



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

January 2019



KAIROS AND CHRONOS

I've been thinking quite a bit about time. Time is the fourth dimension, or so physicists say. I confess that I've listened to scientific explanations of time, and have not yet grasped some of the scientific complexities. Well, actually I do not grasp any of time's complexities!

We have just taken a deep breath after the busyness of preparing for and celebrating the birth of Jesus. Now it is the New Year, and even if we do not make resolutions, we have set goals and expectations for the year ahead. We have a plan! It may be a plan for one day or for one year, but we in mind things to do or accomplish in our days ahead.

The aspect of this that has been on my mind is our time, and how we measure it. On the Gregorian calendar, January 1 is the start of a new year. (The Gregorian calendar was adopted in 1582 and named after Pope Gregory XIII.) If you ask a teacher when the start of the new year is, you most likely will hear that it begins after Labor Day, when school starts. Church leaders will tell you that the first Sunday in Advent begins the new year.

How we mark time is subjective. We mark the passing of time by the number of birthdays we have had, or by what grade our children or grandchildren are in. We measure how much time it is until an appointment, or a wedding. The older we get, the faster time goes. We "kill" time, and "waste" time. We "spend" time. Time is something that we can never get back once it is gone.

As opposed to *chronos*, *kairos* is God's time. *Chronos* is measured by our human imposed delineations. We measure it on calendars, and by ticking clocks. *Kairos* is not measured as such, but rather is filled with God's presence and grace. One well known reference to *kairos* is expressed in Ecclesiastes, *For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die, a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted...* [3:1-8].

How much time do we spend trying to make things happen on our *chronos* time when really these things belong to God's *kairos* time? We trick ourselves into thinking that we are in charge of everything. Tying ourselves to our schedules and our calendars, do we leave room to be open to God's activity in our lives? Are we so distracted by what we have planned that we miss the fullness and blessings of each moment that God gives us? Will you have time to open God's unexpected gifts?

God's presence is in the miracle of new life, and in days of dying. Emmanuel, which means "God is with us," is born! In coming to us in the flesh, God promises that neither life nor death, nor things present, nor things to come will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord [Romans 8:38a]. All our moments are holy.

My prayer for this year is that we be open to God's presence in each moment. Most times, God does not grab us by the collar and shake us. Being aware of God's presence in our comes with intention. One way to do that is to keep a gratitude journal. (Have I said this before?) Write down three things for which you are grateful. Do it every day. Recently I heard of a different way to encourage us to be aware of God's working in our lives. Begin as many sentences as you can with

“Thank you.” This is especially helpful when we are frustrated or angry.

In the words of St. Paul, *I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you...* [Ephesians 1:16-17].

In God’s amazing grace,
Pastor Cheryl Ann Griffin



“BY HEART” – A STUDY DURING EPIPHANY AND INTO LENT

What does it mean to be a Lutheran? It has to do with God entering into our hearts, creating faith so we come to trust in God’s forgiveness and grace, and coming to God as children trust a loving parent. How does God do that?

During the weeks of January and February and into March, I’ll be leading a study of a remarkable new resource: *By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther’s Small Catechism*. The Introduction is the best eight-page summary of the Lutheran tradition of faith that I’ve ever read. Here are a few more quotes to give you a flavor of this book:

“Every section of the Small Catechism has the same goal at its core: getting God’s work in Christ to penetrate deep inside your heart....

“Luther saw firsthand how far removed the gospel was from his people’s experience. So he set about crafting a proclamation of that word by which the Holy Spirit would create faith in 16th century readers, in believers since 1529, and in you. Luther’s explanations of the articles of the Apostles’ Creed all begin with ‘I believe’ and end with a declaration of that faith: ‘This is most certainly true.’ He compares the Lord’s Prayer to our coming to God like children who trust a loving parent. In his explanations of baptism and the sacrament of the altar, he tells us that the sacraments give gifts that enable faith to happen and strengthen that faith. Faith shows up in Luther’s explanation of the first commandment:

‘We are to fear, love, and trust God above all things.’ Faith hovers all through his explanations as we learn and take the catechism to heart. Faith is the hinge that moves us all from sin and unfaith to faith and righteousness as God’s word creates a clean heart and right spirit within us. This is the center of what we could call the catechism’s ‘by-heartedness.’...

“Behind the Small Catechism lies Luther’s own experience. He knew...that faith...is given ‘by heart’ when God’s word comes to real people.”

We will meet on the **Monday evenings** and the **Thursday afternoons** of **January** and **February**, beginning **January 7 and 10**. **Monday evening** sessions will begin at **7:00 PM**. On **Thursday afternoons** we’ll begin at **3:00 PM**. You can move back and forth according to your schedule.

We’ve sent in a group order for the study books. If you missed out on that, you’re welcome to join us, still! Just order a copy on Amazon, and e-mail me to ask for the study schedule!

Pastor Andy Ballentine



MEN’S & WOMEN’S BREAKFASTS

- **January 3** – Men are invited to join together for breakfast the first **Thursday** of this month.
- **January 8** – Women are invited to join together for breakfast the second **Tuesday** of this month (the normal first Tuesday is New Year’s Day).

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 CHURCH MOUSE HEARS

... that **Lou Rossiter** has been elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Williamsburg Health Foundation for a 2-year term.



2018

Here are some thoughts about our week of serving those without a permanent home through the Community of Faith Mission at Williamsburg United Methodist Church.

Beginning with a bizarre snow storm, our folks worked to unload the trailer on Sunday in falling snow and sometimes falling tree limbs. No one was sure what the night would bring, but we were able to prepare a hot breakfast and get it to the church by 6:00 AM, having removed branches from the driveway to get through.

Despite the weather, the numbers were low for the week – averaging 16 guests out of a maximum of 25 that could be accommodated. With the snowfall, busses didn't start rolling until 9:00 in the morning. The church allowed the guests to remain until then instead of leaving at 7:00.

One of our members purchased a number of men's t-shirts for us to distribute. On our first morning, five of the men were wearing these bright white shirts and feeling good about themselves, having something new and clean to wear. What a simple blessing!

On Thursday evening, **Pastor Griffin** was making her way around the tables, talking to the guests as they ate their dinner. She called me over and told me that one of the gentlemen sitting at the table had painted our Fellowship Hall. I sat down and he thanked me for our church's allowing groups to use the Fellowship Hall for meetings, meals, and workshops. As my memory cleared, I called him by name – remembering that he

indeed painted the Fellowship Hall about 8 years ago. He said, "Yes! You hooked me up with the paint I needed!" I told him that I needed some painting done and had called the number on the business card he gave me, but that it was disconnected. He told me that he had experienced some health issues and that he had fallen into depression. He was unable to work and then lost his home. He told me that he was going to the VA in Hampton the next week to enter a nine-week program. When we parted on Saturday, I wished him well, and prayed that he would get the help that he needed and would be able to get off of the streets.

Some of the guests are loners – not wanting to sit with anyone else, others form groups that become family as they weather the winter together at a different church each week. There was a young couple sitting with a group. The man had his resume on Indeed.com (a site for those looking to hire and looking for jobs) and had an interview the following week with an automobile dealership – he is a mechanic. He found a "new" white shirt on the table of available clothing and was delighted to be able to present a more professional look for his interview. I asked how he coordinated the posting of his resume, setting up the interview, etc. His girlfriend answered, "The library!" She is an avid reader and hoped to one day work in the library. They were able to use the resources available there despite not having a permanent address.

The more I meet the guests of the shelter, the more I realize that we are all the same – only traveling different pathways. I thank our congregation and friends for their generous support of this ministry: those who come out to check guests in – welcoming them in from the cold; those who stay overnight to ensure their safety; those who check them out, ensuring that they have what they need for a safe day; those who come in at 4:30 AM to prepare and serve breakfast and lunch; those who come in at 4:30 PM to prepare and serve dinner, cleaning up our kitchen after returning to St. Stephen; and those who unload the trailer and then reload it as it travels to the next church. So many people working to serve God as best they can – seeing the face of Jesus in those we are serving.

Sandy Peterkin

IT ONLY TAKES A MINUTE



Two weeks until Christmas. I had a long “to do” list. I was in a hurry. I was running into the store. I just needed one item. I rushed in, saw what I needed, grabbed it and headed toward the checkout lanes. I quickly surveyed the various lines, and spotted one with only one customer, and only one item on the conveyor belt. YAY! I placed my item on the belt and waited. The clerk scanned their item, meticulously folded it and placed it aside. It was at this point I saw the customer reach into his basket. He began to pull out one item after another, after another. As the pile of clothes grew so did my impatience and frustration. I only had one item! And with each item from his basket, the clerk diligently scanned, neatly folded and placed them in a large sack.

I shifted my weight from one foot to the other, focused on my breathing, and felt my jaw tense, my teeth clench. I was in a hurry, I had a lot to do, and for Pete’s sake I only had one item!!!

I looked at the items being scanned, a white dress shirt, a pair of black slacks, teen sized. I now looked, really looked, at the people in front of me. They were a senior couple, about my age. I continued to watch as the clerk, scanned the items; pajamas, another pajamas, and another. My impatience grew, I had a lot to do! And the clerk continued to scan, fold, and bag.

I then realized what I had been observing. I took a deep breath and watched as their last item was scanned. The gentleman had his checkbook out and was preparing to write the check. I looked at the woman, smiled and said “I’m guessing you have some grandchildren.” She returned my smile and nodded, clarifying, “These are for the ‘greats’, greatgrandchildren.” We had a brief conversation about grandchildren and “greats” as he completed their transaction.

I then entered my own head...about what is important. I continued to smile, the tension now gone from my neck, and I no longer clenched my teeth. I thought about the love the couple was showing their “greats.” I saw it their eyes, in their smiles, and they expressed that love in all those pajamas. They might have had a “lot to do” but they were doing what was important to them, and they were in “that moment.” No rush, no

hurry, focused and patient on where they were and what they were doing.

I thought about the clerk, who was also a senior. I thought about the fact that he was working in a store that would likely close after Christmas. I wondered if he would have a job. I thought about how precisely he had been in folding each item...no rush, no hurry, focused on where and what he was doing. Polite, courteous, his behavior spoke to who he was in that moment.

I returned to my car, and my “to do list,” in a different frame of mind.

As we each have our own laundry list of ‘important’ things to do - don’t miss that moment.

As we begin a new year, let’s not forget what’s important. ***It only takes a minute.***

Marcie Clark, R.N., Parish Nurse



SHARING CHRISTMAS JOY

A huge thank you for the incredible generosity that was shown by our congregation for the immigrant families that we supported for Christmas! We bought gifts for 11 adults and nine children – a total of 5 households. This was truly an opportunity to spread the hope and promise of the Christ child with families living locally in Williamsburg. The gifts were delivered on December 16th so every household will have a very merry Christmas!

Sharon Powell



STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. STEPHEN



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Happy New Year. Or is it? The holiday decorations have been packed away until next year. Family and other guests have returned to their homes. All the cooking, shopping, and activities associated with the holidays are over. The calendar is clear – no more concerts, parties, lunches or events. The house is quiet.

Yes, you made resolutions to exercise more, eat a healthier diet, and finally finish that project you've been working on for too long. However, the post-holiday inertia has settled upon you. The gray winter weather provides little impetus to venture outside. The days seem interminably long.

Feelings of loneliness and depression are not uncommon at this time of year. If you are experiencing similar symptoms, the first step is to see your physician to ensure there is no health issue that may be contributing to the way you're feeling. A second option is to talk with one of our pastors. A third option is to consider accepting a Stephen Minister to walk through this time with you.

Often, just having someone to talk to about your feelings can provide immense relief. An hour spent with your Stephen Minister once a week can provide an outlet for words you feel uneasy sharing with a friend or member of your family. A non-judgmental listening ear can provide comfort and hope. Most importantly, experiencing God's love through the presence of another person reminds you that you are never alone. A Stephen Minister cares; God cures.

If you would like to request a Stephen Minister, please contact one of the pastors or Stephen Leader **Jane Wills** at wilspwr@gmail.com or by calling (703)989-4118. We are here to serve you.

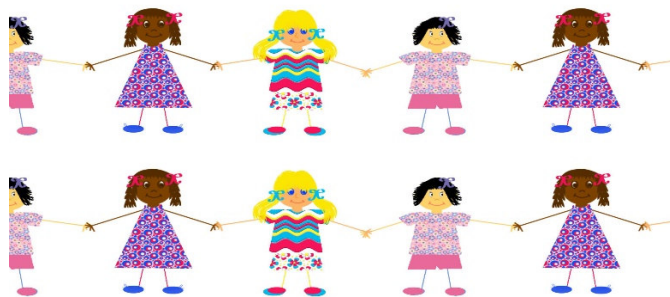
Jane Wills, Stephen Leader



Sally Crocker

Lisa Jenkins
Carole Jones
Daniel and Kimberly Torpey
Kevin Koestner

WOMEN'S RETREAT



Sisters, can you see yourself in this image? Hope so.

In a few days, you will receive information about the **Women's Retreat** to be held at a retreat center in Richmond on March. Hope you can envision yourself there too.

The speaker will be The Rev. Cathy Mims, Pastor, First Lutheran Church, Norfolk. This is what she writes about her presentations:

"Adagio in Three Movements – Slowing down to Abide in Christ." "Adagio" is a musical term that means "slow" or "in a leisurely manner." In three sessions plus small group opportunities, we will, through our practice of the Spiritual Disciplines, slow down, breathe deep and savor our life in Christ. Using John 15 as our guide, we will explore how we can abide in Christ and experience, every day, the renewal of the Holy Spirit.

When.

9:45 AM Saturday, March 16 – 10:45 AM Sunday, March 17.

Cost.

Saturday & Sunday, with meals and lodging – \$110
Saturday only, including lunch – \$35

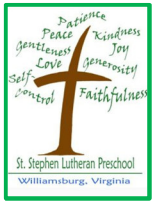
What next?

Complete the registration, which you will receive in early January. **We would like payment to be in by January 20.**

Who is organizing this?

Ina Berkey, Alison Carney, Judy Cobb, Diana Tiller-Dichtel, Linda Reuben and Cyndy Toussent. Pastor Cheryl Griffin has oversight.

Call or email **Judy Cobb** with any questions:
(443) 632-4496, judithcobb1348@gmail.com



ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

December was a very short month for our Preschool – only two weeks, and snow! But the time we had was filled with a lot of activity.

We celebrated the birth of Jesus in a number of ways at the Preschool:

- *Nativity Center.* The area that was our farm stand in September, our firehouse in October and our pumpkin patch in November transformed into “Bethlehem Town,” a stable complete with star, manger, and costumes for children to become shepherds, cows, camels, and sheep.
- *Nativity Scenes.* Our five-year-olds made nativity scenes from shoeboxes and paper towel rolls. It was an interactive piece – wonderful for teaching the Christmas story.
- *Santa’s Workshop.* The Art Room was transformed into Santa’s Workshop as the children made Christmas gifts for their parents.
- *The Nutcracker.* Our five-year-olds were going to walk down to the Kimball to attend the Virginia Regional Ballet’s production of *The Nutcracker*. Unfortunately, snow cancelled the performance. They each still received nutcrackers as a memento of the day.
- *Food Collection.* Joining the church’s food collection for FISH and the Pineapple Inn – parents brought in more than 40 bags of food to help restock the food pantries.
- *Christmas Parties.* Our Christmas parties began with a time in our worship space with Pastor Ballentine telling the Christmas Story and the children portraying various parts, singing songs taught them by Music Teacher, **Patty Ballentine**. Check out the

two videos of the children singing on our Preschool Facebook page!

Thank you for supporting our Preschool.

Sandy Peterkin, Administrator



JANUARY 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.”

From Affirmation of Baptism, in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*:

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

- to live among God’s faithful people,*
- to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper,*
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,*
- to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,*
- and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?*

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

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Jane Gingerich | |
| 5 | Katie Harms | |
| 7 | Matthew Vanlandingham | |
| 9 | Celie Collins | |
| 11 | Sandy Croushore | |
| 12 | Barbara Youngk | |
| 13 | Alyssa Martin | |
| 15 | Travis Meermans | Karen Sanderlin |
| | Kenny Spencer | |
| 20 | Carl Stauffer | |
| 28 | Ethan Owens | |
| 29 | Becca Groman | |
| 31 | Sammy Crittenden | |

Also in January: York Doerr

Were you baptized in January, but your name isn’t on the list above? Let us know.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

4	Ralph Johnson Penelope Sulouff	Kenny Spencer
5	Cliff Henderson	Gayle Spencer
6	Amanda Buckley Jim Mayfield Anders Timberg	Melissa Buckley Chris Punchard
7	Judy Joppa	
8	Carole Meyer	
9	Karen Shoberg	
10	Jeffery Berry	
12	Diane Reeves	
13	Peter Stauffer	
14	Elise Emanuel	
15	Brad Jefferson Brock Jefferson	Brandon Jefferson Justice Jefferson
16	Julie Jefferson	
17	Susan Bosworth Mira Powell	Ned Neidlinger
19	Chuck Frey	
20	Mark Gulesian Susan Neidlinger	
21	Patty Ballentine Emily Rossiter	Tommy Peterkin
22	Leah Hardenbergh	Julia Mahony
24	Helen Lenox	Frank Youngk
25	Margie Ehrhardt	
26	Holly Newsome	
28	Nancy Carter Ethan Owens	
30	Andrew Stahl	
31	Corey Knestrick	

PRAYERS



Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Philip Arnold, Joe Beene, Pat Gamble, Christina Hallman, Michelle Ivey, Doug Moore, and George Vonderheide.**

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

We give thanks for the birth of **Delaynie Lynn Wilkins** to **Shana and Rich!**

Pray God's blessings of Easter faith and comfort for **Ellen Bushman** and her family as they mourn the death of her mother; for **Carla Javier** and her family as they mourn the death of her father; and **JR Griffin** and family as they mourn the death of his sister.

We thank God for blessing **John Allen** with 90 years of life! Send him a card!

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 Schmitthener, 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 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, Alan Clem, Michael Cline, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Inge Felbier, Mary Fitzgerald, Ward and Betty Frazee, 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, 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, Hannah Mac, McGraw Family, Jackie Mereness, Heidi Morris, Eric Nelson, Mary Newberg, Charles Osborn, Sue Plevelich, Dino Polizois, Vivian Reaver, 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, Sue Weilmuenster, Donna Wood, Peggy Williams, Terry Wilson, Sandra Wimbush, Peggy Wright, Aaron Zabell, and Diane Zulawski

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

Dated Material
Address Service Requested

**Non-Profit
 Organization
 US Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 34
 Williamsburg, VA**



**Evangelical Lutheran
 Church in America**
 God's work. Our hands.



The Quill **www.saintstephenlutheran.net** **January 2019**

Congregational Officers:

<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 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

Church Staff:

<i>Pastor</i>	Andy Ballentine	229-6742
	email	Pastorab@
<i>Pastor</i>	Cheryl Ann Griffin	876-6371
	email	Pastorcg@
<i>Parish and Preschool 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@

The Quill is published monthly by
 St. Stephen Lutheran Church
 612 Jamestown Road
 Williamsburg, VA 23185

Editor:
 Reed Nester
 reednester@gmail.com

Mailing:
 Pam Buckley

Article deadline: Fifteenth of the previous month.