

St Stephen
Lutheran Church, ELCA

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

August 2017

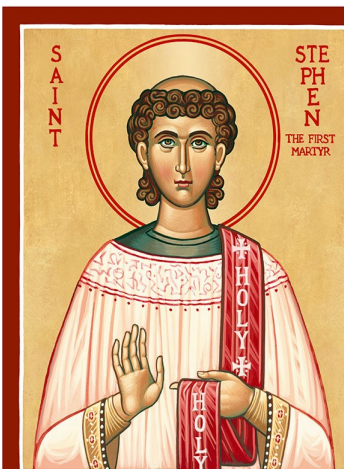
The Messenger

Sunday Summer Schedule:

* **10:15 a.m.**
Worship Service

Weekly Schedule:

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice
(August 31)



St. Stephen

In This Issue:

- ⇒ Dealing with a Crisis
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- ⇒ Reformation 2017 Lutherans: From Movement to Denomination
- ⇒ Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund
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DEALING WITH A CRISIS

I still remember when I asked my Dad, an ordained evangelical pastor, to spend two full days with me alone. Our son, Raffi was 4 years old, and our daughter Melinda was 2. I had an intense debate with my Dad about doctrinal issues, and my concern for a lack of deeper theological basis in our denomination at that time.

I questioned the need for only a “born again” experience through the so called “sinners prayer” as an attempt on our part **to do something** regarding our salvation; about the need for a more historical-critical research of the Holy Scriptures; the concern by many of interpreting the book of Revelation as an apocalyptic foretelling of our near future, thus terrifying people, and not as something that already happened which is intended to give us hope; the sacraments as means of grace as a way of God reaching out to us and accepting us and God’s children and **not of something we have to do**; the discrim-

ination of women in the ministry; and the anti-ecumenical dialogue among others issues.

You get the picture, I was



breaking up with my religious denomination of upbringing, but I needed my Dad to know that I was not doing this out of rebelliousness, but rather that it was a careful process of theological search. It was an internal faith crisis I was living. However, I wanted him to know that I still respected all his teachings, and that I highly appreciated what my Mom and he taught me, which was mainly to delight in my relationship with Christ though the meditation in the Word and honest prayer. To love the Lord with all my heart.

After those two intense

days I said, “That’s why I am leaving my country and I will continue my journey with the Lutheran church in the United States.” Dad

proceeded to ask me to kneel. Well, it was either to punish me or to bless me. He kind and tearfully imposed his hands over my head and blessed me with a beautiful prayer. That was 28 years ago, and I can say I have no regrets. I treasure my Dad’s blessing.

We all have experienced crisis, either financial, emotional, politically and more. It’s a terrible feeling when we are in the middle of it, but a great relief when we are out of it. A faith crisis is also very strong and may lead us to better paths of understanding and of living. I thank you for the opportunity of letting me share this path with you here at St. Stephen. Let us trust in those dear words of Psalm 23:3 “He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake.” Amen.

Peace,
Pr. Pedro



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL **AUGUST 3-5, 2017**

Come celebrate God’s creation this summer with ReNew: The Green VBS. This is a 3 day curriculum that empowers kids in grades PreK-Grade 6 to grow in faith, have fun, and help change the world for the better. Each day they will explore Jesus’ Parable of the Sower with appropriate activities that help kids learn how to care for creation.

REFORMATION 2017 - Lutherans: From Movement to Denomination



Originally intended to be a reforming movement within the Roman Catholic Church, the Protestant Reformation led within a generation to its breakup. In 1520, Martin Luther had pressed for convening a general Council of the Church to address the urgent theological and ecclesiastical issues that were at stake. However, that Council would not be convened by the Catholic side until 1545, in Trent. By that time differing positions and practices had been hardened into a permanent split. None of the Reforming parties was invited to attend or participate in the Council of Trent. And the Reform side itself was fracturing.

What then would unify those who came to be called “Lutherans”? A confession of faith, namely, the **Augsburg Confession**. In 1530, the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V—the man before whom Martin Luther had appeared in 1521—invited theologians and political leaders from the Lutheran and Catholic communities to meet at a Diet in Augsburg, Germany. For Charles, this was a final attempt to avoid permanent division of the Church and to promote better cooperation among the political leaders of Germany.

At Augsburg, the “Lutherans” were led by Luther’s teaching colleague at Wittenberg, Philip Melancthon. Luther himself was not present, for fear of traveling in an unsafe area where he might be arrested. (Many of his colleagues were just as happy not to have Luther in attendance. His reputation for combative stubbornness didn’t fit the need for careful diplomacy!) The *Augsburg Confession*—the theological statement of faith, which the “Lutherans” put forward—both affirmed common

ground with the Catholic side (for example, on the three ecumenical creeds—Nicene, Apostles’ and Athanasian) and articulated the many issues of theology and church practice deemed in need of reform.

No reconciliation between Lutherans and Catholics resulted from that Diet at Augsburg. But the careful statement of faith by the Lutheran side, the *Augsburg Confession*, has endured. It is the one distinctive statement of faith that is recognized by all those who call themselves “Lutheran” yet today. In 1580, Lutheran scholars of that generation brought together a number of additional treatises and documents, including with Luther’s Small and Large Catechism, into what is known as *The Book of Concord*. Some, but not all, Lutheran groups give the Book of Concord the same normative status as the Augsburg Confession. However, the statement of 1530 from Augsburg (known in Latin as the *Confessio Augustana*)



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

consultation among national and regional Lutheran churches known as the Lutheran World Federation was formed. But the LWF has no formal jurisdiction over those church bodies. And there are Lutheran groups that do not participate in the LWF.

The Lutheran tradition has many riches—a living tradition of theology, reaching back to Martin Luther; a tradition of worship in Word and Sacrament; a rich and diverse tradition of hymns and liturgies, among others. But it is the *Augsburg Confession*, along with Luther’s *Small Catechism*, which define the mind and heart of the Lutheran movement, shaping its development into denominational churches in the succeeding centuries. Take a look!



alone has served as the common bond among Lutherans for nearly 500 years.

As Lutherans, consequently, we define ourselves as a “confessional” church. We do not have a single person at the head of a world-wide organi-

- Submitted by
Rev. Tom Peterson



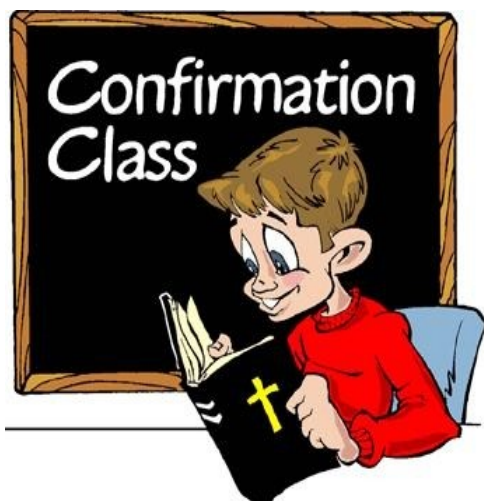
Honoring Vietnam Veterans With A Memorial Fund

As many of you know, my late husband was a Vietnam veteran having served in the Army from 1968 - 1970 and died 47 years later from health complications caused by his exposure to Agent Orange while in Vietnam. What you may not know is that even though the names of veterans like Henry are not able to be added to the Vietnam Wall Memorial on the National Mall in Washington D.C., there is an annual In Memorial program at that location that honors Vietnam veterans whose lives were cut short as a result of their service in Vietnam. Henry was one of 413 veterans that were honored in June of this year and it was my privilege to attend the program

with several of our relatives and to be able to say a few words in honor of him.

The In Memorial program began in 1999 and since that time has honored more than 3,000 veterans, which is only a small number of the Vietnam veterans whose cause of death was related to their services in Vietnam. Should you know family members of deceased Vietnam veterans, I would strongly encourage you to let them know of the In Memory program and direct them to www.vvmf.org/InMemoryProgram. It was a most moving program and one well worth attending. There is no cost to the participants except for their own travel and hotel expenses.

- Catherine Zippay.



Parents of children going into 7th grade, please notice that it is time for them to be in Confirmation Class. In baptism, your children's Godparents and you committed to bringing them into the faith of Jesus Christ.

Now, they
should come to
learn in depth
about this faith.
The classes are for

2 years after which they will be tested and in a special ritual they will become confirmed members of the church.

Classes will begin in October. Please contact Pr. Pedro or the church office for more details.

Dear St. Stephen family,

Although I feel the words "thank you" are totally insufficient, I wish to individually thank all the members of St. Stephen's who have so generously sent their prayers, love, thoughts and sympathy to Jan , me and our family.

Your response has been overwhelming and deeply appreciated. Although I will be starting another life in Maryland, my thoughts will continue on the many glorious, fun filled years Jan and I had with you at St. Stephen.

May God bless you in the same manner he has blessed Jan and me. I pray and look forward to the time when Jan and I will see each of you in heaven.

- Bud Danker



Looking Ahead...

Saturday, September 9
- *Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast*

The Socializing Commission of St. Stephen is hosting a Recognition and Thank You Catered Breakfast on Saturday, September 9, beginning at 9am in the Fellowship Hall.

We are asking everyone who helps in some way with our church to come and enjoy this event. This includes, Pastor, Assisting Ministers, Acolytes, Ushers, Council, Commissions, Counters, Projection, Sound, Choir, Greeters, Refreshment Servers, Secretary, Sexton) and also friends of the church.





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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.....
www.facebook.com/sslcpompano



Volunteer Assistants in August 2017

| 10:15 am | <u>August 6</u> | <u>August 13</u> | <u>August 20</u> | <u>August 27</u> |
|----------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| ASSISTING MINISTER | Pat Belanger | Sera Butz | Natalie Prego | Aura Suarez |
| ACOLYTE | Aiyana Cartwright | Carol Jacobson | Katie Paff | Madison Kibler |
| LECTOR | Catherine Zippay | Erika Flanigan | Rosie Fennelli | Tom Peterson |
| USHERS -Need 4 to Serve | Suzanne Loggins Catherine Zippay Jimmy Fennelli Terry Shumway | Lynda Smith Zachary Smith Lisa Castaneda Floyd MacDonald | Harry Ambrose Patricia Engle Pat Belanger Terry Shumway | Marsha Kibler Drew Kibler Darin Kibler Floyd MacDonald |
| Head Usher | Rosie Fennelli | Rosie Fennelli | Rosie Fennelli | Rosie Fennelli |
| GREETERS - Need 2 to Serve | Caroline Smith Zachary Smith | Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones | Caroline Smith Barbara Kaptain | Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones |
| SOUND | Dennis Magarrell | Eric Castaneda | Dennis Magarrell | Larry Jones |
| PROJECTION | Chris Castaneda | Larry Jones | Chris Castaneda | Katie Paff |

August 2017

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------------------|--------|------------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| | | 1 7:00 pm Council Meeting | 2 | 3 6-8:30pm Vacation Bible School (VBS) | 4 6-8:30pm Vacation Bible School (VBS) | 5 8am - 1pm Vacation Bible School (VBS) |
| 6 Worship 10:15am | 7 | 8 | 9 9am Quilters 3pm Preschool Chapel | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 Worship 10:15am | 14 | 15 | 16 9am Quilters 3pm Preschool Chapel | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 Worship 10:15am | 21 | 22 | 23 9am Quilters 3pm Preschool Chapel | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 Worship 10:15am | 28 | 29 | 30 9am Quilters 3pm Preschool Chapel | 31 | | |