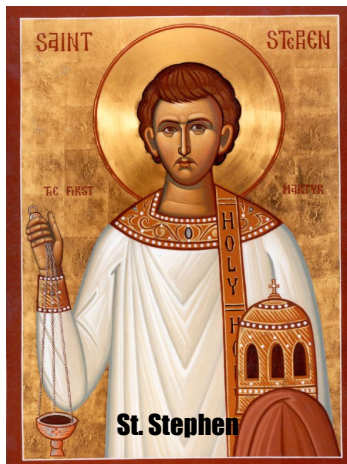


Sunday Worship:

- * **9:00 a.m.**
Praise Worship and Faith Formation
- * **10:15 a.m.**
Traditional Blend Worship Service

Thursday Worship:

- * **7:00 p.m.**
Praise and Prayer Worship



We Gave 3 Cows to Families in Need!

With cheerfulness we at St. Stephen Lutheran Church were able to donate enough money from our collection since Advent at the tower of “Change for Change” for 3 cows. Cydney Hartner received our check of \$1,800 on behalf of “Food for the



Poor” on Thursday, April 21 during our Praise and Prayer service. These funds will be channeled through their

office in Haiti, which will buy the cows locally and placed them directly with the families. These families are instructed

in how best to use the animals. I want to thank you all for your generosity!

-Pr. Pedro

In This Issue:

- ⇒ We gave 3 cows to families in need.
- ⇒ Roof repair was tougher than we thought.
- ⇒ Conflicted feelings about Mother’s Day.
- ⇒ Events and happening.
- ⇒ Looking Ahead.

Roof Repair Was Tougher Than We Thought



Not only did we encounter extra expenses due to the corrosion of wiring for the AC units on the roof, but

the long hours turned into days. The whole week of work and strong smell caused an inconvenience for the pre-

continuing to school. Now, despite the noise, dust and smell, the roof of the educational wing is finally done.

school and the church office.

However, it is something that needed to be done. The children and teachers were given the choice of staying home or



Conflicted Feelings about Mother's Day

Motherhood, it's just so complicated. There are those who have not been able to procreate and dread Mother's Day. It's so sad for them that they don't even want to go to church that day. There are those who have been raised by different people, in foster homes, orphanages, or even in the streets and for them the word "mother" is not pleasant. There are those who have been abused by their mothers, and love is not a synonymous word with mother. There are those who have been raised by their grandmother, an aunt, or

a sister, so motherhood means something else than what our commercial society portrays. There are those who have lost a child or more, and painful memories arise that day. And there are those who have lost their mother and still grieve the loss.

Many churches have opted for not even mentioning the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day. Others might include a prayer here and there, but no big deal. Others go overboard and celebrate it big, thus hurting some women that don't fit the category. What should we do then?

As I was researching about Mother's Day I found that *...Mother's Day was originally started after the Civil War, as a protest to the carnage of that war, by women who had lost their sons. Here is the original Mother's Day Proclamation from 1870:*

Arise, then, women of this day! Arise all women who have hearts, whether our baptism be that of water or of fears!

Say firmly: "We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies. Our husbands shall not come to us, reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause. Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience.

We women of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs. From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own. It says "Disarm, Disarm! The

sword of murder is not the balance of justice."

Blood does not wipe our dishonor nor does violence indicate possession. As men have often forsaken the plow and the anvil at the summons of war, let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of counsel. Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead.

Let them then solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, each bearing after their own time the sacred impress, not of Caesar, but of God.

In the name of womanhood and of humanity, I earnestly ask that a general congress of women without limit of nationality may be appointed and held at some place deemed most convenient and at the earliest period consistent with its objects, to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace.

- Julia Ward Howe, Boston, 1870

Now, on Sunday May 8, whether we mention it or not, let us pray for all women, those hurting, those in need of forgiveness, those loving ones, those needing to repent, those overwhelmed, those suffering, those protesting. Motherhood is just complicated. Still we can say Happy Mother's Day in a comprehensive way, and blessings to all!

- Pastor Pedro Suarez

May

2016

Events and Happenings

Saturday, May 7 - Dinner celebration for pastor's first anniversary.

On May 7 at 4:30p.m., in the Fellowship Hall we will be having a dinner celebration for Pastor Pedro's first anniversary at St. Stephen.



Tickets for this event \$10, for more info please contact Carol Jacobson or at the Narthex.

Sunday, May 8 - Mother's Day

Thank you, Lord, that you fill a mother's heart with love.



Thank you for giving her the gift of nurturing her children, of teaching them, of comforting them. Fill every mother with love, wisdom and endurance, with strength and patience and joy.

Tuesday, May 24 - Council Meeting

As it is our custom, we will have our monthly meeting on 4th Tuesday of the month the at 7p.m.

Please pray for these elected official as they make important decisions for our church.



Great Memories From New Members Sunday

It was a solemn and significant moment during our worship service on Sunday, April 10 when we received 10 people as members of St. Stephen.

They were Lisa Allen, Harry Ambrose, Patricia Engle, Kevin Otterson, Brook Tierney, Diane Adler, Katie Paff, Sherry Fox, Dennis Magarrel and Jimmy Fennelli.

We pray that we may be a healthy community of faith for them and



that their presence and their talents may be a blessing to us.

Welcome brothers and sisters!

Smart Goals Planned During Last Council Retreat

We worked intensely at the strategic planning council retreat held on April 15 and 16. There was a great team spirit, everyone was engaged, participating, and our hopes are up.

The first part was to establish Smart Goals for our mission areas. Now we are defining the objectives and the rest of the planning strategies. Lots of good work ahead!



Looking Ahead

See You Later, Snowbirds!



According to Wikipedia, Snowbirds are typically retirees who wish to avoid the snow and cold temperatures of northern winter, but maintain ties with family and friends by staying there the rest of the year.

Through the years, St. Stephen has seen many folks who have learned to like this area of South Florida and have become snowbirds. They get the best of their two places. Although technology now brings

us closer, we still will miss those of you that are going back up north.

May God's peace continue to be with you, we pray for safe travels and that you may have a wonderful time with your loved ones on the coming months. We will be here waiting for you so we may continue to praise God and to encourage and strengthen faith in Jesus and share the joy of God's love!

Congratulations Graduates!

As we get to the end of the school year, there will be some that are graduating. Some may be our nieces and nephews, others grandchildren or just loving young people.

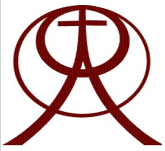


Congratulations to all and may they have our support in their new commencement!

What's Going on during Summer

- Synod Assembly June 10-12
- Preparing Faith Formation in Fall
- Line Dancing. TBA
- Children's Festival TBA

If you have interest in helping with any of these and/or more please contact the church office.



St. Stephen

Evangelical Lutheran Church

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”*




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



Volunteer Assistants in May

10:15 AM	May 8	May 15	May 22	May 29
ASSISTING MINISTER	Aura Suarez	Sera Butz	Carol Jacobson	Pat Belanger
ACOLYTE	Taryn or Alyssa Booth	Carol Jacobson	Maddie Kibler	Katie Paff
LECTOR	Tom Peterson	Rosie Fennelli	Joanne Brustad	Sera Butz
USHERS (Need 4 to Serve)	Rudi Koch Carissa Esposito Madalyn Ammons Kathie Schutt	Harry Ambrose Patricia Engle Scott Kelley Suzanne Loggins	Darin Kibler Marsha Kibler Drew Kibler Linda Hanzlik	Floyd MacDonald Lisa Castaneda Carole Jacobson Jean Pettit
Head Usher – Rosie Fennelli	Head Usher – Rosie Fennelli	Head Usher – Rosie Fennelli	Head Usher – Rosie Fennelli	Head Usher – Rosie Fennelli
GREETERS – (Need 2 to serve)	Don Schutt Suzanne Loggins	Caroline Smith Edith Reichenbach	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones	Eduardo Arango Marie Koach
SOUND	Sera Butz	Dennis Magarrell	Eric Castaneda	Katie Paff
PROJECTION	Web Antill	Larry Jones	Dennis Magarell	Larry Jones

May 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 8:30 am Quilting 10:00 am Staff meeting 3 pm Preschool Chapel	5 6pm Worshipping 7 pm Praise & Prayer Service 7:30pm Choir rehearsal	6	7 4:30 pm Dinner celebration 1st anniversary
8 Mother's Day Worship: 9 am Praise & Faith Formation 10:15 am Traditional Blend	9	10	11 8:30 am Quilting 3 pm Preschool Chapel	12 7 pm Praise & Prayer Service 7:30 Choir rehearsal	13	14
15 Worship: 9 am Praise & Faith Formation 10:15 am Traditional Blend	16	17	18 8:30 am Quilting 3 pm Preschool Chapel	19 7 pm Praise & Prayer Service 7:30 Choir rehearsal	20	21
22 Worship: 9 am Praise & Faith Formation 10:15 am Traditional Blend	23	24 7 pm Council Meeting	25 8:30 am Quilting 3 pm Preschool Chapel	26 7 pm Praise & Prayer Service	27	28
29 Worship: 9 am Praise & Faith Formation 10:15 am Traditional Blend	30 Memorial Day 	31				