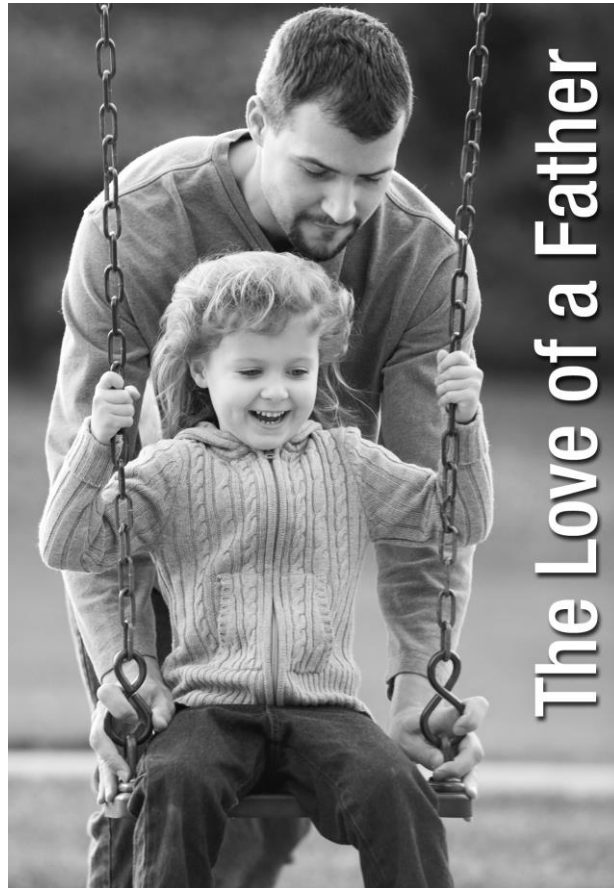




St Stephen

Lutheran Church, ELCA



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

June 17, 2018

4th Sunday after Pentecost

10:15am

Rev. Dr. Sidney Nelson

—WE GATHER—

INTRODUCTION

The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

CHOIR PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
full of compassion and mercy,
abounding in steadfast love. Amen.

P: Trusting God's promise of forgiveness,
let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Eternal God our creator:

**C: In you we live and move and have our being.
Look upon us, your children,
the work of your hands.
Forgive us all our offenses,
and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires.
By your grace draw us near to you,
our refuge and our strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit given to us.
In the mercy of almighty God,
Christ died for us while we still were sinners;
and for his sake, God † forgives you all your sins.

C: AMEN.



1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
 3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - umphant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse Boerenliedes en Contradansen*, 1710

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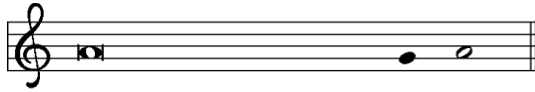
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THE GREETING

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.



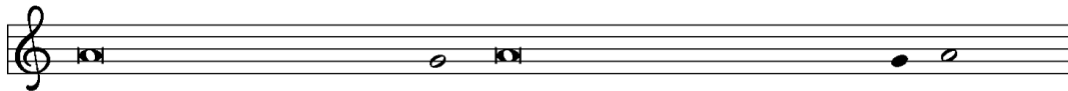
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



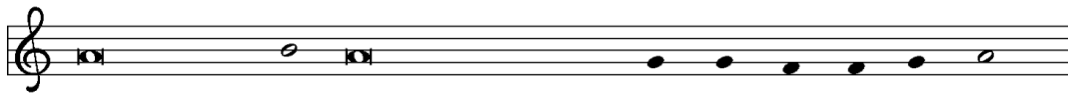
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

HYMN OF PRAISE "This is the feast"

Refrain
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor- thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together:

C: O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. AMEN.

Youth and Children Message

FIRST READING:

Ezekiel 17:22-24

²²Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. ²⁴All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 92:1-4, 12-15

¹It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praise to your name, O Most High;

²**to herald your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night;**

³on the psaltery, and on the lyre, and to the melody of the harp.

⁴**For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD;**

and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.

¹²The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

¹³**Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God;**

¹⁴they shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be green and succulent;

¹⁵**that they may show how up- right the LORD is, my rock, in whom there is no injustice.**

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

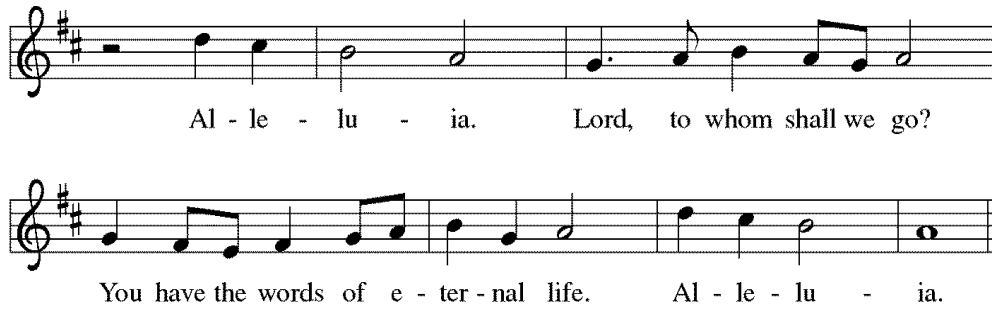
[¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.] ¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. ¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you able.)

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Alleluia ”



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

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark, the 4th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

GOSPEL: Mark 4:26-34

²⁶[Jesus] said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.” ³⁰He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it?

³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Sidney Nelson

—WE RESPOND—

(Please stand as you are able for the Sermon Song.)

SERMON SONG:

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

ELW #516



1 Al-might - y God, your word is cast like seed in - to the ground;
2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe this ho - ly seed re - move,
3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,
4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, life - giv - ing grace be - stow,



now let the dew of heav'n de - scend and righ - teous fruits a - bound.
but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.
but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.
that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow'r may know.

Text: John Cawood, 1775–1852, alt.
Music: ST. FLAVIAN, J. Day, *Psalter*, 1562

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: Filled with the Holy Spirit, we join with the church in every place, praying for the world that God so loves.

After each petition of the prayer is said:

A: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: By the sure guidance of your Holy Spirit, O God, we lift up our prayers in trust and thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our 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:

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

ELW #512

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

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OFFERING PRAYER

A: Merciful God, you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing.

You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it.

Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

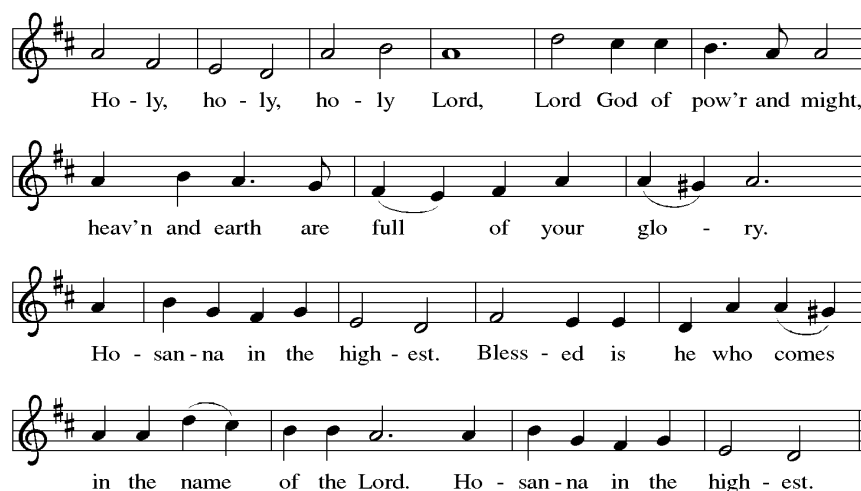
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Dialogue (Sung)



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, 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen... 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

(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).

P: Welcome to the Lord's table.

Holy Communion *(Our communion is by intinction: **Receive the bread and dip bread in the wine.**)*

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

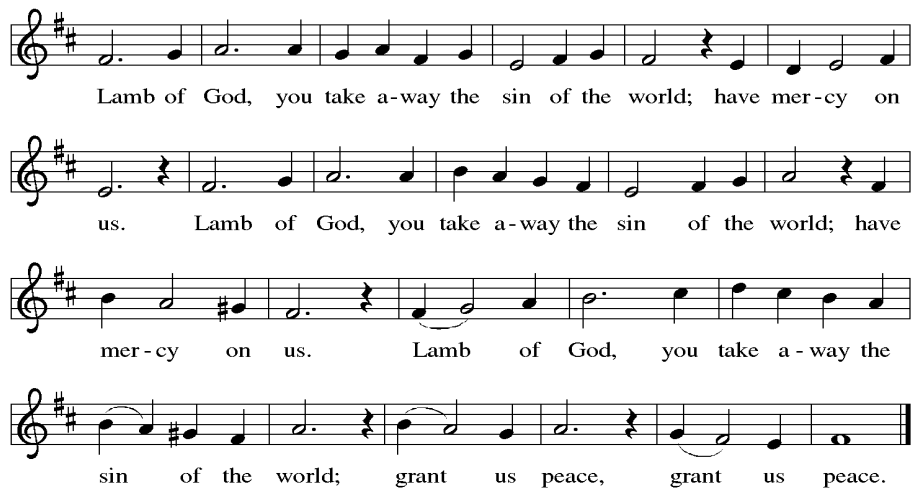
Alcohol free wine is available on the right side. (please ask)

P: The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

C: Amen.

"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 O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der con - sid - er
 2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
 3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to
 4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y
 birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun-tain
 die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, thy pow'r through-out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
 gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
 bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;
 ra - tion and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989

Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Jesus Christ, host of this meal,
you have given us not only this bread and cup,
but your very self, that we may feast on your great love.
Filled again by these signs of your grace,
may we hunger for your reign of justice,
may we thirst for your way of peace,
for you are Lord forevermore.
Amen.

~WE ARE SENT FORTH~

Benediction

P: May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG:

Awesome God

W&P #13

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: Edith Reichenback, Audrey Shumway, Laurel Blake, Jim Loggins, Diane Adler, Katie, Roy and Barbara Kaptain, Bob & Jane Reinhold, and Shelley Amato.

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

✠ Celeste, and for Calvary Lutheran in Minong, Wisconsin ✠ Marjorie, Aurea Soto, Celeste, and The L family ✠ Dustin Magarrell

Our sincere sympathy for Carol Chmelynski and family at the death of her husband Joseph. Joe died peacefully on Thursday, May 31.

In the hospital:

Edith Reichenback - Holy Cross Hospital
4725 N Federal Highway, Fort Lauderdale, Fl. 33308

In a facility or homebound:

Audrey Shumway - Stratford Court of Boca Raton Room #233A
6343 Via De Sonrisa Del Sur, Boca Raton, FL 33433
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
651 SW 6th St, Pompano Beach, FL 33060

Service Assistants for June

10:15 AM	<i>June 17 Father's Day</i>	<i>June 24</i>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Carol Jacobson	Sera Butz
ACOLYTE/TORCH BEARER	Katie Paff	Madison Kibler
LECTOR	Carol Jacobson	Catherine Zippay
USHERS –Need 4 to Serve	Harry Ambrose Patricia Engle Linda Hanzlik (w) Floyd MacDonald	Marsha Kibler (w) Drew Kibler Darin Kibler Erika Flanigan
Head Usher	Linda Hanzlik	Marsha Kibler
GREETERS – Need 2 to Serve	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones
SOUND	Dennis Magarrell	Dennis Magarrell
PROJECTION	Sera Butz	Larry Jones

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Email Prayer Chain

Dear members and friends,

We are beginning an email prayer chain. This was approved by the church council and it is for the purpose of drawing the members in prayer for those who are sick or in special need of prayer. On Monday morning, we will send out the names of those who were added to the attendance cards on Sunday. If we have special requests during the week, those will be sent out Friday morning. Emails will go out only from the administrative assistant or the pastor. If you have prayer request, call the church office during the week. Occasionally, emergencies may arrive and a request will go out mid-week.

Let us put prayer cover over our sisters and brothers as they experience difficult times.

Pastor Nelson

PS Thank you for the prayers that you offered during the time of my son's heart surgery and our absence. Sarah and I felt the prayer cover offered by Saint Stephen members and friends. Let us continue to bless all our members and friends with this gift of prayer

Happy Father's Day to all the wonderful fathers out there, blessings to all!



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

2500 NE 14th Street Causeway
Pompano Beach, FL 33062

Telephone: 954.942.4473
Facsimile: 954.942.4474

www.ststephenlutheran.net

June 14, 2018

Dear Members and friends,

The St. Stephen Church Council has unanimously voted on a candidate to be the next pastor of St. Stephen Lutheran Church.

There is a "Meet and Greet" with the new candidate scheduled for Sunday, June 24. Then on Sunday, July 1 there is a Congregation Meeting scheduled to vote to approve the candidate.

The Congregation Meeting will take place following the worship service.

Please let's have a really good turn out on these two important Sunday's.

Blessings,

Larry Jones
President of the Church Council

OFFICIAL NOTICE

This is official notice of a called congregational meeting on July 1, 2018 after the conclusion of the 10:15 am service for the purpose of voting on the proposed appointment of our Pastor Candidate.



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

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, ELCA
2500 NE 14th Street Causeway,
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Activity Calendar

Sunday 17

Father's Day

10:15am Sunday Worship

Monday 18

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

Tuesday 19

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

Wednesday 20

8:00am Quilting

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

Thursday 21

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

7:30pm Choir rehearsal

Friday 22

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

Saturday 23

Happy and blessed Saturday!

Sunday 24

10:15am Sunday Worship

11:15am Meet our Pastor Candidate
after worship



"If we're all God's children, just think of all
the cards he gets on Father's Day."

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