

# St Stephen

**Lutheran Church, ELCA**



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

**July 23, 2017**

**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**10:15am**

**Rev. Pedro Suarez, Pastor**

# —WE GATHER—

## INTRODUCTION

*It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In **the parable of the wheat and the weeds** Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.*

## WELCOME

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Most merciful God:

**C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: AMEN.**



1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, root of life, cre -  
 2 E - ter - nal vig - or, Sav - ing One, you  
 3 O ho - ly Wis - dom, soar - ing pow'r, en -



a - tor, cleans - er of all things: a - noint our wounds, a -  
 free us by your liv - ing Word, be - com - ing flesh to  
 com - pass us with wings un - furled, and car - ry us, en -



wak - en us with lus - trous move - ment of your wings.  
 wear our pain, and all cre - a - tion is re - stored.  
 cir - cling all a - bove, be - low, and through the world.

Text: Jean Janzen, b. 1933; based on Hildegard of Bingen, 1098–1179  
 Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune; adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621  
 Text © 1991 Jean Janzen, admin. Augsburg Fortress

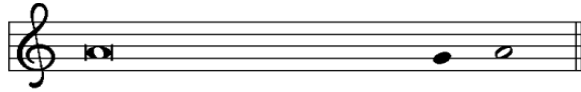
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## THE GREETING

**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 (Sung)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



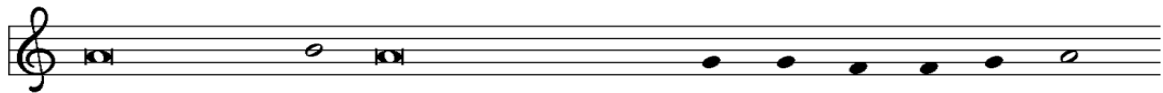
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

# HYMN OF PRAISE "This is the feast"

*Refrain*  
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together:

**C: Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. AMEN.**

**FIRST READING:**

**Isaiah 44:6-8**

<sup>6</sup>Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. <sup>7</sup>Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. <sup>8</sup>Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM (ELW): PSALM 86:11-17**

<sup>11</sup>Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth;  
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

<sup>12</sup>**I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and glorify your name forevermore.**

<sup>13</sup>For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the pit of death.

<sup>14</sup>**The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my life; they have not set you before their eyes.**

<sup>15</sup>But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

<sup>16</sup>**Turn to me and have mercy on me; give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.**

<sup>17</sup>Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame; because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

**SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25**

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—  
<sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

<sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

P: Please Rise for the Gospel Acclamation.

### THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Alleluia ”

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

The image shows two lines of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first line contains the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?" and the second line contains "You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia." The melody is simple and suitable for congregational singing.

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

### GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;<sup>25</sup>but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup>And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ <sup>28</sup>He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ <sup>29</sup>But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” <sup>37</sup>He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup>the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup>and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**SERMON**

**Rev. Pedro Suarez**

—WE RESPOND—

P: Please stand as you are able for the Sermon Song.

**SERMON SONG: We Plow the Fields and Scatter**

**ELW #680**



*A - ra - mos nues-tros cam-pos, y lue-go el sem - bra - dor*  
1 We plow the fields and scat-ter the good seed on the land,  
2 You on - ly are the mak-er of all things near and far.  
3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,



*en e - llos la si - mien-te es - par - ce con a - mor.*  
but it is fed and wa-tered by God's al - might - y hand,  
You paint the way - side flow - er, you light the eve - ning star.  
the seed - time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.



*Mas es de Dios la ma - no que la ha - ce ger - mi - nar,*  
who sends the snow in win-ter, the warmth to swell the grain,  
The winds and waves o - bey you, by you the birds are fed;  
No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts



*ca - lor y llu - via dan - do a to - dos por i - gual.*  
the breez - es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain.  
much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread.  
but what you most would trea - sure—our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

Text: Mathias Claudius, 1740-1815; English tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817-1878, alt.;  
Spanish tr. Ernesto Barocio, 1866-1948

Music: Luis Olivieri, b.1937

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## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.\***

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

**A:** Called together in the Spirit's embrace, let us pray for the mending of God's world.

*After each petition of the prayer is said:*

**A:** Lord, in your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

**P:** All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your care through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**P:** Let us share with one another the peace of the Lord.

# ~WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE~

## OFFERING

### MUSICAL OFFERING:

### Praise and Thanksgiving

ELW #689



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things  
2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our  
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's  
4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -



liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the  
neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work  
guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -  
fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.  
with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.  
joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.  
hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt.  
Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune  
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## OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

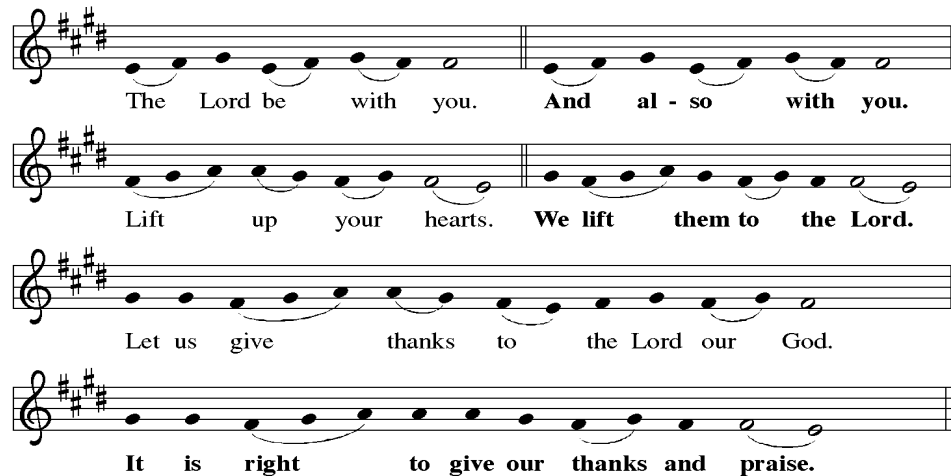
A: Merciful God, you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing.

You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it.

Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

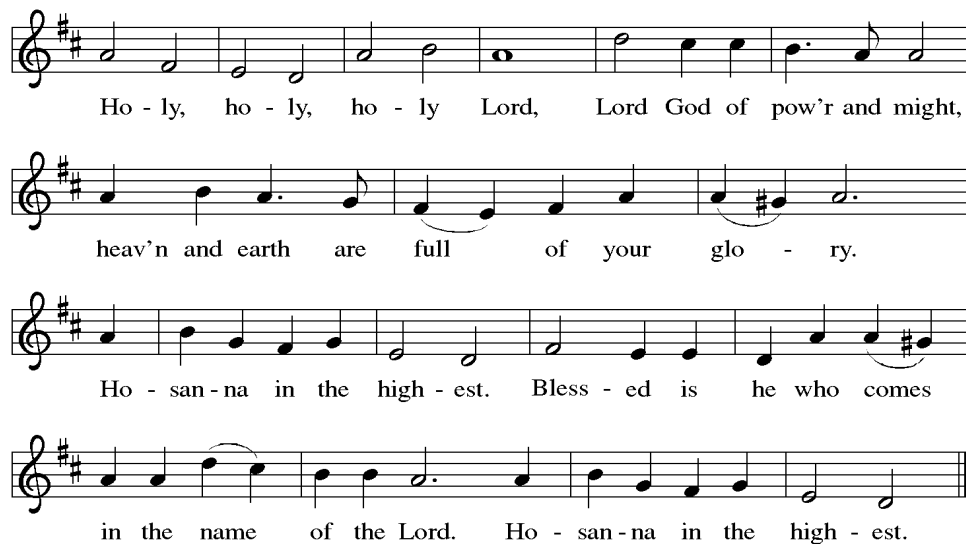
# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

## Dialogue (Sung)



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, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, 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.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

P: And now, we come to You in prayer, as our Savior Jesus has taught us:

**C: 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.**

## Invitation of Communion

P: These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

## Reception of Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

*Communion distribution is continuous. Please come forward by the center aisle and receive the bread in your hands as you hear the words "The body of Christ, given for you" to which you may respond, "Amen." You may then dip the bread into the cup as you hear the words "The blood of Christ, shed for you," to which you may respond, "Amen." Please indicate if you need gluten-free and alcohol-free elements.*

## "LAMB OF GOD"

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no  
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and  
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -  
 stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in  
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
 man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
 hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

*Refrain*



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

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***Instrumental Music***

***Cesar Vidaud***

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray.

A: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

# ~WE ARE SENT FORTH~

## Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's faces shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

## Announcements

### SENDING SONG:

### On What Has Now Been Sown

ELW #550



1 On what has now been sown your bless-ing Lord, be - stow; the  
2 To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs; ac -  
3 Oh, grant that each of us, now met be - fore you here, may



pow'r is yours a - lone to make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in  
cept what is your own and par-don what is ours. Our prais - es,  
meet to - geth - er thus when you and yours ap - pear, and fol - low



grace the har - vest raise, and yours a - lone shall be the praise!  
Lord, and prayers re - ceive and to your word a bless - ing give.  
you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.

Music: DARWALL'S 148TH, John Darwall, 1731–1789

## DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share the joy of God's love.

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: We also need to pray for Joe Leone, Laurel Blake, Jim Loggins, Barb Taylor, Diane Adler, Jean Rogers, Katie, Christopher Belanger, Janet Isner, Paul Hanzlik, Roy Kaptain, Bob & Jane Reinhold, Chico E., and C.C.

**Prayers for Friends of the Church:** Kristin Deering, Fran Marron, Monique Rogers and her mom Betty, Marie Trykoski, Dennis Vancour, Myrka Alverist's family, Maggie Alverist, Ann Farrell, Normagene Richardson, Aiden Chase, Brenna Taylor, Rita Stevenson, Mike, Barbara Greco, Dr. Willis Allen, Eleanor Knauf, Alessandra, Cheryl, Nick Caldwell Sr., Lucille Capece, Lexie Sachlis, George F., David Spall, Joan Coletti, Isolina Quintana, Adam Rubino, Berna, Braemen Weiner, Chandler Weiner, Debbie Seckel, Elizabeth Kraus, Hazel Quire, Juan Tavarez, Kenneth Smith, Mary Taylor, Cynthia, Richard H., Laurie Engelhardt.

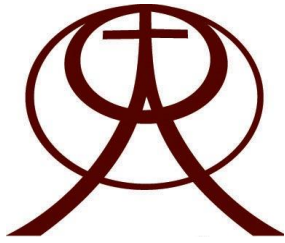
## Announcements

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** Thursday, August 3 until Saturday, August 5. Celebrate God's creation this summer with ReNew VBS, a 3-day curriculum that empowers kids in grade PreK-Grade 6 to grow in faith, have fun, and change the world. For more information please contact Brook Tierney or Aura Suarez.

**LESS PAPER FOR BULLETINS:** In order to save paper and money in photocopies, **during summer**, we will print half the amount of bulletins and the ushers will only give bulletins to whoever asks for them. Otherwise, the option of projection is always there.

### Service Assistants for July

10:15 AM	<u>July 23</u>	<u>July 30</u>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Pat Belanger	Aura Suarez
ACOLYTE	Aiyana Cartwright	Madison Kibler
LECTOR	Tom Peterson	Sera Butz
USHERS –Need 4 to Serve	Floyd McDonald Lisa Castaneda Lynda Smith Zachary Smith	Darin Kibler Marsha Kibler Drew Kibler Linda Hanzlik
Head Usher	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli
GREETERS – Need 2 to Serve	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle
SOUND	Sera Butz	Dennis Magarell
PROJECTION	Larry Jones	Katie Paff



# St Stephen

**Lutheran Church, ELCA**

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

## **Sunday Schedule**

10:15 a.m. Worship

Holy Communion is celebrated weekly

## **Church Staff**

**Rev. Pedro Suarez** – Pastor

ststephenpastor@gmail.com

**Cesar Vidaud** – Director of Music

**Clarence (Teddy) Rowe** – Sexton

**Aidee Koach** – Administrative Assistant

sslcpompano@gmail.com

## **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

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

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