



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

December 2018

Advent and Christmas Worship and Fellowship



Behold Our Light for Advent

Our Worship and Music Committee members have chosen a beautiful liturgy, *Behold Our Light*, by Aaron David Miller, for our worship on Advent Wednesday evenings.

This liturgy includes sections that will be used in the Sunday morning liturgy during Advent as well. This will provide a nice link between our morning and evening worship during this season of preparation and anticipation leading up to Christmas.

We will gather at **7:00 PM on these Wednesdays in Advent:**

December 5
December 12
December 19



Christmas Caroling to Homebound Folks

Here's a chance to visit, to bring the presence of our congregation, and to sing! (Even if you don't think you sing well, those we visit will be cheered by your presence.)

- We'll gather at **4:00 PM on Sunday, December 16** in the Fellowship Hall.
- We'll return by **6:00 PM** to share a meal together. Bring a pot of chili and/or cornbread to share.



Christmas Eve (all services with candle light and Holy Communion):

- 5:00 PM:** Worship featuring the children and youth of our congregation and Preschool
- 6:30 PM:** Pot Luck Meal in the Fellowship Hall (Bring extra food for our visitors!)
- 7:30 PM:** Extended prelude followed by Worship featuring sermon and choir
- 9:45 PM:** Extended prelude
- 10:00 PM:** Worship featuring sermon and choir

Christmas Day worship will be at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, at **10:00 AM**

Blessings to you during these weeks!

Pastor Andy Ballentine





SPONSORING FAMILIES FOR CHRISTMAS

This year St. Stephen will share the hope of Christmas with immigrant families living in Williamsburg who have endured significant hardship this year. We will be purchasing Christmas gifts for their children and grocery and gas gift cards for the parents. Please bring your gifts to the Gathering Space by **Sunday, December 9**. Contact **Sharon Powell** (757-920-3913) or **Jane Gingerich** (757-345-5578) with questions.



DISASTER RELIEF

Thrivent will match up to \$1 million dollars in personal donations made on Thrivent.com to selected nonprofit organizations supporting Hurricane Florence relief efforts. In addition, Thrivent is encouraging members to volunteer for disaster relief by forming Thrivent Action Teams or for eligible members to consider directing Thrivent Choice Dollars to relief organizations.

This matching opportunity is open to anyone and will run until the match is met or until **December 31, 2018** – whichever comes first. The following organizations have been selected to receive the match dollars:

- Convoy of Hope
- Habitat for Humanity International
- LCMS Disaster Response
- Lutheran Disaster Response (ELCA)
- Orphan Grain Train
- Samaritan's Purse
- United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)
- WELS Christian Aid and Relief

For those interested in participating in the match, visit Thrivent.com, click on Hurricane Florence Relief and then follow instructions for personal donations.

GIVING OPTION - REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION



If you are over 70-1/2 and have an IRA, you are required to take a yearly Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) which is treated as regular income for tax purposes. You

have the option of contributing part or all of your RMD to any tax exempt organization. This contribution is called a QCD or Qualified Charitable Distribution and must go directly from the financial institution that holds your IRA to the charity. It counts as your RMD, you do not count it as regular income, but you cannot claim it as a charitable contribution on your tax return. If you give a QCD to St. Stephen, you can designate it for Current Giving, the Building or Endowment Fund or for any special program which is important to you such as: Godparents for Tanzania, Homeless Ministry, Campus Ministry, Preschool, etc. When filling out the paperwork for the QCD with your financial institution, please ask them to indicate your name on the check or check stub and reference the contribution is a QCD or RMD.

Jane deSolms and Linda Vonderheide
Finance Committee

YEAR-END GIVING



As you're contemplating your year-end 2018 giving to our congregation, the Finance Committee has set **Sunday morning December 30** as the last day for receiving contributions that will be credited on the 2018 giving statement. Gifts that come in after December 30 will be credited to 2019. This includes cash, personal checks, checks from financial institutions, and stock. If you are doing an IRA for 2018, please ask your financial adviser to mail the check early in December. If you have questions, please contact **Linda Vonderheide** (gandl525@cox.net or 757-645-4059).

STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. STEPHEN



Getting Old is not for Sissies!

The aging process is not easy as many of us can attest. Other than the aching joints, increasing unsteadiness and other physical maladies, there are other challenges as well...

- With retirement and loss of a job or profession, many will find challenges to their sense of self worth.
- Loss of close contacts either from change in social groups or from friends moving away or themselves being physically challenged can lead to isolation and depression.
- Worry about financial well being in retirement can lead to fears and frustrations.
- Physical disability or declining memory or emotional health in a spouse or significant other can present further challenges and again, can be isolating.
- Decreasing contact with children and grandchildren can also lead to depression.
- Many other factors can weigh on us as we age.

You don't have to go it alone. If you feel that some of these factors in aging are weighing on you or leading you into depression, you may benefit from meeting with a Stephen Minister. Contact **Pastor Andy**, **Pastor Cheryl** or **Jane Wills**, Stephen Leader of our congregation, if you feel you would like some help or comforting with these issues. They are as close as a phone call. Also, if you have family members or friends dealing with emotional issues of aging, ask for help.

Bill Dichtel, Stephen Minister



INQUIRER'S CLASS

Are you interested in learning more about St. Stephen and meeting others who are new to us? Join **Pastor Griffin** downstairs in the College Room at **10:00 AM** on both **Sundays December 9 and January 6**. For those who are interested in joining our congregation, we will receive new members on **Sunday, January 13, 2019**.



MEN'S & WOMEN'S BREAKFASTS

- **December 4** – Women are invited to join together for breakfast the first **Tuesday** of this month.
- **December 6** – Men are invited to join together for breakfast the first **Thursday** of this month.

Both gatherings take place at **8:00 AM** at the Colonial Pancake House, at the corner of Page Street and Penniman Road, Williamsburg, VA. The get-togethers promote conversation and friendship in a casual setting.

NetworkPeninsula
Raising Awareness of the Needs in the Community,
Encouraging Involvement & Strengthening Nonprofits



Are you wondering how you can help our community? Did you know that the Williamsburg area has a website that lists our local needs? Go to networkpeninsula.org to see ways in which you can assist those who need help!

Pastor Cheryl Ann Griffin



WOMEN'S RETREAT

Turn the calendar to 2019...then flip to March and write in:

March 16 and 17 St. Stephen Women's Retreat

Who is coming? *YOU* and your friends, and people you will meet for the first time

Who is the presenter? Cathy Mims, Pastor, First Lutheran Church, Norfolk

Theme: *Adagio in Three Movements – Slowing Down to Abide in Christ*

Using John 15 as a guide, we will explore how we can abide in Christ and experience, every day, the renewal of the Holy Spirit.

Where? Richmond Hill Retreat Center, Richmond

Questions? Call/write/ask **Judy Cobb**, 443-632-4496, judithcobb1348@gmail, and she will ask wiser people and provide you with an accurate answer.

In the meantime: Registrations will come in January..."Yes" there will be transportation provided..."Yes" you may come for Saturday only...The cost for entire event will be \$110...The event begins on Saturday AM and ends after worship on Sunday.



Dealing with Seasonal Affective Disorder

Seasonal affective disorder is a mood disorder characterized by depression that occurs at the same time every year. It usually occurs in the fall and winter when there are more hours of darkness. Symptoms include fatigue, depression, hopelessness, and social withdrawal. There may be mood changes such as anxiety, loneliness, loss of interest, or sadness. You might sleep too much or not sleep enough. You may experience appetite changes with weight loss or gain. All of these changes are because of less sunlight during the fall/winter months.

There is hope and there are things you can do to help. Get outside whenever possible when the sun is shining, go to lunch with a friend, and if needed, medications can help. There are lights now that deliver the same UV rays as the sun. Spending time beside one while reading or watching TV is helpful.

We need to help each other as well. If you see a friend who seems to be down, talk to them. Ask them to lunch and spend time with them. We in the church are a community and we can help each other get through the tougher parts of life.

If you need more information, contact one of the parish nurses.

Diana Tiller-Dichtel , Parish Nurse



Carolee Bush

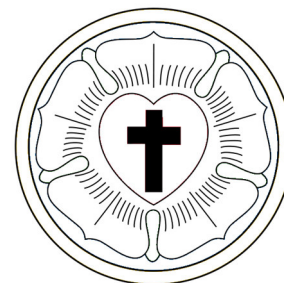
Jane deSolms
Harlan and Anne Schone
Susan Britcher
Elise Emanuel

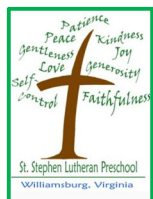
Sally Crocker

Suzanne and Carter Cowles
Dave & Marcie Clark

Sonja Landvogt

Irene Merrick





ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

Thank you for your support of our Spirit Night at Sal's by Victor Italian Restaurant! We had a tremendous response from both Preschool parents and Church members. Sal's was extremely generous with their gift to us for our evening spent with them.

Our four- and five-year olds enjoyed their annual field trip to Jamestown Settlement. Our self-guided tour gave our children, parents, and teachers the opportunity to explore the Indian village, the three ships and the fort while participating in a scavenger hunt. Check out the pictures on our St. Stephen Lutheran Preschool Facebook page.



We gave thanks for our many blessings in November and look to collect food for FISH again this year – to share our blessings with others. Our parents are very generous in supporting this food drive for our community.



Pastor Andy and Preschool parent **Nina Simone** began a series of talks titled *Children and Faith: Conversations on Spiritual Nurture*. The first topic was *Christmas without the Crazy?* Parents discussed how we shape our children's lives spiritually, sharing basic ideas for approaching faith during early childhood – especially during the frenzy of the holiday season. These conversations are open to Church families as well. Look for information in future bulletins.

Our children will help **Pastor Andy** tell the Christmas story for their parents on December 13 and December 14. Music teacher **Patty Ballentine** is teaching the children songs and Art teacher **Kelly Kirkpatrick** is designing some costuming. We will celebrate Christmas with a special luncheon buffet and birthday cake for the baby Jesus.

Thank you for supporting our school in so many ways! We often need items like baby wipes, yogurt cups, paper towel rolls, etc. and so many of you are generous with your gifts. Thank you for thinking of us.

Sandy Peterkin, Administrator



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2	Gisela Fashing	Peter Geier
4	Andy Ballentine	Mitchell Stauffer
	Sarah Toler	
6	Chandler Reubush	Suzie Walker
9	Beatrice Ehrhardt	
11	John Allen	
12	Jean Gulesian	Barb Youngk
13	Birdie Burton	Marj Gottschalk-Trone
	Lori Harms	
14	Hannalore Herion	
15	Carla Javier	Diane McCurry
20	Kathryn Ogborn	Tom Peterkin
21	June Henderson	Casey Toler
	Robert Voigt	
24	Amy Bergh	Jan MacQueston
30	Rosalie Frey	James Stein



WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO OUR CONGREGATION!

Sandy Brust

600 Richardson Run, Apt J
Williamsburg VA 23188
mauimama@cox.net
(757) 897-8098

Trudi Havola Arnold

7 Monument Drive
Williamsburg VA 23185
trudia4@gmail.co5
(757) 229-1257

Jim and Terri Larsen

PO Box 341
Gloucester VA 23060
Jim: nesralmij@gmail.com
(804) 832-2987
Terri: chucksdotir@gmail.com
(804) 815-9489

JR and Diana Lyons

1608 Glynn Springs Drive
Williamsburg VA 23188
cerdef@aol.com
(757) 920-5355

George and Jennifer Martin

6 Poindexter Court
Williamsburg VA 23188
grm0803@gmail.com
(757) 920-5403

Bob and Holly Newsome

154 Waterton
Williamsburg VA 23188
Bob: rbnewsome@aol.com
Holly: hcnewsome@aol.com
(757) 378-3566

Sandy Reed-Bryant

3948 Prospect Street
Williamsburg VA 23185
sandy.reedbryant@gmail.com
(703) 489-0988

Joe and Susie Yancey

Rachel and Benjamin
302 Sheppard Drive
Williamsburg VA 23185
Joe: yancer60@yahoo.com
(703) 475-0510
Susie: lilypeace2001@yahoo.com
(703) 475-0524

LIVING LUTHERAN MAGAZINE COMING TO YOUR HOME SOON



Early in 2019 every St. Stephen Lutheran Church household will receive the ELCA's nationally acclaimed magazine, *Living Lutheran*, as a gift to help connect members with the ELCA community across the nation and throughout the world. The Endowment Fund Committee, after consulting the Council, is dedicating a small portion of Endowment Fund earnings to cover subscription cost.

Living Lutheran magazine provides an array of news, thoughtful devotional material, biblical insights and other useful information. We think you'll find it to be a valuable resource. However, if you **do not** wish to receive this gift subscription mark that on the blue sheet in the bulletin or notify Parish Administrator Sandy Peterkin.

We look forward to this new link to our church's wider ministry.

Your Endowment Fund Committee

THANK YOU



ELCA Foundation
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Thank you for your recent endowment gift of \$1,000. Your faithful generosity makes a life-changing, life-saving difference. Thank you.

Endowment gifts are managed by the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust and make a real difference in the lives of others. Thanks to your generosity, the ELCA is a church at work in the world, doing God's work with our hands, proclaiming Christ's redeeming love to all. I pray that you will find great joy in knowing what your gift makes possible in the lives of others.

As the ELCA, we do more together than we ever could do alone. We are a church that rolls up its sleeves and solves problems – doing God's work in the world. Thank you for your support.

Christina Jackson-Skelton
Executive Director, Mission Advancement



world hunger

Thank you for your gifts of \$925 and \$1,200 to Lutheran Disaster Response.

As the long green season of Pentecost brings images of seeds and bread, deep and abiding growth and abundance in Christ, so your generosity brings deep and abiding hope to communities dealing with a disaster, providing water, supplies, shelter and support. Your generosity makes possible both short- and long-term care, sustaining communities throughout the recovery process and into new life.

"O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Grant us into yourself and nurture our growth that we may bear your truth and love to those in need through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord" –"Bread for the Day, 2018," p. 190.

Thank you for joining with the whole church, Lutheran Disaster Response and our local partners. Your gifts are bearing the love of Christ to many in need.

The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

Olde Towne

MEDICAL & DENTAL CENTER

On behalf of the Olde Towne Medical & Dental Center and the patients we serve, we wish to thank you for attending our 25th Anniversary Gala.

Your participation assisted us in making this event a "sell out!" Thanks to you, our net proceeds exceeded \$55,000.

These funds will enable Olde Towne to provide additional medical and dental care not only to the 5,745 patients we serve annually but to the growing numbers of our uninsured patients which has increased over the last several years.

Thank you again for supporting our mission with the purchase of two tickets amounting to \$250 and for joining us as we celebrated 25 years of caring for those in need of medical and dental care.

Thomas J. Brownlie, Chair
William J. Mann, Jr., M.D., Executive Medical Director




Thank you for the prayers, meals and cards before, during and after my recent surgery. Thanks to them (and a fantastic surgeon and husband) I am mending well.

Life lesson: When people offer to help, LET THEM! Life lesson #2: Magic food feeds not only your body but also your soul.

I am grateful to have such a caring church community.

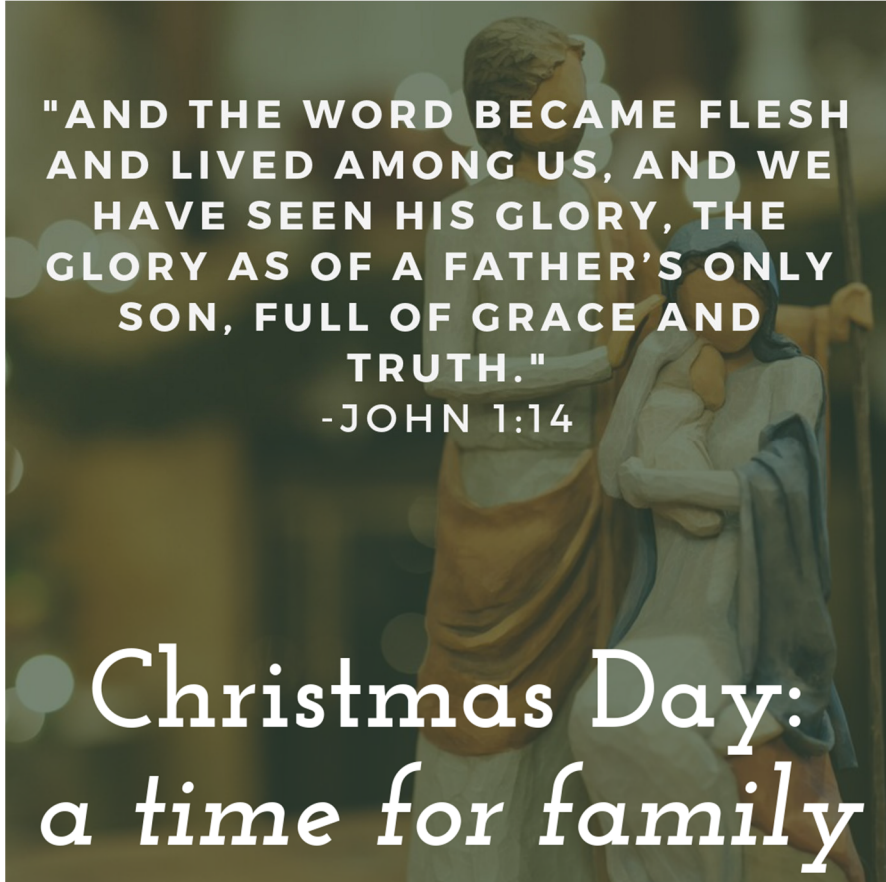
Jean Moore



"DO NOT BE AFRAID; FOR
SEE—I AM BRINGING YOU
GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY
FOR ALL THE PEOPLE: TO
YOU IS BORN THIS DAY IN
THE CITY OF DAVID A
SAVIOR, WHO IS THE
MESSIAH, THE LORD."

-LUKE 2:10-11

Christmas Eve:
a time for worship



"AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH
AND LIVED AMONG US, AND WE
HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY, THE
GLORY AS OF A FATHER'S ONLY
SON, FULL OF GRACE AND
TRUTH."

-JOHN 1:14

Christmas Day:
a time for family



DECEMBER BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

The significance of baptism, Luther teaches in the *Small Catechism*, is “that the old creature in us with all sins and evil desires is to be drowned and die through daily contrition and repentance, and on the other hand that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.”

Your baptismal anniversary is an opportunity to light a baptismal candle and to give some prayer time to reflecting on your experiences during the past year on your journey in faith!

Pastor Andy Ballentine

3	Soni York	
6	Klara Cave	
10	Sandy Brust	
11	Linda Laity Hite	Linda Vonderheide
16	Billy Miller	
17	Pam Groman	Kara Meermans
19	Chuck Frey	
26	Ursula Recktenwald	
28	Sonja Cave	
29	Jayne Lawson	

Also baptized during December: Erika Geier

Were you baptized in December, but your name isn't on the list above? Let us know!

PRAYERS



Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Philip Arnold, Joe Beene, JR Griffin, Michelle Ivey, Jean Lannan, Hank Mallue, Jeane Moore, and Benjamin Yancey.**

Pray the blessings of resurrection faith for **David Wills** mourning the death of his mother, Helen; for **Stan York** mourning the death of his aunt, Katherine DiMarco Ioffredo; and for the family and friends mourning the death of **Sally Crocker.**

We thank God for blessing **Elsie Hall** and **Jo Schumacher** both with 97 years of life and **Don Nelson** with 93 years of life! Send them a card!

Pray God's blessings on **Pastor Alex Witt** and the people of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Norge. Pastor Witt begins her ministry there in November.

We give thanks for the birth of **Magnolia Grace Sulouff** to **Roberta and Dave!**

Pray God's blessings of patience and hope for **Shana** and **Rich Wilkins, Jayme** and **Paul Lawson,** and **Antoinetta** and **Clare Stimson** as they wait for the birth of their babies.

Pray for those unable to come to worship: **Doris Bass, Preston** and **Birdie Burton, Martha** and **Gene Clements, Bob** and **Angie Groom, Elsie Hall, Stan Hobday, Mary Jamerson, Helen Lenox, Dick Reeves, Jessie Schmitthenner, Jo Schumacher, Jean Shivel, Joanne Shue, Jerry Trone, Corky Umberger, Ladonna Wiederholt.**

Pray God's blessings on **those in our community who have no permanent home** and on those serving them through the Community of Faith Mission.

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: **Jon Alt, Mary Ann Arnold, Jane Ayers, Bill Beck, Eliza Bicknell, Tom and Bea Black, Blume family, Marla Canny, Elaine Cari, Michael Cline, Jude Harris Cossitt, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Inge Felbier, Mary Fitzgerald, Ward and Betty Frazee, Mertie Funkhouser, David Gade, Andrea Gonzalez, Bill Gottschalk, Ellen Green, Martha Greer, Virginia Lee Groves, JoAnn Hecker, Sharon Hegland, Donna Hershey, Chip Hilbinger, Emily Holdredge, Rick Jackson, Polly Jarrell, Jerome Johnson, Leesa Keene, Wendy Kent, Fran Kibler, Chris Kinney, Art Kirk, Barbara Knight, Rebecca Krueger, Terry Krull, Douglas Lankford, Mildred Lindblad, Jackie Lohr, Hannah Mac, McGraw Family, Heidi Morris, Eric Nelson, Mary Newberg, Charles Osborn, Sue Plevelich, Dino Polizois, Vivian Reaver, Jenny Rice, Shann Rufer, Marie Scheiding, Marion Seidl, Inge Seiter, Bruce Semanchik, Luke Short, Shumacker family, Patricia Simpson, James Smith, Evelyn Spear, Jerry Spear, Jennifer St. Clair, Sue Weilmuenster, Terry Wilson, Donna Wood, Peggy Williams, Peggy Wright, and Aaron Zabell.**



St. Stephen Lutheran Church
612 Jamestown Road
Williamsburg, VA 23185
www.saintstephenlutheran.net



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
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The Quill **www.saintstephenlutheran.net** **December 2018**

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<i>President</i>	David Wills	378-2715
<i>Vice President</i>	Amy Bergh	566-4557
<i>Interim Treasurer</i>	Jane deSolms	565-5646
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	Linda Vonderheide	645-4059
<i>Congregational Secretary</i>	Carol Wiers	564-0164

Church Office: Phone: (757) 229-6688
email: All email addresses are:
_____@saintstephenlutheran.net



Church Staff:

<i>Pastor</i>	Andy Ballentine	229-6742
	email	Pastorab@
<i>Pastor</i>	Cheryl Ann Griffin	876-6371
	email	Pastorc@

Parish and Preschool

<i>Administrator</i>	Sandy Peterkin	Office@
<i>Director of Music</i>	Karen Ives	MusicDir@
<i>Parish Nurses</i>	Marcie Clark	Parishnursemc@
	Diana Tiller-Dichtel	Parishnursedt@
<i>Preschool Lead Teacher</i>	Susan Ruane	Preschool@

Church Council:

Bob Achenbach	206-1789
David Allen	645-8220
Alan Balma	206-1430
Amy Bergh	566-4557
Dave Gamble	564-7030
Jeanne Garrison	229-0978
Corey Knestrick	367-9904
John McCurry	606-389-1082
Doug Moore	903-4969
George Vonderheide	645-4059
Carol Wiers	564-0164
David Wills	378-2715

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612 Jamestown Road
Williamsburg, VA 23185

Editor:

Reed Nester
reednester@gmail.com

Mailing:

Pam Buckley

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