

**St Stephen**  
Lutheran Church, ELCA

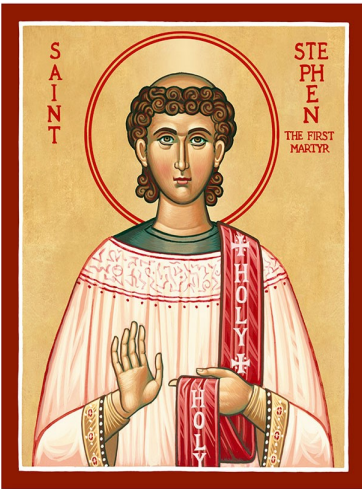
# The Messenger

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

October 2017

## Sunday Schedule:

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



**SAINT STEPHEN**  
The First Christian Martyr

## In This Issue:

- ⇒ What Difference Does the Reformation Still Makes?
- ⇒ Reformation 2017: The Ecumenical Movement: Mending the Breach
- ⇒ LDR Responds to the Earthquake in Mexico
- ⇒ News About Our Shipment to Venezuela
- ⇒ The Florida-Bahamas Synod, ELCA Responds to Victims of Hurricane Maria
- ⇒ Looking Ahead

## WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES THE REFORMATION STILL MAKE?

I heard once that the church needs a good reform every five hundred years. Well, this month we arrive at 500 years since Rev. Dr. Martin Luther presented his 95 theses against the sales of indulgences (document warranting the full forgiveness of sins) by the hierarchy of the Church. This fact began a powerful movement that changed history. Some may say for the better, others that it divided the Church and it was not a good thing.

What does that Reformation mean to us here in our local congregation today? Most of us are familiar with Luther's biography, have seen the movies, read a lot of his writings and heard uncountable of his quotes in sermons and presentations. Respectfully I ask, so what? What impact has that have on our daily common life? Just as we read the Gospel, unless we don't internalize it and it becomes actions, it's like 2 frogs that decided to jump off a log, how many frogs are there left on the log? ... 2 frogs because they only *decided* to jump but not actually did it. Therefore, how are we to live out our lives as believers in Christ and as followers of a Lutheran confession? This has to be more than accepting or deciding, it's living according to it. What's the difference with someone that doesn't? Let's take a look at some of the essentials in Lutheranism.

- Sola Scriptura** - Scripture Alone
- Solus Christus** - Christ Alone
- Sola Gratia** - Grace Alone
- Sola Fide** - Faith Alone
- Soli Deo Gloria** - The Glory of God Alone

standing frees us then not to live in fear, but frees us to live doing good to others, to strive for a better community, just because we are thankful. Because Christ loved us so much, and there is nothing we can do to deserve that love, we are free to serve, love, give and live responsibly, just because we have been loved and accepted as we are. It is an issue of "being" not of demands we have to obey.



These are the five Lutheran mottos, which if we have to group them in a phrase they would say something like: We are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, as revealed in the scripture alone, to the glory of God alone.

If we were to live without these affirmations, it would mean that: we would still not be able to read our Bibles on our own and go deeper in critical thinking, but someone always would have the saying on how to interpret Scripture and that would be it; What Christ did on the cross would not be enough, we would have to constantly keep record of our good works so that we maybe receive mercy from God and after we die we might go to heaven. This might mean living in fear because the good works we do has a direct personal interest in our eternal future, not necessary is an interest for the others. We would never be completely sure either.

Then, this reformed under-

The response to this understanding has been diverse. There was a schism in the Church, and it branched out. The Bible has been and is being read by billions of people as the Word of God. Many hospitals, health institutions, and social organizations have developed helping millions. As society changes (or reforms), the Church also has changed and continues to change entering in arenas that were unthinkable in the past. Many styles of worship, of serving, of working with other faiths have been possible bringing us closer as human race.

As we remember the events of 500 years ago in Germany, may we continue to work to go -in the words of the title of the booklet- From Conflict to Communion. May we grow in our share of responsibility to always seek a better and healthier society.

Peace,  
Pr. Pedro



# REFORMATION 2017 - The Ecumenical Movement: Mending the Breach



The sixteenth-century Reformation marked the second great schism in the history of the Christian Church. (The first occurred in 1054 A.D. between the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Churches.) Division, however, is not the last word for the Church universal. For more than a century, serious efforts—often painful, slow and sometimes semi-secretive—have been made to foster dialog and to build new relationships and understanding among Christians of the various denominations.

Historical roots for today's ecumenism reach back to student and lay movements of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Then in 1910, a major world missionary conference met in Edinburgh, Scotland, to find common ground for Christian witness and service around the globe. Though a Protestant-only gathering, it spurred further cooperation among participating churches. In 1920, an encyclical came from the Orthodox Synod of Constantinople suggesting a "fellowship of churches" similar to the League of Nations. Delayed by the onset of World War II, the World Council of Churches officially came into being in 1948. Its work has been in three areas: *diakonia*—service in the world (for example, in refugee resettlement and in responding to HIV/AIDS in Africa); *faith and order* (in 1982 a consensus statement on *Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry* was published; conversations are ongoing); and in the area of *justice, peace and the environment*.

The Roman Catholic Church has remained outside the WCC. But a major

shift came with the Second Vatican Council, 1962-65. The spirit of reform coming out of that conclave included a new openness of Catholics to other Christians. Formal dialog commissions were authorized. One significant fruit of that dialog resulted in 1998 with the



Pope Francis Co-signing A Statement of Catholic Surrender to "Bishop" Mounib Younan, President of the Lutheran World Federation

Lutheran-Roman Catholic *Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification*. Justification (how we are made right with God) had been a central issue for the 16<sup>th</sup> Century Reformers.

For the average church-goer, the most visible expression of this new ecumenism has been in the area of worship. As Roman Catholics began worshiping in vernacular languages rather than Latin, we discovered how closely our liturgical prayer lives had paralleled one another. The Consultation on English Texts gave us common translations for the various parts of the liturgy. A new three-year lectionary, used especially by the liturgical churches, has given us shared texts Sunday to Sunday. It also brought the inclusion of Old Testament readings and whole Psalms, which were minimal in previous lectionaries. Observance of the Church Year and festivals has become more closely aligned. Roman Catholics have experienced a renewal of Biblical

studies and preaching. Protestants are embracing a new appreciation for the sacramental heritage of the Church. And the incredible creativity of new church music has become a common heritage among all the churches.

Since its formation in 1988, the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) has reached out to a number of Protestant denominations as a sign of mutual recognition of our ministries, moving past old suspicions and condemnations. These agreements of Full Communion do not settle all differences among the

denominations, but affirm that the differences need not be "church-dividing" and exclusionary. The Augsburg Confession states that the "true unity of the church" is found where the Gospel is rightly preached and the sacraments rightly administered. Using that norm the ELCA currently has Full Communion agreements with three churches of the Reformed tradition (Presbyterian Church (USA); Reformed Church in America; United Church of Christ) since 1997; the Episcopal Church and the Moravian Church since 1999; and the United Methodist Church since 2009.

Ecumenism has touched all of us and our churches in significant ways. I welcome your sharing your experiences and insights as we, together with all who confess Christ, continue to mend the breaches of the past.

Submitted by  
Rev. Tom Petersen



## LET'S TALK REFORMATION

As part of our commemoration of the 500 years we have enjoyed Rev. Tom Peterson's great articles in *The Messenger*. Now he will be leading 3 dialogues on *Reformation Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow* on Sundays Oct. 8, 15, and 22 at 9:15 a.m. Please sign up or let us know you will be coming to arrange a space.



## PR. PEDRO APPOINTED INTERIM DIRECTOR FOR EVANGELICAL MISSION

Our Florida-Bahamas Synod is going through major changes. This month we are electing a new Bishop during our Annual Synod Assembly. In the meantime, Interim Bishop, Marcus Lohrmann has appointed Pastor Pedro Suarez to fill part of this need as Director for Evangelical Mission for South Florida. This by no means will represent an expense for St. Stephen and we will continue to have the presence of our pastor among us. We thank all for your patience as our synod needs us during this short transitional time.

# LDR RESPONDS TO THE EARTHQUAKE IN MEXICO

*Via E-Spirit* - Lutheran Disaster Response is also actively monitoring and supporting the relief and recovery efforts for those affected by the earthquake in Mexico. In a Situation Report from LDR on Sept. 22, it was reported that an initial \$15,000 was given from the ELCA to Amextra, a local partner in Mexico City, for relief and support. Watch the Lutheran Disaster Response resource page for more information. <http://www.elca.org/disaster>



# NEWS ABOUT OUR SHIPMENTS TO VENEZUELA

Dear brothers and sisters and companions in the journey,

Good news ! We have received, fortunately without inconvenients, on Tuesday 26, the shipment from you of 36 boxes and a small container with food and articles of personal use for the Casa Hogar of the Amor y Esperanza Foundation. The same day in the afternoon, we made a formal delivery as the scheduled part of that order.

We give thanks to the God of Life, and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to St. Stephen

Lutheran Church, the volunteers, and Pastor Pedro Manuel Suarez for the effort and solidarity with our children of Casa Hogar, Casa de la Amistad, and people in deep need in the Community.

We remain in contact in the performance of this Project.

With brotherly affection in Christ.

Pr. Gerardo Hands



# THE FLORIDA-BAHAMAS SYNOD, ELCA RESPONDS TO VICTIMS OF HURRICANE MARIA



*Via E-Spirit* - Less than two weeks after Hurricane Irma, Hurricane Maria tore through the Caribbean Islands, causing widespread damage. Lutheran Disaster Response and the ELCA churchwide office is committed to sup-

porting the Caribbean Synod and the communities in Puerto Rico through this long-term recovery process.

In a report to the regional Lutheran Disaster Response team on September 18 (which included Florida-Bahamas Synod representation), Pr. Idalia Negron--Assistant to the Bishop, Director of Evangelical Mission and Caribbean Synod disaster response coordinator--reported that the synod was preparing for the impact of the hurricane even while caring for those from St. Thomas and the Virgin Islands who had evacu-

ated Hurricane Irma.

Once Hurricane Maria hit, the Synod Council immediately approved a financial donation from the synod's disaster response funds be sent to the Caribbean Synod. We are working with leaders to navigate communication with the Caribbean Synod, and when that communication is open, we will actively respond in whatever way is requested.

Donations to the synod office that are marked for Hurricane Maria or for Puerto Rico will be redirected to the Caribbean Synod when full communication is restored.

## What's happening ...

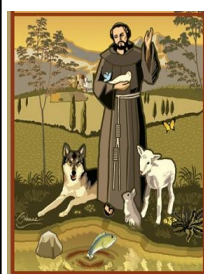
**Sunday, October 1**  
- **Sunday School Starts**



There will be a sign up sheet at the Narthex to register your child. For more

info please contact Aura Suarez or call the church office.

**Saturday, October 7**  
- **Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast ... and Blessings of the Animals**



Come at 9 am for the Appreciation Breakfast and stay. Bring your pet companion to be blessed from 10 to 1pm. We will have refreshments and more. All are welcome!

**Sunday, October 29,**  
- **Reformation Sunday**



We will commemorate the 500th Anniversary of The Reformation during our 10:15am Worship Service at St. Stephen with special music. Please wear red if you can. After Worship we will dedicate the "Martin Luther Room."

At 4:00pm - Joint Commemoration and Prayer Service, Miami Diocese, Cathedral of St. Mary 7525 NW 2nd Avenue Miami FL 33150 (305) 759 -4531.



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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](http://www.ststephenlutheran.net)  
 \*\*\* Check the Video Sermons

Email us at:  
 sslcpompano@gmail.com  
 And like us on.....  
[www.facebook.com/sslcpompano](http://www.facebook.com/sslcpompano)



## Volunteer Assistants in October 2017

10:15 am	<u>October 1</u>	<u>October 8</u>	<u>October 15</u>	<u>October 22</u>	<u>October 29</u> <u>Reformation</u> <u>Sunday</u>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Carol Jacobson	Natalie Prego	Sera Butz	Pat Belanger	Sera Butz
ACOLYTE	Katie Paff	Madalyn Ammons	Aiyana Cartwright	Sera Butz	Madison Kibler
LECTOR	Rosie Fennelli	Carisa Esposito	Erika Flanigan	Tom Peterson	Rick Dunton
USHERS - Need 4 to Serve	Suzanne Loggins Scott Kelley Terry Shumway Lisa Castaneda	Floyd MacDonald Lynda Smith Zachary Smith Jimmy Fennelli	Harry Ambrose Patricia Engle Terry Shumway Lisa Castaneda	Floyd MacDonald Lisa Castaneda Lynda Smith Zachary Smith	Darin Kibler Marsha Kibler Drew Kibler Linda Hanzlik
Head Usher	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli
GREETERS - Need 2 to Serve	Caroline Smith Zachary Smith	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle
SOUND	Sera Butz	Dennis Magarrell	Katie Paff	Eric Castaneda	Katie Paff
PROJEC- TION	Eric Castaneda	Larry Jones	Eric Castaneda	Larry Jones	Dennis Magarrell

# October 2017 Reformation 500 Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 - <b>Worship</b> 10:15am - Sunday School Begins 11:30am	2	3	4	5 7:00 pm <b>Council Meeting</b> and Choir Practice	6	7 9:00am Appreciation Breakfast 10 am- 1pm Blessing of the Animals
8 - Reformation Talk 9:15 am - <b>Worship</b> 10:15am - Sunday School 11:30am	9	<b>10</b>	11 9am Quilters 3pm Preschool Chapel	12 <b>Synod Assembly</b> 7:00 pm Choir Practice	13 <b>Synod Assembly</b>	14 <b>Synod Assembly</b>
15 - Reformation Talk 9:15 am - <b>Worship</b> 10:15am - Sunday School 11:30am	16	17	18 9am Quilters 3pm Preschool Chapel	19 7:00 pm Choir Practice	20	21
22 - Reformation Talk 9:15 am - <b>Worship</b> 10:15am - Sunday School 11:30am	23	24	25 9am Quilters 3pm Preschool Chapel	26 7:00 pm Choir Practice	27  <b>6:30 pm Movie Night: Martin Luther</b>	28
29 <b>Worship</b> 10:15am <b>Reformation Sunday</b> Sunday School 11:30am	30	31 <b>Reformation Day</b>				