

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:

- ⇒ Reviewing and Preparing Ourselves for 2017
- ⇒ Reformation 2017—The Three Solas
- ⇒ Events and Happenings.
- ⇒ Worship with us on Epiphany Sunday!

REVIEWING AND PREPARING OURSELVES FOR 2017



About this last year Daniel Zender of The New York Times says...

"Some of you may have noticed that it has not been a great year. Disasters of disease and disruption; disasters violently compounded by our inability to temper our wishes and tolerate our differences; and, finally, death of treasured talismans of better times.

Randomly, incompletely: Syria, Zika, Haiti, Orlando, Nice, Charlotte, Brussels, Bowie, Prince, Ali, Cohen. Not everyone was delighted by the results of important votes in the United States and Britain, either."

However you look at it, what has happened in a year is up to

your own reality and state of mind. We have always had disasters and conquests, different types of government that for some may have been great and for others really bad. The same goes in looking forward, some are expecting a terrible year and others are sensing hope in this New Year.

What about how you see your spiritual life? Was it better this last year than before? Did you participate in activities according to your baptism covenant? Remember those ...to live among God's faithful people, to listen to the proclamation of the Word and to share in God's Holy Communion, to nurture our faith in prayer, to proclaim Christ through word and deed, to care for others and the world God made, and to work for justice and peace? I think these are good starting points as we find ways to measure our spiritual wellbeing and progress, and to plan for our immediate future.

My wish is that you may continue to grow spiritually in this 2017, and that we may see the future with optimism, no matter what goes on now around us. I don't know what this year will bring, but I know who will be with us to see us through "the good, the bad and even the ugly" and that is the One who promised us his loving care and presence, his power to see his kingdom reign among us, Jesus Christ, the Lord of lords and King of kings!

Have a Blessed and Happy New Year 2017!

Pr. Pedro +



REFORMATION 2017 --THE "THREE SOLAS"



Notable movements in history have often been accompanied by words or phrases that capture the hearts and imagination of people and then become short-hand for what that movement is all about.

"Liberte! Equalite!

Fraternite!" --the cry of the French Revolution.

"Remember the Alamo!" galvanized the Texans revolt. "We

shall overcome!" arose as the anthem for the Civil Rights Movement.

Martin Luther and the early

(faith alone)—*Sola Scriptura* (Scripture alone). These three phrases—the "three solas"—became touchstones for

the Reformers' central theological concerns and have endured as a legacy to remind us of the essentials of our faith.

Sola Gratia—How are we to understand who God is for us, how our relationship to God is established and maintained?

Continues on page 2...



Church Reformers of the 16th Century also had a short-hand for their movement: *Sola gratia* (grace alone)—*Sola fide*

...From page 1 **REFORMATION 2017 –THE ‘THREE SOLAS’**

Luther wanted to make it perfectly clear that It is *God alone* who takes the initiative and does all that is necessary to make us God’s sons and daughters.

That’s why it is “amazing grace.” We don’t earn it. We don’t add to the saving work God has done for us. Consequently, we don’t have to justify our breathing and taking up space in this world. It is pure gift, pure grace, pure love. (“For it is by grace you have been saved . . . “ Eph. 2:8)

Sola Fide—The grace of God is met in our lives by faith. Faith is the Spirit in us, responding to God’s “Yes” to us with our “Yes!” to God. *Faith alone connects us to God.* More than just as set of beliefs, faith dares to *trust* the promises that God redeems us and accompanies us even the “valley of the shadow of death.” Faith embraces our status as daughters and sons of God, sisters and brothers to one another. Faith activates our love for others, not in order to earn God’s favor, but because God has shown mercy and compassion toward us. (For it is by grace you have

been saved *through faith* . . . Eph. 2:8) Faith means our soul has a pulse!

Sola Scriptura—In a world of competing authorities, who or what can we trust most to teach and to shape our faith? A tradition? A pastor or pope? A Church or

Synod Council? Our own experience? Our grandmother? For the Protestant Reformers, the *Scripture itself stands alone* at the top of all hierarchies of authority. It is the one norm against which all others are to be weighed and judged. But within Scripture—a complex and varied set of books—is a central message. Using a Christmas image, Luther once likened the Bible to the *manger* holding the Christ-child for us. For Luther, the authority of Scripture rests in its chief function to bear the Word—Jesus Christ—to us. A Living Word to engender a living faith. Good biblical

preaching is meant to be a vehicle of that “living Word” among the followers of Jesus, providing a right discernment of Law (showing us our need for God) and Gospel (the Good News of God’ favor).

Are these Reformation touchstones still relevant to faith today? Do we really believe in “grace alone” and “faith alone” in a culture that exults the “self,” that teaches us to trust little beyond our experience, and that guides us to seek first nothing other than our own self-fulfillment? Do the Scriptures still command our attention in the midst of pervasive biblical illiteracy (a significant number of Americans don’t even know how Jesus died!). Are we drowning in information-overload? Do we listen to fake news as if it had authority? Do we dare to hear the Word of God?

Perhaps, we could do well to reclaim anew the passion of the Reformers and make their slogan our own:
Grace alone!
Faith alone!
Scripture alone!

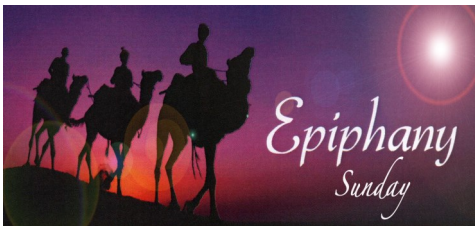


Submitted by
Rev. Tom Peterson



Events and Happenings in January...

Sunday, January 8 - Epiphany Sunday



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 worshipping Jesus, the Christ!

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

Saturday, January 14 - Breakfast Bunch, and Taking Down Christmas Decoration



Come at 9:00 am for a great breakfast, like always, and have fun! Afterwards, we

invite you to stay and help as we put away the Christmas decorations. It’s always good to be together and share the work together.



Thursday, January 19 - ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Please save the date and plan to attend the third annual Ecumenical Prayer Service for Christian Unity, which will be held at St. Nicholas Episcopal Church at 7:00 pm on Thursday, January 19, 2017; and encourage others to attend. There will be a reception in Brach Hall following the service.

This is an excellent time for our congregations to better get to know one another, learn about the great ministry that is taking place in our midst, and to celebrate that far more unites us than divides us.



FIRST BAPTISMS OF 2017



What a great honor to have my grandson Amias Rafael, and his sister (or step-granddaughter?) Mya Eleece baptized on Sunday, January 1st at the 10:15 worship service.



Congratulations to parents and godparents! May God help us all as we bring these little ones in the Christian faith!

CHRISTMAS EVE'S LOVELY PAGEANT



It was exciting and lovely to see our children gladly participate in the Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve at 5:30

p.m. Rev. Tom Peterson narrated the story and Lynda Smith read some of the Scripture passages while the children orderly took their places in the scene reminding us of the greatest story ever told, Jesus our Lord, God himself coming to earth to live among us as another mortal to be an example of who we can live lives full of the Spirit and to work for the kingdom of God.

Thanks to all teachers and volunteers that made this possible!

Looking Ahead...

Sunday, February 5, 2017 - 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.

Not only are we required to have this type of meeting by the State of Florida as a corporation that we are, but also by the ELCA of whom we are affiliated according to our constitution. It is a great opportunity for members to be well informed of what is going on. We will meet on February 5th, right after the 10:15 a.m. worship service.

Saturday, February 11, 2017 - Annual Fashion Show Fundraiser

Our Annual Fashion Show will be at Gallupi's Restaurant in Pompano Beach at 11:30a.m. For tickets and more information about this event contact Rosie Fennelli.



Sunday, February 19, 2017 - 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 19.

Tuesday, February 28, 2017 - Mardi Grass Celebration

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





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Pastor: Rev. Pedro M. Suarez

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



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



Volunteer Assistants in January 2017

10:15 am	January 1	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29
ASSISTING MINISTER	Pat Belanger	Sera Butz	Natalie Prego	TBA	Carol Jacobson
ACOLYTE	Katie Paff	Carol Jacobson	Sera Butz	Madison Kibler	Pat Belanger
LECTOR	Kevin Otterson	Juliet Crawford	Rosie Fennelli	Rick Dunton	Catherine Zippay
USHERS - Need 4 to Serve	Suzanne Loggings Catherine Zippay Linda Hanzlik Terry Schumway Rosie Fennelli	Lynda Smith Zachary Smith Floyd MacDonald Sherry Fox Rosie Fennelli	Harry Ambrose Patricia Engle Sherry Fox Lisa Castaneda Rosie Fennelli	Darin Kibler Marsha Kibler Drew Kibler Sherry Fox Rosie Fennelli	Floyd MacDonald Sherry Fox Linda Hanzlik Web Antill Rosie Fennelli
Head Usher					
GREETERS - Need 2 to Serve	Caroline Smith Barbara Kaptain	Kelly Jacobson	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones	Ruth Wagle Caroline Smith
SOUND	Dennis Magarrell	Eric Castaneda	Dennis Magarrell	Sera Butz	Dennis Magarrell
PROJECTION	Sera Butz	Katie Paff	Web Antill	Larry Jones	Eric Castaneda

January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2	3	4	5 7:00 pm Choir Practice	6	7
8 EPIPHANY SUNDAY Worship 9am & 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15am Santa Misa 12:00pm	9	10 9am Brain Power	11 9am Quilters 3pm Preschool Chapel	12 7:00 pm Choir Practice	13	14 9:00 am - Breakfast Bunch - Taking Down Church Decorations
15 Worship 9am & 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15am Santa Misa 12:00pm	16	17 9am Brain Power	18 9am Quilters 3pm Preschool Chapel	19 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm Ecumenical Prayer Service for Christian Unity	20	21
22 Worship 9am & 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15am Santa Misa 12:00pm	23	24 9am Brain Power	25 9am Quilters 3pm Preschool Chapel	26 7:00 pm Choir Practice	27	28
29 Worship 9am & 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15am Santa Misa 12:00pm	30	31 9am Brain Power 7pm Council Meeting				