

St Stephen

Evangelical Lutheran Church



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

August 30, 2015

Fourteen Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am

Pastor Pedro Suarez

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

—WE GATHER—

INTRODUCTION

Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life." Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We, having been washed in the word when we were born in the font, return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

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: Before God and in the company of our sisters and brothers, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.



P: God and Father of all,

C: We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed.

We have thought better of ourselves than others. We have told lies, said hurtful things, acted in ways we wish we could take back, and looked the other way when action was needed. In your mercy, O God, forgive us, cleanse us, and heal us, for the sake of Jesus, our Savior.

P: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; everything has become new! In Christ, + you are a new creation: your sins are taken away and you are made new. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

C: Amen.



1 Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
 2 Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God;
 3 The hill of Zi - on yields a thou-sand sa - cred sweets
 4 Then let our songs a-bound, and ev - 'ry tear be dry;



join in a song with sweet ac - cord, join in a song with
 but chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King, but chil - dren of the
 be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields, be - fore we reach the
 we're march - ing through Im - man - uel's ground, we're march - ing through Im -



sweet ac - cord and thus sur - round the throne, and thus sur-round the throne.
 heav'n-ly King may tell their joys a-broad, may tell their joys a - broad.
 heav'n-ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets, or walk the gold - en streets.
 man-uel's ground, to fair - er worlds on high, to fair - er worlds on high.

Refrain



We're march - ing to Zi - on, beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful Zi - on:



we're march - ing up - ward to Zi - on, the beau - ti - ful cit - y of God.

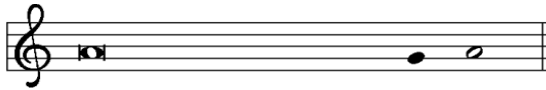
Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, stanzas; Robert Lowry, 1826–1899, refrain
 Music: MARCHING TO ZION, Robert Lowry

THE GREETING

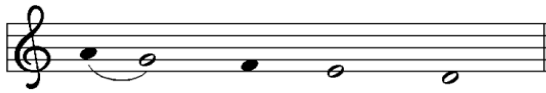
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE (Sung)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



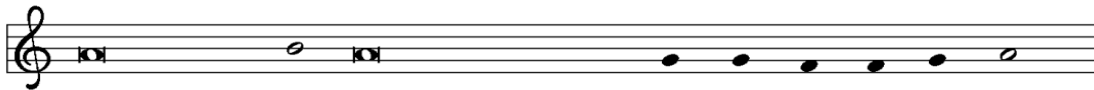
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE "This is the Feast..."

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All
1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together:

C: O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. AMEN

Children's Message

—WE HEAR GOD’S WORD—

FIRST READING:

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and neither to add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children’s children.

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!” ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children—

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 15

LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? (*Ps. 15:1*)

¹ LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

² **Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up on a neighbor.

⁴ **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here, Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.

¹⁷ Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. ¹⁹ You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness. ²¹ Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²² But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³ For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴ for they look at themselves and, ongoing away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵ But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. ²⁶ If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world. Amen.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Please Rise for the Gospel Acclamation.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Alleluia ”

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark, the 7th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live^l according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; ⁷in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' ⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."
¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile."
²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly.
²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

You may be seated.

SERMON

—WE RESPOND—

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



1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -



last - ing arms; what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine,
 last - ing arms; oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
 last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near,



lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839–1929
 Music: SHOWALTER, Anthony J. Showalter, 1858–1924

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the virgin Mary.
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended into hell.
 On the third day he rose again.
 He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

After each petition of the prayer is said:

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Trusting your love and healing, O God, we commend to you all for whom we pray, knowing you will hear and answer, through Christ our Lord.

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

Thy Holy Wings (Verse 1 only)

ELW # 613



1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent - ly o - ver me,
2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down - y breast
3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No - ah's cleans - ing flood.



and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.
where I will find sweet com - fort and peace with - in thy nest.
Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.



Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,
Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,
Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy chil - dren great and small,



and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with - in thy grace.
for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.
and while we sweet - ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite
Music: BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR, Swedish folk tune
Text © 1983 Gracia Grindal, admin. Selah Publishing Co., Inc., agent.

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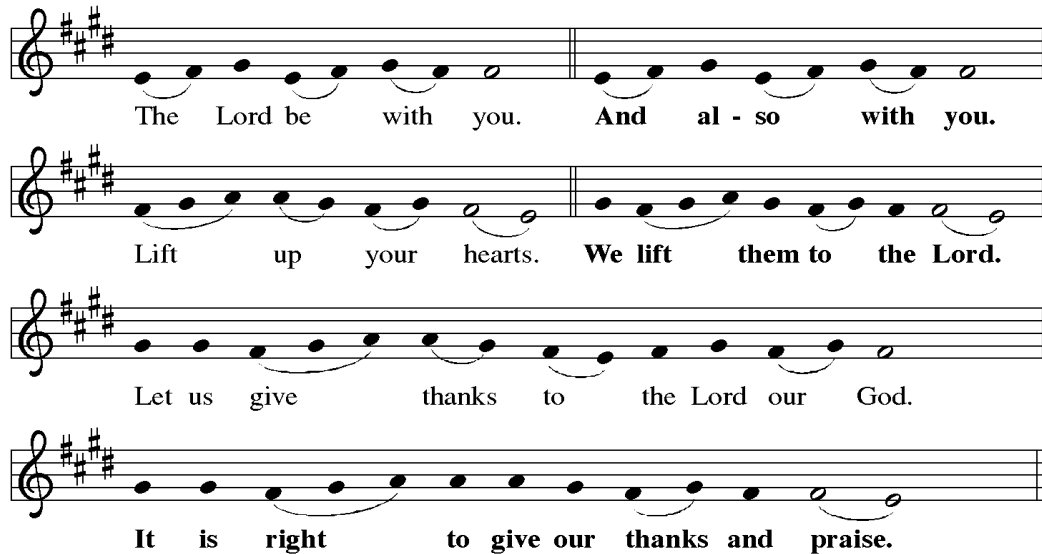
OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray,

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Dialogue (Sung)



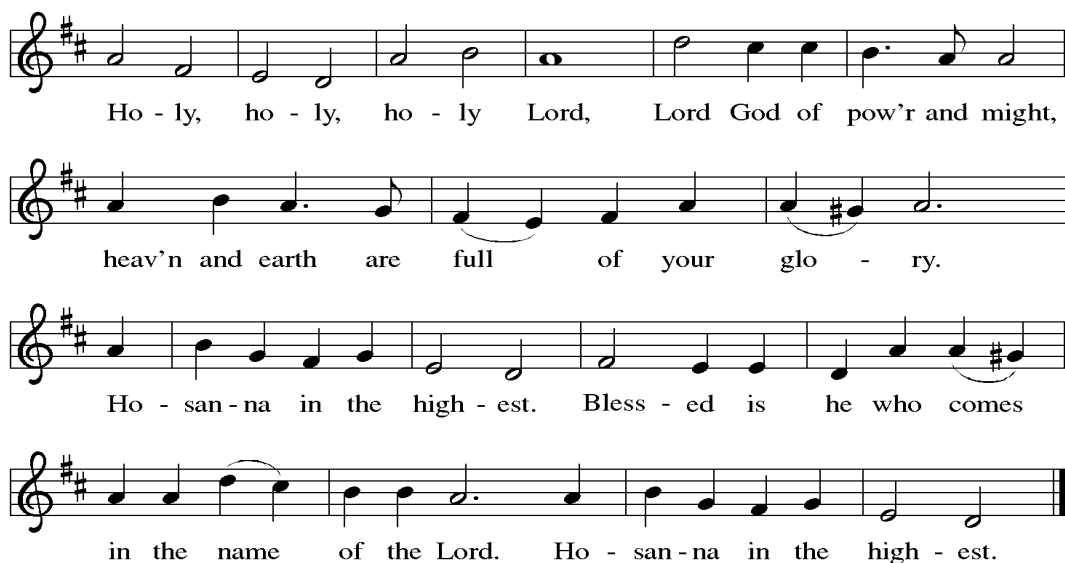
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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, for the glorious resurrection of our savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, 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, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, 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

Jesus said, "I am the true vine. Abide in me as I abide in you."

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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.



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain



watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!"
 par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909
 Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

Instrumental Music

Cesar Vidaud

P: Please stand as you are able.

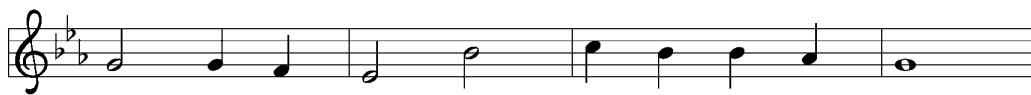
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray,
 Wise and generous God, we thank you that at this holy table you have fed us again with the food of everlasting life. Send us with your blessing to seek the good of our neighbor and call others to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

~WE ARE SENT FORTH~

Benediction

P: Almighty and merciful God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you this day and forevermore. **Amen.**



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
 5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
 earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847
 Music: EVENTIDE, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: 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: Cynthia Langbauer. Also, prayers for: Mary S. Bailey, Roy Kaptain, Wayne Lauterberg, Jimmy Fennelli, Bob & Jane Reinhold, Larry and Beverly Sheehan, friends of family, Barbara W., Peggy S. and Chico E., Denise I., George F.

Prayers for Friends of the Church: Adam Rubino, Berna, Braemen Weiner, Chandler Weiner, Debbie Fiore, Debbie Seckel, Elaine Brustad, Elizabeth Kraus, Harry Danforth, Hazel Quire, Juan Tavarez, Lee Rassis, Kenneth Smith, Mary Taylor, Norma Duckworth, Cynthia, Jimmy Bright, Tim Tyler, Linda Mendelson, Richard H. Antonio Celis, the family of John Baker and the families of his other four teenage friends.

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

Announcements

MID-WEEK RECHARGE WITH PRAISE AND PRAYER: Join us for mid-week recharge of Praise and Prayer every Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. We have the same praise and prayer in Spanish on Wednesdays at 7pm. Please invite your Spanish speaking friends.

ALTAR FLOWERS: We need more people to donate in order to have enough flowers each Sunday at the altar for our worship. Please check with Rosie Fennelli, or Pastor Suarez.

CHANGE FOR CHANGE: You will notice as you exit that there is a large box with the words *Change for Change*. This is an effort to collect funds for our local benevolence. Please give freely.

LATINO WORSHIP TO BEGIN: We are targeting for September 6, 2015 to be the start date of a Latino Worship here at St. Stephen. We are contemplating to go back to 2 services as usual in English in the Fall, one at 9:00 and another one at 10:15 in the morning, then adding the Latino Worship at 12:30 pm. This gives us a chance for some kind of Christian Education in between the three services as needed. If you have any comments about these plans, please do not hesitate contacting Rosie Fennelli or Pastor Pedro.

TRAINING SCHEDULES: We are starting one hour training on Saturdays (September 12th, 19th and 26th) at 10:00a.m. Ushers & Greeters/ Sound & Projection – Sept. 12th, Assisting Ministers & Lectors – Sept. 19th, Acolytes & Altar Care – Sept. 26th. Please be at church by 9:45 a.m., sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Thank You!

Service Assistants for August

Time Change 9:30 AM	<u>August 30</u>	<u>September 6</u>	<u>September 13</u>	<u>September 20</u>	<u>September 27</u>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Pat Belanger	Sera Butz	Carol Jacobson	Aura Suarez	Pat Belanger
ACOLYTE	Maddie Kibler	Taryn Booth	Andrew Hanzlik	Carol Jacobson	Maddie Kibler
LECTOR	Carol Jacobson	Rosie Fennelli	Tom Peterson	Natalie Prego	Catherine Zippay
USHERS – Need 4 to Serve	Lisa Castaneda Lynda & Zac Smith	Suzanne Loggins TBA	Kim Hanzlik Lynda & Zac Smith	Linda Hanzlik TBA	Marsha Kibler Aura Suarez Lynda & Zac Smith
Head Usher – Rosie Fennelli	Head Usher- Rosie Fennelli	Head Usher – Rosie Fennelli	Head Usher- Rosie Fennelli	Head Usher – Rosie Fennelli	Head Usher – Rosie Fennelli
GREETERS – Need 2 to serve	Rose Jones Caroline Smith	Marie Koach	Rose Jones Kelly Jacobson	Lisa Castaneda	Eduardo Arango
SOUND	Eric Castaneda	TBA	Sera Butz	Sera Butz	TBA
PROJECTION	Larry Jones	TBA	Larry Jones	TBA	Larry Jones



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St. Stephen

Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

Sunday Worship Schedule

Traditional Blend Worship Service at 9:30 a.m.

Holy Communion is celebrated weekly

Church Staff

Rev. Pedro Suarez – Pastor

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Cesar Vidaud - Church Musician

Aidee Koach – Administrative Assistant

sslcpompano@gmail.com

Congregation Council

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Web Antill
Christian Hecker
Natalie Prego - Secretary

Sera Butz
Larry Jones
Kathy Runk - Vice Pres.

Eric Castaneda
Barbara Nilles

Office hours: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 Mon- Fri

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