

**St Stephen**  
Lutheran Church, ELCA

# The Messenger

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

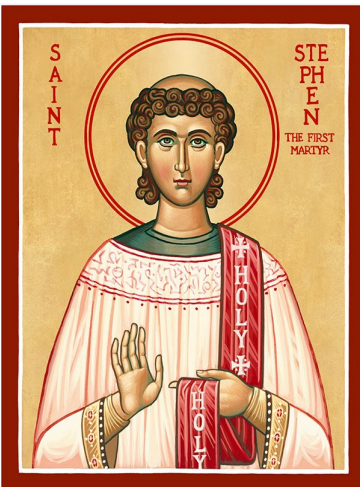
July 2017

## Sunday Schedule:

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

## Weekly Schedule:

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



**St. Stephen**

## In This Issue:

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## WHAT DO YOU WANT ON YOUR TOMBSTONE?

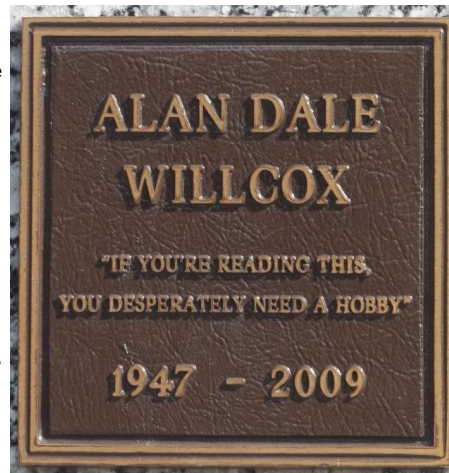
As most of you know, I took 2 weeks of vacation last month. My family from Chicago came down and we went to Key West. We had fun doing the things most of you know very well. Of course, we couldn't escape taking the tour in the trolley. One of the parts I like he most was when we pass by the local cemetery. It is only a few blocks from the popular and busy Duval Street.

The tour guides tell us that that is, believe it or not, a "fun" place to visit. A cemetery, really? Yes, due to the unique epitaphs written in the different tombstones. Some examples are:

"If you're reading this, you desperately need a hobby"  
 "I'm just resting my eyes"  
 "I told you I was sick"  
 "Devoted fan of singer Julio Iglesias"  
 "The best flan maker"  
 "Jesus Christ, these people are horrible"  
 And this one that was written by the wife of a man who had a reputation of running around with other women, "At least I know where he's sleeping tonight"

Do you know that those

living near the cemetery cannot be buried there? You know why? ... Because they're still alive! OK, that's one of my dumb jokes, I won't be offended if you didn't laugh.



But, in all seriousness, we spend a lot of time thinking about the past, usually the good memories. However, if we want to be fair, we should also spend a lot of time enjoying the present, the here and now, those that are around us at this time, our family, our neighbors, our church folks, and so on. That is God's gift and why we call it "present."

Now, we should also seriously think about what we truly want to leave behind?

It is never too early to ask that question. Gregory Peck was asked the question, "What would you like to leave behind?" he responded simply, "I want to be remembered as a good husband and father. I want to be remembered by my wife as someone who made her happy."

As Lutherans we have learned that (*to use a phrase in Latin from Martin Luther*), we are "Simul Justus et Peccator", meaning that we are at the same time, just (or saints) and sinners. That's how we live our lives, letting prevail good or evil and moving from one to the other, forgiven and forgiving.

That's why when we are in our most calmed way, we must reflect on that question, "What legacy do I want to leave behind." I hope that when that time comes, God and God's work may be in your plans. After all, God is here now, *and* already there where we will go to be with our loving Christ and others forever and ever.

Peace,  
Pr. Pedro



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AUGUST 3-5, 2017

Come celebrate God's creation this summer with ReNew: The Green VBS. This is a 3 day curriculum that empowers kids in grades PreK-Grade 6 to grow in faith, have fun, and help change the world for the better. Each day they will explore Jesus' Parable of the Sower with appropriate activities that help kids learn how to care for creation.

# REFORMATION 2017 - LUTHER'S THEOLOGICAL LEGACY



Martin Luther was a prolific writer and speaker. The English edition of his works (shortened from the much longer German edition) runs to 55 volumes—lectures, sermon, theological and polemical tracts, personal letters. There is even a volume of “Table Talk”—notes from colleagues and students from frequent conversations at his dinner table. These writings have not been quickly relegated to the dustbin of history. He continues to be read by pastors and theologians yet today, even outside Lutheran circles, because he wrestled with basic questions of faith in a way that challenges us still. For example:

*How can I find a gracious God?* As Luther wrestled with this fundamental question, he was led to a radical insistence of the priority of God's grace—and what we do as humans comes only as a response. We do not find God, God finds us. We can only wake up to this new reality.

*Is human perfection possible?* We might want to be or think we are perfect, but Luther challenges us to see that we are always both saint and sinner (in Latin: *simul justus et peccator*). We may change our minds and hearts and actions; but until the day we die,

we are only “recovering sinners.”

*How do we read the Scriptures?* Luther challenges us to hear the Word in two ways: as Law and Gospel. Hearing the Word as Law reveals our need for God, our brokenness, our alienation from God and one another, our sin. The Law teaches us what displeases God. But it is the Gospel opens us to God's love, forgiveness and renewal through the Spirit, and the possibility of new life. We need to hear both. To celebrate God's love without hearing the call to justice is a false gospel.



*Where is God in the political arena?*

Luther spoke of God ruling in the world in two ways—with his “left hand” through the political and social structures of the world and with his “right hand” in the spiritual realm that can be found in the Church. But how do these two Kingdoms relate? That is an on-going question for us all.

*What is Christian freedom?* For Luther this was a paradox. Scripture tells us, on the one hand, that in

Christ we are totally free, obligated to serve no one. Yet, on the other hand, in Christ we are totally bound to love and serve all humankind. In Christ we've no longer “got to” serve our neighbor; rather, now we “get to” serve them.

*Why is there still suffering in the world?* Luther took the reality of suffering very seriously. In suffering we meet God. We are baptized into what St. Paul called, the “fellowship of his sufferings.” This theology of the cross keeps us from the temptations of a theology of glory, which wants Easter without Good Friday. As I learn in a Bible Camp song: “If you don't take the Cross, you can't take the Crown.”

Luther could be very stubborn. Some of his writings have been totally rejected, especially his later views on the Jews, which gave cover, for example, to Nazi anti-Semitism in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. He was flawed as we all are. But as a person of faith his passionate and creative mind sought to understand the mystery of being human and being God's creatures, made new in Jesus Christ. He was an exemplar of “faith seeking understanding”. That is what continues to draw us to Luther.

- Submitted by  
Rev. Tom Peterson



ENCOURAGING AND STRENGTHENING FAITH IN JESUS, AND SHARING THE JOY OF GOD'S LOVE.

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SSLC Pompano

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Pompano Beach, Florida.

## Share and Subscribe to our YouTube Channel

For a long time people had asked us if we could have a way to share the sermons with other people. Now, thanks to some of our new members, Antonio and Jessika, we have it! We are able to see the sermons while we go away on vacation. Home-bound parishioners are happy that they can see it at home. Snowbirds have contacted us thanking for this effort. Praise God!

Now we need to share it and subscribe to St. Stephen's YouTube channel. This will help in the spreading of it, and some perks after a good number of subscribers.

[www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com) SSLC Pompano

**New Members Received July 2** On July 2, we received 7 new members into our St. Stephen's family. Let us welcome them!



**Antonio Alves & Jessika Gabrielly**



**Rafael Suarez & Ashley Cartwright (Aiyana, Mya, Amias)**



**Robert & Judith Fix**



**Julia Barfield**

**2nd Shipment of Food on its Way to Venezuela!**

MGDCARGO located in Sunrise came to our aid. On Thursday, June 28 the manager of the company, Gerardo Hernandez, came to pick up all the boxes. 5 are going by plane and 7 by ship. The ones by plane left on Friday June 29. The other boxes are going by ship and will take between 3 to 4 weeks to arrive.



**Our Tower of Change for Change Still Collecting for Venezuela Relief!**

Every Sunday you have the opportunity to also participate in some relief by giving to the Tower of Change. We are collecting money to buy unperishable food and send it to Casar Hogar in Valencia, Venezuela. These children are either orphans or at risk. Our sister congregation there is coordinating our efforts.

**Silver Angel Awarded to Larry & Rose**

Larry and Rose Jones received the Silver Angel Award in recognition for their volunteer service in our church. This recognition was given by John Knox Village through their spiritual care department. 12 communities of faith were represented on a banquet and ceremony on June 9. It was a pleasure to be with them as they were honored by another community organization. Congratulations Larry and Rose!



**Katie Paff's Meaningful Confirmation**

On Sunday, June 25 Katie Paff was confirmed into the Lutheran faith. She had been preparing for this since she was in New Jersey. Sera Butz gave her most of the classes left here. Katie received the support of her immediate family and of all of us at St. Stephen. I hope for many more confirmations to happen among us.



**Looking Ahead...**

**Thu-Sat, August 3-5  
-Vacation Bible School**



**Saturday, September 9  
- Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast**

The Socializing Commission of St. Stephen is hosting a Recognition and Thank You Catered Breakfast on Saturday, September 9, beginning at 9am in the Fellowship Hall.

We are asking everyone who helps in some way with our church to come and enjoy this event. This includes, Pastor, Assisting Ministers, Acolytes, Ushers, Council, Commissions, Counters, Projection, Sound, Choir, Greeters, Refreshment Servers, Secretary, Sexton) and also friends of the church.



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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.....  
 www.facebook.com/sslcpompano



### Volunteer Assistants in July 2017

10:15 am	<i>July 2</i>	<i>July 9</i>	<i>July 16</i>	<i>July 23</i>	<i>July 30</i>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Carol Jacobson	Aura Suarez	Sera Butz	Pat Belanger	Natalie Prego
ACOLYTE	Katie Paff	Sera Butz	Aiyana Cartwright	Aiyana Cartwright	Madison Kibler
LECTOR	Rosie Fennelli	Rick Dunton	Catherine Zippay	Tom Peterson	Sera Butz
USHERS – Need 4 to Serve	Suzanne Loggins Linda Hanzlik Terry Shumway Lisa Castaneda	Floyd McDonald Lynda Smith Zachary Smith Jimmy Fennelli	Harry Ambrose Patricia Engle Terry Shumway Catherine Zippay	Floyd McDonald Lisa Castaneda Lynda Smith Zachary Smith	Darin Kibler Marsha Kibler Drew Kibler Linda Kibler
Head Usher	Rosie Fennelli	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 Rose Jones	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle
SOUND	Larry Jones	Dennis Magarell	Dennis Magarrell	Sera Butz	Dennis Magarell
PROJECTION	Eric Castaneda	Chris Castaneda	Katie Paff	Larry Jones	Katie Paff

## July 2017

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