

St Stephen

Lutheran Church, ELCA



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

February 18, 2018

First Sunday in Lent

10:15am

Rev. Dr. Sidney Nelson, Interim Pastor

—WE GATHER—

INTRODUCTION

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

CHOIR PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (page 15)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

P: During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart. Let us confess our sin and seek reconciliation with God and neighbor.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

**C: you sent Jesus Christ to save the lost.
We confess that we often stray from you
and turn aside from your way.
We fail in love, neglect justice,
and ignore your truth.
Have mercy on us and wash away our sin.
Create in us clean hearts
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

P: Behold, now is the acceptable time;
now is the day of salvation.
Almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us all our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
 2 Bless so - journ-ers and pil - grims who share this wind-ing way;
 3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
 your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus-tains the day.
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and wīnds the moun-tain round,
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
 but wait-ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
 to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993
 Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.
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THE 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 (Sung)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



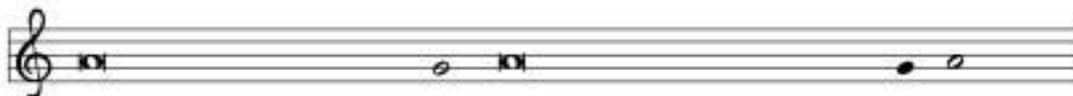
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together:

C: Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Youth and Children's Message

—WE HEAR GOD'S WORD—

FIRST READING:

Genesis 9:8-17

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹"As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." ¹²God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." ¹⁷God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-10

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him. **Amen.**

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Return to the Lord”



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.

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

GOSPEL:

Mark 1:9-15

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

P: You may be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Sidney Nelson

— **WE RESPOND** —

SERMON SONG:

Thy Holy Wings

ELW#613



1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent-ly o - ver me,
2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down-y breast
3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No-ah's cleans-ing flood.



and let me rest se - cure-ly through good and ill in thee.
where I will find sweet com-fort and peace with - in thy nest.
Give me a will-ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.



Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,
Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,
Oh, take in - to thy keep-ing thy chil-dren great and small,



and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with-in thy grace.
for I am but a new - born and need thy ten-der care.
and while we sweet-ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite
Music: BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR, Swedish folk tune
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APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

A: Confident that God our light and our salvation hears us when we pray, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

After each petition of the prayer is said:

A: Let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

A/P: Merciful God, you hear our prayers even before we speak them. Receive them for the sake of the one through whom you have revealed your goodness, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share with one another the peace of the Lord.

- WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE -

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING:

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW #473



San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te_a - do - ra.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.



Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de-cir: San - to_e-res Se - ñor.
My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

Text: Argentine traditional
Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, Argentine traditional

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Merciful God, receive the gifts we bring, ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

And also 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, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, 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.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

C: 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.

Invitation of Communion

P: Welcome to the Lord's table.

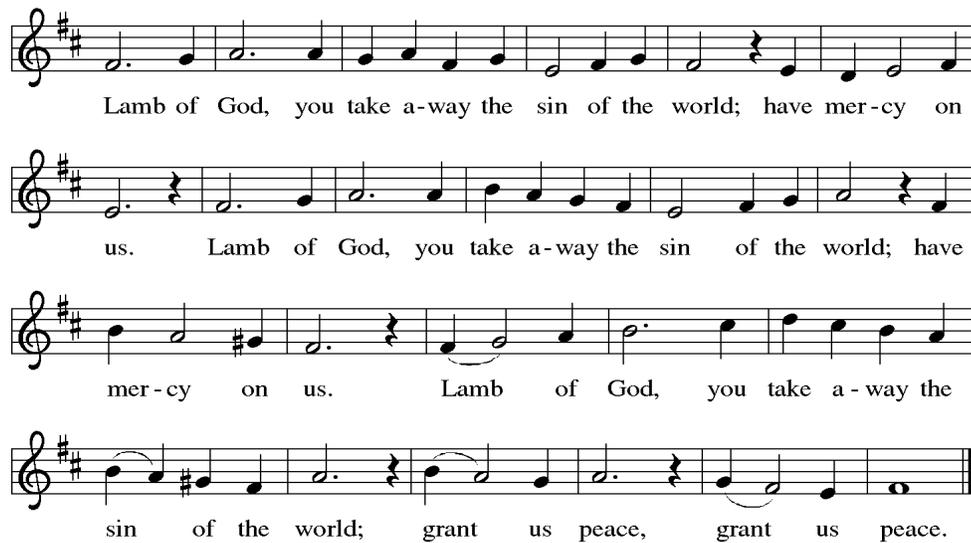
Reception of Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.

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

Communion distribution is continuous. Please come forward by the center aisle and receive the bread in your hands as you hear the words "The body of Christ, given for you" to which you may respond, "Amen." You may then dip the bread into the cup as you hear the words "The blood of Christ, shed for you," to which you may respond, "Amen." Please note that the communion wine is alcohol-free. Please indicate if you need gluten-free elements.

"LAMB OF GOD"



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.



1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you
 2 God called you, "My be - lov - ed Son"; you are God's ser - vant
 3 Straight-way and stead - fast un - til death you then o - beyed the
 4 Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be



came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as
 true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's
 call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to
 signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may



ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.
 ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do.
 give your life for all, to give your life for all.
 per - fect free - dom find, may per - fect free - dom find.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984, alt.

Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561

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Instrumental Music

Cesar Vidaud

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

A: O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food.

You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now— today, tomorrow, every day that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever.

C: Amen.

-WE ARE SENT FORTH-

Benediction

P: The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

“Go, make dis - ci - ples, bap - tiz - ing them, teach - ing them.

Go, make dis - ci - ples, for I am with you till the end of time.

Go, be the salt of the earth. Go, be the light for the world.

Go, be a cit - y on a hill, so all can see that you're

serv - ing me. Go, make dis - ci - ples.”

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950
 Music: GO, MAKE DISCIPLES, Handt Hanson
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DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share the joy of God's love.

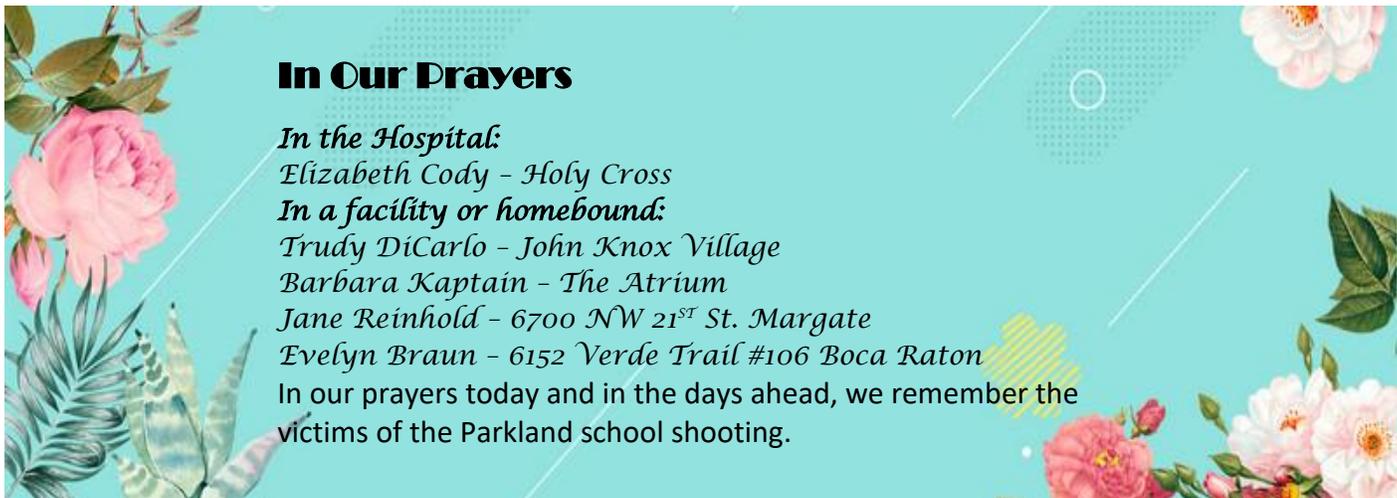
C: Thanks be to God.

IN OUR PRAYERS

In our prayers today are these members of our homebound and others of our parish family in need of healing: Laurel Blake, Jim Loggins, Barb Taylor, Diane Adler, Katie, Roy and Barbara Kaptain, Bob & Jane Reinhold, Trudy DiCarlo, Marie Koach and Shelley Amato

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

✠ Shirley Christell, Elijah, Jerry & Mary, Pastor Pete Suwak & family at the death of his wife June, Kathy's Runk grand-daughter, and Elizabeth Cody. We extend our sympathy this morning to Cynthia (Cindy) Hoover on the passing of her mother, Ann Lawson Hoover last Monday. We pray for God's comfort to abide with her, her brother, and family. ✠ Henry Q., Carol's Zurick family, Susan's Perez family, Rosemarie Berglund, Sue, Edna, Michelle, Pat Falco, Frank & Marie Mulligan's niece, and George Cruz. ✠ Kilgore family, Edna, Natalie's Prego family, and Anne Swoboda.



In Our Prayers

In the Hospital:

Elizabeth Cody - Holy Cross

In a facility or homebound:

Trudy DiCarlo - John Knox Village

Barbara Kaptain - The Atrium

Jane Reinhold - 6700 NW 21st St. Margate

Evelyn Braun - 6152 Verde Trail #106 Boca Raton

In our prayers today and in the days ahead, we remember the victims of the Parkland school shooting.

Calendar

Sunday 18

10:15am 1st Sunday

11:45am Annual Congregation Meeting

Wednesday

8:00am Quilting

Thursday 22

12:15pm Midweek Worship

1-2pm Luther Room planning meeting

7:00pm Worship

7:30 Choir rehearsal

Sunday 25

10:15am 2nd Sunday in Lent

Vitality Survey

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** The annual Congregation Meeting is scheduled for today, Sunday, February 18th. The meeting will be held immediately following the worship service. The meeting agenda will include the following important issues: Approving a revised Constitution, approving the 2018 budget, an updated status on a full time pastor.
- 2. ATTENDANCE CARDS,** are in our bulletin today for members and visitors. Please place in offering plate. Thank You.
- 3. CONFIRMATION CLASSES AND SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGIN,** even though our confirmation classes already started if you like to register your child you still have time!
Sunday School meets in the Fellowship Hall. Confirmation classes meet in pastor's office and our teachers will be Pastor Nelson and Sera Butz. Also registration for Sunday school for elementary children is still open. Please feel free to bring your child at 9:00am.
- 4. OFFERING ENVELOPES,** 2018 offering envelopes are available for pick up on the back table. If any other friends of the church who would like offering envelopes, please see Larry Jones or Carol Jacobson.
- 5. Please refer to our Lenten** insert which list our Lenten Events.
- 6. "Theme Songs of the Great Comedians",** a wonderful concert filled with music (Bob Vogel on piano) and comedian (Lenny Davie, who is a nationally recognized comedy historian.) Together they perform a humor filled program of Vaudeville, movies, Broadway, radio and record albums. Come for this delightful and exciting night. Tickets available now \$20.00 in advance and \$25.00 at the door. for more info please call Carol Jacobson or the church office.
- 7. We are not doing our usual hand shaking during** this flu epidemic. Please greet each other without shaking hands.
- 8. We extend our Christian Sympathy to Cindy Hoover** and her family on the death of her mother, Anne Hoover. There will be a memorial service here on March 11 at 2:00pm.
- 9. Thank you to Servers,** for the 12:15 Ash Wednesday service Pat Belanger, Asst. Minister and Acolyte and Rosie Fennelli, Usher. 7 p.m. service on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2018. Ushers, Lisa Castaneda and Terry Shumway. Greeter, Rose Jones. Sound Eric Castaneda. Assistant Minister, Natalie Prego.
- 10. There will be two Lenten services** on February 22, 2018. Those serving at the **12:15 pm service** is Pat Belanger, as Assistant Minister, Terry Shumway and Rosie Fennelli as ushers and greeters. **The 7 p.m. service,** servers are Asst. Minister Carol Jacobson, Acolyte Katie Paff, Ushers and Greeters Jeanne Pettit, Rosie Fennelli (w), Sound Dennis Magarrell.
- 11. There will be one-hour planning meeting for the Luther room** at Thursday at 1:00 pm. This meeting is to examine possibilities for fixing the Luther room.

Service Assistants for February

10:15 AM	<u>February 18</u>	<u>February 25</u>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Natalie Prego	Sera Butz
ACOLYTE	Aiyana Cartwright	Madison Kibler
LECTOR	Rosie Fennelli	Catherine Zippay
USHERS – Need 4 to Serve	Lisa Castaneda (w) Floyd MacDonald Terry Shumway Jeanne Pettit	Marsha Kibler (w) Drew Kibler Darin Kibler Erika Flanigan
Head Usher	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli
GREETERS – Need 2 to Serve	Caroline Smith Zachary Smith	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones
SOUND	Dennis Magarrell	Eric Castaneda
PROJECTION	Larry Jones	Larry Jones

Stewardship Snippet

February 18, 2018 (1st Sunday in Lent, Year B)

Psalm 25:4-5 – Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

As steward-disciples of God, how do we keep our lives focused and on track? Only with God's help. Daily we pray for the Almighty to teach us, guide us, lead us, correct us. How do you "wait" for God?



Sunday Schedule

10:15 a.m. Worship

Holy Communion is celebrated weekly

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Sidney Nelson – Interim Pastor
ststephenpastornelson@gmail.com
561-235-0929

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

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A Statement from Bishop Suárez

Bishop Suarez released the following statement Wednesday, Feb. 14 after hearing about the tragic school shooting incident in Parkland, FL. Scroll down for additional resources for responding to this tragedy.

Feb. 14, 2018

This time the shooting was around the corner.

My wife Aura and I were just finishing lunch with our son and his family. Tomorrow we close on our house on Deerfield Beach to continue our relocation to the Tampa area. As we were driving around doing a few more errands, around 3 p.m., a dozen or so patrol cars zoomed by us with their sirens on, going in the opposite direction. It seemed as though something serious had happened.

Only 3 miles away, Nikolas Cruz, a young man, had shot and killed at least 17 people and injured others at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Yes, another school shooting. This time in our own community.

Today is Ash Wednesday—a time to reflect. Perhaps we should not only do that reflection as individuals but as a society as well. Perhaps this reflection will lead us to repent of our systemic sins...sins that clearly bring destruction and death. We must repent of our lack of proper mental health care for our children, for not having a better system that would prevent people like Nikolas access to a gun, and for so many other ways we make tragedies like this one a possibility.

As far as I know at this point, none of the victims were members of our Lutheran congregations. However, those victims are part of our community, with families and friends that are deeply hurt tonight.

I ask you to join me in prayer.

*Dear loving God,
There are so many things we don't understand about our world. We might not know how the families and friends of the victims of today's shooting are feeling. But we do care. May they feel your presence in spirit through those that are accompanying them right now.*

Help us to be mindful of the pain around us and to do something about it. We pray this in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Peace,

+Pedro

Pedro M. Suarez
Bishop, Florida-Bahamas Synod

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