



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

APRIL 2017



As you are reading this, we are still in the season of Lent, which began on Ash Wednesday. This year, Ash Wednesday was on March 1. During the season of Lent, for 40 days, we walk together as Christ's disciples. We are reminded of the life in which baptism calls us.

Easter will be on April 16. Unlike Christmas, the date for Easter, and hence the date for Ash Wednesday, is not fixed. In 325 CE, the Council of Nicaea established Easter as being celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox. The vernal equinox is the time in the spring when day and night are the same length of time all over the world.

This approach to setting the time of celebration of our Lord's resurrection sounds interesting, doesn't it? It's tied to Passover. Passover, or *pesach* in Hebrew, begins on the first full moon after the spring equinox and lasts for seven days. Passover recalls God's saving the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. This story of the first Passover is found in Exodus 12. On the first night of Passover, each household slaughtered a lamb, and it was shared as a meal.

Just as God saved the Israelites, God saves us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus is the paschal lamb. Our meal is the bread and wine, the body and blood of Christ, shared in community with one another. Over the second and third centuries, Easter became fixed to a Sunday.

By the fourth century, Christians began one continuous worship service commemorating the Last Supper and foot washing, Jesus' death, and his resurrection. You might notice that during the Three Days, there is only one benediction. This is our liturgical way of expressing that Jesus' life cannot be separated from his death, which cannot be separated from his resurrection.

We are more than just Christmas and Easter people! If we tell the story without Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection, he is either simply a healer or a political revolutionary. Of course, the Three Days may raise more questions than it gives answers; it remains the *Paschal Mystery*. It's one for us to experience together, in community. The mystery of Christ's death and resurrection is "not primarily a past event but is experienced in the present by the baptized community that is drawn by the Spirit into a future promised by God."¹

In the waters of baptism, Christ calls us to participate in his life, death and resurrection. I invite you to come and experience Christ in our worship services during Holy Week!

Pastor Cheryl Ann Griffin

¹ Ramshaw, Gail and Teig, Mons. *Keeping Time*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2009. p. 97.

Nourishment During Lent and Easter

Wednesday Night Teaching:

April 5, 7:00 PM—The Sacrament of the Altar

- 6:00 PM—Soup Supper (with food provided by those who have signed up)
- 7:00 PM—Evening Prayer



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 13, Maundy Thursday Worship at St. Martin's Episcopal Church:

- 7:00 PM—During this Holy Communion service, those who are interested will be invited to give and receive foot-washing. We will recall the story in John's gospel of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples, remembering that we are also to serve each other as the Body of Christ. The service concludes with the stripping of the altar in preparation for Good Friday.

April 14, Good Friday Worship at St. Stephen:

- 7:00 PM—*Tenebrae*, the Service of Shadows. A contemplative service of readings and prayer.

April 15, the Easter Vigil:

- 8:00 PM—This most dramatic worship service begins in darkness. With hand-held candles we enter into an ancient chant. In half-light we hear Scripture readings of God's salvation history, and we return to our baptisms. We end in full light, with the first Holy Communion of Easter.

April 16, Easter Sunday:

- 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM—Festival Easter worship.
- 8:30-11:00 AM—Easter breakfast. Bring a dish to share.



April Baptismal Anniversaries

Those celebrating anniversaries of their new birth in Christ:

	Fred Haecker	
2	Gloria Lineberger	Daniel Owens
3	Mark Gulesian	
4	Thord Einarsen	Cynthia Touhsaent
5	Hannah Pierce	
7	Cricket Reubush	
9	Tommy Peterkin	
10	Paul Black	Brad Jefferson
	Brandon Jefferson	Brock Jefferson
	Justice Jefferson	
12	Gretchen Osborn	
13	Karen Nester	
14	Brian Bergh	
16	Gwen Agor	
20	Nancy Egloff	
22	Chris Einarsen	Luke Sipes
23	Phyllis Spencer	
25	Jim Mayfield	
26	Diane Reeves	
29	Elizabeth Stein	

Music For Easter



Greetings, people of St. Stephen!

The Holy Week and Easter season will be an exciting time for music ministry. Our 8:30 and 11:00 AM choirs will be collaborating for anthems on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Our Maundy Thursday anthem will be *Ubi Caritas* by Maurice Duruflé, which was featured at the hymn festival this past January. The 9:30 AM service on Easter will include members of both choirs.

As many of you know, Easter Sunday will mark the end of my time at St. Stephen. It has been a pleasure to work with so many talented and enthusiastic musicians, and so many in the congregation have been supportive of me, musically and otherwise.

Marty Barstow, Music Director



April Preschool News

The children are learning a lot about the weather these last couple of months. Thank goodness for April!

We started off the month with spring break and jumped right into the routine to prepare for Easter; we are creating beautiful Easter Crosses, eggs and bunnies. Our Easter Egg Hunts will be on **April 12** and **13**. We will be closed Good Friday. Happy Easter!

We are awaiting the arrival of our caterpillars for the children to see the miracle of life as they watch them turn into beautiful butterflies. Kindergarten registration is Friday, **May 5**.

We will celebrate our Mothers and Grandparents in May. We will have our annual Mother's Day Brunch at Rocco's Smokehouse on **May 10** for all our four- and five-year-old children and their mothers.

We will have our annual Grandparent's Tea at the Preschool. The Bunnies will bring their Grandparents to school **May 10**, and the Cubs and Raccoons will bring their Grandparents on **May 11**. We sometimes need "surrogate" Grandparents, and volunteers would be greatly appreciated! Contact me at 757-229-6688.

Thank you!
Lauren McQuain



Another Luther Treatise



There has been such a great response to the opportunity to read Luther's own words in the *Large Catechism*, so let's try another after Easter. This is the treatise, "The Freedom of a Christian," which contains one of Luther's fundamental teachings: "The Christian individual is a completely free lord of all, subject to none. The Christian individual is a completely dutiful servant of all, subject to all." How can that be? Baptized into the death and resurrection of Christ, we are freed from sin and death; we no longer have to save ourselves. We are free to serve others.

- Study sessions will be Monday evenings, 7:00 PM, **April 17, 24**, and **May 1**; and Thursday afternoons, 2:00 PM, **April 20, 27**, and **May 4**.
- Copies of the treatise will cost \$8. E-mail me at pastorab@saintstephenlutheran.net, if you want to be included in our order, which includes a substantial volume discount. The deadline for ordering is Sunday, April 2.

More Upcoming Events in Our Commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

- An Evening of Food and Theater, **April 28**: "Reformation's Rib: Celebrating Katherine von Bora"—
 - We will gather for a pot luck dinner at 6:30 PM.
 - **Judy Cobb** will play Katie Luther, **Joe Philipoom** will play Martin Luther, and **Jim Cobb** will be the narrator.
- Mark your calendars for the Virginia Synod's "Power in the Spirit" event, **July 13-15**, at Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia—
 - The presenter will be Dr. Timothy Wengert, world renowned Reformation scholar (and two-time St. Stephen Theologian in Residence). Dr. Wengert's working title for his presentations is, "The Reformation for the 21st Century Church."



Stephen Ministry FAQ's

1. Why is this lay ministry called STEPHEN Ministry instead of ST. STEPHEN Ministry?

Stephen Ministry is a worldwide lay ministry; it is not unique to St. Stephen Lutheran Church. The Stephen Ministry is named in honor of Stephen, whose story is told in the sixth chapter of the book of Acts. The Apostles, guided by the Holy Spirit, commissioned a group of individuals to work with them to do acts of caring ministry. Stephen was one of those persons. Hence, Stephen became one of the first lay persons sent forth to do caring ministry.

Stephen Ministers are commissioned to do acts of caring ministry. Thus, it is appropriate for this lay ministry program to be named in honor of Stephen.

2. What does the Stephen Ministry logo represent?

The logo is intended to convey the meaning of Stephen Ministry.

A cross appears at the center of the logo to remind us that everything Stephen Ministers do is done in the name of Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit, and through his body—the church.

Two people are shown in the logo. Behind the cross is a broken person, a person in need of healing, a person in need of Christ's love and care. In front of the cross stands a person who has experienced the healing ministry of Christ, a person who has received the love and care of Jesus, a person who is being made whole.

The logo is designed to show that the path from brokenness to greater wholeness is through Jesus Christ and the ministry of Christ's people, including the ministry of Stephen Ministers.

3. How did Stephen Ministry begin?

It started at St. Stephen Evangelical Lutheran Church in St. Louis, Missouri, by Dr. Kenneth Haugk, who was serving as an associate pastor. It evolved

from three specific needs Dr. Haugk identified within the congregation:

- The need for lay people to be meaningfully involved in ministries that utilize their gifts.
- The need for the church staff to have assistance in ministering to those in need.
- The need for those experiencing struggles to receive high quality, distinctively Christian care.

This month, St. Stephen Lutheran Church is honored to celebrate **23** years of continuous Stephen Ministry. We give thanks to all the Stephen Ministers (both past and present) for their commitment to this ministry.

To learn more about Stephen Ministry, contact **Jane Wills** at 757-378-2715 or wilspwr@gmail.com.



We have exceeded the goal of 500 meals of protein for FISH pantry of emergency services to our people, by God's abundant grace. Who would have guessed we could reach that goal? "When you have done it unto the least of these, who are members of my family, you have done it unto me"—*Matthew 25*.



Thank you all, from the committee and the FISH organization, for sharing your gift of protein items to the pantry for those in need. Special thanks to the volunteers who delivered these heavy food products to the pantry each week: **Ward Bourn, Preston Burton** and **Marilyn Johnson**.

"Now Thank We All Our God."

Jim Ivey, Social Ministry
Dianne Harris, Coordinator



The Church Mouse Hears

... that Williamsburg Sentara Hospital sponsored a 2k walk in February on the William and Mary campus for patients who have had knee or hip replacements over the last two years, and three St. Stephen members who participated were **Susan Britcher**, **Jane DeSolms** (her coach) and **Randy Punchard**, pictured below with their medals at the Kaplan Arena finish line.



(L-R): Jane, Randy and Susan

St. Stephen Fed Many Homeless in 2016



The St. Stephen congregation has been participating in the "From His Hands" ministry (feeding the homeless who live in motels) over the last seven years. We call this community program our "motel ministry" in feeding the homeless who have nowhere else to go. St.

Stephen has two teams that alternate most months in preparing and delivering meals to people and their pets at two area motels; some months both hotels are served on the same night.

Many members of our congregation have participated in this service in different ways: offering prayer, donating money, cooking and assembling meals, and delivering meals to the motel.

To give you an idea of our activity, 1022 meals were served in 2016 (a combined total for the three motels that were served). Ninety animal meals were also provided. The meals break down as follows:

- Super 8 (now demolished): 58
- Family Inn: 378
- Motel 6: 586

These numbers are amazing and reflect the true ministry being performed here. We give thanks to all of you that have participated in some way and welcome any new folks who would like to join us. Please contact the church office or make note in the Sunday bulletin insert so we may contact you.

With God's blessings to all,

Randy Punchard

"Our Ministry to Those Who Are Hungry"



"Family Feud" Fundraiser for National Youth Gathering

Come on out to participate in a Family Feud evening! This will be a fundraiser toward the costs of sending our High School youth to ELCA's National Youth Gathering, **June 27-July 1, 2018**, in Houston, Texas.

On Friday, **March 31**, at 7 PM, come to Fellowship Hall to be part of the "studio audience" or to participate (if you choose) in a "Family Feud"-style game against the youth, MC'd by our own Lutheran Student Association member **Dalton Ruggieri**.

Light refreshments will be served and a goodwill offering will be collected. Expectations are for an evening filled with fun and laughter—good answer!

Stan and Soni York



April Birthdays

2	Clare Stimson	Ray Walker
3	Evon Crittenden	Marian Thies
4	John Harms	
5	Chris Einarsen	
	Paul Reier	
9	Gerri Bass	
10	Ingrid Brown	
11	Jack Behlendorf	Maddie Collins
	Carole Finch	Arthur Nelsen
12	Jenni Punchard	
13	Christina Davies	Sara Martin
14	George Bass	Jonathan Davies
	Ellen LaPlace	Meghan Osborn
16	Christine Hallman	
17	Julie Berry	Ken Spencer
18	Jo Hanny	
20	Bill Miller, Jr.	
21	Bob Groom	
23	Ellie Bailey	
24	Noah Delehanty	Bobbie Harms
25	Mary Swanson	
26	Rudy Stegmann	
29	Alan Balma	Jake Hughes
	Helen Nelsen	Susanna Owens
30	Paula Agor	Donna Crinklaw

***Do you know
someone who needs
to be wrapped in
our prayers?***

Prayer shawls are available in the Gathering Space. Please take a shawl to him or her, with our love.



PRAYERS

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for John Allen, Doc Anderson, Nancy Childress, Edith Haecker, Stan Hobday, Pat Janot, Ursula Murden, Regina Root, and Corky Umberger.

Pray for these who are unable to get to worship: Gene and Martha Clements, Bob and Angie Groom, Elsie Hall, Mary Jamerson, Helen Lenox, "Pete" Peterson, Betty Rickerson, Dick Reeves, Jo Schumacher, Jean Shivel, Joanne Shue, Rudy Stegmann, and Jerry Trone.

Pray resurrection hope and comfort for the Ann Booth Young and her family on the death of her son.

Pray God's blessings upon Matt Bosworth, serving with the Army in Iraq.

Peggy, Joyce, Pete, Sharon, Pat, Nathalee Accomando, Robert Anderson, Terry Bauer, Brennan Bayer, Tom and Bea Black, Blume family, Matt and Jess Bosworth (awaiting the birth of their baby), Grady Calhoun, Elaine Cari, Marla Canny, Mike and Katie (Punchard) Czajkowski (awaiting the birth of their baby), Rosemarie Cristofolo, John DeVries, Kathryn Dieter, Brian Doyle, David and Barbara Duckett, Jim and Sue Duffie, Ronald Dunn, Inge Felbier, Karen Felton, Mary Fitzgerald, family of Dale Franz, Mertie Funkhouser, Marilyn Gehr, Bill Gottschalk, Frank Greenday, Chuck and Eugenia Griffin, Carol Haecker, Madeline Hanlon, Anthony Hargrave, Sara Jane Harlan, Tammy Harman, Chris Harris, Sam and Ronnie Hayes, Alan Hochstetler, Marian Hunt, Fran Kibler, Art Kirk, Carl Kountze III, Jane Kristiansen, Mary Beth LaFave, Frances Link, Mildred Lindblad, Bill Macdonald, Simon Mayfield, McGraw family, Nicki Micfatter, Heidi Morris, Danielle Neubauer, Mary Newberg, David Oppold, Bob Orwoll, Marsh Parker, Barb Pendleton, Lesa Peppers, Inge Petersen, Robert Pushaw, Pat Ramering, Paul Ratzow, Vivian Reaver, Brad Ross, Georg Siegert, Linda Smalarz, Nancy Spaniol, Evelyn Spear, James Storm, Hallie Thrash, Pierrette Tipton, Charley Underdahl, Tyler VanHiest, Sue Weilmuenster, Sean and Sarah Wills (awaiting the birth of their baby), and Micah Zabell.



February 28, 2017

Dear Friends at St. Stephen,

As a board member of Avalon, I want to personally thank you for donating to Avalon. Your ongoing support helps us fulfill our mission to the community.

Emily Rossiter



FISH, INC. 

February 23, 2017

Dear Church Members:

The Board of Directors and all the volunteers, as well as the thousands of clients referred to FISH for service, join me in writing this THANK YOU letter for your continued support of FISH, Inc. The need for our sharing with those less fortunate continues even as the economy has improved for many of us.

All of us at FISH join in this message of Thanks to all the members of your church who so willingly continue to share their blessings with others in need.

Sincerely,
Gene Bruss, President



Spring Church Maintenance

The Property Committee will be performing preventative maintenance and repairs to the building during the Preschool's Spring Break, **April 3-7**. Parking around the church will be limited this week, and Monday, Tuesday and Friday morning parking will not be available.

George Vonderheide



APRIL MUSICAL EVENT AT SSLC

From Kiev, Ukraine, the balalaika and piano duo of Tetiana Khomenko and Vitalii Lyman will be giving concerts, including one in our worship space on **April 2**. Appearing as guests of the William and Mary Russian Music Ensemble (RME), the duo will demonstrate the many facets of the balalaika. Concerts will be:

- Saturday, **April 1**, 7:30 PM at Ewell Recital Hall, William and Mary.
- Sunday, **April 2**, 3:00 PM at St. Stephen (classical and folk music).
- Monday, **April 3**, 7:00 PM at the Williamsburg Regional Library (classical and jazz).

These concerts are hosted by RME founder/director Jonathan Johnston. All concerts are free and open to the public; donations gratefully accepted.

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God's work. Our hands.



The Quill

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April 2017

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Article deadline: Fifteenth of the previous month.