

# St Stephen

**Lutheran Church, ELCA**



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

**September 03, 2017**

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

**10:15am**

**Rev. Pedro Suarez, Pastor**

## —WE GATHER—

### INTRODUCTION

*The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering, yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.*

### 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 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,  
 2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.  
 3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;  
 4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,  
 Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.  
 hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.  
 Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:  
 Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;  
 By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,  
 by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.  
 we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.  
 quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.  
 grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855–1932

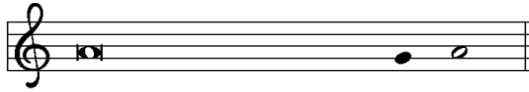
Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

**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.



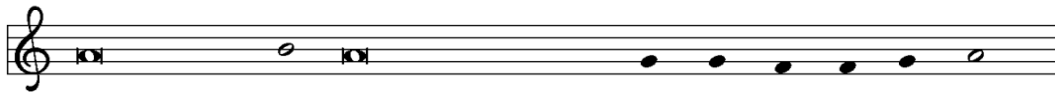
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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: O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **AMEN**

**FIRST READING:**

**Jeremiah 15:15-21**

<sup>15</sup>O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. <sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. <sup>17</sup>I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. <sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. <sup>20</sup>And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD. <sup>21</sup>I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM (ELW): PSALM 26:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity;  
I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

<sup>2</sup>**Test me, O LORD, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.**

<sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.

<sup>4</sup>**I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

<sup>5</sup>I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.

<sup>6</sup>**I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, that I may go in procession round your altar,**

<sup>7</sup>singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

<sup>8</sup>**LORD, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides.**

**SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21**

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. <sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” <sup>20</sup>No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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. Matthew, the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28**

<sup>21</sup>From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

<sup>27</sup>“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup>Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

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:**

**Lift High the Cross**

**ELW #660**



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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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:** Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

*After each petition of the prayer is said:*

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

**C: Hear our prayer.**

**P:** Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit.

**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:

### Day by Day

ELW #790



1 Day by day, your mer-cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort  
2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and  
3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens



to my anx-ious soul. Day by day, the bless-ings, Lord, you send me  
wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me  
grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me



draw me near - er to my heav'n-ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all  
o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil  
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter



mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior,  
of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior,  
what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior,



lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.  
help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.  
with your pres - ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936–2005

Music: BLOTT EN DAG, Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813–1882

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## OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

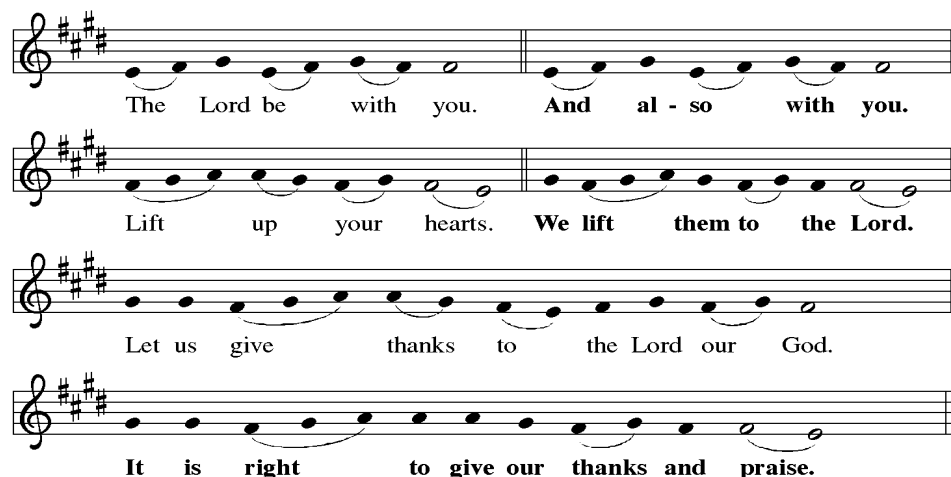
A: Merciful God, you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing.

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.**

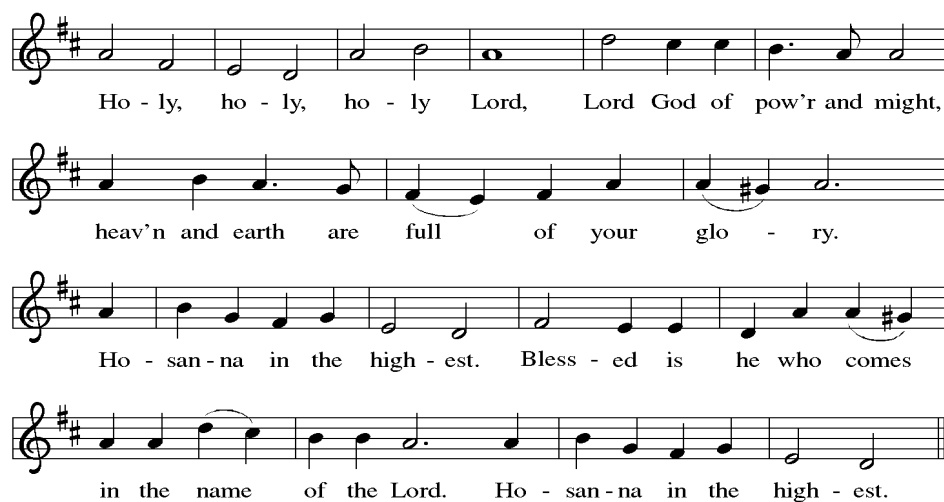
# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

## 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

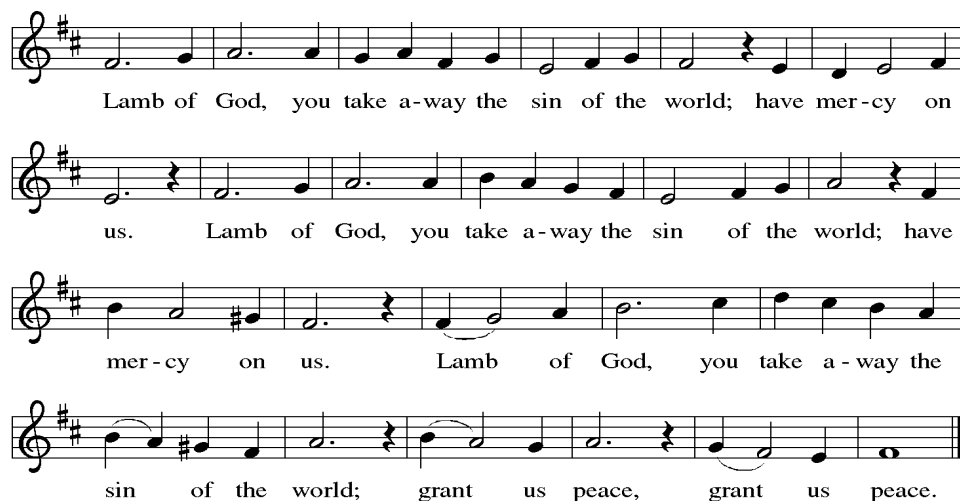
P: These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

## Reception of Communion

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

*Communion distribution 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. 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 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 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;  
 2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;  
 3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,  
 4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.  
 our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
 and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
 and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.  
 Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.

### *Instrumental Music*

*Cesar Vaudaud*

### **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**



1 Rise, O church, like Christ a - ris - en,  
 2 Rise, trans - formed, and choose to fol - low  
 3 Rise, re - mem - ber well the fu - ture  
 4 Ser - vice be our sure vo - ca - tion;



from this meal of love and grace;  
 af - ter Christ, though wound - ed, whole;  
 God has called us to re - ceive;  
 cour - age be our dai - ly breath;



may we through such love en - vi - sion  
 bro - ken, shared, our lives are hal - lowed  
 pres - ent by God's lov - ing nur - ture,  
 mer - cy be our des - ti - na - tion



whose we are, and whose, our praise.  
 to re - lease and to con - sole.  
 Spir - it - ed then let us live.  
 from this day and un - to death.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia;  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia;  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia;  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



God, the won - der of our days.  
 Christ, our pres - ent, past, and goal.  
 Spir - it, grace by whom we live.  
 Rise, O church, a liv - ing faith.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953  
 Music: SURGE ECCLESIA, Timothy J. Strand, b. 1958  
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 Music © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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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 Laurel Blake, Jim Loggins, Barb Taylor, Diane Adler, Jean Rogers, Katie, Janet Isner, Roy Kaptain, Bob & Jane Reinhold, C.C., and Trudy DiCarlo.

**Prayers for Friends of the Church:** 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, Kenneth Smith, Mary Taylor, Cynthia, Richard H., Laurie Engelhardt.

# Announcements

**APPRECIATION BREAKFAST:** There have been many successes this church year at St Stephen. In recognition of these successes, an appreciation and thank you breakfast is planned for Saturday, September 9 at 9 am. Everyone is welcome, including members and friends of St Stephen, to come and enjoy this event.

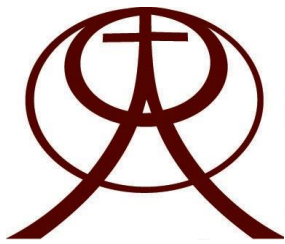
**SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS:** On September 17 Sunday School will start. There will be a sign up sheet at the Narthex to register your child. For more information, please contact Aura Suarez or call the church office.

**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS:** On Saturday, October 7 from 10am to 1pm. Please bring you pet companion to be blessed. We will have refreshments and more. All are welcomed!

**THE LUTHER ROOM:** Most of us know it as the Choir Room, other know it as the Music Room, it is the room west of the Narthex. Through the years it has become also a storage room. Unfortunately, it has also been neglected, and since it is being used for more than choir practices, it doesn't feel inviting or part of the growing church that we are now. We would like to renovate this room. We hope to dedicate this "Martin Luther Room" as part of our commemoration of the 500 years of the Reformation on October 29, 2017. Would you like to be part of this effort? Please make your donation in an envelope specifying, "Luther Room by \_\_\_\_\_ in honor of \_\_\_\_\_." You may also contact the church office or Pr. Pedro.

## Service Assistants for September

10:15 AM	<u>September 3</u>	<u>September 10</u>	<u>September 17</u> <u>Sunday School</u> <u>Starts</u>	<u>September 24</u>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Pat Belanger	Carol Jacobson	Sera Butz	Natalie Prego
ACOLYTE	Katie Paff	Madalyn Ammons	Aiyana Cartwright	Madison Kibler
LECTOR	Erika Flanigan	Carisa Esposito	Rick Dunton	Catherine Zippay
USHERS –Need 4 to Serve	Suzanne Loggins Lisa Castaneda Jimmy Fennelli Terry Shumway	Lynda Smith Zachary Smith Floyd MacDonald Pat Belanger	Harry Ambrose Patricia Engle Linda Hanzlik Terry Shumway	Marsha Kibler Drew Kibler Darin Kibler Catherine Zippay
Head Usher	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli
GREETERS – Need 2 to Serve	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones	Caroline Smith Zachary Smith	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones
SOUND	Dennis Magarell	Sera Butz	Dennis Magarrell	Katie Paff
PROJECTION	Eric Castaneda	Larry Jones	Eric Castaneda	Larry Jones



# 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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