

**St Stephen**  
Lutheran Church, ELCA

# The Messenger

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

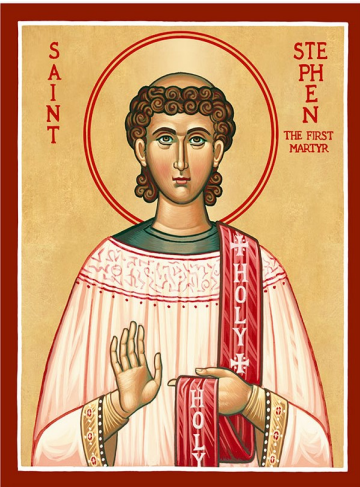
April 2017

## Sunday Schedule:

- \* **10:15 a.m.**  
Worship Service
- \* **11:15 a.m.**  
Sunday School

## Weekly Schedule:

**Thursdays**  
**7:00 p.m.** Choir Practice



**St. Stephen**

## In This Issue:

- ⇒ In Lent we repent, in Easter we act
- ⇒ Reformation 2017- Luther's Catechism "Small" with a Big Impact.
- ⇒ Welcome our New Members
- ⇒ Helping Venezuelans in Need.

# In Lent we repent, in Easter we act

As we come to the end of our Lenten journey, we look back, and some of us did a lot of reflecting, meditating, praying, letting go of particular foods or things we enjoy, or any other repenting discipline preparing us for Easter. Others instead of letting go of things, took upon them to add an extra Christian activity of piety, helping someone in need, and so on.

Now this month we arrive to the Easter season, and the glorious resurrection of our Lord fills us with hope, joy, and a call to action. For centuries theologians have written arguments defending the fact of Jesus' resurrection as a reality. Some of them have based themselves on the account of the many witnesses. Believe it or not, other theologians have given

less importance to the resurrection as a real fact because it cannot be proven scientifically. Obviously, atheist think it is just a legend, but not a true historical fact.



I just find hard to believe that if the resurrection of Christ was not really true, why did so many believers go through such sufferings even to giving their own lives for something that was just a legend, myth or even a hoax? One thing I know, I see the effects of the power of the resurrection in every person that turns around from a path of destruction and death, to a path of con-

struction and life. Every time children who have been raised in an atmosphere of war or violence, victims who had no other choice but to harm others as well, have the chance of a new life, I see the resurrection's effect. I see Christians behind liberating efforts living the resurrection over and over again.

Easter must not stay as a happy story for us, it must be brought to reality today and now. We must act in God's name for the improvement of every human life, particularly the least of the least. That is Christ will and the real effect of the resurrection!

Peace,  
Pr. Pedro+



## Reformation 2017 - Luther's Catechism: "Small" with a Big Impact



**W**hat does this mean? For three years in Junior High School, this question haunted my Fridays nights. On Saturday mornings my classmate and I were scheduled to meet with Pastor Cartford for Confirmation classes. The assignment included memorizing the answers to "What does

this mean?" in Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*. Many of you have similarly memories! For nearly five hundred years the *Small Catechism* has served among Lutherans as the primary teaching tool for the youth (and adults, too) of the church. Nothing that Luther wrote has had a more direct

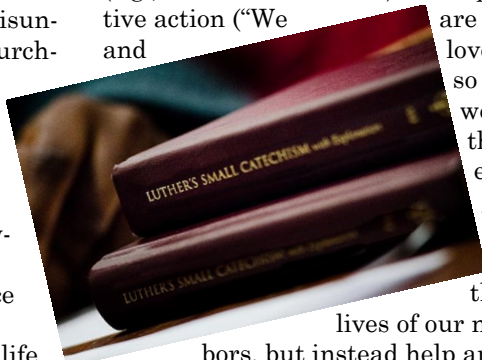
influence on the lives of ordinary Christians than this. Martin Luther wrote the *Small Catechism* in 1528 in response to a need among the laity in the reforming congregations. The many theological debates and changes in church life

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*...From page 1* **Reformation 2017—Luther's Catechism: "Small" with a Big Impact**

that accompanied the Reformation had created a lot of confusion and misunderstanding among ordinary churchgoers. Luther wrote the *Catechism* for heads of households as a primer to teach their children the basics of the faith: the Ten Commandments; the Apostles' Creed; the Lord's Prayer; the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper; the Office of the Keys (confession and forgiveness); and prayers for daily life. These were to provide touchstones for understanding and living the faith. So why has it endured as a useable catechism through the centuries? First of all, the chief characteristic of the *Small Catechism* is its pastoral heart: its accessibility and lack of polemic, its directness and brevity. It aims to convey a personal faith. For example, the explanation of the First Article of the Creed reads: "I believe that God has created me together with all that exists. . ." To recite the Creed is to make it our own. God is for me and all people.

In his explanations of the Commandments, Luther turns the negative (e.g., "You shall not kill") into a positive action ("We are to fear love God, so that we neither endanger nor harm the lives of our neighbors, but instead help and support them in all of life's needs"). Luther lifts up the living spirit of the Commandments over the dead letter of the Law.



The *Small Catechism* also legitimizes our questions. "What does this mean?" is a part of faith seeking understanding. Pastor Pedro tells me he brings three questions to a biblical text: What? So what? What next? I once saw a poster that read: "Jesus came to take away your sins, not your mind." I don't believe that Luther saw his short explanations in the catechism to be the last word about the faith. They

are meant to provoke us to explore the heart of our Christian faith with open minds, transformed hearts, and the courage to act in light of the Gospel.

And the genius of Luther is that he kept it short, that is, "small." He also wrote what is called the *Large Catechism*, which explained the basics of the faith in much more nuanced theological language and with long answers. But, other than Lutheran seminarians, few read or study the "large" version of the catechism. In the brevity of the *Small Catechism* we are touched by the heart of a man with a living faith, confident in God's grace toward him and us.

Has it been a while since you looked at the *Small Catechism*? It can be found at the back of our hymnal, pp. 1160-1167. Check it out some Sunday at church. Or find it on-line. Take a new look. Be surprised and encouraged in your faith journey. There really is nothing small about it!

Submitted by:  
Rev. Tom Peterson



# Events and Happenings in April...

**Saturday, April 1**  
**- Chili Cook Off**

The Chili Cook Off and the Synod's Lenten visit will be held at Zion Lutheran Church, Deerfield Beach at 4:00pm. Good luck to our St. Stephen's chefs: Mark Koach, Marti Stevenson and Carisa Esposito!



**Sunday, April 4**  
**- Council Meeting**

Members of the council please mark your calendars. Also remember to read the corresponding chapters of the book "Unwelcome" for our study time together.



**Saturday, April 8**  
**- Acolyte training**

We will have a training session for acolytes at 10:30am. Please contact Pastor or Sera Butz.

**Sunday, April 9**  
**- Palm Sunday**

We will begin with a procession around the church building carrying palms, representing the palm branches the crowd scattered in front of Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem.



**Thursday, April 13**  
**- Maundy Thursday**

Maundy Thursday initiates the Easter Triduum, the period which commemorates the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ. Come worship with us at 7pm with Holy Communion and the Ritual of Washing of the Feet.



**Friday, April 14**  
**- Good Friday**

Join us at 12:15 pm for our spiritual journey of the Stations of the Cross. Also at 7pm we will have the Tenebrae Service observing Jesus' death.



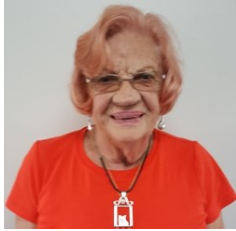
**Sunday, April 16**  
**- Easter Sunday**  
**The Resurrection of Our Lord**

(Only one Worship Service at 10:15 a.m.) Come celebrate with us the glorious Resurrection of our Lord.



# Welcome Our New Members

We are happy that on Sunday March 26, we received into the membership of St. Stephen Lutheran Church several wonderful people that come to enrich our faith community with their gifts. May God help us all to be a supportive community as well for them. Please, make them feel welcome among us as you see them next time.



Regina Crockett



Dawn Schramm



Rick Dunton & Frank Trudell



Erika Flanigan, pictured with her husband John Vanzile and son Jake

# Helping Venezuelans in Crisis



Children of the Orphanage

to help us carry them. All your help is appreciated!

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 scarce, 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

- Submitted by Rosie Fennelli



Rev. Gerardo Hands and his wife



# Looking Ahead into May...

**Tuesday, May 2, 2017**  
**- Council Meeting**



Members of the council please mark your calendars. Also remember to read the corresponding chapters of the book "Unwelcome" for our study time together.

**Sunday, May 14, 2017**  
**- Mother's Day**



**Sunday, May 21, 2017**  
**- First Communion**

It has been a long time since we had children receiving Holy Communion for the first time. We are happy that a group of children this year will be receiving Our Lord's body and blood on May 21.





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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”*

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

Email us at:  
 sslcpompano@gmail.com  
 And like us on.....  
[www.facebook.com/sslcpompano](http://www.facebook.com/sslcpompano)



**Volunteer Assistants in April 2017**

10:15 am	<u>April 3</u>	<u>April 9</u>	<u>April 16</u>	<u>April 23</u>	<u>April 30</u>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Sera Butz	Pat Belanger	Natalie Prego	Carol Jacobson	Pat Belanger
ACOLYTE	Katie Paff	Carol Jacobson	Sera Butz	Katie Paff	Madison Kibler
LECTOR	Lynn Antill	Sera Butz	Helga Johnson	Catherine Zippay	Tom Peterson
USHERS - Need 4 to Serve	Suzanne Loggins Linda Hanzlik Terry Shumway Lisa Castaneda	Floyd MacDonalds Web Antill Jeanne Pettit Sherry Fox	Harry Ambrose Patricia Engle Terry Shumway Sherry Fox	Floyd MacDonald Catherine Zippay Lynda Smith Zachary Smith	Darin Kibler Marsha Kibler Drew Kibler Linda Hanzlik
Head Usher	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli
GREETERS - Need 2 to Serve	Caroline Smith Barbara Kaptain	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle
SOUND	Dennis Magarrell	Sera Butz	Dennis Magarrell	Sera Butz	Dennis Magarrell
PROJECTION	Eric Castaneda	Chris Castaneda	Web Antill	Larry Jones	Katie Paff

# April 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 4pm Synod's Lenten visit & Chili Cook Off at Zion Lutheran Church
2 Worship 9 & 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15am	3	4 7pm Council Meeting	5 9am Quilters 12:15 Lenten Service 3pm Preschool Chapel	6 7:00 pm Lenten Service 7:30 pm Choir Practice	7	8 10:30 am Acolyte training
9 <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 10:15 am <b>Worship</b> with outside palm process...	10	11	12 9am Quilters 3pm Preschool Chapel	13 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 7pm <b>Holy Communion &amp; Washing of the Feet</b>	14 <b>Good Friday</b> 12:15 pm <b>Stations Of the Cross</b> 7pm <b>Tenebrae Service</b>	15
16 <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> Worship 10:15 am	17	18	19 9am Quilters 3pm Preschool Chapel	20 7:30 pm Choir Practice	21	22
23 <b>Worship</b> 10:15 am <b>Sunday School</b> 11:15am	24	25	26 9am Quilters 3pm Preschool Chapel	27 7:30 pm Choir Practice	28	29
30 <b>Worship</b> 10:15 am <b>Sunday School</b> 11:15am						