



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



Here are your church pals who made it to the OWLs lunch Tuesday. From left: Caroline Collins, Janet Barber, Linda Eshleman, organizer Margaret Bowers, Barbara Sullivan, Ron Hartung, Bob Eshleman, Emily Jennings, Ridy Hofer and Billie Reardon. Later, that chair between Linda and Margaret was filled by Debee Meyer. (Photo by the kind waiter)

FIRST A WORKDAY, THEN A PICNIC



Time to mark your calendar. This Saturday, from 8 to 10 a.m., we're having a workday in St. Stephen's yard. The weather should be pleasant – and so should the weed-pulling Lutherans around you. You might want to bring a hat, gloves, bug spray and water. In addition, says Building & Grounds guy Jake Hartung, you might want to bring one or more of these if you have them: hand pruners, loppers, a hand saw, a weed eater, a blower, and either a small outdoor trash can or a wheelbarrow to collect debris.

A week from Sunday, right after church, we're moving tables and chairs outside and having a BBQ picnic. Nothing to bring – the food will be provided for you (including vegetarian alternatives to BBQ). There'll be games to play, of course. And when you leave, you'll probably get to take leftovers with you. No need to RSVP. Just show up!

HERE'S TO YOU, MR. ROBINSON

When Erik Robinson says he enjoys listening to early music, he doesn't mean pre-Beatles. He means pre-Mozart. Specifically, he's fond of the period from 1400 to 1700.

He's an interesting man, this newest member of ours. A Tallahassee resident since 1984, Erik is an archivist at the Florida Supreme Court Library and curator of the library's rare-book room. His interests include leading tours through Tallahassee's Old City Cemetery; reading up on Tallahassee and Florida history; reading about (and touring sites important in) religious history; and practicing yoga.

Erik was raised a Missouri Synod Lutheran but, since 1999, has been in the ELCA. So far, what he particularly appreciates about St. Stephen is its balance between studying the Word and putting it into practice.

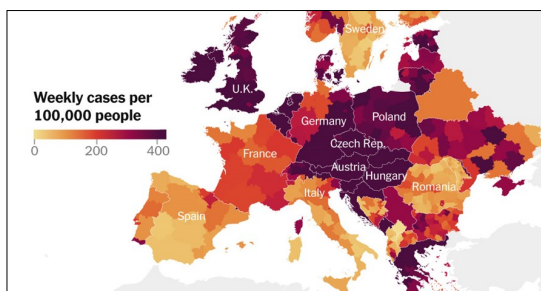


What a blessing that Erik has chosen us. Please make him feel welcome.

'THANKS FOR DOING YOUR PART'

By Audrey Post, communications coordinator

First, Monday's COVID update from the FSU College of Medicine: "Just when you thought it was safe to put aside your masks ... there's a new COVID surge in Europe, with increasing numbers of severe illness, hospitalizations and deaths. If history holds for this, the U.S could follow a similar pattern in a month or so. One main theory is that the shift into fall weather (and fall behaviors) is contributing to the surge, because it's not a new variant. However, there are a host of new variants identified. The clear message: get your booster and flu vaccines ASAP. The best protection is vaccination – and less than 40% of the U.S. population has received a booster."



If I may offer my perspective as a person (very slightly) over 65 who has battled cancer twice in the past five years: COVID-19 isn't going away, and we have to learn to live with it. Influenza used to kill hundreds, if not thousands, of people each year before flu shots became widely available. Yes, people still die from the flu, but few who have been vaccinated against it. Let's approach COVID the same way and get vaccinated and boosted to protect ourselves and those around us as we adjust to the new normal. It's great to see faces again at church now that we no longer require masks. I look forward to ditching my mask as soon as I get the "all clear" that my latest round of treatments was successful. We need to remember that we're all in this together, and not getting vaccinated and boosted isn't just a personal choice. Not getting a tetanus shot after cutting yourself on a rusty nail is a personal choice, because if you get tetanus, the rest of us can't catch it from you. The same can't be said for COVID. Thanks for doing your part to keep us all safe!

REACHING OUT IN OUR COMMUNITY

By Sharon Simmons, outreach coordinator

- Our Ministry Minute speaker this Sunday will be St. Stephen's own Caroline Collins, sharing information on the upcoming Habitat for Humanity build. Then get your change ready for Sunday the 23rd, when the Noisy Offering children come around to collect for Habitat. (Did you know that Pastor Emeritus Emory Hingst was instrumental in bringing Habitat for Humanity to Tallahassee?)
- Don't forget to save plastic cutlery from your take-out dinners and give it to Karen Olson for use by homeless residents who are fed in her neighborhood.
- For the teenage clients of CCYS-Going Places, consider donating backpack-ready snacks, sanitary supplies and toiletries, long-sleeve shirts, sweatshirts, heavy jackets, twin-size sheets (for their residential program), sleeping bags, blankets, reusable water bottles and laundry detergent. Or send a check to CCYS-Going Places, 2407 Roberts Ave., Tallahassee, FL 32310, ATTN: Justin Barfield.
- Our sock drive with New Mount Zion AME Church will run through Sunday, Oct. 30. The Beta Phi Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma has adopted our drive and will be contributing socks, too.



- For Manna on Meridian, bring in clean T-shirts (medium or larger) to be made into reusable grocery bags.



IN THE HURRICANE'S WAKE

Many of our neighbors in Southwest Florida are still suffering from the after-effects of Hurricane Ian. So here's a quick reminder of a few ways you can help with financial gifts:



- To donate via St. Stephen, send gift cards for groceries, gas or building supplies to the church office.
- To donate via the Synod, visit <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z3JW/campaign/C-12VYY>.
- To donate via Lutheran Disaster Response, visit <https://www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response>.

NONSTOP THANKING: EXCERPT FROM PASTOR'S SERMON

... Worship is always linked to gratitude. We must be reminded of this. That is the big deal about this one leper who returns to Jesus. It wasn't just he who was healed. Ten called for help to get back in touch with life, family and faith. And all 10 received it, but only one returned to give thanks.

Our translation writes it as "He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him." That is, he falls face down at Jesus' feet and thanks Jesus – but "thanked" should not be past tense. It is in the present perfect in the Greek. Not a once-and-done. I know, I'm a word geek! But it matters. He fell at Jesus' feet *thanking* him. See the difference the *-ing* makes? A constant state of gratitude....

HAIKU CORNER

By Lex Lutheran

DOUBLE GLAZED



When Donut Kingdom
opened in our neighborhood,
we thought we would have...

... bear claws for breakfast!
Donut Ice Cream Sandwiches!
Daily! Turns out, we're...



... no donuttier
than before. Still, Ruth has dreams
about Boston Kremes.

MORE MIDWEEK UPDATES

- Coming up Nov. 6 is All Saints Day -- when, in worship, we name our loved ones who've passed away in the past year. Office Manager Lori is now accepting those names. Please email or call her by Wednesday, Nov. 2.
- Next week's newsletter will (if things go as planned) arrive a day early: Wednesday, Oct. 19. So your deadline for submitting items is Tuesday.
- Have any questions for our Church Council members? They're listed on our website, <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/about-us>.
- Have anything to add to a future newsletter? Email Lori at sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com or call 850-385-2728.



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

- Zach Bagnall - 10/17
- Isabel Barton - 10/19
- Val Kibler - 10/20
- Dave Suhrweir - 10/21
- Jim Sampson - 10/22
- Audrey Post - 10/24
- Barbara Ehlmann - 10/25
- Graham Reece - 10/26
- Bern Mustian - 10/30
- Jen Reece - 11/02



UPCOMING DATES

This Saturday, Oct. 15:

8 a.m. - Yard Workday

This Sunday, Oct. 16:

9 a.m. - Bible talk

9:30 a.m. - Choir practice

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

11:30 a.m. - Council meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 19:

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>.

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The Rev. Tom Holdcraft, Pastor

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