Outreach Committee is working with CCYS to see how we can further assist.”



'A MODEL OF EXCELLENCE'

When you're chosen for an award during a pandemic, sometimes you have to wait for the official recognition. Stephanie Leitch had to wait a whole year. But last month, she finally received her Graduate Faculty Mentor Award, one of only five given out each year at FSU.

Stephanie nimbly sidestepped our request to see the nominations, so we dug around. We found this quote from her boss, the chair of the FSU Department of Art History: "Astonishingly, three of the seven doctoral students she has directed were awarded Fulbright full-grants—among the most coveted international research fellowships—for yearlong research in Germany. Of her three doctoral alumni, two have obtained tenure-track positions. They have done so in no small part through Dr. Leitch's teaching and advising, and also because she has advocated so passionately for them among her distinguished network of peers."



We also found glowing quotes from four students, including this one: "Dr. Leitch's high expectations are matched with encouragement—her kindness was a particular comfort as I prepared for my comprehensive exams and while navigating the complications of writing a dissertation in the age of COVID-19. She is a model of excellence, balancing her own research, writing, and busy schedule of presentations and publishing with mentoring her graduate students."

The Spring Faculty Awards Ceremony took place in the Champions Club, as the honorees' faces rotated across the stadium jumbotron. Pretty cool. And providing the music was The Thursday Night Music Club, which includes our own horn man, Tom Buchanan.

YOUNG MUSICIANS



Astrid van der Mark and Jonas Holdcraft played in the Tallahassee Youth Orchestra's spring concert at Ruby Diamond Concert Hall on Sunday. On the program was Vivaldi's "Spring" from The Four Seasons, and "The Old Boatman," as well as the first movement from Sibelius' Violin Concerto. (OK, so we didn't have a photo of Jonas with his violin.



Just pretend this lamb is a musical instrument.)

CHOW DOWN WITH THE OWLS



The monthly lunch for the OWLs (Older Wiser Lutherans) is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Tuesday at Longhorn Steakhouse, 2400 N. Monroe St. Being older and wiser is not a prerequisite. Let Margaret Bowers know if you're coming. Text or call 407-921-8671, or email ambowersfl@gmail.com.

ST. STEPHEN'S ANNUAL PICNIC!

Join us for fellowship and fun Saturday, May 21, 11 a.m., at church. You bring lunch and a chair. We'll supply fruit and veggie trays, drinks, chips and paper goods. We'll have games there, too: cornhole, croquet & bocce ball. RSVP to Margaret. Her info is in the OWLs item above.



'HOW CAN I HELP?'

If you've been wanting to get more hands-on at St. Stephen, you've come to the right place. Right about now, we could use:



- Assisting ministers.
- Altar Guild members.
- Acolytes.
- Crucifers (kudos to Rob Schiffer for jumping in Sunday so Pastor Tom wouldn't have to).
- People to help Jonas transmit the virtual liturgy.

For more details, check with Pastor Tom.



SCHIFFER MOMENTS

The Schiffer kids, who grew up worshipping at St. Stephen, recently lost their mom, Bobbi. That was tough. But thank goodness, life also has given them reasons to celebrate lately – and stepmom Donna forwarded these gorgeous photos. Collin, pictured above, became engaged to Scarlett Renuart on Easter. And Natalie gave birth

April 25 to Lai'yani Amiyah Moore, who clocked in at 6 pounds, 8 ounces – and looks pretty darn cute in pink.



THAT VOICE:

EXCERPT FROM SUNDAY'S SERMON

“When we find it tempting to go back to the ordinariness of our lives or resort to thinking that nothing much has really changed on this side of the Resurrection, Jesus calls us in a voice we recognize. A voice that empowers and gives new life. Simply, we get to the point that we know this is God.”

MEMORABLE LINE FROM SUNDAY'S HYMNS

“Across the world, across the street, the victims of injustice cry for shelter and for bread to eat, and never live before they die.” (*The Church of Christ, in Every Age*, No. 729)

HAIKU CORNER

By Lex Lutheran

MR. BIOPSY

Wish I had a buck
for every time my derm doc
took a slice of me.



NOT ANDREW

The phone keeps ringing.
Insurance peddlers. "Andrew?"
they keep asking. Nope.

THE CRAPE MYRTLE THAT WE TRIED TO KILL

We even planted
something else there. But it croaked.
Crape, we surrender.



REMEMBER THIS SONG FROM 2020?

THE WONDERS OF THE DOLLAR STORE

In the talent show, Pastor Tom sang it to the tune of "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

I love my local Dollar Store.
There's everything I need.
Things may be cheap. They may not keep.
They may not be guaranteed.
But, oh, the shelves are lovely.
They groan beneath the weight
of tons of stuff. Can't get enough!
Go shopping? I can't wait.

I don't just shop at Dollar Store.
I crave diversity.
When I feel hip, my shopping trip
will focus on Dollar Tree.
If Jonas needs new glasses,
if Colleen wants a ring,
that's where I'll go. It's great, you know!
That's why I stand and sing!

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Emily Jennings - 05/07
Eva Mustian - 05/08
Claire Claussen - 05/09
Eunice Muchuruza - 05/16
David Butler - 05/18
Jennifer Dritt - 05/21
Paxton Oates - 05/23
Sandy Larson - 05/24
Jake Hartung - 05/25
Nicholas Oliveri - 05/25
Blake Simmons - 05/25
TJ Oliveri - 05/28
Pepper Stewart - 05/29

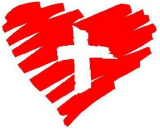


MORE MIDWEEK UPDATES

- **CALLING ALL GRADS!** Each year we try to list all of the St. Stephen people who are graduating from high school, college or any other program. We want to celebrate with you, so please send us your name, where you're graduating from and what your next steps are.



- **Setting it straight:** Recently I passed along information from the Lutheran Social Services website that, it turns out, was out-of-date. The only St. Stephen member on the LSSNF board at the moment is President Barbara Ehlmann, says Executive Director Dottie Hinkle.
- **Something new to notice next time you worship in the sanctuary:** The rows of chairs are gently curved now – so wherever you sit, you're facing the altar. Pastor Tom, who did the furniture-moving, says it was Susan and Rudy Hehn's idea. They were looking ahead to the arrival of the new chairs.



- **Sometimes we don't have very legible digital copies of hymns to download for the bulletin.** (That's one of the reasons we'll keep our hymnals close by when we get our new chairs.) Last Sunday, the lyrics of "This Joyful Eastertide" were particularly fuzzy. The people in our row were sort of mumble-singling, unable to decipher one line in particular in the second verse. I looked it up later, and I think we discussed this line once before: "My flesh in hope shall rest and for a season slumber till trump from east to west shall wake the dead in number." It appears that "trump" is an old-timey and unfortunate reference to trumpets.

This Joyful Eastertide



- **Have any questions for our Church Council members? Ask them!** They're all listed on our website, <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/about-us>. Or you can ask Pastor Tom. Or, if you're bashful, you can ask me, your newsletter editor. I'll try to get an answer and, if appropriate, share it with everyone in the newsletter. Just send your letter to Lori, whose contact info is below.
- **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 or call 850-385-2728.

UPCOMING DATES

This Sunday, May 8:

9:00 a.m. - Book study

10 a.m. - Worship, Fourth Sunday of Easter

Tuesday, May 10:

11:30 a.m. - OWLs gathering at Longhorn Steakhouse.



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>.

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The Rev. Tom Holdcraft, Pastor