

St Stephen

Lutheran Church, ELCA



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

May 14, 2017

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10:15am

Pastor Pedro Suarez

INTRODUCTION

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As First Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able and turn the entrance of the sanctuary, facing the processional cross for the 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 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry;
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

Refrain



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
 Music: David N. Johnson, 1922-1987
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 Music © 1969 *Contemporary Worship 1*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

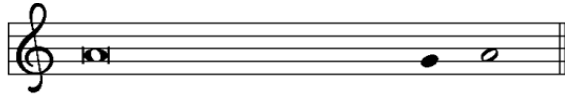
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THE GREETING

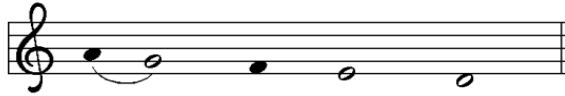
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

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.



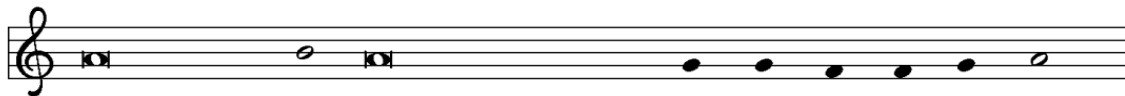
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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: Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN

Children's Message

FIRST READING:

Acts 7:55-60

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM (ELW): Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

¹In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

²**Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.**

³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

⁴**Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength.**

⁵Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

¹⁵**My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.**

¹⁶Let your face shine up on your servant; save me in your steadfast love.”

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—
³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” ⁸and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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.

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 14th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

Pastor Pedro Suarez

—WE RESPOND—

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

Refrain
Leader All

Ne - no, ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la - ku - i - ta we - we,
Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,

ne - no la wo - ko - vu, te - na je - ma. ma.
of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort, and joy. joy.

Leader All

Ye - su a - li - se - ma, Mka - hu - bi - ri.
1 Je - sus gave his man - date: share the good news
2 Let none be for - got - ten through - out the world.
3 Help us to be faith - ful, stand - ing stead - fast,

Leader All Refrain

Ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la wo - ko - vu.
that he came to save us and set us free.
In the tri - une name of God go and bap - tize.
walk - ing in your pre - cepts, led by your Word.

Text: Tanzanian traditional; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922

Music: NENO LAKE MUNGU, Tanzanian tune

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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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

A: Rejoicing in the risen life of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

After each petition of the prayer is said:

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Joining our voices with your faithful ones in every time and place, we offer our prayers in the name of the Risen One, Jesus 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:

Blessing, Honor, and Glory

ELW #433

Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry to the Lamb.
Ho - ly, righ - teous, wor - thy is the Lamb.
Death could not hold him down, for he is ris - en!
Seat - ed up - on the throne, he is the Lamb of God!
Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry to the Lamb.
Ho - ly, righ - teous, wor - thy is the Lamb.
Death could not hold him down, for he is ris - en!
Seat - ed up - on the throne, he is the Lamb of God!
Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry to the Lamb. Ho - ly,
righ - teous, wor - thy is the Lamb of God.

Text: Geoff Bullock and David Reidy
Music: Geoff Bullock and David Reidy
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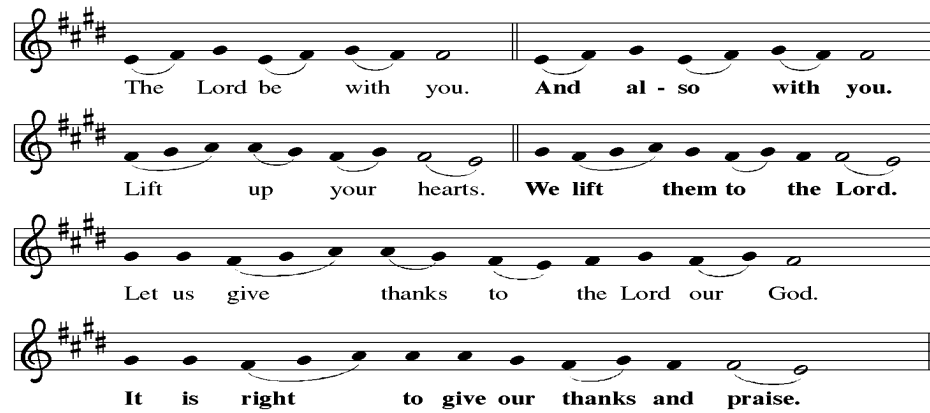
BLESSING, HONOR, AND GLORY
PM

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. **Amen.**

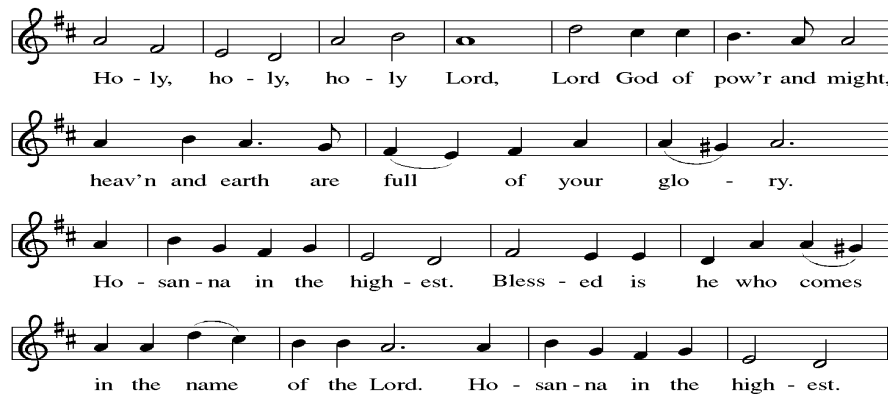
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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, for the glorious resurrection of our savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising had brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, 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 God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, 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 today is at the Altar rail and received by intinction. Please come forward by the center aisle at the direction of an usher, and kneel or stand (as you are able) at the Altar rail. Receive the bread in your hands and dip it in the wine. The wine is alcohol free. There is no group dismissal. Please return to your seats by the center aisle. There will be another communion station below for those that prefer not to come to the Altar rail. Please indicate if you need gluten-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.

Refrain

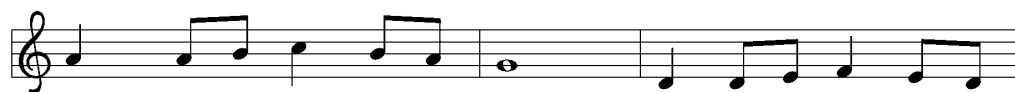
Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en, we



eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.



1 Break now the bread of Christ's sac - ri - fice; giv - ing
 2 Seek not the food that will pass a - way; set your
 3 Love as the one who, in love for you, gave him -
 4 Dwell in the one who now dwells in you; make your
 5 Drink of this cup and de - clare his death; eat this



thanks, hun - gry ones, gath - er round. Eat, all of you, and be
 hearts on the food that en - dures. Come, learn the true and the
 self for the life of the world. Come to the one who is
 home in the life - giv - ing Word. Know on - ly Christ, Ho - ly
 bread and be - lieve Eas - ter morn; trust his re - turn and, with



sat - is - fied; in Christ's pres - ence the loaves will a - bound.
 liv - ing way, that the full - ness of life may be yours.
 food for you, that your hun - ger and thirst be no more.
 One of God, and be - lieve in the truth you have heard.
 ev - 'ry breath, praise the one in whom you are re - born.

Refrain

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952

Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, BREAK NOW THE BREAD; Argentine traditional, refrain; Marty Haugen, b. 1950, stanzas
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Instrumental Music**Cesar Vidaud****PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen 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:

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

ELW #389



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789

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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 Barb Taylor, Jan Danker, Diane Adler, Jean Rogers, Katie, Christopher Belanger, Janet Isner, Paul Hanzlik, Roy Kaptain, Bob & Jane Reinhold, Chico E., C.C., and Mickey Donahue at the death of his loving mother Gladys Donahue.

Prayers for Friends of the Church: Mark Murtland, Fran Marron, Sam Parker, Monique Rogers and her mom Betty, Donald Medalie, Marie Trykoski, Dennis Vancour, Myrka Alverist's family, Maggie Alverist, Helen Dawson, 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, Norma Duckworth, Cynthia, Richard H., Laurie Engelhardt, Elena Villacis and the Zavala Villacis family at the death of Jimmy Zavala.

We are always updating our prayer list. If you would like your name added or removed, please notify Pat Belanger or the office.

Announcements

REGULAR CONSECRATING WINE FOR COMMUNION: We would like to continue to offer Non-Alcoholic and Gluten free options for those parishioners that have those needs or preference. However, it is the theological and liturgical practice of the Lutheran church to use regular wine. Besides it is the most effective practices against the sharing of germs. We will strongly recommend to commune by intinction. Regular wine will be offered **beginning June 2017.**

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.

FIRST COMMUNIONS: On May 21, 2017, six children will be receiving the first communion at St. Stephen. Let us pray for them, their parents and their godparents.

BISHOP'S VISIT: Our interim Bishop Marcus Lohrmann of the Florida-Bahamas Synod of the ELCA will be preaching at St. Stephen on Pentecost Sunday, June 4, 2017. Please come meet him!

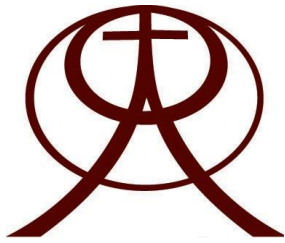
VENEZUELA AID: Venezuela remains in crisis and our church has committed to help by sending food and other items like toiletries. Our receiving person in Venezuela is Pastor Gerardo Hans from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Valencia. He will make sure the shipment will get to Casa Hogar which is an orphanage managed by the church where the need is greater. We are aiming for our first shipment to be sent mid-April. Since the food is scares, we will buy it here wholesale and send it door to door. We ask that you put your donations in the money tower. We are also asking for volunteers, men and women because food will be purchased by the sack, therefore we will need men to help us carry them. All your help is appreciated!

FILLING OUT PEW PADS: At the end of each pew there are some pads for information. Please fill them out as you are able, and we may contact you if you wish, with the monthly Newsletter, or indicate if you need a pastoral call.

10:15A.M. ONE WORSHIP ONLY: Since April 9 we only have one worship service at 10:15am.

Service Assistants for May

10:15 AM	<i>May 14</i>	<i>May 21</i>	<i>May 28</i>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Sera Butz	Carol Jacobson	Natalie Prego
ACOLYTE	Katie Paff	Sera Butz	Madison Kibler
LECTOR	Natalie Prego	Catherine Zippay	Juliet Crawford
USHERS –Need 4 to Serve	Lynda Smith Zachary Smith Lisa Castaneda Sherry Fox	Harry Ambrose Patricia Engle Catherine Zippay Floyd MacDonald	Marsha Kibler Drew Kibler Darin Kibler Jeanne Pettit
Head Usher	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli
GREETERS – Need 2 to Serve	Kelly Jacobson Ruth Wagle	Caroline Smith Barbara Kaptain	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones
SOUND	Eric Castaneda	Dennis Magarrell	Larry Jones
PROJECTION	Chris Castaneda	Chris Castaneda	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

11:15 a.m. Sunday School

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

Natalie Prego - Secretary

Patricia Engle

Dennis Magarrell

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