



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



You never know whom you might run across when you take a stroll around your neighborhood – when your neighborhood is in Florida, and especially when it’s near a pond. This great blue heron recently (and nervously) posed for a St. Stephen camera.

THREE BUDGET UPDATES

By Pastor Tom

- Your financial gifts to support the ministries of St. Stephen continue to roll in. For the month of May, we wound up \$500 in the black. (Specifically: \$17,632 in collections minus \$17,132 in expenses.) For the year, we’re \$3,096 in the black. What outstanding news. Thank God for your generosity! (And thanks to Treasurer Jennifer Dritt for tracking these numbers.)
- The total for May’s Noisy Offering was \$235! That money is going toward the Capital Area Justice Ministry’s work in Tallahassee.
- We continue to collect donations for the new chairs that will soon be in the sanctuary. The goal is \$8,054, and so far you’ve contributed \$4,730. Little by little, we’re getting there, St. Stephen!



FIXING THE FLAME

By Caroline Collins

When Andrea Notley and I arrived for Altar Guild duty Friday morning, we found Pastor Tom in the sacristy poring over a sheet of instructions beside a brass lamp we call the “eternal flame.” It wasn’t in its customary place, hanging from the rafters near the altar. Instead it was securely nestled in its old box, waiting for a new wick to be carefully threaded into its reservoir of oil. “If all else fails, try reading the instructions,” as they say. And when the instructions fail to enlighten, it’s good for your pastor to be a resourceful troubleshooter.



So, what befell the shiny lamp (which Martha Marky thinks was given in memory of dear Agnes Strickland by Agnes' family)? It had been found collapsed on the floor, casualty of a corroded link in the chain holding it aloft. How fortunate that it didn't fall during the liturgy – and that the oil didn't leak out and stain our new carpet.



Pictured here is the eternal flame in its flattering new place, hanging securely from a new bracket installed by our intrepid pastor. May the stepladder continue to support Pastor as well as he supports the immediate and ongoing needs of our church, both pastoral and practical. He'll be climbing it again to change the tall Easter banners before leaving for the Synod Assembly, which takes place Friday through Sunday. *(Photos by Caroline, too)*

FOREVER PINK

There's a story behind so many things connected with St. Stephen. Take this hydrangea, planted in front of the sanctuary. Its story began when the late, beloved Harriet Temanson received a hydrangea from a florist shop. We'll call that one Hydrangea 1. Harriet wanted to share the pleasure she got from that plant, so she rooted a new one from the old one – and presented Hydrangea 2 as a gift to Pastor Pam Wellons. When Pastor Pam left St. Stephen, she presented Hydrangea 2 to Emily Jennings. After Harriet passed away, Emily – the longtime beautifier of our grounds – planted Hydrangea 2 at St. Stephen in Harriet's memory.

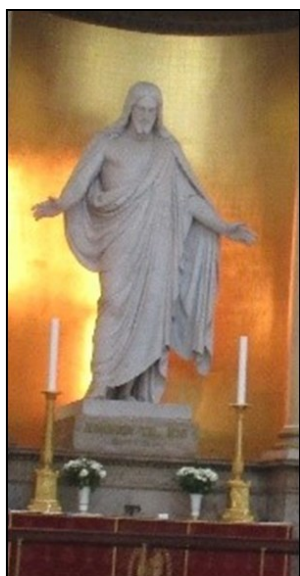


As some of you know, hydrangeas can change color – sometimes pink, sometimes blue – depending on the acidity of the soil. Not this one, though, says Emily. It's a hybrid, she explains, so it'll always be pink. And it'll always remind us of Harriet.

MY SCANDINAVIAN ADVENTURE

By Hector Quinones

My trip last month to Scandinavia was very special. I wanted to prove to myself that I could travel on my own again – without my husband, who passed away in 2017. And I could! I enjoyed visiting Bergen and Oslo in Norway, followed by Copenhagen (Denmark), Stockholm (Sweden) and Helsinki (Finland).



The first of two Lutheran cathedrals that I visited was the Cathedral of Our Lady, in Copenhagen. Despite the cathedral's name, there is no likeness of Mary inside. The nave is lined by the 12 apostles. At the main altar stands a statue of Jesus wearing his burial shroud with arms wide open, as if saying, "Come to me." Across the street is the Reformation Memorial obelisk, which celebrates Denmark's break from the Roman Catholic Church in 1536.





The other, dazzling white Lutheran cathedral I visited was in Helsinki. Surrounded by the 12 apostles, it overlooks the city and harbor from the highest point in the area. Inside are statues of Martin Luther and his collaborator Philipp Melancthon.

Even though I studied in Catholic schools, I have always been

proud of my Lutheran faith, and I wanted to visit these far-off countries to get a flavor of the early Lutheran movement there. I'm delighted that I was finally able to do so. Besides the cathedrals and monuments, I also enjoyed all the palaces and jewels that I saw. Plus the food was great and the group traveling with me was very friendly and supportive.

Throughout my travels I thanked God for His blessings. Although it was a lot of fun, I encountered some small unforeseen events along the way – and I experienced His hand helping me overcome them. Glory to God!



EXCERPT FROM SUNDAY'S SERMON

“The writer of Acts is forthright and honest about the violence put upon those who follow and witness to Jesus. He tells the story as if no one expected anything different from the Roman Empire.

“We, too, must be startled out of the urge to quietly accept the violence we see inflicted on others in our community and our nation. May we never let these mass shootings become normalized. We pray with Jesus that we may be one in unity and strength. We pray that we may be like Paul and Silas, who disturb the false peace of magistrates and child traffickers, and that when we, too, are persecuted for following Jesus, we sing hymns to God and worship even in shackles, bound in the center of the prison. And that we may be witnesses of God breaking the shackles and chains to save lives.”

HAIKU CORNER

By Lex Lutheran

MAKE PASTOR TOM PROUD

We'll have subs preaching and playing Sunday. Let's all be there to greet them.



ST. STEPHEN FIELD TRIP

The next time Hector visits Scandinavia, we can tag along.



SO MANY DUMB SUNBURNS

If I could advise my 16-year-old self, I'd shout: “Where's your sunscreen?”



MORE MIDWEEK UPDATES



- The OWLs' next lunch outing is set for 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 14, at Panda Buffet, 3507 Thomasville Road. This will be the last one until the fall. RSVP to Margaret Bowers at ambowersfl@gmail.com or 407-921-8671.
- FYI, the CDC provides weekly updates of communities' COVID levels. As of this morning Leon County is rated Medium. Here's how they measure it: "new COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population in the past 7 days, the percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients, and total new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days." To see for yourself, search online for COVID-19 County Check.



- The Celebration of Life service for Bobbi Schiffer is set for 11 a.m. Saturday, June 11, followed by a reception.
- Have any questions for our Church Council members? They're listed on our website, <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/about-us>.
- 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 BIRTHDAYS

Bevin Reardon - 06/03
Billie Reardon - 06/03
Billy Oates - 06/14
Tim Larson - 06/16
Martin Guttenplan - 06/19
Ruth Hartung - 06/23
Steve Kunst - 06/23
Sandy Davis - 06/28

UPCOMING DATES

This Sunday, June 5:

10 a.m. - Worship with communion, Day of Pentecost



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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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.
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