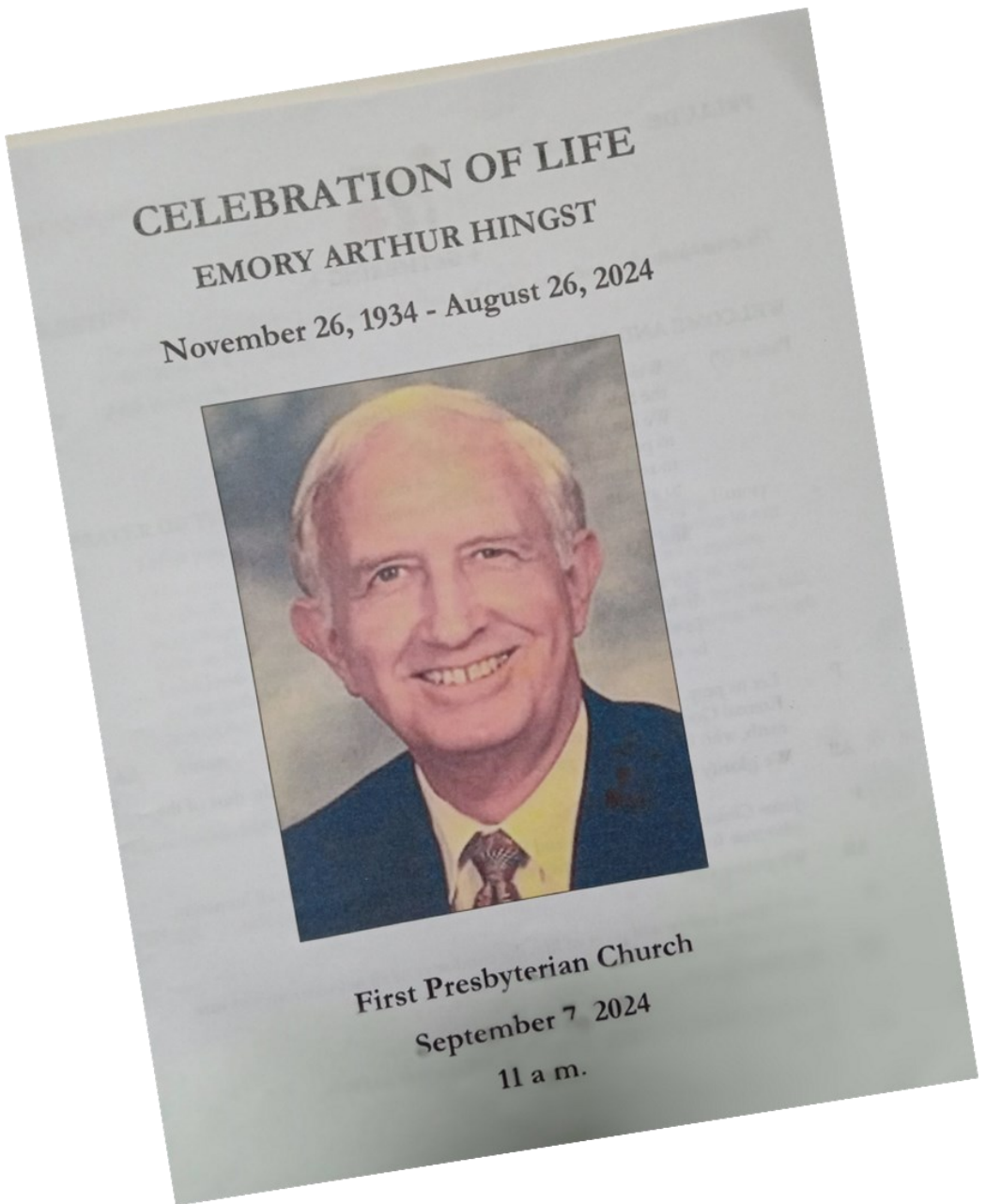




ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



OUR PASTOR EMERITUS

An estimated 250 people gathered in First Presbyterian Church on Saturday morning to honor one of the finest men they knew, the Rev. Emory Hingst. The people of St. Stephen – too many to name – turned out in droves and (with much assistance from the good people of First Pres) took care of the organizing, much of the music, the ushering, the food, the preaching, the eulogy and more. But even though he was our pastor for 23 years, Emory didn't belong just to us. The whole community loved him. Pastor Tom and Ann Hingst quickly realized that St. Stephen's worship space would be too small to accommodate Emory's army. As it turned out, First Pres was perfect. So was everything else.

If you couldn't be there and want to experience it, or if you were there and want to experience it again, it's easy. On our website, thanks to Office Manager Lori, there's a drop-down menu under "More" that includes "St. Stephen People." Here's the link to go straight to it: <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/st-stephen-people>. There you'll find the video of Emory's Celebration of Life service; the wonderful slideshow; Emory's obituary; the Candace McKibben profile of Emory from Sunday's paper; Pastor Tom's sermon from that service; and the eulogy.

Emory was the best, God bless him, and so was his sendoff.

'SO LONG FOR NOW': EXCERPT FROM PR. TOM'S SERMON FOR EMORY'S MEMORIAL SERVICE

... It's no surprise that as I go back to review the Bible lessons that Emory wanted us to read at this service, I notice he's selected a portion of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Powerful images of the meek inheriting the earth, the people who hunger and thirst for justice are being filled, the merciful receive mercy, the peacemakers are called children of God, and the pure in heart ... see God.

Would Pastor Emory see himself in receiving these blessings? No way, he was far too humble for that. I think he had a different reason for these great lessons. He selected these verses to remind us that we still have work to do and places to walk. We celebrate today his freedom. He is untied and set free. We celebrate his life with us on earth and the eternal life he's now dwelling in. And we say, "So long for now, good friend. So long for now."

At the same time, Jesus says, "Welcome home, friend. Well done. Come, you that are spoken well of by God – inherit the place prepared for you."

SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

The lovely dedication of the altar flowers in last Sunday's bulletin was unusual: It was anonymous. It read: "Today's altar flowers are donated (anonymously) in gratitude for a 'Jacqueline' of all trades, and master of them all, named Rita Ford." Rita was touched and wrote this reply.

To my dearest anonymous sister/brother in Christ: Thank you for the beautiful flowers that were donated to "Jacqueline." I feel so blessed. I really do enjoy serving my church and hope to continue. I just want to say we are fortunate to have lots of "Jacquelines" in our church!



Want to honor someone with altar flowers? See the details below under "Before you go...."

WHY THEY DO WHAT THEY DO AT KidSAFE

By Dottie Hinkle, executive director

Nancee was several months' pregnant when the restaurant she was working at closed without warning. Faced with the difficulty of finding a new job while obviously pregnant, she was conserving every penny. All of her living expenses had to be prioritized. Paying the rent, putting food on the table and keeping the car running had to be the priorities. A child safety seat for the baby was not in the plan. After all, she was a safe driver and had never been involved in a crash. UNTIL...

One day when she was coming home from a doctor's appointment, a drunk driver ran a stoplight and plowed into her car. She had some facial fractures and lots of bruises. But everything else in the car either landed on the floor or went through the windshield. Pregnant, hurt and frightened, she reached out for help to one of our partner agencies. The first thing she asked about was a safety seat for her unborn child. Now, her priorities had to include keeping her baby safe.





KidSafe was able to provide a brand-new safety seat for Jeremy's arrival so that they could begin their journey as a family safely. Nancee has found a new job and Jeremy is attending a child-care center where he has lots of attention and is learning how to share...most of the time. He loves riding there in his "special seat" while playing with his toes.

Nancee and Jeremy represent just one of the 166 families who have received safety seats through the KidSafe program this year, and we still have several months to go. In a typical week, some safety seats are for families who are arriving in Tallahassee to begin a new life after enduring unbelievable situations around the world, some are for local soon-to-be parents, and others are for families who are transitioning from an infant safety seat to a forward-facing safety seat because their toddlers have outgrown their "baby" seat. All of these families are struggling financially but want to give their children the best start in life.

Every single week in the U.S., 15 children die, 142 are hospitalized and 1,926 are treated in emergency rooms as a result of vehicle crashes (CDC, 2022). We believe that no child or family should have to experience that kind of pain when it could have been prevented. And it is largely preventable. The use of child safety seats can reduce fatalities by 71% for infants and 54% for toddlers. Our vision is that every child has a safe ride to services and experiences that allow the child to flourish. That is why KidSafe [where our own Barbara Ehlmann is president] provides new, appropriate safety seats to infants and young children in families living with low incomes in our community.

We hope you will consider supporting our program by donating and by telling friends about what we do. Checks should be made out to KidSafe and mailed to PO Box 1254, Tallahassee, FL 32302. You may also donate at www.kidsafebigbend.org. It takes all of us to meet the needs of our children and keep them safe as they grow into healthy adults.



Friendship Star Quilters 2024 Quilt Show



Tropical Splendor

Nov. 1, 10 am - 6 pm

Nov. 2, 10 am - 4 pm

Tallahassee Elks Lodge

276 N Magnolia Dr
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Quilts, Vendors, Boutique, Baskets, Peddlers Table,
Scrap Splash and more!

Drawing November 2, 2024

Website: www.friendshipstarquilters.com

Email: friendshipstarquiltersfl@gmail.com

Facebook: Friendship Star Quilters

BEFORE YOU GO...

- The quilt show promoted above is organized by the quilter group that uses our fellowship hall monthly. We're invited to their event.
- At some of our Open Forum sessions, people have wished aloud that St. Stephen had a YouTube page. Well, we do now, thanks to Pastor Tom. Office Manager Lori has linked to it from our website: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCx33YC1xs9oDU6sl-6Q0VtQ> Just a couple of items there so far. It's a start....



Master Gardener Ruth Hartung and her dirt-under-the-fingernails assistant love to spend the morning hours looking out on the birds, bees, butterflies, bunnies and other residents of their backyard garden. It's the second week of September, so the plants (like the assistant gardener) are not nearly as photogenic as they used to be. Well, except for this hibiscus – quite the overachiever, a gift from God as the summer days count down. How does *your* garden grow? Have any photos to share?

- If you have an anniversary, birthday, special memory or special St. Stephen person or program you'd like to honor, celebrate by sponsoring the altar flowers for our service. Sign up on the flower chart, out by the name tags, or ask Lori to sign you up. Include the \$40 with your regular offering. And then take the flowers home!



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Aaron Halvorson - 09/14

Ron Hartung - 09/14

Ceilia Greeley - 09/23

Violet Greeley - 09/23

Kirsten Matthis - 09/23

Sue Williams - 09/28

Jeanette Sickel - 09/30

COMING UP

Today:

Noon - Al-Anon meets in fellowship hall (FH)

7 p.m. - AA meets in FH

This Friday:

9:30 a.m. - TOPS meets in FH

This Sunday:

9 a.m. - Book study

9:30 a.m. - Choir practice

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

11:30 a.m. - Council meeting

4 p.m. - Congolese Christian worship in FH



Monday, September 16:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in FH

7 p.m. - TIMA meets in FH

Wednesday, September 18:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in FH

7 p.m. - Choir practice



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