

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.**

March 31, 2019

Fourth Sunday in Lent

10:15am

The Rev. Robert G. Schaefer, Pastor

Holy Communion

Gathering

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

INTRODUCTION

The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away . . . the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!

CHOIR PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands and turns to the font. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The presiding minister leads the following prayer of preparation:

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

Amen.

Brothers and sisters, during these great forty days of Lent, let us prepare ourselves to receive Christ in word and sacrament by confessing our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

I confess

**to God Almighty,
before the whole company of heaven,
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed
by my fault,
by my own fault,
by my own most grievous fault;
wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me,
forgive me all my sins,
and bring me to everlasting life.**

Amen.

The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, ✠ forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

Amen.

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

GATHERING SONG:

What Wondrous Love Is This

ELW# 666



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE



☐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: ☑ Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



☐ Chri - ste e - le - i - son: ☑ Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



☐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: ☑ Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

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

P: God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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 and song.

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

A reading from Joshua.

⁹The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

L: The word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 32

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

²**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

⁴**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

¹⁰**Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

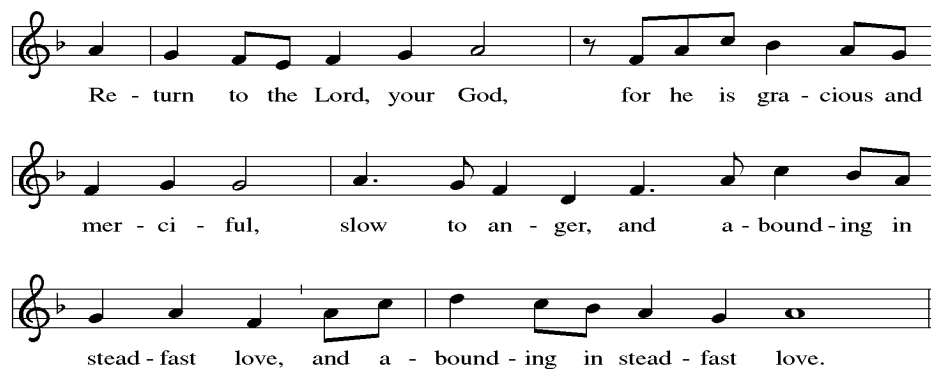
A reading from Second Corinthians.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness 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



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

P: The Holy Gospel, according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: ^{11b}“There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy

to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

Children and Youth Message

SERMON

The Rev. Robert G. Schaefer

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Our Father, We Have Wandered

ELW # 606



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



in fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.
com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,



But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,
grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.
in glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929–2006

Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612

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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: Seeking the grace, mercy, and love of almighty God, we offer our prayers for the church, for people in need, and for all of creation.

After each petition of the prayer is said:

A: Hear us O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Reveal your will as you receive our prayers, and conform our ways to your ways; through the saving work of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

After all have greeted each other the assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

The assembly stands.

OFFERING SONG:

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

ELW# 461



1 All who hun - ger, gath - er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na is our bread.
2 All who hun - ger, nev - er strang - ers; seek - er, be a wel - come guest.
3 All who hun - ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil - der - ness and wan - d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
Come from rest - less - ness and roam - ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.
Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.
We that once were lost and scat - tered in com - mu - nion's love have stood.
Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat - i - tude.



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825

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OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our 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, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The presiding minister continues to give thanks:

Blessed are you, O God of the universe...With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life...Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.... Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

... we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, 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: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Christ has prepared the feast. Come to the table where all are welcomed home.
The bread is broken for the communion. The assembly is seated.

All baptized Christians are invited to participate in the celebration of holy communion. If you desire baptism, the pastor would love to speak with you! 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.*

Lamb of God



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain



watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!"
 par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847–1909
 Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

Additional Communion songs are sung as needed

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Sending

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

A: Let us go forth in peace.

C: In the name of Christ. Amen.

The assembly turns toward the door as the cross passes by.

SENDING SONG:

My Life Flows On in Endless Song

ELW# 763



1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

BLESSING OF THE CHURCH DOORS

The presiding minister invites the assembly to pray. At the conclusion of the prayer the assembly responds:
Amen.

SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE AND BLESSING

P: Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people who bow before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your word and sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

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

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Remember the poor. **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: Caroline Smith, Dawn Schramm, Juliet Crawford, Carol Chmelynski, Jimmy Fennelli, Laurel Blake, Kathy Runk, Edith Reichenback, Audrey Shumway, Jim Loggins, Diane Adler, Katie Paff, Roy and Barbara Kaptain, Bob & Jane Reinhold, and Shelley Amato.

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

✠ Linda H., Sean, Letty, Pat, Susan, and Dan B. ✠ Celeste, Erika's dad, Braemem, Chandler, Aiden, Pat Jan, Pat Ruth, Yineth, Dennis & Cammie ✠ Eric, Lem Sr., Lem Jr., "Pop", Natalie, Rosie. Steve, Kate, Sal, Sam, Joyce, Joan H., and Sean.

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 Our Worship in March

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

10:15 AM	<u>March 31</u>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Pat Belanger
ACOLYTE	Madison Kibler
LECTOR	Tom Peterson
USHERS –Need 4 to Serve	Marsha Kibler (w) Drew Kibler Darin Kibler Catherine Zippay Rosie Fennelli
Head Usher	
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.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worship! 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!

New Church Doors to be blessed today

At the conclusion of the Liturgy we will bless and dedicate the new entrance doors to the church to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Trudy Di Carlo. These doors, as well as the Carillon that was dedicated last Advent are due to a generous bequest from her estate.

JOIN US: Lent mid-week worship series every Thursday at 12:15 and 7:00pm in the church.



We continue to share word and sacrament and explore each of five faith practices that mark baptismal living! The liturgy for the Affirmation of Baptism describes the faith practices that grow out of our baptism (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, page 236). Our remaining themes:

- ❖ April 4--*To serve all people following the example of Jesus*
- ❖ April 11--*To strive for justice and peace in all the earth.*

Easter Day Breakfast and Egg Hunt!

Invite your friends to our community Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt this year on Easter morning, April 21. We have some great plans but we still can use some more great St. Stephen volunteers to help prepare, bring breakfast casseroles, and cook. We plan to serve breakfast in the fellowship hall from 8:30 to 9:45am. The menu will include scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, assorted casseroles and fruit. **There will be and Easter Egg hunts for the kids!!!** If you are willing to help with any of these things, please see Carol Jacobson today!



Assisting ministers needed at worship!



“Liturgy” means “public service” or “work of the people.” When we gather for worship an ordained pastor presides, but the liturgy is the work of the entire assembly and there are many roles. One of the most important is what *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* calls “Assisting Minister.” In the liturgy an assisting minister is a lay person who leads some of the prayers, assists at the altar and distributes holy communion. We have four dedicated assisting ministers, but we need more—especially men at this time, but all are welcome. If you might feel called

to this important ministry, please check off the Assisting Minister Volunteer box on the attendance card. Pr. Bob will be in touch to schedule a training schedule. We are also looking for more lectors, greeters and ushers—see Pr. Bob if interested in any worship ministry.

NEW NAME TAGS HERE AGAIN: Wear your name badge:

It’s really important that we know each other by name and can warmly welcome guests to our community. Please pick up and wear your name tag to worship and to every parish function!



Time to order your Easter lilies

Be part of beatifying the sanctuary for the celebration of the Resurrection. You can place your order today through April 14 in the Narthex (Gathering Area). Lilies may be given in honor or in memor of loved ones. There is a \$10 donation for each lily. You may take your lilies home following the Easter Sunday liturgy or leave them to decorate the church during the Great 50 Days of Easter.

SAVE THE DATE: Healthy Congregatin Retreat

The Office of the Bishop of the Florida-Bahamas Synod expects that within the first year of the arrival of a new pastor, that members every congregatin will particiapte in a healthy

congregation retreat. This deals with healthy patterns for comuncation, listening and mission planning. The retreat at St. Stephen is scheduled for Friday evening, April 26 and Saturday, April 27 at the church. Detials will follow. Right now we are asking every member of the congregation to save the date and make every effort to join us for this important event.

Change for Change Tower: 40 Days of Giving



This Lent, you're invited to join together with fellow supporters to study, reflect and give during ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving. The world provides enough food for all, but more than 800 million people around the world face chronic hunger. We believe in a God of abundance, so as a church, we live out our call in baptism to strive for a just world where all are fed. ELCA World Hunger is our church's ministry to end hunger and poverty. We walk alongside our partners and companions in the United States and more than 60 other countries. Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger address hunger and poverty around the world with creative and courageous action. St. Stephen has set a goal of collecting \$500 during Lent for this project. Please pick up a Lenten 40 Days Giving Devotional Calendar in the back of the church if you have not already received one.

The Holy Grill feeding ministry needs you!

We serve breakfast to hungry, homeless and the working poor at the east end of the property on Wednesday mornings from 9am to 10am from the Holy Grill feeding truck of St. Nicholas Episcoapl Church. Please check off the box on your attendance card to volunteer to be a part of this ministry. We will contact you about schedule. Here is the list of food and goods we are collecting during Lent. Bring items to the narthex any time in Lent.



- Canned Goods
- Sloppy Joe mix,
- Individual Juices, Bottled Water, Tea, Kool aid
- Plastic Utensils
- Underwear
- Socks

In addition, you may arrange with Pr. Bob to bring the following perishable items on Wednesday mornings:

- American Cheese, Eggs, Butter, Breakfast Meat, Vegetables, Fruit.

You may also donate money designated for the Holy Grill for equipment for such as:

- Ice Machine, Ovens, Walk- in Refrigeration, as well as food.

There is a Congregation Council Meeting next Wednesday

Council members please be sure to pick up your packets for the meeting at 7:00pm in the Luther Room this Wednesday, April 3.

VENEZUELA AID: Venezuela remains in crisis and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America continues to fund a project that allows St. Stephen make a commitment to help by sending food and other items like toiletries. Our receiving person in Venezuela is Pastor Gerardo Hans from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Venezuela. We are thankful for Chris and Karin Hecker who are heading this project up!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER:

Last Sunday Attendance: 148

Last Sunday Income (all sources): \$7,443

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!!!



Sunday Schedule

10:15 a.m. Worship
Holy Communion is celebrated weekly
11:45 a.m. Confirmation Ministry

Thursday Eucharist in Lent

12:15 p.m. & 7:00pm

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 31

10:15am Sunday Worship

11:45 - 12:45pm Confirmation Ministry

Monday 1

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

Tuesday 2

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

Wednesday 3

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

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

7:00pm Congregation Council Meeting

Thursday 4

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

12:15pm Midweek Lent Eucharist

7:00pm Midweek Lent Eucharist

7:45pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday 5

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

Saturday 6

Happy and Blessed Saturday!

Sunday 7

10:15am Sunday Worship

11:45 - 12:45pm Confirmation Ministry



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