

# 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.**

**December 23, 2018**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**10:15am**

The Rev. Robert G. Schaefer, Pastor

# HOLY COMMUNION

## Gathering

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

### INTRODUCTION

*Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and the blessed virgin Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in the holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."*

### CHOIR PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presider begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,  
the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free,  
the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy,  
the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

**Amen.**

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.**

Let us come before God in confession.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

To you, O God,

**we lift up our souls.**

**You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you.**

**Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love.**

**Show us your ways; teach us your paths;**

**and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness**

**in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Children of God, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation.

Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of ✙ Jesus;

you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve.

Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near.

**Amen.**

*The assembly remains standing to sing, turning to the altar as the cross passes by.*

**GATHERING SONG:****My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness****ELW #251**

*The assembly sings the first two verses as the procession moves to the Advent Wreath. The wreath is blessed and the fourth candle is lit. Then the assembly sings the final verse.*



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!  
 2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy ev - er flows.  
 3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
 With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.  
 the prom-ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—  
 The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low-ly throned in - stead;  
 Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
 the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
 and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat  
 Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune  
 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

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**GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
 the love of God,  
 and the communion of the Holy spirit, be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

**KYRIE**

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the  
 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the  
 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for  
 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the  
 u - ni - ty of all; for  
 hun - gry and the poor; that  
 friends and fam - i - ly; for  
 wa - ter and the word; that you  
 this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
 we may live out . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
 life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,  
 let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray.

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

P: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

*The assembly sits.*

**Word**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**FIRST READING:**

**Micah 5:2-5a**

A reading from Micah.

<sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; <sup>5a</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

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

## PSALM Luke 1:46b-55

<sup>46b</sup>My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, <sup>47</sup>my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup>**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

**From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

<sup>49</sup>you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

<sup>50</sup>**You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.**

<sup>51</sup>You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,

<sup>52</sup>**casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.**

<sup>53</sup>You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,**

<sup>55</sup>the promise made to our forbears, to Abraham and his children forever.

## SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from Hebrews.

<sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; <sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. <sup>7</sup>Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." <sup>8</sup>When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-55

P: The Holy Gospel, according to Luke.

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

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." <sup>46</sup>And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. <sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.  
**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## Youth and Children's Message

### SERMON

**The Rev. Robert Schaefer**

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon. The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in Song.*

### HYMN OF THE DAY:

### Canticle of the Turning

**ELW #723**



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .  
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a  
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.  
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 The hun - gry poor shall . . . weep no more, for the  
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



*Refrain*  
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat  
 Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional  
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## 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: As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*After each petition of the prayer is said:*

A: Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

**PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**MEAL**

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

**OFFERING**

**MUSICAL OFFERING:**

**Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence**  
 (verses 1 and 2 only)

**ELW #490**



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;  
 2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,  
 3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van - guard on the way;  
 4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand  
 Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,  
 as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,  
 veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.  
 he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.  
 comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.  
 "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829-1885, alt.  
 Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.



## OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. **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, Lord God of pow'r 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.

*The presiding minister continues to give thanks:*

...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup...We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit...Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours... one God, 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: This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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

*All baptized Christians are invited to participate in the celebration of holy communion. 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.*

Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;  
 O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no - so-tros,                      ten pie-dad de no - so-tros.  
 have . . mer-cy up - on us,                      have . . mer-cy up - on us.

Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;  
 O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no - so-tros,                      ten pie-dad de no - so-tros.  
 have . . mer-cy up - on us,                      have . . mer-cy up - on us.

Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;  
 O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

da - nos tu paz,                      da - nos tu paz.  
 grant us your peace,                      grant us your peace.



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 far - and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law;  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite  
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.  
 Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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### *Additional Communion songs are sung as needed*



### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray.

Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup  
 we have feasted again on your endless love.

Let that love overflow more and more in our lives,  
 that we may be messengers to prepare your way,  
 harvesters of justice and righteousness,  
 and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

# Sending

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

A: Let us go forth in peace.

**C: In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*A procession will form during the Sending Song. The assembly should follow directly behind the cross, assisting minister and presiding minister. The procession will move out of the church to the bell tower.*

## SENDING SONG:

## People, Look East

ELW# 248



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

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## BLESSING OF THE CARILLON

*The presiding minister leads the prayer from the bell tower. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

Sisters and brothers, today we give thanks to God and we seek God's blessing as we set apart this carillon to the glory of God, and in loving memory of Trudy DiCarlo.

*The bells may be sprinkled during the prayer with water as a sign of blessing.*

Let us pray.... through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The bells ring out in a festive peal.*

## **BLESSING**

P: May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus.

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Christ is near.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly is invited to return to the narthex (gathering area) for refreshments and conversation.*



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.

**Check our updated website at [www.ststephenlutheran.net](http://www.ststephenlutheran.net)**

Many thanks to Erika Flanigan and Jon VanZile for spending many hours assisting the pastor to update and freshen up our web presence. The work continues! Your ideas are welcome!

## **IN OUR PRAYERS...**

**In our prayers** today are these members of our homebound and others of our parish family in need of healing: Marsha Kibler, Juliet Crawford, Jimmy Fennelli, Laurel Blake, Kathy Runk, Edith Reichenback, Audrey Shumway, Jim Loggins, Diane Adler, Katie Paff, Roy and Barbara Kaptain, Bob & Jane Reinhold, Shelley Amato, and Antonio Alves.

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

✝ Erika Adrean, Judith, Carol, Gene, Chris, Amanda, Nattie, Scott, Sue, for a drug free family, health to the families, and world peace, Lord ✝ Celeste, Juliet, "Pop", Aurea, George, Donna ✝ Aiden, Rebecca, Chandler, Braemen, Cheryl, Robert, Craig, Nettie, Mary, and Jerry. Please remember in your prayers the Sprague family on the passing of Glenn (Rhonda Jones Sprague's father-in-law and very close and dear friend of Larry and Rose Jones).

## **In a facility or homebound:**

Audrey Shumway - Willow Wick, Janesville, Wisconsin 53545

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



**Christmas Eve at St. Stephen—two services**

**5:30pm Family Christ Mass with Candlelight and Children’s Message**

**7:30pm Festival Sung Christ Mass with Candlelight**

www.ststephen.org

**Assisting at Our Worship on December**

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

10:15 AM	<u>December 23</u>	<u>December 24 Christmas Eve</u>		<u>December 30</u>
		5:30 PM	7:30 PM	
<b>ASSISTING MINISTER</b>	Carol Jacobson	Sera Butz	Sera Butz	Pat Belanger
<b>ACOLYTE</b>	Katie Paff	Carol Jacobson	Carol Jacobson	Sera Butz
<b>TORCH BEARERS</b>		Eric Castaneda Pat Belanger	Eric Castaneda Pat Belanger	
<b>BOOK BEARERS</b>		Katie Paff	Katie Paff	
<b>LECTOR</b>	Tom Peterson	Tom Peterson	Tom Peterson	Kevin Otterson
<b>USHERS –Need 4 to Serve</b>	Suzanne Loggins Jeanne Pettit Lynda Smith Zachary Smith (w)	Lynda Smith Zachary Smith	Pat Engle Rosie Fennelli	Linda Hanzlik (w) Suzanne Loggins Ida Solomita Jeanne Pettit
<b>Head Usher</b>	Rosie Fennelli			Rosie Fennelli
<b>GREETERS – Need 2 to Serve</b>	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle	Caroline Smith		Rose Jones Kelly Jacobson
<b>SOUND</b>	Sera Butz	Dennis Magarrell	Larry Jones	Katie Paff
<b>PROJECTION</b>	Dennis Magarrell	Dennis Magarrell	Larry Jones	Larry Jones

**PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Welcome to worship! It’s the final Sunday of Advent.**

**Guests: Please stop by the welcome table and the greeter will give you a name tag.**

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!

**Our New carillon will be dedicated this morning!**

Due to a generous bequest from the late Trudi DiCarlo, a new carillon will be blessed and dedicated today at the end of the liturgy. Please follow the procession out of the church and join us at the bell tower. The bells will be heard in our community for the first time playing Christmas music on Christmas Eve before worship! They will also ring before each worship



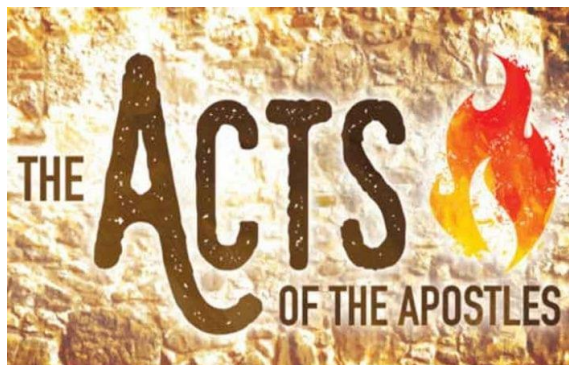
service and a call to prayer each day at noon and 6pm, reminding the community to pray. This memorial gift will also allow us to replace the aging front doors of the church with attractive and versatile new ones. Please consider remembering St. Stephen in your will as an enduring act of generous stewardship.

### **Offering Envelopes for 2019 are here!**

There is a table in front of the sound booth in the rear of the church. The envelopes are in alphabetical order. Please stop by and pick yours up today. If you would like envelopes and don't have them, there is also a sign-up sheet on the table. Thank you for your generous support!

### **Bible Study Resumes in January: The Book of Acts**

Bible study resumes on Sunday, January 6 from 9:15—10am in the **Pastor's Office** (Room 1). We repeat this conversation in the **Luther Room** every Tuesday from 7—8pm starting January 8. Acts tells the story of the early church. It traces the growth of the church from a small group of Jewish believers in Jerusalem to a worldwide movement that included both Jews and Gentiles. This book still both gives the church its marching orders and shows how the Holy Spirit will guide us in mission. Bring a bible and a friend and join us Tuesday evenings!



### ***It is not too late to return your commitment card!***

Your generous offerings not only sustain the mission and ministry of St. Stephen, but also through the ELCA we support the wider church here and around the globe. **The box for commitment cards will be in the back of the church for the**

**month of December.** There are additional cards in the back of the church as well if your forgot yours. "The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup>Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." --2 Corinthians 9:6-7

### ***Name Tags: A Ministry of Welcome. NEW TAGS ARE IN!***

As we grow into our future together at St. Stephen, it is important that we all know each other's names as well as those of first time and returning guests. Please pick yours up. If you cannot find a name tag for yourself, there is a sheet on the table for you to print your name the way you want it to appear. Wear your name tag every Sunday and at church functions. They are free. If you would like to make a donation toward the expense, they cost us \$5 each. Any gift is welcome but optional!



### ***Change for Change Tower: Let's keep helping the homeless and hungry in December***

This month we continue the mission emphasis we started in November. Our Change for Change Tower collection will continue to go to the St. Laurence Homeless Shelter in Pompano Beach (1698 Blount Road—next to Broward Outreach Center). This ministry which is sponsored by our full-communion partners in The Episcopal Church provides an array of services for clients who are homeless and hungry. Their mission is to provide breakfast, lunch, showers, clothing, medical care, chapel services, overnight accommodations and

more. Please give generously to this local ministry!



**Sunday Schedule**

10:15 a.m. Worship  
 Holy Communion is celebrated weekly

**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 23 Fourth Sunday of Advent**

10:15am Sunday Worship

**Monday 24**

Christmas Eve- Office Closed

5:30pm Family Christ Mass w/ Candlelight

7:30pm Festival Christ Mass w/ Candlelight

**Tuesday 25**

Christmas Day

**Wednesday 26**

The Feast of St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

Office Closed

1:30pm Holy Baptism of Arabella Bresciano

**Thursday 27**

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

7:30pm Choir Rehearsal

**Friday 28**

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

**Saturday 29**

Happy and Blessed Saturday!

**Sunday 30**

First Sunday of Christmas

10:15am Sunday Worship: Lessons and Carols



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