



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter

DEAR BISHOP SUAREZ...

In case you haven't seen our pastor lately, well, he's sporting a new look. Dollar-sign glasses. Lots of bling.

He'll tell you this costume was part of a children's sermon, about the perils of trying to be someone you're not. Hmm. We'll keep an eye on him.

(Photo by Cassandra White)



PLEDGE TIME; SIGN NEWS; THANKS

By Pastor Tom

PLEDGES: Suddenly, November is here. Soon we'll be collecting pledge cards for 2023. So please begin to prayerfully consider your planned contributions for the ministry of St. Stephen. This estimate of giving is vital information for our Church Council to begin preparing our budget. Our planned gifts are also vital for our own spiritual development and maturity. Cards will be available in the narthex this Sunday. You may drop yours into the collection plate at worship.

Those worshipping from home may call Office Manager Lori Zengel with your pledge; send her an email; or print out and mail the card that will be attached to an upcoming email. Thank you in advance for your generous stewardship and trust in God's mercy. *"Honor the*

Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce." (Proverbs 3:9)

OUR ROADSIDE CHURCH SIGN: After 35 years, our sign is falling apart. The Church Council has selected the sign company we'd like to produce our new one. So far, the estimated cost is \$8,500. (That doesn't include demolition of the old sign or installation of new ground lights.) Although we budgeted for lots of foreseeable needs in our building-and-grounds budget, a new sign was not one of them. So we're turning to you and your generosity once again. If you're able to write a check, please put "Sign" in the memo line. Thank God for you.

'A' IS FOR 'APPRECIATE': Colleen and I express a huge "Thank you!" for the Pastor Appreciation Sunday surprise. *[Editor's note: Rita Ford created a huge "Appreciate" banner, which she and the kids unfurled during announcements Sunday. The letters in "Appreciate" stood for "amazing," "patient," "pastor," "reliable," etc. A bunch of people signed cards. There were gift baskets and more for Pastor and Colleen, and something special for Pastor Emeritus Emory Hingst as well.]* I had no idea and was totally surprised. My favorite part was reading the specific sentiments that members had written in the card. They will sustain me in times of struggle. The wine, coffee and goodies were nice, too.



2023 Estimate of Giving

*In support of God's mission for St. Stephen Lutheran Church:
To be an active community that welcomes all people to nurture and share their faith and gifts with everyone, according to God's call.*

NAME(S): _____

I/we pledge to intentionally give financially to the ministry of St. Stephen Lutheran Church:

(Please select one option)

\$ _____ per week
\$ _____ per month
\$ _____ per year

I/we understand that this plan can be changed by notifying the financial secretary.

BEHOLD OUR NEW BACK DOOR

We can't prove it, but we suspect that the rickety old back door in the fellowship hall was built and installed by Martin Luther himself. He wanted to nail his 95 Theses there ... but even back then, he was afraid the door would disintegrate.

We also suspect that petty thieves used to gather around our pitiful door at night and laugh at such a splintered excuse for "building security."

Well, who's laughing now? Look at this new door. It's pretty. It's secure. And you can see who's on the other side of it. Nicely done.



SHOPPERS, IT'S TIME

By Andrea Notley



The Giving Tree is here! I'll have the names Friday. If you're interested in helping to brighten the holidays for people who are struggling financially, please reach out to me by text or email. You may request a Giving Tree client's wish list and go shopping – or you may donate money and have Erin Kenney or me do the shopping for you. Either way ... thank you!

CHEER FOR GRAHAM AT 'ELF'

Graham Reece made an announcement last weekend about his performance in "Elf: The Musical" at Young Actors' Theatre. He's playing the role of Charlie the Elf in Cast B, whose shows are:

Saturday 11/12 @7:30
Sunday 11/13 @2:00
Friday 11/18 @7:30
Saturday 11/19 @2:00
Sunday 11/20 @7:00



Tickets are on sale to the general public this Saturday. You can get them online at <https://www.youngactorstheatre.com/> or call 850-386-6602. Graham would love to see St. Stephen members in the audience!

FOR VOTERS-IN-WAITING

Raise your hand if you've already voted. Good for you. Officially, Election Day is next Tuesday. So if you're still planning to vote, you have plenty of time. Dave Suhrweir, our one-man League of Lutheran Voters, suggested we pass along some helpful links. The Leon County Supervisor of Elections Office has gathered all the information you need, including a sample ballot. Here's a sampling of what you'll find online:

- [Info on all 10 early-voting sites in Leon County](#)
- [Map of early-voting sites](#)
- [Info on ballot drop boxes](#)
- [Details for voting on Election Day](#)



The Elections Office is at 2990-1 Apalachee Parkway. Hours are 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Phone number is 850-606-8683. Vote wisely.

PICNIC SUNDAY

Many, many thanks to Margaret Bowers, Karen Olson and the army of



volunteers who turned our side yard into picnic grounds Oct. 23. Barbecued chicken, baked beans and coleslaw courtesy of Sonny's – what a way to celebrate the arrival of fall. Some of us even filled to-go boxes for family members back home. And the rest of the food? Last we saw, it

was headed for Karen's truck, so she could share it with others.

MORE OUTREACH REMINDERS

By Sharon Simmons, outreach coordinator

- Thanks to the generous donations of St. Stephen members and the Beta Phi Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, our sock drive



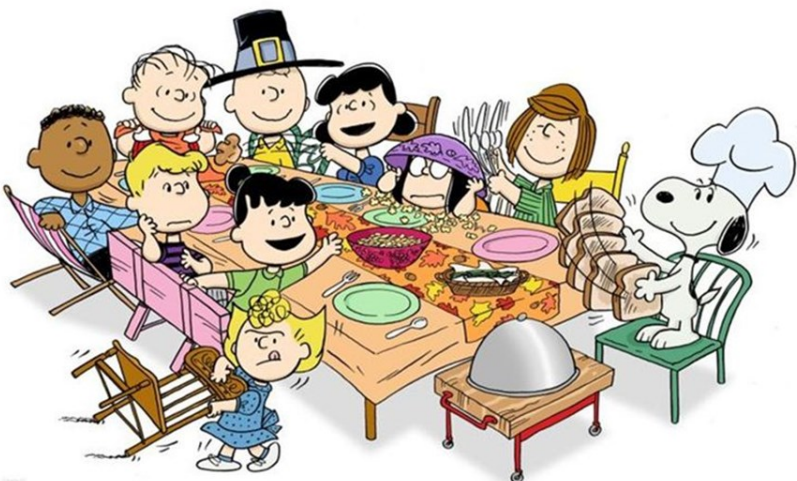
was a huge success. In all, 353 pairs of socks (53 children's, 91 women's and 209 men's) were collected and bagged. They've been delivered to New Mount Zion AME Church and will be combined with socks from our partner church to support clients at the Kearney Center. Thank you!

- Don't forget to recycle your clean T-shirts (medium or larger) and place them in the box in the fellowship hall. They'll be reconfigured into bags for food at Manna on Meridian's distribution day. You'll be serving the hungry while also cutting down on plastic usage.
- CCYS-Going Places continues to need sweaters, sweatshirts, blankets, sanitary supplies and back-pack-ready snacks.



A THANKSGIVING QUESTION

Back in the 1980s, St. Stephen used to have Thanksgiving dinner in the fellowship hall for members and friends who were available. Great fun. Rita Ford says a similar idea is under consideration now. Also under consideration is delivering Thanksgiving meals to members or friends who aren't mobile these days. It's kind of a major undertaking, so the first step is to find out: Is anyone interested in taking part? Let Rita or Pastor Tom know by Nov. 14 if you'd like to follow up on this idea.





HABITAT'S NOISIEST NOISY OFFERING

There's more uplifting news about Habitat WomenBuild. First, money: The recent Noisy Offering for our home team, the Fixie Chicks, totaled \$460 – a record high. Second, Fixie Chicks co-captain Caroline Collins gathered testimonials from a couple of St. Stephen WomenBuilders.

Volunteer Erin Kenney reports: "WomenBuild was such a fun and fulfilling experience. Having the opportunity to meet the incredibly sweet homeowner

and other passionate volunteers was such a great way to spend a Saturday morning." Erin spent most of her time with insulation, but also climbed up the scaffolding to try her hand at installing siding.

Lori Zengel, too, spent most of her time installing insulation (see it behind her?), but the camera caught her with a broom, sweeping up afterward. "I was fortunate enough to be part of a team of women who are strong, generous and just great to be around," Lori told Caroline. "On top of that, I learned a new skill. I truly feel like I got more out of it than I gave."

Want to get involved? Talk to Caroline.



MORE MIDWEEK UPDATES

- Join the OWLs for lunch at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday at the Midtown Caboose. You don't have to be retired. You just have to be available for lunch on Tuesday. Let Margaret Bowers know if you can be there.
- Just like that, a pine tree in front of our parking lot turned brown and croaked. And just like that, our Building & Grounds team arranged for its removal – and had some other trimming done at the same time.
- Also, Building & Grounds corrected two places by our front steps where sinking sidewalk slabs posed a tripping hazard. Jake Hartung says that if you want to impress your friends, tell them that the people we hired "applied a high-strength, high-density, hydro-insensitive structural polyurethane foam" under the slabs. "One slab also required grinding," Jake said, "because tree roots had lifted one side."



- Blake Simmons, St. Stephen member and Lincoln High School junior, needs your help with her Advanced Placement research-project survey on puppetry. You can scan the QR code or copy this link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfypvTIUSGjOmjSdoFW9qU-tlI0r2jbVW2mQqnwPsQUTNsp3A/viewform?usp=sf_link



- As Pastor Tom reminded us recently from the pulpit: It's not too late to get a flu shot. And, of course, we owe it to ourselves and each other to keep up-to-date on our COVID boosters.



- You're invited to enjoy drinks, hors d'oeuvres and live music a week from today at a fundraiser for Lutheran Social Services of North Florida. It's scheduled for 5:30-7:30 p.m. at 708 N. Forest Drive. The suggested minimum donation is \$100 per person, to support LSSNF's work in the community. You can buy tickets at www.lssnf.org.



- **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



Paul van der Mark - 11/06
Hector Quinones - 11/07
Barbara Sullivan - 11/07
Daniel Martinez - 11/10
Mark Warren - 11/13
Elliot Reece - 11/14
Cheryl Stuart - 11/14
Marda Messick - 11/20
Cindy Suhrweir - 11/21
Sue Canning - 11/25
Marley Bonfati - 11/26
Emory Hingst - 11/26
Michael Bonfati - 11/27
Phil Williams - 11/29
Graham Hackley - 11/30

UPCOMING DATES

This Sunday, Nov. 6:

9 a.m. - Bible talk

9:30 a.m. - Choir practice

10 a.m. - Worship, All Saints Sunday

Wednesday, Nov. 9:

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

Edited by Lex Lutheran. Designed by Lori Zengel, office manager, sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com.

Website: <http://www.ststephenlutherantally.com/>

If you no longer want to receive this newsletter, please [unsubscribe](#). To unsubscribe please reply with "UNSUBSCRIBE" as the subject line.