

St Stephen

Lutheran Church, ELCA



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

December 31, 2017

First Sunday of Christmas

10:15am

Rev. Pedro Suarez, Bishop
Rev. Dr. Sidney Nelson, Interim Pastor

—WE GATHER—

INTRODUCTION

In the psalm all the natural world praises God, including all humanity, male and female, young and old. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we speak of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the Holy One of Israel, the Word made flesh,
the Power of the Most High, † one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

P: Gathered in the name of Jesus, let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God:

C: in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in darkness. We confess our failure to welcome this light. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the light of your grace, and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.

P: I bring you good news of great joy for all the people:
To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord.
Your sins are forgiven in † Jesus' name. **Amen.**

OPENING SONG:

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

ELW# 288



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866
Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

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)

Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain

HYMN OF PRAISE "This is the feast"

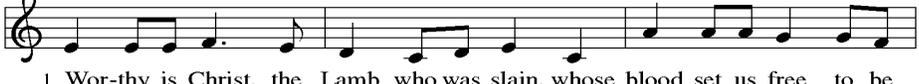
Refrain



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be

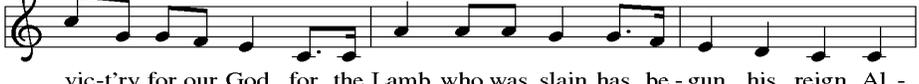


peo-ple of God. Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and strength, and

Refrain



hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his. This is the feast of



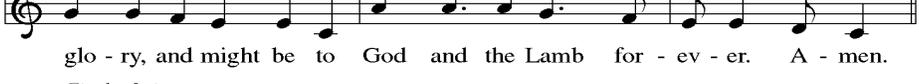
vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-



le-lu-ia. 2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and

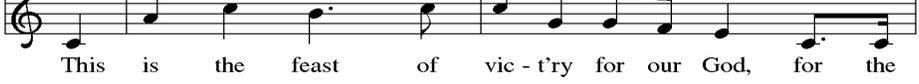


join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or,



glo-ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together:

C: Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our 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 61:10—62:3

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

^{62:1}For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 148

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

²**Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

³Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

⁶**who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

⁷Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

⁸**fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God’s will;**

⁹mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰**wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**

¹¹sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

¹²**young men and maidens, old and young together.**

¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING:

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God. **Amen.**

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please Rise)

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.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke the 2nd chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

GOSPEL:

Luke 2:22-40

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” ³³And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

P: You may be seated.

— WE RESPOND —

SERMON SONG:

What Child Is This

ELW#296



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
- 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898
 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

APOSTLES' CREED

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

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

A: Drawn near to God as children and heirs of Christ's promise, we pray for all people of God, for our nation and our world, and for those in need.

After each petition of the prayer is said:

A: Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

A/P: Into your outstretched arms, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus Christ, the light and life of the world.

C: 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.

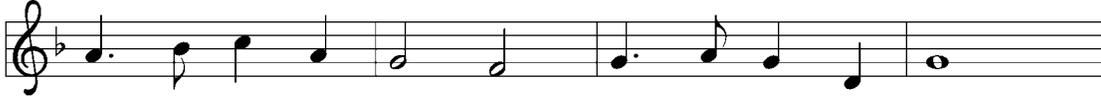
- WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE -

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING:

In the Bleak Midwinter

ELW #294



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

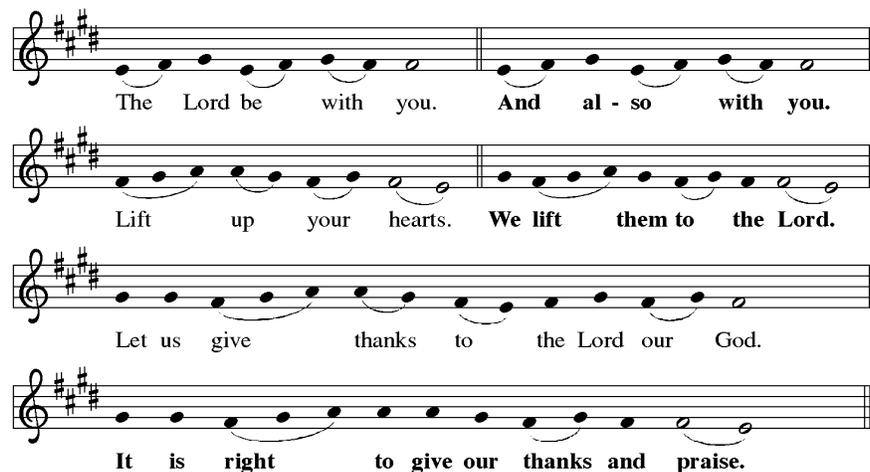
Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894
Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

OFFERING PRAYER

A: God with us: You came as a baby to a manger.
You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine.
Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things.
And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others
in the strength of your holy name. **Amen.**

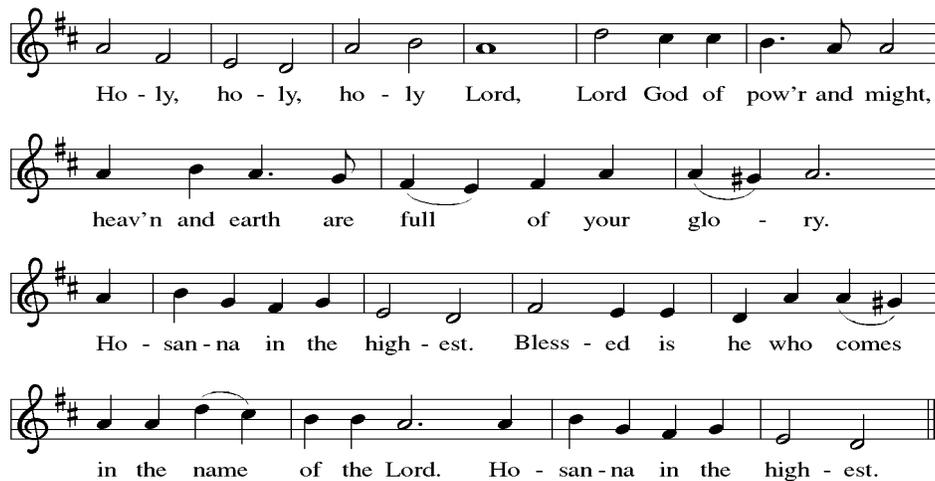
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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.

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.

P: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: 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.

C: 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.

C: 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.

The Lord's Prayer

C: Amen... 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: Welcome to the Lord's table.

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 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de Noël's composés en langue provençale*, 1856

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Instrumental Music

Cesar Vidaud

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

A: On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us.

As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people.

Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us;
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Thanksgiving at the Conclusion of a Call

CR (*Congregation's representative*) Aura Suarez, on November 15, 2017, we of St. Stephen Lutheran Church called you to serve among us as a deacon. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you and your family have been important to our life together in the church of Jesus Christ, in our service to this community, and in God's mission to the whole world. As you leave this community of faith, we say farewell, and we pray for God's blessing.

SR (*Synod's representative*) People of God, members of St Stephen Lutheran Church, do you release Aura Suarez from service as your Deacon?

Cong: We do, and we give thanks to God for our ministry together.

SR Aura Suarez, do you recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with St Stephen Lutheran Church?

I do, and I give thanks to God for our ministry together.

CR Pastor Pedro Suarez, on March 1, 2015, we of St Stephen Lutheran Church called you to be pastor in this place: to proclaim God's word, to baptize and teach, to announce God's forgiveness, and to preside at the Lord's table. With the gospel you have comforted us in times of sickness and trouble, and at the death of our loved ones. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you and your family have been important to our life together in the church of Jesus Christ, in our service to this community, and in God's mission to the whole world. As you leave this community of faith, we say farewell, and we pray for God's blessing.

SR People of God, members of St Stephen Lutheran Church, do you release Pastor Pedro Suarez from service as your pastor?

Cong: We do, and we give thanks to God for our ministry together.

SR Pastor Pedro Suarez, do you recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with St Stephen Lutheran Church?

I do, and I give thanks to God for our ministry together.

CR Let us pray.

Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ you gave the holy apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed your flock. You equip your people with abilities that differ according to the grace given to them, and you call them to various avenues of service. We give you thanks for the ministry of Pastor Suarez and Aura among the people of God in this place.

You watch over our going out and our coming in: bless this time of ending and beginning. You surround your people in every time and place: keep us close in your love.

You accompany your people in times of joy and times of trial: prosper all that has been done to your glory in this time together; heal and forgive all that has fallen short of your will for us. Help Pastor Suarez and Aura and all of us to live with courage and gladness in the future you give to us.

As they have been a blessing to us, so now send them forth to be a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SR Your sisters and brothers in the Florida-Bahama Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America give thanks to God for the ministry you have shared. We promise you our continued support and prayer. Rejoicing in the blessings of God in this congregation and in the ministry of Pastor Pedro Suarez and Aura, with hope in God's abundant grace in years to come, I announce that Pastor Pedro Suarez service as Pastor and Aura Suarez as Deacon in this congregation is now concluded.

-WE ARE SENT FORTH-

Benediction

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG:

The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

ELW #538

En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta es - tá
The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,

pa - ra cons - truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.
to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.

Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain

un mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor;
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;

me ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.

A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

Text: Anonymous, Central America; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923
Music: ENVIADO, anonymous, Central America
English text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress.

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DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share the joy of God’s love.

C: Thanks be to God.

Reception in Narthex, everyone is welcome.

IN OUR PRAYERS

In our prayers today are these members of our homebound and others of our parish family in need of healing: Rudy Koch, Laurel Blake, Jim Loggins, Barb Taylor, Diane Adler, Jean Rogers, Katie, Roy and Barbara Kaptain, Lisa Allen, Bob & Jane Reinhold, C.C., Trudy DiCarlo and Marie Koach.

Prayers for Friends of the Church: Cindy Hackler, Barbara Gummo, Marjorie, Jerry, Cheryl, Robert, Craig, Henry Q., Damien S., Monique Rogers and her mom Betty, Myrka Alverist’s family, Maggie Alverist, Ann Farrell, Normagene Richardson, Aiden Chase, Rita Stevenson, Mike, Barbara Greco, Dr. Willis Allen, Eleanor Knauf, Alessandra, Cheryl, Nick Caldwell Sr., Lucille Capece, Lexie Sachlis, George F., David Spall, Joan Coletti, Adam Rubino, Berna, Braemen Weiner, Chandler Weiner, Debbie Seckel, Elizabeth Kraus, Kenneth Smith, Mary Taylor, Cynthia, Richard H., and Laurie Engelhardt.

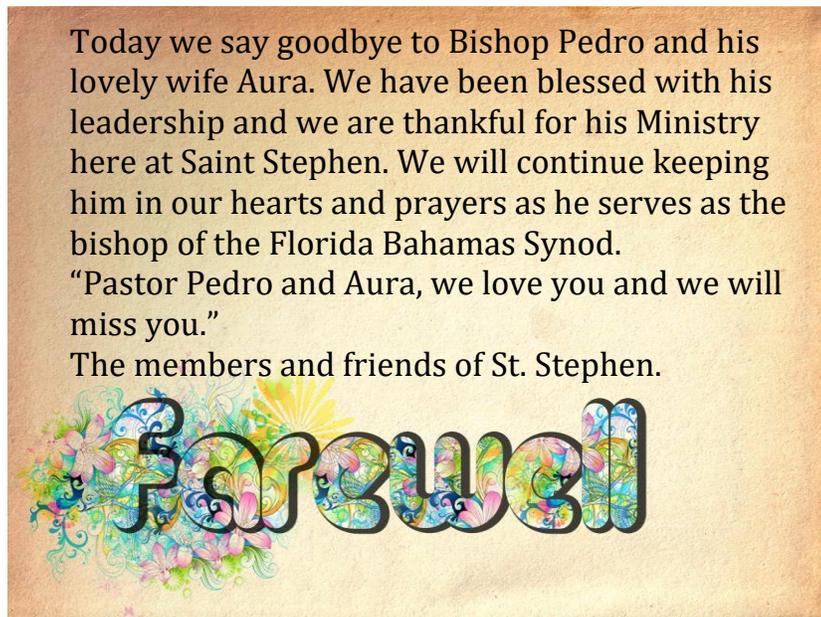
Flowers this week sponsored by: The Lauterberg family in celebration of New Year.

Announcements

COMMITMENT CARDS for our Estimate of Giving can be placed in our offering plate (use envelope for confidentiality); bring to office; by mail; or by email sslcpompano@gmail.com

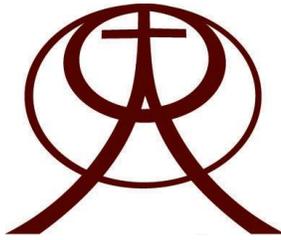
OFFERING ENVELOPES, 2018 offering envelopes are available for pick up on the back table. If any other friends of the church who would like offering envelopes, please see Larry Jones or Carol Jacobson.

ATTENDANCE CARDS, are in our bulletin today for members and visitors. Please place in offering plate. Thank You.



Service Assistants for today

10:15 AM	<u>December 31</u>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Aura Suarez
ACOLYTE	Katie Paff
LECTOR	Rosie Fennelli
USHERS –Need 4 to Serve	Floyd MacDonald Jeanne Pettit Harry Ambrose Patricia Engle Rosie Fennelli
Head Usher	
GREETERS – Need 2 to Serve	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle
SOUND	Eric Castaneda
PROJECTION	Dennis Magarrell



St Stephen

Lutheran Church, ELCA

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

Sunday Schedule

10:15 a.m. Worship

Holy Communion is celebrated weekly

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Sidney Nelson – Interim Pastor
ststephenpastornelson@gmail.com
561-235-0929

Cesar Vidaud – Director of Music

Clarence (Teddy) Rowe – Sexton

Aidee Koach – Administrative Assistant
sslcpompano@gmail.com

Congregation Council

Larry Jones - President
councilpresident@ststephenlutheran.net

Christian Hecker – Vice-president

Eric Castaneda - Treasurer

Natalie Prego - Secretary

Lynda Smith

Patricia Engle

Harry Ambrose

Dennis Magarrell

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

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