



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



OUR TWO-HORSE, ONE-CAT FAMILY

By Sandy Larson

My mom and dad got me my first horse when I was 10 – a quarter-horse I named Misty. I had her until I went to college at 18. My dad then found a great farm for her, and for years I visited her whenever I was home in Ames, Iowa.

My two current horses are Bud and Po (the black-and-white one). Bud is 28, and I've had him since he was 3. He's retired from riding. I've had Po for just over a year, and he's the one I ride. Living in a pasture a few yards from the house, they're fun to watch every day.

Taking care of them is similar to doing farm chores. I give them pellets and hay morning and evening and beet pulp in the afternoon, rain or shine. Tim helps sometimes. There's also poop to scoop and old hay to haul away.

I feel so fortunate that I've had another chance in life to have horses. I've learned so much more about them – mostly patience, kindness and camaraderie. Sandy Sampson, Jennifer Buchanan and I went to several clinics in past years where horse-trainer/whisperer folks taught how horses think and learn. We also read a lot of books.

These are truly amazing and forgiving animals. We ask our 1-ton horses to walk into a metal box with tires and let us drive them around. We ask them to stand still while a stranger clips and files their hooves. We ask them to stand still while we put a 20- to 30-pound saddle on their back. We put a bridle over their head with a piece of metal in their mouth. Then we climb on top and ask them to go where we want.

Why do we have two horses? They're herd animals, so they're much happier living with another horse, a mule or a donkey than living alone.

Much smaller than our horses but just as dear is Princess, our sweet, all-black, fluffy, 18-year-old kitty. We got her from my daughter years ago because her husband was allergic to Princess. Whenever I'm sitting, my lap is where she wants to be. We love having her around.



I'm so thankful for this gift of horses, friends and kitties.

This is the latest in our St. Stephen's Pets series. Got a pet story for us? Please send it to Office Manager Lori. Her contact information is below.

HUMANS WHO CARE: A GLIMPSE BEHIND THE SCENES

by Caroline Collins

About a year ago, I joined the local chapter of 100 Women Who Care (100 WWC). What attracted me was its simple, straightforward approach to meeting community needs through established nonprofit organizations. Every quarter, I get to help select our worthy beneficiary through a democratic vote following brief pitch presentations by the three candidates, and contribute my tax-deductible pledge of \$100. One hour, four times a year, to do the business at hand. No fluff, secret passwords or shenanigans.



Here's how a meeting looks. Check in and receive a ballot. Find a seat (or watch via Zoom). Hear a brief yet exuberant report from the last quarter's winner on how the money was spent and its impact, followed by concise yet urgent pitches from each of the three current contenders. Consider the Q-and-A segment. Vote. Meditate, or maybe socialize, while votes are counted. Cheer the winner, and go home. Boom. Done.

In May, I got to tour the Capital City Youth Services residential home along with other members of 100 WWC for our ceremonial check presentation. CCYS received the most recent quarter's grant, a boost of over \$26,000. Since it's a program our church supports, I shared the story and pictures with St. Stephen's Outreach Committee and invited them to consider joining 100 WWC. To my delight, Barbara Ehlmann said she'd long been interested in this group, and she's joining. I have no doubt she'll enjoy participating in this group and nominating projects close to her own heart, like Lutheran Social Services' car-seat program.

I recently submitted a nomination for Habitat for Humanity's Women Build project, which is still far short of our \$85,000 goal. Happily, it was chosen as one of the three candidates to be considered at our Aug. 4 meeting at Saint Paul's United Methodist Church. Please wish us luck.



I hope more members of our congregation will be inspired to join. Learn more at <https://www.100wwctlh.org/>. Download a registration form, email co-founder Virginia Glass at 100wwctlh@gmail.com or call her at 850-599-2645. Recently a 100 Men Who Care group was formed in Tallahassee. If you identify more with that group, contact Jim Wylie at fjameswylie@gmail.com for information.



THURSDAY NIGHT MUSIC CLUB

Tallahassee

So you've been itching to hear a little Sinatra, Beatles, jazz, funk, rock and Latin music? Good news: The 14th annual Thursday Night Music Club Jazz Showcase takes place at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 11, at Ruby Diamond Concert Hall. If you've heard this Big Band before, you remember how much fun you had listening to Tom Buchanan and his fellow musicians. If you've never heard them, this is your moment.

Tickets are just \$15. You can buy them from Tom, or you can buy them online: <https://thursdaynightmusic.club/2022/06/14th-annual-jazz-showcase/>. Questions? Ask Tom or contact tnmcband@gmail.com.

A SHOEBOX REQUEST

Terri Schmitt, a science teacher at Success Academy, is all about "reduce, reuse, recycle." So now she's seeking recycled items for her school's art teacher. She has a pretty long list, but right now her top priority is shoeboxes. "We will be painting and decorating them for project boxes for my 3D art class," the art teacher told Terri.



So ... do you have any shoeboxes gathering dust at your house? Willing to share them for art's sake? Terri's setting up a box in the fellowship hall for these donations. Thanks in advance.

PRAYING WITH CONFIDENCE: EXCERPT FROM PASTOR McKIBBEN'S SERMON

... In a world that is weighted down with evil and sorrow, with a cruel war in Ukraine, with the pressing effects of climate change, with increasing poverty and hunger, with increasing anger and violence, with personal pain and disappointment, how do we keep hope that God's name and reputation of love and justice will be honored or that God's agenda or rule will be realized? We know that people despair of prayer – and say they are sick of "thoughts and prayers" when yet another mass shooting occurs or unretractable climate-change effects insult our planet. I know I can identify with that despondency.

And perhaps that is why Jesus taught us to pray relationally, feeling our connection with the Great God of this vast universe as did Mary who sat at Jesus' feet. And to pray with hope, believing – as he taught the disciples in the parable and teachings that follow this prayer in Luke's Gospel – that God wants to answer our prayers, so keep asking, seeking and knocking. Keep yearning for God and his ways.

According to Lutheran scholar and professor David Lowe, in Verse 8 of Luke 11, the Greek word *anaideia*, which is often translated as "impudence" or "persistence," is actually better rendered as "shamelessness" and so implies a boldness that comes from familiarity. Lowe also says that "asking, seeking and knocking" has been interpreted as a call to persistence – but it might be more helpful, he suggests, to read Jesus' instruction as inviting trust – ask, search, knock *expectantly*, confident that you will receive that for which you ask, confident that prayer matters....

HAIKU CORNER

By Lex Lutheran

I TRIED NOT TO WAKE YOU, BUT...

That one floor tile in
the kitchen always goes “pop.”
Even on tiptoe.



I TRIED NOT TO WAKE YOU, BUT...

The wrappers on those
granola bars, before dawn,
crackle like fireworks.

I TRIED NOT TO WAKE YOU, BUT...

Thought I'd make muffins.
The muffin tin hides under
rude cookie sheets. Oops.



MORE MIDWEEK UPDATES

- We'll be welcoming Pastor Tom back to the pulpit this Sunday. We pray that the Holdcrafts had a rejuvenating vacation.
- Guess what we're running low on? Publix cards and gas cards, says Lori. Those little cards – in \$10 and \$20 denominations – are invaluable for Pastor Tom when people in need come to our door. Maybe you can put “Publix cards” on your grocery list, then drop them into the offering plate or mail them to St. Stephen. Bless you.
- Have any questions for our Church Council members? They're listed on our website, <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/about-us>. Also, remember that Council meetings are open to everyone.



- 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

- Ben Claussen - 07/29
- Astrid van der Mark - 08/02
- Doug Mann - 08/06
- Sharon Simmons - 08/09
- Caroline Collins - 08/14
- Val Sullivan - 08/17
- Marilyn Larson - 08/22
- Jerry Harrison - 08/24
- Andrea Notley - 08/26
- Susan Warren - 08/26
- Melissa Barton - 08/27



UPCOMING DATES

This Sunday, July 31:

9 a.m. - Book study

10 a.m. - Worship with communion, Eighth Sunday after Pentecost /
Noisy offering



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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