

St Stephen
Lutheran Church, ELCA

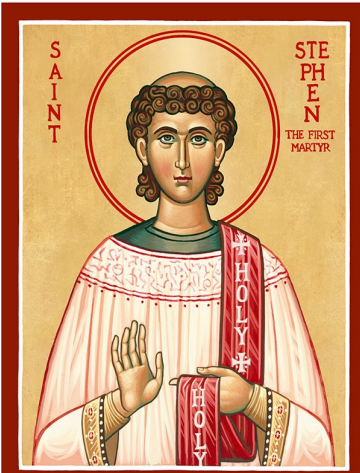
The Messenger

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

March 2018

Sunday Schedule:

* **10:15 a.m.**
Worship Service



SAINT STEPHEN
The First Christian Martyr

In This Issue:

- ⇒ Our journey through Holy Week
- ⇒ Happenings and events
- ⇒ From Rev. Pedro Suarez, Bishop of Our Florida– Bahamas
- ⇒ Gift Menu
- ⇒ Calendar

Our Journey Through Holy Week

We have been on a Lenten journey starting with Ash Wednesday ashes. Throughout February and half of March we will be having Thursday night and noon time services.

Then comes holy week! Would you really want to miss any of this?

On Palm Sunday, when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the people welcomed him with palm branches. They praised him and praised God with the word “hosanna!” But it was not obvious that a few short days later, they would be shouting “crucify”. When we celebrate Palm Sunday this year, we will also celebrate with Palm branches. But then with great sadness we realize the painful events of that Holy Week in Jerusalem. In addition, we will be receiving Pocket Crosses to carry in holy week and beyond.

On Maundy Thursday, Jesus met in the upper room with his disciples celebrating Passover. His disciples did not know that this meal would be his last supper and that he would soon be betrayed and turned over to the leaders of the temple and to the Roman soldiers. We will remember the Somber night with Holy Communion and the stripping of the altar, preparing it for good Friday.

Good Friday came suddenly. Jesus was arrested after supper on Thursday night and brought to trial, beaten, found innocent, but sentenced to death anyway, mocked, and eventually crucified.

A Good Friday Tenebrae service reenacts these cruel events through scriptures and song. At the end of the service, we all leave the sanctuary in total silence. Not speaking or greeting each other. Just going to our cars in silence and going home.

When I was a child I always thought how strange it was that we would call it “Good” Friday. I was later taught that it is called “good” because Jesus died there for us and for me. I understood that better. But there still that little boy in me that still doesn’t want to call it Good Friday. But I do know why.

When I wake on Saturday morning, after the last supper, the betrayal, the crucifixion and death, I turn my thoughts to Sunday morning. “Boy do I need Easter!” Easter, the empty tomb, all of it. My next message will be in Easter message.

May God bless you and call you to the holy week journey.

Pastor Nelson



Happenings and events

- Saturday, March 3 Breakfast Bunch

Please come and join us in this fun gathering morning in the Fellowship Hall at 9am. Everyone is welcome.



- Monday, March 5 Church Council Meeting



Council Members, please check your calendars. Please note that this time our meeting will be on Monday instead of Tuesday our normal day of the month.

- Tuesday, March 6 Snowbirds gathering

Attention all snowbirds, we will be having a gathering of the flock (ha! Ha!) (Get it?) (Oh well...). We all have a lot in common and we want to recognize this and learn how to do some things during the week for fun, fellowship and service. You are a part of our family just as we are part of your life here in Florida. Let's do this! We are together as partners in ministry. We will meet this Tuesday in the Luther Room at 10:30 am for coffee, donuts, and sweets.



- Sunday, March 11 Jewelry Party



On 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 and 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.

- Sunday, March 17 Theme Songs of the Great Comedians



This entertaining 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 recognized 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.

- Sunday, March 25 Gospel Elvis

GLOBAL HALL OF FAME TRIBUTE ARTIST
BarryPorterasElvis.com

Gospel ELVIS

Barry Porter Gospel Ministries

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

- Sunday, March 25 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.

From Rev. Pedro M. Suarez, Bishop of our Florida Bahamas

Grace and peace are yours from God our Father and from his Son Jesus Christ, our Lord!

First of all, I want to thank you for letting me be your pastor for these wonderful 2 and a half years. You have definitely left a deep loving imprint in Aura and me. In the same way I said yes to the Lord by coming to St. Stephen, I had to say yes to His call to be the Bishop of the Florida-Bahamas Synod, something that you very well know I was not seeking. It's hard to understand, but it happened! And as the apostle St. Paul put it so well, I echo that "I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:6

2017 was certainly a year of surprises. I still remember the surprise in Larry and Rose's face when their daughters showed up for the unveiling of the St. Stephen Icon in honor of their service to the Lord through the ministry of this congregation.

The council worked as a well-oiled machine. Our annual retreat was filled with learnings of the biblical St. Stephen and rejoicing upon reaching and even passing most of the goals of the strategic missional plan and planned in confidence for 2017. We proposed and passed a balanced budget for 2017.

You began a compassionate work with the children and needy families in Valencia, Venezuela. About \$4,000 were raised in benevolence, which was multiplied by Global Missions of the ELCA whom channelized through us \$18,706 towards this missional effort. Several shipments of food have been sent in 2017 and in 2018 now to aid our brothers and sisters.

3 people were baptized, 7 children received their First Holy Communion, and we received another 12 new members! We continued with Sunday School and a Vacation Bible School. For the first time we dared to do an "Ashes to Go" on Ash Wednesday. There were 2 opportunities for Bible Studies, one during Lent and another one before the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

In terms of stewardship and assets analysis, we increased the rent of the Fellowship Hall from \$350 to \$500, and from the preschool from \$1,900 to \$3,000. I preached about stewardship at least once a month, making it a year-round reminder that it is a spiritual matter. In spite of the tumbled year we had, our regular giving kept coming faithfully and growing. We updated our technological system with new computers and a better digital system.

I proposed to improve the looks and use of the formerly called Choir Room, and renovate it, calling it the Luther Room. Monies are still being received towards that purpose. The bell tower was painted as a statement to our neighboring community of our commitment to improvement.

Then we were surprised by Hurricane Irma. In spite of our somewhat \$5,000 in damage, you generously gave \$5,000 to alleviate the ones affected by Harvey, Irma and Maria via the Florida-Bahamas Synod. Just that is a sign of growth in faith!

In September, Interim Bishop Lohmann called me to assist him a few hours as an interim DEM. You shared me with the synod. That was another sign of your goodwill and partnership with the ELCA as a whole.

Then came the biggest surprise as the Synod Assembly elected me as Bishop. What a bittersweet news that was! The Spirit has been guiding us all along, we received Pastor Sid Nelson as an interim and I was able to serve you on weekends until the end of the year. And you supported my wife, Aura, in her process and consecration as a Deacon of the ELCA.

I thank you very much for your loving and prayerful support, for the beautiful bishop's ring given with so much love, and for just being who you are. Please continue to pray as we all continue in this transition, for Aura and me as we find a new house near Tampa, as we adapt to this new servant task, and for you as God sends you the right permanent pastor which I hope will happen soon.

With gratitude and love in Christ,

Rev. Pedro M, Suarez, Bishop

Florida-Bahamas Synod, ELCA

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.



As we start this month we have 8 side chairs that are designed to be placed in the chancel and also in the nave.

Two will be placed on either side of the altar (for certain times and seasons). The current folding chairs next to the assisting minister

seat and pastor's seat up at the pulpit will be replaced with these chapel chairs. Two of them will be placed in front of the first pews on the left and right. The last two will be placed in the middle of the sanctuary, replacing the folding chairs we are currently using. Such side chairs usually begin in price at about \$250 each. The special purchase chairs will cost \$75 each. These gifts can be given to the glory of God and in memory of A loved one or to the glory of God and in honor of someone. Of the chairs, one has already been donated before the order was even placed. The remaining seven chairs are open to all the members and visitors of the congregation who wish to make this gift. God bless you and your thoughtfulness and kindness.



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

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Sidney Nelson

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

We're on the web
www.ststephenlutheran.net
 *** Check the Video Sermons

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



Volunteer Assistants in March 2018

10:15 am	<u>March 4</u>	<u>March 11</u>	<u>March 18</u>	<u>March 25</u> <i>Palm Sunday</i>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Pat Belanger	Natalie Prego	Carol Jacobson	Sera Butz
ACOLYTE	Katie Paff	Sera Butz	Aiyana Cartwright	Madison Kibler
LECTOR	Erika Flanigan	Kevin Otterson	Catherine Zippay	Rosie Fennelli
USHERS -Need 4 to Serve	Suzanne Loggins Harry Ambrose Patricia Engle Linda Hanzlik (w) Rosie Fennelli	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	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle	Caroline Smith Zachary Smith	Katie Paff Pat Belanger
SOUND	Dennis Magarrell	Katie Paff	Dennis Magarrell	Eric Castaneda
PROJECTION	Larry Jones	Eric Castaneda	Larry Jones	Larry Jones

March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours 12:15 am & 7:00 pm Midweek Worship	2 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	3 9am Breakfast Bunch
4 10:15 Worship 11:30 Worshipping Commission 11:45 Confirmation	5 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours 7:00pm Council Meeting	6 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	7 9am Quilters 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	8 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours 12:15 am & 7:00 pm Midweek Worship 7:30 pm Choir Practice	9 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	10
11 10:15 Worship 11:45 Jewelry Party	12 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	13 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	14 9am Quilters 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	15 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours 12:15 am & 7:00 pm Midweek Worship 7:30 pm Choir Practice	16 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	17 7:30pm Comedian Concert
18 10:15am Worship (Gospel Elvis Concert)	19 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	20 9:3am - 12:30pm Office Hours	21 9am Quilters 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	22 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours 12:15 am & 7:00 pm Midweek Worship 7:30 pm Choir Practice	23 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	24 F.H. Rented
25 Palm Sunday 10:15am Worship Procession of the Palms	26 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	27 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	28 9am Quilters 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	29 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours 7:30pm Maundy Thursday (Communion) 7:30pm Choir Practice	30 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00pm Good Friday Tenebrae	31