



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter

ECHO *We still need you!*
BACK TO SCHOOL CLOTHING DRIVE



Our Kids are headed back to school in August. Would you join ECHO in providing clothing and supplies. See Andrea Notley for additional details to help us NOW!
 phone: 850-443-5293 or notley90@comcast.net

HERE'S THE LATEST ON THE SANCTUARY PROJECT

By Pastor Tom

As I write this on Wednesday, we have completed the third walk-through with a potential general contractor. Each company is excited about our project, and two out of the three have worked with our engineer from Kever-McKee. One general contractor scheduled a second visit to inspect the connections at the truss with a scissor lift. Specifically, it was a close inspection of the connection at the “glulam beam” underneath the windows with the engineer present. The engineer and the general contractor worked out the details and plans for the project as I listened.



Two out of the three contractors can get started immediately upon approval of the architectural plans and their bid! We're so pleased to be at this point and on the verge of the project coming to fruition.

Once construction work begins, we'll be moving our worship to the fellowship hall. We'll continue to live-stream from the fellowship hall but believe we'll be able to accommodate safely up to 50 people for in-person worship.

We're waiting for the electrical engineer's drawings to be added to the 100% Construction Documents. Then everything will go to the Building Design Team, and then to the Church Council for final approval. At that time, we'll be able to issue an official “call to bid” to each general contractor.

The Council and the Building Design Team hope to present a clear expense estimate for the entire project from the selected general contractor by our July 18 congregational meeting. We give thanks to God and for the generous financial gifts given to make this project blessed and possible!

PICTURE, PLEASE

Every congregation needs a good, up-to-date photo directory, right? So we're starting to construct one. It'll be online, easy to revise as members and friends come and go. And, of course, we need your help! Office Manager Lori Zengel wants you to send her a recent photo of you or your family. Don't be camera-shy, please! A photo directory is a Godsend for new people ... as well as those of us older folks who sometimes have a hard time connecting names and faces. Lori's contact info is at the bottom of this newsletter. Thank you.



IT'S A BOY!

Kate Stuart and Blair LaPete welcomed Landon Stuart LaPete into the world Monday morning. Delighted grandma Cheryl Stuart reports that Landon weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces and was 20.5 inches long. "Big sister Emma Griffin will get to meet Landon this weekend," Cheryl writes, "when she comes back up to Tallahassee from Miami (where she completed kindergarten with flying colors)! Kate and baby are recovering in the normal course. Thanks be to God!"



'WHO IS THIS, THAT THE WIND AND SEA OBEY HIM?': EXCERPT FROM SUNDAY'S SERMON

"... Jesus goes just as he is, traveling light and traveling at night across a very large lake that has the tendency to produce violent storms rather quickly. One can almost sense the disciples' vulnerability and worry, but there is also courage and trust....

"Mark [writes] that 'other boats were with him.' I am not sure if I ever noticed that before. It is not just the boat with Jesus and the disciples going to the other side. Others are following Him, too, in different boats....

"[S]ometimes we feel like Jesus is asleep and not caring about the struggles we're going through. But we are reminded of the truth today. With Jesus these storms can be calmed on cosmic scales. Jesus is just as faithful today at work rebuking unclean authorities and forces working against life. Those other boats that were with Jesus and the disciples – ... the storm was quieted and calmed for them, too....



"Notice he did not say, 'Don't be afraid' or 'Have no fear,' ... just a straightforward question, 'Why are you afraid?' It gets to the heart of each one of us, and it is the key to this sermon and to knowing who Jesus is. Jesus is someone who can turn our fear into faith. And like the disciples, we will be in 'great awe' to witness the things God can do when we follow Christ to the other side and allow our vulnerabilities to be seen...."

'ME – A CUP MINISTER?'

Now that in-person worship is increasing again, worship coordinator Beth Alexander is putting out a call for more worship assistants – especially cup ministers. In case you're new to this terminology: Cup ministers have no speaking part. They simply distribute the wine during communion. Assisting ministers often speak some of the common prayers, so it's a more active role during the service. Either way, your duties are only during the Sunday service – so it's easy to fit into your schedule. Questions? Contact Beth at bethalex411@gmail.com, or speak with her after the liturgy.



MISC.

- Pastor Tom will be out of the office through July 6. Pastor Jenn from Grace Lutheran Church will be available to provide pastoral care for us during his absence. She may be reached at pastorjenn@rocketmail.com or 570-764-5333.
- As some of you know, Nathan Basford is recovering from having his appendix removed last Wednesday. "The doctors and nurses continue to say I was fortunate that it had not ruptured," Nathan said. "Recovery is 2-3 weeks, so I'm taking it easy at Shady Pines Resort here in Jackson County. Want to thank those who have sent emails checking in on me. Don is doing well also."
- The church office is running low on the gas cards and Walmart cards we hand out to visitors who need assistance. If you're able, please help us out by donating some. Probably the \$10 cards are the best. Thanks.
- 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 2021 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

Stephanie Barber - 06/26
Sandy Davis - 06/28
Sarah Barton - 07/03
Kate Stuart - 07/03
Karl Barton - 07/04
Tom Buchanan - 07/13
Jonas Holdcraft - 07/15

UPCOMING DATES

This Sunday:

10 a.m. - Worship, Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Wednesday, June 30:

NO Bible study

Pastor Tom is on vacation through July 6.



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