

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.**

September 2, 2018

15th Sunday after Pentecost

10:15am

The Rev. Robert G. Schaefer, Pastor

HOLY COMMUNION

Gathering

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

INTRODUCTION

Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life." Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We, having been washed in the word when we were born in the font, return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

CHOIR PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the ✠ holy Trinity,
the one who fashions us,
the one who heals us,
the one who reforms us again and again.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,
have mercy on us.

We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin.

We are truly sorry and humbly repent.

**In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown,
things we have done and things we have failed to do.**

**Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit,
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

P: God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us
and to empower our lives in the world.

Our sins are forgiven,
God's love is unconditional.

Therefore, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins
in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

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

GATHERING SONG:

This, Is My Father's World

ELW #824



1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the
3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,



na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the
This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The



rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.
rus - tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.
Lord is king, let heav - en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858–1901

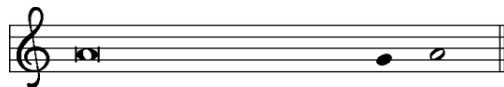
Music: TERRA PATRIS, Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852–1930, adapt.

GREETING

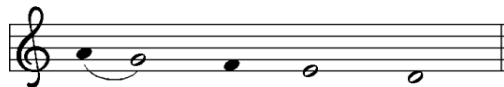
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



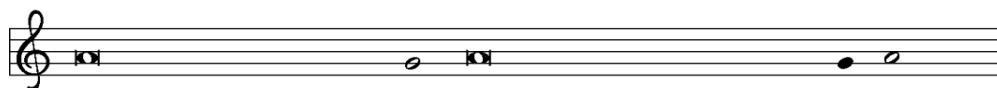
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



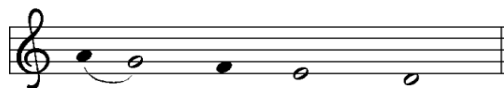
Lord, have mer - cy.



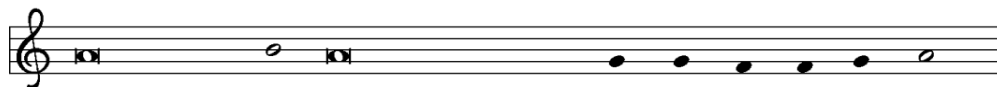
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE "Glory to God"



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

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

P: O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures.

Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside,

and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves,

that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

The assembly sits.

Word

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

FIRST READING:

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

A Reading from Deuteronomy.

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 15

¹LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- on a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

SECOND READING: James 1:17-27

A Reading from James.

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

L: The word of the Lord.

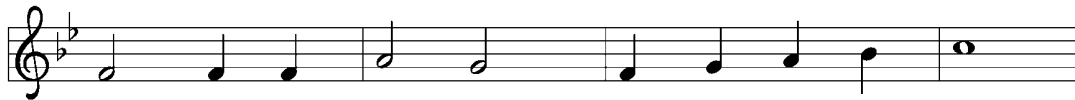
C: Thanks be to God.



1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,



wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:



stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
 I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.
 the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,



and make me love you as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1780–1860

Music: MORECAMBE, Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841–189

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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Freed by God in Christ to live and love and serve, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's beloved creation.

After each petition of the prayer is said:

A: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Into your wide embrace, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

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:

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: Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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,...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:

P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:

Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign....

...For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup...to share with us the great and promised feast.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, ...and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants ...all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we are bold 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: Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread,
and make us one with you.

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. **Amen.**

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

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 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y_a con - flict,
 3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
 4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry



shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
 man - y_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
 cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
 bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871

Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

Instrumental Music

Jonathan Eward Soler

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

God of abundance,

with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ,
 making us one with all your people.

Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,

that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world

and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Sending

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

BLESSING

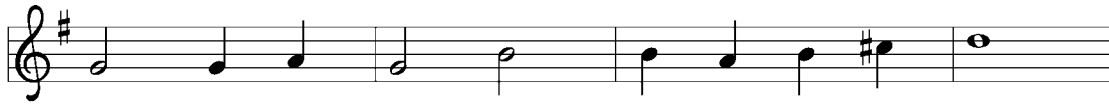
P: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
 so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

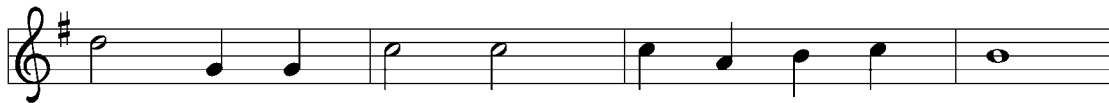
C: Amen.



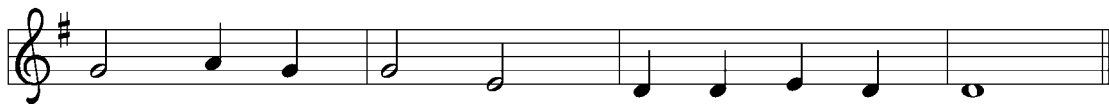
1 Sav - ior, a - gain to your dear name we raise
 2 Grant us your peace up - on our home - ward way;
 3 Grant us your peace, Lord, through the com - ing night;
 4 Grant us your peace through - out our earth - ly life,



with one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise;
 with you be - gan, with you shall end the day;
 for us trans - form its dark - ness in - to light.
 our balm in sor - row, and our stay in strife;



once more we bless you ere our wor - ship cease,
 guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
 Keep us from harm and dan - ger till the dawn;
 then, when your voice shall bid our con - flict cease,



then, low - ly bend - ing, wait your word of peace.
 that in this house have called up - on your name.
 your eve - ning pres - ence prom - ise to your own.
 call us, O Lord, to your e - ter - nal peace.

Text: John Ellerton, 1826–1893, alt.

Music: ELLERS, Edward J. Hopkins, 1818–1901

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share the good news.

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, Kathy Runk, Jimmy Fennelli, Caroline Smith, Edith Reichenback, Audrey Shumway, Jim Loggins, Diane Adler, Katie Paff, Roy and Barbara Kaptain, Bob & Jane Reinhold, and Shelley Amato.

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

✠ Julia, Yvonne Vasquez, Bob Lehr ✠ Brittney, Ed Nelson, Gene Kriberney, Richard, Carol Chmelynski, Marcus Castaneda, Laurie Gonzalez ✠ Carolyn Sharp, Deborah Sharp, Lynn Sunis, Senator McCain, Adrian, Jean, Nino, Rosie's Fennelli family, Vera DeBolt, Joyce Brelsford, George Stewart, Aurea Soto, and for the families of the Jacksonville shooting, our thoughts and prayers go out to the victims and those affected.

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
651 SW 6th St, Pompano Beach, FL 33060

Parish Announcements

Welcome to worship!

We are thankful you are here! We especially welcome our guests and first time visitors today. 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 welcome Jonathan Edward Soler to lead our music and song today

We thank him for filling in for our Director of Music, Cesar, who is away today. Welcome to St. Stephen!

Choir rehearsal - We need your voice!

Choir rehearsals resume beginning Thursday, September 6 at 7:00pm. Speaking of choir, we are looking for people who like to sing to add to our ranks. All you need to do is show up on September 6 at 7:00pm or any Thursday. We will welcome you! Questions? Speak to Cesar Vidaud our Director of Music.

Join our worshipping commission!

Worship is at the heart of everything we do. This group assists the pastor in planning faithful and meaningful worship at St. Stephen. New members are always welcome. We will meet Sunday, September 16 after the liturgy in the Luther room off the gathering space.

Do you like electronics?

We need to add people to our sound and projection team. These people work the controls in the back of the church for both the sound system and the images we project. Contact Pr. Bob if you would like to know more.

You are invited to breakfast!!! Saturday, September 8

With the fall season approaching the monthly Breakfast Bunch is starting up. This is a monthly gathering of St. Stephen members and friends simply for fellowship and fun. We will gather on Saturday, September 8 at 9:00am in the St. Stephen Fellowship Hall. Please join us as we get to know each other and newer folks to St. Stephen. Coffee and juice is provided. You are invited to bring your favorite breakfast food to share. See you there!

Confirmation Orientation!

The time is coming to resume our weekly confirmation gatherings. On September 9 from 11:45-12:45pm Pr. Bob and Sera Butz will meet with the parents and kids of all those interested in preparing to affirm their baptism in the Rite of Confirmation at St. Stephen. If you have any questions, please see Pastor or Sera.

Sign up for the flowers that beautify our altar each Sunday.

They are only \$35 per week and you may take them home after the liturgy or they will be given to the sick or homebound. They may be given in memory or in honor of someone. Signup is on the back wall of the gathering area (Narthex).

Please remember the ministries of St. Stephen with your regular offerings.

Stewardship has been defined as everything you do after you say, "I believe." Part of stewardship is our financial generosity and commitment to Christ through his Church. Summers are always challenging times for congregations and St. Stephen is no exception. As a response to God's blessings to you, we encourage you to keep your offerings current especially if you are planning to be away. Not only does your generosity support local mission and ministry here, but through our mission support to the Florida-Bahamas Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we support ministries around the globe. Thank you for your commitment!

Unemployed? Under employed? Career Source Broward wants to help...

See the flyer from them on the bulletin board in the Narthex for details and contact information.

Worship Assistants for September

10:15 AM	<u>September 2</u>	<u>September 9</u>	<u>September 16</u>	<u>September 23</u>	<u>September 30</u>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Carol Jacobson	Natalie Prego	Pat Belanger	Carol Jacobson	Sera Butz
ACOLYTE	Pat Belanger	Katie Paff	Sera Butz	Katie Paff	Madison Kibler
LECTOR	Erika Flanigan	Sera Butz	Tom Peterson	Catherine Zippay	Tom Peterson
USHERS –Need 4 to Serve	Catherine Zippay Jeanne Pettit Terry Shumway Lisa Castaneda (w)	Jimmy Fennelli Suzanne Loggins Linda Hanzlik (w) Rosie Fennelli	Harry Ambrose Patricia Engle Terry Shumway Linda Hanzlik (w)	Suzanne Loggins Jeanne Pettit Lynda Smith Zachary Smith (w)	Marsha Kibler (w) Drew Kibler Darin Kibler Erika Flanigan
Head Usher	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli
GREETERS – Need 2 to Serve	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones	Rose Jones Kelly Jacobson	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle	Rose Jones Kelly Jacobson
SOUND	Dennis Magarrell	Terry Shumway	Eric Castaneda	Terry Shumway	Dennis Magarrell
PROJECTION	Eric Castaneda	Eric Castaneda	Larry Jones	Dennis Magarrell	Larry Jones

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

Stewardship Snippet

Sept. 2, 2018 (15th Sunday after Pentecost, Year B)

James 1:17 – Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights.

Make a list of the blessings in your life. Go ahead! These are gifts to you from God, the source of all. Now review the list and pray for each, "I thank God for" Do this every day and see how you feel.



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

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, ELCA
2500 NE 14th Street Causeway,
Pompano Beach, Florida, 33062
Tele: 954.942.4473 • Fax: 954.942.4474
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Activity Calendar

Sunday 2
10:15am Sunday Worship

Monday 3
Labor Day Office Closed

Tuesday 4
9:30am-12:30pm Office Open
7:00pm Congregation Council Meeting

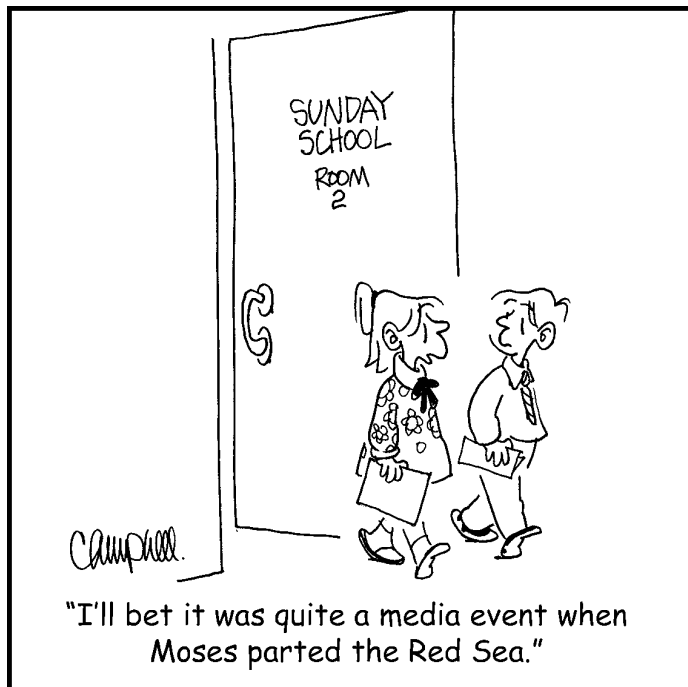
Wednesday 5
8:00am Quilting
9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

Thursday 6
9:30am-12:30pm Office Open
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday 7
9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

Saturday 8
9:00am – 11:00am Breakfast Bunch

Sunday 9
10:15am Sunday Worship
11:45am – 12:45pm Confirmation
Orientation



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