

St Stephen
Lutheran Church, ELCA

The Messenger

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

November 2017

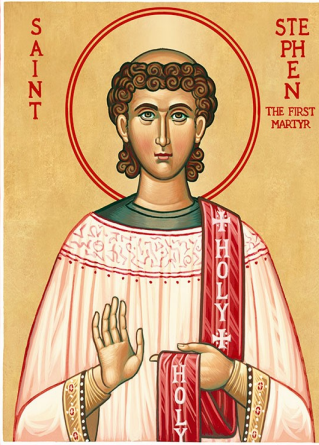
Sunday Schedule:

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

During the Week:

Thursdays

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



SAINT STEPHEN
The First Christian Martyr

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THE FLORIDA-BAHAMAS SYNOD HAS A NEW BISHOP

Little did we know, how our lives were about to change when we left for the Synod Assembly on **October 12-14**. Natalie Prego and Dennis Magarrell were our voting members who stood beside me, along with my wife, Aura.

It was not until the end that I realized the magnitude of what had just happened. 230 votes were needed in order to have an election and with 334 votes I was elected to be the **Bishop of the Florida-Bahamas Synod of the ELCA**. This was not in my plans, and it came as a total surprise.

I will begin as Bishop on December 1, however I will be leading worship at St. Stephen until the December 31. Pastor Sid Nelson has been approved by the congregational council as appointed by Interim Bishop Lohrmann to be your interim pastor and he will start on December 1, so we may have an overlapping transition. A process to call a permanent pastor is already on the way.

I want to thank our council members for a great meeting with the synod representatives on Wednesday,

November 1. They showed the well organized group of people that they are. They watched for the best interest of the congregation, as they should. I am proud of working with them and all of the volunteers and leader her at

3. That Pr. Sid Nelson begin as interim pastor at St. Stephen on December 1, with time to coincide with me, learning about our ways, serving during the week, caring for the parochial needs, slowly participating

in the Sunday liturgy, and being available to cover fully on a Sunday during Advent, if and when there is a "must" for the Bishop to be somewhere.



Interim Bishop Marcus Lohrmann welcoming me as Bishop-elect. (Photo by Rev. Keith Spencer)

St. Stephen.

After carefully thinking about the concerns of this transition from Pastor to Bishop, and all the interests involved -St. Stephen, the Synod, Interim Bishop Lohrmann, and mine- I have suggested the following:

1. That I begin as Bishop of the Florida-Bahama Synod on December 1, as the executive committee of the synod is proposing to the synod council for approval on Nov. 17.
2. That I continue to lead Sunday worship at St. Stephen until the end of the year, help with the budget, impulse the stewardship efforts, and attend other minor pending issues needed for a healthy transition.

The Holy Spirit is with us all and will not leave us. It is God's work after all, and our hands at God's service, right?

This is the last article I write for The Messenger as your pastor, however I will now be your Bishop, so I'll be around. I thank God and all of you for the wonderful 2 years and 8 months together, I certainly have witnessed God's power, love and mercy among us. Aura and I will greatly miss being weekly with you.

Please, continue sharing the joy of God's love!

Peace,

Pr. Pedro +

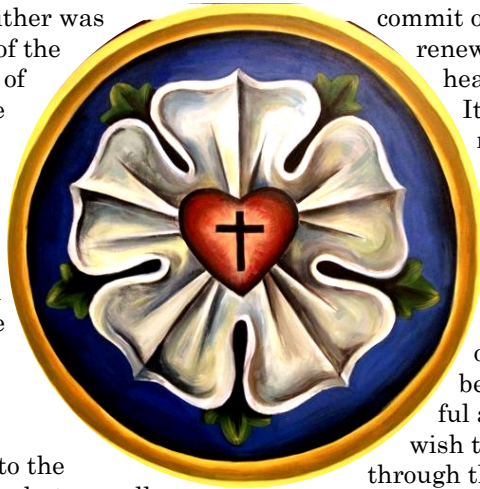


REFORMATION 2017 - THE CHURCH IS ALWAYS REFORMING

The Church is always a “work in progress.” The work of the Spirit ever renews us, individually and corporately, as we move into God’s future. This renewal, however, is more than tinkering with a few non-essentials, updating the furniture and a new coat of paint. It is more than new liturgies and the latest technology. It is always about the renewal and reform of our *hearts and minds*.

This is what Martin Luther was pointing to in the first of the 95 Theses: “The whole of the Christian life is one of repentance.” In the New Testament the word for repentance means *change of heart and mind*. It is a recognition, as St. Paul put it, that “now we see in a mirror, dimly.” (I Cor. 13:12) We remain “recovering sinners.”

To give a visual image to the Gospel, Luther created what we call “Luther’s seal.” It was to be like a coat of arms to identify what it means to be a Christian. Today we would call it a logo. At the center of this seal is a *red heart*—our heart—marked with a *black cross* to remind us of brokenness of the world and Christ’s sacrifice for us. The heart is on a *white rose*, “to show that faith in the crucified gives,



joy, comfort, and peace.” The background is a *sky-blue field*, to symbolize the foretaste of the heavenly joys to come. Finally, it is enclosed in a *gold ring*, to remind us of God’s unending blessings and, like a divine wedding ring, of God’s promises that will never fail.

So as we move beyond the commemoration of the past five centuries of the Protestant Reformation, we commit ourselves to the renewal of our hearts and minds. It is a commitment to seek God’s truth, for the truth shall set us free. The truth about ourselves and our world may be at times painful and we may wish to avoid it. But through the cross we come to see the larger truth of God’s grace for us and our world. We renew our minds and hearts through a commitment to the Word made flesh in Jesus Christ.

Our renewal calls us to be people of joy, joy in the Gospel. We are renewed in our welcome of our neighbors and strangers who may come our way, as

in the joyful welcome of the father for his lost and estranged son in the Parable in Luke 15. And we dare sing. Luther was a musician and wrote a number of hymns so that the Gospel be firmly planted in the hearts of us believers. As Luther said: “Next to theology there is no art which is the equal of music, for she alone, after theology, can do what otherwise only theology can accomplish, namely quiet and cheer up the soul of man.”

Finally, we are renewed when our eyes are open to the world and to our neighbor in need. We dare to see that whatever we do for the least of his brothers and sisters, we do for Christ.

Where do go from here? The future is never certain and our best-laid plans sometimes prove futile. But with hearts and minds renewed in the joy of the Gospel we move ahead in confidence that Christ goes with us and that a banquet awaits us where we are all honored guests. May God grant us grace in our “reform” and renewal, now in the Year of our Lord, 2017, and in the generations to come!

Submitted by
Rev. Tom Petersen



Events and happenings this month...

Saturday, November 4 - Wine & Cheese

On Nov 4 at 4:30 p.m. we will have our annual event “Wine and Cheese”. Come enjoy good wine, great finger food, raffles, music and companionship! A suggested donation as a fund raiser for our congregation of \$15.00 would be collected at the door.



Thursday, November 22 - Thanksgiving Eve Soup Supper and Worship



Our now traditional Soup Supper will be at 6:00 p.m. followed by a small worship of Thanksgiving at the Fellowship Hall. Come and join us!

Saturday, November 25 - Consecration of Aura Suarez

On Saturday, November 25 at 5:00pm at St. Stephen Aura Suarez will be consecrated as a Deacon of the ELCA. A reception will follow at the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!



SECOND LARGE SHIPMENT OF FOOD ON ITS WAY TO VENEZUELA

Dear St. Stephen Lutheran Church,

Receive our greetings from Venezuela! Thank you very much for sending another shipment of food!

Certainly, the difficulties to obtain food has intensified due to the hyperinflation that is at hand and has advanced a lot in the last two months, and at international prices these are still reasonable and accessible, but in view of the great devaluation that we live in Venezuela they are inaccessible for us due to the deterioration of the Bolivar's (Venezuelan currency) purchasing power against the dollar and currencies abroad.

On the other hand, scarcity becomes acute, in the face of the difficulty that food reaches the markets. This is why, we highly appreciate the effort of this diaconate project carried out by the ELCA providing economic resources, along with you who have been able to make purchases and shipments. Until now we have received all the orders without any inconvenience and approximately within the expected dates of delivery to the Church.

Thank you for including the list of products in the boxes, which will allow us to make inventory to make the respective distribution in the schedule.

Again, we are very grateful for all this effort. Please extend our cordial greeting to the rest of St. Stephen Lutheran Church, and our love to Bishop Pedro Manuel Suarez whom we congratulate on his recent election.

Without more for the moment, I remain of you,

Fraternally in Christ,

P. Gerardo A Hands C

Presiding Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Venezuela, IELV



Gerardo Hernandez from MGD Cargo transporting the boxes to be shipped

BARBARA'S UPDATE



St. Stephen's family members, Barbara Kaptain now resides at the Atrium, assisted living at Boca Raton,

1080 NW 15TH St Room #215 (just off I-95 and Glades Road). Please note that we are the only "family" close enough to visit and seeing a familiar face will surely keep Barbara smiling. A good time to visit is any day between 2pm – 4pm.

SAVE THE DATE...

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION

Bishop Pedro Suárez

Florida Bahamas-Synod, ELCA

**January 20, 2018
Noon**

**St. Mark The Evangelist
Catholic Church
New Tampa, FL**

Register at
www.fbsynod.org/installation

Looking ahead ...

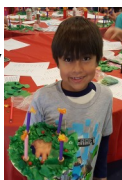
Saturday, December 2 - Church Decorating



Come at 9:00 am for a light breakfast at the Narthex, and help decorate our church for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany!

Saturday, December 9 - Children's Advent Day

The Nurturing team will be having a special day with the children, making crafts, singing and also preparing for Christmas Eve. Please bring them over from 10a.m. to 12 noon!



Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

5:30 p.m. The children will have a chance to portray those involved in the Christmas story. Come worship the Christ child with good music, inspiring message and candlelight.

7:00 p.m. We hope to be inspired, challenged and filled with the Spirit of God as we sing Christmas tunes. Bring friends and family to celebrate Christ birth. A candlelight at the end helps us to remember that Silent and Holy Night!



Monday, December 25 - Christmas Day

It's that time of year again! It is a time to share the goodness of your heart with others. May the light of love shine upon you, and may your life be filled with blessings in this Christmas season.

Merry Christmas to All!





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 Pompano Beach, FL 33062
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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
 *** Check the Video Sermons

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



Volunteer Assistants in November 2017

10:15 am	<u>November 5</u>	<u>November 12</u>	<u>November 19</u>	<u>November 26</u>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Pat Belanger	Natalie Prego	Carol Jacobson	Sera Butz
ACOLYTE	Katie Paff	Madalyn Ammons	Aiyana Cartwright	Madison Kibler
LECTOR	Erika Flanigan	Carisa Esposito	Rosie Fennelli	Catherine Zippay
USHERS – Need 4 to Serve	Suzanne Loggings Harry Ambrose Patricia Engle Terry Shumway	Lynda Smith Zachary Smith Rosie Fennelli Pat Belanger	Lisa Castaneda Floyd MacDonald Linda Hanzlik Terry Shumway	Marsha Kibler Drew Kibler Darin Kibler Catherine Zippay
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 Zachary Smith	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones
SOUND	Dennis Magarrell	Sera Butz	Dennis Magarrell	Katie Paff
PROJECTION	Eric Castaneda	Larry Jones	Eric Castaneda	Larry Jones

November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 All Saint's Day 7:00pm Council Meeting	2 7:00pm Choir Practice	3	4 4:30pm Wine & Cheese
5 All Saints Sunday - Worship 10:15am - Sunday School 11:30am	6	7 7:00pm Council Meeting	8 9am Quilters 3pm Preschool Chapel	9 7:00 pm Choir Practice	10	11
12 - Worship 10:15am - Sunday School 11:30am	13	14	15 9am Quilters 3pm Preschool Chapel	16 7:00 pm Choir Practice	17	18
19 - Worship 10:15am - Sunday School 11:30am	20	21	22 9am Quilters 3pm Preschool Chapel 6:30pm Soup Supper	23 Thanksgiving Day	24	25
26 Christ the King Consecration Sunday Worship 10:15am - Sunday School 11:30am	27	28	29	30		