

# 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 9, 2018**

**Second 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

*Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Lord Jesus as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of the Lord and assist all flesh in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."*

### 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:****Prepare the Royal Highway****ELW #264**

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



- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
- 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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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**

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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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:**

**Malachi 3:1-4**

A reading from Malachi.

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM Luke 1:68-79

<sup>68</sup>Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set them free.

<sup>69</sup>**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David.**

<sup>70</sup>Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,

<sup>71</sup>from the hands of all who hate us,

<sup>72</sup>**to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.**

<sup>73</sup>This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

<sup>74</sup>to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**free to worship you without fear,**

<sup>75</sup>**holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

<sup>76</sup>And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

<sup>77</sup>**to give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.**

<sup>78</sup>In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

<sup>79</sup>**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

## SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

A reading from Philippians.

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup>because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup>to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup>having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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 3:1-6

P: The Holy Gospel, according to Luke.

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

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. <sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; <sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

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.*

### HYMN OF THE DAY:

### There's a Voice in the Wilderness

ELW #255



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a  
2 O Je - ru - sa - lem, her - ald good tid - ings, as -  
3 But the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the

call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
cend to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late  
arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the

high - way, a high - way for our God!  
peo - ple the com - ing of their king.  
na - tions and soon will right the wrong.

The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the  
Like flow'rs of the field we per - ish, like  
Lord, feed your flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed  
grass our works de - cay; the pow'r and the pomp of  
lambs so gent - ly hold; in pas - tures of peace now



plac - es where God, our God, may go!  
na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.  
lead them, and bring them to your fold.

Text: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt.  
Music: ASCENSION, Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988  
Music © Estate of Eldred Bancroft. B. Burrows, Executor.

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## 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: Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

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:

### Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers (stanzas 1-3)

ELW #244



1 Re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,  
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907  
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune



## 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.

1 Peo - ple who walk in dark - ness have sought a light in the  
 2 How can we tell a heav - en from hell if ev - 'ry - one  
 3 Where is the sun? Oh, there will be none! The Lamb is the

heart of the dark - est night. Just when we thought all would be  
 dwells in the dark of night? Morn - ing dis - pels, gent - ly com -  
 one who is shin - ing bright, bids us to come! Life has be -

lost, we were drawn to the light of God.  
 pels, and we're drawn to the light of God.  
 gun when we're drawn to the light of God.

*Refrain*

Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night, drawn to the  
 light and the morn - ing. Glo - rious and bright, oh, what a  
 sight to be drawn to the light of God.

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937  
 Music: LA CROSSE, John C. Ylvisaker  
 Text and music © 1990 John C. Ylvisaker.

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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.

## SENDING SONG:

## Hark, the Glad Sound!

ELW# 239



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

## DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

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)

✝ 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 ✝ 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.

**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 9</u>	<u>December 16</u>	<u>December 23</u>	<u>December 30</u>
<b>ASSISTING MINISTER</b>	Pat Belanger	Natalie Prego	Carol Jacobson	Pat Belanger
<b>ACOLYTE</b>	Madison Kibler	Sera Butz	Katie Paff	Sera Butz
<b>LECTOR</b>	Erika Flanigan	Catherine Zippay	Tom Peterson	Natalie Prego
<b>USHERS –Need 4 to Serve</b>	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
<b>GREETERS – Need 2 to Serve</b>	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle	Rose Jones Kelly Jacobson	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle	Rose Jones Kelly Jacobson
<b>SOUND</b>	Larry Jones	Eric Castaneda	Sera Butz	Katie Paff
<b>PROJECTION</b>	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

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# PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## **Welcome to worship! 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!



## **Join us in Advent 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:

The first week we reflected on *The Magnificat*; Mary's song of praise when she learns she will be the mother of God. Join us the remaining Thursdays:

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

## **Advent Sunday Morning Bible Study: While We Wait—**

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.



## **Coming Soon: The Bells of St. Stephen!**

Due to a generous bequest from the late Trudi DiCarlo, a new carillon will soon be installed 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. If all goes on schedule the carillon will be dedicated on the Fourth Sunday of Advent (December 23) 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.

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

Now through 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.



**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 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. We will order the additional name tags this week. 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!



**Today is Commitment Sunday at St. Stephen**

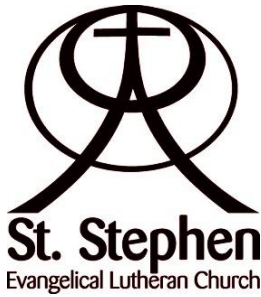
God owns everything, and we get to manage it. The responsible management of these God-given resources is called stewardship. Your generous offerings not only sustain the mission and ministry of St. Stephen, but also through the ELCA we support the wider church here and around the globe. **You are asked to return your commitment to Christ and his church during this liturgy.** There will be additional cards in the back of the church if your forgot yours. Please bring it forward with you as you come to receive God's gift of Holy Communion and place it in the box in the aisle. "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

**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  
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[www.ststephenlutheran.net](http://www.ststephenlutheran.net)

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**Activity Calendar**

**Sunday 9 Second Sunday of Advent**  
9:15am Adult Forum  
10:15am Sunday Worship  
11:45 – 12:45pm Confirmation Ministry

**Monday 10**  
9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

**Tuesday 11**  
9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

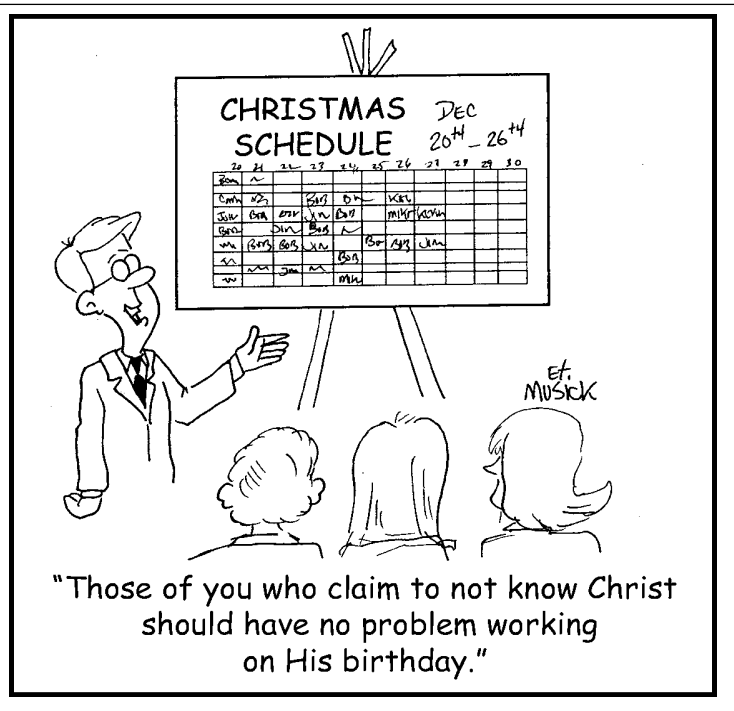
**Wednesday 12**  
8:30am Quilting Group  
9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

**Thursday 13**  
9:30am-12:30pm Office Open  
7:00pm Advent Evening Prayer  
7:30pm Choir Rehearsal

**Friday 14**  
9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

**Saturday 15**  
Happy and Blessed Saturday!

**Sunday 16 Third Sunday of Advent**  
9:15am Adult Forum  
10:15am Sunday Worship  
11:45 – 12:45pm Confirmation Ministry



"Those of you who claim to not know Christ should have no problem working on His birthday."

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