

# St Stephen

a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



**Encouraging and  
strengthening faith in Jesus,  
and sharing the joy of God's love.**

**April 7, 2019**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**10:15am**

**The Rev. Robert G. Schaefer, Pastor**

# Holy Communion

## Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

### INTRODUCTION

*The Lord our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading we recall the transformation of Saul, the persecutor, into Paul, the apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.*

### CHOIR PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*The assembly stands and turns to the font. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*The presiding minister leads the following prayer of preparation:*

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Brothers and sisters, during these great forty days of Lent, let us prepare ourselves to receive Christ in word and sacrament by confessing our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

I confess

**to God Almighty,**

**before the whole company of heaven,**

**and to you, my brothers and sisters,**

**that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed**

**by my fault,**

**by my own fault,**

**by my own most grievous fault;**

**wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me,**

**forgive me all my sins,**

**and bring me to everlasting life.**

**Amen.**

P: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, ☩ forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

**C: Amen.**

The assembly stands to sing, turning to the altar as the cross passes by.

## GATHERING SONG:

## Be Thou My Vision

ELW# 793



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931  
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

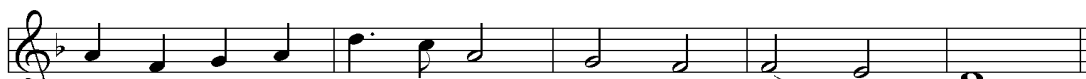
## KYRIE



Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:    ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.  
Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:



Ⓐ Chri - ste e - le - i - son:    ☩ Christ, have mer - cy.  
Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:



Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:    ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.  
Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept, then the presiding minister leads the prayer.*

P: Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

*The assembly sits.*

## Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading and song.

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:16-21

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>16</sup>Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, <sup>17</sup>who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: <sup>18</sup>Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. <sup>19</sup>I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. <sup>20</sup>The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, <sup>21</sup>the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

L: The word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 126

<sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.

<sup>2</sup>**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

**Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

<sup>4</sup>**Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

<sup>5</sup>Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

<sup>6</sup>**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

### SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

A reading from Second Philippians.

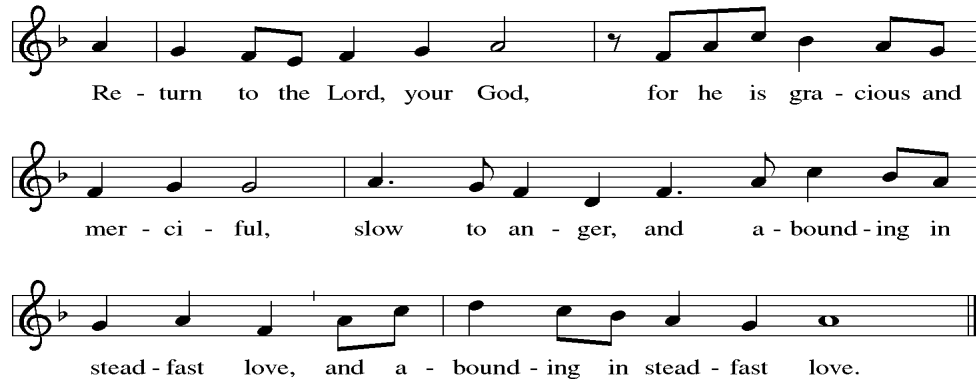
[Paul writes:] <sup>4b</sup>If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. <sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup>More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a

righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. <sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup>Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

*After a brief silence, the assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## GOSPEL: John 12:1-8

P: The Holy Gospel, according to John.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup>There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. <sup>3</sup>Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. <sup>4</sup>But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup>"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup>(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) <sup>7</sup>Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup>You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## Children and Youth Message

## SERMON

**The Rev. Robert G. Schaefer**

*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to  
 2 He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be -  
 3 Some - times we strew his way and his sweet prais - es  
 4 We cry out, we will have our dear Lord made a -



me, love to the love - less shown that they might  
 slow; the world that was his own would not its  
 sing; re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas  
 way, a mur - der - er to save, the prince of



love - ly be. Oh, who am I that  
 Sav - ior know. But, oh, my friend, my  
 to our king. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is  
 life to slay. Yet cheer - ful he to



for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?  
 friend in - deed, who at my need his life did spend!  
 all our breath, and for his death we thirst and cry.  
 suf - f'ring goes that he his foes from thence might free.

5 In life no house, no home  
 my Lord on earth might have;  
 in death no friendly tomb  
 but what a stranger gave.  
 What may I say? Heav'n was his home  
 but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

6 Here might I stay and sing--  
 no story so divine!  
 Never was love, dear King,  
 never was grief like thine.  
 This is my friend, in whose sweet praise  
 I all my days could gladly spend!

## NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
 the only Son of God,  
 eternally begotten of the Father,  
 God from God, Light from Light,  
 true God from true God,  
 begotten, not made,  
 of one Being with the Father;  
 through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
 he came down from heaven,  
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary

and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Seeking the grace, mercy, and love of almighty God, we offer our prayers for the church, for people in need, and for all of creation.

*After each petition of the prayer is said:*

A: Hear us O God,

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Reveal your will as you receive our prayers, and conform our ways to your ways; through the saving work of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*After all have greeted each other the assembly is seated.*



### MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### OFFERING

*The assembly stands.*

(verses 1 and 2 only)



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly  
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made  
 3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your  
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all  
 5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, that all who would in  
 flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in  
 trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues  
 sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by  
 Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
 Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
 us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.  
 Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.  
 Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.  
 Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

## OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

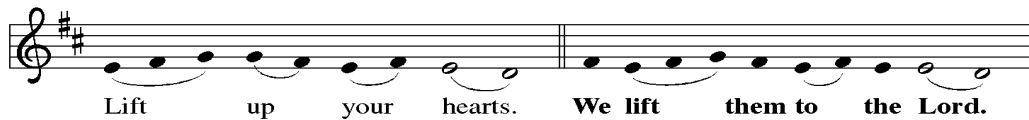
God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



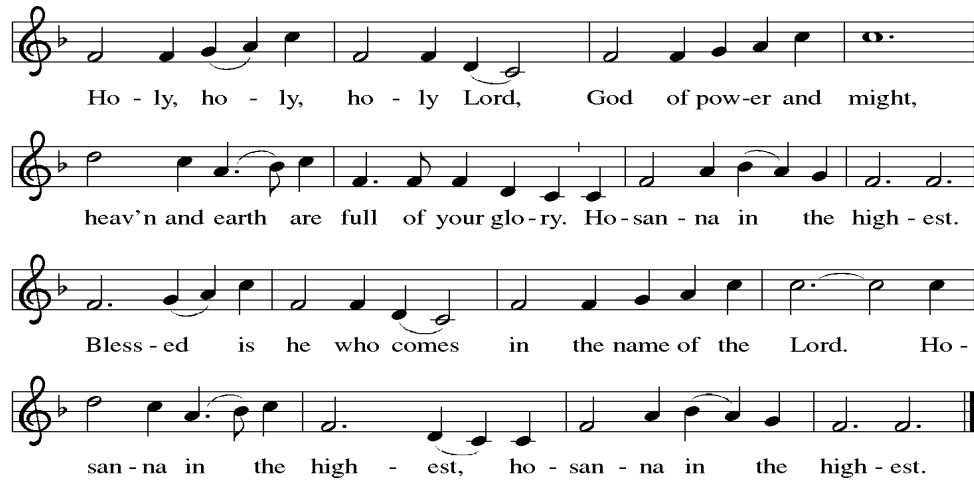
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The presiding minister continues to give thanks:*

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.... With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life... Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.... Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

... we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**Amen**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**Communion**

P: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Christ has prepared the feast. Come to the table where all are welcomed home.

*The bread is broken for the communion. The assembly is seated.*

All baptized Christians are invited to participate in the celebration of holy communion. If you desire baptism, the pastor would love to speak with you! Those who are not baptized and children not yet communing may come forward for a blessing, please cross your arms on your chest if you desire a blessing.

At St. Stephen we receive Holy Communion by receiving the bread and then either drinking directly from the cup or by intinction: That means that you may **receive the bread in your hand and then dip bread in the wine.**)

**Gluten free bread is available on the right side. (please ask)**

**Alcohol free wine is available on the right side. (please ask)**

The body of Christ, given for you. *Response: Amen.*

The blood of Christ, shed for you. *Response: Amen.*

## Lamb of God



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## Communion Song:

## I Am the Bread of Life

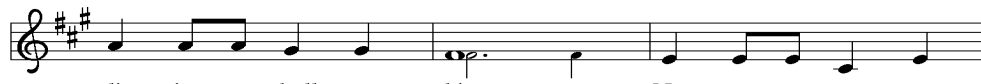
ELW# 485



Leader or All  
 1 "I am the Bread of life. You who  
 2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my  
 3 "Un - less . . . you . . . eat of the  
 4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion,  
 5 Yes, Lord, . . . I be - lieve that . . .



come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -  
 flesh for the life of the world, . . . and if you  
 flesh of the Son of Man . . . and . . .  
 I . . . am the life. . . . If you be -  
 you . . . are the Christ, . . . the . . .



lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to  
 eat . . . of this bread, and you shall . . . live for -  
 drink . . . of his blood, and drink . . . of his  
 lieve . . . in . . . me, e - ven . . . though you  
 Son . . . of . . . God, who . . . have . . .



me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."  
 ev - er, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."  
 blood, you shall not have life with - in you."  
 die, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."  
 come in - to . . . the . . . world. . . .

*Refrain*  
All

“And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,  
and I will raise you up on the last day.”

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 7/8 time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive, with the lyrics written below the notes. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and rhythmic patterns that support the vocal line.

Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6  
 Music: I AM THE BREAD, Suzanne Toolan, RSM  
 Text and music © 1966, 1970, 1986, 1993 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.  
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### ***Additional Communion songs are sung as needed***

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray.

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### **Sending**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

#### **SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE AND BLESSING**

P: Look down with compassion, O Lord, upon this your people; that, rightly observing this holy season, they may learn to know you more fully, and serve you with a more perfect will; through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit bless you, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*The assembly turns toward the cross as it passes by.*



1 My life flows on in end-less song; a-bove earth's lam-en-ta-tion,  
 2 Through all the tu-mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring-ing.  
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv-eth.  
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev-er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre-a-tion.  
 It finds an ech-o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?  
 What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv-eth.  
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

*Refrain*



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

## DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Remember the poor. C: **Thanks be to God.**

## IN OUR PRAYERS...

**In our prayers** today are these members of our homebound and others of our parish family in need of healing: Bishop & Aura Suarez, Caroline Smith, Dawn Schramm, Juliet Crawford, Carol Chmelynski, Jimmy & Rosie Fennelli, Laurel Blake, Kathy Runk, Edith Reichenback, Audrey Shumway, Jim Loggins, Diane Adler, Katie Paff, Roy and Barbara Kaptain, Bob & Jane Reinhold, and Shelley Amato.

## Prayers for Friends of the Church: (Please renew your request every 3 weeks)

✠ Celeste, Erika's dad, Yineth ✠ Eric, Lem Sr., Lem Jr., "Pop", Natalie, Rosie. Steve, Kate, Sal, Sam, Joyce, Joan H., and Sean ✠ Brad, Pat Ruth, Pat Jean, Dennis, Cammie, Peggy, Braemem, Chandler, Aiden, Becky, Craig, Cheryl, Robert, Nettie, Mary, Jerry, Gene, Annette, Amanda, Chris, Steve, Kate, and Liz.

## In a facility or homebound:

Barbara Kaptain – The Atrium Assistant Living at Boca Raton.  
 1080 NW 15TH Room 215 Boca Raton, Fl. 33486  
 Jane Reinhold – Platinum Loving Group, P. O. Box 410572, Melbourne, FL 32941  
 Evelyn Braun – 6152 Verde Trail Room 106 Boca Raton, Fl. 33433  
 Jim Loggins – John Knox Village - Woodlands  
 700 SW 4th St, Pompano Beach, FL 33060  
 Bud Danker – 3020 N. Ridge Road Apartment W-316  
 Ellicott City, MD 21043

## *Assisting at Our Worship in March*

(w) will give wine at communion. Thank you all for serving.

10:15 AM	<u>April 7</u>	<u>April 14</u> <i>PALM SUNDAY</i>	<u>April 21</u> <i>EASTER SUNDAY</i>	<u>April 28</u>
<b>ASSISTING MINISTER</b>	Natalie Prego	Sera Butz	Sera Butz	Carol Jacobson
<b>ACOLYTE</b>	Katie Paff	Carol Jacobson	Pat Belanger	Madison Kibler
<b>LECTOR</b>	Carisa Esposito	Kevin Otterson Erika Flanigan	Rita Sharkey	Tom Peterson
<b>USHERS –Need 4 to Serve</b>	Suzanne Loggins Lisa Castaneda (w) Catherine Zippay R. Mottesheard	Lynda Smith Zachary Smith (w) R. Mottesheard Pat Engle	Lisa Castaneda Karin Breslin Rosie Fennelli (w) Jeanne Pettit	Marsha Kibler (w) Drew Kibler Darin Kibler Erika Flanigan
<b>Head Usher</b>	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli
<b>GREETERS – Need 2 to Serve</b>	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle
<b>TORCH BEARERS</b>		Eric Castaneda Pat Belanger	Eric Castaneda Carol Jacobson	
<b>BOOK BEARER</b>		Katie Paff	Katie Paff	
<b>SOUND</b>	Eric Castaneda	Larry Jones	Larry Jones	Eric Castaneda
<b>PROJECTION</b>	Jake VanZile	Jake VanZile	Jake VanZile	Larry Jones



*In response to the amazing love, mercy and grace of God, St. Stephen Lutheran Church is a community that openly welcomes all who are seeking God's divine love and grace. All are welcome in this place regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation or gender identity, economic situation or life situation, marital or relationship status, or your doubts about faith and church. Our unity is in Christ. Your family, children, friends, spouses and partners are welcome. Your diversity and uniqueness enriches and expands our community. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation.*

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Welcome to worship!** We are thankful you are here! We especially welcome our guests and first time visitors today. Stop at the desk to pick up a **name tag** if you don't have one. Please take a moment to fill out the attendance cards in the worship folder with your name, number and email—especially if you are visiting so that we can welcome you. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Pr. Schaefer. Please join us for refreshments and conversation in the gathering area at the back of the church (Narthex) following the liturgy this morning. St. Stephen members: don't forget to put a little something in the jar on the table to help support this ministry! We thank **Linda Hanzlik** for her generous stewardship of this ministry of hospitality!



**JOIN US: Lent mid-week worship this Thursday at 12:15 and 7:00pm in the church.**

We share word and sacrament and complete our exploration of the five faith practices that mark baptismal living! The liturgy for the Affirmation of Baptism describes the faith practices that grow out of our baptism (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, page 236). This is our final week:

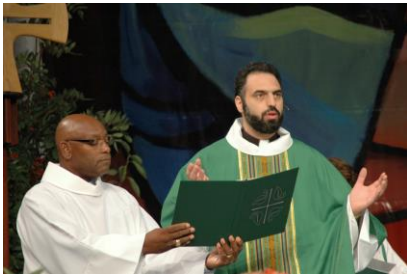
❖ April 11--*To strive for justice and peace in all the earth.*

## ***Easter Day Breakfast and Egg Hunt!***

Invite your friends to our community Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt this year on Easter morning, April 21. We have some great plans but we still can use some more great St. Stephen volunteers to bring side dishes. We have the main stuff under control! Breakfast will be served in the fellowship hall from 8:30 to 9:45am. The menu will include scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, assorted casseroles and fruit. **There will be an Easter Egg hunts for the kids!!!** Please sign up today in the Narthex. See Carol Jacobson if you would like to help or bring something!



## ***Assisting ministers needed at worship!***



“Liturgy” means “public service” or “work of the people.” When we gather for worship an ordained pastor presides, but the liturgy is the work of the entire assembly and there are many roles. One of the most important is what ***Evangelical Lutheran Worship*** calls “Assisting Minister.” In the liturgy an assisting minister is a lay person who leads some of the prayers, assists at the altar and distributes holy communion. We have four dedicated assisting ministers, but we need more—especially men at this time, but all are welcome. If you might feel called

to this important ministry, please check off the Assisting Minister Volunteer box on the attendance card. Pr. Bob will be in touch to schedule a training schedule. We are also looking for more lectors, greeters and ushers—see Pr. Bob if interested in any worship ministry.

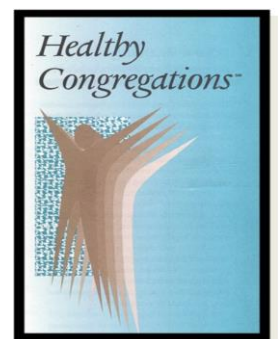


## ***Order Easter lilies today!!!***

Be part of beatifying the sanctuary for the celebration of the Resurrection. You can place your order today through April 14 in the Narthex (Gathering Area). Lilies may be given in honor or in memor of loved ones. There is a \$10 donation for each lily. You may take your lilies home following the Easter Sunday liturgy or leave them to decorate the church during the Great 50 Days of Easter.

## ***Healthy Congregation Retreat is April 26 and 27—Please join us!***

The Office of the Bishop of the Florida-Bahamas Synod expects that within the first year of the arrival of a new pastor, that members every congregation will participate in a healthy congregation retreat. This deals with healthy patterns for communication, listening and mission planning. It will help us think of our congregation as a living system that incorporates thinking, feeling, responsibility, and purpose. The retreat is designed with the purpose of encouraging healthier, clearer and deeper individual and community life. The retreat at St. Stephen is scheduled for Friday evening, April 26 and Saturday, April 27 in our Fellowship Hall. Right now we are asking every member of the congregation sign up and to save the date.



## ***NEW NAME TAGS HERE AGAIN: Wear your name badge:***

It's really important that we know each other by name and can warmly welcome guests to our community. Please pick up and wear your name tag to worship and to every parish function!



## Change for Change Tower: 40 Days of Giving



This Lent, you're invited to join together with fellow supporters to study, reflect and give during ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving. The world provides enough food for all, but more than 800 million people around the world face chronic hunger. We believe in a God of abundance, so as a church, we live out our call in baptism to strive for a just world where all are fed. ELCA World Hunger is our church's ministry to end hunger and poverty. We walk alongside our partners and companions in the United States and more than 60 other countries. Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger address hunger and poverty around the world with creative and courageous action. St. Stephen has set a goal of collecting \$500 during Lent for this project. Please pick up a Lenten 40 Days Giving Devotional Calendar in the back of the church if you have not already received one.

### ***The Holy Grill feeding ministry needs you!***

We serve breakfast to hungry, homeless and the working poor at the east end of the property on Wednesday mornings from 9am to 10am from the Holy Grill feeding truck of St. Nicholas Episcopal Church. Please check off the box on your attendance card to volunteer to be a part of this ministry. We will contact you about schedule. Here is the list of food and goods we are collecting during Lent. Bring items to the narthex any time in Lent.



- Canned Goods
- Sloppy Joe mix,
- Individual Juices, Bottled Water, Tea, Kool aid
- Plastic Utensils
- Underwear
- Socks

In addition, you may arrange with Pr. Bob to bring the following perishable items on Wednesday mornings:

- American Cheese, Eggs, Butter, Breakfast Meat, Vegetables, Fruit.

You may also donate money designated for the Holy Grill for equipment for such as:

- Ice Machine, Ovens, Walk- in Refrigeration, as well as food.

**VENEZUELA AID:** Venezuela remains in crisis and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America continues to fund a project that allows St. Stephen make a commitment to help by sending food and other items like toiletries. Our receiving person in Venezuela is Pastor Gerardo Hans from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Venezuela. We are thankful for Chris and Karin Hecker who are heading this project up!



***Thank you to all those who served during Lent at the 12:15pm & 7:00pm services.***

Pat Belanger, Sera Butz, Erika Flanigan, Pat Engle, Harry Ambrose, Jake VanZile, Eric Castaneda, Carol Jacobson, Rita Sharkey, Lynda Smith, Natalie Prego, Catherine Zippay, and Laurie Matarazzo.

## ***STEWARDSHIP CORNER:***

**Last Sunday Attendance: 118**

**Last Sunday Income (all sources): \$3,836**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!!!**



### Sunday Schedule

10:15 a.m. Worship  
Holy Communion is celebrated weekly  
11:45 a.m. Confirmation Ministry

### Thursday Eucharist in Lent

12:15 p.m. & 7:00pm

### Church Staff

**The Rev. Robert G. Schaefer** – Pastor  
pastoratststephen@gmail.com  
941-716-5687

**Cesar Vidaud** – Director of Music

**Clarence (Teddy) Rowe** – Sexton

**Aidee Koach** – Administrative Assistant  
sslcpompano@gmail.com

Office hours: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 Mon- Fri

### Congregation Council

**Larry Jones** - President  
councilpresident@ststephenlutheran.net  
**Christian Hecker** – Vice-president  
**Eric Castaneda** - Treasurer  
**Natalie Prego** – Secretary  
Lynda Smith  
Patricia Engle  
Harry Ambrose  
Dennis Magarrell  
Erika Flanigan

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, ELCA  
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[www.ststephenlutheran.net](http://www.ststephenlutheran.net)

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## Activity Calendar

### Sunday 7

10:15am Sunday Worship

11:45 – 12:45pm Confirmation Ministry

### Monday 8

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

### Tuesday 9

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

### Wednesday 10

9:00-10:00am Holy Grill Feeding Ministry

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

### Thursday 11

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

12:15pm Midweek Lent Eucharist

1:30pm Administration Team

7:00pm Midweek Lent Eucharist

7:45pm Choir Rehearsal

### Friday 12

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

### Saturday 13

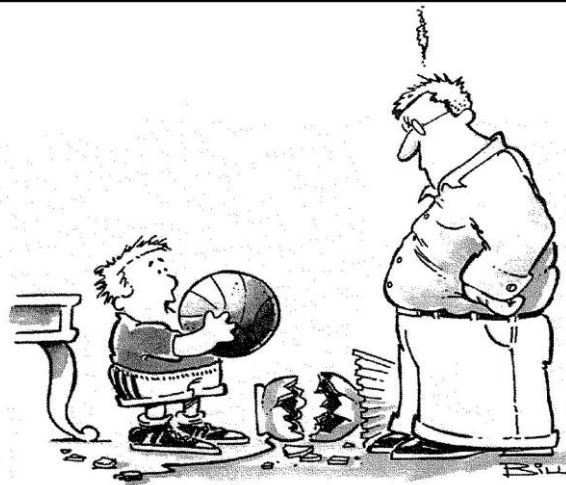
Happy and Blessed Saturday!

### Sunday 14

**Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday)**

10:15am Sunday Worship

11:45 – 12:45pm Confirmation Ministry



“Did you ever think you’re being tested on your message of last week, Dad? You know, ‘Love covers a multitude of sins’?”

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