

# 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 2, 2018**

**First 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

*Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Our Lord’s contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of our Lord in word and supper.*

### 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.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus** **ELW #254**

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



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - `ry na - tion, joy of ev - `ry long-ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788  
Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

**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**



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,



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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father 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:**

**Jeremiah 33:14-16**

A reading from Jeremiah.

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 25:1-10

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

<sup>10</sup>**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

## SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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 21:25-36

P: The Holy Gospel, according to Luke.

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

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup>“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” <sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>34</sup>“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*The assembly is seated.*

## Youth and Children’s Message

### SERMON

**The Rev. Khader El Yateem**

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

### HYMN OF THE DAY:

### Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!

ELW #246



1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! “Christ is near,” we  
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth’s bond - age  
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don  
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther



hear it say. “Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,  
let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling,  
down from heav’n. Let us haste, with tears of sor - row,  
wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mer - cy  
and the Son with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it



all you chil - dren of the day!”  
shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
one and all, to be for - giv’n;  
and with words of love draw near.  
while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878  
Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

## **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:**

**He Came Down**

**ELW #253**



1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;  
 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;  
 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;  
 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;  
 he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.  
 he came down that we may have peace;  
 he came down that we may have joy;

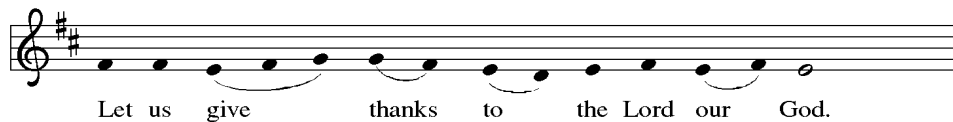
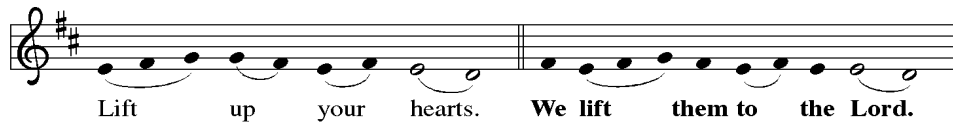
Text: Cameroon traditional  
 Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

### 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





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.



1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban - quet come from heav - en?  
 2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?  
 3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim - son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?  
 What hope of ev - er - last - ing life, what won - drous word is giv - en?  
 What stream of ev - er - last - ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.  
 This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.  
 This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!  
 Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!  
 Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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### ***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.**



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

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## 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: Terry Shumway, 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)

✠ Eric, family & friends of people who lost their lives in the shooting in Thousand Oaks. ✠ George Stewart, Aurea Soto, health for all who are facing an illness, anxiety, Lord help them deal with every day life, and those affected in the California fire ✠ Dax, Joe, Jimmy, Jennifer, Chico, Vera, Brian, Eric, Tonny, and for a drug free family.

**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

***Assisting at Our Worship on December***

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

10:15 AM	<u>December 2</u>	<u>December 9</u>	<u>December 16</u>	<u>December 23</u>	<u>December 30</u>
<b>ASSISTING MINISTER</b>	Sera Butz	Pat Belanger	Natalie Prego	Carol Jacobson	Pat Belanger
<b>ACOLYTE</b>	Katie Paff	Madison Kibler	Sera Butz	Katie Paff	Sera Butz
<b>LECTOR</b>	Kevin Otterson	Erika Flanigan	Catherine Zippay	Tom Peterson	Natalie Prego
<b>USHERS –Need 4 to Serve</b>	Suzanne Loggins Jeanne Pettit Erika Flanigan Lisa Castaneda (w)	Marsha Kibler (w) Drew Kibler Darin Kibler Rosie Fennelli	Harry Ambrose Patricia Engle Catherine Zippay Lisa Castaneda (w)	Suzanne Loggins Jeanne Pettit Lynda Smith Zachary Smith (w)	Rosie Fennelli (w) Suzanne Loggins Jimmy Fennelli Jeanne Pettit
<b>Head Usher</b>	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli
<b>GREETERS – Need 2 to Serve</b>	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle	Rose Jones Kelly Jacobson	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle	Rose Jones Kelly Jacobson
<b>SOUND</b>	Dennis Magarrell	Larry Jones	Eric Castaneda	Sera Butz	Katie Paff
<b>PROJECTION</b>	Jake Vanzile	Eric Castaneda	Jake Vanzile	Dennis Magarrell	Larry Jones

**Christmas Eve 2018**



**December 24, 5:30p.m.**

**Assisting Minister** Sera Butz  
**Acolyte** Carol Jacobson  
**Torch Bearers** Eric Castaneda  
 Pat Belanger  
**Book Bearer** Katie Paff  
**Sound & Projection** Dennis Magarrell  
**Ushers** Lynda Smith  
 Zachary Smith

**December 24, 7:30p.m.**

Sara Butz  
 Carol Jacobson  
 Eric Castaneda  
 Pat Belanger  
 Katie Paff  
 Larry Jones  
 Pat Engle  
 Rosie Fennelli

# PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Welcome to worship! Happy New (Church) Year! It's Advent.**

We are thankful you are here! We especially welcome our guests and first time visitors today. 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!

## **PLAN ON STAYING AFTER WORSHIP TODAY. Congregational Vitality and Mission Planning Every St. Stephen member needed!**

We are joined today by Pr. Khadar El Yateem, Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Evangelical Mission for the South Region of the Florida-Bahamas Synod. Pr. El Yateem will preach at Holy Communion at 10:15 and then following fellowship and snacks will lead us in the results of the Congregational Vitality Study and a conversation about mission planning. **This will be a very crucial conversation as we look to our future and we urge all members and friends to make a point to stay for a while after church for this critical conversation about future mission and ministry.**



### **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 worshippers at St. Stephen that we will introduce during Advent. Please pick yours up this morning before you leave. 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!





**Poinsettias Sale: It's that time of the year again!**

Starting today until December 16, 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.

**Council Members: Pick up your packets today.**

The December Congregation Council Meeting is Tuesday evening at 7:00pm in the Luther Room.

**Advent Sunday Morning Bible Study: While We Wait—December 2, 9, 16**

On Sunday we often proclaim, "Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again." What do we do while we wait? During these Sundays in Advent we will look at scripture to help us live as we remember Christ's birth and look forward to his return in glory. We meet in the front of the church each of these weeks from 9:15—10:00am



**Join us in December for 7:00pm Thursday Evening Prayer**

On Thursday evenings, December 6, 13, and 20 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 these times of quiet preparation and devotion to prepare for the coming of our Lord Jesus. Each week we will hear one of the "songs of Luke," still used in worship and known in the church by their Latin names:

**December 6—*The Magnificat***; Mary's song of praise when she learns she will be the mother of God.

**December 13—*The Benedictus***; Zachariah's song at the birth of Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist.

**December 20—*The Nunc Dimittis***; Simeon's song when the infant Jesus is presented in the table.

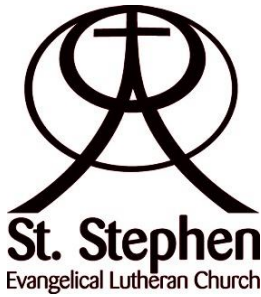
These are all our songs too! Come and prepare for the Savior's birth with the St. Stephen family.



**NEXT SUNDAY is Commitment Sunday at St. Stephen**

God owns everything, and we get to manage it. The responsible management of these God-given resources is called stewardship. This week you should have received a

letter from Pr. Bob and a 2019 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. **You are asked to return your commitment to Christ and his church on December 9.** If you are not able to be with us, you may return the commitment card to the church office or place it in the marked box in the back of the church any time in December. There will also be additional cards in the back of the church. "The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup>Each 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



**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

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[www.facebook.com/SSLCPompano](https://www.facebook.com/SSLCPompano)

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**Activity Calendar**

**Sunday 2 First Sunday of Advent**

9:15am Adult Forum

10:15am Sunday Worship

11:30am Congregation Vitality and Mission

11:45 – 12:45pm Confirmation Ministry

**Monday 3**

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

**Tuesday 4**

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

7:00pm Congregation Council

**Wednesday 5**

8:30am Quilting Group

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

**Thursday 6**

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

7:00pm Advent Evening Prayer

7:30pm Choir Rehearsal

**Friday 7**

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

**Saturday 8**

Happy and Blessed Saturday!

**Sunday 9 Second Sunday of Advent**

9:15am Adult Forum

10:15am Sunday Worship



“Yes, it’s beautiful — but can we talk about its placement?”

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