



# The Messenger

2500 NE 14th Street Causeway, Pompano Beach, FL 33062 Ph. (954) 942-4473

February 2016

## Sunday Worship:

- \* **9:00 a.m.** Praise and Faith Formation
- \* **10:15 a.m.** Traditional Blend Service
- \* **12: 30 p.m.** Latino Worship/ Misa en español

## Thursday Worship:

- \* **7:00 p.m.** Prayer and Praise Worship,



## In This Issue:

- ⇒ What is Mardi Gras.
- ⇒ Begin Lent with Your Ashes.
- ⇒ Fashion Show feedback.
- ⇒ Events and Happenings in January.
- ⇒ Deaconess words.
- ⇒ Looking Ahead.

## What is Mardi Gras?

Every Tuesday right before Ash Wednesday, there is a celebration called Mardi Gras. Many people associate it with a crazy party time in New Orleans, and there is a reason for that.

Mardi Gras has its origin as a celebration in the Christian tradition, although not so much as a religious observance by the church per se. Some even trace it as a syncretism with ancient pagan traditions like many other Christian practices throughout history. The literal meaning of the French is Fat Tuesday. It is like saying good bye to the fatty foods before the time of penance and reflection in Lent.

Melitta Weiss Adamson and Francine Segan in their book *Entertaining from Ancient Rome to the Super Bowl* share that, "In Anglican countries, Mardi Gras is known as - Shrove Tues-

day -



from *shrive* meaning "confess"-or *Pancake Day*"-after the breakfast food that symbolizes one final hearty meal of eggs, butter, and sugar before the fast. On *Mardi Gras Day*, the Tuesday before *Ash Wednesday*, the last parades of the season wrap-up and the celebrations come to a close with the Meeting of the Courts (aka the *Rex Ball* locally). On *Ash Wednesday*, the morning after *Mardi Gras*, repentant Christians return to church to receive upon the forehead the sign of the cross in ashes."

The practices and cele-

bration of Mardi Gras vary from country to country. In the United States it is not a national celebration. It arrived as a traditional French practice introduced by the Le Moyne brothers in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and parts of Texas. That's why it is associated with New Orleans. Christian traditions exist to repeat practices related to our faith as a learning process and nobody says it has to be boring. Granted that some people take it too far, but we should not "through the baby with the bath water" as the saying goes. We should allow some celebrations related to our faith in order to

## Begin Lent with Your Ashes



The imposition of ashes is a tradition that dates back to the so called Old Testament or Hebrew Scriptures.

The Jews used it as a sign of grief, sorrow, repentance, pleading to God, or even to prepare for battle. They use to rip their clothes, and throw ashes on their bodies as they enter a spiritual time of prayer and fasting. In the Christian tradition it has been kept as a sign of repentance and since the end of the first millennium it has

been observed at the beginning of Lent. Some fundamentalist Christians teach to avoid the practice stating that it has pagan origins. Well, you can trace almost anything to paganism, but we Lutherans believe that it is a good practice, a symbol of our faith in Jesus Christ. Like many other rituals, the imposition of ashes has a powerful influence on the way we care for our spiritual

# Fashion Show feedback



Also my thanks to Rose Jones, Jan Danker, Natalie Prego, Carol and Kelly Jacobson, our photographer, Ralph Suarez and Larry Jones and Eric Castaneda , who kept all the ladies in check.

Last but not least, I thank all those who donated tickets and money toward this event. Thank you!

I'd like to thank all the models , Lynn, Lisa , Monica , Rita , Aura , and Judi who did a great job. For the beautiful baskets we thank Judi , Rita , and Suzanne.

In Christ,

Rosie Fennelli



## Events and Happenings

### February .....

**Wednesday, February 10**



- Ash Wednesday

**Saturday, February 20**

**- BISHOP ROBERT SCHAEFER**

Every year Bishop Robert Schaefer visits different parts of our Florida Bahamas Synod, to renew the vows of those in ministry for the church and to bless the oils used in our sacramental rites. On February 20, Bishop Schaefer will visit our church, St. Stephen, and we will worship together in the morning at 9:45. All are welcome to come!



**Saturday, February 13**

**- Breakfast bunch from Super Bowl to Valentine's Day: God's Plan for Marriage**

Debra Georgia comes to us from Iowa. Debra is a long time Lutheran and has contributed to society for many years in the area of Marriage and Family Therapy. What a great gift for the Kingdom of God! From Super Bowl to Valentine's Day: God's Plan for Marriage is the title of her presentation which will be held on Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at the Fellowship Hall during our Breakfast Bunch. If you have never been to one of this breakfast, I encourage you to do so. Couples deserve to hear



**Sunday, February 21**

**- Quilt Sunday**

Every year "Thread of Love" quilting group display some of the quilt to our congregation. This year the quilts will be



blessed during worship on Sunday, February 21.

**Tuesday, February 22**

**- Council Meeting**

Our regular council meeting will be at 7p.m. at the choir room, don't for-



## Deaconess words

Grace to you all!

Thanks to all for all you did this past year and for anyone who helped in areas that needed to be changed and for your help with the cleanup.

I would like to hear from those in the Congregation that could help with these important areas of Ministry such as **Assisting Minister, Acolyte, Lector, Greeter, Usher, Altar Care, Sound, Projection** you are out there, and I think you will find there is something that you will be able to do and with more help we won't have to do it as often.

There are a lot of people who are snowbirds and so we have to use our Florida residents, to

help out. I know you're out there and I know you can do it, so come join us and remember,

**"With God all things are possible"**

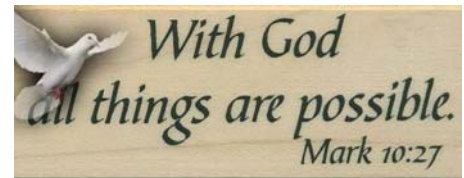
There are many times we have wanted to do things differently and yet have found out it has not been done because of health, time, stress, or just not knowing what needs to be accomplished. I hope we have learned from this past year what needs to be done and where our talents are to be used, learn how to help one another.

I thank all of you who were willing to pitch in and do what is necessary and that you are

finding ways to change things with the help of our new Pastor. Pastor Pedro and his wife Aura have been so patient and trying to get things going but they can't do everything so please pray and think about what you can help with.

This past year has been a challenge and yet we have gotten through those things that have been challenging so we know we can do it.

God Bless all of you and I continue to say thanks for all your blessings and your help when I



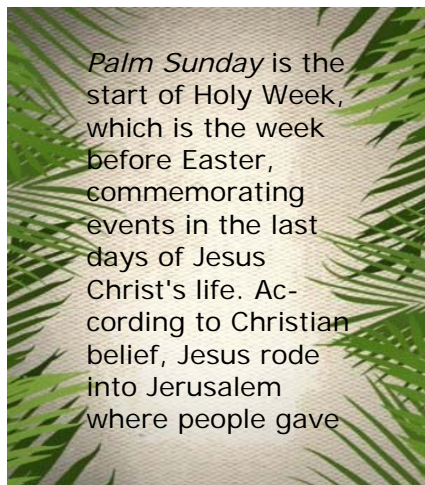
## Looking Ahead

**Saturday, March 12, 2016**  
- WORKDAY



Come beautify your church. We will start at 9a.m. For questions call Larry Jones or Kevin Otterson.

**Sunday, March 20, 2016**



**Sunday, March 27, 2016**



- **EASTER**  
Let's celebrate the resurrec-



# St. Stephen

Evangelical Lutheran Church

2500 NE 14th Street Causeway  
 Pompano Beach, FL 33062  
 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](http://www.ststephenlutheran.net)

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



# February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Mardi Gras 5:30p.m.	10 ASH WED. 12:15p.m. 7:00p.m.	11	12	13 Breakfast Bunch 9:00a.m.
14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18	19	20 Bishop visit
21 Quilt Sunday	22 Council Meeting	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					