

St Stephen
Lutheran Church, ELCA

The Messenger

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

March 2017

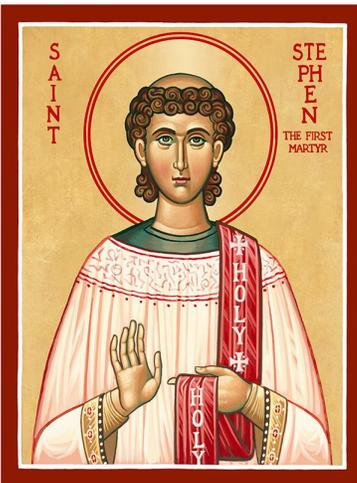
Sunday Schedule:

- * **9 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.**
(Both liturgical worship services)
- * **11:15 a.m.** Sunday School

Weekly Schedule:

Wednesdays in Lent
12:15pm Lenten Service
12:45pm Bible Study

Thursdays
7:00 p.m. Lenten Service
7:30 p.m. Choir Practice



St. Stephen

In This Issue:

- ⇒ Can I eat *THAT* during Lent? I'm a Lutheran!
- ⇒ Reformation 2017—Sing to the Lord a New Song!
- ⇒ The Journey of Repentance: A Lenten Bible Study

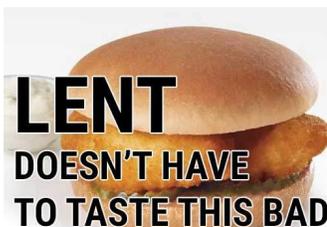
Do I have to eat *THAT* during Lent? - I'm a Lutheran!

It has been a while since I haven't heard the whole dialogue about "no meat but fish" during Lent. Lutherans wanted to distinguish themselves very clearly from the Roman-Catholics during the 1700's and 1800's so this was not an issue at all. That was considered solely a Roman-Catholic practice. As a matter of fact, it has been seen as almost superstitious, and most Lutherans just thought of it as an imposition of the Roman hierarchy that had nothing to do with them.

Still, some Lutherans wanted to know, where did that practice come from? Basically, it has been said that because Jesus died on Friday, and in remembrance of this, Christians should abstain from eating meat. The fact is that even if you "google it" you will find all kinds of reasons. It was a requirement for many years

for Roman-Catholics, lifted up and imposed later, and so on.

Let me share with you another theory that I heard a long time back which I liked as to why and how of this practice during Lent. As you know, the



early Christians where called "The People of the Way." They had a "Fish" for a symbol and met underground, hiding for fear of being captured, tortured and killed for following what was believed, subversive acts like Jesus of Nazareth did. As the movement grew they wanted to send a clear message to the Emperor and his people, that they were active and that they were many!

During those days, meat had to be bought fresh daily, there was no refrigeration. Pretty much every day, people would go to the market to buy meat. Using a well-known political

strategy, they decided to boycott meat on Fridays, the day Jesus was killed. In its place they all bought fish, and that is how it all started. Well, at least according to this theory.

For us Lutherans, we have never had it as a requirement, and if you decide to eat meat on a Friday during Lent, nothing bad is going to happen, of course! However, if you decide to eat fish on Fridays during lent or on any Friday during the year instead of meat, I encourage you to do it so remembering the many martyrs that died for the gospel of Christ, so that we may freely worship the Lord. The validity of our Lenten discipline is not on what the discipline may be per se, but on how our heart is, our intention when we do it. Ask yourself, how does this practice help me meditate and grow spiritually? Will I be more thankful and willing to serve others? Peace,
Pr. Pedro+



Reformation 2017—Sing to the Lord a New Song!



The story of the Protestant Reformation can't be told without celebrating its incredibly rich and varied history of hymn writing and congregational singing. Next to the centrality of the Word—in preaching and worship, in Bible study and personal devotion—nothing else illuminates the heart of the Reformation heritage and piety as clearly as does its music. If you want to know about Protestants—go hear them sing! From Luther-

ans and Anglicans, to Pentecostals and New Age Christians, in urban settings and third world villages, the faith is celebrated in song.

It started with Martin Luther himself, who composed and wrote a number of hymns—most notably "A Mighty Fortress is our God" and "Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word." He regarded music as the "living voice of the Gospel" and one of the best way to

share and communicate the faith. "Next to theology, I give music highest place," Luther said. His love for music—particularly in the shared song of congregational singing—caught on.

The story of the 16th Century Reformation usually focuses on the theological debates, the issues of church politics, and the written treatises of the

...Continues on page 2

...From page 1 *Reformation 2017—Sing to the Lord a New Song!*

Reformers (widely disseminated because of the invention of the printing press fifty years earlier). But at Luther's time, only about ten percent of the population of Europe could read or write. In order that the Reformation be more than a movement among the educated elite, a new strategy for shaping the faith of ordinary people was necessary. The church in the Middle Ages had relied on the Sacramental system and the visual arts to communicate, foster and regulate faith. For Luther and his fellow Reformers, the renewal of the church would come about through strong, biblical preaching and through vigorous singing of hymns. The Bible would become the people's book; the hymns would become the people's song. The texts of the Reformers' hymns—always in the language of the people, of course—were varied. Some hymns told a story from the Bible. Some were strikingly theological, a vehicle for teaching doctrine to the congregation. Others were paraphrases of the Psalms



or general songs of praise and thanksgiving. But always they were meant to be sung by the whole People of God. Good music has always been a great way to learn, understand and remember. So, too, in the life of the Church. We are, of course, heirs of a strong tradition of Lutheran hymnody—from the German chorales, through the Pietistic and folk hymns of the 18th and 19th Centuries, up to the new voices from people like Marty Haugen. But our heritage also embraces music from other Protestant traditions—the dignified English church hymns, the hauntingly beautiful early American tunes and hymns (base on a five-tone scale), slave songs and spirituals that yearn for freedom, high-energy hymns of the Gospel and revivalist movements, songs of the new “praise” musicians. In the past half century we have enriched our repertoire of hymn-singing with songs from Christians around the world, most notably from Africa and Latin America. It has been a remarkably international and

ecumenical outpouring of faith and creativity.

I sometimes get asked by non-churched friends and acquaintances why I go to church (aside from being a pastor, of course). I often just reply, “I like the songs!” I have sometimes said that I was sung into the life of the church, starting with Sunday School and the children's choir of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wadena, Minnesota. Music was a key vehicle by which I learned the faith and found a path to prayer, praise and thanksgiving. As an adult I have come to appreciate the gift of church music to “ground” my faith, in the midst of our complicated and secular world.

Church worship is one of the last places in our culture where we still have an opportunity to sing together. Let's not lose that. Whether it is “old favorites” or new hymns—let us not stop making a joyful noise to the Lord!

Submitted by:
Rev. Tom Peterson



The Journey of Repentance: a Lenten Bible Study

“When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, ‘Repent’ (Matt. 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.” --Thesis 1, Martin Luther, 1517.

Join us as we wrestle with the meaning

of repentance for us and our contemporary world. What do we mean by “sin” today? How can we be forgiven and forgive one another? What needs to change in our lives? Where do we find reconciliation? What strategies can we adopt for

our lives as followers of Jesus?

Wednesdays in Lent, beginning March 8, 12:45 – 1:30 p.m. in the choir room (following mid-week Lenten Service)

Events and Happenings in March...

Wednesday, March 1 - Ash Wednesday



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

Saturday, March 4 - Breakfast Bunch

Come join us at 9:00 a.m. for a fun morning, sharing breakfast plates, camaraderie and a short presentation on relevant topics.



Saturday, March 10 - 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.



Sunday, March 11 - Council Retreat

From 9am to 6pm the church council members will be having a retreat to set goals and review our plan for 2017.

Friday & Saturday, March 17 & 18 - New Member Orientation

Get familiar with our congregation, know what it means to be a member of St. Stephen. The first session will be on Friday the 17th at 7:00 p.m. and the second one on Sat. the 18th at 9:00 a.m.



Sunday, March 26 - New Members Sunday

On Sunday, March 26 during our 10:15a.m. worship service we will be introducing the new members.

A note from the Threads of Love Quilters:

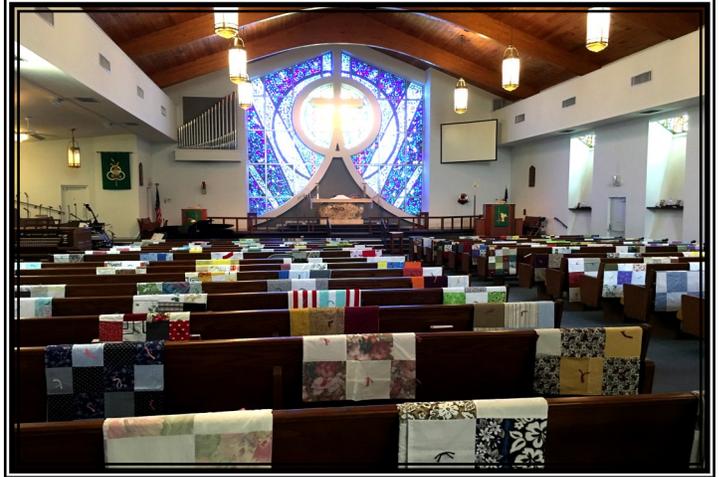
Quilt Sunday was a beautiful service. Thank you Pastor for giving us the opportunity to display some of our beautiful handmade quilts. For the past 29 years a group of talented and dedicated women join together every Wednesday morning in the Fellowship Hall to make quilts for those in need.

Our Faithful Quilters are:

Nancy Anderson, Julie Barfield, Lucille Capece, Regina Crockett, Marlene Derynda, Betty Ellinger, Janet Isner, Barbara Kaptain, Marie Koach, Kathy Leone, Jenny Leong, Diane Moss, Rita Roemer, Lynn Vatrak and Sherry Walters.

Thank you for your Love Offering donations, it was greatly appreciated!

Blessings,
Kathy Leone, Leader



BAPTISM

DEAD TO SIN • ALIVE IN CHRIST

During our Sunday worship at 10:15 a.m. February 19, Greyson Pettit was received as a child of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Congratulations to the parents, Scott and Tracey Pettit, also to Jean Pettit, Edith Reichenbach, and the rest of the family.

Looking Ahead into April...



Saturday, April 1, 2017 - Chili Cook Off

If you are a good cook and would like to participate in this fun event, please sign up for it! Our church may register up to 3 entries.

The actual Chili Cook Off will be at Zion Lutheran Church, Deerfield Beach at 4:00pm.

For more info call the church office.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 09, 2017 - Palm Sunday

We will have a procession with palms around the outside of the church building previous to our 10:15 a.m. worship service. (Only one worship service this Sunday)



Thursday, March 13, 2017 - Maundy Thursday

Worship Service with Holy Communion and Washing of the Feet at 7:00 p.m.



Friday, April 14, 2017 - Good Friday

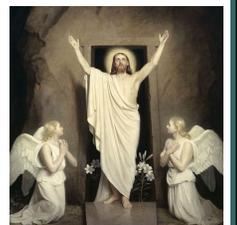
Worship Service at 7:00 p.m.



Sunday, April 16, 2017 - Easter Sunday

"The Resurrection of Our Lord"

(Only one Worship Service at 10:15 a.m.)





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

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



Volunteer Assistants in March 2017

10:15 am	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26
ASSISTING MINISTER	Pat Belanger	Sera Butz	Natalie Prego	Carol Jacobson
ACOLYTE	Carol Jacobson	Katie Paff	Sera Butz	Maddie Kibler
LECTOR	Judi Dooge	Natalie Prego	Aura Suarez	Rick Dunton
USHERS -Need 4 to Serve	Suzanne Loggins Linda Hanzlik Terry Shumway Floyd MacDonald	Lynda Smith Zachary Smith Lisa Castaneda Jeanne Pettit	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

March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 ASH WEDNESDAY Ashes to Go 7-9 am Worship & Ashes 12:15pm and 7:00 pm	2 7:00 pm Choir Practice	3	4 Breakfast Bunch 9:00am
5 Worship 9 & 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15am	6	7	8 9am Quilters 12:15 Lenten Service 12:45 Bible Study 3pm Preschool Chapel	9 7:00 pm Lenten Service 7:30 pm Choir Practice	10 7:00 PM Council Meeting	11 8:30 am Council Retreat
12 Worship 9am & 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15am	13	14	15 9am Quilters 12:15 Lenten Service 12:45 Bible Study 3pm Preschool Chapel	16 7:00 pm Lenten Service 7:30 pm Choir Practice	17 7:00pm New Member Orientation	18 9:00 am New Member Orientation
19 Worship 9am & 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15am	20	21	22 9am Quilters 12:15 Lenten Service 12:45 Bible Study 3pm Preschool Chapel	23 7:00 pm Lenten Service 7:30 pm Choir Practice	24	25
26 NEW MEMBERS SUNDAY Worship 9am & 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15am	27	28				