



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

February 2018



Entering into the Season of Lent

February 14 is Valentine's Day, a day full of expressions of love. Chocolates, cards, flowers and dinner out are a few of the more popular ways we celebrate our relationships. Watching romantic movies is a tradition for some.

One of the popular movies in the 1970's was *Love Story*. If I remember nothing else from this movie, I remember this line, "Love means not ever having to say you are sorry." Even as young as I was at the time this movie was released, I found this hard to believe at the time. I still do.

February 14 is Valentine's Day. It's also Ash Wednesday. Both days are about love and relationship. Ash Wednesday is named for the practice of imposing ashes. We do so as a sign of repentance. Ash Wednesday begins the liturgical and penitent season of Lent. As a part of our liturgy on Ash Wednesday, we will confess to God and one another, "We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven" (ELW, page 253). Then we will plead to God for mercy. God's words of forgiveness will not be heard until Maundy Thursday. Our Maundy Thursday service begins with our confession, followed by absolution.

Lent is the season for repentance. The Greek word for repent is "metanoia." Translated literally, it means to change one's mind. I'm reminded that the definition of insanity is to do the same thing over and over again and expect a different result. If we are going to change mind, our hearts, our relationships – what are we going

to do differently? How do we become more open to the work of the Holy Spirit?

This is why some people engage in various disciplines in Lent. Fasting, prayer, attending mid-week worship services and daily reading of scripture are some traditional practices. Some people give up things, such as chocolate. (Personally, giving up chocolate has never drawn me closer to anyone. My resulting grumpiness keeps them away!) In recent years, people have added the practice of expressing gratitude to someone. Write a note of thanksgiving to someone! This year, think about doing something to help combat racism, food insufficiency, or homelessness. Contact people with whom you have not spoken with for a while. Try saying, "I'm sorry" to those whom you have hurt either intentionally or unintentionally. Forgive someone who has injured you, even if they have not said "I'm sorry." In all things, give thanks to God.

"Lent" comes from the word lengthen, and is so named so because the hours of daylight are getting longer. May you find that Christ's light in your life also increases this Lent!

Pastor Cheryl Griffin



An Evening of Song and Dessert

Come one, come all! Join us on **Friday evening, February 9 at 7:00 PM** for an evening of song and dessert! Just in time for Valentine's Day, **Ina Berkey** and **Danya Zimbauer** will be entertaining us with "*Music for Your Heart*" while we dine on yummy goodies. A free will offering will be taken. Proceeds will help fund our Youth's trip to the ELCA National Youth Gathering.



In the early church, people were baptized on Easter. The period prior to that was a time of preparation for this. In our times, Lent is our time to reflect on those things which separate us from God (sin) and turn again to God (repent). Our theme for Lent is ***“Dying Fully, Living Well.”*** In our baptisms, we are joined to Christ’s death and resurrection. We are drowned in the waters of baptism and rise to new life with Christ.

Lent Begins with Ash Wednesday – February 14 this year

7:00 AM and Noon – Worship **at St. Martin’s Episcopal Church** featuring ashes and Holy Communion

6:00 PM – Potluck dinner **at St. Stephen** in the Fellowship Hall

7:00 PM – Worship **at St. Stephen** featuring ashes and Holy Communion

Wednesdays in Lent – February 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21

6:00 PM – Soup and Bread supper in the Fellowship Hall (watch for the sign-up poster to bring food!)

7:00 PM – Holden Evening Prayer.

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 29, 7:00 PM – Maundy Thursday worship **at St. Stephen** with the clergy from St. Martin’s Episcopal Church presiding, using *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

Friday, March 30, 7:00 PM – Good Friday worship **at St. Martin’s**, with St. Stephen clergy presiding, using the *Book of Common Worship*.

Saturday, March 21, 8:00 PM – The Easter Vigil **at St. Stephen**, followed by champagne, strawberries and chocolate!

Easter Sunday, April 1 (No foolin’!)

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM – Festival Worship.



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MEN'S & WOMEN'S BREAKFASTS

- **February 1** – Men are invited to join together for breakfast the first **Thursday** of this month.
- **February 6** – Women are invited to join together for breakfast the first **Tuesday** 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..



FEBRUARY BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

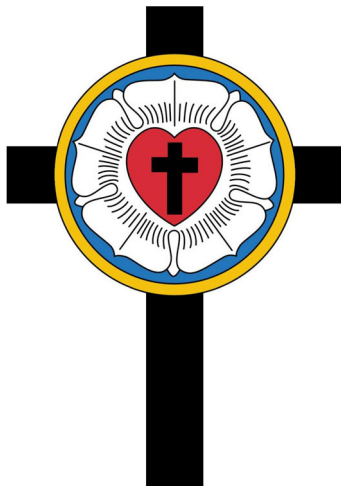
The significance of baptism, Luther teaches in the *Small Catechism*, is “that the old creature in us with all sins and evil desires is to be drowned and die through daily contrition and repentance, and on the other hand that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness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

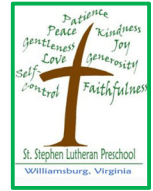
Pastor Andy Ballentine

February 6	Rosalie Frey
February 7	Andy Ballentine
February 13	Keith Egloff
February 14	Brian VanRosendale
February 15	Susan Neidlinger, Karen Shoberg, Gayle Spencer
February 16	Madelyn Williams
February 17	Eleanor Bergh
February 21	Alex Stauffer, Mitchell Stauffer, Peter Stauffer, Zhou Hui Stauffer
February 22	Caitlin Leek, Jaina Leek
February 24	Keara Mahony
February 25	Tom Berkey
February 26	Mia Timberg

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



ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL



Our Winter Carnival was a smashing success! Thanks so much to **Sherry Phipps** for her leadership on the Preschool Fundraising Committee, comprised of Preschool parents and members of our congregation. The committee came up with wonderfully creative ideas to celebrate the winter wonderland that was St. Stephen for the afternoon! The many members of our church who volunteered to run the games for our students allowed all of our parents to enjoy the afternoon with their children. Thank you!

With the snow days of January behind us, we are looking forward to some “normal” weeks in February. We will be conducting more experiments with ice and snow and try our hands at “postal delivery” of valentines to our classmates.

Our Art Teacher, Kelly Kirkpatrick, is featuring Jim Dine as our Artist of the Month. Kelly teaches the four and five year olds about the artist, shows them examples of his work, and then encourages the students to create their own art in the method of the featured artist. Check out some of the images of Jim Dine paintings and you'll know why he was chosen for February's Artist of the Month!

Come join our Preschool as we sponsor a **Shrove Tuesday/Pancakes & PJs dinner on Tuesday, February 13**. We will serve pancakes with all sorts of wonderful toppings, sausage, orange juice, coffee and tea. Tickets are \$6.00; children under 2 are free. Proceeds will go toward enhancing the programming in the Preschool.

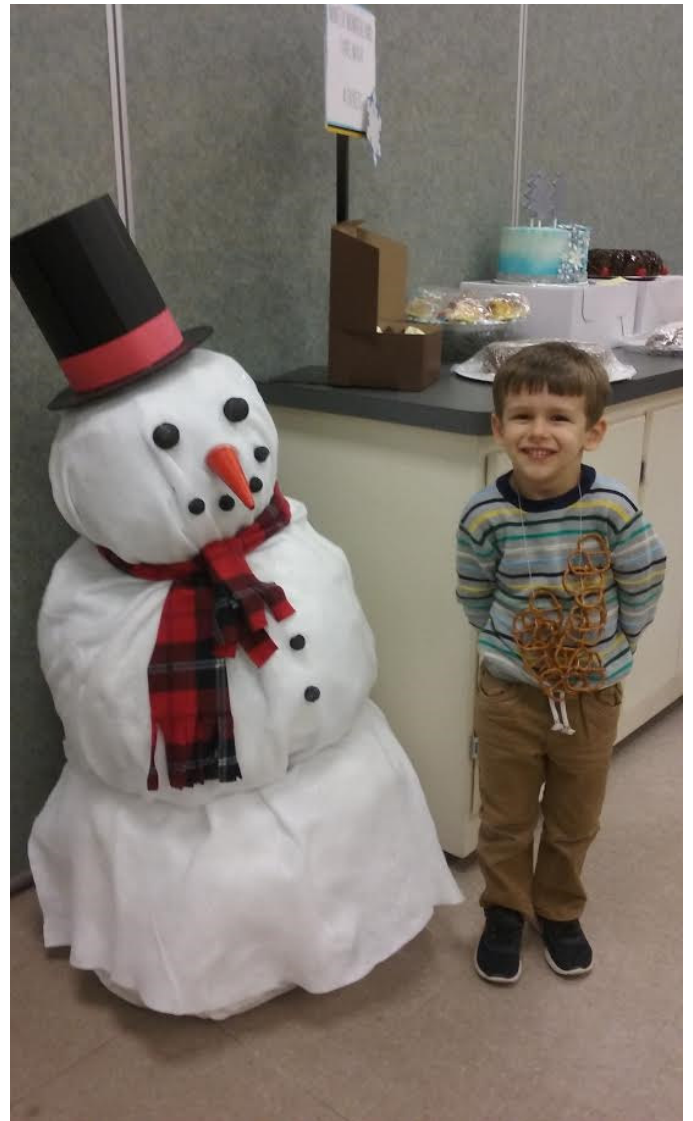
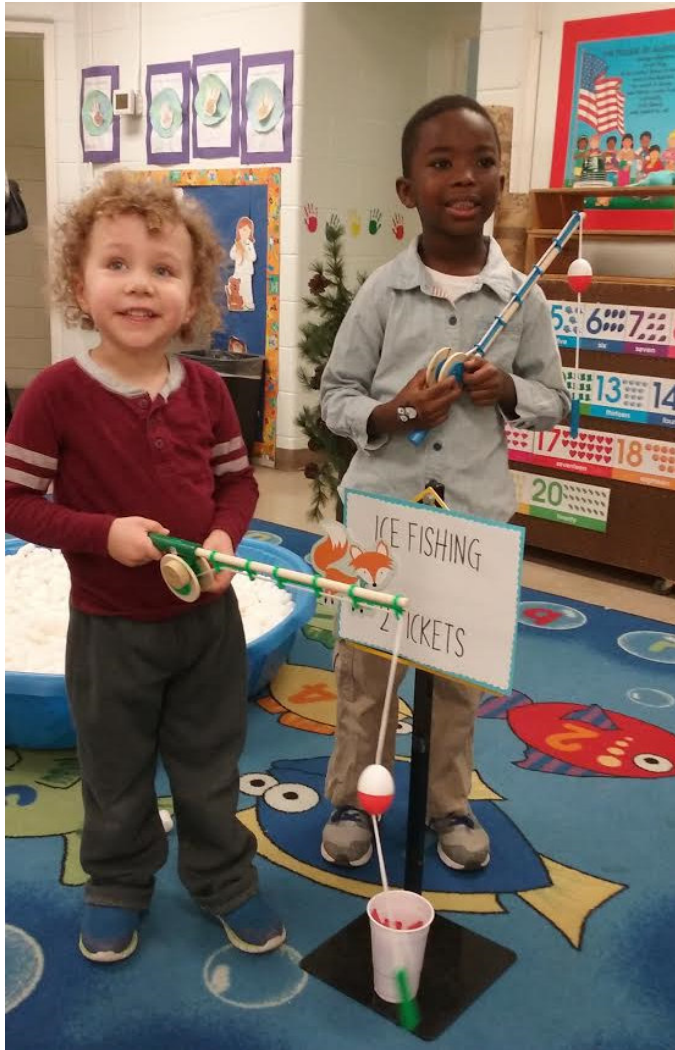
We will hold our annual Fathers Night on **February 26** from **6:00-7:30 PM**. Our children bring their dads to school for a great evening of fun and learning – including reading, art, and a pizza party!

It is heartening that so many in our church family are taking such an active interest in our preschool family. Thank you for supporting this mission of our congregation.

Sandy Peterkin



St. Stephen Preschool Winter Carnival





Invite a *Bear* to Church

What comes to mind when you picture *Teddy Bears*? Warmth, comfort, caring? For children and many adults Teddy Bears **mean** all of these things. Beginning the first Sunday in February the Health Ministry will be initiating a Teddy Bear project. We are asking that members of the congregation bring a **NEW** teddy bear to church beginning in February. The bears will remain in the pews throughout the month, hearing Noon Prayers, listening to organ rehearsals, perhaps seeing new banners displayed, or the Alter Guild busy in the **worship space**. Each Sunday they will be attentive to the **message**, as they sit quietly next to you or on someone's lap.

On the first Sunday in March, the bears will be blessed through prayer and sent on their way to offer comfort to others. Teddy bears will be distributed to: EMS, Police, Fire, hospitals, Avalon, dementia care units, and others. Each bear will be tagged with a small card explaining that it comes with prayers and love from St. Stephen Lutheran Church. Please join us in this community outreach project in providing comfort to those who are hurt or frightened.

Marcie Clark

Parish Nurse for the Health Ministry



Sunday Dining Out

Join friends for lunch at Victoria's Restaurant (Williamsburg Crossing Shopping Center at 5269 John Tyler Highway) on **Sunday, February 18 at 12:30 PM**. Please mark the green sheet or RSVP to **Sharon Brown** at (814) 234-2244 if you will be attending.



*Connections: Our Life Story, Our Faith Story
Women's Retreat 2018 - St. Stephen*

Women's Retreat

I love to tell the story...

But, what story is there to tell?

Explore the connection between your own personal story and God's story. Things that happen in daily life are really part of our faith story. Come and see! Come and hear!

Where: St. Stephen Lutheran Church

When: Saturday, **March 10** from **9:00 AM to 3:30 PM**, with an optional "after-party" until **4:00 PM**.

Presenter: *Pastor Judy Cobb*

Cost: \$35

Babysitting is provided! Just let Pastor Griffin know ahead of time!

Registration forms, if you have not received one, are available in the Gathering Space.

In the Footsteps of Martin Luther and the Reformation



The deadline is coming to join the group going to Germany. Now that the Reformation 500 crowds are gone, we're going to visit sites of Luther and the Reformation: Wittenberg, Erfurt, Wartburg Castle and much more, **June 13-21, 2018**. See the display in the Gathering Space. For more information, pick up a brochure, or go to:

http://www.icbs.org/find_trip/detail.aspx?tour=IX18/L&d=06-13-2018&group=10939



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2	Don Hardenbergh	Gretchen Osborn
3	Thord Einarsen	Debbie Lawhon
	Russell Melvey	
5	Gwendolyn Agor	
6	Robert Mazur	Larry Shoberg
10	Julia Cummings	
11	Kathy Skube	
12	Jesse Zimbauer	
13	Cyndy Touhsaent	Danya Zimbauer
	Erich Zimbauer	
14	Harlan Schone	
15	Rebecca Drake	
17	Pat Janot	Marilyn Johnson
18	Glenn Joppa	
19	Charlotte Stahl	
20	Sarah Scheitrum	
21	Bill Dichtel	
22	Keara Mahony	
23	Nicholas Brisson	Angie Groom
25	Nancy Egloff	Max Hinders
26	Sarah Melvey	Kate Sipes
27	Chelsea Dunbar	David Wills

PRAYERS



Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Doc Anderson, Otis Childress, Thord Einarsen, Fred Haecker, Bobbie Harms, Gary Krull, and Susan Neidlinger.**

Pray for these who are unable to get to worship: **Philip Arnold, Martha and Gene Clements, Sally Crocker, Bob and Angie Groom, Elsie Hall, Stan Hobday, Donna May Hochstetler, Mary Jamerson, Sonja Landvogt, Helen Lenox, Betty Rickerson, Dick Reeves, Jo Schumacher, Jean Shivel, Joanne Shue, Rudy Stegmann, and Jerry Trone.**

Give thanks for the birth of **Mira Claire Charlotte Powell**, born to **Michael** and **Sharon** this past Wednesday!

Pray God's blessings on **Kristin and Chris Stahl**, and **Rachel and Matt Vanlandingham**, as they await the birth of their babies.

Pray God's blessing of Easter hope for **Paul Lawson** and family, as they mourn the death of Paul's mother.

Pray God's blessings on **Kathryn Ogborn** as she assembles a board of directors for a new nonprofit, **Puppy Love for Disabled Veterans.**

Pray God's blessings on those in our community who have no permanent home. Pray strength for those who are providing shelter and food this week as part of the **Community of Faith Mission in Williamsburg**, and for those who are serving through **PORT in Newport News.**

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: **Mitchell, Alex, Elle Benton, Tom and Bea Black, the Blume family, Eliza Bicknell, Ed Borillo, Kallie Burgess, Kim Calhoun, Marla Canny, Elaine Cari, Peter Cline, Shirley Cocke, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Kathryn Dieter, Inge Felbier, Mary Fitzgerald, Mertie Funkhouser, Bill Gottschalk, Jeff Hammock, Sara Jane Harlan, Joe Hause, Sam and Ronny Hayes, Alan Hochstetler, Marian Hunt, Anne Johns, Fran Kibler, Art Kirk, Terry Krull, Jean Lasche, Frances Link, Mildred Lindblad, Peter and Kelly McCann (awaiting the birth of their baby), McGraw family, Bruce Milne, Heidi Morris, Joshua Mullen, Mary Newberg, Inge Petersen, Dick Phillips, Dino Polizois, Shann Rufer, Kenneth Sage, Bruce Semanchik, James Smith, Evelyn Spear, Dave Splittorff, Pierrette Tipton, Betty Tulloh, Sue Weilmuenster, Janea Whitacre, and Clyde Wills.**



Kathryn Dieter
1261 South Main St.
Assisted Living Room 7
Plantsville, CT 06479

THANK YOU!



Thank you for supporting Community of Faith Mission's (COFM) second annual *Sponsor-a-Night of Shelter Campaign* to help fund shelter operating costs. Your generous December 2017 donation of \$359 enables COFM to continue its mission of providing emergency food and shelter to the most vulnerable in our community.

Community of Faith Mission had the joy and privilege of serving 110 shelter guests during Season 5 by facilitating 2,600 shelter stays November 2016 through March 2017. Of the 110 guests served, 63% were male, 37% were female and 27% were returning from last season. Guests ranged in age from infancy to late 60s. Without the compassion, kindness and hospitality of thousands of volunteers from our 32 shelter hosts and partners, and generous donations such as yours, COFM would not succeed as the area's only emergency winter shelter program for men, women and families.

Homelessness is a community concern and we greatly appreciate your donation to help support our mission. For more information on Community of Faith Mission, please visit our website at www.cofm.info.

Sincerely,
Sue Xander, Community of Faith Mission Board of Directors, Secretary



"There is light at the end of the tunnel."*

"..I was down and out when I first called and did not know how I was going to take care of myself and grandson. I was greeted by a smile of compassion....and my case manager spoke to me about all the resources that were at my feet....it was though I hit the lotto. ...My case manager helped me set my goals that seemed at the time too far to reach but here I am today with a beautiful roof over my head, working, and going to school. I thank God for the staff at Avalon. ...I speak the truth when I say my life will never be the same, I'm a better person and stronger. I thank God for leading me here...."

*Excerpts from a letter recently received by Avalon Center from a client who arrived in May 2017.

Thank you to the members of St. Stephen who volunteer their time, materials, and donate individually, through United Way, or through our Social Ministry Committee funds and checks written to St. Stephen with "Avalon" in the memo line of the check. We may never meet the individuals whose lives are changed by Avalon's services, but they are out there, as productive members of our community.

Emily Rossiter



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The Quill **www.saintstephenlutheran.net** **February 2018**

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<i>Vice President</i>	John McCurry	606-389-1082
<i>Treasurer</i>	Paul Kristiansen	220-2709
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	Linda Vonderheide	645-4059
<i>Congregational Secretary</i>	Carol Wiers	564-0164

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<i>Pastor</i>	Cheryl Ann Griffin	876-6371
	email	pastorc@
<i>Parish and Preschool Administrator</i>	Sandy Peterkin	office@
<i>Director of Music</i>	Karen Ives	MusicDir@
<i>Parish Nurse</i>	Marcie Clark	ParishNurse@
<i>Preschool Lead Teacher</i>	Susan Ruane	Preschool@

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Alan Balma	206-1430
Amy Bergh	566-4557
Dave Gamble	564-7030
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Corey Knestrick	367-9904
John McCurry	606-389-1082
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