

Sunday Worship:

- * **9:00 a.m.**
 - * **10:15 a.m.**
- (Both liturgical worship services)

Thursday:

- * **5:30 p.m.**
- Family and Friends Night



**St. Stephen
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10 Welcoming Practices

One of the things I like about our congregation at St. Stephen is that you make people welcome when they visit. There is no perfection obviously, but a smile goes a long way, and you do that very well.

We know that it's not enough being welcoming for a congregation to grow. We must be inviting, caring for our community neighbors and a true companion particularly in times of need.

However, as I was browsing the internet I came across some ideas other people share about being welcoming in congregations and I think it is good for us to take a look at how we may even improve what we already do good. I adapted these to our situation. And don't forget that first impressions are key.

1. We could introduce ourselves if we are not sure we know someone and wait for their names back. That way we are just showing that we want them to make sure they know who we are. After we hear their name, we should repeat it in order to learn it. Try not to say "Is this your first time here?" If they have

visited before and had some contact with you, they may feel hurt that you don't remember. Instead say something like, "It is so good you are here. Just in case, my name is..."



2. How about trying to sit in a different place where we usually sit. Perhaps we will meet someone we are not so acquainted with.

3. Ask a visitor to sit with you. They might have questions and this may help them also not to feel too strange to everything, especially if they are new to the Lutheran Liturgy.

4. Some people feel uncomfortable if they are called to stand out by rising their hand or standing up. A general welcome by the pastor is all what is needed.

5. Try contacting a visitor during the week and not just wait until next Sunday, or not just expecting

the pastor will do it. Start by giving them your email.

6. Don't be too friendly, just be genuine. People may feel smothered and that can get to be uncomfortable.

7. Expect visitors at our church. After all, we are in a vacationing area. Some probably have just moved in and are looking for a new place to worship and call their own. Or maybe they are new Snow Birds or considering becoming one.

8. Always say, "Thank you for being here,

we're glad you came!"

9. Be helpful, if you see someone struggling with bags, umbrellas, or something, ask "May I help you with that?"

10. Invite them to join you or your group for lunch! This may happen a few times a year, but some experts say this is what gives the highest rate in returns to a church than anything else.

You have a great personality already. Let's keep growing in that love!

Peace,
Pr. Pedro



St. Stephen Can Now Receive Stocks Donations



St. Stephen has established a brokerage account with Scottrade. Thus, we now have the capability to receive and liquidate gifted stock shares. This is an easy way to make a direct donation to the

Church without the donor having to pay capital gains tax on highly appreciated securities held more than one year, as well as receiving a charitable deduction. If interested please see Larry Jones or Eric Castaneda for more details.

A Note From the Threads of Love Quilters

We have been working very hard this summer. Just in the past few weeks alone, we have donated 120 quilts to Women in Distress in Deerfield Beach and 60 quilts to Palm Aire Rehab Center in Pompano Beach.

We are a team of 12-14 dedicated and talented ladies who meet at St. Stephen's Fellowship Hall every Wednesday between the hours of 8:30-11:30. Questions? Call the Church Office.

- Kathy Leone- Leader



The Socializing Commission *thanks* everyone that helped make our "Line Dancing" on Saturday, July 23, a successful event.



Special thanks to the following:

- Pastor Pedro Suarez - Pat Belanger
- Carol Jacobson - Teddy Rowe (Sexton)
- Rob Lewis - Diane Adler and Katie Paff
- Kathy Runk - Juliet Crawford
- Laurel Blake - Eric and Lisa Castaneda
- Carisa Esposito and friends
- Dawn Schwamm - Linda Hanzlik
- Ruth Wagle - Kelly Jacobson
- Pamela Hoffmann - Caroline Smith
- Rosie and Jimmy Fennelli
- Rose and Larry Jones -
- Jim and Suzanne Loggins
- Natalie Prego - Terry Schumway
- Audrey Schumway
- Also guests: Larry and Judy Williams
- Bob and Jill Williams

August 2016

Events and Happenings...

Saturday, August 13 - Back to School Festival



On Saturday, August 13 from 2:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. at the Fellowship Hall with blessing of the backpacks, games, food,

music and more! Also, the Socializing Team will have the popular "ICE CREAM SOCIAL" combined with this event ☺!! This is a great chance for parents to come with their children and have family fun. School supplies donations needed to fill backpacks. This is a great chance for parents to come with their children and have family fun!

Saturday, August 27 - Elvis Gospel Concert

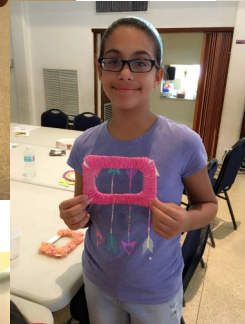
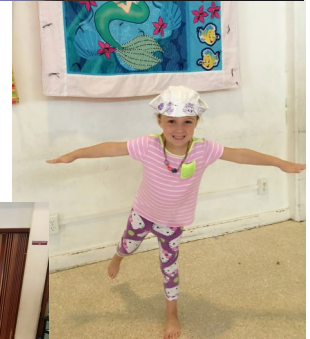
Yes, you read right! The socializing team is planning to have an Elvis Gospel Concert on August 27, 7 p.m. at our church. It's an opportunity for people to come, see about our church, and enjoy the traditional gospel hymns and songs in the interpretation of Elvis by Barry Porter. A free will offering will be collected.

Come and invite others!



VBS was fun!

The children enjoyed "Splash in God's Word" Vacation Bible School. The games, songs, and crafts were a fun way to learned more about God's love. Thanks to all those who participated, and to the volunteers that helped to make this event so memorable for our children.



Looking Ahead...

St. Nicholas is Launching "The Holy Grill"

As you know, we have full communion partnership with The Episcopal Church. In an effort to strengthen those ties we would like to participate in an outreach program that St. Nicholas Episcopal Church is launching in September of this year called "The Holy Grill of St. Nicholas."

This is a food trailer intended to meet the feeding needs of homeless people in our community. It utilizes a twin basket deep fryer,

a gas griddle, and a two-burner gas stove, along with a microwave, refrigerator, and a large capacity freezer to prepare simple hot meals for the homeless at various spots located around the community.

Volunteers are needed to work for a 2-3 hour shifts. If you would like to volunteer representing St. Stephen, please

let Pastor Pedro know and we'll arrange the details. This is a way to help feed the hungry and partner with a sister congregation.





St. Stephen

Evangelical Lutheran Church

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 Pompano Beach, FL 33062
 Ph. (954) 942-4473

Pastor: Rev. Pedro M. Suarez

*“Encouraging and Strengthening
 Faith in Jesus and Sharing the Joy of
 God’s Love”*




Email us at:
 sslcpompano@gmail.com
 And like us on.....



Volunteer Assistants in August

10:15 AM	August 7	August 14	August 21	August 28
ASSISTING MINISTER	Pat Belanger	Aura Suarez	Sera Butz	Carol Jacobson
ACOLYTE	Katie Paff	Sera Butz	Katie Paff	Madison Kibler
LECTOR	Carol Jacobson	Kevin Otterson	Tom Peterson	Pat Belanger
USHERS (Need 4 to Serve)	Suzanne Loggins Barbara Kaptain Lisa Castaneda	Lynda Smith Zachary Smith Carissa Esposito Sherry Fox	Harry Ambrose Patricia Engle Catherine Zippay Natalie Prego	Darin Kibler Marsha Kibler Drew Kibler Floyd MacDonald
Head Usher – Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli
GREETERS – (Need 2 to serve)	Caroline Smith Barbara Kaptain	Natalie Prego Rose Jones	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones
SOUND	Sera Butz	Eric Castaneda	Dennis Magarrell	Katie Paff
PROJECTION	Dennis Magarrell	Larry Jones	Eric Castaneda	Sera Butz

August 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4 5:30 p.m. Family & Friends Night 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	5	6
7 9 am & 10:15 am Worship	8	9	10 8:30 am Quilting 3 pm Preschool Chapel	11 6:00 p.m. Worshipping Team Meeting	12	13 14 2pm-4pm Back to School Fest B A C K @ School
14 9 am & 10:15 am Worship	15	16	17 8:30 am Quilting 3 pm Preschool Chapel	18	19	20
21 9 am & 10:15 am Worship	22	23	24 8:30 am Quilting 3 pm Preschool Chapel	25	26	27 7:00pm Elvis Gospel Concert 
28 9 am & 10:15 am Worship	29	30 7pm Council Meeting	31 8:30 am Quilting 3 pm Preschool Chapel	28 7:30 pm Choir Practice	29	30