



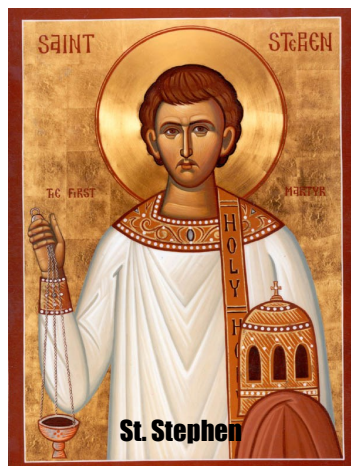
# The Messenger

2500 NE 14th Street Causeway, Pompano Beach, FL 33062 Ph. (954) 942-4473

April 2016

## Sunday Worship:

- \* **9:00 a.m.**  
Praise Worship and Faith Formation
- \* **10:15 a.m.**  
Traditional Blend Worship Service



## In This Issue:

- ⇒ Entering Through Baptism
- ⇒ Before and After Holy Week at the Preschool.
- ⇒ Events and Happenings in April
- ⇒ March Workday Feedback.
- ⇒ Deaconess Words.

## Entering Through Baptism: A Short Note on the Placement of the Baptismal Font

*As I was researching about the placement of the baptismal font, I came across this article by Pastor Rich Lusk which I find most relevant to why we now have the baptismal font at the entrance of the sanctuary. I want to share it with you. – Pr. Pedro Suarez*

The placement of the baptismal font at the entry point of the sanctuary is not accidental. It serves an important symbolic purpose. Because baptism is the means by which we enter the church (as virtually all Christians agree; cf. 1 Cor. 12:13 and Westminster Confession 28.1), it makes good sense to keep the font there as a reminder of this truth. Each week as we enter the worship service, passing by the font helps us to remember that we are God's baptized people. We have access to God only because we have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus and have received the outpouring of God's Spirit in baptism. We are invited to draw near to God in the heavenly most holy place "having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water" (Heb. 10:19-25). In baptism, God ordained us as members of his royal priesthood in Christ so that we are qualified to minister and offer sacrifice in his presence. We are clothed with Christ as our priestly garment (Gal. 3:27-28) and share in his anointing of the Spirit (Acts 2:33, 38).



have the font and perform baptisms at the church's entrance. In this case, the layout of the church and biblical theology match and reinforce one another. This symbolic practice of performing baptisms at the church entrance traces back to the earliest Christians, and continues to be an architectural feature of many church buildings in many different Christian traditions in our own day. A Lutheran theologian makes the following remark:

While only a bowl is needed for baptism, the font is usually much more elaborate than that in order to emphasize the importance of baptism. Since baptism is the sacrament of initiation or entrance to the church, it is becoming much more common to place the font at the entrance...This position results in excellent symbolism. As worshipers enter church...they pass the font which serves as a visual reminder that we can come into God's presence because our sins have been washed away in baptism (Psalm 24: 3-4). Pushing the font off in a corner should be avoided. Because baptism is

important the font should be substantial and have a prominent place of its own.

Liturgical theologian Ken Collins notes the origins of placing the baptismal font at the back of the sanctuary in the first house churches:

In a Roman house, the household's water source was in the atrium just inside the front door. When early Christians converted a house to a church, that water source became the place where baptisms could take place if it wasn't possible to baptize outdoors. Even though the position of the baptistery was determined by the existing architecture of the house, it took on a symbolic meaning, because baptism is the entrance to the Christian life.

If you've been in very many older church buildings or cathedrals, you have no doubt seen baptismal fonts placed near the sanctuary's threshold. In keeping with this long and venerable tradition, we do our baptisms at the entrance of the sanctuary. We know this will be a bit different than what most folks are used to—and will also require people to crane their necks around to the back to witness the event. But such minor inconveniences are worth it in order to preserve such beautiful and deeply rooted theological symbolism.

Since baptism is our entry point into the covenant community, it makes sense to

# Before and After Holy Week at the Preschool



there was more to Jesus' story, but they would have to wait 2 weeks. "Two weeks? That's too long!" One of them said.

I can only try to imagine how the disciples have felt then.

Finally, I was back after two weeks and after our singing time I told them about Jesus burial, and how after 3 days he was not in the tomb. I shared that his friend Mary saw an angel inside the cave where Jesus' body was, and that he told her that Jesus was not dead anymore but that he was alive. Then the children learned that Jesus' friends not believing it went back

fishing and that they saw him at the beach and although they knew who he was nobody said anything. The children at this point had their eyes wide open and were silently listening. One of them raised his hands and said, "Yeah, he was able to be alive again because he is God!" and I said, "Right on!"

Now, when was the last time that you had to tell the story of Jesus and felt like it was really news to the listeners? Leading chapel at Precious Moments Preschool is truly a mission. I want to encourage you to pray for these children and their parents. Pray for me as God uses me to form the faith of those beautiful little ones. Their faith is simple, yet pure. If only we could be like that again.

- Pr. Pedro

"Wait ...after all the people he healed, and talk about love, they killed him? Why?" one of the older kids at the preschool asked confused. "Well, he admitted that he was a king," I responded. All of them had baffling faces. Then I told them that

## April

## 2016

### Events and Happenings

#### Sunday, April 10

##### - New Members Reception

Please welcome our newest official members of St. Stephen Lutheran Church whom will be received at the 10:15 a.m. service on Sunday, April 10.



Lisa Allen



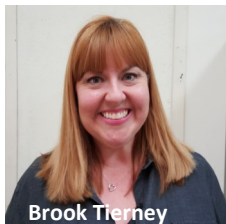
Harry



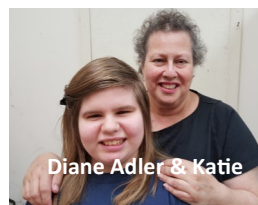
Patricia Engle



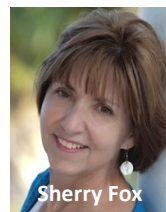
Kevin Otterson



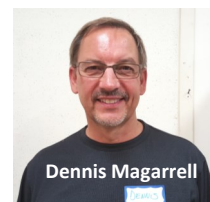
Brook Tierney



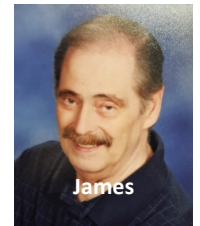
Diane Adler & Katie



Sherry Fox



Dennis Magarrell



James

**Welcome!**

#### Friday, April 15 &

#### Saturday, April 16

During these two days we will work on our Strategic Missional Plan that will help us to define an even better future for St. Stephen.

#### Strategic Missional Planning

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Pompano Beach, FL  
Rev. Pedro Suarez, Pastor

#### Friday 15 to Sunday 17

##### - Education Wing Roof Repair

It will take 3 days to repair the roof of the offices and Preschool. At a high cost, we are accepting contributions.



#### Thursday, April 21

##### - Food for the Poor



During our regular Praise & Prayer service we will present our benevolence collected for the Food for the

## March Workday Feedback

It was Saturday, March 12 a group of about 13 came together to continue to improve our facilities from cleaning and organizing the kitchen, to getting rid of weeds.

People passing by were also paying attention, they see that something is happening and it is good. If you drive by the front of the building at night, you will be able to see the lights illuminating the stain glass window. It really looks nice!

*Thank you so much!*



## Deaconess' Words

Grace to you all,

Once again we have a newsletter. I hope all are doing well since by the time you get this we will be through Easter and all the preparations for the busy season. I want to thank those who participated in any of the services and also thank Rosie for handling the Easter flower orders and her assistants who helped sell or arrange them for our Easter Service.

I want to just write something I found in one of my devotions which caught my interest and is so true, hope all will just know it is not a reflection on anyone just something I thought was interesting, and worth putting in the newsletter.

*"Resistance to change has often been a divisive stumbling block for both church and society. Change may not always be good, but our life in Christ is a journey through change. Through God's renewing Grace we reflect our new life in Christ in our thoughts and attitudes. As we mature in faith, life becomes a day-to-day transformation into the likeness of Christ. When we embrace change we allow the Holy Spirit to work in us, helping us to mature spiritually."*

It is the many things that change that make us grow in our faith, and we all can learn from changes even though sometimes it is hard to make changes in our lives. I

hope as we try to grow our church that we find the one thing that has made us to be better Christians and spreading the word is the best way to find Peace in our lives.

I hope you can find the time to say yes to one area in our church that will be of interest to you and that you may find Peace in serving the best way you can. I thank God for all of you and for the many who volunteer their time and talent to help on Sunday and things during the week, that makes you feel good inside by doing the will of God. There are some who can not help, but as long as you just pray and give thanks that is all we need.

As one of my Pastors said, until next time **KEEP SMILING EVERY CHANCE YOU GET.**

Yours in Christ,

*Pat Belanger*

*Deaconess*



*Thank you  
for  
your heartfelt words*

Dear Friends at St. Stephen,

I wanted to take a minute to personally thank you for your thoughts, cards, well-wishes and prayers on the passing of my mother, Nancy Rever. She was a strong and loving individual. She loved being a part of her family's lives. She always wanted to know what her grandchildren were up to, and hear about their activities. She loved to come with us to church and be a part of worship. She enjoyed talking with you and hearing the stories you had to share. She always felt welcome. I am overwhelmed with the outpour of love I feel. Your kindness shines bright, and warms my heart. John, Spencer and I, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

In Christ's Love,

**Maria Kelly**



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

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

**We're on the web**  
**[www.ststephenlutheran.net](http://www.ststephenlutheran.net)**

Email us at:

[sslcpompano@gmail.com](mailto:sslcpompano@gmail.com)



# April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Worship: 9 am Praise & Faith Formation 10:15 am Traditional	4	5	6 3 pm	7 7 pm Praise & Prayer Service	8	9
10 Worship: New Member Sunday 9 am Praise & Faith Formation	11	12	13 3 pm	14 7 pm Praise &	15 Roof Repair Council retreat 6 pm-9 pm	16 Roof Repair Council retreat 9 am-3 pm
17 Roof Repair Worship: 9 am Praise & Faith Formation	18	19	20 3 pm	21 7 pm Food for the		23
24 Worship: 9 am Praise & Faith Formation 10:15 am Traditional	25	26 7 pm	27 3 pm	28	29	30