



# ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

## St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



## AT LAST, WORK IS UNDERWAY

Jim Sampson, above, walks across a nearly empty sanctuary Saturday morning. He was one of nearly 20 members who showed up to move everything out in preparation for repair and renovation work in the building.

Five days earlier, Karl Barton (atop the scissor lift), David Butler, Colin Hackley and Pastor Tom did the time-consuming work of removing all the wiring that makes our sound system possible. In addition, David removed the remaining chairs.

This past Monday morning, the crew from Oliver-Sperry got to work. Their timeline is estimated at three to four weeks. Timelines are tricky, of course, even in God's buildings. But what a great Christmas present this could be....

*(These two photos and the one below from Sunday's liturgy are by Colin Hackley. The others are by a writer pretending to be a photographer.)*



This ladder got a good workout last Saturday. At left, Mark Bertolami held it steady while David Butler wrestled the cross out of the rear wall. Colin Hackley used the same ladder earlier Saturday to remove screws from a speaker bracket.



Saturday morning, first volunteers had to lug the pews out of the sanctuary. Then up the stairs. Then down the narrow sidewalk into the lounge.



THEN, threading a needle as demonstrated by Mark Warren and Patrick Kennell, into the nursery ... which now looks like a used-furniture store for churches.

By 10 a.m. Saturday, the fellowship hall had been transformed. It will be our worship space until the sanctuary work is completed. Here Linda Eshleman and Susan Warren prepared the transplanted altar.



This is what worship in the fellowship hall looked like Sunday. See you there – until it's time to return to our revitalized sanctuary....

**Updated figures for the Capital Campaign:**

<b>Total cost:</b>	<b>\$196,999</b>
<b>Money in hand:</b>	<b>\$173,874</b>
<b>Money pledged but not yet in hand:</b>	<b>\$12,244</b>
<b>Money still needed:</b>	<b>\$10,881</b>

## REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY

By Sharon Simmons, outreach coordinator

- **WELCOMING REFUGEES:** The International Rescue Committee is working to settle refugees from Afghanistan as new residents of Tallahassee. Imagine if you left your home with nothing but the clothes on your back and had to start over in a new country. The needs for these new neighbors are numerous. They include pots and pans, dining tables and chairs, couches and men's clothing (small or medium). If you have furniture to offer, please take a picture of your items and email it to [kduncan.irc@gmail.com](mailto:kduncan.irc@gmail.com) to confirm suitability and to schedule pickup. Call me (850-445-1888) to coordinate smaller-item donations. Also ... The IRC needs people who can spend a couple of hours during the week to sort clothing in their warehouse. If you'd prefer to donate money, send a check to St. Stephen with "IRC" in the memo line.



- **GIVING TREE:** The Giving Tree names will be available by early next week.



If you'd like to be involved in making a local child/family feel special for Christmas, contact Andrea Notley at [notley90@comcast.net](mailto:notley90@comcast.net) or Erin Kenney at [erinkenney8@gmail.com](mailto:erinkenney8@gmail.com). They anticipate we'll have around 30 children to help.

- **GOING PLACES:** As the weather has changed, so have the needs for the Going Places Street Outreach Center. The tub for your donations is now under a pew in the fellowship hall. Sweatpants, sweatshirts, sweaters, socks and underwear are ongoing needs, along with snacks that are easy to carry in backpacks, sanitary needs, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes. Going Places Outreach routinely serves 30-40 teenage clients, many of whom are homeless.
- **BRRRRRR:** Grace Mission in Tallahassee has put out a call for winter coats, hats and gloves. If you have serviceable winter clothing you're willing to donate, call 850-224-3817 to schedule a time to drop it off.



## LAST-MINUTE OPPORTUNITY

Tonight, lasting from 6 to 10 p.m. and supported by multiple sponsors, is **WINTERFALL** at Esposito's. There'll be food, wine, live music, a live auction and holiday fun. Best of all, money raised will directly benefit people across the Big Bend served by ACTS 2 -- the African-American Alzheimer's Caregiver and Support 2 Project, an initiative of the Florida State University Foundation and The Florida State University College of Medicine. Your financial support helps meet the needs of distressed family caregivers of adults with dementia and helps provide money to train more faith community workers to deliver the program. Please note: Tickets for this worthwhile event aren't cheap! They're \$100, and they'll be available at the door.



# KEEPING KIDS SAFE

Please keep Lutheran Social Services of North Florida in mind Nov. 30, also known as #GivingTuesday. On that day of collective generosity, LSSNF hopes you'll support its efforts to make child safety seats accessible for all children. Please visit <https://lssnf.org/kidsafe/> to find out more about this program and to join the cause by donating whatever amount you can afford. (Reminder: Barbara Ehlmann is president of LSSNF, and Hilary Dennis is on the board.)



# EXCERPT FROM SUNDAY'S SERMON

“...The church can be accused of being silent, but not Jesus. Not then and not now, because one of the ways Jesus speaks today is through each one of you. In your words and in your actions, Jesus still speaks. Whether we are [in the fellowship hall], over [in the sanctuary] or outside of this holy space, we are called to be brave and to resist the false comforts of staying silent...”

# HAIKU CORNER

By Lex Lutheran

## CLOSER TO GOD'S WORD

The fellowship hall  
may be plain, but worship there  
is so intimate.



## THANK GOD FOR THOSE FURNITURE-MOVING DOLLIES

I had forgotten  
our vintage pews weigh as much  
as locomotives.

## PONDERING THE PORTA-POTTY

Our newest building,  
concrete proof that construction  
is underway. Yay.



# MORE MIDWEEK UPDATES

- This Sunday is Christ the King Sunday, and we'll celebrate Holy Communion.
- Pastor Tom will be taking a week's vacation, beginning after church this Sunday through the 28th. "Pastor Jenn Kopacz of Grace Lutheran will be on call in my absence," Pastor says. "Please welcome Byron Greene on Sunday, Nov. 28, as our guest preacher on the first Sunday of Advent."
- If you haven't done so already, please turn in your estimate of giving (that is, your pledge) as soon as possible. The more pledges we get, the easier it is



for our Church Council representatives to prepare a budget for 2022. Send in a pledge card if you have one. Or, easier still, just leave an email or phone message for Office Manager Lori. Bless you.

**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.

- **Speaking of the Church Council ... a few seats will be open soon. President Val Sullivan is stepping down. Do you feel called to serve in that role? Or how about communications coordinator? Paul van der Mark is wrapping up his term. Or what about the youth representative? That chair has been vacant since Isabel Barton went off to college. Or maybe, instead of serving on the council, you'd like to be one of our Synod Assembly representatives. We have openings for two adults and one youth. Please let Pastor Tom or President Val know if you'd like to know more about any of those positions.**
- **The Muchuruzas recently visited Disney World – but you probably figured that out from their shirts. They miss us, St. Stephen, but they're thriving.**
- **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

- 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
- Nancy Staff - 12/01
- Bob Eshleman - 12/02
- Brian Oliveri - 12/03
- Annelise Leysieffer - 12/04
- Annette Claussen - 12/08
- Janet Barber - 12/09
- Judi McDowell - 12/09
- Ridy Hofer - 12/11
- Chris Bischoff - 12/14
- Laura Sullivan - 12/14



## UPCOMING DATES

**This Sunday:**

**10 a.m. - Worship with communion, Christ the King Sunday**

**Thursday, November 25 & Friday, November 26:**

Office is closed in observance of Thanksgiving



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>.

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, ELCA  
2198 N. Meridian Road | Tallahassee, FL 32303

The Rev. Tom Holdcraft, Pastor