

**St Stephen**  
Lutheran Church, ELCA

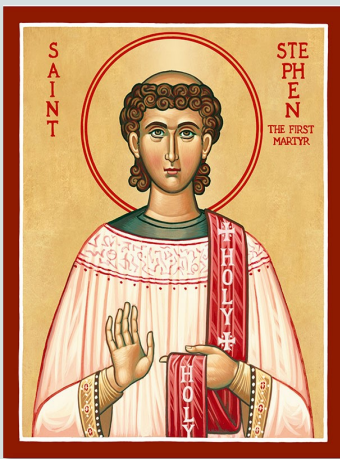
# The Messenger

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

March 2019

## Sunday Schedule:

- ✘ **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 Observe Ash Wednesday
- ⇒ Upcoming Happenings and Events
- ⇒ Looking ahead
- ⇒ Calendar

## A Letter from Our Pastor

Dear sisters and brothers,

“Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.”—Joel:2:13

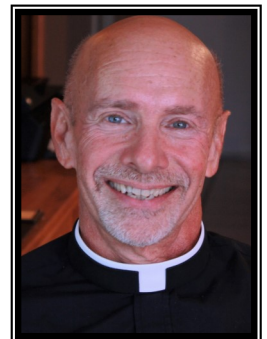
In Lent, the people of God are being called to a journey of return that is attentive to what God is saying and doing. Each Lent we come once again to the heart of the church’s year; the heart of what Christian discipleship is all about; the heart of who God is; and the depth of God’s love and mercy for us and for the whole world. We embark on forty days of journey and renewal, forty days of returning to the Lord our God.

I look at Lent as an amazing gift! I invite you to unwrap this gift and join me in turning away from the things that so often preoccupy us in the wilderness of our daily lives and move in another direction. Let this season be one of reflection on what is truly important: a reflection on the grace of baptism, and our call to daily baptismal living in light of the death and resurrection of Jesus and our union with him and each other, joined to the paschal mystery in the waters of baptism.

My prayer is that these will be forty days of refreshment and renewal for all of us. Enter with joy into the discipline of Lent. Make it a point to worship on Ash Wednesday and every Sunday in Lent. Make it a point to attend one of the simple Thursday celebrations of the Eucharist. Each week we will spend a few minutes together reflecting on what it means to be a baptized disciple of Jesus Christ—namely, to live among God’s faithful people; to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s Supper; to proclaim the good news of God in Christ in word and deed; to serve all people according to the example of Jesus; and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Make it a point to give generously to our Change for Change tower as we support the “Forty Days of Giving” for ELCA World Hunger.

Renewed by this forty-day journey, we will be ready once more to enter into the events of the great and holy week of our salvation, and the Three Days that stand at the center of the Christian faith, from Maundy Thursday evening through Easter. In returning to the Lord on this journey together we will find light in the darkness, abundance in sacrifice, power in service, and most importantly—life in death. Let the journey begin!

Pastor Bob





## Living Lutheran series: Why do we observe Ash Wednesday?

This is the seventh 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](mailto:pastoratststephen@gmail.com).

Ash Wednesday is the Wednesday of the seventh week before Easter and the first day of Lent. This year that is this Wednesday, March 6.

The day is named for the practice of imposing ashes, a practice that many Lutheran congregations have found to be a very meaningful part of the Ash Wednesday liturgy. Using ashes as a sign of repentance is an ancient practice, often mentioned in the Bible (e.g., Jonah 3:5-9; Job 42:6; Jeremiah 6:26; Matthew 11:21). The early Christians adopted the use of ashes from Jewish practice as an external mark of penitence.



Ashes symbolize several aspects of our human existence:

- ✦ Ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sin, as God said to Adam, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19).
- ✦ Ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. They were used anciently in the absence of soap. Even on Ash Wednesday, this most penitential day, we receive ashes in the form of the cross, the same symbol placed on our bodies with water in our baptism. Even in this ashen mark of death, we anticipate the new life of Easter.
- ✦ Ashes remind us of the shortness of human life, for it is said as we are buried into the ground. "We commit this body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 284).
- ✦ Ashes are a symbol of our need to repent, confess our sins, and return to God.

The liturgy for Ash Wednesday is found in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (p. 251). On this day we begin using purple vestments for Lent. Purple is the color of penitence. In the liturgy, the confession and imposition of ashes follow the sermon and hymn of the day.

Following an Invitation to keep a holy Lent, confession marks the beginning of a season of penitence. The absolution that we will hear on Maundy Thursday is the structural response to the Ash Wednesday confession, marking off Lent as a penitential time. At the conclusion of the Ash Wednesday confession and imposition of ashes, a declaration of grace is used, coupled with a plea for mercy. A similar plea for God's grace will replace the usual words of absolution (forgiveness) at the start of our Sunday Liturgy of Holy Communion throughout Lent.

Those who desire to receive ashes come forward in a procession similar to coming to communion. Ashes are applied with the minister's thumb in the form of a small cross on the forehead of each person with the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

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



### — Ash Wednesday, March 6

Ash Wednesday Liturgy 12:15 and 7:00pm

Distribution of Ashes (Drive up) in front of fellowship hall from 8:00- 9:30 AM.

### —Bishop's Lenten Visit & Chrism Eucharist March 16 9:00am- St. James/Santiago Apostol, Coral Gables

A day of reflection, worship, and renewal. Bp. Suarez will celebrate a Eucharist with the renewal of consecration/ordination vows for rostered ministers and the blessing and distributing of chrism oil used at Baptism.

### —The Book of Acts Bible Study will return the week after Easter

Attend Thursday Lenten Worship!

### —Wear your St. Stephen name badge:

It is important that St. Stephen is a place where everybody knows your name! Please wear your name tag every time you come to worship or another event at the church.



### JOIN US! EACH THURSDAY IN LENT

12:15PM & 7:00PM

DISCIPLESHIP:

LIVING OUR BAPTISM

Simple Eucharist & Message

Lent is the time to get back to basics.

**Each week we explore one of five faith practices that mark baptismal living!**

The liturgy for the Affirmation of Baptism describes the faith practices that grow out of our baptism (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, page 236). Our call is to:

*"...live among God's faithful people; hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper; proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed; serve all people following the example of Jesus; and strive for justice and peace in all the earth."*

## Looking ahead...

SAVE THE DATE—HEALTHY CONGREGATION RETREAT—April 26-27

As part of the first year in any new call, the Office of the Bishop expects congregations and their new pastor to engage in a Healthy Congregation Retreat. All members of St. Stephen are invited to attend ours Friday evening, April 26 and Saturday, April 27. Details to follow. Hold the dates now for this important time of growing together.

## A Note of Thanks from Threads of Love Quilters:



Quilt Sunday was a beautiful Mass. Thank you Pastor Bob for giving us this opportunity to display some of our handmade quilts. Thank you, for your very generous Love Offering donations. It is very much appreciated. The donations will help us to purchase more material and supplies we need so we can continue to help those in the community.

### Our faithful quilters are:

Nancy Anderson, Julie Barfield, Lucille Capece, Marlene Derynda, Betty Ellinger, Marilyn Gallese, Carol Greenwood, Kathy Leone, Diane Moss, Rita Roemer, Jocelia Travisano, Lynn Vatrál and Sherry Walters.

Blessings,  
Kathy Leone-Leader



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 Ph. (954) 942-4473

Pastor: The Rev. Robert G. Schaefer

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



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



## Volunteer Assistants in March 2019

10:15 AM	March 3	March 10	March 17	March 24	March 31
<b>ASSISTING MINISTER</b>	Pat Belanger	Sera Butz	Natalie Prego	Carol Jacobson	Pat Belanger
<b>ACOLYTE</b>	Katie Paff	Madison Kibler	Sera Butz	Katie Paff	Madison Kibler
<b>LECTOR</b>	Kevin Otterson	Rita Sharkey	Carisa Esposito	Catherine Zippay	Tom Peterson
<b>USHERS— Need 4 to serve</b>	Suzanne Loggins Jeanne Pettit Lisa Castaneda (w) Lynda Smith	Karen Breslin Linda Hanzlik (w) R. Mottershead Zachary Smith	Rosie Fennelli (w) Jimmy Fennelli Harry Ambrose Patricia Engle	Suzanne Loggins Jeanne Pettit Lynda Smith (w) Zachary Smith (w)	Marsha Kibler (w) Drew Kibler Darin Kibler Catherine Zippay
<b>Head Usher</b>	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli
<b>GREETERS— Need 2 to serve</b>	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones	Rose Jones Kelly Jacobson	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle	Rose Jones Kelly Jacobson
<b>SOUND</b>	Dennis Magarrell	Katie Paff	Dennis Magarrell	Sera Butz	Katie Paff
<b>PROJECTION</b>	Sera Butz	Larry Jones	Jake VanZile	Dennis Magarrell	Larry Jones

(w) will serve wine at communion

# March 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 31 10:15am <b>Holy Communion</b> 11:45am—12:45pm Confirmation Ministry					1 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	2
3 10:15am <b>Holy Communion</b> 11:45am—12:45pm Confirmation Ministry	4 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	5 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours 6:00pm Fat Tuesday	6 8:00-9:30 Drive Up Ashes 9am Quilters 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours 12:00pm & 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Liturgy	7 12:15pm & 7:00pm <b>Holy Communion</b> 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours 7:45pm Choir Rehearsal	8 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	9
10 10:15am <b>Holy Communion</b> 11:45am—12:45pm Confirmation Ministry 11:30am Socializing Comm.	11 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	12 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	13 9am Quilters 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	14 12:15pm & 7:00pm <b>Holy Communion</b> 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	15 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	16 9:00am Bishop’s Visitation—Coral Gables 11:00am Funeral James Vitale
17 10:15am <b>Holy Communion</b> 11:45am—12:45pm Confirmation Ministry	18 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	19 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	20 9am Quilters 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	21 12:15pm & 7:00pm <b>Holy Communion</b> 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	22 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	23
24 10:15am <b>Holy Communion</b> 11:45am—12:45pm Confirmation Ministry 11:30am Worship Team	25 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	26 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	27 9am Quilters 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	28 12:15pm & 7:00pm <b>Holy Communion</b> 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	29 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	30 Garage Sale