

**St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church**

1820 E. County Rd. 540A

Lakeland, FL 33813

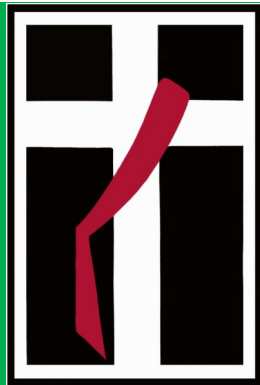
863-646-6115

Office Hrs. M-Th 9am-3pm

FYI 2026

September 20, 2026 Vol 26 Issue 38

**Seventeenth Sunday after
Pentecost, Proper 20**

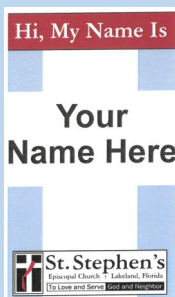


Mailboxes and Name Tags

As we prepare for a cool and wonderful fall and winter, we are cleaning up the parish mailboxes and hope to begin using them more regularly. We would also like to encourage everyone to wear their name tags—it is a simple way to help us get to know one another and warmly welcome visitors.

If you have lost your name tag or never received one, please let Charlie know on Sunday, email ststoffice@gmail.com, or call the church office at 863-646-6115. We will do our best to have your new name tag ready the following Sunday.

Thank you!



Cub Scout Campout and Sunday Breakfast

This Saturday night, our Cub Scouts will hold a practice campout in the church's backyard, where they will learn the basics of setting up camp and spending a night outdoors.

To thank St. Stephen's for hosting them, the Scouts will prepare and serve breakfast between services on Sunday morning. Come hungry—they always do a wonderful job!

We hope to see you Sunday!



Drive-Thru Blessing of the Animals Sunday, October 4, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

This year's Blessing of the Animals will be a drive-thru event. Bring your beloved pets for a special blessing from the comfort of your vehicle.

As always, every animal will receive a certificate and a medal to help them remain awesome for another year! All animals—and their people—are welcome!

***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**

Youth Group—Grades 6–12

Mark your calendar! Our Youth Group Fall regular meetings will begin September 27, at 5:00pm.

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**.



Directory Update

Verify & Update Your Information

Help Us Update Our Parish Directory

With all the comings and goings during the past year, it is time to update our parish directory and make sure the information we have for everyone is correct.

Copies of the current directory will be available as you enter the church. Please take a few moments to review your information, even if you do not think anything has changed. Check that we have the correct names, mailing address, phone numbers, email addresses, birthdays, and anniversaries for everyone in your household. If any information is incorrect or missing, please make the necessary corrections. If your name is not included in the directory, please add your information so we can include you in the updated edition.

An accurate directory helps us stay connected, celebrate important occasions, and keep everyone informed about parish news and activities. Thank you for taking the time to help us keep our parish records complete and up to date!

Help Us Spread the Word About St. Stephen's!

To help kick off an exciting fall and winter season, Father David has updated our St. Stephen's informational trifold brochure and Welcome Connection Card.

Please pick up a brochure and share it with a friend, neighbor, coworker, or family member who might enjoy visiting St. Stephen's—and perhaps one day calling it their spiritual home.

Research consistently shows that personal invitations are more effective than traditional advertising. According to **Nielsen's 2015 Global Trust in Advertising Survey**, 83% of those surveyed said they trusted recommendations from friends and family. In other words, someone you know is much more likely to visit St. Stephen's because you personally invited them.

Please help spread the word. Let others know that St. Stephen's is here, that they are welcome, and that we would be delighted to have them join us!



Invite • Welcome • Connect®

Come Make a Joyful Noise!

With the return of our fall worship schedule, we need additional choir members for both the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services.

As Thanksgiving and Christmas approach, we would love to have full choirs helping lead our worship and filling St. Stephen's with the joyful music of these special seasons. You do not need to be a professional singer—just someone who enjoys music, fellowship, and serving God through song.

If you feel called to share your voice with St. Stephen's, please speak with Suzy, our Choir Director, for more information. We would be delighted to have you join us!





Altar Flowers

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.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

09/20/26	Cub Scouts Breakfast between the services
10/04/26	Blessing of the Animals Drive Thru 1:00pm
10/06/26	Blessing of the Animals at the SPCA & Bully Project
10/06/26	VBS Spaghetti Dinner 5:00-7:00pm
10/12/26	Columbus Day Office Closed
10/15/26	Lunch Bunch
10/20/26	Vestry Meeting 6:00pm
10/25/26	Last day for All Saints Crosses to be turned in

Welcome to our Church

September 13, 2026

Sanctuary	9:00am	54
Worship Center	10:00am	33
Total		87

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: Psalm 105:1

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; make known his deeds among the people.

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
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 12:00pm Book Study Sm Grp Rm 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
27 9:00am in the Sanctuary 10:15am Rector's Class, Sm Group Rm 11:00am Worship Center	28 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	29 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	30 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 11:00am Holy Eucharist 12:00pm Book Study Sm Grp Rm 8pm Online Compline	1 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	2 8:00am Online Morning Prayer OFFICE CLOSED 8pm Online Compline	3 Office Closed