

St Stephen
Lutheran Church, ELCA

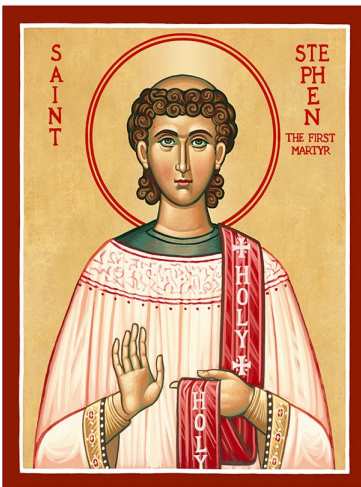
The Messenger

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

August 2018

Sunday Schedule:

* **10:15 a.m.**
Holy Communion



SAINT STEPHEN
The First Christian Martyr

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A Letter from Our Pastor

Dear sisters and brothers,

I was thrilled that on my first Sunday at St. Stephen, I had the privilege of baptizing Saige and Nkosi John. It was a powerful reminder that as we begin ministry together in this place that it all starts at the baptismal font.

The liturgy for the Affirmation of Baptism describes the faith practices that grow out of our baptism (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, page 236). We are called to: "...live among God's faithful people; hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper; proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed; serve all people following the example of Jesus; and strive for justice and peace in all the earth." I share a few thoughts with you this month about these five central faith practices as a foundation for our ministry. This is what Christian discipleship looks like:

Live Among God's Faithful People: Living in community as God's faithful people is a gift of love, and an invitation to serve in mission. We are chosen to live as faithful witnesses to the Good News of Jesus Christ. In our baptism we were made children of God and members of the body of Christ, the church. Our life together in community at St. Stephen supports us as we experience the joys and struggles of life.

Hear the Word of God and Share in the Lord's Supper: Gathering each week at worship is the single most important thing we do. The message of the Word of God challenges us and encourages us in our lives. We listen for God's call and God's guidance. The visible Word, Holy Communion, stands at the center of our lives as Christians. In that meal, we receive Jesus' presence into our very bodies. We receive God's gifts of forgiveness of sin, new life and salvation.

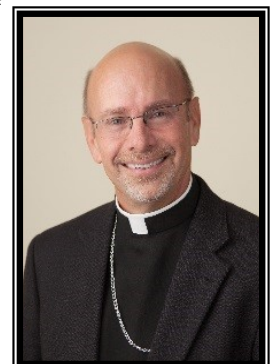
Proclaim the Good News of God in Christ Through Word and Deed: Think about proclaiming the good news. It's easy to envision a pastor in the pulpit on Sunday morning bringing the Word of God to the gathered people. But in our baptism, we all are called to proclaim the good news of God in Christ. Not just the pastor, but every one of us. And not just once, or once in a while. We are called to proclaim the good news day after day, in our daily lives—in the world. That is how the church grows!

Serve All People Following the Example of Jesus: Serving is at the heart of Jesus' ministry. To follow the example of Jesus and serve all people requires us to get involved in the lives of others. Jesus valued relationships. Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman, making time for children or comforting his friends Martha and Mary serves as a blueprint for moving us beyond projects and anonymous charitable activities to relationships. I believe the church is all about relationships!

Strive for Justice and Peace in All the Earth: As believers in Christ we are called to be about the work of justice in our personal and public life. We recognize that God's justice is something deeper and purer than our own best understanding of justice. And yet, we are called to love our neighbor as we would love ourselves.

Looking forward to our walking together in baptism,

Pastor Bob





Living Lutheran: Why do we share the Eucharist every Sunday?

This is the first in a series of articles that help explain why we do what we do as Lutheran Christians. Each month we will explore another aspect of our faith and worship. If you have a question that you would like to see answered here, please contact Pr. Bob at pastoratststephen@gmail.com.



I've heard people say, "Some of the best times we've spent as a family have been around the table." Since ancient times, people sitting down together and breaking bread has been a sign of fellowship and intimacy.

The Bible is full of meal stories. A close reading of the New Testament reveals that the church comes into existence as a meal-fellowship, in which the thanksgiving, eating, and drinking are the very place where the community discovers that the crucified one is risen. For example, in the Emmaus Road story found in Luke 24, two disciples have their eyes opened to the Risen Christ on Easter night when he sits at table and breaks the bread with them. One

account of a Christian Sunday meeting in the Book of Acts begins simply: "On the first day of the week, when we met to break bread..." (Acts 20:7). It seems clear that the New Testament pattern is that the first Christians gathered on Sunday—the Lord's Day—for hearing the word proclaimed and preached and sharing the Meal of Holy Communion. Through these means of grace, the Risen Christ was present in the midst of their assembly.

Why do we offer the Eucharist every Sunday? Because the Lord's Supper was from the start the very center and meaning of the Lord's Day for Christians. It is still the very place we most reliably encounter the risen one. The Eucharist is the very heartbeat of the churches that came to be called "catholic," because here, in a meal of bread and wine, we believe the body of Christ, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him, are present here and now to nourish and strengthen us for our journey and discipleship in the world. The word of God is just not to be heard, it is to be tasted as well! The command of our Lord is to "do this for my remembrance." For 21 centuries, that is what the church has done when it gathers. There is, of course, a distinction between the weekly celebration of Holy Communion and the frequency of reception by the baptized. The Church is bound to offer this gift of God, and the baptized are invited to the table to eat and drink as a sign of our unity with Christ and with each other. On the other hand, this is not a modern-day cattle call: no one is forced to come to the Table.

Hearing God's word proclaimed in the assembly, sharing in the bread and cup, we experience the presence of Jesus Christ with us. This Eucharist was given to root and anchor our lives and to nourish us to serve a world in need as we live in God's amazing grace.

Announcements

- St. Stephen Welcomed two new Baptized

Last Sunday, July 22 we celebrated the sacrament of Holy Baptism of 10 years old Saige Shania John and her 5 months old brother Nkosi Zakai John. Their parents are Shelly Ann and Sawandi John, the Johns have six children and come originally from Guyana. We welcome Saige, Nkosi and their family to our St. Stephen family!



- Need to speak to or get in touch with the new pastor?

Pr. Schaefer's cell phone and email address are now listed in the staff directory. Take note of his contact information and feel free to be in touch as needed!



- Join us in praying for those who have asked our prayers

We are beginning an email prayer chain. This was approved by the congregation council and it is for the purpose of drawing the members in prayer for those who are sick or in special need of prayer. On Tuesday morning, we will send out the names of those who were added to the attendance cards on Sunday. If we have special requests during the week, those will be sent out Friday morning. Emails will go out only from the administrative assistant or the pastor. If you have prayer request, call the church office during the week. Occasionally, emergencies may arrive and a request will go out mid-week. Let us put prayer cover over our sisters and brothers as they experience difficult times.



Looking ahead...

Breakfast Bunch

Our monthly gathering Breakfast Bunch will start on September. Date and time still to be confirmed by the socializing team. Spread the word!



Pastor Schaefer's Installation

On October 14, 2018 our new pastor, the Rev. Robert Schaefer, will be Installed with Bishop Pedro Suarez presiding. The Installation Eucharist is scheduled for 3:30pm. Save the date, details will follow.





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Pastor: Rev. Robert Schaefer

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

We're on the web
www.ststephenlutheran.net
*** **Check the Video Sermons**

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



Volunteer Assistants in August 2018

10:15 AM	<u>August 5</u>	<u>August 12</u>	<u>August 19</u>	<u>August 26</u>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Pat Belanger	Natalie Prego	Sera Butz	Carol Jacobson
ACOLYTE	Katie Paff	Sera Butz	Katie Paff	Madison Kibler
LECTOR	Natalie Prego	Carol Jacobson	Pat Belanger	Erika Flanigan
USHERS—Need 4 to serve	Suzanne Loggins Lisa Castaneda (w) Terry Shumway Linda Hanzlik	Lynda Smith Zachary Smith (w) Rosie Fennelli Patricia Engle	Harry Ambrose Patricia Engle Lisa Castaneda (w) Terry Shumway	Marsha Kibler (w) Drew Kibler Darin Kibler Erika Flanigan
Head Usher	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli
GREETERS- Need 2 to serve	Rose Jones Kelly Jacobson	Linda Hanzlik Ruth Wagle	Lynda Smith Zachary Smith	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones
SOUND	Dennis Magarrell	Eric Castaneda	Dennis Magarrell	Sera Butz
PROJECTION	Sera Butz	Terry Shumway	Larry Jones	Eric Castaneda

(w) will serve wine at communion

August 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9am Quilters 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	2 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	3 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	4 Office Closed
5 10:15am Worship	6 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	7 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	8 9am Quilters 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	9 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	10 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	11 Office Closed
12 10:15am Worship	13 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	14 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	15 9am Quilters 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	16 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	17 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	18 Office Closed
19 10:15am Worship	20 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	21 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	22 9am Quilters 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	23 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	24 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	25 Office Closed
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