

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 30, 2018

First Sunday of Christmas

10:15am

The Rev. Robert G. Schaefer, Pastor

A Eucharist of Lessons and Carols

Gathering

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

INTRODUCTION

On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God "to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God," who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." It is Christmas, still.

CHOIR PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

GATHERING SONG:

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW# 283



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

DIALOGUE

Blessed be God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

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

P: Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our 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 and song.

LESSONS AND CAROLS

The assembly remains seated throughout the lessons and carols.

Each reading concludes with the words:

The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

A brief silence follows each hymn.

Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7 *God promises a king*

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

(verses 1 & 2)

ELW 272

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
as seers of old have sung,
it came, a flow'r so bright,

amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah had foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.

Reading: Micah 5:2-5a *The king will come from Bethlehem*

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW 279

(verses 1 & 4)

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!

Reading: Luke 1:26-35, 38 *The annunciation to Mary*

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven came

ELW 265

(All verses)

1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady." Gloria!

2 "For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honor thee;
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored lady." Gloria!

3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever
say: "Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Infant holy, infant lowly

ELW 276

(verse 1)

Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

ELW 275

(Verses 1, 2 & 4)

1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

4 All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

That boy-child of Mary

ELW 293

(verses 1 & 2)

Refrain

That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable,
a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.

1 What shall we call him, child of the manger?
What name is given in Bethlehem? *Refrain*

2 His name is Jesus, God ever with us,
God given for us in Bethlehem. *Refrain*

The First Noel

ELW 300

(All verses)

1 The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

2 They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

3 And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain*

4 This star drew near to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

5 Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

By all your saints

ELW 420

(verse 6)

All praise for infant martyrs,
whom you with tend'rest love
received from Herod's bloodshed
to share your home above.
O Rachel, cease your weeping;
they rest from earthbound cares.
Lord, grant us hearts as guileless
and crowns as bright as theirs.

Of the Father's love begotten

ELW 295

(verses 1 & 5)

Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.

Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be:
honor, glory, and dominion,
and eternal victory
evermore and evermore! Amen.

The assembly stands to profess the creed.

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.**

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

The assisting minister leads the prayers:

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.
Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.
Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.
**Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament
that we may bear your light to all the world.**

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

The assembly stands.

MUSICAL OFFERING:

Once in Royal David's City

ELW# 269



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895
Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876

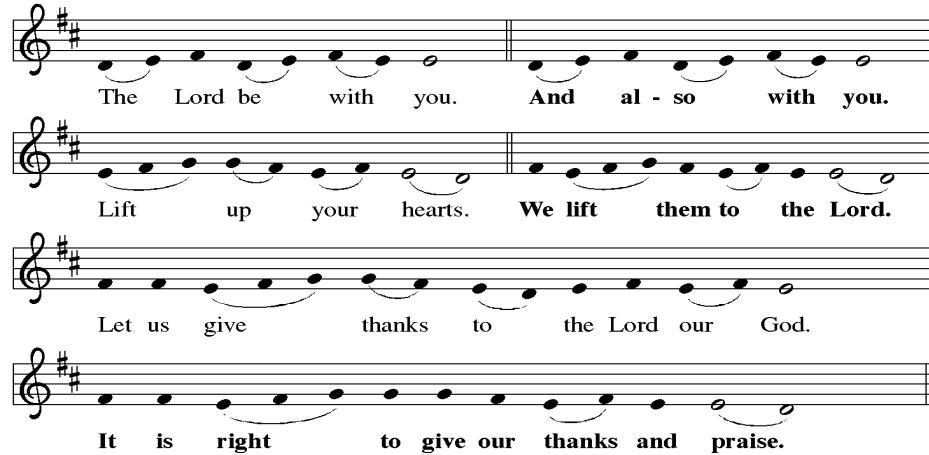
OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Holy God, your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. We ask this through Christ the Lord.

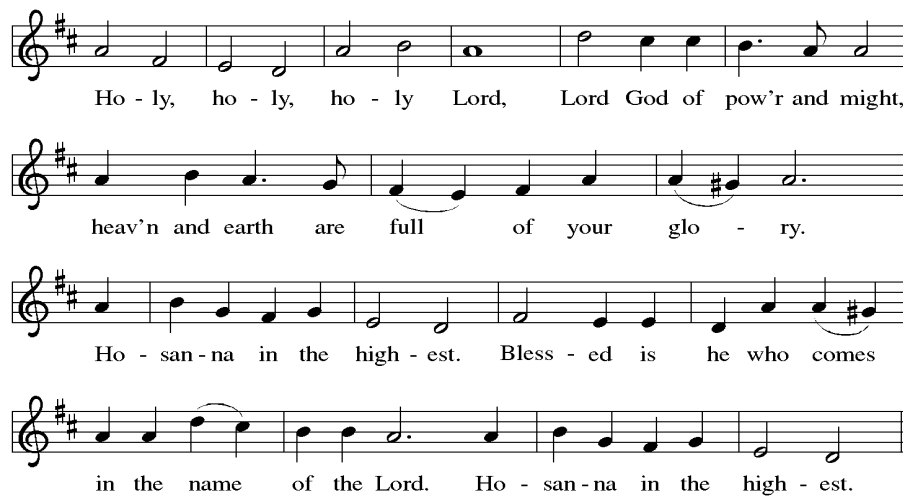
C: Amen.

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:

You are holy, O God of majesty, ...

...Great is the mystery of faith.

Dying you destroyed our death,

rising you restored our life.

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

... all glory and honor are yours, almighty 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. Come to the table where Christ meets you. Eat, rejoice, and be glad!

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.***



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
 look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876

Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

Additional Communion songs are sung as needed



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

God of wonder,

in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near.

As you have come among us now,

send us out in joy, hastening to share

the good news of your love.

We ask this in the name of Jesus,

through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Sending

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

BLESSING

P: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi,
and the peace of the Christ child.

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

Amen.

SENDING SONG:

Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW# 290

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.

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 Crawford, Jimmy Fennelli, Laurel Blake, Kathy Runk, Edith Reichenback, Audrey Shumway, Jim Loggins, Diane Adler, 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)

✠ 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 ✠ Carol, Daisy, and Debbie.

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 Today

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

10:15 AM	<i>December 30</i>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Pat Belanger
ACOLYTE	Sera Butz
LECTOR	Natalie Prego
USHERS –Need 4 to Serve	Rosie Fennelli (w) Suzanne Loggins Jimmy Fennelli Jeanne Pettit
Head Usher	Rosie Fennelli
GREETERS – Need 2 to Serve	Rose Jones Kelly Jacobson
SOUND	Katie Paff
PROJECTION	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! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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!

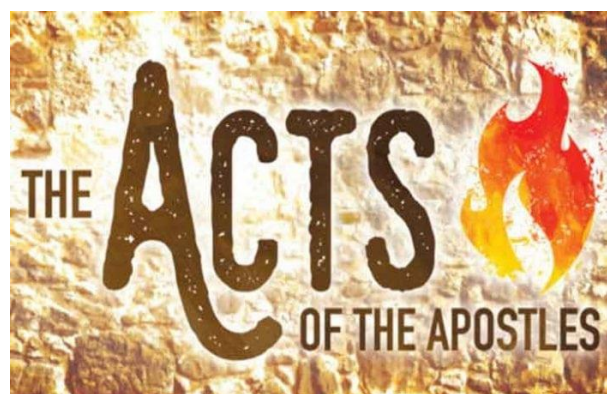


About today's service of Lessons and Carols

The form of the Service of the Word that we use on this First Sunday of Christmas is of relatively recent origin. A similar service was first used in a English cathedral on Christmas Eve in 1878. Following that the service has subsequently been in continuous use (with modifications) in Truro, England since 1880, and followed Bishop Benson in his new appointment as Archbishop of Canterbury in 1883. The original liturgy has since been adapted and used by other churches all over the world. Lessons and Carols most often occur in Anglican churches. However, numerous Christian denominations, including our own, have adopted this service, or a variation on this service, as part of their Christmas celebrations. In the UK, the service has become the standard format for school carol services.

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!



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 you 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



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

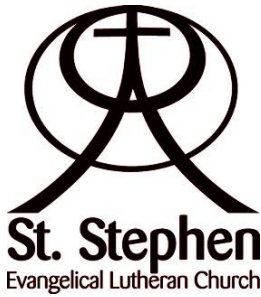
As we grow into our future together at St. Stephen, it is important that we all know each other's names as well as those of first time and returning guests. We have made new magnetic name tags for regular worshippers at St. Stephen. Please pick yours up. If you cannot find a name tag for yourself, there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





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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Activity Calendar

Sunday 30

First Sunday of Christmas

10:15am Sunday Worship

11:45 – 12:45pm Confirmation Ministry

Monday 31

9:30am-12:30pm Office Closed

Tuesday 1

Happy New Year 2019!!

9:30am-12:30pm Office Closed

Wednesday 2

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

Thursday 3

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

7:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday 4

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

Saturday 5

Happy and Blessed Saturday!

Sunday 6

Second Sunday of Christmas

10:15am Sunday Worship

11:45 – 12:45pm Confirmation Ministry



“I’d like to thank the congregation for the snooze alarm you gave me for Christmas.”

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