



# The Quill

## THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

February 2019



### RECOVERING A RHYTHM

Are you recovering a rhythm?

In the church, during this season of Epiphany, we're catching our breath. The hoopla of Advent-Christmas is past. Lent is still to come, with its intensified practices of worship and devotion. In the liturgical calendar, Epiphany is intended to be a period of contemplation of the revelation of God in Jesus, the Word become flesh.

What does it mean that God has become human flesh in Jesus? What has God brought into our humanity? How do we experience God's presence in our human experiences, our joys and sorrows? Slowing down, taking time, paying attention to each day, asking these questions in your prayer – this is how to journey through Epiphany.

I find that I have the opportunity, as well, to recover a rhythm during these weeks that follow the time and energy demands of Advent-Christmas. I have the chance to return to the rhythm that God built into creation, obeying God's *command* to rest. I am healthier, physically, spiritually and emotionally, when I am in a rhythm of work and rest and play. Rest means anything that's refreshing, activity (or non-activity!) that allows you to recharge your batteries. It's the only way to avoid burnout. Often, for me, rest is play!

For me, recovering a rhythm means getting out on my bicycle regularly. It means resisting an immediate accomplishment-mode mentality when I open my eyes and, instead, beginning early mornings with Morning

Prayer and the Daily Lectionary. It means turning off the light at 10:00 PM so I can get enough hours of sleep (since I wake up so early). It means taking the time for unhurried reading. (I love this quote from Pico Iyer: "as I read, I can feel myself getting deeper and more attentive and more nuanced.")

The old fashioned term for rest and refreshment, you know, is Sabbath!

Blessings to you during your journey through these weeks of Epiphany.

**Pastor Andy Ballentine**



### **MEN'S & WOMEN'S BREAKFASTS**

- **February 5** – Women are invited to join together for breakfast the first **Tuesday** of this month.
- **February 7** – 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.



## THE ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND

### FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE MISSION

In just four years members supporting the Endowment Fund have doubled in number – 62 today from 32 in 2015. The result: the financial foundation for future ministry and mission of our congregation is growing stronger each year.

In 2018 alone, \$38,000 in contributions or bequests were received. As 2019 begins, invested assets total \$278,631. Standing pledges and bequests to be received in the future have an estimated value of \$1.2 million.

Will you join the 62 who are laying the foundation for the mission of St. Stephen Lutheran Church far into the future? It's easy, it's important and it's a lasting legacy.

To learn more, talk with any member of the Endowment Fund Committee: **Jim Cobb, Joyce Beene, Glenn Joppa, Bob Harman** or **Charlene Smith**.

## MESSAGE FROM YOUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY



Donations to the General Fund were over budget by almost ten percent for calendar year 2018. Contributions to the Building Fund were over the pledged giving by 29 percent. There was

a 15 percent increase in estimated pledges for 2019. In 2018 our benevolence giving in support of local and international agencies was the highest in three years. ***St. Stephen had a phenomenal year 2018!***

If you are interested in contributing to St. Stephen in 2019 using your IRA minimum required distribution as a Qualified Certificate of Deposit, please contact your tax consultant to fill out the paperwork. Please ask your financial institution to place your name on the check or check stub.

The Simply Giving Program is another way to donate to St. Stephen. On a weekly or monthly basis you can use a credit/debit card or have your donation deducted directly from your checking or savings account. If interested, please see me for an application.

If you have questions concerning donations to St. Stephen or on your Giving Statements, please contact me by phone at (757) 645-4059 or by e-mail at [gandl525@cox.net](mailto:gandl525@cox.net).

**Linda Vonderheide**

## A HAPPY HOME



Thank you to all who supported our partnership with the Hawkins family, Habitat for Humanity and Thrivent to build a house! Not only did we help physically, financially and with prayer, we were blessed to be able to donate household items. At the ribbon cutting ceremony, new homeowner Marguerite Hawkins said that her house was touched by many hands and many prayers. The Hawkins family spent 400 hours helping to build their home.



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

## DARK, DREARY, DISMAL, DEPRESSING, DISHEARTENING. AND THAT'S THE EVENING NEWS!



It is a difficult time! And in winter the lack of sun, the lack of warmth, and being confined may leave us feeling listless, restless, or even depressed. But what if we look at this time through a different lens? We can use the stillness of the season to allow ourselves some rest and reflection. The winter months are, for some animals, a time for hibernation. The function of which is to conserve energy. Although we can't sleep through the winter, it may be a time for us to rest, slow down, and reenergize.

In winter, when nature is dormant, we may find ourselves naturally drawn to sit by the fireplace and quietly stare at the flames. Or to gaze out our window and observe the positive qualities of nature. Sometimes doing nothing is helpful, healthy, and healing. Take time to renew. That may be what God has in mind when he gives us this quiet season. Thoughtfully consider what is going well in your life. Let yourself soak in the positive feelings associated with your blessings. Gratitude elevates mood and energizes us. Prayer brings us closer to God.

Put down the remote and the smartphone, and curl up with a good book. Research shows that reading, whether a novel, a biography or self-help book, stimulates the imagination, improves mood, expands vocabulary, increases focus and concentration, reduces stress and slows memory loss. Some of my favorite authors are Mathew, Mark, Luke and John.

Meditation can provide another option for renewal. Take just five to ten minutes and sit quietly. Close your eyes and be present to your breath, heartbeat and body resting in a quiet place.

So, during this winter, take some quiet time, reading, praying, or just gazing. You are helping your body and your mind. Take a break from the 24-hour news and from all the analysis, judgment, worry, and planning that tends to distract us from the present moment. While it may feel as though you are doing nothing, the

truth is you are releasing stress and tension from your body. Enjoy the feelings of calm and peace.

*" Listen to me in silence, O coastlands; let the people renew their strength;..." Isaiah 41:1*

**Marcie Clark, RN, Parish Nurse**



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2	Don Hardenbergh	Gretchen Osborn
	Wesley Vanlandingham	
3	Debbie Lawhon	
5	Gwendolyn Agor	
6	Larry Shoberg	
10	Walker Beatty	
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	Terri Larsen	Kate Sipes
27	Chelsea Dunbar	David Wills



## PIZZA AND GAME NIGHT

Looking for some fun on a cold winter's eve? Come out and share some pizza and play a few games with others at St. Stephen on **February 22 at 6 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. Bring along a few board/table games to share with others. Please indicate on the sheet in the bulletin if you plan to come and eat pizza, so we're sure to order enough! For questions, call **Keith and Nancy Egloff** at 229-7859.



## WHAT A SPIRIT WE HAVE AS WE GATHER ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

It is wonderful to experience the joy that many feel as we gather: the conversations, the sharing of our lives with each other.

We're also so thankful for our expanding program of worship music, with so many of you participating. *(We pastors whose names are below are very appreciative for the ways **Karen Ives** is making such increased participation possible!)*

Have you noticed the increased numbers in our choirs, and the more challenging anthems they are offering during worship? We now have a dedicated group of people practicing each week to play handbells for worship. We even had a children's choir at the 5:00 Christmas Eve service! It's been years since children were gathered to sing for worship.

It is very helpful for the choirs to spend some time rehearsing in the worship space, as Karen prepares the choirs for the morning's worship. St. Stephen has a beautiful acoustic in the worship space that cannot be matched in the choir room, and some music is accompanied by the organ which, of course, is in the worship space. How about a sports analogy? It's sort of like a basketball team warming up in the locker room before the game. They have to come out and shoot some hoops, pass the ball around to teammates, get used to the space. Before both services, our choirs need to figure out the seating arrangement – are the sopranos sitting next to the altos or are they sitting next to the tenors? Somebody's missing – how do we fill in the gap? If Karen's at the organ, will I be able to see her – or if she's at the piano seated, will a tall tenor be in the way? The sound is more diffuse in the sanctuary than in the smaller choir room – "I don't hear the basses like I used to in the choir room, and I get my pitch from them." The organ is not percussive like the piano – "I cannot hear the beat from the organ." "The organ's too soft." "The organ's too loud." It's an important opportunity for the choir members to figure out the balance.

We're also dealing with a nice problem to have – of not enough space for our music ministry. Would you like a peek behind the scenes? The choir room is filled with chairs, handbell foam and handbells and music stands, not to mention a piano, a desk, file cabinets, and shelves filled with anthems, hymnals, and instrumental music. There's a real traffic jam on Sunday mornings in the choir room between the worship services. It works best to rehearse the Matins Choir in the worship space during their 9:45-10:30 rehearsal slot. While that is happening, the Chancel Choir can be robing (and socializing – that's important!) in the choir room. Then while the Matins Choir are putting away their music (and socializing – that's very important!) after their rehearsal, the Chancel Choir meets Karen in the worship space for a short run-through before worship.

Most Sundays, the choirs finish rehearsing 15 minutes before each service. Occasionally, when we're transitioning to a new liturgy or there are festival worship preparations, rehearsals end 10 minutes before the service begins.

What a spirit we have as we gather together on Sunday mornings! Our conversations are very important as we share our lives with each other. Be sure to take advantage of the coffee, tea, hot chocolate and places to sit and stand for conversation in the Gathering Space!

**Pastor Andy Ballentine, Pastor Cheryl Griffin, Director of Music Karen Ives**

# Thank You!

I want to thank everyone at St. Stephen for the many kindnesses that have been shown me over the past months. Thanks especially to Andy, Cheryl, Marcie, and so many others for visits, cards, as well as outings, and especially for your patience! I consider all of that a reflection of God's love and please know it is reflected back to each of you.

Yours in Christ,  
**Pat Janot**

# Thanks



On behalf of the Community of Faith Mission (COFM), thank you for being a shelter partner once again during winter shelter Season 7. We appreciate the care and generosity that you and your congregation at St. Stephen Lutheran Church showed to the homeless men, women, and families of Williamsburg. You were a source of encouragement to the shelter guests and such a blessing.

COFM depends on the help of congregations like yours who are willing to give their time and resources to provide food, fellowship and supplies to those without a home in our community. We hope that you felt blessed while serving and being a blessing to others.

Again, thank you for your invaluable support of COFM and for partnering with us to serve God and care for those without a home.

We hope you will join us again in this important work next shelter season.

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



Thank you for the recent donation of \$1,300 to help further our mission! Your generosity will give another hardworking family in our community a gift they will never forget: their very own place to call HOME this holiday season!

Your support provides another hardworking family the independence they need to build a better life for themselves and their children. You didn't give a family a hand out –you gave them and hand up by giving them

the opportunity to build **and buy** their own decent and affordable home.

We have served over 181 families through our first time homebuyer program since 1985, and these families join over 3,000,000 Habitat families around the world and more than 13.2 million people realizing the dream of homeownership.

This upcoming year we will build five homes in Hampton and Newport News, including a Building on Faith home. We are finishing construction on four homes in Williamsburg, and will start on an additional home! We are pleased to announce that in 2019 we will begin construction on our first three homes in New Kent County!

Please follow us on Instagram (HabitatPGW) or like us on Facebook and Twitter (HabitatPGW) for updates and announcements.

Thanks to the support we receive from our generous donors, we have changed the lives and futures of countless families. I hope you will support Habitat for Humanity in the upcoming year, because together we can continue making a difference in our community.

Janet V. Green, CEO

## GREATER WILLIAMSBURG OUTREACH MISSION



A Coalition of Faith Groups United to Serve the Homeless

I would like to personally thank you for the generous donation you made in the amount of \$1,000 to the Greater Williamsburg Outreach Mission. GWOM depends on the support of its member churches to accomplish its mission of assisting the start-up of and providing continuing assistance to initiatives that serve the needs of those experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of becoming homeless in and around Williamsburg.

Your support of our mission allows GWOM to minister to the needs of the marginalized in our society with the goal of helping them to become productive members of society. The monies you have provided will go toward ongoing support of GWOM activities.

We are thankful to you for this partnership that enables us to help our homeless neighbors turn their lives around.

Carl H. Gerhold, Vice-chair



Thank you so much for your recent donation of \$750 to the Angels of Mercy Medical Clinic. We are so appreciative of your gift. I wish you could see first-hand the impact of your gift on the lives of the people we serve. May God richly bless you.

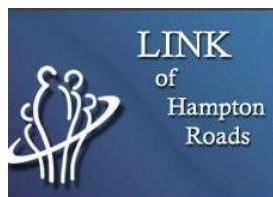
Pam Klepec, RN, Clinic RN Coordinator



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.

Gene Bruss, President



On behalf of LINK of Hampton Roads, we would like to acknowledge and thank you for your contribution and support of our agency through your donation of \$400. Your donation was a blessing towards our efforts to help those less fortunate in our community.

Your donation will continue to assist persons who participate in one or more of our many programs held both at LINK and off-site locations. These programs serve men, women, children, and the elderly, who are disabled, mentally/physically challenged, HIV/terminally and chronically ill. Once again, thank you for your generosity.

Lynne Finding, Executive Director



## **FEBRUARY BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES**

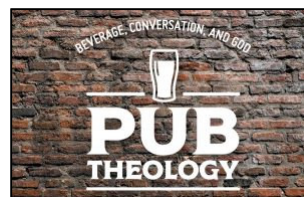
The significance of baptism, Luther teaches in the *Small Catechism*, is "that the old creature in us with all sins and evil desires is to be drowned and die through daily contrition and repentance, and on the other hand that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness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

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

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



In our congregation we support and encourage and motivate each other in practices of the faith, such as worship and study and prayer and service. The Spirit uses those practices to form us to live in God's grace and forgiveness. Why? It's so we can respond, for the sake of the world! What has that response looked like for you in recent weeks and months? Gather for our next **Pub Theology** at the **Wine Seller** (on Monticello Avenue, next to Publix) on **Tuesday, February 5, 7:00 PM**, for a soft drink, a glass of beer or wine and/or food, and conversation and support!



Our St. Stephen Lutheran Preschool will hold a Winter Carnival Spirit Event on **Sunday, February 10 from 2:00 – 4:00 PM!**

We invite members of our congregation to participate as well as help with the various winter-themed games and fun. Events will include:

❖ **Winter Bingo** – we need two folks to run the game and hand out prizes!

❖ **Cake Walk** – would you be able to bake a cake, lemon squares, brownies, cupcakes, or your own specialty for this fun event? We also need two folks to help run the game.



❖ **Snowman Photo-Op** – we will have a winter scene in back of those who wish to step into our winter wonderland and have a memorable family photo taken. One person is needed for this.

❖ **Ice Fishing** – children will “fish” in a swimming pool filled with packing peanuts – one person is needed to assist with this game.



❖ **Winter Putt-Putt** – one person is needed to supervise this game of golfing skill.

❖ **Snowball Fight** – two folks will oversee this fun time – it won’t hurt and the children are sure to have fun.

❖ **Penguin Bowling** – two folks are needed to help children try their hands at knocking down the penguin pins (and setting them back up).

❖ **Snowball Toss** – one person is needed to watch the children knock down the cups awarding prizes.

❖ **Snacks, sweets, and drinks** – Help Sandy Peterkin serve refreshments from the kitchen – homemade hot chocolate, popcorn, pretzel necklaces, sweets and bottles of “melted snowmen.”



## NEW MEMBERS



Karen Arledge

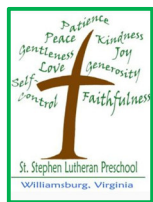
John Gregoire

Steve and Sharon Jacobs  
Christine

Craig and Pam Little

Ryan Lohrengel

If you can help, please call or email **Sandy Peterkin**, (757) 229-6688, [office@saintstephenlutheran.net](mailto:office@saintstephenlutheran.net).



## ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

After the Christmas break, both students and teachers are settling back into the winter routine. Our Dramatic Play area has been transformed from Bethlehem Town into an arctic igloo site. Teacher Susan Reese constructed the igloo and drew three life-sized penguins with the question, “are you taller than a penguin?” Some children are and some are not. Some penguins grow quite tall!



We look forward to our Winter Carnival on **February 10**, thanking so many for volunteering to greet, sell tickets, run games, bake, and simply being available to help. It is wonderful that our parents are able to enjoy the afternoon playing with their children and meeting folks from the church. Everyone is welcome to come join in the fun – congregational parents and children alike.

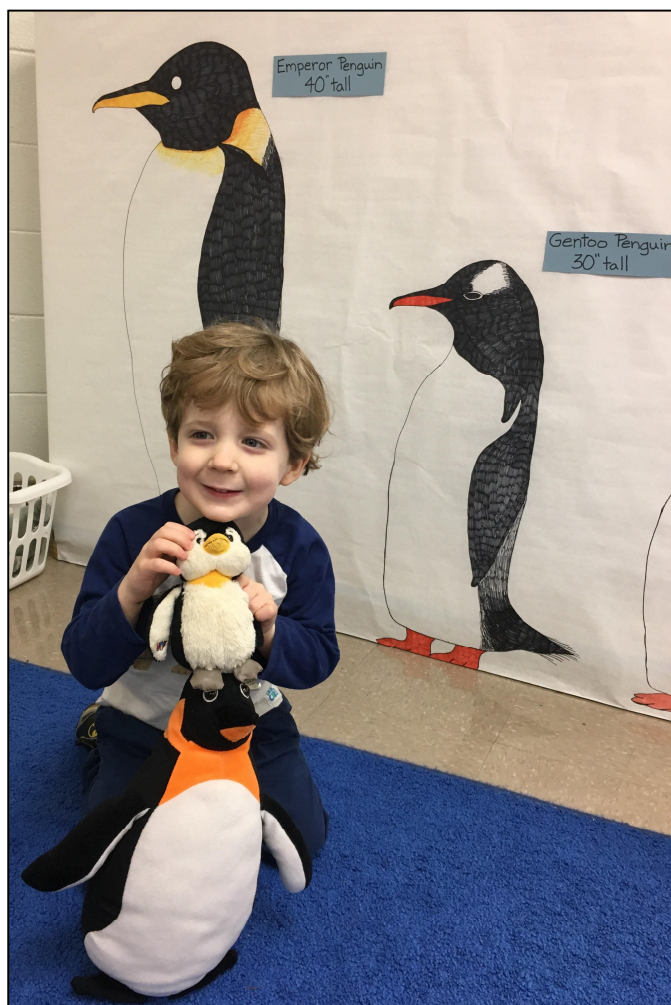
Art Teacher Kelly Kirkpatrick is featuring Jim Dine as our Artist of the Month. Kelly teaches the four and five year olds about the artist, shows them examples of his work, and then encourages the students to create their own art in the method of the featured artist. Google some of the images of Jim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

Mark your calendars as our Preschool will again sponsor a **Shrove Tuesday / Pancakes & PJs dinner on Tuesday, March 5**. We will serve pancakes with all sorts of wonderful toppings, sausage, orange juice, coffee and tea. Tickets are \$7.00; children two and under are free. Proceeds will go toward enhancing the programming in our Preschool.

Father’s Night will be **Monday, February 25 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!

Thank you for your support, interest and participation in our Preschool activities – supporting this this mission of our congregation!

**Sandy Peterkin, Administrator**



## STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. STEPHEN



### New Diagnosis

What do you do when you are diagnosed with a new major illness? Suppose you experience a stroke or other potentially progressive or debilitating illness. Suppose you have just been diagnosed with diabetes, vascular disease or cancer?

Of course, the first things to do are to gather family and pastoral support. Follow your physician's advice and complete the necessary diagnostic and prognostic testing. With your doctor and family, plan therapy. Gather your insurance and financial resources to help deal with the economic impact of care expenses and living expenses. Talk to the parish nurses for their insights on additional needs and resources.

Support doesn't need to stop there. Perhaps you (or your family members) may need to enlist the help of a Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministers are members of the congregation who have gone through extensive training in listening, Christian caring and faith-based support. They are prepared to help you or family members deal with the stresses and emotional demands brought on by short term or long-term illnesses. Stephen Ministers often meet with those under stress for weeks, months or even over years as the situation demands. Their desire is, with the help of the church and Christ's teachings, to lessen the burdens that weigh all of us down at points in our lives.

If you feel that you, family members or friends would benefit from meeting with a Stephen Minister, please contact one of the pastors or Stephen Leader **Jane Wills** at [wilspwr@gmail.com](mailto:wilspwr@gmail.com) or by calling (703) 989-4118. We are here to serve you.

**Bill Dichtel, Stephen Minister**



### **Karen VanRosendale**

Ed and Ingrid Brown  
Rich Gallaer  
Steve and Nancy Adams  
Office of Alan Altschuler, CPA  
Harvey and Doris Margulies

### **Sally Crocker**

Rita Wright

## PRAYERS



**Join your prayers for healing** with God's desires for **Bill Arnold, Joe Beene, Karen Chenault, Gene Clements, Pat Gamble, Erika Geier, Jean Gulesian, Christine Hallman, Michelle Ivey, Doug Moore, George Vonderheide and Karl Zimbauer.**

**Give thanks for the blessing** of a daughter, **Elliot Viola**, to **Jayne and Paul Lawson**; and a daughter, **Lucianna Michelle**, to **Antoinetta and Clare Stimson!**

**Pray resurrection faith and hope** for **John and Brian VanRosendale** mourning the death of **Karen**, wife and mother.

**Pray for those unable to come to worship:** **Doris Bass, Preston and Birdie Burton, Martha 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, Philip Arnold, Jane Ayers, Bill Beck, Eliza Bicknell, Tom and Bea Black, Blume family, Marla Canny, Elaine Cari, Alan Clem, Michael Cline, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Robin Daniel, Steven Dressler, Diann Ehlers, Inge Felbier, Mary Fitzgerald, Ward and Betty Frazee, David Gade, Laurie Giner, Andrea Gonzalez-Flatin, Bill Gottschalk, Ellen Green, Martha Greer, Virginia Lee Groves, JoAnn Hecker, Sharon Hegland, Chip Hilbinger, Emily Holdredge, Jim Howington, Rick Jackson, Sharon Janot, Jerome Johnson, Leesa Keene, Wendy Kent, Fran Kibler, Chris Kinney, Art Kirk, Barbara Knight, Rebecca Krueger, Terry Krull, Mary Alice Kuntz, Douglas Lankford, Mildred Lindblad, Jackie Lohr, Jackie Mereness, Heidi Morris, Carey and Dorothy Myers, Eric Nelson, Mary Newberg, Sue Plevelich, Dino Polizois, Vivian Reaver, Katherine Reier, Jenny Rice, Shann Rufer, Marie Scheiding, Marion Seidl, Inge Seiter, Luke Short, Shumacker family, Patricia Simpson, James Smith, Evelyn Spear, Jerry Spear, Jennifer St. Clair, Charley Underdahl, Cassie Wallace, Sue Weilmuenster, Donna Wood, Peggy Williams, Terry Wilson, Sandra Wimbush, Peggy Wright, Aaron Zabell, and Diane Zulawski**

St. Stephen Lutheran Church  
612 Jamestown Road  
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[www.saintstephenlutheran.net](http://www.saintstephenlutheran.net)



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***Congregational Officers:***

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

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email: All email addresses are:  
\_\_\_\_\_@saintstephenlutheran.net



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	email	Pastorab@
<i>Pastor</i>	<b>Cheryl Ann Griffin</b>	876-6371
	email	Pastorc@

***Parish and Preschool***

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

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David Allen	645-8220
Alan Balma	206-1430
Amy Bergh	566-4557
Dave Gamble	564-7030
Jeanne Garrison	229-0978
Corey Knestrick	367-9904
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**Article deadline: Fifteenth of the previous month.**