

August 18, 2022



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



BE CAMERA-READY ON SEPT. 25

Before COVID slithered in, we did a so-so job of taking congregational photos – sometimes on our congregational anniversary. As far as I can tell, the last one we took was in 2018, the one you see above. Boy, lots of faces have come and gone since then.

Time to take a new one! We've lined up ace photographer Colin Hackley for Sunday, Sept. 25. We're hoping to wait until right after the liturgy, ditch the masks, line up in the shade of the oak tree in front of the church, smile and make instant history. (Maybe we can even figure out how to get Colin in the picture this time.)

So please make plans to be here Sept. 25, right around 11:15 a.m. We want your lovely Lutheran face to be part of this St. Stephen portrait.



A NOTE OF THANKS FROM JERRY'S FAMILY

The Ness family extends their heartfelt appreciation for all the thoughts, prayers, cards and support the congregation has given them. Thank you to the many members who came to Jerry's service, and lifted Sandy and Jennifer during such a difficult time. Jerry is smiling down on all of us. *(Seated during Monday's service at Tallahassee National Cemetery were, from left, Sandy Ness, daughter Jennifer Ault and granddaughter Katie Black)*

WE COULD USE YOUR COUNTING HELP

Can you spare half an hour or so, every couple of months? There's a role you can play that's not as high-profile as Altar Guild or lector but every bit as



important. We're talking about the people who pair up to count our financial offerings. It used to be more time-consuming than it is now. Thanks to COVID, many members have begun sending in their offerings electronically. So our counters count just the paper envelopes that people bring in on Sunday or mail in during the week.

If you're a rookie counter, you'll be teamed up with an experienced one. Yes, you may count the offerings immediately after the liturgy, but if it's easier for you to count during the week, that's fine. What's more, the current counters keep working on ways to make the process more efficient.

Does that sound like a way you can serve St. Stephen? If you have any questions, Office Manager Lori will answer them – or refer you to a counting veteran. Lori's contact information is below.

ST. STEPHEN PETS: THE NOTLEY HERD

By Andrea Notley



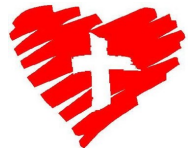
In July 2021, my husband Todd and I acquired four additions to our family: We went to a farm outside Lake City and purchased four Belted Galloway cattle. They're smaller than average but not considered miniature and have a white stripe around their stomach that looks like a belt. That's how they got their name. We have a bull, a gentle giant named Titus; two heifers, Bossey and Nelly;

and a calf named Little Bitsy. Then, a few weeks ago, Bossey had a calf, so now we have five. We love our Belted Galloways!

WHAT'S NEW AT LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES?

Our friends at LSSNF have been busy this summer. Executive Director Dottie Hinkle reports, "On Aug. 10, we broke our previous record of car seats delivered in a single year. We delivered car seat No. 81 to Bond Community Health Center for a young couple who were expecting their first child in a few days."

In addition, she said, LSSNF participated in three parent-community resource fairs at Neighborhood Health Center locations in Frenchtown and Southside, distributing safety-seat awareness information and "LOOK BEFORE YOU LOCK" stickers to remind parents to always check the back seat.



Plus, there's a new LSSNF board member who's a former St. Stephen member: Debra Meyer, who moved to Central Florida years ago but recently moved back. The retired CPA will be the board's new treasurer.

Dottie says LSSNF's next fundraising event is set for 6:30 p.m. Sept. 22 at Publix's Aprons Cooking School, 3521 Thomasville Road. The theme will be Classic French Cooking, with chef demonstrations for French onion soup, ratatouille, boeuf bourguignon, creamy gruyere potatoes, and vanilla bean crème brûlée. Complementary wines are included with each course. (This is the way you eat every night, right?) The cost is \$100 per person or \$180 per couple. For more information or to buy tickets, email Dottie at info@lssnf.org by Sept. 19.

TURNING OUR RECYCLABLES INTO ART



Attention, class! You've done an excellent job of donating shoeboxes for the art teacher at Terri Schmitt's school, where kids are getting creative with them. Your next assignment is to donate clean, empty glass jars and bottles. Any size, shape or color. Bring them to the fellowship hall, please. Bless you, boys and girls.

'FIRE OF LOVE': EXCERPT FROM PASTOR'S SERMON

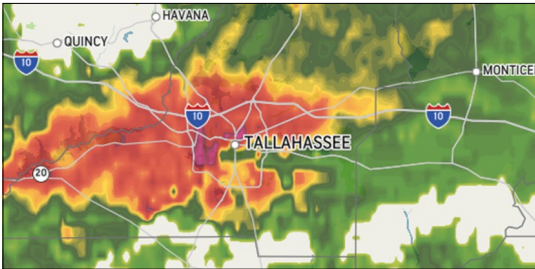
... Jesus' fire is not like a comfortable and safe fire burning in a hearth. It is a light that leads to action and service; one that cleanses and refines; hurts and heals. A fire of love that burns away complacency and avoidance, melts self-preservation and our false senses of control.

Today the urgent call comes to the church, to all of us.... Do we know how to interpret the present time? With our hearts tested, God's Spirit is revealed.

Beloved, do you know how important you are to bringing about Christ's vision for the world?

HAIKU CORNER

By Lex Lutheran

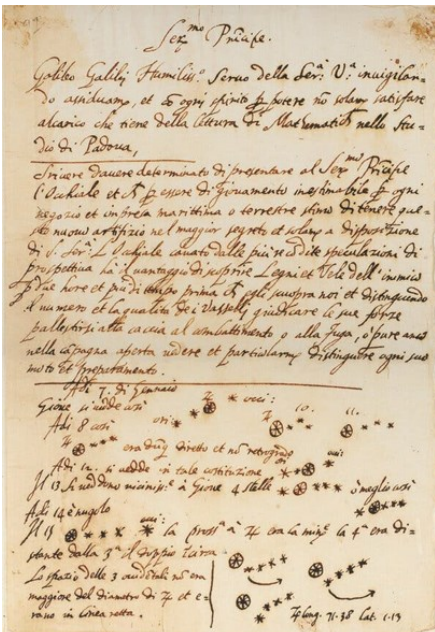


DISTANT RUMBLING

4 o'clock thunder,
right on cue. A summer's day
in Tallahassee.

BEFORE MOST OF US KNEW HIM

Jerry Ness, fresh-faced,
proud in his uniform, young
and eager to serve.



NOT A TREASURE AFTER ALL

So, clever forgers
faked a Galileo. Sigh.
Such talent, wasted.

MORE MIDWEEK UPDATES

- One more update from triumphant traveler Janet Barber, who rhapsodized in last week's newsletter about summers in Washington state: "Right now, I expect to return to Tally mid-October, but Jim is planning to attend a spiritual retreat in Scotland the first couple of weeks in early October. That may change my plans. Jim, Anna, my sister (Lois) and I are traveling to Norway next week."



- Fearless Ann Hingst recently traveled to Costa Rica – where, among many other things, she went ziplining through the forest!



- 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



Marilyn Larson - 08/22
Jerry Harrison - 08/24
Andrea Notley - 08/26
Susan Warren - 08/26
Melissa Barton - 08/27
Martha Marky - 09/08
Sarah Rumph - 09/08
Greta Langley - 09/09
Bryon Ehlmann - 09/11
Aaron Halvorson - 09/14
Ron Hartung - 09/14

UPCOMING DATES

This Sunday, August 21:

- 9 a.m.** - Documentary: "A Time for Burning" in Fellowship hall
10 a.m. - Worship, Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
11 a.m. - Council meeting



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

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