



**St Stephen**  
Lutheran Church, ELCA

# The Messenger

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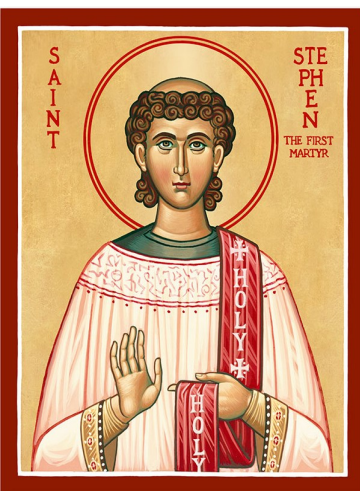
June 2017

## Sunday Schedule:

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

## Weekly Schedule:

**Thursday, June 29**  
**7:00 p.m.** Choir Practice



**St. Stephen**

## In This Issue:

- ⇒ What do We Need to Hear Today?
- ⇒ Reformation 2017- The Social Impact of Reformation
- ⇒ Events and Happenings in June
- ⇒ First Communion at St. Stephen
- ⇒ ReNew, the green Vacation Bible School

## What do We Need to Hear Today?

What do we need to hear today? Inspiration, motivation, comfort, challenge or what?

When I think about that, I look at Jesus and perhaps he asked himself that same question. The people then were no different than the people now. We fear, we lack and we indulge, we pride ourselves, we work hard or not, we go crazy and we go lazy, we get mad and we love, we are moved to compassion, we care and we neglect, we fight and make bad decisions, we try to have fun, we suffer, we hurt, we unite and find strength, and so forth.

Interestingly enough, Jesus of Nazareth, knowing this began his proclamation by asking people to repent. In other words, he was asking people to turn around, to come to the understanding of this new form of government called the kingdom of God, or kingdom of heaven. This kingdom has one basic rule that summons all godly

mandates: to love. Love God and others (people and all creation). Concretely, our feelings should be subject to this “agape” (*in greek*): love for God (not to be confused with “eros” *sensual love*, or “phelos” *love for family*).

That means, accompanying others, those close to us, and also those whom we called “acquaintances.” Jesus called them “our neighbors.” This is scary to shy people whom have a hard time connecting with new people. But together, shy and outgoing folks, we can do it. We need each other, the introspectiveness of the timid and the dearthness of the extroverts.



We need to hear the Gospel every day, because we forget it every day.

~ Martin Luther

Then Jesus went on doing these basic things: healing, about 75% of his time (from the Gospel accounts); maybe another 20% preaching about this kingdom of God, of love (that include the time spent preparing his disciples and confronting corrupt and hypocrite leaders); and another 5% probably, doing miraculous signs.

So, what does this have to do with us today? Well, if we are to imitate Jesus, the Christ, our Savior, Teacher and Master, then I suppose we ought to spend a lot of time “healing.”

We in the church need prayers, insight, careful observation; and also actions, noticeability for an effective Gospel living and proclamation.

The bottom line is, that we need each other in this kingdom of God. Are you willing to continue being part of this, or to even start being part of it now?

You are very important in our ministry together! Please, don't wait to be asked and step up.

Peace,  
Pr. Pedro



**SERMON OF THE WEEK  
ON VIDEO ...**

Now you can view Sunday's sermon on our Facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/sslcpompano](http://www.facebook.com/sslcpompano)  
Or at our regular webpage:  
[www.ststephenlutheran.net](http://www.ststephenlutheran.net)

## Reformation 2017 - The Social Impact of the Reformation



Ideas have consequences—often unintended consequences. Martin Luther never set out to establish a new church. He was calling for reforms *within* the church. But schism came and events overtook him. Luther was personally excommunicated—cut off—from the church in 1521.

Then as other individuals, local parishes and even some dioceses embraced the Reformation, the split became a movement and, finally, a permanent separation. Efforts to make peace at the Diet of Augsburg in 1530, where the Lutherans presented their “Augsburg Confession”, failed; and by the time of the Catholic’s Council of Trent in 1545, the breach could not be healed. By then, the Protestant movement itself was splintering. The religious and cultural cohesion of Europe would not be the same.

One major consequence of the ferment in the church was that local secular powers—dukes, princes and city councils, etc.—gained significant power and influence. Prior to the Reformation about one-third of the property and wealth of Europe had been controlled by the Church. Likewise about one-third of the population had been engaged in church work as priests, monks and nuns—tending to relics,

holding processions and vigils, saying the many private masses and offering non-stop prayers so that the dead might shorten their time in Purgatory. Reformation theology robbed

these “good works” of their power to save souls. The belief in Purgatory was abandoned. As a result, the monasteries and nunneries emptied.



Begging by mendicant (“wandering”) monks and by

students at the university—which had been an irritation to most lay people and a tax on the local economy—was increasingly forbidden. Local authorities came to believe that it was better and more faithful to give alms to the truly needy.

Much of the former church property reverted to the local secular leaders to use at their discretion. In Wittenberg, the Elector of Saxony gave Luther the local Augustinian monastery, by then empty of monks, to use as a parsonage and guest house after he was married. In England, Henry VIII, as head of the Church of England, simply closed all the monasteries and appropriated the lands for the Crown.

The Reformation principle of “the priesthood of all believers” contributed to the erosion of people’s bending to the traditional hierarchies—both church and secular. The idea that before God we are all equal became a

seed for the Peasants’ Revolt of 1524, which as the largest social protest in Europe prior to the French Revolution. It was defeated, but the precedent was set. (Initially neutral on the revolt, Luther in the end showed his conservative credentials and supported the “German Princes.” On the other hand, the image of Luther standing up to the Emperor at Worms in 1520 endures as a symbol of one individual standing up against worldly power and authority.)

Family life was given new status as priests married and parsonages were created. Luther’s translation of the Bible into German not only enabled the Scriptures to be read by ordinary people, but it became the catalyst for unifying the many dialects of German. The impetus to offer formal education for a larger part of the population was strengthened.

These are but a few examples of the social impact of the Reformation. It did not accomplish these things alone. Much else was changing in the Europe at the time. (Think 1492!) Historians often name this time the dawn of the Modern Era. But it is important to see how, for better and for worse, the Reformation was more than a theological debate. Its ideas had consequences for society.

- Submitted by  
Rev. Tom Peterson



## Events and Happenings in June...

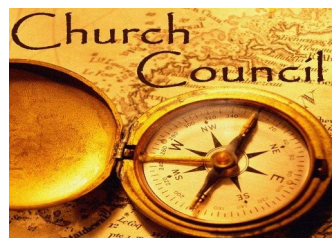
### Sunday, June 4 - Bishop's Visit

On Sunday, June 4th, at our regular worship at 10:15, we will be blessed by the visit of the Interim Bishop of the Florida-Bahamas Synod of the ELCA, Bishop Marcus Lohrmann. Come rejoice as we listen to the Word of God preached by our Bishop! It will Pentecost (wear red!).



### Tuesday, June 6 - Council Meeting

Members of the council please mark your calendars. Also remember to read the next chapters of the book “Unwelcome” for our study time together.



### Sunday, June 18 - Fathers Day

Although it is not a religious festivity, we like to emphasize the responsibility entrusted to fathers in all the world. But more so, we honor those who cherished their duty, those who sacrificed many things to be good dads. We also pray for those who still have a chance to do better, that the Holy Spirit may guide them.



**Thursday & Friday, June 22,23  
-Lutheranism Class**

As we come closer to the 500 anniversary of the Reformation, it is good for us to review the events that led to one of the most significant schism in the Christian Church and how we're moving from Conflict to Communion.

Please sign up to be with us from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.



**Saturday, June 24  
- New Members Orientation**

What does it mean to be an official member of St. Stephen Lutheran

Church? Is it important? Those and other questions will be addressed on Saturday, June 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please register after worship or at the church office.



**First Communion at St. Stephen**



On Sunday, May 21 2017, seven children received Holy Communion for the first time during a meaningful worship service . The St. Stephen's family welcomes to the table of our Lord the following children: Kerry Donahue, Bridgette Donahue, Jacob Van Zile, Aiyana Cartwright (who was also baptized), Shaliana Bravo, Ryan Donahue and Mya Suri. Let us pray for them, their parents and their godparents.



**IN THE HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION**

Our sincere condolences to Bud Danker and his family in the loss of his dear beloved wife, Jan Danker.



Jan passed away peacefully in her sleep on Tuesday, May 30, 2017. She was loved by all in this, her congregation of many years.

Rest eternal grant her, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon her!

**Looking Ahead Into Summer...**

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

Celebrate God's creation this summer with ReNew VBS a 3-day curriculum that empowers kids in grades PreK-Grade 6 to grow in faith, have fun, and change the world. Each day, kids will explore Jesus' Parable of the Sower with three age-appropriate activities that help kids learn how to care for God's creation. ReNew is the most affordable, environmentally-focused VBS program available. Experience the change your kids can make today!





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 Ph. (954) 942-4473

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 June 2017

10:15 am	<i>June 4 Pentecost Bishop's visit</i>	<i>June 11 Holy Trinity</i>	<i>June 18 Father's Day</i>	<i>June 25</i>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Pat Belanger	Sera Butz	Sera Butz	Aura Suarez
CRUCIFER	Eric Castaneda			
ACOLYTE/ TORCH BEARER	Carol Jacobson Maddie Ammos	Katie Paff	Carol Jacobson	Madison Kibler
LECTOR	Tom Peterson	Natalie Prego	Rick Dunton	Juliet Crawford
BIBLE BEARER	Sera Butz			
USHERS -Need 4 to Serve	Suzanne Loggins Catherine Zippay Sherry Fox Terry Shumway	Lynda Smith Zachary Smith Lisa Castaneda Floyd MacDonald	Harry Ambrose Patricia Engle Floyd MacDonald Terry Shumway	Marsha Kibler Drew Kibler Darin Kibler Linda Hanzlik
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	Larry Jones
PROJECTION	Chris Castaneda	Larry Jones	Chris Castaneda	Katie Paff

## June 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1  7:30 pm Choir Practice	2	3
<b>4 PENTECOST</b> <b>Bishop's Visit</b> <b>Worship 10:15 am</b>	5	6  7pm Council Meeting	7  9am Quilters	8	9	10
11 <b>Worship 10:15 am</b>	12	13	14 9am Quilters	15	16	17
18 <b>Father's Day</b> <b>Worship 10:15 am</b>	19	20	21 9am Quilters 3pm Preschool Chapel	22 6-8:30 pm Lutheranism Class	23 6-8:30 pm Lutheranism Class	24 9am-12pm New Members Orientation
25 <b>Worship 10:15 am</b>	26	27	28 9am Quilters 3pm Preschool Chapel	29 7:30 pm Choir Practice	30	