

**St Stephen**  
Lutheran Church, ELCA

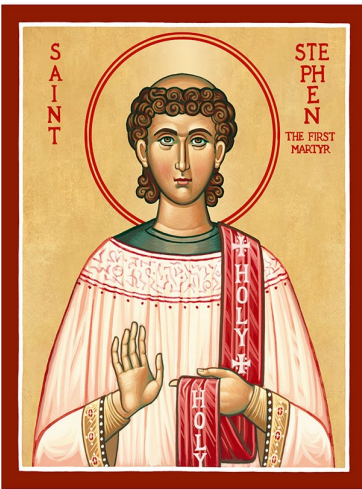
# The Messenger

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

January 2018

## Sunday Schedule:

\* **10:15 a.m.**  
Worship Service



**SAINT STEPHEN**  
The First Christian Martyr

## In This Issue:

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## From Pastor, Happy 2018!



“Yahdah, Yahdah, Yahdah”  
Ever get a long printed article and its too many words to read so you skip it? Please don’t do that with this article below entitled “2018: Your Year of Gratitude.” If you read it, and even do only one thing that is suggested, you will be a happier person. You don’t have to do all these things. Do the ones that fit you! Start 2018 with a happier heart.

*Pastor Nelson*

## 2018: Your Year of Gratitude

Think of the three happiest people you know – people whose lives effervesce with joy and peace. Chances are they also have a profound thankfulness for all that God has blessed them with. They also seem to live with a sense of contentment. Reflect for a minute. Isn’t that the case?

By contrast, you may also know folks who are considered wealthy but are profoundly UNhappy. Likely they not only fail to exude thankfulness for their wealth, but they also mistakenly believe they need even MORE possessions to be happy. Isn’t that right?

Now, which kind of person do you tend to be?

Thankfulness. Happiness. Contentment. These joyful characteristics work together, reinforcing one another. Human experience proves this simple fact to be true: People who are grateful for all they have and all they are tend to be happy and content. Moreover, don’t they also tend to possess spiritual depth and emotional maturity? A coincidence? Hardly.

Thankfulness, happiness and contentment interact, but gratitude holds the key. Develop gratitude, then happiness and contentment follow. It doesn’t work the other way around. With prayer, devotion and simple exercises, the Holy Spirit will lead you to deeper spiritual maturity and more happiness. Here are some ideas for you and your family.

**Pray daily.** Ask God to give you a greater sense of thankfulness. And then thank God for all the day’s blessings.

**Chart thankfulness.** On a big wall calendar mark one thing for which you’re thankful to God. Invite other family members to do the same. When you get in the habit of looking for them, you will find blessings everywhere.

**Keep a “blessing list.”** Write down the things you are grateful for. Then as you say your nighttime and morning devotions, pray over the list: “God, I’m thankful for *this*, and I’m thankful for *that*.” Revise the list as needed.

**Start a refrigerator “gratitude board.”** Using sticky notes, post on your refrigerator the things for which you are most grateful. Use a different color sticky note for each family member. Keep the board updated.

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*From page 1..*

**Send out thank-you notes.** Buy a box of inexpensive thank you notes and send one every week. Go deep, thanking not only the folks who have given you a present or done a favor for you, but also those whose love, support, friendship, laughter, energy or presence are important to you.

**Make a “thank offering.”** Express gratitude in a tangible way by making a contribution to your congregation or favorite church cause. Make the donation “just because,” or in honor or memory of a loved one, or on the occasion of a special event or blessing in your life.

Adopt one or more of these exercises as a spiritual discipline and, with God’s help, you will develop the attitude of gratitude that will bring more satisfaction, greater happiness, spiritual depth and emotional maturity to your life. Blessings for 2018.

--Rob Blezard

## ***ELCA presiding bishop responds to decision to move U.S. Embassy in Israel***

**C**HICAGO – The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), has issued the following statement in response to the decision to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

December 6, 2017

I am deeply disturbed to learn of the Trump administration's plans to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel away from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The ELCA has long held the view that a negotiated, final status agreement, including a "shared Jerusalem," must be reached without unilateral actions by any party that would prejudice the outcome of negotiations.

This unilateral action would not support the cause of peace and a two-state solution, but rather would unnecessarily create further tensions and possible violence that would make efforts to bring them back together for talks much more difficult. As my brother in Christ and colleague, Bishop Munib Younan of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, has often said, the security of Israelis depends on the freedom of Palestinians and the freedom of Palestinians depends on the security of Israelis. This proposed action would make both more insecure.

To proceed with this plan will only further isolate our nation from the global movement for a just peace for Jews, Christians and Muslims alike in the region and our church's policy that seeks an end to the occupation, an end to terrorism and violence, and, ultimately, the establishment of a viable, contiguous Palestinian state. Since the announcement is one of intentions, I call upon the president to rescind this plan and instead continue to focus on our nation's ability to contribute constructively toward a peaceful settlement of the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. Along with other interreligious partners, I continue to stand ready to discuss with the president ways to reach a peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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### **About the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:**

The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with more than 3.5 million members in more than 9,200 congregations across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. Known as the church of "God's work. Our hands," the ELCA emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians and service in the world. The ELCA's roots are in the writings of the German church reformer Martin Luther.

For information contact:  
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# Threads of Love end of the year greetings



*2017 was a very good year for us at quilting. As we celebrate another Christmas luncheon together, we look back on the loss of our friend Janet. We also lost a few friends due to moving / illness, which of course we must include Bishop Suarez. We had the pleasure of having Pastor Nelson and Aidee join us for our annual luncheon and we truly enjoyed their company.*

*Happy, Healthy New Year from all of us at Threads of Love!*

# Nativity Donation



Many thanks to Floyd MacDonald for his donation of the Nativity Scene to St Stephen Lutheran Church. This is beautifully displayed in the narthex.

*thank you*

# Looking ahead...

## -Sunday, January 14 Confirmation Classes and Sunday School Begin

On January 14 at 9:00am our confirmation classes begin. Parents are asked to attend this first session. Our classes will meet in the Fellowship Hall and our teachers will be Pastor Nelson and Sera Butz.

Also Sunday school for Elementary children will start on January 14 at 9:00am.

We are thankful for our families and children at St. Stephen Lutheran church.



## -Sunday, January 20, Bus Trip to Tampa

on Saturday, Jan 20, we will travel in a 30 passenger bus to Tampa. There are still a few seats left. The Florida Bahamas Synod is paying for up to 30 seats. We need every seat filled. If you are interested contact us immediately. We will depart the church promptly at 6:30am and we return approximately at 7:00/7:30pm. Bishop Pedro's installation is at 12:00pm followed by a reception.

If you want to join us please call Rosie Fennelli, the church office or Pastor Nelson.



# SERVICE OF INSTALLATION



## Bishop Pedro Suárez

Florida Bahamas-Synod, ELCA

January 20, 2018  
12:00pm

St. Mark The Evangelist  
Catholic Church  
New Tampa, FL

Register at  
[www.fbsynod.org/installation](http://www.fbsynod.org/installation)

# Angus & Phil

BY ANNIE TAYLOR LABEL



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Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Sidney Nelson

*“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)  
 \*\*\* Check the Video Sermons

Email us at:  
 sslcpompano@gmail.com  
 And like us on.....  
[www.facebook.com/sslcpompano](http://www.facebook.com/sslcpompano)



## Volunteer Assistants in January 2018

10:15 am	<u>January 7</u>	<u>January 14</u>	<u>January 21</u>	<u>January 28</u>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Pat Belanger	Carol Jacobson	Natalie Prego	Sera Butz
ACOLYTE	Carol Jacobson	Katie Paff	Aiyana Cartwright	Madison Kibler
LECTOR	Natalie Prego	Pat Belanger	Erika Flanigan	Carol Jacobson
USHERS - Need 4 to Serve	Suzanne Loggins Lynda Smith Zachary Smith (w) Terry Schumway	Jean Pettit Linda Hanzlik (w) Harry Ambrose Patricia Engle	Lisa Castaneda (w) Scott Kelley Linda Hanzlik Floyd MacDonald	Marsha Kibler (w) Drew Kibler Darin Kibler Catherine Zippay
Head Usher	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli
GREETERS - Need 2 to Serve	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones	Carol Jacobson Pat Belanger	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones
SOUND	Katie Paff	Dennis Magarrell	Katie Paff	Dennis Magarrell
PROJECTION	Sera Butz	Larry Jones	Eric Castaneda	Larry Jones

# January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 7:00 pm Choir Practice	5	6
7	8	9	10 9am Quilters 3pm Preschool Chapel 7:00pm Council Meeting	11 7:00 pm Choir Practice	12	13
14 - Sunday School 9:00am - Confirmation 9:00am - <b>Worship</b> 10:15am	15	16	17 9am Quilters 3pm Preschool	18 7:00 pm Choir Practice	19	20
21 - Sunday School 9:00am - Confirmation 9:00am - <b>Worship</b> 10:15am	22	23	24 9am Quilters 3pm Preschool Chapel	25 7:00 pm Choir Practice	26	27
28 - Sunday School 9:00am - Confirmation 9:00am - <b>Worship</b> 10:15am	29	30	31			