

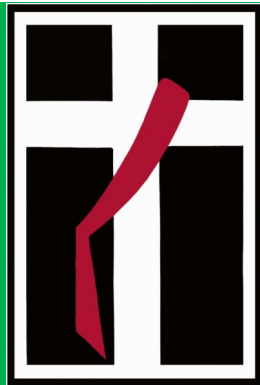
St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church

1820 E. County Rd. 540A
Lakeland, FL 33813
863-646-6115
Office Hrs. M-Th 9am-3pm

FYI 2026

September 13, 2026 Vol 26 Issue 37

Sixteenth Sunday after
Pentecost, Proper 19



Are You Called? The Order of the Daughters of the King®

Are you seeking a deeper relationship with God and a meaningful way to serve others? Perhaps you are being called to explore the Order of the Daughters of the King (DOK).

No special spiritual gifts or experience are needed to become a Daughter—only a sincere desire to grow closer to God and to help others do the same. We are a welcoming community of Christian women who support and encourage one another as we live out a [Rule of Life](#) centered on prayer, service, and evangelism.

Our Rule of Life is grounded in the promises of our Baptismal Covenant:

- To continue in the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers.
- To persevere in resisting evil and, whenever we fall into sin, to repent and return to the Lord.
- To proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ.
- To seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves.
- To strive for justice and peace among all people and to respect the dignity of every human being.

As Daughters, we seek to make prayer the foundation of our daily lives and the source from which our service grows. We offer love, encouragement, and practical help to those experiencing need, difficulty, or loneliness. With God as our guide, we strive to reflect Christ's love in our homes, our parish, and our community, gently inviting others to experience the hope and fellowship of the Church.

Being a Daughter is not about having all the answers or being perfect. It is about answering God's call, growing together in faith, and faithfully serving wherever we are needed.

Discernment classes begin Sunday, September 13, 2026. If you feel curious, interested, or quietly called to learn more, please speak with any member wearing the Daughters of the King cross. We would be delighted to welcome you, answer your questions, and accompany you as you explore whether this ministry may be part of your journey.

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



2026-Betty Pratt, 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

St Stephen's Youth Group

FALL KICK-OFF

9.18 — Fun Friday 6-9 pm

9.27 — Sunday Youth Group starts
5-7 pm

Youth Group—Grades 6–12

Mark your calendar! This Friday from 6:00–9:00 p.m. is our Youth Group Fall Kickoff. Our regular Youth Group meetings will begin September 27.

All middle and high school students are invited! We'll start with supper together, and then the fun and activities will begin.

Carol Clark has graciously agreed to lead the Youth Group this year. She has many exciting ideas for creating a fun, faith-filled, and prayerful fellowship group.

If you have questions, please see Carol or call her at **863-289-9180**.

Please help us keep our Prayer List current and accurate. If there have been any changes to names or prayer requests, please let the church office know.

We have plenty of room in the FYI section, but we want to ensure that our Prayer List reflects the most up-to-date information possible.

Thank you for helping us care for and pray for one another.

DENA'S PLACE

— Diner & Grill —

Lunch Bunch

You're invited to join us for good food, warm fellowship, and plenty of friendly conversation at this month's Lunch Bunch! We will meet on **September 17 at 11:30 a.m. at Dena's Place.**

Everyone is welcome, so bring your appetite and come enjoy a relaxing lunch with friends. Dena's Place always takes wonderful care of our group, and providing the restaurant with an accurate attendance count helps them prepare for us.

If you plan to attend, please call Debbie at **305-304-2548** to reserve your place.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Father Frank has graciously led our Wednesday Eucharist services while Father David recovered from surgery and underwent physical therapy. Now, it is time for Father David to step back in.

On September 16, Father David will celebrate the Eucharist, and afterward, the group will decide what book to study. Beginning September 23, the book study will meet on Wednesdays from noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Small Groups Room.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the church office.

Come Hungry—Two Sundays of Food and Fellowship!

If you enjoy a delicious meal and good fellowship after church, we have two special Sundays planned for you!

This Sunday, September 13, is our Second Sunday Brunch. As always, there will be a fantastic array of tasty treats and hearty dishes to enjoy. Make plans to stay after the early service or come before the later service, bring your appetite, and a dish to share spend, some time visiting with your St. Stephen's family.

Then, on Sunday, September 20, the Cub Scouts will serve breakfast following the 9:00 a.m. service. They would like to show their gratitude for the support and hospitality they receive from the congregation here at St. Stephen's. Whether you stay after the service or arrive early for the next one, please join us and enjoy the Cubs' breakfast feast.

Come hungry and enjoy two wonderful Sundays filled with delicious food, warm fellowship, and community spirit!



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.

Dog Treats for Bully Project

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. **PLEASE HELP The CUPBOARD IS BARE**

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.



Welcome to our Church

September 6, 2026

Garden Chapel	9:00am	40
Sanctuary	10:00am	50
Total		90

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.

Verse of the Week: Romans 14:8

**If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord.
So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.**

September Birthdays

5 Judy Wilder
6 Susan Cardman
7 Robin Williams Adams
Alex Trimbath, Gail Baldrige
10 Steve Naples, Janell Repsher
11 Andrew Thompson
12 Janet Bingham
14 Sharon Crosdale,
Troy DeMan
Kaitlyn Trimbath
21 Stephen Calhoun
22 Donna Hunt
24 Nelson Rumpel
25 Jarrett Sabine,
David Trimbath
29 Julie Petterson

September Anniversaries

2 Doug & Michele Jump
6 Gary & Beverly Powell
13 Walter & Eleanor Thomas
17 Steve & Victoria Naples
27 David & Melanie Vadzemnieks

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**), Janet Bingham, Bryan Biery (**Judy Elam's** friend), Shannon Black, Lynn Staffier (from **Kathy Leahy**), Rebecca Bloodworth (**Louis Bloodworth's** Daughter in Law), **Louis Bloodworth**, Elizabeth Bradford (**Charlie Bradford's** sister), Rachel Blackwell (**Karen Spiller's** daughter-in-law), **Jim Bowen, Betty Calhoun, Stephen Calhoun, Italo & Janet Casini**, Roz Coleman (**Althea Nye's** friend) **Jim Cross**, Cory Davis, Annie Delling, Cathi DiGiacomo, (**Michele Giberson's** Aunt) **Roger Doyle**, Laurie Dresser (**David Dresser's** sister), Lily Dresser (**David & Patricia Dresser's** granddaughter) Justine (**Samantha Dutcher's** Daughter), **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), **Kim & Kevin Jackimowicz**, Ken & Clair Jones (**Roger Doyle's** friends), 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**, **Carla Sauve**, Ed Silveira (**David Dresser's** Cousin), **Karen Spiller, Carol Starling, Marion Stewart, 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
13 9:00am in the Sanctuary 2nd Sunday Brunch 10:15am Rector's Class, Sm Group Rm 11:00am Worship Center	14 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	15 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	16 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 11:00am Holy Eucharist 8pm Online Compline	17 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 11:30am Lunch Bunch at Dena's Place 8pm Online Compline	18 8:00am Online Morning Prayer OFFICE CLOSED 8pm Online Compline	19 Office Closed
20 9:00am in the Sanctuary Cub Scout's Breakfast 10:15am Rector's Class, Sm Group Rm 11:00am Worship Center	21 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	22 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	23 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 11:00am Holy Eucharist 8pm Online Compline	24 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	25 8:00am Online Morning Prayer OFFICE CLOSED 8pm Online Compline	26 Office Closed