



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter

BECAUSE OF YOUR GIVING

By Pastor Mary Nesmith

I love the way ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton succinctly expressed what it means to "be church." She wrote, "We are church, we are Lutheran, we are church together, we are church for the sake of the world." It is the latter phrase that undergirds the generous gift of \$13,431.04 given by St. Stephen as part of its 2016 Mission Support. It will have a positive impact on being "church for the sake of the world"! And I thank God for your generosity.



Thank You



INTRODUCING INTERIM BISHOP MARCUS LOHRMANN



As many of you read in emails last week, our synod now has an interim bishop. He's the Rev. Marcus Lohrmann, who retired in July after serving 18 years as bishop of the Northwestern Ohio Synod. Before that, he was pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, St. Louis; St. John Lutheran Church, Hicksville, Ohio; and Olivet Lutheran Church, Sylvania, Ohio.

He earned a bachelor's degree at Concordia Senior College, Fort Wayne, Ind., and earned a master's degree and doctorate from Christ Seminary-Seminex, St. Louis. He has a passion for the global church and helped strengthen the partnership between the Northwestern Ohio Synod and the church in Tanzania.

Interim Bishop Lohrmann will begin serving in the synod beginning April 1 and will be based in Tampa. He will work with the synod staff to ensure all aspects of ministry are supported, and with the Synod Council in the process of electing a new bishop. Outgoing Bishop Robert Schaefer will remain available to handle administrative matters, as needed, during March.

A key participant in all of these developments, of course, is our own Cheryl Stuart, who is vice president of the synod. She thanked ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and the Rev. Walter May, executive for synodical relations, “for bringing Bishop Lohrmann’s name to us, and for walking with us in this time of transition. It is a prime example of how we are ‘church together.’”

Schedule of Services for Lent/Holy Week

Midweek Lenten Worship Services:

6:15 p.m. – Soup and Salad

7:00 p.m. - Lenten Series on “The Seven Last Words From the Cross,” Scripture Readings, simple Taize chants:

- **Wednesday, March 15:** The Second & Third Words: “Paradise” and “Behold”
- **Wednesday, March 22:** The Fourth Word: “Forsaken”
- **Wednesday, March 29:** The Fifth & Sixth Words: “Thirst” and “Finished”
- **Wednesday, April 5:** The Seventh Word: “Commit”

Sunday, April 9, 10 a.m.: Palm/Passion Sunday:



- Procession with Palms
- Dramatic Reading of the Passion
- Holy Communion
- Instrumentals
- Darkened sanctuary to symbolize Holy Week’s beginning.



Thursday, April 13: Maundy Thursday: 7 p.m.:

- Holy Communion
- Foot Washing
- Stripping of the Altar
- Darkened sanctuary

Good Friday, April 14: 7 p.m.:

- Adoration of the Cross
- Simple Liturgy
- Instrumentals
- Darkened sanctuary to symbolize Holy Week’s beginning.

There will be no Easter Vigil service but rest assured it will be resurrected next year! The decision was made prayerfully with Pastor Mary, Katharine Gossman, and the Worship Committee.

Easter Sunday, April 16: 9 a.m. - Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt; 10 a.m.:

- Festival worship
- Holy Communion
- Instrumentals



SPRING FORWARD

Don't forget Daylight Savings Time starts this weekend! Set your clocks forward 1 hour before you go to bed Saturday night.

ELCA ADVOCACY

Lutherans are taking action across the country! In the link below you will find our monthly State Advocacy Newsletter, which provides a wonderful Lenten devotional link. Share with your friends!

<http://blogs.elca.org/advocacy/march-advocacy-update-2/>

REQUIEM OF RESISTANCE

A community event to remind us of our humanity and connectedness.

During World War II in the Nazi concentration camp at Terezín, an **incredible act of resistance** commenced when Jewish prisoners learned and performed Giuseppe Verdi's *Requiem Mass*. For those who participated in the performances that occurred between 1943 and 1944--the last of which was for the International Red Cross when it came to examine the camp--**the work stood as a symbol of defiance towards the Nazis.**

Prisoner Rafael Schächter, a pianist and conductor who owned a single score of Verdi's *Requiem*, taught the singers their individual parts to the 90-minute piece in a small, unlit basement after their grueling workdays were done.

Despite its Catholic origins, the powerful music of Verdi's *Requiem*, especially the *Dies Irae* ("Day of wrath, that day the world will dissolve in ashes/What trembling there will be, when the judge shall come to examine all things thoroughly") provided the prisoners a way to warn their Nazi captors of God's revenge.

On March 25, at 8:00 p.m. in Ruby Diamond Concert Hall, the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, joined by the FAMU Concert Choir and other community chorus members, will tell the story of Verdi's *Requiem* at Terezín. An opening narration by Jack Romberg and Laura Johnson, with powerful visuals from the concentration camp, will bring the story to life. Purchase tickets [here](#) or by calling 850.224.0461.

MORE MIDWEEK UPDATES

- Remember: Place any transition questions you have for Pastor Mary in the "A-Ticket, A-Tasket" Transition Basket in the back of the sanctuary.
- Adult study will not be meeting this Sunday and will resume on March 19. Sunday Church School will not meet on March 12 or 19.
- As you have seen, much is happening in and around our synod these days. If you haven't signed up for the weekly synod email, "E-Spirit," now would be a good time to do that. You will learn about events planned throughout Florida, important dates, resources available, etc. It will help explain how we are "church together" and where our mission support goes. Simply go to the synod website, www.fbsynod.com, and sign up. It's free and easy.



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS:

Linda Fevrier - 03/09

Victor Muchuruza - 03/13

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

This Sunday:

9 a.m. - **NO** Sunday Church School
NO Adult study

10 a.m. - Worship, Second Sunday in Lent

Wednesday, March 15:

11:30 a.m. - OWLs gathering at Marie Livingston's

6:15 p.m. - Lenten supper

7 p.m. - Lenten Midweek Service, The Second & Third Words: "Paradise" and "Behold"

7:30 p.m. - Choir rehearsal

COMING UP

March 22, 6:15 p.m.: Lenten Supper

7 pm: Lenten Midweek Service, The Fourth Word: "Forsaken"

March 29, 6:15 p.m.: Lenten supper

7 p.m.: Lenten Midweek Service, The Fifth & Sixth Words: "Thirst" and "Finished"

SERVING SUNDAY:

Pastor Mary Nesmith, Presiding and Preaching; **Barb ODonnell**, Assisting Minister; **Rob Schiffer**, Cup Minister; **Anna Amundson**, Visitation; **Phil Williams**, Walkways; **Marilyn Larson**, Greeter; **Jennifer Buchanan**, Lector; **Robin Oliveri & Val Sullivan**, Altar Guild; **Jeff Norcini & Judi McDowell**, Counters; **Susan Warren**, Bread; **Anna Amundson**, Announcements.



If you have news or photos to share, please send them to Lori at ststephentallahassee@embarqmail.com.

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

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