



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

You've gotta love it when a plant's name clearly describes what you see. Take these two, for instance. On the left is the foxtail fern, living in a Lutheran front yard; any fox would be proud to have such a fluffy tail. On the right is the beautyberry, found along a SouthWood trail; who can argue with that name? Thank you, God, for this berry-beautiful world.

HERE'S OUR CONTRACTOR, ESTIMATE AND FINAL PLEA

By Pastor Tom

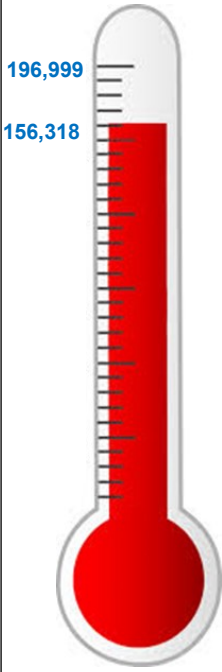
With excitement and joy, I announce that our general contractor has been selected and approved by the Bid Review Team and the Church Council. OliverSperry Renovation presented the most concise and competitive estimate to complete the repair and renovation of our sanctuary. The company's past work with other churches, its fine reputation and its ability to listen to our specific needs made this a simple decision.



The estimate from OliverSperry is \$163,383. That price includes repairing the initial roof-thrust problem by removing wooden crossbeams and installing steel rods and brackets; replacing clerestory windows; repairing uneven concrete; replacing carpet in the entire sanctuary; installing vinyl wood plank in the sacristy; rewiring church lighting and switches; installing new light fixtures; replacing five exterior doors; painting all drywall; and completing a few other smaller projects. St. Stephen purchased the light fixtures and bulbs on our own to save delivery time and money, at a cost of \$13,623. The total cost of the project is \$196,999, when the light fixtures and bulbs are added together with the architect's fee of \$19,993.

Here are the numbers:

- Total cost: \$196,999
- Total donations received: \$132,868
- Funds pledged but not yet received: \$23,450
- Funds needed to complete the project: \$40,681



This is our Capital Campaign challenge: to raise \$40,681 by Thanksgiving to meet the current construction bid. A few donors have been waiting for the general contractor’s selection and bid. We humbly present these figures, our general contractor’s bid – and here we stand. Please, if you are able and have been waiting, come to the table with an offering designated for these needed repairs and renovations to our church.

As for the timeline, we’re now at the mercy of the permitting department. We hope to get our permits in 30 days, but it could take as long as 90 days. Once the work begins, OliverSperry thinks it’ll take 30 days or less. When the timeline becomes clear, we’ll schedule that workday for clearing out the sanctuary and setting up the fellowship hall as our temporary worship space.

The finish line is in sight, and together we’ll cross it, with arms raised in praise to our God.

COMMUNION TIME

By Pastor Tom

We’ll share in the Lord’s Supper this Sunday. If you plan to come to the parking lot to livestream-worship and receive the body and blood of Christ, please get out of your car at the appropriate time and stand safely distanced near the large oak tree. If you want to stay in your car, then park in a single-file line beginning at the columbarium so we can find you easily. We’re excited to see our parking-lot worshippers, so feel free to stay after service and greet one another safely outside.



FROM A GRATEFUL PASTOR/PATIENT

Dear St. Stephen,

Thank you for the numerous cards, texts, phone calls and even balloons to cheer me after my eye surgery. I’m finally back in the office but limited in driving and lengthy reading. Healing can be a slow process! No doubt, the Lord is teaching me patience. Thank you for reminding me of how our community members care for each other. In blessed healing,

Pastor Tom



WHY WE WORSHIP: THE REECE FAMILY

This is the second installment in our new series asking members not only why they worship at St. Stephen but why they worship at all. Last week we heard from Erin Kenney, who passed the baton to Jen, Chris, Graham and Elliot Reece. Here’s what Chris and Jen wrote:

“We were drawn to St. Stephen years ago as a place to connect with our ELCA roots (along with connecting with other displaced Midwesterners). We feel truly at home at St. Stephen, and we are grateful to be a part of a community that works hard to serve others, while providing such a great place for our boys to grow in their faith.”

CENTURIES BEFORE OUR PANDEMIC...

(Passed along by Mark Heidorn, member of Grace Lutheran)

Martin Luther wrote this during the bubonic plague of the 1500s: "I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I will fumigate, purify the air, administer medicine, and take medicine. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order to not become contaminated, and thus perchance inflict and pollute others, and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me. But, I have done what he has expected of me, and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me, however, I shall not avoid place or person, but will go freely. This is a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy, and does not tempt God."



MUFFLED WORSHIP

By Lex Lutheran

You've heard people clap with gloves on? That's how singing through masks in church sounds.



MORE MIDWEEK UPDATES

- Once again, Terri Schmitt is asking for your old newspapers. In fact, anytime you think of it, Terri would like you to drop off old papers. There's even a labeled shelf for them in the pantry now.
- Nathan Basford thanks the people who've offered to help him with yardwork Sept. 18.
- Susan Hehn made a memorable debut as psalm soloist last Sunday. Upon receiving a note of thanks, she replied: "It's good to have a place to serve at St. Stephen." We all know that feeling.
- Thanks to the post-Isabel cantors who have served us so well: Kirsten Ebbesen, Rita Ford, Jake Hartung, Susan Hehn, Sandy Larson and Cassandra White.
- Any Leon County resident in need of food is welcome at the Good News Outreach Food Pantry, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesdays and 8-2 Thursdays at 548 E. Bradford Road. Monthly food delivery to seniors is available on a limited basis. Volunteer opportunities are available for individuals and small groups. Details: 850-412-0016 or www.Goodnewsoutreach.org.



- 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



Martha Marky - 09/08
Sarah Rumph - 09/08
Greta Langley - 09/09
Bryon Ehlmann - 09/11
Aaron Halvorson - 09/14
Ron Hartung - 09/14
Jerry Ness - 09/14
Mary Nesmith - 09/22
Ceilia Greeley - 09/23
Violet Greeley - 09/23
Kirsten Matthis - 09/23
Connie Taylor - 09/24
Doug Bagnall - 09/26
Laura Kimel - 09/28
Sue Williams - 09/28
Hilary Dennis - 09/30
Don Dowd - 09/30
Melody Duke - 09/30
Jeanette Sickel - 09/30

UPCOMING DATES

This Sunday:

10 a.m. - Worship with communion, Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Thursday, September 9:

Noon - Bible study (online)



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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