



# ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

## St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



*Here’s how the 8 a.m. sun visited a certain Tallahassee Lutheran porch today. This plant might be melampodium. It most definitely is bright yellow, green-leaved, blue-potted, God-sent, lovely.*

### WHO WANTS TO BE OFFICE MANAGER?

May 23, a week from Friday, is the deadline for St. Stephen members to apply if they’re interested in becoming our new office manager. Qualified applicants would meet first with Pastor Tom, then with others. If no member steps forward, we’ll advertise the job opening to non-members. Interested? Please let outgoing office manager Lori or Pastor Tom know and they’ll send you a detailed job description.



### CHALICE 101

The people who assist with the liturgy every Sunday didn’t always exude such super-Lutheran confidence, you know. Someone trained them. And with each Sunday, they get a little more polished. What about you? Would you like to be an assisting minister, or cup minister, or crucifer, or lector, or acolyte? Or would you like a refresher course? Then please plan to stick around after this Sunday’s liturgy, when Pastor Tom will offer a bit of training. Where would we be without our army of lay assistants?



# SUNSCREEN, PLEASE

Here’s what we’re collecting for Pastor Tom to take with him to the upcoming Synod Assembly:

- Body wipes
- Travel-size lotions
- Deodorant (men’s & women’s)
- Bug spray
- Sunscreen
- Razors (men’s & women’s)
- Men’s boxer briefs (M/LG/XL)
- Women’s underwear (L/XL,2X)
- Unisex T-shirts (L/XL)



A tub is available in the Hingst Fellowship Hall for your donations. Deadline is June 8.

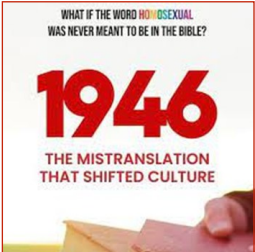
# COMING UP NEXT MONTH

By Pastor Tom



- St. Stephen will host the Interfaith Pride Service at 7 p.m. June 18. Please come for the celebration and support of the LGBTQIA+ community and local interfaith clergy partners. There will be light refreshments available following the service in Hingst Hall.

- What if the word “homosexual” was never meant to be in the Bible? The Mickee Faust Club, in partnership with the Tallahassee Film Society, is showing “1946:The Mistranslation That Shaped Culture” at the Challenger Learning Center IMAX Theatre. Time is 3 p.m. June 28. More information is available at <https://www.1946themovie.com>.



# RELIEF FROM GRIM NEWS

Here are some recent entries from Fix The News, which bills itself as “a weekly roundup of stories of progress, mind-blowing science and the best bits of the internet.” If you’d like a weekly diet of such encouraging news, you can [subscribe here](#).



- Chinese scientists successfully boosted rainfall by over 4% across 8,000 km² using just a kilo gram of silver iodide, dispersed by drones at an altitude of 5,500 meters. The operation added 70,000 liters of precipitation to Xinjiang’s arid landscape, demonstrating efficient weather modification technology that could help combat glacial retreat and desertification. (Source: [Interesting Engineering](#))

- As the United States withdraws from climate diplomacy, China pledges economy-wide emissions targets. Xi Jinping has committed the world’s largest greenhouse gas emitter to develop comprehensive climate targets by 2035 covering “all greenhouse gases” across the entire economy. With China responsible for a third of global emissions, this pledge to address pollutants beyond carbon dioxide represents a significant development ahead of COP30 in Brazil. (Source: [Bloomberg](#))
- Since 2000, malaria cases in Southeast Asia have dropped by nearly 80%. Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam and Myanmar have all now adopted Egypt’s successful 1-3-7 approach, which aims to report malaria cases within one day, launch investigations within three, and initiate responses within seven. (Source: [Think Global Health](#))



# FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of 4/30/25:

- We are current on all bills; however, the Portico bill (staff insurance and retirement) didn't clear until May.
- We paid for our annual termite bond and annual subscription to Power-Church software.
- The Wonder Fund account has \$16,292.40 in it, leaving a debt of \$11,732.60 (we pay \$200 per month toward the debt).

| April                                  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Checking account beginning balance     | \$9,495.33  |
| Non-designated giving                  | \$19,865.06 |
| Non-designated expenses                | \$20,836.65 |
| Checking account balance as of 4/30/25 | \$8,873.05* |

*\*If the Portico payment had gone through before April 30, the non-designated expenses would be \$25,574.89 and the checking account balance as of 04/30 would be \$3,163.22.*

## MIRACLES: EXCERPT FROM PASTOR TOM'S SERMON

... How many miracles have happened to you so that you're able to sit or stand here today? They've led you to be here today. They've even compelled you, at times, to tell people about this loving God who has intervened on your behalf, and mine. And who knows? Such witnessing to others might even lead them to consider the miracles in their life and determine how they pointed to God....

## BEFORE YOU GO...

- Judi Duffy says: "I'd like to announce the high-school graduation of my last grandson, Jonas Aiden Holdcraft. He has been an honor student in his AP courses at Lincoln High School and will graduate May 20. He enters FSU in the fall to study interior design. Congrats, Jonas."
- Let's hear from the rest of you who have recent graduation news! Please send the details to Lori.
- During Sunday announcements, Pastor Tom thanked Carol Sanchez, Margaret Bowers and the entire Care and Hospitality team for preparing the lovely Mother's Day breakfast tribute to the women of St. Stephen – and he thanked Rita Ford and Colleen Holdcraft for assembling the flowers given away at Children's Time.
- Sunday, May 25, at 3 p.m. is the annual Unity in the Community program at Allen Temple CME Church on Kissimmee Street. This event raises money to support scholarships for graduating high-school students who need financial assistance to attend FAMU, FSU or TSC. A Noisy Offering last month was collected to support this program. After the service will be a sit-down dinner. Please RSVP to Brenda Christie at 850-599-1948 or email at [bchristie15@gmail.com](mailto:bchristie15@gmail.com).



- If you have an anniversary, birthday, special memory or special St. Stephen person or program you'd like to honor, celebrate by sponsoring the altar flowers for our service. Sign up on the flower chart, out by the name tags, or ask Lori to sign you up. Include the \$40 with your regular offering. And then take the flowers home!





## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS



Jennifer Dritt - 05/21  
Paxton Oates - 05/23  
Sandy Larson - 05/24  
Jake Hartung - 05/25  
Blake Simmons - 05/25  
Lawana Lamb-Daniels - 05/30  
Bevin Reardon - 06/03  
Billie Reardon - 06/03  
Susan Hehn - 06/11  
Billy Oates - 06/14  
Tim Larson - 06/16  
Ruth Hartung - 06/23  
Steve Kunst - 06/23  
Sandy Davis - 06/28

*\*If you have an upcoming birthday not listed above, let the church office know.*

## COMING UP

### Today:

**Noon** - Al-Anon meets in Pastor Emory Hingst Memorial Fellowship Hall, aka Hingst Hall (HH)

**7 p.m.** - AA meets in HH

### This Friday:

**10 a.m.** - TOPS meets in HH

### This Saturday:

**10:00 a.m.** - Sew for Hope meets in HH

### This Sunday:

**9:00 a.m.** - Book study this week

**9:30 a.m.** - Choir practice

**10 a.m.** - Worship: Fifth Sunday of Easter

**Noon** - DKG meets in HH



### Monday, May 19:

**5 p.m.** - TIMA meets in HH

**7 p.m.** - TIMA meets in HH

### Tuesday, May 20:

**5 p.m.** - NA meets in HH

### Wednesday, May 21:

**5 p.m.** - TIMA meets in HH

**5:30 p.m.** - Finance Committee meets in church office lobby

**7 p.m.** - Choir practice



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