



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter

FEB. 26 IS SHOWTIME

Please remember that one of the most important parts of any talent show is ... the audience! We need you at church on Feb. 26, for the annual Mardi Gras Talent Show. As we did last year, we'll put on the show shortly after the liturgy – rather than in the evening, as we used to do. This way, those talent lovers who don't drive in the dark can take part.



If you want to sing, dance or otherwise entertain us in wholesomely original ways, please tell impresario Lex Lutheran (aka Lex Lutheran). If you're willing to help pull together a quick lunch, please tell Gladys Kane. It's not a potluck; it's just a quick trip to Publix for sandwich rings, chips and drinks. The church will reimburse you for the groceries. Your job will just be to assist Gladys as needed. Bless you.

NO SILENT AUCTION THIS YEAR

Please note that we won't have a silent auction as part of this year's Mardi Gras Talent Show.

NO POTLUCK ON THE THIRD SUNDAY OF FEBRUARY

Because of the talent show on the fourth Sunday, that's the day when we'll dine together this month. We'll return to our usual third-Sunday-of-the-month potlucks in March.

FOLLOW-UP ON WOMEN'S MARCH

By Cassandra White

I attended the Women's March Mobilization meeting this past Saturday. There are some wonderful plans in place for local action that I would like to make the church aware of.

This is the new website for the larger movement called Women's Way Forward:
<http://www.womenswayforward.com/home.html>.

Their action items and platforms are outlined here.:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1j6eQwZS9XZ3xm_8U6CSyLF3J-hj8fg1A7YvOPo8hR24/edit



I will be working as an issue marshal locally for the LGBTQIA+ issue. The organization is looking for people to work in each issue. They are also hoping to connect with other local groups (such as churches) to build a community of support.

Immediate local actions in Tallahassee are: working to make Tallahassee a sanctuary city, working to prevent voter suppression in Leon County, and working to prevent further unconstitutional and illegal evidence collection being used by the Tallahassee police. On this last issue, they are working directly with the ACLU.

Please visit the [Women's March Tallahassee Facebook Page](#) to get connected and stay informed.

ADULT STUDY

Please join us in Adult Education each Sunday at 9 am in the Matthew Room. We are working our way through the Small Catechism. This Sunday we begin our study of the Apostles' Creed. Did the Apostles write it? Why was it written? Why do we frequently use it in our liturgy? Come and join Jennifer Buchanan as the facilitator.



WELCOME

Praise God for the new disciples joining our faith community this coming Sunday! After the worship service, all are invited to Fellowship Hall for a Welcome Cake and Coffee reception! Thank you to Sue Williams for arranging for the goodies! Stay tuned for an introduction to the new members in next week's newsletter.

Pastor Mary will be meeting with a few people interested in joining St. Stephen Lutheran Church this coming Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall. Help share this event!

If you are interested in uniting with St. Stephen Lutheran Church as a member disciple please let Pastor Mary know. She wants to meet with you either individually or as a group. It is a fun and informal time to get to know each other and find out more about the unique ministries of our beloved faith community.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT THE T

Dave Suhrweir

For many years, St. Stephen has explicitly and proudly been a welcoming and inclusive congregation. We recently had another very successful "Ministry of Reconciliation Sunday" celebrating God's inclusive love, and focusing on the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community. In recent years, "gay rights" has been at the forefront of the American advancement of human rights. But for many of those supporting LGBT rights, there is a lack of understanding of the T, the transgender people.

This Friday at 9:00 p.m., on the National Geographic channel, airs the "Gender Revolution," a documentary exploring the rapidly evolving complexities of gender identity. Katie Couric travels across the U.S. to talk with scientists, psychologists, activists, authors and families about the complex issue of gender. It originally aired on Monday. My family watched it and found it very well done, interesting, informative and emotionally moving. I recommend that you watch it if you are able.

MORE MIDWEEK UPDATES

- The next OWLs gathering will be on Wednesday, Feb. 15, at 11:30 a.m. at Little Italy. Please RSVP with Jan Harrison.
- Remember: Place any transition questions you have for Pastor Mary in the "A-Ticket, A-Tasket" Transition Basket in the back of the sanctuary.



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS:

Michele Hartson - 02/11

Chris Reece - 02/15

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

This Sunday:

9 a.m. - Sunday Church School
Adult study

10 a.m. - Worship, Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Wednesday, Feb. 15:

11:30 a.m. - OWLs Gathering at Little Italy

7 p.m. - Choir rehearsal

COMING UP

Feb. 26, 11:30 a.m.: St. Stephen Annual Talent Show

March 1, 7 p.m.: Ash Wednesday Service

SERVING SUNDAY:

Pastor Mary Nesmith, Presiding, Preaching; **Anna Amundson**, Assisting Minister; **Jennifer LaVia**, Cup Minister; **Anna Amundson**, Visitation; **Phil Williams**, Walkways; **Susan Warren**, Greeter; **Gladys Kane**, Lector; **Robin Oliveri**, **Billie Reardon**, & **Terri Albrecht-Schmitt**, 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>.

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, ELCA

Designed by Lori Zengel, office manager, ststephentallahassee@embarqmail.com.

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