

November 4, 2021



# ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



*Lovely sunsets will be arriving one hour earlier starting Sunday. Yes, it's time to fall back, and bid farewell to daylight saving time. (Photo by Jake Hartung)*

## YOU, TOO, COULD BE A COUNCIL MEMBER

*By Val Sullivan, Church Council president*

As we enter the fall season, your Church Council begins preparing for the upcoming calendar year and the business to attend to at our semiannual congregational meeting in January. The main items will be the 2022 church budget and election of new Church Council members.

There will be three positions open on the Council:

- Communications (currently filled by Paul van der Mark).
- President (currently filled by me).
- Youth member (recently filled by Isabel Barton, who's now away at college).

Also available are the Synod Assembly representative positions: two adults and a youth member.

Feel free to ask Pastor Tom or any Church Council member about the positions and how you may best use your time and talent to help the congregation and community. *(Also, if you sit on one of our committees and see a financial need for the next year, please discuss it with the appropriate person on the committee so it can be considered for the 2022 budget.)*



# WE'RE ALMOST THERE, THANK GOD

By Pastor Tom

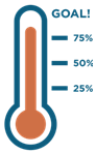
It's fitting that here in the week before All Saints Sunday, I'm leading a final push to complete the collections for our sanctuary repair and renovation. While we live in a society that glorifies individualism, you and I know that we belong to God, and that we belong to the faithful of St. Stephen. We are a collective.

All Saints Sunday reminds us that what we've accomplished in life is partially due to the saints who preceded us. We stand on the shoulders of past leaders and faithful givers, and today we ask ourselves: "How can I help? What can I do that will make a lasting mark for those who come after us?"

When the Holdcraft boys needed to sell candy bars or candles for school fundraisers, Colleen and I always bought their quota – to keep them from having to ask strangers for money. This time, alas, we can't cover the remaining \$17,081! Very few of us can do that. But ALL of us can take a bite out of that remaining amount.

With joy and excitement we've come this far! I give thanks to God, to the work of the Spirit, for your generosity. Thank you for bringing us to this final step.

Updated figures for the Capital Campaign:



<b>Total cost:</b>	<b>\$196,999</b>
<b>Funds in hand:</b>	<b>\$168,249</b>
<b>Funds pledged but not yet in hand:</b>	<b>\$11,669</b>
<b>Funds still needed:</b>	<b>\$17,081</b>

# CALLING ALL HANDS FOR LIGHTER WORK

By Pastor Tom

It's time to come together to get the sanctuary ready for the construction that begins Nov. 15. We need all hands on deck for Saturday, Nov. 13, to get things out of the sacristy and the sanctuary, wrap the organ for protection, and ready the fellowship hall for Sunday services to begin there on the 14th.



We'll meet at 8 a.m. and work until everything's completed. With a good number of support people, we'll be done before lunch. Please email or call Office Manager Lori Zengel to let us know how many will be available for this important work: (850) 385-2728 or [sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com](mailto:sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com).

# LOOKING AHEAD TO 2022

We realize that at the same time we're seeking pledges for our emergency sanctuary work, we're also now seeking routine end-of-year pledges for the upcoming budget year. Sorry these two requests are overlapping!

## 2022 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.

You can grab a pledge card from the narthex and drop it into the collection plate; call Lori with your pledge; send her an email; or mail in your card. Thank you in advance for your generous stewardship and trust in God's mercy.

## SUPPORT YOUR FAVORITE ACTORS

Graham Reece and Julia Bonfanti are in “The Wizard of Oz” at Young Actors’ Theatre. They’re part of Cast B, whose shows are:



- Saturday, Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Nov. 14, 2 p.m.
- Friday, Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Nov. 21, 7 p.m.



They also perform Saturday, Nov. 20, at 11 a.m., but that’s an abbreviated performance designed for younger children. You can get tickets online at [www.youngactorstheatre.com](http://www.youngactorstheatre.com) or call 850-386-6602. No doubt Julia and Graham would love to see St. Stephen members in the audience.

## APPLAUDING PROFESSOR OATES



To us, he’s Billy Oates – husband of Gabbi, father of Paxton and Emery, fellow member of St. Stephen. In a press release that FSU sent out the other day, though, he was “William Oates, the Cummins Inc. Professor in Mechanical Engineering and chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering.”

Our friend Billy was the senior author of a paper recently published in *Advanced Functional Materials*. The first sentence of the press release described “new insight into molecules that change their shape in response to light.” If we get much more specific about azobenzene polymers, those of us who weren’t science majors will develop headaches. So we’ll skip to this paragraph that indicates why Billy’s work is a big deal: “*The research could lead to new smart materials technology. For example, instead of using wires to move electricity, engineers could use light to remotely control machine components. One possible application could be a method to move the many mirrors that are part of an array at a solar-thermal power plant. ‘You don’t need to worry about messy electrical wiring,’ Oates said. ‘You just need a line of sight to get the light in the system. That’s the biggest opportunity here, the development of a new way to actuate materials and structures with light.’*”

Here’s a link to the press release: <https://news.fsu.edu/news/science-technology/2021/10/19/fsu-researchers-find-space-between-polymer-chains-affects-energy-conversion/>. But first, a round of applause for Professor Oates.

## ‘THE DRAMA OF THAT PSALM’: EXCERPT FROM SUNDAY’S SERMON

“... What does it mean to be people of God, and how does one get there? Is it because we wore red or because I’m wearing a strange robe? Is it being Lutheran or a member of any denomination? I hope not – because from the looks of it, denominationalism and traditions like wearing robes are failing to make others people of God. As participation in churches shrinks and we find that we can no longer rely on people coming simply because they’ve always been members, we should ask: How are we engaging in serious reflections about who we are and what we are called to do?”

“So, it is here on this Reformation Sunday, in this critical time and place, that we are called to reflect on what it means to be people of God.... The answers to our cares and concerns surrounding the call to be people of God are found in today’s Scripture lessons....

“First, in Jeremiah, we have the proclamation of God making a ‘new covenant.’ This one will be written upon the hearts of God’s people. The confusion sometimes is that this section gives permission to people to have this personal relationship with Jesus that does not spill over and positively change the way they live. Or it might even allow some to pretend they do not need to be taught. But these are simplistic interpretations....

“We should know that the concept of knowledge, in the Hebrew tradition, was not information in and information out, or showing how smart we are. It was an internalization first and then a call to lead a new and restored life.

“The law here is the Torah. And God, through Jeremiah, said the Torah would be written on people’s hearts. The Torah would no longer be some external teaching tool but an internalizing of the Spirit of God and the knowledge of God’s compassion to come and rescue people; to find forgiveness and to be assured God remembers the sin no more.

“Just listen to words we sang in our psalm, the words Martin Luther utilized in our opening hymn: ‘God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore I will not fear, though the earth shall change, though the mountains shake, and waters roar.’ Hear the drama of that psalm! The shaking of foundations, the chaos, the threat of drowning, and even with war just outside the door.... But then God steps in and shouts louder than our cries and louder than the earth’s chaos: ‘Be still, and know that I am God.’ Amidst it all, God calms the chaos of our lives....”

## HAIKU CORNER

By Lex Lutheran

### FULL MOON

Back yard’s silver glow  
from a nightlight a quarter  
million miles away.

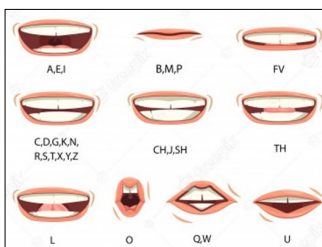


### CHURCH CONSTRUCTION

Our sanctuary  
soon will have a whole lot less  
lumber overhead.

### SINCE MASKS WENT ON

Never realized  
how much I depended on  
reading people’s lips.



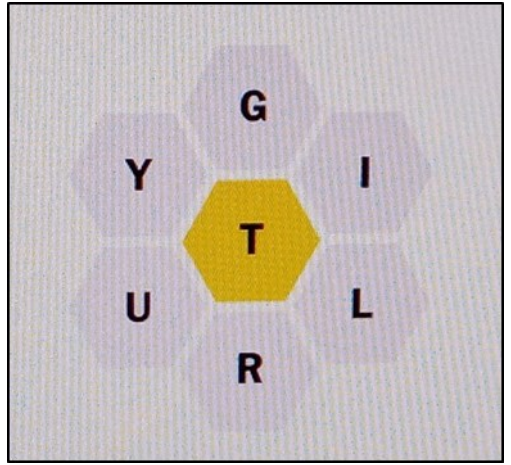
## MORE MIDWEEK UPDATES

- Remember: Terri Schmitt’s housewarming/moving-in is Saturday. RSVP to Margaret Bowers at 407-921-8671 or [ambowersfl@gmail.com](mailto:ambowersfl@gmail.com). Let her know whether you plan to show up at noon Saturday at 2752 Faringdon Drive in Huntington Woods, and let her know what gift you’re planning to buy. (An email full of gift suggestions went out from the church office Tuesday.) If you can’t come to Terri’s, feel free to drop off a gift at church between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. today or tomorrow. If you have any questions, contact Margaret.



- The Giving Tree is coming! Andrea Notley, our keeper of narthex trees, says it’ll appear in a couple of weeks, providing opportunities to brighten the holidays of people who are struggling financially.

- One of my favorite features in *The New York Times* is a game called Spelling Bee. They give you seven letters and invite you to create as many words as you can from them. The catch is that each word must contain the highlighted letter in the center. You build up points, from Beginner ranking all the way up to (ah) Genius. And you get extra points if you can use all seven letters in one word. Well, last Friday's letters spelled out a word near and dear to the St. Stephen crowd. Can you see it?



- 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](mailto: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
- Jamie Martinez - 11/19
- Marda Messick - 11/20
- Cindy Suhrweir - 11/21
- Sue Canning - 11/25
- Anna Amundson - 11/26
- Emory Hingst - 11/26
- Michael Bonfanti - 11/27
- Phil Williams - 11/29

## UPCOMING DATES

- This Sunday:**  
10 a.m. - Worship, All Saints Sunday
- Wednesday, November 10:**  
Noon - Bible study (online)
- Thursday, November 11:**  
Office is closed in observance of Veterans Day



If you have news or photos to share, please send them to Lori at [sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com](mailto:sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com).

Don't forget our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ststephentallahassee>.

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The Rev. Tom Holdcraft, Pastor