

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 8, 2019

Second Sunday of Advent

10:15am

The Rev. Robert G. Schaefer, Pastor

Holy Communion

INTRODUCTION to the Second Sunday of Advent

The season of Advent continues as a time of quiet preparation. The church does not celebrate Christmas until the night of December 24, a celebration that lasts until the Baptism of Our Lord, the second Sunday of January. The color of Advent is deep blue, the color of the sky from which Christ will return, the color of Blessed Mary, the color of hope. At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.



Gathering

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

Choir Prelude

Welcome

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the parent who rouses us from slumber, the shepherd who gathers us on the holy mountain, the deliverer who sets us free.

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.

The assembly sings the first two verses as the procession moves to the Advent Wreath.



The wreath is then blessed and the second candle is lit. The blessing concludes as follows:

P: O people of hope, come,

C: let us rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord. Amen.

Then the assembly sings the final verse.



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

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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.



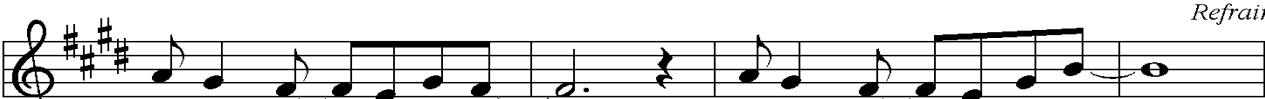
1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; 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.



FIRST READING:

Isaiah 11:1-10

A reading from Isaiah.

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19

¹Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;
²**that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**
³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.
⁴**Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**
⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.
⁶**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.**
⁷In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
¹⁸**Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!**
¹⁹And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory.
A-men. Amen.

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

A reading from Romans.

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the

Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name”; ¹⁰and again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”; ¹¹and again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; ¹²and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.” ¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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: Matthew 3:1-12

P: The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” ⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume 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. ¹⁰Even 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. ¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

Youth and Children’s Message

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

HYMN OF THE DAY:

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

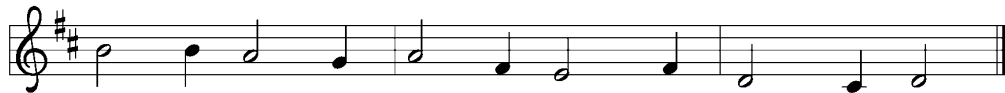
ELW #249



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and hear - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite
 Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

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: Keeping awake as we watch for Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

After each petition of the prayer is said:

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: You hear the cries of our hearts, O Lord. Fill us with hopeful expectation, that in each day and hour we may love and serve our neighbors, in Jesus' name.

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

OFFERING SONG:

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

ELW #247



O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ŭi - 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

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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, Jesus Christ, 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. Come now with joy to Emmanuel's table. Feast at the banquet of hope and love.

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**: (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 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phunt 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

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.

Announcements

BLESSING

P: May God, who gatherers us in love, lead you into pathways of righteousness and justice.

C: Amen.

P: May God, who knows us more deeply than we know ourselves, lead you in pathways of forgiveness and freedom.

C: Amen.

P: May God, who fills us with good things lead you in pathways of equity and abundance.

C: Amen.

All may make the sign of the cross as they receive God's blessing.

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

C: Amen.



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

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: Thanks be to God.

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



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.

IN OUR PRAYERS...

In our prayers today are these members of our homebound and others of our parish family in need of healing: Normagene Richardson, Mildred Grady, Laurel Blake, Katie Paff, Dorothy Johnson, Carol Chmelynski, Jimmy Fennelli, Edith Reichenbach, Jim Loggins, Roy and Barbara Kaptain, Bob & Jane Reinhold, and Shelley Amato.

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

✠ Greg, Carol, Ann, Valerie, Carmen, Hector, Christian, Jennifer, Melissa, Gary, Cheryl, Craig, Robert, Chandler, Aiden, Braemen, Becky, Nettie, Donnie, Jerry, Edward ✠ Jane, Bill, Carol, Edith, Pat Jean, Pat Ruth, Glen, Eric, Nicholas, Laurel, Dorothy, Gene, Annette, Joanna, Chuck, Betty, John ✠ George, Greg, Ann, Jason, Valerie, Doris.

In a facility or homebound:

- 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
- Bud Danker - 3020 N. Ridge Road Apartment W-316 Ellicott City, MD 21043

Assisting at Worship in December

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

10:15 AM	<u>December 8</u>	<u>December 15</u>	<u>December 22</u>	<u>December 29</u>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Natalie Prego	Eric Castaneda	Carol Jacobson	Sera Butz
ACOLYTE	Pat Belanger	Sera Butz	Natalie Prego	Carol Jacobso
LECTOR	Sera Butz	Catherine Zippay	Rosie Fennelli	Pat Belanger
USHERS –Need 4 to Serve	Marsha Kibler (w) Drew Kibler Darin Kibler Catherine Zippay	Jimmy Fennelli Karin Breslin Rosie Fennelli (w) Pat Engle	Suzanne Loggins Jeanne Pettit Lynda Smith Lisa Castaneda (w)	Lisa Castaneda (w) Karin Breslin Pat Engle R. Mottesheard
Head Usher	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli
GREETERS – Need 2 to Serve	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle	Rose Jones Kelly Jacobson	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle	Rose Jones Kelly Jacobson
SOUND	Larry Jones	Dennis Magarrell	Sera Butz	Larry Jones
PROJECTION	Jake VanZile	Larry Jones	Eric Castaneda	Jake VanZile



WELCOME BACK SNOWBIRDS!



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worship, its Advent! Welcome returning winter residents!

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

Wear your name tag every Sunday

If you signed up for one, it is waiting for you. If you need one, just ask! Members and friends, please wear your name tag to every church function. We want St. Stephen Church to be a place where everyone knows your name!



Live Generously

TAKE HOLD OF THE LIFE THAT REALLY IS LIFE
1 TIMOTHY 6:18-19

TODAY: Live Generously Commitment Sunday at St. Stephen:

Our stewardship theme is **LIVE GENEROUSLY**. St. Paul gives the following advice to Christians: *"They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life."* (1 Timothy 6:15-19). Please take time to pray about this and return your **Live Generously Estimate of Giving Card** during Holy Communion on December 8.

2020 Congregation Council

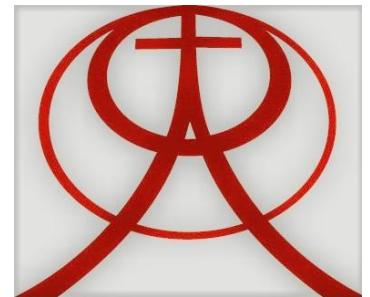
Last Sunday at a Congregation Meeting, Congregation Council elections were held to put us in conformity with the St. Stephen and ELCA constitutions. The following people were elected to serve beginning January 1, 2020:

For a one-year term: Harry Ambrose, Patricia Engle, Natalie Prego.

For a two-year term: Eric Castaneda, Lynda Smith, Erika Flanigan (previously elected to a three-year term).

For a three-year term: Karen Breslin, Randy Mottesheard, Jake Waldecki.

Thank you all for your service!!!



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



Now through December 15, we will be selling poinsettias as a fundraiser. The poinsettias can be dedicated to loved ones and will decorate our altar until after the 7:30pm Christmas Eve--Christ Mass when you can take them home. If you wish to leave them for the duration of the Christmas season, we would welcome that! Christmas will continue this year through January 5, Epiphany Sunday. Donation: \$10.00.



Greening of the church

If you are available this coming Friday morning, December 13, you are invited to help us decorate the church for the season of Christmas. We will gather in the nave at 10:00am.

You are invited!

Thursday is the Festival of Our Lady of Guadalupe. In many Latino communities this is an important Advent celebration. Our Lady of Guadalupe holds a special place in the religious life of Mexico and is one of the most popular religious devotions. Her image has played an important role as a national symbol of Mexico. The local Latino congregation that has been meeting at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, now closing, will be using our Fellowship Hall starting Thursday at 7pm to celebrate this day. They have graciously invited anyone from St. Stephen congregation to join them! Last year our own Bishop Suarez preached at this liturgy. The celebration will begin at 7:00 with a Eucharist in the Fellowship Hall, followed by a Mexican dinner complete with a Mariachi Band. According to tradition, Mary appeared to Juan Diego, who was an Aztec peasant and a convert to Christianity, on December 9 and again on December 12, 1531.



Florida-Bahamas Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Change for Change Tower: Hurricane Relief in the Bahamas

For the final three months of 2019, we will be forwarding all money collected in the Change for Change tower to the Office of the Bishop in the Florida-Bahamas Synod to assist our brothers and sisters there recover from Hurricane Dorian.

Holy Grill needs:

Breakfast continues to be served Wednesday at 9am and dinner at 5pm in the same location in our east lot in front of the sanctuary. Please check the box on the attendance card if interested becoming a volunteer. Be sure to include your email. Pr. Bob will contact you. We continue to collect for these clothing needs: **Men's/women's underwear, socks, T-shirts, shorts, towels.**



DECEMBER HOLY GRILL VOLUNTEERS

WEDNESDAY 9AM

12/4 Judy Dooge – Juliet Crawford
12/11 Carol/Kelly Jacobson – Karen Breslin
12/18 Suzanne Loggins – Juliet Crawford

WEDNESDAY 5PM

Judy Hoyer – Anne Mandler
Joe Leone
Erika Flanigan

STEWARDSHIP CORNER:

Last Sunday Attendance: 73

Last Sunday Income (all sources): \$ 7,988

WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY! THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!!!



Sunday Schedule

10:15 a.m.

Liturgy of Holy Communion

Tuesday Bible Study 7:00pm (Luther Room)

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

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Weekly Calendar

Sunday 8—Second Sunday of Advent

10:15am Worship

Monday 9—Advent Weekday

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

Tuesday 10—Advent Weekday

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

Wednesday 11—Advent Weekday

9:00-10:00am Holy Grill Feeding Ministry

9:00-12pm Threads of Love

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

5:00-6:00pm Holy Grill Feeding Ministry

7:00pm Congregation Council Meeting (Luther Room)

Thursday 12—Our Lady of Guadalupe

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

7:00pm Latino Congregation celebration/Fellowship Hall

Friday 13—St. Lucy, Martyr 304AD

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

10:00am Greening of the church

Saturday 14—St. John of the Cross, Renewer 1591AD

Sunday 15—Third Sunday of Advent

10:15am Worship



Online Giving

We offer you the opportunity to give online through our website and also to set up automatic offerings so you don't wish to fill an envelope each week, if you choose. Electronic gifts are fast and secure.

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