



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter

OUR CPR/AED TRAINING EVENT IS THIS SUNDAY AFTER CHURCH

Don't forget about Sunday's training session on CPR and using an AED to revive a person from sudden cardiac arrest. Our own Dr. Rudy Hehn will be our instructor. Here are the details:



- *Sunday, 11:30 a.m., in the fellowship hall.
- *Snack lunch and intro.
- *Hands-on training in Basic CPR.
- *Demonstration of how to use a defibrillator.



As of Wednesday morning, Office Manager Lori said 16 people had signed up. Want to submit a last-minute RSVP? Email Lori at sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com or call 850-385-2728

WE HAVE RIDY TO THANK FOR OUR AED

As Karen Olson reminded us recently, Ridy Hofer is the one we need to thank for providing the AED (automated external defibrillator) in our fellowship hall.

"I heard talk one Sunday morning over coffee that an AED would be a fine thing to have at church," Ridy recalled the other day. Referring to her late husband, she continued: "Dear Kurt had recently died of a heart attack in his sleep. So I talked with my daughter Andrea, who works for Philips, the manufacturer of AEDs. She said she could order me a unit easily, so I did and brought it to church. I felt this was meant to happen."



Thank you, Ridy and Rudy, for this heart-saving opportunity.

FUN IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

The tables in the fellowship hall have gotten pretty lazy the past few years. Not much going on to keep them occupied. So you can imagine their surprise last weekend. First there was Friday's pizza-and-crafts night. Then, Sunday morning, was the Mother's Day special: a Ladies Tea Party. In each case, all the action centered on a long row or two of suddenly rejuvenated church tables.



"We had approximately 16 people at our crafts-and-pizza event – six kids and 10 adults," said Rita Ford, shown here decorating with Ceilia Greeley. "The kids and adults enjoyed 'decoupage,' decorating their own plates with strips of paper and glitter. We also had all types of beads that we used to make bracelets and necklaces. Pastor played hide-and-seek with the kids, and we ended with a rehearsal of the song 'M-o-t-h-e-r,' which the kids sang in church Sunday. We all had a blast." Rita added: "Margaret

Bowers and Carol Santos did a lot to make it happen."

Margaret and Carol also were the main forces behind the tea party. “Carol did all the decorating,” Margaret said. “I just executed it.” Two dozen people had signed up, and it appeared that at least that many showed up. We can’t name everyone, but in this photo we think we can see Ceilia, Cindy Suhrweir, Jonas Holdcraft, Colleen Holdcraft, Greta Scavone, Judi Duffy, Sharon Simmons, Terri Schmitt, Carol (with a camera), Anita Sawh, Jan Harrison, Ridy Hofer, Linda Eshleman, Susan Hehn, Susan Warren, Ruth Hartung, Denise Bookwalter ... and Pastor Tom.



Let’s have a big round of applause for everyone who helped put on these two activities that were so much FUN – a word seldom associated with churches.

DIAPERS AND STROLLERS AND ...

By Sharon Simmons, outreach coordinator

The Florida-Bahamas Synod will meet in assembly June 8-10. Each year, the Synod chooses a nonprofit to support by asking delegates to bring donations from their congregations. This year, Harbor House of Central Florida has been chosen. Harbor House provides an emergency shelter and domestic-abuse call center. The Outreach Committee is asking the congregation to please bring donations by June 4. Items needed include:



- Strollers (the umbrella type can be found at Walmart for \$18).
- Baby wash.
- Diapers (sizes 5 and 6 are needed most).
- Pull-ups (sizes 2 to 6).
- Baby wipes.

There’s a Harbor House tub in the fellowship hall for donated items.

BLESS THE GRADUATES

Donna Schiffer’s son, Nicholas Pena, just graduated from FSU with honors in computer science. Here’s a picture of him. He’s heading to Atlanta to live – with a job already lined up.

Got a 2023 St. Stephen graduate at your house? Let us know for next week’s newsletter.



EXCERPT FROM PASTOR TOM'S SERMON

... Look, it's no secret that we forget. I lose my temper. I want to blame others for not loving God and one another, and too often the world chooses forgetfulness of Jesus' commandments over and over again.

But then there's the whisper of the gospel. The pinch of bread and sip of wine. The hymn that speaks a truth and a musical key change that makes the heart skip a beat.

They're all whispers of a power greater than I. A divine Wind and Holy Fire that sits with you ... comes alongside for you ... advocates when needed.

That's the Spirit we need to know. The One who comes alongside us and says, "May I sit with you? My love is active."

COMING UP

- May 28: Pentecost (choir's last anthem until after summer)
- June 13: Live music at Lake Ella, 7:30 p.m., a St. Stephen evening outing!
- July 30: Congregational meeting
- Oct. 29: Bishop Suarez visits us on Reformation Sunday



MORE MIDWEEK UPDATES

- St. Stephen is gaining two new members pretty soon. If you're not yet a member but would like to be, see Pastor Tom.
- Leah Costigan, Tallahassee program manager for the International Rescue Committee, was thrilled to receive our Noisy Offering check for \$510. She extends the IRC's sincerest thanks for the generosity of the St. Stephen congregation.
- Sharon Simmons reminds us of the Unity in the Community event at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 28, at Allen Temple CME Church, 849 Kissimmee St., followed by what she promises will be a "delicious" meal. Want to carpool? Ask Sharon and she'll help arrange it.
- 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 or call 850-385-2728.



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Jennifer Dritt - 05/21
Paxton Oates - 05/23
Sandy Larson - 05/24
Jake Hartung - 05/25
Blake Simmons - 05/25
Bevin Reardon - 06/03
Billie Reardon - 06/03
Susan Hehn—06/11
Billie Oates - 06/14
Tim Larson - 06/16
Martin Guttenplan - 06/19
Ruth Hartung - 06/23
Steve Kunst - 06/23
Sandy Davis - 06/28



IN THE WEEK AHEAD

This Sunday:

9 a.m. - Book study
9:30 a.m. - Choir practice
10 a.m. - Worship, Sixth Sunday of Easter
11:15 a.m. - Outreach Committee meeting
11:30 a.m. - CPR and AED training

Wednesday, May 24:

7 p.m. - Choir practice



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>.

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.

Website: <http://www.ststephenlutherantally.com/>

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