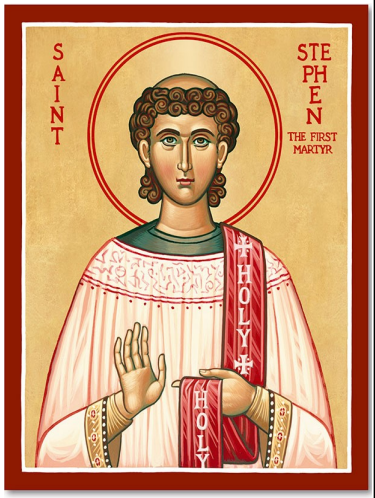
St Stephen
Lutheran Church, ELCA

The Messenger

2500 NE 14th Street Causeway, Pompano Beach, FL 33062 Ph. (954) 942-4473 September 2018

Sunday Schedule:

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



SAINT STEPHEN
The First Christian Martyr

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A Letter from Our Pastor

Dear sisters and brothers,

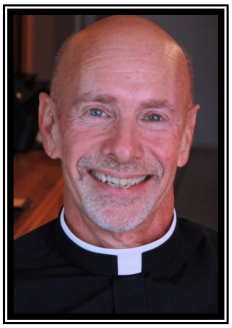
Its September! Schools and colleges are back in session, and life at St. Stephen is starting to pick up as you will see in this edition of The Messenger. I have been at St. Stephen for six weeks now and am getting into the rhythm of life here and continue to meet the wonderful people of God who make up this community of faith.

This month the church celebrates Holy Cross Day (September 14). In the gospel for this ancient feast day we hear those words that Martin Luther called the gospel in a nutshell, John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." As we begin our fall activities together, I can think of no better counsel than to keep the holy cross at the center. The message about the cross is at the center of our faith—It is the reminder of both the depth of human sin AND the infinite value of every human before God. Notice what this verse says: "God so loved the WORLD…" John's gospel speaks of God's saving NOT the church, but the world! As we get busy with fall activities, let's remember that St. Stephen is a church for others. Our mission statement reminds us our purpose is "Encouraging and strengthening faith in Jesus and sharing the joy of God's love." We do not exist for ourselves, but to share God's love in Jesus Christ.

A couple of years ago, Pr. Rick Rouse wrote a book called, Beyond Church Walls. He talks about what it means to be a church for others. He shares this little diagram comparing a church with an inward focus to one with a more outward focus:

A CHURCH FOR ME/US	A CHURCH FOR OTHERS
Focus: The local congregation	Focus: The neighborhood and the world
Valued: Membership	Valued: Discipleship
Purpose: Getting people to join	Purpose: Meeting the needs of others
Education for personal growth	Education for care and service
Worship to comfort	Worship to recharge for ministry
Small groups for nurture	Small groups for care and training
Clergy-centered	Lay-empowered
Purpose of staff: to care for members	Purpose of staff: to equip others
Pastor as primary evangelist	People as front-line missionaries
Using gifts for ministry in the church	Using gifts for ministry in daily life

As we look at mission and ministry possibilities together in the months ahead, let's keep this list in mind. My prayer is that more and more St. Stephen will become an inviting and welcoming congregation that not only cares for each other but empowers disciples to serve and share the good news in their daily lives. May we more and more become church for the sake of this community and the world. That is the call of our baptism. That is what the mission statement we begin worship with each week is calling us to do and to be!



Peace be yours,

Pastor Bob

Living Lutheran: Where does the shape or pattern for the liturgy come from?

This is the second in a series of articles that help explain why we do what we do as Lutheran Christians. Each month we will explore another aspect of our faith and worship. If you have a question that you would like to see answered here, please contact Pr. Bob at pastoratststephen@gmal.com.

If one day, all the words were to disappear from all the road signs in the United States, most of us would still know what the signs were communicating. Even without words, the yellow triangle of a yield sign or the red octagon of the stop sign would still get the desired results. The shape itself, is capable of powerful communication. The same is true when we think about the shape of the liturgy in Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

For over 2000 years now, Christians have gathered on the Lord's Day to celebrate the resurrection of Christ. The earliest Christians were Jews who continued the pattern of hearing God's Word and praying in the synagogue regularly. The "new" element of Christian worship was the meal that Christ instituted in the upper room.

The Christians at first gathered secretly in one another's homes to share Christ's supper.
Our worship today continues to reflect these two major parts with a Gathering time at the beginning and a Sending at the end. Following the Gathering, the Liturgy of the Word derives from the Jewish synagogue service and is made up of scripture readings, psalms, sermon and prayers. The Liturgy of the Meal, Holy Communion, is the sharing of consecrated bread and wine in remembrance of Jesus' death and resurrection. Holy Communion has its roots in Jesus' meal with his disciples on the night before his death.

Our experience of this shape of worship is very much like the experience of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus in Luke's Gospel: The risen Jesus breaks open the word for us, and then is made known in the breaking of bread. With Easter faith, we confess that Christ appears to us as the scriptures are read and the Eucharist is celebrated.

As Christianity began to develop an identity separate from Judaism, word and meal were joined into one celebration. Once Christianity was legalized and worship became more public, the assemblies grew larger. Naturally, ways of gathering the crowds and sending them forth into the world developed. Think about the flow or the pattern of Sunday worship now at St. Stephen. That basic structure— Gathering, Word, Meal, and Sending—has been in place as the shape of worship since the early centuries of the church.

In different communities, settings and cultures, there may be variety in the details and yet the same pattern: This pattern, called "Holy Communion" in the worship book, has been used by generations of Christians: We gather in song and prayer, confessing our need of God. We read the Scriptures and hear them preached. We profess our faith in the words of the creed and in prayer for the world, sealing our prayers with a sign of peace. We gather an offering for the mission of the Church. We set our table with bread and wine, give thanks and praise to God, proclaiming Jesus Christ, and eat and drink his body and blood. Finally, we receive the blessing of God and are sent out in mission to the world.
This ancient and yet current shape of the liturgy, found across time and culture, continues to commutate the power of gospel of Risen Jesus to the world.

Happenings and events

- Tuesday, September 4
Congregation Council Meeting

The congregation council will be resuming their monthly meetings, please check your calendar.

- Thursday, September 6
Choir Rehearsal - Seeking New Singers!

Choir rehearsals beginning Thursday, Sept. 6 at 7:00 p.m. Speaking of choir, we are looking for people who like to sing to add to our ranks. All you need to do is show up on September 6 or any Thursday. We will welcome you!

- Saturday, September 8
Breakfast Bunch

You are invited to breakfast!!! With the fall season approaching the monthly Breakfast Bunch is starting up. This is a monthly gathering of St. Stephen members and friends simply for fellowship and fun. We will gather on Saturday, September 8 at 9:00am in the St. Stephen Fellowship Hall. Please join us as we get to know each other and newer folks to St. Stephen. Coffee and juice is provided. You are invited to bring your favorite breakfast food to share. See you there!

- Sunday, September 9
Confirmation Orientation

The time is coming to resume our weekly confirmation gatherings. On September 9 from 11:45-12:45pm Pr. Bob and Sera Butz will meet with the parents and kids of all those interested in preparing to affirm their baptism in the Rite of Confirmation at St. Stephen. If you have any questions, please see Pastor or Sera.

- Sunday, September 16
Join our worshipping commission!

Worship is at the heart of everything we do. This group assists the pastor in planning faithful and meaningful worship at St. Stephen. New members are always welcome. We will meet after the liturgy in the Luther room off the gathering space.

Do you like electronics?

We need to add people to our sound and projection team. These people work the controls in the back of the church for both the sound system and the images we project.

Looking ahead...

Blessing of the Animals

Mark your calendar! On October 6 from 10am to 2pm. Certificate for each animal that is blessed, also collar tag showing animal was blessed at St. Stephen. We will have refreshments and more.

All pets are welcomed!

Pastor Schaefer Installation

On October 14 The Rev. Robert Schaefer will be installed our new pastor at St. Stephen. Bishop Pedro Suarez will preside at the liturgy of Holy Communion at 3:30pm follow by a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

Wine & Cheese

Our annual fundraiser Wine & Cheese on October 27 at 4:30 to 7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Come enjoy the music while sharing a great time with our church friends. A suggested donation of $15.00 would be collected at the door.

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Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Sidney Nelson

"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 September 2018

10:15 AM	September 2	September 9	September 16	September 23	September 30
ASSISTING MINISTER	Carol Jacobson	Natalie Prego	Pat Belanger	Carol Jacobson	Sera Butz
ACOLYTE	Pat Belanger	Katie Paff	Sera Butz	Katie Paff	Madison Kibler
LECTOR	Erika Flanigan	Sera Butz	Tom Peterson	Catherine Zippay	Tom Peterson
USHERS—Need 4 to serve	Catherine Zippay Jeanne Pettit Terry Shumway Lisa Castaneda (w)	Jimmy Fennelli Suzanne Loggins Linda Hanzlik (w) Rosie Fennelli	Harry Ambrose Patricia Engle Terry Shumway Linda Hanzlik (w)	Suzanne Loggins Jeanne Pettit Lynda Smith Zachary Smith (w)	Darin Kibler Marsha Kibler (w) Drew Kibler Erika Flanigan
Head Usher	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli
GREETERS-Need 2 to serve	Rose Jones Kelly Jacobson	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle	Rose Jones Kelly Jacobson
SOUND	Dennis Magarrell	Terry Shumway	Eric Castaneda	Terry Shumway	Dennis Magarrell
PROJECTION	Eric Castaneda	Eric Castaneda	Larry Jones	Dennis Magarrell	Larry Jones

(w) will serve wine at communion

September 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 10:15am **Worship**						1
2 10:15am **Worship**	3 **Labor Day** Office Closed	4 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours 7:00pm Council Meeting	5 9am Quilters 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	6 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	7 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	8 9:00am Breakfast Bunch
9 10:15am **Worship** 11:45am—12:45pm Confirmation Orientation	10 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	11 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	12 9am Quilters 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	13 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	14 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	15
16 10:15am **Worship & Baptism** 11:30am Worshipping Meeting	17 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	18 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	19 9am Quilters 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	20 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	21 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	22 Fellowship Hall rented
23 10:15am **Worship**	24 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	25 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	26 9am Quilters 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	27 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	28 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	29