

St Stephen

a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



**Encouraging and
strengthening faith in Jesus,
and sharing the joy of God's love.**

December 16, 2018

Third Sunday of Advent

10:15am

The Rev. Robert G. Schaefer, Pastor

HOLY COMMUNION

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

INTRODUCTION

The presence of the Lord “in your midst” in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the Lord in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one “more powerful” than John, even with his winnowing fork in his hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

CHOIR PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presider begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free,
the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy,
the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

Amen.

Let us come before God in confession.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

To you, O God,

we lift up our souls.

You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you.

Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love.

Show us your ways; teach us your paths;

and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness

in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Children of God, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation.

Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of ✠ Jesus;

you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve.

Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near.

Amen.

The assembly remains standing to sing, turning to the altar as the cross passes by.

GATHERING SONG:

Gather Us In

ELW #532

The assembly sings the first two verses as the procession moves to the Advent Wreath. The wreath is blessed and the third candle is lit. Then the assembly sings the final verses.



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

Text and music © 1982 GIA Publications Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy spirit, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE

Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



Refrain

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept, then the presiding minister leads the prayer.

P: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God,
and open our ears to the preaching of John, that,
rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

The assembly sits.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING:

Zephaniah 3:14-20

A reading from Zephaniah.

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

²⁰At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM Isaiah 12:2-6

²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

³**With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name;
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

⁵**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.**

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

A reading from Philippians.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

After a brief silence, the assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

P: The Holy Gospel, according to Luke.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

Youth and Children's Message

SERMON

The Rev. Robert Schaefer

Silence for reflection follows the sermon. The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in Song.



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
 but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
 and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
 the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
 Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father;
 through him all things were made.
 For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
 and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
 who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation.

After each petition of the prayer is said:

A: Lord, in your mercy. **C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING:

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

ELW #247

O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ũi - im - gŭm
 1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
 2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
 4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.

u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope
 Music: OSOSŎ, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947
 Text and music © Geonyong Lee

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The presiding minister continues to give thanks:

...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup...We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit...Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours... one God, now and forever.

Amen.

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,

thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Communion

P: This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

The bread is broken for the communion. The assembly is seated.

All baptized Christians are invited to participate in the celebration of holy communion. Those who are not baptized and children not yet communing may come forward for a blessing, please cross your arms on your chest if you desire a blessing.

*At St. Stephen we receive Holy Communion by receiving the bread and then either drinking directly from the cup or by intinction: That means that you may **receive the bread in your hand and then dip bread in the wine.**)*

Gluten free bread is available on the right side. (please ask)

Alcohol free wine is available on the right side. (please ask)

The body of Christ, given for you. *Response: Amen.*

The blood of Christ, shed for you. *Response: Amen.*

Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no - so - tros, ten pie-dad de no - so - tros.
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.

Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no - so - tros, ten pie-dad de no - so - tros.
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.

Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

da - nos tu paz, da - nos tu paz.
grant us your peace, grant us your peace.



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

- 2 *Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel:* "De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel," será "Dios con nosotros," hermano será, con él la esperanza al mundo volverá.
- 3 *Montes y valles habrá que preparar; nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar. Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo a encontrar, y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.*
- 4 *En una cueva Jesús apareció, pero en el mundo está presente hoy. Vive en nuestros hermanos, con ellos está; y vuelve de nuevo a darnos libertad.*

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946
 Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé
 Spanish text and tune © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.
 Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Additional Communion songs are sung as needed



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup
we have feasted again on your endless love.

Let that love overflow more and more in our lives,
that we may be messengers to prepare your way,
harvesters of justice and righteousness,
and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

P: May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all,
and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus.

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG:

Let Justice Flow like Streams

ELW# 717



- 1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar-king wa - ter, pure,
- 2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
- 3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,



en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans-ing, sure.
an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans-lat - ed in - to deed.
and jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926

Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731–1776

Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: Thanks be to God.

IN OUR PRAYERS...

In our prayers today are these members of our homebound and others of our parish family in need of healing: Marsha Kibler, Juliet, Jimmy Fennelli, Laurel Blake, Kathy Runk, Edith Reichenback, Audrey Shumway, Jim Loggins, Diane Adler, Katie Paff, Roy and Barbara Kaptain, Bob & Jane Reinhold, Shelley Amato, and Antonio Alves.

Prayers for Friends of the Church: (Please renew your request every 3 weeks)

✠ Dax, Joe, Jimmy, Jennifer, Chico, Vera, Brian, Eric, Tonny, and for a drug free family ✠ Erika Adrean, Glenn, Judith, Craig, Nettie, Cheryl, Robert, Chandler, Becky, Aiden, Braemen, Mary, Jerry, Carol, Gene, Chris, Amanda, Nattie, Scott, Sue, for a drug free family, health to the families, and world peace, Lord ✠ Celeste, Juliet, "Pop", Aurea, George, and Donna.

In a facility or homebound:

Audrey Shumway - Willow Wick, Janesville, Wisconsin 53545
 Barbara Kaptain – The Atrium Assistant Living at Boca Raton.
 1080 NW 15TH Room 215 Boca Raton, Fl. 33486
 Jane Reinhold – Platinum Loving Group, P. O. Box 410572, Melbourne, FL 32941
 Evelyn Braun – 6152 Verde Trail Room 106 Boca Raton, Fl. 33433
 Jim Loggins - John Knox Village - Woodlands
 700 SW 4th St, Pompano Beach, FL 33060

Flowers this week sponsored by: Carol Jacobson in honor of Kelly's birthday.

Assisting at Our Worship on December

(w) will give wine at communion. Thank you all for serving.

10:15 AM	<u>December 16</u>	<u>December 23</u>	<u>December 24</u> <u>Christmas Eve</u>		<u>December 30</u>
			<u>5:30 PM</u>	<u>7:30 PM</u>	
ASSISTING MINISTER	Natalie Prego	Carol Jacobson	Sera Butz	Sera butz	Pat Belanger
ACOLYTE	Sera Butz	Katie Paff	Carol Jacobson	Carol Jacobson	Sera Butz
TORCH BEARERS			Eric Castaneda Pat Belanger	Eric Castaneda Pat Belanger	
BOOK BEARERS			Katie Paff	Katie Paff	
LECTOR	Catherine Zippay	Tom Peterson			Natalie Prego
USHERS –Need 4 to Serve	Harry Ambrose Patricia Engle Catherine Zippay Lisa Castaneda (w)	Suzanne Loggins Jeanne Pettit Lynda Smith Zachary Smith (w)	Lynda Smith Zachary Smith	Pat Engle Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli (w) Suzanne Loggins Jimmy Fennelli Jeanne Pettit
Head Usher	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli			Rosie Fennelli
GREETERS – Need 2 to Serve	Rose Jones Kelly Jacobson	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle			Rose Jones Kelly Jacobson
SOUND	Eric Castaneda	Sera Butz	Dennis Magarrell	Larry Jones	Katie Paff
PROJECTION	Jake Vanzile	Dennis Magarrell	Dennis Magarrell	Larry Jones	Larry Jones



In response to the amazing love, mercy and grace of God, St. Stephen Lutheran Church is a community that openly welcomes all who are seeking God's divine love and grace. All are welcome in this place regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation or gender identity, economic situation or life situation, marital or relationship status, or your doubts about faith and church. Our unity is in Christ. Your family, children, friends, spouses and partners are welcome. Your diversity and uniqueness enriches and expands our community. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

Check our updated website at www.ststephenlutheran.net

Many thanks to Erika Flanigan and Jon VanZile for spending many hours assisting the pastor to update and freshen up our web presence. The work continues! Your ideas are welcome!

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worship! It's Advent.

We are thankful you are here! We especially welcome our guests and first time visitors today. Stop at the desk to pick up a name tag if you don't have one. Please take a moment to fill out the attendance cards in the worship folder with your name, number and email—especially if you are visiting so that we can welcome you. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Pr. Schaefer. Please join us for refreshments and conversation in the gathering area at the back of the church (Narthex) following the liturgy this morning. St. Stephen members: don't forget to put a little something in the jar on the table to help support this ministry! We thank **Linda Hanzlik** for her generous stewardship of this ministry of hospitality!



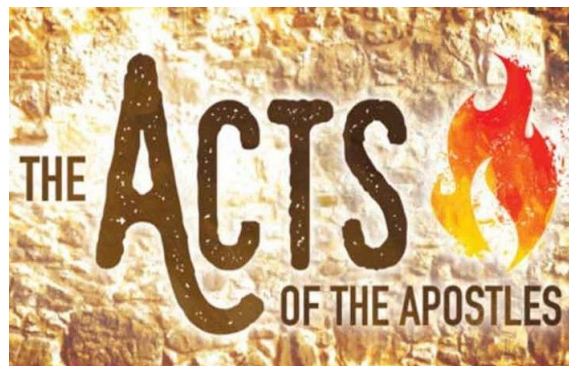
Join us this Thursday at 7:00pm for the final Advent Evening Prayer

On Thursday evening at 7:00pm we will gather in the church for a brief (30 minute) service of Evening Prayer. In the midst of all the business of the season, why not make a commitment to this time of quiet preparation and devotion to prepare for the coming of our Lord Jesus. We have been hearing one of the "songs of Luke," during these weeks of Advent still used in worship and known in the church by their Latin names. This is our final Thursday:

December 20—*The Nunc Dimittis*; Simeon's song when the infant Jesus is presented in the Temple. Come and prepare for the Savior's birth with the St. Stephen family.

Bible Study Resumes in January: The Book of Acts

This was the last week of Advent Sunday Morning Bible Study: "*While We Wait*"—Beginning Tuesday, January 8 we start a new weekly study of the Book of the Acts of the Apostles. We will gather for this conversation in the Luther Room every Tuesday from 7—8pm. Acts tells the story of the early church. It traces the growth of the church from a small group of Jewish believers in Jerusalem to a worldwide movement that included both Jews and Gentiles. This book still both gives the church its marching orders and shows how the Holy Spirit will guide us in mission. Bring a bible and a friend and join us Tuesday evenings!



Poinsettias Sale: Last call!

Today is the last day we will be selling poinsettias as a fundraiser. The poinsettias can be dedicated to loved ones and will decorate our altar until after the Christmas Service when you can take them home. If you wish to leave them for the duration of the Christmas season, we would welcome that! Donation: \$10.00.

LIVE COURAGEOUSLY

It is not too late to return your commitment card!

Your generous offerings not only sustain the mission and ministry of St. Stephen, but also through the ELCA we support the wider church here and around the globe. **The**

box for commitment cards will be in the back of the church for the month of December. There are additional cards in the back of the church as well if your forgot yours. “The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” --2 Corinthians 9:6-7

New carillon to be dedicated next Sunday! The Bells of St. Stephen!

Due to a generous bequest from the late Trudi DiCarlo, a new carillon was installed yesterday at St. Stephen. Once again we will hear the sound of bells to call us to worship and hear favorites hymns fill the air around the church grounds. The carillon will be dedicated next week, the Fourth Sunday of Advent (December 23) at the end of Liturgy and bells will be heard in our community for the first time on Christmas Eve! This memorial gift will also allow us to replace the aging front doors of the church with attractive and versatile new ones. Please consider remembering St. Stephen in your will as an enduring act of generous stewardship.



Name Tags: A Ministry of Welcome. Pick yours up today!!!

As we grow into our future together at St. Stephen, it is important that we all know each other’s names as well as those of first time and returning guests. We have made new magnetic name tags for regular worshipers at St. Stephen. Please pick yours up. If you cannot find a name tag for yourself, there is a sheet on the table for you to print

your name the way you want it to appear. Please start wearing your name tag every Sunday and at church functions. They are free. If you would like to make a donation toward the expense, they cost us \$5 each. Any gift is welcome but optional!

Change for Change Tower: Let’s keep helping the homeless and hungry in December

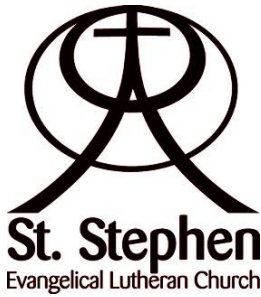
This month we continue the mission emphasis we started in November. Our Change for Change Tower collection will continue to go to the St. Laurence Homeless Shelter in Pompano Beach (1698 Blount Road—next to Broward Outreach Center). This ministry which is sponsored by our full-communion partners in The Episcopal Church provides an array of services for clients who are homeless and hungry. Their mission is to provide breakfast, lunch, showers, clothing, medical care, chapel services, overnight accommodations and more. Please give generously to this local ministry!



Christmas Eve at St. Stephen—two services

5:30pm Family Christ Mass with Candlelight and Children’s Message

7:30pm Festival Sung Christ Mass with Candlelight



Sunday Schedule

10:15 a.m. Worship
 Holy Communion is celebrated weekly

Church Staff

The Rev. Robert G. Schaefer – Pastor
 pastoratststephen@gmail.com
 941-716-5687

Cesar Vidaud – Director of Music

Clarence (Teddy) Rowe – Sexton

Aidee Koach – Administrative Assistant
 sslcpompano@gmail.com

Office hours: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 Mon- Fri

Congregation Council

Larry Jones - President
 councilpresident@ststephenlutheran.net

Christian Hecker – Vice-president

Eric Castaneda - Treasurer

Natalie Prego – Secretary

Lynda Smith

Patricia Engle

Harry Ambrose

Dennis Magarrell

Erika Flanigan

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, ELCA
 2500 NE 14th Street Causeway,
 Pompano Beach, Florida, 33062
 Tele: 954.942.4473 • Fax: 954.942.4474

www.ststephenlutheran.net

www.facebook.com/SSLCPompano

©2013 All rights reserved.



Activity Calendar

Sunday 16 Third Sunday of Advent

9:15am Adult Forum

10:15am Sunday Worship

11:45 – 12:45pm Confirmation Ministry

Monday 17

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

Tuesday 18

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

Wednesday 19

8:30am Quilting Group

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

Thursday 20

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

7:00pm Advent Evening Prayer

7:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday 21

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

Saturday 22

Happy and Blessed Saturday!

Sunday 23

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:15am Sunday Worship/Dedication of Carillon



"Because they didn't have e-mail then.
 That's why God sent an angel
 to proclaim the baby's birth."

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2010 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24029. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Hymns are covered by our license CCLI 2959830.