

St Stephen

Lutheran Church, ELCA



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

November 12, 2017

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

10:15am

Rev. Pedro Suarez, Pastor

—WE GATHER—

INTRODUCTION

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who calls us into an everlasting hope, who guides us to springs of the water of life, who enlightens us with the spirit of wisdom.

C: Amen.

P: One with the communion of saints in all times and places, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God:

C: O God, our merciful redeemer, we confess the ways we live only for ourselves. We fail to see you in our neighbor's face. We turn our ears from voices that cry out. We pass by the hungry and the oppressed. In your great mercy, forgive our sin and strengthen us for service to all in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for † his sake, God forgives you all your sin. Blessed are you! Rejoice and be glad, beloved people of God.

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)

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.

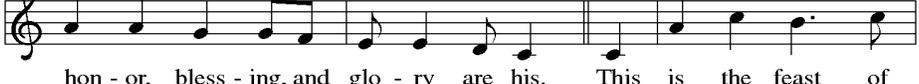


1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be

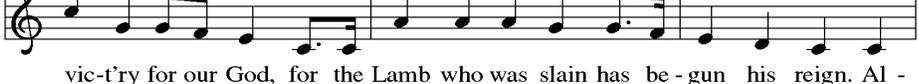


peo-ple of God. Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and strength, and

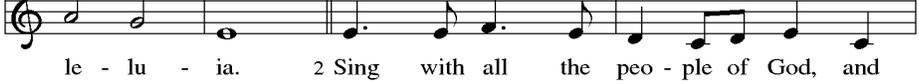
Refrain



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



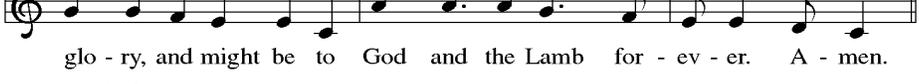
vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-



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

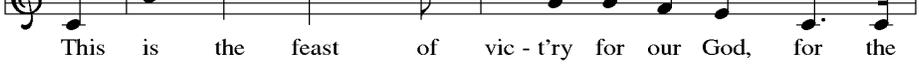


join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or,

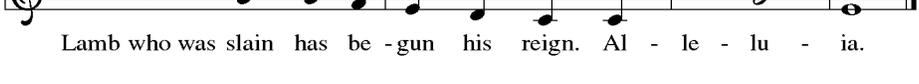


glo-ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

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: O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. AMEN

Children's message

FIRST READING:

Amos 5:18-24

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; ¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. ²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? ²¹I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. ²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. ²³Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. ²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM (ELW): PSALM 70

¹Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;
O LORD, make haste to help me.
²**Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.**
³Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat over me
turn back because of their shame.
⁴**Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great is the LORD!”**
⁵But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

L: This is 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.
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. Matthew, the 25th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

Rev. Pedro Suarez

—WE RESPOND—

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



1 Bless-ed as-sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di - vine!
 2 Per - fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal - va - tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.
 an - gels de-scend-ing bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis-pers of love.
 watch-ing and wait - ing, look - ing a - bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long:



this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
 Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

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: Welcoming God's reign of righteousness and mercy, let us pray with people of every time and place.

After each petition of the prayer is said:

A: Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Receive these prayers and the hopes and concerns of our hearts, O God, as we entrust into your loving care all for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

Soon and Very Soon

ELW #439



1 Soon and ver - y soon
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
3 No more dy - in' there,
4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch

Text and music © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

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OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

A: God of life, you give us these gifts of the earth,
these resources of our life and our labor.

Take them, offered in great thanksgiving,
and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

By the witness of your saints you show us the hope of our calling, and strengthen us to run the race set before us, that we may delight in your mercy and rejoice with them in glory.

And so, with all the saints, with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,
you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.
You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,
and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.
You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

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 life given for us and his rising from the grave,
we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:

strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,
and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,

Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church,
both 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: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

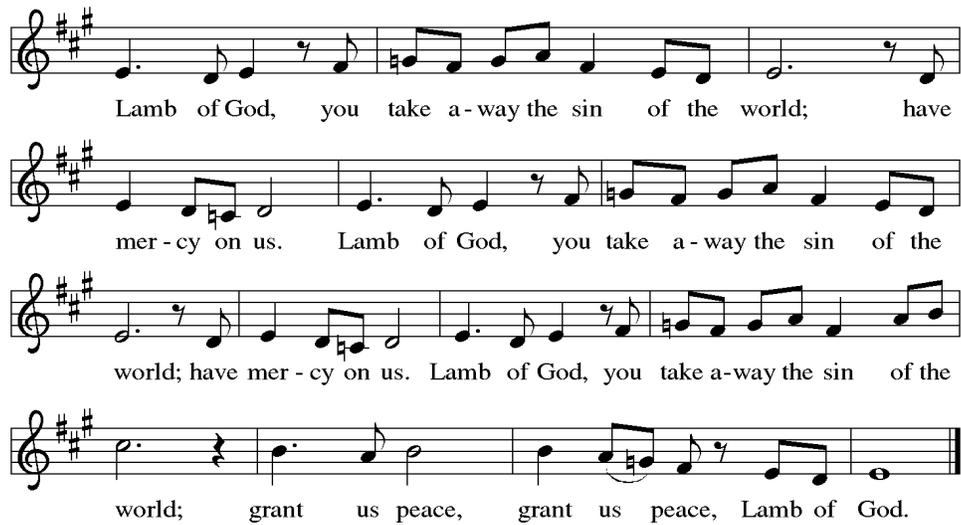
Reception of Communion

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 indicate if you need gluten-free and alcohol-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, Lamb of God.

Communion Song:

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

ELW #494



- 1 For the bread which you have bro-ken, for the wine which you have poured,
- 2 By this prom-ise that you love us, by your gift of peace re-stored,
- 3 With the saints who now a-dore you, seat-ed at the heav'n-ly board,
- 4 In your ser-vice, Lord, de-fend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;



for the words which you have spo-ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
by your call to heav'n a-bove us, hal-low all our lives, O Lord.
may the church still wait-ing for you keep love's tie un-bro-ken, Lord.
in the world to which you send us let your king-dom come, O Lord.

Text: Louis F. Benson, 1855–1930, alt.

Music: OMNI DIE, *Gross Catolisch Gesangbuch*, Nürnberg, 1631

Text © Robert F. Jefferys Jr.

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Instrumental Music

Cesar Vidaud

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

A: Sovereign God,

in this meal you give us a foretaste of the great feast to come.

Keep us faithful to you, that we, with all your saints,

may at length celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

~WE ARE SENT FORTH~

Benediction

P: The love of God surround you;
the grace of † Christ release you;
and the Holy Spirit be your guide and strength,
now and forevermore.

C: Amen.

Announcements

SENDING SONG:

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

ELW #708

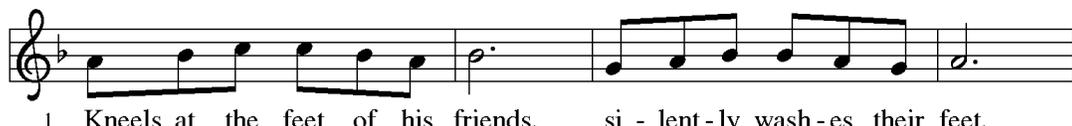
Refrain



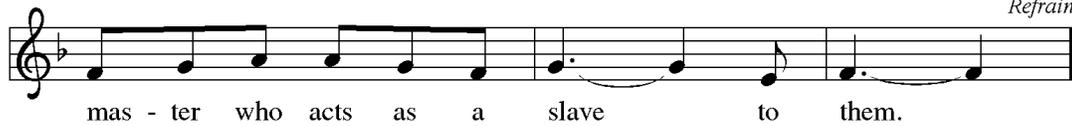
Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,
2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,
3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash-ing their feet:



Refrain

mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
all these are neigh - bors to us and you.
this is the way we will live with you.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.
Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin
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DISMISSAL

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

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: Rudy Koch, Laurel Blake, Jim Loggins, Barb Taylor, Diane Adler, Jean Rogers, Katie, Janet Isner, Roy and Barbara Kaptain, Lisa Allen, Bob & Jane Reinhold, C.C., Trudy DiCarlo and Marie Koach.

Prayers for Friends of the Church: Damien S., Monique Rogers and her mom Betty, Marie Trykoski, Myrka Alverist's family, Maggie Alverist, Ann Farrell, Normagene Richardson, Aiden Chase, Brenna Taylor, 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.

Announcements

THANKSGIVING SOUP SUPPER AND WORSHIP: On November 22 at 6p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, we will have a soup supper before a brief Thanksgiving worship at 7p.m. Please join us and bring your favorite soup.

CONSECRATION & INSTALLATION OF AURA SUAREZ: On Saturday, November 25 at 5:00pm at St. Stephen. A reception will follow at the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

CONSECRATION SUNDAY: November 26 at St. Stephen. A gentle reminder to fill the Estimate of Giving out. There will be copies printed in the Narthex. Please fill it out and send it back either by email at sslcpompano@gmail.com or drop it off at church office.

BARBARA'S UPDATE: St. Stephen's family members, Barbara Kaptain now resides at the Atrium, assisted living at Boca Raton, 1080 NW 15TH St Room #215 (just off I-95 and Glades Road). Please note that we are the only "family" close enough to visit and seeing a familiar face will surely keep Barbara smiling. A good time to visit is any day between 2pm – 4pm.

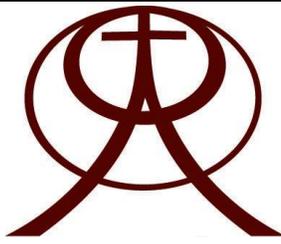
HURRICANE RELIEF: If you would like to donate to the victims of hurricanes Harvey, Irma and/or Maria, the best way now is to do so financially. Here is how:

1. You can check our Florida-Bahamas Synod's website www.fbsynod.com for more information on sending funds through them to either hurricane victims. There is a donate button to give with credit card.
2. You can also check our ELCA synod in Houston www.gulfcoastsynod.org They have a donate button to give with credit card.
3. Any Sunday if you wish to donate through St. Stephen you can add another offering envelope or check to St. Stephen with memo: Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma or hurricane Maria, and we will send it to Houston or to our synod, or stop by the church office.
4. Outside our church, 2 organizations that are of trust are the American Red Cross or Salvation Army.

THE LUTHER ROOM: Most of us know it as the Choir Room, other know it as the Music Room, it is the room west of the Narthex. Through the years it has become also a storage room. Unfortunately, it has also been neglected, and since it is being used for more than choir practices, it doesn't feel inviting or part of the growing church that we are now. We would like to renovate this room. We hope to dedicate this "Martin Luther Room" as part of our commemoration of the 500 years of the Reformation on October 29, 2017. Would you like to be part of this effort? Please make your donation in an envelope specifying, "Luther Room by _____ in honor of _____." You may also contact the church office.

Service Assistants for November

10:15 AM	<u>November 12</u>	<u>November 19</u>	<u>November 26</u> <u>Christ the King</u>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Natalie Prego	Carol Jacobson	Sera Butz
ACOLYTE	Madalyn Ammons	Aiyana Cartwright	Madison Kibler
LECTOR	Carisa Esposito	Rosie Fennelli	Catherine Zippay
USHERS –Need 4 to Serve	Lynda Smith Zachary Smith Rosie Fennelli Pat Belanger	Lisa Castaneda Floyd MacDonald Linda Hanzlik Terry Shumway	Marsha Kibler Drew Kibler Darin Kibler Catherine Zippay
Head Usher	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli
GREETERS – Need 2 to Serve	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones	Caroline Smith Zachary Smith	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones
SOUND	Sera Butz	Dennis Magarrell	Katie Paff
PROJECTION	Larry Jones	Eric Castaneda	Larry Jones



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. Pedro Suarez – Pastor

ststephenpastor@gmail.com

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

Natalie Prego - Secretary

Patricia Engle

Dennis Magarrell

Eric Castaneda - Treasurer

Lynda Smith

Harry Ambrose

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

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, ELCA

2500 NE 14th Street Causeway, Pompano Beach, Florida, 33062

Tele: 954.942.4473 • Fax: 954.942.4474 •

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