

St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church

FYI 2026



1820 E. County Rd. 540A

Lakeland, FL 33813

863-646-6115

Office Hrs. M-Th 9am-3pm

May 24, 2026 Vol 26 Issue 21

Pentecost Sunday

Calling All 2026 Graduates!!

Is someone in your household graduating this year? Please let us know your graduate's name and what level of school they are completing.

We would like to honor our graduates from preschool, elementary school, middle school, high school and college on Sunday, May 31st, so get your name to us soon.



Summer Worship Schedule

May 24, 2026, Pentecost Sunday, we will have one service at 10:00am in the Sanctuary followed by the Annual Chili Cookoff at 11:00am in the Parish Hall.

May 31, 2026, 9:00am service in the Garden Chapel and 10:00am service in the Sanctuary.

The 9:00am and 10:00am services will continue throughout the Summer and will end in the Fall at a date that has yet to be determined. In an effort to stay on time, we will need volunteers to help take down the Garden Chapel electronics so that Father David and Doug can begin the 10:00am Service.

Pentecost occurs 50 days after Easter Sunday, concluding the Easter season and commemorating the event described in Acts 2, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles, Mary, and other followers of Jesus in Jerusalem. The name "Pentecost" comes from the Greek word *pentēkostē*, meaning "fiftieth." 🔥

On Pentecost, a mighty wind filled the house where the apostles were gathered, and tongues of fire appeared above them. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and enabled to speak in different languages so that people from many nations could understand the message of God. This event fulfilled Jesus' promise that his followers would be "clothed with power" through the Holy Spirit to spread the Gospel. Peter's sermon following Pentecost led to the baptism of thousands, marking the beginning of the early Christian Church.

Because of this, Pentecost is often called the "Birthday of the Church," since it marks the public beginning of the apostles' mission to proclaim the Gospel to the world. 🔥

St. Stephen's ...
To Love and Serve
God and Neighbor



2026-Betty Pratt, Juliana Walker, Karen Spiller

2027-Joyce Brock, Stephen Gaydosh, Jack Vonesh-Treasurer.

2028-Mary Roach, Helen Vogt, Mike Whitt, Jr Warden

Bookkeeper: Cathy Zielinski, Treasurer: Jack Vonesh,
Secretary: Karen Beasley, Office Secretary: Charlie Bradford

Dog Treats

The Dog Treat Crew will meet again this month to bake homemade treats for our furry friends! If you're able to help, please bring your donations to church and place them in the collection bins.

Needed items:

- Pumpkin purée
- Unsweetened Applesauce
- Old-fashioned Oats
- Unsalted Peanuts

Most of the Dog Treats we make go to the puppies at the Polk County Bully Project to show them that we care and the remainder of the treats we sell and give the money in St. Stephen's name to the PCBP.



The Caregivers and Grief Group will meet next month on **June 9th at 2:00 PM** in the Small Groups Room.

If you or someone you know would benefit from speaking with others who are experiencing grief, stress from a loss, or the challenges of caring for a loved one, please keep this group in mind.

A landmark 1999 study published in **JAMA** described caregivers as the "hidden patients." The study found that highly stressed caregivers had a 63% higher risk of death than non-caregivers during the years following the loss of a disabled spouse. Research has also shown that caregivers often experience higher levels of depression, sleep deprivation, social isolation, and financial hardship.

You do not have to carry those burdens alone. We are here to help.

Join the St. Stephen's Choir!

Are you looking for a meaningful way to give back to St. Stephen's Church?
Do you enjoy singing in the shower or in your car?

Then you're exactly who we're looking for!

As Father David says, being part of the choir is a wonderful way to give back while getting to know the fun and welcoming people in our choir family.

No formal experience is needed—the main talent we're looking for is **interest and enthusiasm!**

For more information about joining, please contact:
Susie Stewart or **Charlie** in the church office.

Come make a joyful noise with us—we'd love to have you!



2026 Altar Flower Dedications

We invite you to honor loved ones or commemorate special occasions in 2026 by dedicating altar flowers. To reserve your date, simply pick up a dedication form and select from the available Sunday dates, which are clearly listed on a wall poster near your worship entrance.

Dedication forms can be found in both the Sanctuary and the Worship Center for your convenience. Please use these forms to reserve your preferred date and ensure your dedication is included in our worship services.

Seasonal Flower Needs

In addition to regular Sunday dedications, we are seeking donations of poinsettias and flowers for Advent and Christmas celebrations.



Welcome to our Church

May 17, 2026

Sanctuary	9:00am	58
Worship Center	11:00am	48
Total		106

Look for the bright yellow BUCK\$ 4 BUILDING envelopes to donate toward our out of budget building and grounds maintenance expenses.

If you are new to St. Stephen's or if you would like to have Fr. David contact you, please fill out a Newcomer Card and place it in the plate and we will see that you are contacted. God Bless.



Mark Your Calendar

05/24/26 Pentecost Sunday one Service 10:00am Sanctuary



Followed by our Chili Cook off!

05/25/26 Memorial Day Office Closed

05/31/26 Summer Schedule Begins 9:00am Garden Chapel, 10:00am in Sanctuary

06/06/26 St. Stephen's Yard Sale 8:00am—1:00pm

St. Stephen's Yard Sale – Save the Date!

Date: Saturday, June 6, 2026

Time: 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

We will be accepting donations on **Thursday, June 4th and Friday, June 5th** with setup taking place on Friday. **We need Volunteers to help set up on Friday.**

Come out and enjoy:

- **A wide variety of yard sale items**
- **Food booth outside featuring hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and drinks**
- **St. Stephen's Famous Bake Sale**

CALLING ALL



BAKERS!

Help make our upcoming Summertime Church Yard Sale even sweeter! We are looking for donations of delicious, homemade baked goods (cookies, brownies, quick breads, etc.) to sell at our bake sale table. Please drop off your items at the church kitchen by Friday, June 5th. Thanks so much for your help and continued support!

Verse of the Week: John 20:21

Jesus said, "Peace be with you!"

As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

May Birthdays

- 5 Melissa Eijo**
Elizabeth Koshi
- 7 Charlie Bradford**
- 9 Michael Englert**
- 10 Kevin Shelton**
- 14 Kaelynn Hiber**
- 15 Jim Heal**
- 16 Ed Knox, Carla Sauve**
- 18 Betty Calhoun**
- 19 Marcia Heath**
- 21 Rick Rahn**
- 23 Janice Olson**
- 29 Bill Monts de Oca**

May Anniversaries

- 1 Curtis & Janice Olsen**
- 8 Roger & Mary Statzer**
- 15 Ken & Judy Horne**
Bill & Jackie Monts de Oca
- 27 Tim & Mary Trimbath**

St. Stephen's Prayer List
(Parish Members are in Bold)

Prayer Needs: Amy (Fr. Scott's Daughter), Lou Alers, Kim Birmingham (from **Scout Troop 106**), Charlie Bibb (**Season Barham Hodges'** Father in Law) Shannon Black (from **Kathy Leahy**), **Louis Bloodworth**, Elizabeth Bradford (**Charlie Bradford's** sister), Bryan Biery (**Judy Elam's** Friend), Rachel Blackwell (**Karen Spiller's** daughter-in-law), **Jim Bowen, Betty Calhoun, Stephen Calhoun**, Deborah Cameron, (**Lee Carter's** ex-Wife) **Italo & Janet Casini**, Roz Coleman (**Althea Nye's** friend) **Jim Cross**, Annie Delling, Cathi DiGigiacomo, (**Michele Giberson's** Aunt) **Roger Doyle**, Laurie Dresser (**David Dresser's** sister), Lily Dresser (**David & Patricia Dresser's** granddaughter, **Stacy Englert**, Laurens Flanagan (**Sally Flanagan's Daughter in Law**), Ricky Morrison, Becky Sue Morrison (**Stacy & Michael Englert's** Friends), Angela Grilli (**Althea Nye's** friend), **Jim Heal**, Bob & Kay Henry (friends of **Betty Calhoun**) Nicole Hernnkind (**Karen Spiller's** sister), **Kevin Jackimowicz**, Ken & Clair Jones (**Roger Doyle's** friends), Kay Jordan (**Judy Elam's** friend), Father Robert Keller, (**Kathy Leahy's** friend) Karen Kent (**David Dresser's** Relative) Cynthia Krempel (**Janice Olson's** sister), Minnie Lewis (**Sally Flanagan's** Sister in Law) **Trudi Lithgow**, Mary & Adrian McAleer (**Liz Barham's** sister & Brother in Law), **Donna McLemore**, Raelyn (daughter of **Sue DeMan's** friend Stephanie), **Mary Peoples**, Al & Lucille Pfund, (**Lula Peoples'** co-worker), **Janell Repsher, Roy Reynolds , Glen Richardi**, Donna Roberts (**David Dresser's** sister) **Art & Bonnie Rowbotham, Shirley Rumpel, Carla Sauve**, Sheryl Short (Tropical Doll Club), Ed Silveira (**David Dresser's** Cousin), **Karen Spiller**, Lynn Staffier (from **Kathy Leahy**), **Carol Starling, Marion Stewart, Helen Vogt, Dailia Walker, Meg & Rhys Wallace, Lynn Whitt, Lindsay Zielinski.**

Homebound or Skilled Nursing Facility: Tony Barfield, Susan Cardman, Rick Rahn, Jo Willey, Sandra Mewborn

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24 Pentecost One Service 10:00am Sanctuary Chili Cook Off and Winner receives the Chili Apron!	25 Memorial Day 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline Office Closed	26 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	27 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 11:00am Holy Euchrist 12:00pm Bible Study 8pm Online Compline	28 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	29 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	30 Office Closed
31 Summer Schedule Begins 9:00am in the Garden Chapel 10:00am Sanctuary	1 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	2 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	3 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 11:00am Holy Euchrist 12:00pm Bible Study 8pm Online Compline	4 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	5 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline Yard Sale Setup Volunteers Needed!	6 Office Closed St. Stephen's Yard Sale 8:00—1:00