



**St Stephen**  
Lutheran Church, ELCA

# The Messenger

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

February 2017

## 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:

**7:00 p.m.**  
Choir Practice



**St. Stephen**

## In This Issue:

- ⇒ Ashes to Go ...What's that?
- ⇒ Reformation 2017—By What Authority?
- ⇒ Unveiling of an Icon of St. Stephen
- ⇒ 5 Ways Anyone Can Serve in God's Mission!

## ASHES TO GO ... WHAT'S THAT?

**Y**ou will be hearing that we at St. Stephen will be offering "Ashes to Go" on Ash Wednesday, March 1, from 7am to 9am. Why are we doing that? Doesn't the imposition of ashes belong in the sanctuary and during a worship service, like *we've always done it*? Why do we have to add something so different? Good questions, we can do the same as usual of course, but please let us not expect different results. Let me share why it is alright for us Lutherans to do this.

First let me say that we will also have two regular worship services at 12:15pm and at 7:00pm. The imposition of ashes outside will be early in the morning and all are welcome to receive them.

- **The ashes remind us of our own death.** This should encourage us to repent and it is something we do in our public life.



- **We believe that God is at work out there** in people with our without our help. We even have Jesus' example ministering to people not just in the places of worship but anywhere he went.

- Another reason why we will do it, it's because **we want the visibility.** Our

neighbors need to know we are here for them. It is an invitation to be companions in this journey, respecting and accepting our differences. Some might not even know we are a liturgical church and this will give us some exposure.

- And because **we want to share the joy of God's love.** By praying for others, helping them begin this important practice for us Christians by imposing the ashes, and by

giving them some coffee and information about our church, we evangelize!

It would be great if you could volunteer that day. We need people to help set up the canopy, brew coffee, put together bags and be ready to share about our church.

## Reformation 2017 -- By What Authority?



**T**he Ninety-five Theses Martin Luther posted in 1517, focused primarily on the sale of indulgences and the abuses in the church related to it. But that was to be only the tip of the iceberg. Many more issues were being stirred up. By the time of the Leipzig debate in 1519, the issue of *authority*—papal and church authority in particular—was

emerging as a defining issue of the Reformation. At Leipzig, Luther was pushed to state publicly that "popes and councils can err." Though the doctrine of papal infallibility would not be formally declared by the Roman Catholic Church until the First Vatican Council in 1870, it was assumed to be the case by Luther's time. To assert the popes and the coun-

cils could "err" was heresy. But if these institutions are fallible, where then do we hear the authoritative voice of the Gospel?

The Reformers' position was to locate the source of the church's highest authority not in a person or office or institution but in *scripture (sola Scriptura)*

... Continues on page 2

... From page 1 **Reformation 2017 -- By What Authority?**  
 —the Word of God. In 1521, Luther was called to appear before the Holy Roman Emperor at Worms to defend his writings. There he was judged by his inquisitors to be in error and ordered to recant his writings. Requesting time to prayerfully consider the charges against him, Luther returned the next day to affirm that, because his “conscience was bound by the Word of God,” he could not recant, unless “persuaded by the scriptures.” Tradition tells us he ended his words before the Emperor and the Diet with the famous words, “Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise.”



Scripture, the Word, had become for Luther and his fellow Reformers the norm (the rule) by which all other norms—whether creeds or traditions or institutions or offices—should be judged. The Word is the only reliable authority. For his stance at Worms, Luther was declared a political outlaw. (He had al-

ready been excommunicated from the church by Pope Leo X the previous year.) Only the protection of the Elector of Saxony saved his life. But a split in the church was set in motion.

We, as heirs of the Reformation, continue to affirm the centrality of the Word for the life of the Christian community. But we also must acknowledge the unintended consequences of this stance. Luther had believed and hoped that once the faithful came to hear and read the Word, the “clarity” of its central message—the Gospel of the justifying grace of God in Jesus Christ—would unify and renew the whole church. But within the first generation the Reformation movement itself was dividing over issues of biblical interpretation. The scriptures were being read through many interpretive lenses. A consensus was lost. The result is emergence of the many denominations and sects of Protestantism over the next five hundred years. We experience that

disunity yet today.

So what is authoritative for us in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century? We are exposed to many, often conflicting, claims on the truth. We hear the voice of experts. We are lured by charismatic personalities. We are influenced by our families and friends. We feel the pressure of conforming to our peers. We come to trust our own personal experience. So, who and what shapes our view of the world and our faith in God? And what role does the Bible play in our lives? Where do we hear and encounter the Word of God? How is the Word authoritative for us? How do we interpret these ancient texts? As heirs of the Reformation, we cannot avoid these issues. But we take heart in the promise that the Word of God is never in vain—it is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. So, people of God, hear the Word of the Lord!

Submitted by  
 Rev. Tom Peterson



## UNVEILING OF ST. STEPHEN'S ICON

On Sunday, January 22 at the 10:15am service we had a special unveiling ceremony of an icon of St. Stephen, the First Martyr. It has been given, in honor of Larry and Rose Jones' work for God in the church, by their daughters. Way to keep the 4th Commandment!



## UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY

Pompano Beach event “Unity In The Community” was entertaining and educational. St. Stephen Lutheran Church was part of it. Thanks to those who helped!



# Events and Happenings in February...

## Sunday, February 5 - Annual Congregational Meeting



As every year, we need to come together as a congregation and receive reports on the status of our church. Together we also make decisions of the future of our ministry, and become aware of issues that otherwise we would not know because they are not talked during worship. We will meet on February 5th, right after the 10:15 a.m. worship service.

## Saturday, February 11 - Annual Fashion Show Fund-raiser

Our Annual Fashion Show will be at Galuppi's Restaurant in Pompano Beach at 11:30a.m. Featuring designs by “Addictions.” For tickets and more information about this event contact Rosie Fennelli.



## Sunday, February 19, 2017 - Quilt Sunday

This year the quilts will be blessed during worship on Sunday, February 19.

## Tuesday, February 28 - Mardi Gras Celebration

You're invited to a family fun evening at our Fellowship Hall on February 28 at 6:30 p.m. for a Mardi Gras Celebration. We will have crafts and games for children and adults as well, music, food and lots of fun!





# 5 Ways Anyone Can Serve in God's Mission

Whether you are retired or not, there are many ways you can get involved in God's mission through your St. Stephen Lutheran Church. We would love you to consider experiencing what some are already doing as we grow here in Pompano Beach. I just started writing about things anyone of us can do and this is what I came about...

## 1. Praying for:

- Spiritual growth (Faith, hope and love)
- Our neighbors and town
- Those yet to come
- New members
- New families
- Those seeking a new faith community
- Snow birds
- The Pastor
- Our children
- The sick

## 2. Volunteering

- Arranging flowers for the altar
- Altar Care
- Ushers and greeters
- Asking for things needed at the office
- Participating in Commissions
- Helping at events

- Working the landscape and yard
- Maintenance
- Cleaning, decorating and painting around the church property
- Web research for what we can improve
- Writing articles for this newsletter
- Choir and music
- Facilitating a prayer group in your home



## 3. Sharing the Joy of God's Love

- Intentionally talking about our experience at church with random people
- Inviting people to church events
- Visiting the sick and needy
- Gathering other volunteers to care for the homeless

## 4. Giving Financially to God's mission through our church

- Stocks
- Cash
- Bitcoins or other digital currency
- In your Will

## 5. Giving Property to God's mission through our church

- A house
- An automobile
- Any sellable asset

These are only some suggestions, but the important thing is that we all may be together in God's mission. The church should not only be a place where we come to receive and be inspired or even entertained but a community that together makes a difference where we are, because we love and follow Jesus Christ.

Like I said before, some of you are doing some of these things but as we grow, we need more people involved. Thanks for considering it!

Peace,  
Pr. Pedro+



## Looking Ahead into March...

### Wednesday, March 1, 2017 - Ash Wednesday

Our Ash Wednesday schedule is:  
- Ashes to Go from 7-9am. Outside in front of the Fellowship Hall  
- Regular worship service and imposition of Ashes at 12:15pm and 7:00 pm. Both in the Sanctuary.



### Saturday, March 04, 2017 - Breakfast Bunch



If you haven't done so, come join us at 9:00 a.m. for a fun morning, sharing breakfast plates, camaraderie and a short presentation on relevant topics.

### Friday, March 10, 2017 - Council Meeting

In March, our regular council meeting will mark the beginning of our retreat. We hope to do it as part of a social gathering as well.

### Saturday, March 11, 2017 - Council Retreat



We will resume our council retreat on Saturday at 8:30 am and will go until 3pm.





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.....



**Volunteer Assistants in February 2017**

10:15 am	<i>February 5</i>	<i>February 12</i>	<i>February 19</i>	<i>February 26</i>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Pat Belanger	Sera Butz	Natalie Prego	Carol Jacobson
ACOLYTE	Katie Paff	Carol Jacobson	Sera Butz	Madison Kibler
LECTOR	Rita Sharkey	Lynn Antill	Carol Jacobson	Kevin Otterson
USHERS –Need 4 to Serve	Suzanne Loggins Sherry Fox Terry Shumway Floyd MacDonald	Lynda Smith Zachary Smith Lisa Castaneda Linda Hanzlik	Harry Ambrose Patricia Engle Catherine Zippay Floyd MacDonald	Marsha Kibler Drew Kibler Darin Kibler Sherry Fox
Head Usher	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli
GREETERS – Need 2 to Serve	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones	Caroline Smith Barbara Kaptain	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones
SOUND	Dennis Magarrell	Eric Castaneda	Dennis Magarrell	Sera Butz
PROJECTION	Sera Butz	Larry Jones	Web Antill	Chris Castaneda

# February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 7:00 pm Choir Practice	3	4
5 <b>Worship</b> 9 & 10:15 am <b>Sunday School</b> 11:15am <b>ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING</b> <b>Santa Misa</b> 12:00pm	6	7 9am Brain Power	8 9am Quilters 3pm Preschool Chapel	9 7:00 pm Choir Practice	10	11 11:30a.m. <b>FASHION SHOW</b>
12 <b>Worship</b> 9am & 10:15 am <b>Sunday School</b> 11:15am <b>Santa Misa</b> 12:00pm	13	14 9am Brain Power	15 9am Quilters 3pm Preschool Chapel	16 7:00 pm Choir Practice	17	18
19 <b>Worship</b> 9am & 10:15 am <b>Sunday School</b> 11:15am <b>Santa Misa</b> 12:00pm <b>Quilt Sunday</b>	20	21 9am Brain Power	22 9am Quilters 3pm Preschool Chapel	23 7:00 pm Choir Practice	24	25
26 <b>Worship</b> 9am & 10:15 am <b>Sunday School</b> 11:15am <b>Santa Misa</b> 12:00pm	27	28 9am Brain Power 7pm <b>Mardi Gras</b>				