

**St Stephen**  
Lutheran Church, ELCA

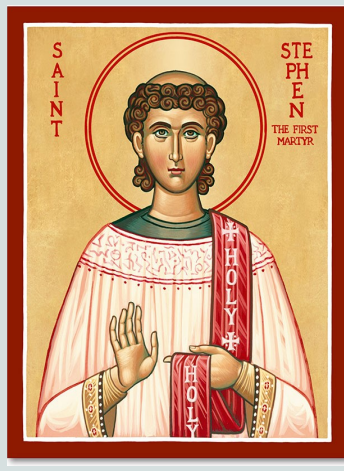
# The Messenger

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

May 2019

## Sunday Schedule:

- ✠ **9:15 a.m.**  
Adult Bible Study
- ✠ **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:
- ⇒ Upcoming Happenings and Events
- ⇒ Looking ahead
- ⇒ Calendar

## A Letter from Our Pastor

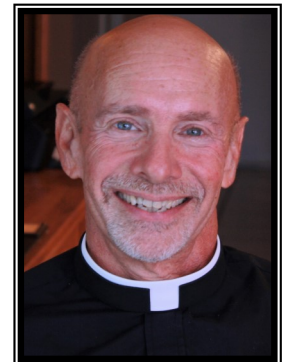
Dear sisters and brothers,

The weekend of April 26 and 27 about 20 members of the St. Stephen community participated in a Healthy Congregations Retreat sponsored by the Office of the Bishop and facilitated by Pr. Don Reiter. The purpose of the retreat is to promote healthier, stronger, more mission-focused congregations. I want to share a few thoughts especially for those of you who did not participate.

The New Testament speaks of the church as a living system – “the body of Christ.” St. Paul makes it clear that the body of Christ is a whole comprised of many parts, yet functioning as one. So, what are some things that help create health in congregations? What advances rather than impedes vibrant mission in local congregations? I invite you to simply take a few minutes to read each point on this partial list, and then intentionally take a moment to reflect on what that might mean specifically for you and how you can play your part in making St. Stephen a healthy, vibrant, missional community:

Healthy congregations –

- ⇒ Accept differences, rather than deny them.
- ⇒ Focus on their strengths, rather than weaknesses
- ⇒ Focus on mission, rather than “getting along,” the past, survival, the pastor, or some other thing or issue.
- ⇒ Respond to anxiety and change, rather than react.
- ⇒ Manage conflict, rather than deny it.
- ⇒ Act flexibly and creatively instead of rigidly
- ⇒ Leaders challenge people, instead of comforting them.
- ⇒ People empower others, rather than dominating them (permission givers, not “gate keepers”)
- ⇒ Practice stewardship gratefully and willingly, rather than begrudgingly.
- ⇒ Hospitality is offered equally to all, instead of favoritism for the few or the like-minded.
- ⇒ Beginning again is a way of life, instead of staying stuck (it is Easter after all!!!)



In the joy of the Risen Christ,

Pastor Bob



## Living Lutheran series: What is that Big Candle up front?

This is the ninth 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).

### WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE?

**LIGHT**  
The light of Christ that shines in the darkness.

**FIRE**  
It represents Christ's resurrection.

**GRAINS OF INCENSE**  
They represent the 5 wounds of Christ.



**ALPHA AND OMEGA**  
Christ is the beginning and end of all things.

**CROSS**  
It represents Christ and his eternal light.

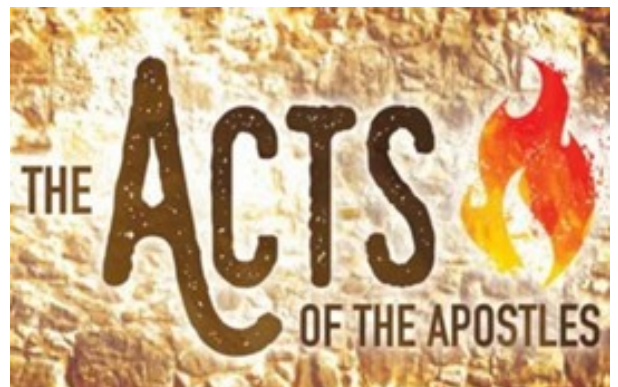
**YEAR**  
It reminds us of God's presence here and now.

Throughout the 50 Days of Easter, the Paschal (or Easter) Candle burns on the left side (the "gospel side") of the altar at every service. It is inscribed and blessed each year at the Vigil of Easter and is the primary symbol of the Risen Christ in the church. It is our visual reminder that Christ is risen!

As the sign of the risen Christ, after the Feast of Pentecost, it is moved to a position next to the baptismal font and lit at every baptism. It also is lit at every funeral. The lit Paschal Candle on these occasions reminds us that baptism joins us to Christ's death and resurrection and death completes our baptismal journey to Christ. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

### Check out our Bible Study: The Book of Acts

We have resumed our weekly study of the Book of the Acts of the Apostles. It is not too late to join! We gather for this conversation in the Luther Room every Tuesday from 7—8pm. The class will be repeated Sunday mornings at 9:15am in the Pastor's Office (Room 1). 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 friend and join us Tuesday evenings or Sunday mornings!



## News, Happenings and Events...

*Thank you*



We had a great Easter Breakfast—thank you everyone who attended. Special thanks to those who brought an enormous amount of food to share. Carol Jacobson and the Socializing Team also want to say a special word of thanks to Chef Christopher Belanger for the scrambled eggs and sausage, the worshipping commission (Rosie Fennelli) for their help, Natalie Prego and Carisa Esposito for making the Easter Egg Hunt great, and Rita Sharkey for the table decorations.

### CHOIR NOTES

Many thanks to our "snowbird" choir members, who have made it possible for some wonderful choir music this season: Marti Stroberg, Kathy Hopkins, Rita Sharkey, Laurie Matarazzo, and Joyce Franconilla. We look forward to your return in the Fall. And we make the invitation for other winter visitors to join us, even if its for only one or two or a few weeks while you are in South Florida next season.



For our year-round residents, think about joining

us for our **summer choir**. We will sing regularly through the month of May, then usually once a month June through September. Come try us out! Watch for news of the schedule.

### *Sing to the Lord a new song!*

### **The Holy Grill feeding ministry needs you!**

Here is the list of food and goods we are collecting. Bring items to the narthex any Sunday.

#### **Top Needs this month:**

**Men's/women's Underwear\***

**Men's/women's Socks\***

**Men's/women's casual clothes\***

Canned Goods

Sloppy Joe mix,

Individual Juices, Bottled Water, Tea, Kool aid, Plastic Utensils

You may also donate money designated for the Holy Grill for equipment for such as: Ice Machine, Ovens, Walk-in Refrigeration, as well as food.

**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS** for Wednesdays from 9-10am. Contact Pastor Bob.



## Looking ahead...



### **Breakfast Bunch—May 4**

Join us Saturday, May 4 at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall for a very special

breakfast! This will be a time to honor and say thank you to all mothers as we get ready to observe Mother's Day. Please bring a dish to share! All are welcome!

### **Interested in joining St. Stephen?**

If you have been worshipping here for a while and just haven't formally become part of this community, we would love to have you become part of us. The next opportunity to join St. Stephen Church will be the Feast of Pentecost, June 9. If you would take to take advantage of this opportunity to become a disciple at St. Stephen, please check off the box on the attendance card with your name and full contact information. Pr. Bob will be in touch with you regarding scheduling a group orientation before June 9.



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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](mailto:sslcpompano@gmail.com)  
And like us on.....  
[www.facebook.com/sslcpompano](http://www.facebook.com/sslcpompano)



**MAY HOLY GRILL VOLUNTEERS:**

- May 8 Kevin Otterson, John Partipilo
- May 15 Carol Jacobson, Juliet Crawford
- May 22 Karen Breslin, Carol Jacobson
- May 29 Joe Leone, Juliet Crawford

**Volunteer Assistants in May 2019**

10:15 AM	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26
<b>ASSISTING MINISTER</b>	Carol Jacobson	Natalie Prego	Sera Butz	Carol Jacobson
<b>ACOLYTE</b>	Katie Paff	Sera Butz	Pat Belanger	Madison Kibler
<b>LECTOR</b>	Erika Flanigan	Kevin Otterson	Tom Peterson	Carisa Esposito
<b>USHERS— Need 4 to serve</b>	Suzanne Loggins Lisa Castaneda (w) Catherine Zip-pay R. Mottesheard	Lynda Smith Zachary Smith (w) R. Mottesheard Pat Engle	Lisa Castaneda Karin Breslin Rosie Fennelli (w) Jeanne Pettit	Marsha Kibler (w) Drew Kibler Darin Kibler Erika Flanigan
<b>Head Usher</b>	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli
<b>GREETERS— Need 2 to serve</b>	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle
<b>SOUND</b>	Dennis Magarrell	Katie Paff	Eric Castaneda	Dennis Magarrell
<b>PROJECTION</b>	Jake VanZile	Eric Castaneda	Jake VanZile	Larry Jones

(w) will serve wine at communion

**May 2019**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9-10am Holy Grill 9am Quilters 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	2 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	3 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	4 9am Breakfast Bunch
5 9:15am Acts Bible Study 10:15am <b>Holy Communion</b> 11:45am—12:45pm Confirmation Ministry	6 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	7 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours  7:00pm Acts Bible Study	8 9-10am Holy Grill 9am Quilters 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	9 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	10 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	11
12 9:15am Acts Bible Study 10:15am <b>Holy Communion</b> 11:45am—12:45pm Confirmation Ministry	13 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	14 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours  7:00pm Acts Bible Study	15 9-10am Holy Grill 9am Quilters 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	16 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	17 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	18 F.H. Rented  Broward Bahamas Conference Meeting  4:00pm Baptism
19 9:15am Acts Bible Study 10:15am <b>Holy Communion</b> 11:30am Socializing Commission 11:45am—12:45pm Confirmation Ministry	20 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	21 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours  7:00pm Acts Bible Study	22 9-10am Holy Grill 9am Quilters 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	23 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	24 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	25 F.H. Rented
26 9:15am Acts Bible Study  10:15am <b>Holy Communion</b> 11:45am—12:45pm Confirmation Ministry	27 Office Closed  Memorial Day	28 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours  7:00pm Acts Bible Study	29 9-10am Holy Grill 9am Quilters 9:30am - 12:30pm Office Hours	30	31	