

Sunday Schedule:

- * **9:00 a.m. &**
- * **10:15 a.m.**
(Both liturgical worship services)
- * **11:15 a.m.** Sunday School
- * **12:00 p.m.**
Misa en Español
(Latino worship on an experimental stage.)

Thursday Schedule:

- 6:30 P.M.**
Advent Service
- 7:00 p.m.**
Choir Practice



In This Issue:

- ⇒ More on Reformation 500
- ⇒ Christmas Wishes From Your Pastor
- ⇒ Rev. Jeff Gross Installed at Zion
- ⇒ Events and Happenings.
- ⇒ Worship with us on Christmas Eve!

MORE ON REFORMATION 500



On October 31, 2016, in the Lutheran cathedral in Lund, Sweden, leaders of the member churches of the Lutheran World met with Pope Francis and leaders of the Roman Catholic Church in an unprecedented service of Commemoration of the Protestant Reformation.

This event inaugurated the quincentennial year of the Reformation, sparked by Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-five Theses in Witten-

berg Germany on October 31, 1517.

At the service of commemoration, Pope Francis and Bishop Munib A. Younan, president of the Lutheran World Federation, signed a Joint Statement, outlining a path forward toward greater unity in Christ for Lutheran and Catholic Christians. The following are excerpts from the statement.



Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. (John 15:4)

+With Thankful hearts: "Fifty years of sustained and fruitful ecumenical dialogue between Catholics and Lutherans have helped us to overcome many differences, and have deepened our mutual understanding and trust. . . Through dialogue and shared witness we are no longer strangers. Rather, we have learned that what unites us is greater than what divides us." *....Continues on page 2*

CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM YOUR PASTOR

Christmas is a time when we are more sensitive to our feelings. Perhaps it is because we are reminded of happy Christmas times in the past, with family and friends and we see how different it is now, we feel the loss. Or we get sad for not having someone we love close with us now.

Maybe it is a holiday song or a message that touches our heart and we get inspired to serve and help others, and realizing that it is giving that we receive. That's a nice good feeling!

We also get great feelings knowing that there are new people around us, ready to celebrate and to create new Christmas memories with us.

Not to mention that in this season we get a chance to glance back at the year. We look back into our mistakes which remind us that we at least "did something," that is

better than doing nothing, but also that we have lots of room for improvement.

We look at how far we have come, people we've met, and new experiences that we lived together. Then, we thank God, for all the love and care of the people around us. We remember sweet voices of inspiration, of cheer, of counsel, of advice, of love. We smile remembering funny things that happened, even at our own expense. We remember the people that were with us in times of hardship sharing our pains together.

For all these things, I thank our Lord, Jesus the Christ, who we remember as God Almighty irrupting in our history to be one of us, as a baby but Christ nonetheless.

I thank God for you,

yes you, that are in my life now. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for letting me love you and for loving me back. My wish for all of you that are connected with St. Stephen Lutheran Church is that you may shine with the Glory of the Eternal One!

Have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year 2017!

Serving you in Christ,

Pr. Pedro +



...From page 1 **MORE ON REFORMATION 500**

+Moving from conflict to communion: "We also confess and lament before Christ that Lutherans and Catholics have wounded the visible unity of the Church. . . While the past cannot be changed, what is remembered and how it is remembered can be transformed. We pray for the healing of our wounds and of the memories that cloud our view of one another. . . Today we hear the call to set aside all conflict."

+Our commitment to common witness: "We commit ourselves to further growth in communion rooted in Baptism, as we seek to remove the remaining obstacles that hinder us from attaining full unity. Christ desires that we be one, so that the world may believe. . . We long for this wound in the Body of Christ

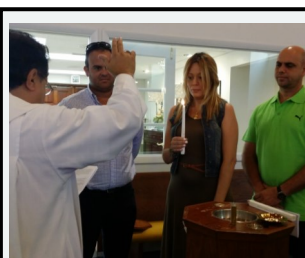
(lack of sharing the Eucharistic table) to be healed. This is the goal of our ecumenical endeavors. . . We pray to God for inspiration, encouragement and strength so that we may stand together in service, upholding human dignity and rights, especially for the poor, working for justice, and rejecting all forms of violence."

+One in Christ: "As we recommit ourselves to move from conflict to communion, we do so as part of the one Body of Christ. . . We invite our ecumenical partners to remind us of our commitments and to encourage us. We ask them to continue to pray for us, to walk with us, to support us in living out the prayerful commitments we make today."

+Calling upon Catholics and Lutherans worldwide: "We call upon all Lutheran and Catholic parishes and communities to be bold and creative, joyful

and hopeful in the commitment to continue the great journey ahead of us. . . God's gift of unity among us shall guide cooperation and deepen solidarity. By drawing close in faith to Christ, by praying together, by listening to one another, by living Christ's love in our relationships, we, Catholics and Lutherans, open ourselves to the power of the Triune God. Rooted in Christ and witnessing to him, we renew our determination to be faithful heralds of God's boundless love for all humanity."

Submitted by Rev. Tom Peterson



WELCOME THROUGH BAPTISM, PAULA! On Sunday, November 6, after being trained in the Christian faith and in accordance with our Lutheran Confessions, Paula Silva came of her own accord to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism at the Latino worship at 12:00 p.m. At the same time, as an adult, she received Holy Communion for the first time and was confirmed. Now Paula is a member of our parish. These are steps that move forward the small but growing Latino ministry among us.



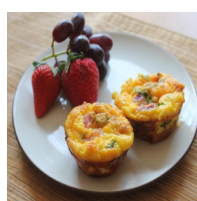
PASTOR JEFF GROSS WAS INSTALLED AT ZION Rev. Jeff Gross was appointed by Bishop Schaefer and called by Zion Lutheran Church in Deerfield Beach as a Pastor Redeveloper. In a meaningful worship service, Pastor Gross was installed on Sunday, November 20 at 3:00 p.m. Pastor Pedro Suarez and his wife represented St. Stephen at this event. Congratulations to our sister congregation Zion, and Pastor Jeff Gross!

Events and Happenings in December ...



Sunday, December 4 - Consecration Sunday. Like every year, we have a chance to consecrate our generous intentions to the Lord. Therefore on Sunday December 4 we will dedicate our statements of giving, many of us increasing our intentions, knowing that Jesus is pleased with our thankful hearts. Our church is turning around, and that's why we all need to give a little more, so that we may happily *share the joy of God's love!*

Saturday, December 10 - Breakfast Bunch, and Christmas Decoration



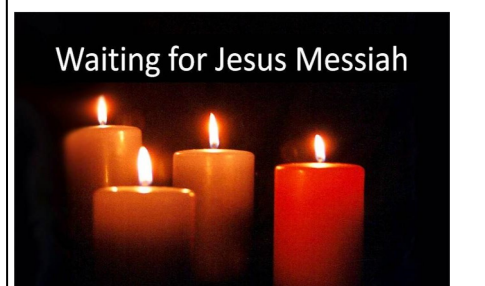
What a way to start the spirit of the holidays that with friends from church. Come at 9:00 am for a great breakfast, like always, and have fun!

Afterwards, we invite you to stay and help as we decorate our church for the holidays of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany!



Thursdays, December 1, 8, 15, 22 - Midweek Advent Services

Every year we wonder how was it for those witnessing the times right before Jesus' birth, and then welcoming that Holy Baby, God made flesh.



We invite you to come at 6:30 p.m. during the 4 Thursdays in Advent to journey together from Nazareth to Bethlehem!



Saturday, December 10
- Advent Day for Children.
Advent Festival

In order for us to prepare the children for the Christmas pageant, there will be an *Advent Day* and rehearsal on Saturday, **December 10**, from 10am to 2pm right after the Breakfast Bunch. The families are invited to come to the Breakfast Bunch. Parents could participate in the Christmas decorating of the church while the children will stay at the

Fellowship Hall for activities like Bible lesson, crafts, cookie decorating, singing and rehearsal. We will be offering free lunch for the children and volunteers.

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



Saturday, December 24
- Christmas Eve Worship

5:30 p.m. The children will have a chance to portray those involved in the Christmas story. Come worship the Christ child with good music, inspiring message and candlelight.



7:00 p.m. We hope to all be inspired, challenged and filled with the Spirit of God as we sing the Christmas tunes of all times. Bring friends and family to celebrate Christ birth. A candlelight at the end helps us to remember that Silent and Holy Night!

Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day we will have only **one** worship service at 10:15 a.m.

Looking Ahead...

Sunday, January 1, 2017
- First Sunday of the Year and
One Special Service at 10:15 a.m.



On New Year's Day, January 1, since it falls on a Sunday, we will have regular worship, but only one at 10:15 a.m.

It will be a special Sunday, receiving the New Year 2017 and receiving 3 new members through baptism.

Please come worship Christ on this first Sunday of the year!

Sunday, January 8, 2017
- Celebrate Sunday of the Epiphany
(3 Kings)

Christians all over the world celebrate Epiphany Day on January 6. This year it falls on a Friday. Therefore we will celebrate it the closest Sunday which is January 8.

Come reflect on this encounter of religions and the experience of worshiping Jesus, the Christ!

After the service we will enjoy a Mexican traditional "Rosca de Reyes" a bread baked "Crown of Kings"





St. Stephen

Evangelical Lutheran Church

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 Ph. (954) 942-4473

Pastor: Rev. Pedro M. Suarez

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

We're on the web
www.ststephenlutheran.net

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







Volunteer Assistants in December 2016

10:15 AM	December 4	December 11	December 18	December 25
ASSISTING MINISTER	Carol Jacobson	Natalie Prego	Sera Butz	Pat Belanger
ACOLYTE	Katie Paff	Sera Butz	Carol Jacobson	TBA
LECTOR	Judie Dooce	Marti Stroburg	Catherine Zippay	Aura Suarez
USHERS –Need 4 to Serve	Suzanne Loggins Floyd MacDonald Jimmy Fennelli Lisa Castaneda	Lynda Smith Zachary Smith Carissa Esposito Sherry Fox	Harry Ambrose Patricia Engle Sherry Fox Catherine Zippay	Linda Hanzlik Terry Schumway
Head Usher	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli
GREETERS – Need 2 to Serve	Caroline Smith Barbara Kaptain	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle	Kelly Jacobson
SOUND	Dennis Magarrell	Eric Castañeda	Dennis Magarrell	Sera Butz
PROJECTION	Sera Butz	Larry Jones	Web Antill	Katie Paff

December 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30 pm Advent Service 7:00 pm Choir Practice	2 9am Brain Power	3
4 CONSECRATION SUNDAY Worship 9am & 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15am Santa Misa 12:00pm	5	6 9am Brain Power	7 9am Quilters 3pm Preschool Chapel	8 6:30 pm Advent Service 7:00 pm Choir Practice	9 9am Brain Power	10 9:00 am - Breakfast Bunch - Church Decorating - Advent Children Fest 
11 Worship 9am & 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15am Santa Misa 12:00pm	12	13 9am Brain Power	14 9am Quilters 3pm Preschool Chapel	15 6:30 pm Advent Service 7:00 pm	16 9am Brain Power 7:00pm Misa de Aguinaldo	17 10:00 am - 11:30 am Pageant rehearsal
18 Worship 9am & 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15am Santa Misa 12:00pm	19	20 9am Brain Power 7pm Council Meeting	21 9am Quilters 3pm Preschool Chapel	22 6:30 pm Advent Service 7:00 pm Choir Practice	23 9am Brain Power	24 CHRISTMAS EVE: Christmas Pageant 5:30pm Christmas Worship 7:00pm
25 CHRISTMAS DAY Unified Worship 10:15 am	26 SAINT STEPHEN'S DAY 	27 9am Brain Power	28 9am Quilters 3pm Preschool Chapel	29 7:00 pm Choir Practice	30 	31