

# St Stephen

Lutheran Church, ELCA



**Encouraging and  
strengthening faith in Jesus,  
and sharing the joy of God's love.**

**December 11, 2016**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**9:00 & 10:15am**

Rev. Pedro Suarez, Pastor

# WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

## —WE GATHER—

### INTRODUCTION

*A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom. Jesus points to signs of God's reign: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*Please stand as you are able.*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Gracious God:

**C: Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C: Amen.**

*Estrillo*

Ya vie - ne, ya vie - ne, ya vie - ne la Na - vi - dad; ya  
 It's com - ing, it's com - ing, it's Christ - mas com - ing a - gain; it's *Fin*

vie - ne, ya vie - ne, ya vie - ne la Na - vi - dad.  
 com - ing, it's com - ing, it's Christ - mas com - ing a - gain.

1 En - cen - da - mos la ve - la, la ve - la del a - mor; mor; y  
 1 Light a can - dle for love, light a can - dle for love; love; and

con e - lla pren - di - da, j - lu - mi - ne - mos el a - mor; y  
 light . . up the world . . with the love . . . of the Lord; and

*Estrillo*

con e - lla pren - di - da, j - lu - mi - ne - mos el a - mor.  
 light . . up the world . . with the love . . . of the Lord.

2 *Light a candle for peace, light a candle for peace;  
 light a candle for peace, light a candle for peace;  
 and light up the world with the peace of the Lord;  
 and light up the world with the peace of the Lord.*

Refrain

3 *Light a candle for joy, light a candle for joy;  
 light a candle for joy, light a candle for joy;  
 and light up the world with the joy of the Lord;  
 and light up the world with the joy of the Lord.*

Refrain

Text: Victor Jortack  
 Music: YA VIENE LA NAVIDAD, Victor Jortack

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**THE GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray together:

**C: Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **Children's Message**

### **—WE HEAR GOD'S WORD—**

#### **FIRST READING:**

**Isaiah 35:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. <sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. <sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

#### **PSALM 146:5-10**

<sup>5</sup> Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God,

<sup>6</sup> **who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them;**

**who keeps faith forever;**

<sup>7</sup> who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

**8 the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.  
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the LORD loves the righteous.**

**9** The LORD watches over the strangers;  
he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**10 The LORD will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.  
Praise the LORD!**

**SECOND READING:**

**James 5:7-10**

**7** Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. **8** You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. **9** Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! **10** As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. **Amen.**

**L:** This is the word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**P:** Please stand as you are able for the Gospel Acclamation.

**THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah ”**

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics: "Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -". The second staff continues: "- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -". The third staff concludes: "lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah." The music is in a simple, melodic style with a key signature of one sharp.

Music: Caribbean traditional

**P:** The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the 11 chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord!**

**GOSPEL:**

**Matthew 11:2-11**

**2** When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples **3** and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” **4** Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: **5** the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. **6** And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” **7** As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? **8** What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.

<sup>9</sup> What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>11</sup> Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ!**

P: You may be seated.

**SERMON**

**Rev. Pedro Suarez**

—WE RESPOND—

P: Please stand as you are able for the Sermon Song.

**SERMON SONG:**

**People, Look East**

**ELW#248**



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965  
Music: BESANCON, French carol  
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## NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

A: As we anticipate the fullness of the presence of Christ, we join with the church throughout the world, praying for all who are in need.

*After each petition of the prayer is said:*

A: Let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**

P: Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, those spoken aloud and those known only to you, and grant us peace through Jesus Christ, our coming Savior. **Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us share with one another the peace of the Lord.

# - WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE -

## OFFERING

### MUSICAL OFFERING:

### Canticle of the Turning (verses 1 and 2 only)

ELW #723



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .  
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a  
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.  
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the  
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



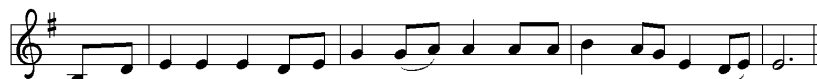
weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



*Refrain*  
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat  
Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional  
Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.  
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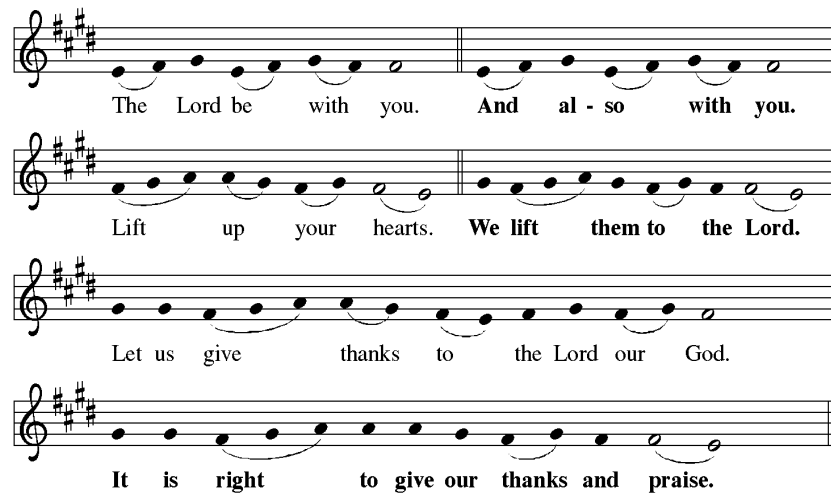


## OFFERING PRAYER

A: God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

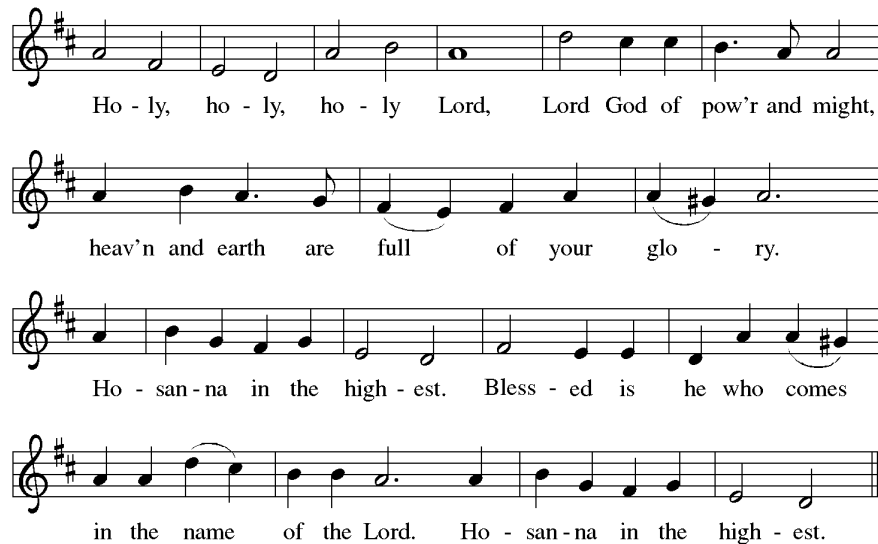
## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

### Dialogue (Sung)



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

P: And now, we come to You in prayer, as our Savior Jesus has taught us:

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,**

**and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## Invitation of Communion

P: Christ invites you to a place of honor at this banquet. Welcome to the feast.

*We believe Jesus Christ is present in the bread and wine by his Word of Promise. All baptized Christians are invited to participate in the celebration of God's forgiving love, strengthening faith, and grace-filled hope. Those who are not baptized and children not yet communing may come forward for a blessing (please cross your arms on your chest if you desire a blessing).*

## Reception of Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

*Communion distribution is continuous. Please come forward by the center aisle and receive the bread in your hands as you hear the words "The body of Christ, given for you" to which you may respond, "Amen." You may then dip the bread into the cup as you hear the words "The blood of Christ, shed for you," to which you may respond, "Amen." Please note that the communion wine is alcohol-free. Please indicate if you need gluten-free elements.*

### "LAMB OF GOD"



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to  
 2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find  
 3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a  
 bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a  
 lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.  
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.  
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951

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## Instrumental Music

Cesar Vidaud

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

# -WE ARE SENT FORTH-

## Benediction

P: Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.

### SENDING SONG:

### Hail to the Lord's Anointed

ELW #311



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!  
2 You come with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,  
3 You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;  
4 Kings shall fall down be - fore you, and gold and in - cense bring;



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!  
to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;  
love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in your path to birth.  
all na - tions shall a - dore you, your praise all peo - ple sing.



You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive  
to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to  
Be - fore you on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald,  
To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as -



free, to take a - way trans - gres - sion and  
light, whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are  
go; and righ - teous - ness in foun - tains from  
cend; your king - dom still in - creas - ing, a



rule in eq - ui - ty.  
pre - cious in your sight.  
hill to val - ley flow.  
king - dom with out end.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.  
Music: FREUT EUCH, IHR LIEBEN, Leonhart Schröter, 1540-1602

## DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## IN OUR PRAYERS

**In our prayers** today are these members of our homebound and others of our parish family in need of healing: We also need to pray for, Ingrid Koslowski, Jean Rogers, Katie, Christopher Belanger, Janet Isner, Paul Hanzlik, Roy Kaptain, Bob & Jane Reinhold, Larry and Beverly Sheehan, Chico E., and C.C.

**Prayers for Friends of the Church:** Aiden Chase, Brenna Taylor, Rita Stevenson, Mike, Barbara Greco, Dr. Willis Allen, Eleanor Knauf, Vera Debolt, Martha Hamze, Alessandra, Rhea, Doris, Cheryl, Nick Caldwell Sr., Joyce Brelsford, Dennis VanCour, Lucille Capece, Lexie Sachlis, George F., David Spall, Joan Coletti, Isolina Quintana, Adam Rubino, Berna, Braemen Weiner, Chandler Weiner, Debbie Seckel, Elaine Brustad, Elizabeth Kraus, Hazel Quire, Juan Tavarez, Kenneth Smith, Mary Taylor, Norma Duckworth, Cynthia, Tim Tyler, Richard H., Laurie Engelhardt, Barbara O'Brien, Dorotka Rodriguez and family.

*We are always updating our prayer list. If you would like your name added or removed, please notify Pat Belanger or the office.*

**Flowers this week sponsored by:** Carol Jacobson in honor of Kelly's birthday. Happy Birthday Kelly!

# Announcements

**PAGEANT REHEARSAL:** On Saturday, **December 17**, from 10 to 11:30 am. we will have a final pageant rehearsal at the church Sanctuary.

**COME TO THE MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE:** During the four Thursdays of Advent at 6:30 pm we have an opportunity to dwell in the Word, and to reflect on being Liberated by God's Grace. Everyone is welcome!

**POINSETTIAS:** Until December 18<sup>th</sup>, we will be selling poinsettias as a fundraiser. Poinsettias can be dedicated to loved ones. They will decorate our altar until after the Christmas Service when you can take home what you purchased. Donation: \$10.00.

**BRAIN POWER:** Every Tuesday from 9am - 12pm. at the Fellowship Hall we will emphasize diets, exercises, sleep, and new ideas to promote "Brain Power". Come and try something new with lots of productive fun! Please spread the word. Have questions? Call Barb Taylor 954-616-7006

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Every Sunday at 11:15 am we have our Sunday school. Children leave right after Holy Communion. Call the church office to register a child or for more information.

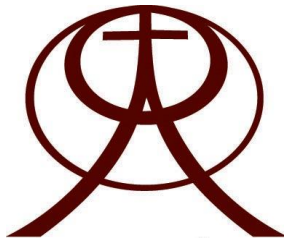
**PACK THE PANTRY:** Today, after the service we are asking for your help to pack the bags of food we collected. The items will be delivered at the Broward Outreach Centers. Thank you for your contributions and kind support!

## *Service Assistants for December*

<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b><u>December 11</u></b>	<b><u>December 18</u></b>	<b><u>December 24 (5:30pm)</u></b>	<b><u>December 24 (7:00pm)</u></b>	<b><u>December 25</u></b>
<b>ASSISTING MINISTER</b>	Natalie Prego	Sera Butz	Pat Belanger	Aura Suarez	Pat Belanger
<b>ACOLYTE</b>	Sera Butz	Carol Jacobson	Madison Kibler	Madison Kibler	TBA
<b>LECTOR</b>	Pat Belanger	Catherine Zippay	Carol Jacobson	Sera Butz	Aura Suarez
<b>USHERS –Need 4 to Serve</b>	Lynda Smith Zachary Smith Carissa Esposito Sherry Fox	Harry Ambrose Patricia Engle Sherry Fox Catherine Zippay	Marsha Kibler Drew Kibler Terry Schumway	Marsha Kibler Drew Kibler Terry Schumway	Linda Hanzlik Terry Schumway
<b>Head Usher</b>	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli
<b>GREETERS – Need 2 to Serve</b>	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle	Caroline Smith Kelly Jacobson	Rose Jones	Kelly Jacobson
<b>SOUND</b>	Eric Castaneda	Dennis Magarell	Dennis Magarell	Eric Castaneda	Sera Butz
<b>PROJECTION</b>	Larry Jones	Web Antill	Sera Butz	Larry Jones	Katie Paff



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# St Stephen

**Lutheran Church, ELCA**

**Encouraging and strengthening faith in Jesus, and  
sharing the joy of God's love.**

## **Sunday Worship Schedule**

9:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

Holy Communion is celebrated weekly

## **Church Staff**

**Rev. Pedro Suarez** – Pastor

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

**Cesar Vidaud** – Director of Music

**Clarence (Teddy) Rowe** – Sexton

**Aidee Koach** – Administrative Assistant

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Christian Hecker

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Eric Castaneda- Treasurer

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