



## Encouraging and strengthening faith in Jesus, and sharing the joy of God's love.

March 26, 2017

Fourth Sunday in Lent

9:00am & 10:15am

Rev. Pedro Suarez, Pastor

### -WE GATHER----

### **INTRODUCTION**

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. I was blind, but now I see, declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved sons and daughters. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

WELCOME

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Please stand as you are able.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

### C: Amen.

P: During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart. Let us confess our sin and seek reconciliation with God and neighbor.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

C: You sent Jesus Christ to save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We fail in love, neglect justice, and ignore your truth. Have mercy on us and wash away our sin. Create in us clean hearts for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

P: Behold, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation. Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

### C: Amen.



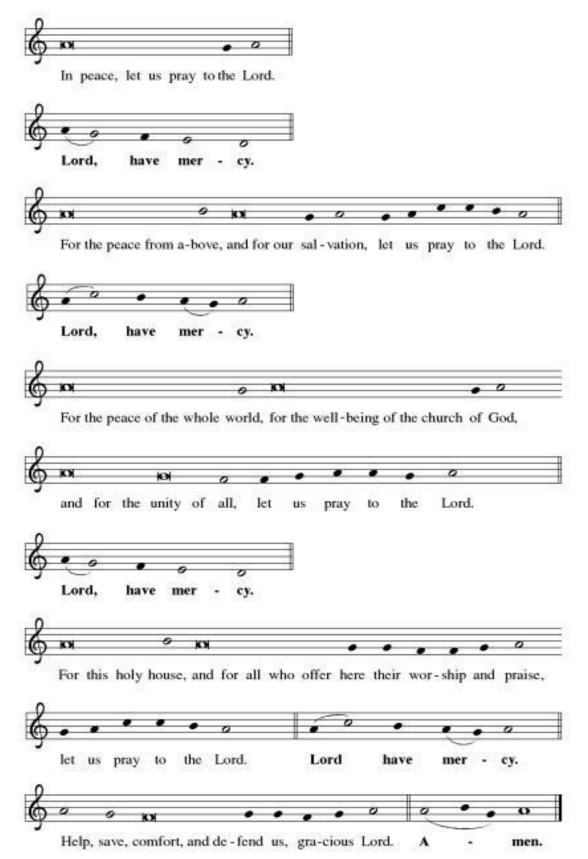
Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–1684, sts. 1–3; *Gesangbuch*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, adapt. Music: LIEBSER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673

### THE 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.

### THE KYRIE



### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

### P: Let us pray together:

C: Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **Children's Message**

### —WE HEAR GOD'S WORD—

### **FIRST READING:**

### 1 Samuel 16:1-13

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup>Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." <sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup>He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." <sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup>Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." <sup>12</sup>He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." <sup>13</sup>Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

L: This is the word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.** 

### PSALM 23

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

### **SECOND READING:**

### Ephesians 5:8-14

<sup>8</sup>Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— <sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; <sup>13</sup>but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." **Amen.** 

L: This is the word of the Lord.

### C: Thanks be to God.

P: Please stand as you are able for the Gospel Acclamation.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Return to the Lord"



P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter.

### C: Glory to you, O Lord!

### **GOSPEL:**

### John 9:1-41

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup>When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup>He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." <sup>12</sup>They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup>but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup>He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup>They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup>He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" <sup>28</sup>Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup>The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.

<sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." <sup>34</sup>They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. <sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup>He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.

<sup>" 38</sup>He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind."
<sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?"
<sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

### C: Praise to you, O Christ!

P: You may be seated.

### SERMON

**Rev. Pedro Suarez** 

CCLI#4768151

### — WE RESPOND —

P: Please stand as you are able for the Sermon Song.

### **SERMON SONG:**

### Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Amazing grace how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me I once was lost but now I'm found Was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear And grace my fears relieved How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed.

My chains are gone I've been set free My God my Savior has ransomed me And like a flood His mercy rains Unending love amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me His word my hope secures He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow The sun forbear to shine But God who called me here below Will be forever mine Will be forever mine You are forever mine.

### **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.

### **RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

- P: These persons have come to us from other Lutheran congregation and desire to be members of our community of faith. They are: Frank Trudelle, Richard Dunton, Erika Flanigan, Dawm Schramm and Regina Crockett.
- P: Let us welcome them among us.
- C: We welcome you as members of St. Stephen Lutheran Church to join with us in worshiping God, hearing his Word and sharing his supper, proclaiming the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, serving all people, and striving for justice and peace in all the earth.

### THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

A: Lifting our voices and turning toward God, let us pray for the church, the earth, and all who are in need.

After each petition of the prayer is said:

### A: Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love; through Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.** 

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

### C: And also with you.

P: Let us share with one another the peace of the Lord.

### - WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE -

### **OFFERING**

#### **Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery MUSICAL OFFERING:** ELW #334 (verses 1,2,3, and Lent 4) Tree Life of and awe \_ some mys ťry, in your mem love passed We truth ken. 2 re ber once spo -З Christ, you lead and we shall fol low. stum - bling ь death born: though you all of we are re die in through word; `ry on act and ev per son lost and though our steps be; with may one you in joy and still you rise with morn, still you his ťry, 'ry ev ken the bod - y of Lord, bro wears our wears the riv - er, sor row, we the you the sea, we the with ev 'ry morn. rise bod - y of our Lord. riv - er, you the sea

One of the following may be sung as a final stanza at the appropriate time.

#### General

Light of life beyond conceiving, mighty Spirit of our Lord; give new strength to our believing, give us faith to live your word

#### Lent 1

From the dawning of creation you have loved us as your own; stay with us through all temptation, make us turn to you alone.

#### Lent 2

In our call to be a blessing, may we be a blessing true; may we live and die confessing Christ as Lord of all we do.

#### Lent 3

Living Water of salvation, be the fountain of each soul; springing up in new creation, flow in us and make us whole.

#### Lent 4

Give us eyes to see you clearly; make us children of your light. Give us hearts to live more nearly as your gospel shining bright.

#### Lent 5

God of all our fear and sorrow, God who lives beyond our death, hold us close through each tomorrow, love as near as every breath.

#### Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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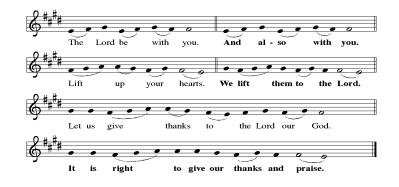
### **OFFERING PRAYER**

A: God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

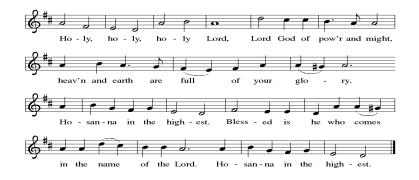
### C: Amen.

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

### Dialogue (Sung)



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness

to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

### C: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

### Christ will come again.

P: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

### C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **C: Come, Holy Spirit.** 

P: With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **C: Amen.** 

### The Lord's Prayer

P: And now, we come to You in prayer, as our Savior Jesus has taught us:

C: 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.

### Invitation of Communion

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

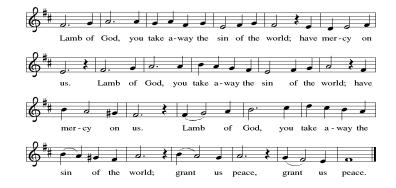
We believe Jesus Christ is present in the bread and wine by his Word of Promise. All baptized Christians are invited to participate in the celebration of God's forgiving love, strengthening faith, and grace-filled hope. Those who are not baptized and children not yet communing may come forward for a blessing (please cross your arms on your chest if you desire a blessing).

### **Reception of Communion**

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

Communion distribution is continuous. Please come forward by the center aisle and receive the bread in your hands as you hear the words "The body of Christ, given for you" to which you may respond, "Amen." You may then dip the bread into the cup as you hear the words "The blood of Christ, shed for you," to which you may respond, "Amen." Please note that the communion wine is alcohol-free. Please indicate if you need gluten-free elements.

### "LAMB OF GOD"



### **Communion Song:**

**You Are Mine** 

ELW #581



Text: David Haas, b. 1957 Music: YOU ARE MINE, David Haas Text and music © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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**Instrumental Music** 

### **Cesar Vidaud**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

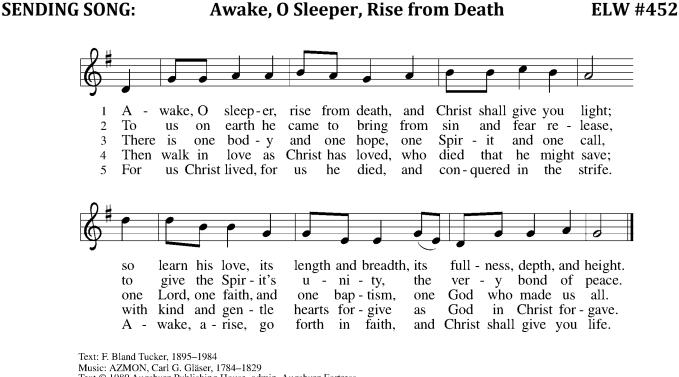
### C: Amen.

### -WE ARE SENT FORTH-

### **Benediction**

P: Almighty God, Father, 🕂 Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



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**DISMISSAL** A: Go in peace. Share the joy of God's love. **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: We also need to pray for, Jan Danker, Diane Adler, Jean Rogers, Katie, Christopher Belanger, Janet Isner, Paul Hanzlik, Roy Kaptain, Bob & Jane Reinhold, Chico E., and C.C.

**Prayers for Friends of the Church**: Dennis Vancour, Myrka Alverist's family, Maggie Alverist, Helen and Faith Dawson, Barbara Taylor, Ann Farrell, JoAnn Medalie, Normagene Richardson, Aiden Chase, Brenna Taylor, Rita Stevenson, Mike, Barbara Greco, Dr. Willis Allen, Eleanor Knauf, Vera Debolt, Martha Hamze, Alessandra, Cheryl, Nick Caldwell Sr., Lucille Capece, Lexie Sachlis, George F., David Spall, Joan Coletti, Isolina Quintana, Adam Rubino, Berna, Braemen Weiner, Chandler Weiner, Debbie Seckel, Elizabeth Kraus, Hazel Quire, Juan Tavarez, Kenneth Smith, Mary Taylor, Norma Duckworth, Cynthia, Richard H., and Laurie Engelhardt.

We are always updating our prayer list. If you would like your name added or removed, please notify Pat Belanger or the office.

Flowers sponsored this week by: The Lauterberg family in memory of Evelyn Briggs.

## Announcements

**LENTEN SERVICES:** We have two opportunities for Lenten services; you can either come Wednesdays at 12:15pm (followed by a Bible study at 12:45pm) or on Thursdays at 7pm.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Every Sunday at 11:15 am we have our Sunday school. Children leave right after Holy Communion. Call the church office to register a child or for more information.

**VOLUNTEERS FOR ALTAR CARE:** We need volunteers for Altar Care to set up and take down communion on Sundays. Note: If training needed contact Pat Belanger.

**CHILI COOK OFF:** 1<sup>ST</sup> Annual Florida-Bahamas Synod Chili Cook-off will be host by Zion Lutheran on April 1, 2017 at 4:00p.m. Each participating Church may enter up three 3 entries.

	,
10:15 AM	<u>March 26</u>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Carol Jacobson
ACOLYTE	Madison Kibler
LECTOR	Rick Dunton
USHERS –Need 4 to Serve	Marsha Kibler
	Drew Kibler
	Darin Kibler
	Sherry Fox
Head Usher	
	Rosie Fennelli
GREETERS – Need 2 to	Kelly Jacobson
Serve	Rose Jones
SOUND	Sera Butz
PROJECTION	Chris Castaneda

### Service Assistants for today



Make sure you like our Facebook page! This will help others find our congregation and help us to promote our mission. Go to www.facebook.com/sslcpompano



# Encouraging and strengthening faith in Jesus, and sharing the joy of God's love.

### Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Holy Communion is celebrated weekly

### **Church Staff**

Rev. Pedro Suarez – Pastor ststephenpastor@gmail.com Cesar Vidaud – Director of Music Clarence (Teddy) Rowe – Sexton Aidee Koach – Administrative Assistant sslcpompano@gmail.com

### **Congregation Council**

Larry Jones - President councilpresident@ststephenlutheran.net

Christian Hecker – Vice-president Natalie Prego - Secretary Patricia Engle Dennis Magarrell Eric Castaneda - Treasurer Lynda Smith Harry Ambrose

Office hours: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 Mon- Fri

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