

St Stephen
Lutheran Church, ELCA

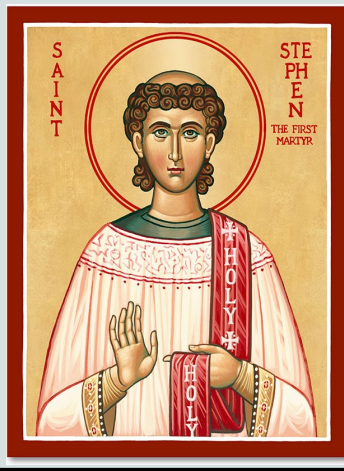
The Messenger

2500 NE 14th Street Causeway, Pompano Beach, FL 33062 Ph. (954) 942-4473

January 2019

Sunday Schedule:

- ✠ **9:15 a.m.**
Adult Education
- ✠ **10:15 a.m.**
Holy Communion
- ✠ **11:45 a.m.**
Confirmation



SAINT STEPHEN
The First Christian Martyr

In This Issue:

- ⇒ A Letter from Our Pastor
- ⇒ Living Lutheran: Why do we wear vestments in our services?
- ⇒ Happenings and Events
- ⇒ Calendar

A Letter from Our Pastor

Dear sisters and brothers,

This year, the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6, falls on a Sunday. This Sunday is the climax of the Christmas season—the day that magi from the East arrive to worship the Christ child and bring their gifts. The scripture readings for Epiphany help us understand that the manifestation of God is for all people everywhere. This is a message of radical inclusivity. Those who were once far off are now embraced by the one true God, who has sent a Savior into the world. Now we are called in baptism to be the messengers!

I am always drawn to Epiphany and the “ordinary” Sundays that follow as a time to think about the church’s mission and outreach with the gospel. In early December, our Assistant to the Bishop, Pr. El Yateem, led us in a conversation about the results of the vitality study conducted here before my arrival. My take away from that time is like every church, St. Stephen has both strengths and growing edges. One of our lead strengths is our warmth and welcoming embrace for all who worship here. We are good at hospitality and pastoral care. Areas that we have room for growth include becoming more connected in concrete ways with the community around us and our engagement of spiritual practices, such more participation in Christian formation and bible study.

Some present naturally longed for the days of full pews and Sunday Schools. It is important to keep in mind that the world has changed greatly in the past generation. The church was once the center of culture. Now the church is more on the margins. At best, one in five people attend any church. Studies have shown that younger people are looking for relevance, not meetings. How does worship relate to everyday life? How is this church making a difference in the community? What spiritual practices will connect me to the Divine? When people are asked what brought them to a church, the most frequent answer by far is that they were invited by another lay person. The thing we want to avoid is the sense that we want people here to simply fill the pews. The church is called to be in the business of changing lives.

The Book of Acts provides a great guide to how the church in the first century grew. Beginning on Tuesday evenings, January 8, from 7-8pm we will study the book of Acts together as we discern where God is calling us (this will be repeated on Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10am starting January 13). This is where we need to start if we want to be a vibrant congregation. If you are interested in discerning ways that St. Stephen can thrive, we need to start with scripture. Join us! Be part of the conversation! May the light of Epiphany for ALL people shine through us. Hope to see you at one of these weekly studies. —Pastor Bob



Living Lutheran series: Why do we wear vestments in our services?

This is the fifth in a series of articles that help explain why we do what we do as Lutheran Christians. Each month we will explore another aspect of our faith and worship. If you have a question that you would like to see answered here, please contact Pr. Bob at pastoratststephen@gmail.com.



One thing that a visitor to St. Stephen, or most other Lutheran churches, will notice is that worship leaders wear distinctive garments called vestments. Some modern Americans might think vestments are odd but, think about it, we use them in our society too. A judge wears a special robe based on academic garb to signify his or her education and knowledge of the law but also that the judge's role in the court is different from the other participants. The distinctive clothing worn by police officers, nurses, and many other professions communicates their role; vestments function in a similar way.

In the Old Testament, God not only regulated the details of divine worship, but He also prescribed the type of dress to be worn by the priests in the performance of their priestly office. In the New Testament no such regulations were laid down. Jesus recalled life in the Kingdom when he said, "Do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body what you shall put on." (Matthew 6:25)

While specific vestments are not required in Christian worship and they developed over time; they do add beauty, transcendence and meaning to worship. Vestments are worn by pastors, lay assisting ministers, acolytes, communion ministers, choirs and cantors. Vestments are more related to uniforms than costumes; they communicate the role of the leader. They also say that an individual is functioning in a particular relationship to a community of believers and connected to a recognizable, historic pattern of leadership. Worship leaders wear vestments on behalf of the assembly. The basic liturgical outfit is a white garment called an alb. The alb reminds us of the white garment presented or worn at baptism. It is the basic baptismal dress that may be worn by all worship leaders. The colors of outer vestments, especially those worn by the presider or displayed as paraments, communicate the liturgical season. When used clearly and with understanding, vestments (with other visual arts and symbols) embody and support the proclamation of the word of God.

While the use and style of vestments will vary from place to place, certain vestments are common in churches that follow an ancient liturgical tradition: The stole is a long band of fabric worn by clergy over the alb as a sign of ordination since the eighth century. It is presented during the ordination rite. Stoles are worn in the color of the day, over the alb by ordained ministers. In fabric and color that usually matches the chasuble. It is a symbol of the yoke of obedience to Christ (see Matthew 11:28-30).

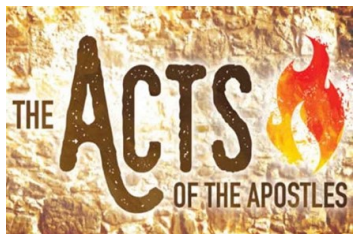
The chasuble is the principal vestment of the pastor who presides at the Eucharist. It is a very full vestment, in the appointed color of the church year, and is worn like a poncho over the alb and stole. It is a sign of the abundance of the eucharistic feast. It has been used as the distinctive eucharistic vestment since the eleventh century. At some services that don't include Holy Communion, a cassock (black close-fitting robe) and surplice (white knee length flowing garment) may be worn. The most important thing about worship is not the clothing, but these words of the psalmist: "Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing" (Psalm 100:2).

Upcoming Happenings and events... join us!!!

-- Bible Study Resumes: The Book of Acts

Tuesdays, starting January 8
Sundays, starting January 13

Beginning Tuesday, January 8 we start a new weekly study of the Book of the Acts of the Apostles. We will gather for this conversation in the Luther Room every Tuesday from 7—8pm. The class will be repeated in Sunday mornings at 9:15am.



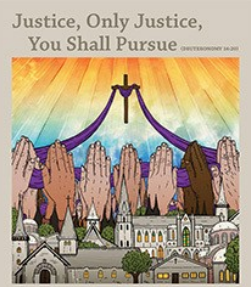
Acts tells the story of the early church. It traces the growth of the church from a small group of Jewish believers in Jerusalem to a worldwide movement that included both Jews and Gentiles. This book still both gives the church its marching orders and shows how the Holy Spirit will guide us in mission. Bring a bible and a friend and join us!

— Wednesday, January 9 Congregation Council Meeting

Our first meeting of the year! council members please check your calendar and pick up your packets on January 6. Important matters are to be addressed.

— Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 1/17/19

Every year from January 18 (Feast of St. Paul) — 25 (Feast of St. Peter), Christians around the world pray for the unity of the Church that Christ desired. Join us this year at St. Nicholas Episcopal Church on **Thursday, January 17, at 7:00pm** for a special prayer service for Christian unity. Pr. Bob and other community clergy will participate. A light reception in the parish hall will follow. St. Nicholas is located at 1111 E. Sample Road in Pompano Beach.

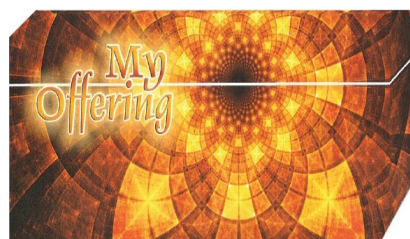


Our New Carillon is installed!

Thanks to a generous bequest from the late Trudi Di-Carlo, a new carillon was installed last month. It was dedicated on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The bells now heard in our community before each worship service and a call to prayer each day at noon and 6pm,

reminding the community to pray. This memorial gift will also allow us to replace the aging front doors of the church shortly with attractive and versatile new ones. Please consider remembering St. Stephen in your will as an enduring act of generous stewardship.

Offering Envelopes for 2019 are here!

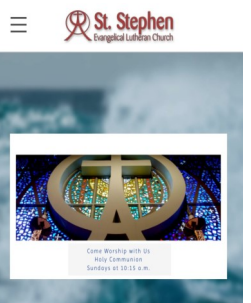


There is a table in front of the sound booth in the rear of the church. The envelopes are in alphabetical order. Please stop by and pick yours up

today. If you would like envelopes and don't have them, there is also a sign-up sheet on the table. Thank you for your generous support!

Check our updated website at www.ststephenlutheran.net

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



Thank you to all our amazing congregation



to all our amazing congregation council and commissions for all the help and the hours put into getting the sanctuary ready and making sure music, candles, ushers, altar, and altar servers were in place.

We enjoyed a great Christmas Eve celebration at both the services. Thanks to all who cooperated!



2500 NE 14th Street Causeway
 Pompano Beach, FL 33062
 Ph. (954) 942-4473

Pastor: The Rev. Robert G. Schaefer

*“Encouraging and Strengthening Faith
 in Jesus and Sharing the Joy of God’s
 Love”*

Volunteer Assistants in January 2019

10:15 AM	January 6	January 13	January 20	January 27
ASSISTING MINISTER	Pat Belanger	Carol Jacobson	Natalie Prego	Sera Butz
ACOLYTE	Carol Jacobson	Katie Paff	Pat Belanger	Madison Kibler
Torch Bearers	Eric Castaneda Carol Jacobson			
CRUCIFER	Sera Butz			
Book Bearer	Katie Paff			
LECTOR	Judi Dooce	Rita Sharkey	Erika Flanigan	Tom Peterson
USHERS— Need 4 to serve	Suzanne Loggins Jeanne Pettit Lisa Castaneda (w) Karen Breslin	Erika Flanigan R. Mottersheard Lynda Smith Zachary Smith (w)	Rosie Fennelli (w) Jimmy Fennelli Harry Ambrose Patricia Engle	Marsha Kibler (w) Drew Kibler Darin Kibler Catherine Zippay
Head Usher	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli
GREETERS— Need 2 to serve	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones	Carol Jacobson Pat Belanger	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones
SOUND	Dennis Magarrell	Eric Castaneda	Eric Castaneda	Dennis Magarrell
PROJECTION	TBA	Larry Jones	Jake Vanzile	Larry Jones



Email us at:
 sslcpompano@gmail.com
 And like us on.....
 www.facebook.com/sslcpompano



January 2019

(w) will serve wine at communion

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 9:15am Adult Forum 10:15am Holy Communion 11:45am—12:45pm Confirmation Ministry	7 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	8 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours 7:00-8:00pm Bible Study	9 9am Quilters 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours 7:00pm Congregation Council Meeting	10 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	11 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	12
13 9:15am Adult Forum 10:15am Holy Communion 11:45am—12:45pm Confirmation Ministry	14 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	15 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours 7:00-8:00pm Bible Study	16 9am Quilters 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	17 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Prayer Ser- vice at St. Nicholas	18 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	19
20 9:15am Adult Forum 10:15am Holy Communion 11:45am—12:45pm Confirmation Ministry	21 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	22 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours 7:00-8:00pm Bible Study	23 9am Quilters 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	24 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	25 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	26 Fellowship Hall rented
27 9:15am Adult Forum 10:15am Holy Communion 11:45am—12:45pm Confirmation Ministry	28 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	29 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours 7:00-8:00pm Bible Study	30 9am Quilters 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	31 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal		