



# The Quill

## THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

JANUARY 2017



### ***Celebrating Luther***

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted 95 Theses for debate about the Church's practice of selling Indulgences. The theses were intended for debate among members of the theological faculty at the University of Wittenberg, but copies were printed and distributed widely, spreading the controversy. Many historians use this date as the beginning of the Lutheran Reformation.

In 1999, the Lutheran World Federation (which includes our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and the Roman Catholic Church issued a statement explaining our convergence over the doctrine of justification. What does this mean? It means that we have come to an agreement of how to understand the fundamental theological reason for the Reformation!

Using this achievement as a basis, in 2017, the Lutheran World Federation and the Roman Catholic Church are commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation together. Where are our convergences? Where is there more work to be done?

This is giving Lutherans an opportunity to return to Luther's fundamental teachings, those that he received from St. Paul in the New Testament: that we are justified through faith; that God has won our salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ; that we work to advance God's kingdom in response to that salvation. When the Spirit immerses us in that good news, in that grace, our lives are full of joy!

At St. Stephen, we will engage in activities of worship and study throughout 2017 to observe this 500th anniversary. A theme for the year is: "Where We Were 500 Years Ago, Where We Are Today, Where We Are Going In The Future." I invite you to take part in as many of these events as you can.

Blessings to you—

**Pastor Andy Ballentine**



### ***2017 Events Commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation***

**St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Williamsburg, VA**

Hymn Festival Weekend Celebrating the Week of Christian Unity and Commemorating the Reformation,  
**January 28-29—**

- Presenters:

- Dr. David Cherwien, Organist/Cantor, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis
- Susan Palo Cherwien, hymn text writer and poet. (Check out *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* Hymns #261, 306, 374, 447, 548, 648, 672, 699.)

- Location:

- Workshops on **January 28** and Hymn Festival on **January 29** at St. Bede Roman Catholic Church.

January and February Book Study of the new biography, *Martin Luther, Visionary Reformer* by Scott Hendrix—

- Monday evenings (beginning **January 9**, 7:00 PM) and Thursday afternoons (beginning **January 12**, 2:00 PM), in January and February; SSLC

Lenten Book Study of Luther's *Large Catechism*—

- Monday evenings (beginning **February 27**, 7:00 PM) and Thursday afternoons (beginning **March 2**, 2:00 PM) during Lent; SSLC

The Women's Retreat, **March 25**: "Women of the Reformation—

- Presenter: Ellen Hinlicky of the Virginia Synod
- Location: St. Stephen Lutheran Church

An Evening of Food and Theater, **April 28**: "Reformation's Rib: Celebrating Katherine von Bora," written by Jim Cobb—

- Pot luck dinner at 6:30 PM; SSLC
- Presenters: **Danya Zimbauer** will play Katie Luther, **Joe Phillipoom** will play Martin Luther, and **Jim Cobb** will be the narrator.

The Virginia Synod's "Power in the Spirit" event **July 13-15**: The Reformation for the 21st Century Church—

- Presenter: Dr. Timothy Wengert, world renowned Reformation historian (and two-time St. Stephen Theologian in Residence)
- Location: Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia
- Registration: Materials will become available.

Working with St. Bede Roman Catholic Church—

Theologian in Residence program, **September 29–October 1**, "The Reformation for Lutherans and Roman Catholics: Where We Were 500 Years Ago, Where We Are Today, Where We Are Going In The Future"—

- Roman Catholic Presenter: Bishop Denis Madden, Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore
- Lutheran Presenter: Dr. Kathryn Johnson, Director of Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**Plus**—In the Planning for **Early 2018**: A Trip to Luther Sites in Germany



## January Baptismal Anniversaries

Those celebrating anniversaries of their new birth in Christ:

January 1	Jane Gingerich
January 5	Katie Harms
January 11	Sandy Croushore
January 15	Travis Meermans
January 15	Karen Sanderlin
January 15	Kenny Spencer
January 17	Nathan Egloff
January 20	Carl Stauffer
January 28	Ethan Owens

Also in January: York Doerr



## I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

On Christmas Day, we sing the Christmas carol, "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day." The text was written by the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in 1863, in the midst of the Civil War. It was first published two years later in a journal.

In addition to being a tumultuous period for our country, it was also a dark period in Longfellow's life. Against his father's wishes, Longfellow's oldest son joined the Union army, and Longfellow's second wife died suddenly and tragically in 1861.

In 1872, the poem was set to music, and, although multiple tunes have been used over the years, the one

we use on Christmas Day is the most popular. When this poem appears in a hymnal, there is one verse that is omitted, which reflects the time in which it was written:

*Then from each black, accursed mouth  
The cannon thundered in the South,  
And with the sound  
The carols drowned  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

In addition to containing many essential Christmas themes, this hymn is particularly applicable to our time. The author of the poem is feeling discouraged by the hatred in the world during a time when there should be peace on earth.

**Marty Barstow, Music Director**



**Health Ministry:**

***We Walked to Bethlehem!***



We began our journey to Bethlehem on October 2 and traveled a total of 15,406 miles. The first week we started by traveling west, across the United States and to the Pacific, with our first stop on the banks of the Mississippi River in St. Louis. Here we learned about the Native American Mississippians and their earthwork mounds; French explorers Joliet and Marquette and the fur trading post of 1763; the German population establishing the beer brewing industry; and, that it is the home of several religious denominations' seminaries and St. Louis University, a Catholic university.

Our second week found us in Salt Lake City, Utah, founded by Brigham Young and followers of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints. It is also home to the famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir, and the Great Salt Lake is just west of the city.

Next, we headed to California during week three, where we boarded a cruise ship to Hawaii. There we found warm weather, beautiful beaches, the volcano at Diamond Head, and also learned about Pearl Harbor.

Our next stop, in week four, was at Midway Atoll, known primarily for a major naval battle during World War II. It currently is a national wildlife refuge with only 40-60 inhabitants, all employed in the Fish and Wildlife Service.

In week five we sailed toward Taiwan, passing by Iwo Jima, site of an instrumental World War II battle. Taiwan is part of the Republic of China, which was established in 1912.

Week six brought us to the many islands of the Philippines. The capital, Manila, was founded by Spanish explorers in 1571, and the United States assumed control after the Spanish-American war. The country is largely Roman Catholic, but there are also numerous Protestants, as well as insurgent Muslims.

By week seven we landed in Thailand. Although the elephant is Thailand's national symbol, poaching has drastically reduced the elephant population. The prevalent religion is Theravada Buddhism, which is an integral part of Thai culture and identity.

Week eight found us in Kolkata (Calcutta), the capital of the Indian state of West Bengal, where there is a religiously and ethnically diverse culture that includes Bengali Hindus, Muslims, and Christians.

By week nine we arrived in Kandahar, the second largest city in Afghanistan. Founded in 329 BCA by Alexander the Great, it is rich in ancient history. Prominent in the news in recent years, decades of war have left much of it destroyed, but is being rebuilt.

Week 10 found us in Hamadan, Iran, where Esther and Mordechai are buried. The Bible notes that a scroll was found here, giving the Jews permission from King Darius/Cyrus to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem.

Week 11 brought us to Bethlehem, just in time to celebrate the birth of Jesus! Over 2,000 years ago Joseph and Mary traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem to register for the required census.

To fulfill the ancient prophesy, it was there in the "City of David" that Jesus was born. Just as the early travelers followed the Star to find the Newborn King, we have made a symbolic journey to find the Messiah.

Thank you to the "Walk to Bethlehem" committee of **Pat Janot, Janice Mayfield, and Tina Wolff** for their help in organizing, tracking, and counting our steps to Bethlehem. A great big shout-out to Pat for her creativity in writing the weekly bulletin information of our journey location.

We hope this virtual communal Walk to Bethlehem has been helpful to you both spiritually and physically. Thank you for your participation.

**Marcie Clark, Parish Nurse**



### ***January Preschool News***

Happy 2017! We hope all of you had a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you to all the families who gave to our scholarship fund, and to those who donated food bags to FISH and the Pineapple Inn. We are truly blessed.

This month the children will be focusing on winter weather, snow friends and creating wonderful winter art. We will celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr., and how he wanted us all to be friends; there will be no school on Monday, **January 16**, in honor of Dr. King.

Our extended day students will have a visit from the Heritage Humane Society in January, and we are collecting items for the animals. Please feel free to drop off any donations at the Preschool or to my office. They are in need of canned dog and cat food, dog and cat toys, non-clumping clay cat litter, paper towels, bleach, creamy low-fat peanut butter, and large bags of enriched rice.

Thank you!  
**Lauren McQuain**



## ***Stephen Ministry, By the Numbers***



St. Stephen Lutheran Church has been enrolled as a Stephen Ministry congregation since 1994, for a total of **22 years** of continuous ministry.



Since enrolling in Stephen Ministry, SSLC has sent **11 members** to be trained as Stephen Leaders.



Our Stephen Leaders have trained **40 lay Stephen ministers** to provide one-on-one Christian care to hurting people in our congregation and community.



Every Stephen Minister undergoes **50 hours** of training covering a variety of topics, including: listening, confidentiality, grief support, depression, crisis theory, and more.



Each Stephen Minister makes a commitment to serve in his or her role for a minimum of **2 years**, but many continue for longer.



This number will be determined by **the number of members** who will feel called to begin Stephen Ministry training. Can we count on you?

If you are a caring, compassionate Christian, please prayerfully consider becoming a Stephen Minister. A new training class will begin in **January 2017**. Contact Pastor Cheryl Griffin or me, if you are interested.

**Jane Wills, Stephen Leader**  
757-378-2715  
wilspwr@gmail.com



## A NEW DIRECTION FOR ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

In November 2016, the St. Stephen Congregation Council endorsed an effort to integrate St. Stephen Lutheran Preschool into the congregation's mission of Faith Formation and Outreach, and to ensure the financial viability of the school.

Over the past several years, Preschool expenses have far exceeded income. In early 2016, the St. Stephen Congregation Council acted to prevent a crisis: that the Preschool would be in a financial deficit at the end of the 2016-2017 school year. At that time, the Congregation Council authorized a Task Group of St. Stephen members to explore the history of the Preschool, assess its current purpose, mission and operations, and offer options for the future.

This past fall, the Task Group's report was finished and widely disseminated. After working extensively with the report, the Council announced that the St. Stephen Lutheran Preschool will continue its ministry, with new leadership coming from within the congregation. The goal is to make possible a closer connection with the congregation's Faith Formation and Outreach programs, while staffing, salaries and expenses are restructured to ensure that expenses will not exceed income.

St. Stephen Lutheran Preschool will continue in the tradition of its current mission statement:

*We provide a kind and friendly atmosphere in which each child will expand his/her cognitive, social, physical, and emotional development, focusing on positive self-concept and an enjoyable preschool experience.*

Further emphasized and expanded will be the second part of the mission statement:

*We introduce preschool members and their families to the St. Stephen congregation and ministry, and invite them to become participants in the study of God's word.*

If you would like further information, have questions or would like to discuss this, please contact: **Pastor Andy Ballentine** and/or **Parish Administrator Sandy Peterkin**.

## AN ICONIC IMAGE



This iconic image of St. Stephen was drawn by Shirley Fout Miller, circa 1957. The church was simply the octagon—folks entering the front doors would be steps from our worship space. In using this image in our upcoming cookbook, the publishers wanted to have signed permission from the artist before printing—I did some searching for information!

Ms. Miller (pictured) was born on Thanksgiving Day, 1925, in Frederick, Maryland, and went on to “live a long life, with a passion for style, entertaining, and Chardonnay.” She had contracted tuberculosis at the age of 12 and spent the next 11 years recovering, in and out of the Maryland State Sanatorium. During this time, she studied with two prominent artists in Washington, DC, and developed her artistic talent. In addition to this wonderful illustration, she produced a number of pen and ink drawings, including a calendar for Colonial Williamsburg.



When Shirley's husband, Dick, got a job in Richmond, he commuted so that they could live in Williamsburg, a dream of hers. She worked as a secretary in the press bureau for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Collection. She died in 2012 at the age of 86 years.

“She was just an almost unfailingly sweet, unfailingly kind and unfailingly sociable person.”

How pleased we are to have had her sketch our church!

**Sandy Peterkin**

Source: [http://articles.herald-mail.com/2012-08-25/obituaries/33390531\\_1\\_millers-edith-wharton-gilded-age](http://articles.herald-mail.com/2012-08-25/obituaries/33390531_1_millers-edith-wharton-gilded-age)



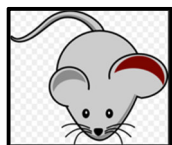
## ***DINING WITH FRIENDS***

Come gather with others from St. Stephen to eat out and enjoy one another's company. The next gathering will be on Saturday, **January 7**, at 12:30 PM at *Opus 9* in New Town. Please let **Don and Jeanne Nelson** know if you are attending by marking the bulletin insert or by contacting them directly at 757-258-9221.



Men of the congregation are invited to join for breakfast the first Thursday of each month, for conversation and friendship-deepening. This month, the first Thursday is **January 5**.

Join with other men at 8:00 AM at the Colonial Pancake House, located at the corner of Page Street and Penniman Road. The agenda is: "How are you doing?"—with discussion!



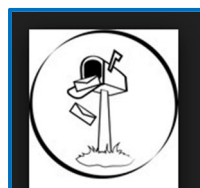
## ***THE CHURCH MOUSE HEARS ...***

that **Michael Powell** (at right) has been named Head Coach of the William & Mary gymnastics program.



## ***January Birthdays***

4	Lauren Franck	Ralph Johnson
	Kenny Spencer	
5	Cliff Henderson	Gayle Spencer
6	Amanda Buckley	Melissa Buckley
	Jim Mayfield	Chris Punchard
	Anders Timberg	
7	Judy Joppa	
8	Carole Meyer	
9	Andy Franck	Karen Shoberg
10	Jeffery Berry	
12	Diane Reeves	
13	Peter Stauffer	
14	Elise Emanuel	
15	Brad Jefferson	Brandon Jefferson
	Brock Jefferson	Justice Jefferson
16	Julie Jefferson	
17	Susan Bosworth	Ned Neidlinger
19	Chuck Frey	Howard Glenn
20	Mark Gulesian	Fred Haecker
	Susan Neidlinger	
21	Patty Ballentine	Tommy Peterkin
	Emily Rossiter	
22	Leah Hardenbergh	Julia Mahony
24	Helen Lenox	
25	Mary Bieber	
28	Nancy Carter	Ethan Owens
29	Lisa Maroney	
31	Alyssa Alpino	Corey Knestrick



## ***Change of Address:***

Mrs. Charles Drubel  
478 Forkwood Way  
Powder Springs, GA 30127



## Prayers

**Join your prayers for healing** with God's desires for **Brian Agor, John Allen, Sally Crocker, Elise Emanuel, Stan Hobday, Rosa Parks, Regina Root, Joanne Shue, Dan Stimson, and George Vonderheide.**

**Pray God's blessings** of comfort and peace to **Gerri Bass** and her family as they mourn her brother, Ken Hartline; to **Carole Meyer** and her family, mourning the death of her husband, Rick; and to **John Watson** and his family as they mourn his mother, Doris.

**Pray God's blessings** of patience and hope on **Dave and Roberta Sulouff** as they await the birth of their baby.

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

**Pray for these loved ones of our congregation:** Peggy, Joyce, Nathalee Accomando, Robert Anderson, Terry Bauer, Brennan Bayer, Tom and Bea Black, Blume family, Grady Calhoun, Marla Canny, Mike and Katie (Punchard) Czajkowski (awaiting the birth of their baby), Rosemarie Cristofolo, Kathryn Dieter, Ronald Dunn, Craig Eitheim, Inge Felbier, Mertie Funkhouser, Marilyn Gehr, Laurel Goddell, Bill Gottschalk, Frank Greenday, Carol Haecker, Madeline Hanlon, Kim Hanlon, Anthony Hargrave, Sara Jane Harlan, Max Heinilouma, Alan Hochstetler, Marian Hunt, Phil Johnson, Fran Kibler, Art Kirk, Jane Kristiansen, Mary Beth LaFave, Charles Lapp, Mildred Lindblad, Frances Link, Simon Mayfield, McGraw family, Heidi Morris, Bill Nabors, Bob Orwoll, Inge Petersen, Mary Peterson, Robert Pushaw, Pat Ramering, Paul Ratzow, Natalie Rimmer, Joan Roderick, Sharon Salsman, Georg Siegert, Barbara Slifer, Linda Smalarz, Nancy Spaniol, Evelyn Spear, Donna Spence, Givens Stewart, Janelle Story, Esther Sutin, Linda Thies, William Thies, Jr., Hallie Thrash, Charley Underdahl, Lee Weaver, Sue Weilmuenster, Jim F. Wolff, and Micah Zabell.



## ELECTING A NEW BISHOP

During the Virginia Synod Assembly, **June 9-11**, a new bishop will be elected. Bishop Jim Mauney has served as bishop of this synod for 18 years, and will not be seeking re-election. St. Stephen is allowed to have two lay voting members attend. If you are interested in attending, please let Pastor Griffin know by **January 15**. The congregation will vote at its **January 22** annual congregational meeting on whom to send.

More information about electing a bishop can be found on the Virginia Synod web site, [www.vasynod.org](http://www.vasynod.org). Click on "resources," and then on the "Transition Team" button on the bottom left of your screen.



Williamsburg area folks in need, are all so grateful to **Preston Burton** for delivering more than 30 bags of food donated by our Preschool parents to the FISH food pantry.



## WISHES FOR A BLESSED NEW YEAR!

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear.*

**Rejoice! Rejoice!**

*Emmanuel shall come to you,  
O Israel.*

**Congregational Officers:**

<i>President</i>	<b>Russ White</b>	220-1023
<i>Vice President</i>	<b>John McCurry</b>	606-389-1082
<i>Treasurer</i>	<b>Paul Kristiansen</b>	220-2709
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	<b>Linda Vonderheide</b>	645-4059

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

**Church Staff:**

<i>Pastor</i>	<b>Andy Ballentine</b>	229-6742
	email	pastorab@
<i>Pastor</i>	<b>Cheryl Ann Griffin</b>	876-6371
	email	pastorc@
<i>Parish Administrator</i>	<b>Sandy Peterkin</b>	office@
<i>Dir. Music/Organist</i>	<b>Martin Barstow</b>	MusicDir@
<i>Parish Nurse</i>	<b>Marcie Clark</b>	ParishNurse@
<i>Dir. Of Preschool</i>	<b>Lauren McQuain</b>	258-3759
	email	preschool@

Monday - Friday: 9:00 AM - 12:00 noon



**Church Council:**

Amy Bergh	566-4557
Dave Clark	603-6346
Keith Egloff	229-7859
Jeanne Garrison	229-0978
Linda Laity Hite	220-2776
John McCurry	606-389-1082
Sherry Phipps	810-4658
George Vonderheide	645-4059
Russ White	220-1023
Carol Wiers	564-0164
David Wills	378-2715
Stan York	345-0073

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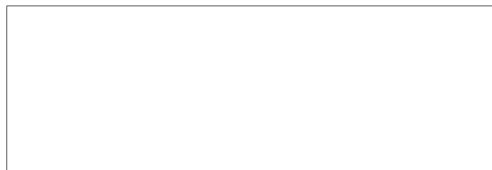
*Pam Buckley*

**Article deadline: Fifteenth of the previous month.**

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