

St Stephen

Lutheran Church, ELCA



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

March 11 2018

Fourth Sunday in Lent

10:15am

Rev. Dr. Sidney Nelson, Interim Pastor

—WE GATHER—

INTRODUCTION

The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith, for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

CHOIR PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (page 14)

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.**

OPENING SONG:

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

ELW#335



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

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: O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, 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:

Numbers 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God’s mercy endures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

³gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and | from the south.

¹⁷**Some were fools and took rebellious paths;
through their sins they were afflicted.**

¹⁸They loathed all manner of food
and drew near to death’s door.

¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD
and you delivered them from their distress.**

²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them
and rescued them from the grave.

²¹**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.**

²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 2:1-10

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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. John the 3rd chapter.

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

GOSPEL:

John 3:14-21

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Sidney Nelson

— WE RESPOND —

SERMON SONG:

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

ELW #759



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
trust re-move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887

Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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: Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

After each petition of the prayer is said:

A: Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

A/P: Trusting in your covenant of mercy, O God, we lift our prayers to you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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:

All Depends on Our Possessing

ELW #589

(verses 1 and 5 only)



1 All de - pends on our pos - sess - ing God's free grace and
2 God, who hith - er - to has fed me and to man - y
3 When with sor - row I am strick - en, hope my heart a -
4 Well you know what best to grant me; all the long - ing
5 If on earth my days should length - en, God, my wea - ry



con - stant bless - ing, though all earth - ly wealth de - part.
joys has led me, is and ev - er shall be mine.
new will quick - en, all my long - ing shall be stilled.
hopes that haunt me, joy and sor - row, have their day.
soul still strength - en; all my trust in you I place.



They who trust with faith un - shak - en by their God are
God, who did so gent - ly school me and who dai - ly
To your lov - ing - kind - ness ten - der all my be - ing
I shall doubt your wis - dom nev - er; as you will, so
Earth - ly wealth is not a - bid - ing; like a stream a -



not for - sak - en and will keep a daunt - less heart.
guides and rules me, will re - main my help di - vine.
I sur - ren - der; Lord, on you a - lone I build.
be it ev - er; I com - mit to you my way.
way it's glid - ing; safe I an - chor in your grace.

Text: Gesangbuch, Nürnberg, 1676; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
Music: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN, Johann Löhner, 1645-1705, adapt.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through 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.

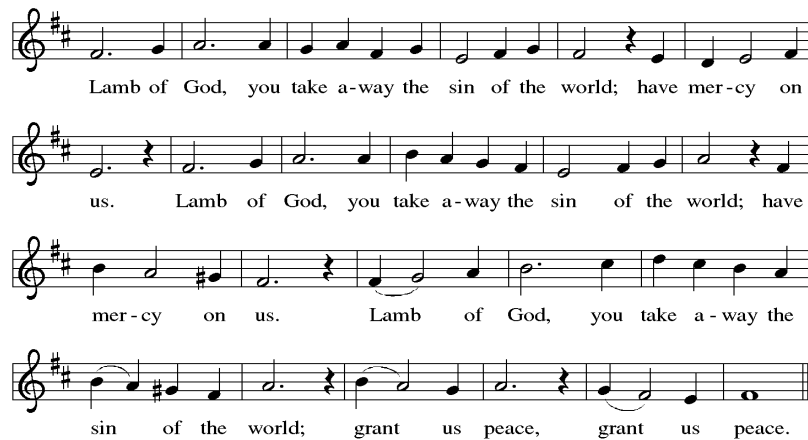
Reception of Communion

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 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
 2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and
 3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have

sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
 scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a
 brought me to your side to be led by your staff and

Refrain
 sod and to be - come the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
 fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God. God.
 rod and to be called a lamb of God.

God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me
 in your pre-cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

*Instrumental Music**Cesar Vidaud***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray.

A: Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven.

Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice,
our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts;
through Christ our Lord.**C: Amen.****-WE ARE SENT FORTH-****Benediction**P: May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth,
and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.
The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ☩ peace. **Amen.**



1 My God, how won - der - ful thou art, thy maj - es - ty how bright!
 2 How won - der - ful, how beau - ti - ful the sight of thee must be—
 3 No earth - ly fa - ther loves like thee; no moth - er, e'er so mild,
 4 Yet I may love thee too, O Lord, al - might - y as thou art,
 5 My God, how won - der - ful thou art, thou ev - er - last - ing friend!



How beau - ti - ful thy mer - cy seat in depths of burn - ing light!
 thine end - less wis - dom, bound - less pow'r, and awe - some pu - ri - ty!
 bears and for - bears as thou hast done with me, thy sin - ful child.
 for thou hast stooped to ask of me the love of my poor heart.
 On thee I stay my trust - ing heart till faith in vi - sion end.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863
 Music: DUNDEE, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1615

DISMISSAL

A: Marked with the cross of Christ,
 go forth to love and serve the Lord.

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)

✠ Trudy DiCarlo back from hospital, Nancy, The Guttenberg family who lost their daughter at Douglas HS., The Kilgore Family and Edna Hayn ✠ Henry Q., Patrick Falco, Susan Perez, Dustin and Bettie, Juan Coletti ✠ Denise Heude, Patrick Falco, Susan Perez, Rosemarie Burgland, Gail's Gregory family.

In Our Prayers

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
Jim Loggins - John Knox Village - Woodlands

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

A Note from Threads of Love:

Quilt Sunday was a beautiful Mass. Thank you Pastor Nelson for giving us this opportunity to display some of our quilts. For the past 30 years a group of talented and dedicated ladies join together every Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall, to make quilts for those in need.

Our faithful quilters are:

Nancy Anderson, Julie Barfield, Lucille Capece, Marlene Derynda, Betty Ellinger, Marie Koach, Kathy Leone, Diane Moss, Rita Roemer, Lynn Vatrál and Sherry Walters.

Also joining us are Marilyn Gelese and Rita Ricketts who are our "winter friends."

Thank you, for your very generous Love Offering donations. It is very much appreciated.

Blessings,

Kathy Leone-Leader

Calendar

Sunday 11

10:15am 4th Sunday in Lent
11:30am Jewelry Party at Fellowship Hall
1:45am Confirmation Class

Monday 12

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

Tuesday 13

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

Wednesday 14

8:00am Quilting
9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

Thursday 15

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open
12:15pm Midweek Worship
7:00-7:30pm Worship
7:30 Choir rehearsal

Friday 16

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

Saturday 17

9:00am Bishop's Lenten visit
7:30pm Comedian Concert

Sunday 18

10:15am 5th Sunday in Lent
Gospel Elvis Concert



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. "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. March 17 at 7:30pm. Tickets available now \$20.00 in advance and \$25.00 at the door. for more info please call Carol Jacobson or the church office.
- 2. There will be two Lenten services** on March 15, 2018. Those serving at the **12:15 pm service** is Pat Belanger, as Assistant Minister, Rosie Fennelli as usher and greeter. **The 7 p.m. service**, servers are Asst. Minister Natalie Prego, Acolyte Carol Jacobson, Ushers and Greeters Lisa Castaneda and Terry Shumway.
- 3. New Members**, our next reception of new members will be March 25. If you're interested in joining at that time, please indicate that on your attendance card and or call Pastor Nelson at [561-235-0929](tel:561-235-0929).
- 4. ATTENDANCE CARDS**, are in our bulletin today for members and visitors. Please place in offering plate. Thank You.
- 5. Easter lilies** are for sale today \$10 each. Take home after Easter service.
- 6. Gift Menu**. We are beginning something new for members to give to the glory to God and to express their gratitude for God's gracious goodness and their many blessings. It's called a gift menu, because usually there are more than one item that can be donated to the church. We have an opportunity to donate a new Pascal candle to the of God and in memory or in honor of a loved one. This candle is at the baptismal font and is lit at all baptisms, funerals and at Sunday worship. Please call the church office if you would like to donate this.
- 7. The Bishop's Lenten Visit** is scheduled for Saturday, March 17, beginning at 9am with a light breakfast, followed by Chrism Eucharist at 11am. To register, go www.fbsynod.com and click on "Lenten Visits" under the "Events" tab, and select your desired venue. A \$5 on-site donation is suggested. Registration is helpful but not required. St. Michael Lutheran Church 1925 Birkdale Dr. Wellington, Fl. 33414.
- 8. There will be an Easter Vigil service** on Saturday, March 31 at Christ Lutheran Church in Oakland Park. More details will follow.
- 9.** The church council is looking into the "**Living Lutheran**" magazine. This is the ELCA National magazine and is well loved in our churches. This used to be called "The Lutheran". The name changed recently. Indicate on your attendance card if you are interested.

"Given to the Glory of God"

4 chancel side chairs have been given by members to adorn our altar and chancel. These are given:

- ❖ To the glory of God and in honor of her grandparents from Natalie Prego.
- ❖ To the Glory of God and in memory of her husband Paul Richard Hanzlik by Linda Hanzlik.
- ❖ To the Glory of God and in memory of Rol and Kurt Otterson, by Ailie Otterson and Kevin.
- ❖ To the Glory of God and in memory of their parents Fred and Phyllis Valenti and Mauritz and Gladys Nelson by Pastor and Sarah Nelson.

Service Assistants for March

10:15 AM	<u>March 11</u>	<u>March 18</u>	<u>March 25</u> <u>Palm Sunday</u>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Natalie Prego	Carol Jacobson	Sera Butz
ACOLYTE	Sera Butz	Aiyana Cartwright	Madison Kibler
LECTOR	Kevin Otterson	Catherine Zippay	Rosie Fennelli
USHERS – Need 4 to Serve	Lynda Smith Zachary Smith (w) Rosie Fennelli Pat Belanger	Lisa Castaneda Floyd MacDonald Terry Shumway Jean Pettit	Marsha Kibler (w) Drew Kibler Darin Kibler Erika Flanigan
Head Usher	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli
GREETERS – Need 2 to Serve	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle	Caroline Smith Zachary Smith	Katie Paff Pat Belanger
SOUND	Katie Paff	Dennis Magarrell	Eric Castaneda
PROJECTION	Eric Castaneda	Larry Jones	Larry Jones

Stewardship Snippet

March 11, 2018 (4th Sunday in Lent, Year B)

John 3:16 – Jesus said, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”

Have you heard some Christians say how much they hate this world? But here we learn that God loves the world. So much so that God gave us Jesus. Wise stewards and disciples pray that God would help them reach out to the world in love.





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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Fundraising Jewelry Party

March 11 at 11:45am following the worship service in the Fellowship Hall, we will have a jewelry party. This event is a fund raising that we are having instead of the fashion show this year. There will be two jewelry companies. Grace & Heart, a religious jewelry. The other company is Waxing Poetic. Both companies are very unique and affordable. Please come you may find that piece you've been looking for to complete your collection.

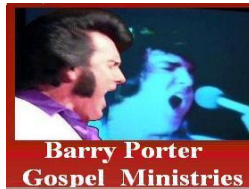


Classic Comedy & Musical

This entertaining "main event" is part humor-filled game show (can you guess the familiar tune?) and part piano concert. These nostalgic theme songs (and the comedians most associated with them) bring back so many happy memories from Vaudeville, Motion Pictures and Broadway to Radio, Television and Record Albums. Lenny Dave is a nationally

comedy historian who has performed in the Red Skelton Entertainment Series. Meanwhile, Bob Vogel has been entertaining audiences nationally for decades with his musical mastery.

Tickets are on sale through the church office or Sunday Service: \$20.00 in advance and \$25.00 at the door. For more information, please call 954-942-4473 between 9:30 and 12:30 Monday thru Friday.



GLOBAL HALL OF FAME TRIBUTE ARTIST
BarryPorterasELVIS.com



MARCH 18th
Sunday
10:45 AM

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
2500 NE 14th Street
Pompano Beach, Fl.
954 - 942 - 4473

FREE Concert
Love Offering
Received
Kim 954-257-8215

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