



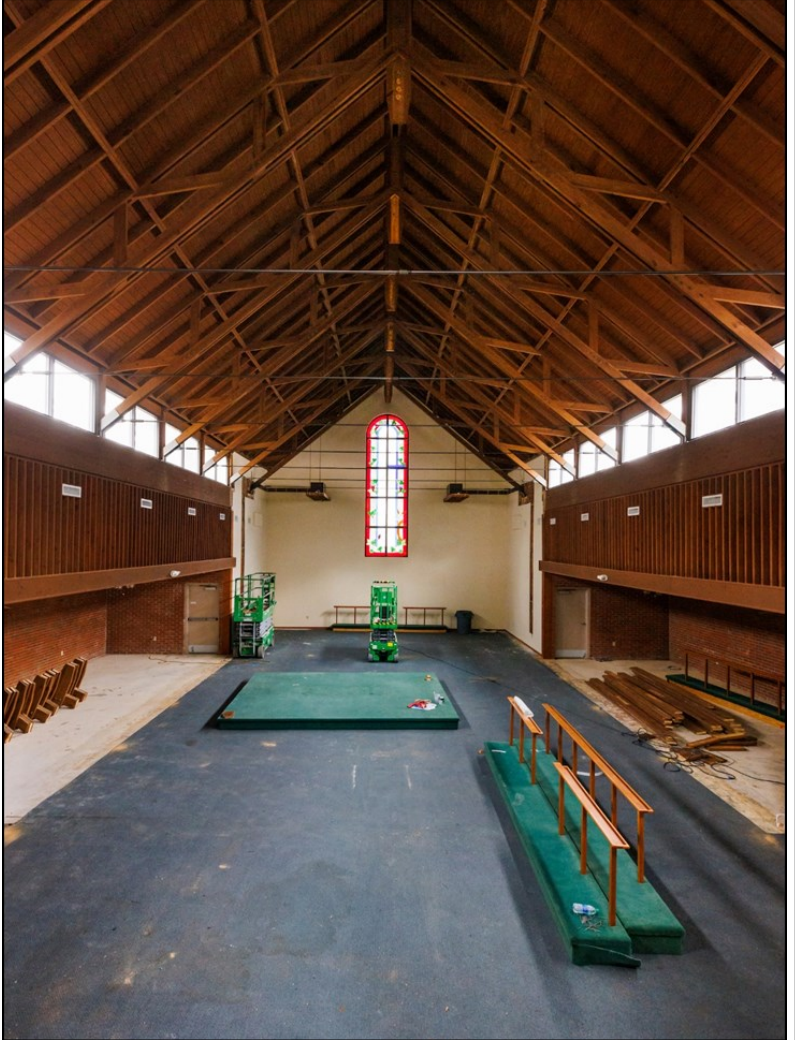
ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter

AH, THAT GLORIOUS WINDOW

In case you've had trouble picturing what our repaired and refreshed sanctuary would look like – here you go!

“All the wood rafters have been removed and replaced with steel rods,” Pastor Tom said. “The expanse in the ceiling is awesome, and the stained-glass window is no longer partially blocked. Most important, the roof-thrusting problem is solved with added security at the scissor-truss-and-wall connections.”

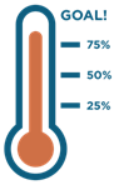


That's not all. “All the windows have been replaced, and it's so lovely to see the trees and blue sky,” Pastor said. “The electricians are currently hard at work running new switches and wire, and we hope they can begin hanging lights next week. Tomorrow the installation of the doors is scheduled to begin.”



To refresh your memory ... here's what it used to look like in the sanctuary. Only the bottom of the stained glass was visible. *(Photos by Colin Hackley)*

UPDATED FIGURES FOR THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



Total cost:	\$196,999
Money in hand:	\$177,974
Money pledged but not yet in hand:	\$14,600
Money still needed:	\$4,425

“It has been a great two weeks of fundraising as we near our goal!” Pastor Tom said. “So far, we have a couple minor increases to the project costs (not reflected above). There was a bit more drywall removal needed than previous thought, and we’ve decided to get an estimate from the electrician to run behind-the-wall conduit for the speaker and microphone wire installation. This will allow us to hide cables instead of running them externally.”

REST IN PEACE, LITTLE BRENNY

Brennan “Brenny” McClanahan unexpectedly passed away Nov. 18 at home. Along with twin sister Avery, he was born March 26, 2020, to St. Stephen members Erin and Eric McClanahan. Later, the family moved from Tallahassee to Athens, Georgia. His parents said that Brenny was a happy boy who loved books and going to school, and that he made everyone who met him laugh and smile. They give special thanks to Piedmont Child Development Center for the outstanding care he received during the day, and Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare’s Women’s Hospital/ NICU for their care at the beginning of his life.



The funeral service is set for 2 p.m. Sunday at Oconee Street United Methodist Church in Athens. In lieu of flowers, any donations made to the family will be used for medical expenses and will be donated to different entities in Brennan’s name.

Pastor Tom said that Eric and Erin, understandably, are deeply grieving Brennan’s death and currently don’t wish to receive phone calls. They do appreciate cards of condolence, though. Their address is 119 Oconee River Cir., Athens, GA 30605. “In times like these,” Pastor wrote in his email to us, “we rely on the promise of the resurrection and presence of God’s Spirit.”

REACHING OUT TO AFGHAN REFUGEES

By Sharon Simmons, outreach coordinator

Generous donations of bedding, towels, pots, pans and toasters went to the International Rescue Committee this week and were gratefully received. There continue to be needs for these new Tallahassee residents: 12 couches, 7 tables (dining), 37 chairs, pots, pans, irons, dishes, silverware, comforters, blankets, sheets and towels. (The IRC truck for larger donations is unavailable for pickups right now.)



Another urgent need is for volunteers (individually or as a group) to help with organizing the room where donations are collected. IRC is looking for a larger storage facility. If you know of one, call Karen Duncan at 850-391-9610. (Due to this space crunch, IRC isn’t accepting babies’, children’s or women’s clothing now -- only small and medium-size men’s clothes.)

Questions? Call me at 850-445-1888 or email sharonteacher49@yahoo.com.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We'll be decorating the chancel area with poinsettias for Christmas. Would you like to dedicate one (or more)? The cost is \$10, and the dedication list will be in the Dec. 19 and Dec. 26 bulletins. Just fill out the form in the bulletin and place it with your payment in the offering plate, or email Lori with the information. The deadline is Sunday, Dec. 12.



EXCERPT FROM THE SERMON TWO SUNDAYS AGO

“... Theologian Barbara Rossing wrote how ‘the Jewish tradition marks the end of the yearly Torah cycle with a wonderful holiday of Simchat Torah, “Joy in the Torah.” That celebration includes a time of taking out the huge Torah scrolls from the ark and dancing with them. I wish that we had a tradition like that for our yearend celebration. Something that focused more on the joy of dancing with the scriptures rather than kingship, dominion, triumphalism and judgment.’



“O Christ, what can it mean for us to dance with your Holy Word? To know that you are a different kind of king. And to see how that word fails to define you. We know how your message and word and name have been used to promote racism and evil powers in the world. You won't fall for that, and neither will we. We dance knowing you show the different ways of God's truth. We dance knowing how truth is a person and a relationship with God and that we make sure this truth continues to pour out through each of us. Jesus' voice of truth calls us to serve and dance with a different kind of king. AMEN!”

BIBLE STUDY DOESN'T FIT YOUR SCHEDULE?

For those who'd like to take part in the weekly Bible study but have a schedule conflict, here's a link to the recorded meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/IBo4msy3RQ6Ak-dxta52e2bnrlrZmZRqPphyDzQNN-MxK_BaQYyj0tC3CmhkMI8TV.FFrkK4jZvEzL2MYr

HAIKU CORNER

By Lex Lutheran

WORTH WAITING FOR

With Katharine's prelude,
Advent's haunting beauty came
rushing back once more.

ELBOW BUMPS, TOO

She came at me with
fists raised. Ready to fight? No.
Sharing of the peace.

MANY BLESSINGS

There's so much we take
for granted at St. Stephen.
Let's start with Karl's flute.

(Photo by Colin Hackley)



MORE MIDWEEK UPDATES

- Martha Marky is slowly recovering and gaining strength at TMH Rehab. Gladys Kane had a successful surgery on Monday. Please keep them both in prayer and support during their time of healing.
- Pastor Emeritus “Birthday Boy” Emory Hingst and energetic wife Ann worshipped with us in the fellowship hall Sunday. The grateful congregation serenaded our former pastor on his 87th birthday. What a smile. What a guy. *(Photo by Susan Warren)*
- 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.
- 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 or call 850-385-2728.



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS



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
 Cheslyn Donaldson - 12/17
 Rita Ford - 12/18
 Wesley Holdcraft - 12/18
 David Kennell - 12/24
 Pastor Tom - 12/29
 Kate Stuart - 12/29
 Mike Martinez - 12/30

UPCOMING DATES

This Sunday:

10 a.m. - Worship, Second Sunday of Advent

Wednesday, December 8:

Noon - Bible study



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/>*

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