

**St Stephen**  
Lutheran Church, ELCA

# The Messenger

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

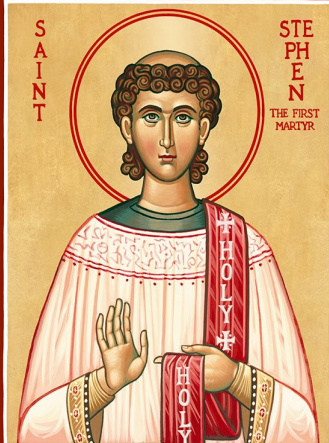
May 2017

## Sunday Schedule:

- \* **10:15 a.m.**  
Worship Service
- \* **11:15 a.m.**  
Sunday School

## Weekly Schedule:

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



**St. Stephen**

## **In This Issue:**

- ⇒ Christ Accompanying Us
- ⇒ Reformation 2017- Tradition and Freedom in Worship.
- ⇒ Events and Happenings in May
- ⇒ First Successful Food Shipment to Venezuela

## Christ Accompanying Us

In the Gospel according to St. Luke chapter 24, we reflected some Sundays ago, how Jesus accompanied his disciples, even when they did not recognize him. As people of God we accompany one another. And as your pastor, I have the privilege to walk closer with many of you. Sometimes it is to rejoice in blessing a dwelling, or celebrating the joy of a baptism, a first communion, a wedding or in any turning point in life. Other times, this journey together has taken me to be there when bad news about health has been given.

I have even gotten those difficult calls notifying about the death of someone very loved by all.

At the same time, an important part of this accompaniment is to listen. Before He spoke, Jesus listened to his disciples, he even asked "what things?" thus encouraging them to share in their own words what was in their minds. So, I listen to your stories, stories of hard times, of happiness. I also listen the reports about how our congregation is growing...yes! St. Stephen is growing spiritually, in attendance and financially. All these are signs of renewal, or positive

redevelopment. I can praise God because we are meeting our goals with dignity as we



entered our third year of redevelopment. Let me share how we measure this growth.

**First, spiritually,** as I hear in conversations phrases and concepts said in sermons, or

gregational meeting showing in a chart how attendance is clearly going up every year since 2014. That was not even counting these last 3 months which have been exceptional.

**Third, financially,** the show of good stewardship as our church council is managing the gifts of God's people for Christ's mission; the regular Sunday offerings going up month by month, and our faithful snow birds con-

tinuing to help us from up north, sending in their offerings, donating stocks and memorials. All this is reflected in our financial reports every month in council meetings.

Sisters and brothers, it is with gladness that I can say that we are on our way to a good and healthy recovery, and/or redevelopment. Now, don't just take it



from me, ask any of the council members, it will help all of us to feel the energy as we grow.

May the Holy Spirit continue helping us, may we continue to humble before the Lord, and working for God's kingdom according to the mission Christ our Savior has for us!

**Second, in attendance,** as reported in the Annual Con-

Peace,  
Pr. Pedro



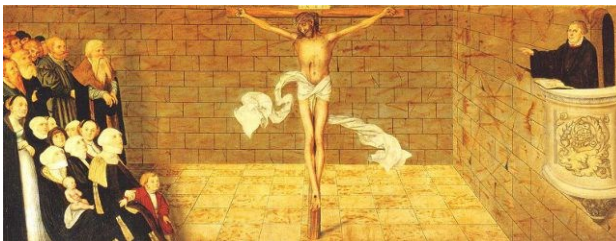
## Reformation 2017 - Tradition and Freedom in Worship



It was inevitable that the Reformation would shake up the way Christians worship. The Latin Mass of the Roman Catholic Church was being celebrated with a uniform *Formula* (text and rubrics) throughout Western Europe at the time. Martin Luther's response was both conservative and reforming. On the one hand, Luther insisted that the *Formula Missae* (Formula of the Mass) could be retained, with certain evangelical changes (especially by removing elements that portrayed the mass as our sacrifice to God, rather than a presentation of Christ's "once-for-all" sacrifice for us). He didn't believe in change for the sake of change.

On the other hand, Luther advocated "evangelical freedom" for those elements of worship that were neither mandated nor prohibited by Scripture. Vestments, candles, icons and statues, organs and other musical instruments, incense, processions, mandated prayers, etc. were to be regarded as *adiaphora* (non-essential, spiritually neutral). So Luther could both be adamant that all worshipers be offered the Cup (the wine) at Communion because Jesus commanded it ("Do this in remembrance of me."), yet also greatly disturbed when, in his absence from Wittenberg for ten months, a fellow Reformer violently instigated the removal of all statues and icons from the local church because he believed they were not commanded by Scripture. The key issue for Luther was whether or not these *adiaphora* aid or impede the faith of the people and the proclamation of the Gospel.

Luther also wrote an outline for a *Deutsche Messe* (German Mass), an all-German language communion service that simplified the outline of the liturgy. It had some quirky elements—for example, Luther proposed that there be separate



rate administrations of the Host (bread) and the Cup (wine) during the service, because that would more closely follow the pattern of the Last Supper in the Gospels. That idea never took hold. But the *Deutsche Messe* became part of the Lutheran tradition, especially accelerating the movement toward offering liturgies in the language of the people. Subsequent Lutheran liturgies, especially among Scandinavians, reflect its influence. One of the features of the *Deutsche Messe* was a sung formula for the Words of Institution, composed by Luther. I grew up hearing that chant at communion services in my home congregation in Minnesota.

The distinctive Lutheran affirmation of faith principles, the *Augsburg Confession* of 1530, defines the Church as the community of saints among whom "the Gospel is rightly preached and the Sacraments administered according to the Gospel." Worship in Word and Sacrament—beyond that, there has been no strict uniformity of worship practices

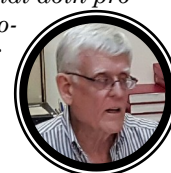
that distinguish Lutheran worship in the past 500 years. Lutheran worship has a history of blending conservative and reforming elements, along with a profound belief in evangelical freedom regarding the *adiaphora*. So today, one can find a wide range of liturgical practices among Lutheran congregations—from "high church" Eucharists with incense and bells and booming organs; to contemporary liturgies, where the leaders wear no vestments and music is led by a praise band; to simple camp-fire gatherings; or a "blend" of all these!

Unlike worship among, for example, Anglicans and Episcopalians, where the Book of Common Prayer is always followed, Lutherans utilize a variety of worship resources. At our best, we both honor the traditions and celebrate reforming creativity—but always in service to celebrating and communicating the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In that way we continue in the spirit of Martin Luther.

In 1837, the Danish Bishop N.F.S. Gruntvig wrote the text of the hymn "Built of a Rock". One stanza (omitted in our recent hymnals) celebrates the heart of Lutheran worship this way:

*Here stands the font before our eyes,  
telling how God did receive us;  
The altar recalls Christ's sacrifice  
and what His table doth give us;  
Here sounds the word that doth proclaim:  
Christ yesterday, today the same,  
yea and for aye our Redeemer.*

- Submitted by  
Rev. Tom Peterson



## Events and Happenings in May...

### Tuesday, May 2 - 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.



**I ♥ Mom** Sunday, May 14  
- **Mother's Day** Although it is not a Christian holiday we would like to honor motherhood on the second Sunday in May.



### Saturday, May 20 - Breakfast Bunch & Work Day

Come for good food & fellowship at 9am. Stay to help working on the facilities.

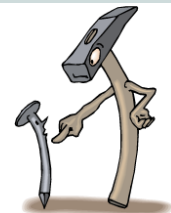
### Sunday, May 21 - 1st Communions

We are happy that a group of six children this year will be receiving Our Lord's body and blood.



### Tuesday, May 23, 30 - Active Parenting

From 6-8 p.m. United Way of Broward County will be offering at the Fellowship Hall of St. Stephen Lutheran Church a free training in Spanish on skills for effective families-Successful children. If the only tool you have is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail. For more information call Aura Suarez at (954) 453-3740





# First Successful Food Shipment to Venezuela



Children of the Orphanage

On April 6 the first shipment of 160 lbs. of food was sent to the Lutheran Church of Valencia, Venezuela. Pastor Gerardo Hands reports that on Saturday, April 29, when everything was gone, they received as an answer from God our shipment of food. "You cannot imagine the joy the 'father' of the Casa Hogar felt when they were opening the boxes," said Pr. Hands.

To the right, a letter from Pastor Gerardo Hands to St. Stephen Lutheran Church.

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Dear and beloved brothers and sisters,

Receive our greetings from Venezuela giving thanks to our good God, and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for his love and great kindness towards us!

Our Casa Hogar (Home-House) was founded 24 years ago, on the initiative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Valencia, and has served in the formation of children, youth and adolescent orphans and at risk, by providing worthy conditions for them to grow in a Christian family environment, receive an academic education and Christian values, and become men according to God's will.

We wish to express, through these lines, our words of thanks to God and to you for accompanying us, for praying with and for us, as you were making this donation of food that arrived in such a painful moment which our country is going through.

On behalf of the "Amor, Fe y Esperanza Foundation", we remain yours,

Fraternally in Christ,

Rev. Gerardo A Hands C, President  
Fundación Amor, Fe y Esperanza



Doing Homework



Packing here



Receiving there

## Looking Ahead into June...



### Regular Consecrating Wine for Communion.

We would like to continue to offer Non-Alcoholic and Gluten free options for those parishioners that have those needs or preference. However,

it is the theological and liturgical practice of the Lutheran church to use regular wine. Besides it is the most effective practices against the sharing of germs. We will strongly recommend to commune by intinction. Regular wine will be offered beginning June 4, 2017.



**Less Paper for Bulletins.** In order to save paper and money in photocopies, during summer, we will print half the amount of bulletins and the ushers will only give bulletins to whoever asks for them. Otherwise, the option of projection is always there.

**Sunday, June 4, 2017**

### - Visit of Bishop Marcus Lohrmann

Our interim Bishop Marcus Lohrmann of the Florida-Bahamas Synod of the ELCA will be preaching at St. Stephen on Pentecost Sunday. Please come meet him!



**Saturday, June 3, 2017**  
**- Breakfast Bunch**

We will have a time for anyone to come at 9:00 a.m. and enjoy a time together having breakfast and a nice chat.





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



### Volunteer Assistants in May 2017

| 10:15 am                   | <u>May 7</u>   | <u>May 14</u>  | <u>May 21</u>  | <u>May 28</u>   |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| ASSISTING MINISTER         | Pat Belanger   | Sera Butz  | Carol Jacobson   | Natalie Prego   |
| ACOLYTE                    | Carol Jacobson   | Katie Paff   | Sera Butz  | Madison Kibler  |
| LECTOR                     | Rick Dunton  | Natalie Prego  | Catherine Zippay   | Juliet Crawford   |
| USHERS -Need 4 to Serve    | Suzanne Loggins<br>Linda Hanzlik<br>Terry Shumway<br>Floyd MacDonald | Lynda Smith<br>Zachary Smith<br>Lisa Castaneda<br>Sherry Fox | Harry Ambrose<br>Patricia Engle<br>Catherine Zippay<br>Floyd MacDonald | Marsha Kibler<br>Drew Kibler<br>Darin Kibler<br>Jeanne Pettit |
| Head Usher                 | Rosie Fennelli   | Rosie Fennelli   | Rosie Fennelli   | Rosie Fennelli  |
| GREETERS - Need 2 to Serve | Caroline Smith<br>Ruth Wagle   | Kelly Jacobson<br>Ruth Wagle                                 | Caroline Smith<br>Barbara Kaptain                                      | Kelly Jacobson<br>Rose Jones                                  |
| SOUND                      | Dennis Magarrell   | Eric Castaneda   | Dennis Magarrell   | Larry Jones   |
| PROJECTION                 | Sera Butz  | Chris Castaneda  | Chris Castaneda  | Katie Paff  |

## May 2017

| Sunday   | Monday | Tuesday                       | Wednesday                                  | Thursday                     | Friday | Saturday                          |
|--|--------|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|
|  | 1      | 2<br>7pm Council Meeting      | 3<br>9am Quilters<br>3pm Preschool Chapel  | 4<br>7:30 pm Choir Practice  | 5      | 6                                 |
| 7<br>Worship 9 & 10:15 am<br>Sunday School 11:15am           | 8      | 9                             | 10<br>9am Quilters<br>3pm Preschool Chapel | 11<br>7:30 pm Choir Practice | 12     | 13                                |
| 14 Mother's Day<br>Worship 10:15 am<br>Sunday School 11:15am | 15     | 16                            | 17<br>9am Quilters<br>3pm Preschool Chapel | 18<br>7:30 pm Choir Practice | 19     | 20<br>Breakfast Bunch<br>Work Day |
| 21 First Communion<br>Worship 10:15 am                       | 22     | 23<br>Paternidad Activa 6-8pm | 24<br>9am Quilters<br>3pm Preschool Chapel | 25<br>7:30 pm Choir Practice | 26     | 27                                |
| 28<br>Worship 10:15 am                                       | 29     | 30<br>Paternidad Activa 6-8pm | 31<br>9am Quilters<br>3pm Preschool Chapel |                              |        |                                   |