



# The Quill

## THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

January 2020



### 2020 VISION

Wow! 2019 seemed to go by in a flash! Can you believe it is the year 2020? Every time I hear “2020,” I think of the measurement of vision as perfect! You can see clearly from 20 feet away what you should see. Sometimes seeing things accurately is challenging! Paying attention helps.

The wise men, we are not told how many, had been waiting for a king to come into the world. They were looking for the coming of the king when they saw a bright star that they knew was a sign from God, and used it to guide them to where the baby Jesus lay in the manger. This event is celebrated on Epiphany, which means “manifestation,” on January 6. This story is told in Matthew 2:1-12.

What we see depends on what we are searching for. Are you looking for signs of God? Where you see love and forgiveness is where you will find God. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control are the fruits of the Spirit, the gifts that God gives (Galatians 5:22-23). When you find these, you have found God. Do you recognize the divine spark in yourself? In others? Do you look for the good in people?

The Eighth Commandment states: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. Luther explains that this commandment also means that we are to come to our neighbor’s defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light. This does not mean that we have to agree with them; it means we need to be kind. Sometimes being kind requires strength and courage.

Kindness is both teachable, and contagious! Science has found that it is also good for your health. (I don’t know about you, but I always feel better when I am kind.) Want to stay young? Perpetually kind people age slower than the average person. That may be because they have 23% less cortisol (the stress hormone) and age slower than the average population!

Acts of kindness produce endorphins. Endorphins are the brain’s natural pain killer. Do you know what is the most important indicator of satisfaction and stability in a marriage? Kindness. Giving to others, rather than buying more and more for ourselves, produces long lasting well-being. It’s good for your heart, prevents illness, and reduces stress.

**Pastor Cheryl Ann Griffin**

### MINISTRY SITE PROFILE

On **January 19, in-between our worship services**, we will look at the subjective questions to be answered on our Ministry Site Profile (MSP). The MSP is like a want ad for a pastor! Our Ministry Site Profile Committee is busy working on the statistical questions. We hope to have the Profile complete by the end of February, if not sooner!

# STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. STEPHEN



## Stephen Ministry Corner

Are you having problems that you want to talk about with someone, but you don't know who that would be? Could it be someone who will listen but not judge, who will care about you and your issue without attempting to fix it? Might it be someone who you will come to know and appreciate without necessarily becoming best friends?

Perhaps you are in need of a Stephen Minister. St. Stephen Lutheran Church can provide you with a Stephen Minister, who will walk with you, talk with you and guide you on your path.

This relationship is completely confidential and no one other than our Pastor and our two Stephen Leaders and your Stephen Minister will even know you have one.

If you find yourself contemplating whether a Stephen Minister may be helpful to you, please contact **Pastor Griffin** or one of our Stephen Leaders, **Jane Wills** or **Bill Dichtel**.

**Doug Moore, Stephen Minister**

## CONGREGATION COUNCIL



The Congregation Council met on December 10. Present at the meeting were **Pastor Griffin, Bob Achenbach, David**

**Allen, Amy Bergh, Ellie Bergh, Sandy Croushore, Jane de Solms, Jeanne Garrison, Linda Hite, Doug Moore, George Vonderheide, Carol Wiers** and **David Wills**. The following items were discussed and/or approved:

- The Congregational Annual meeting will be held on Sunday, February 2, 2020, following the 11:00 service.
- The 2020 budget was presented to the Council. The budget will be presented at the congregational meeting in February.

- The Security Review committee met to discuss the security of the church building. Once completed, their report will be presented to the Council and then to the congregation.
- The Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America 2019 is currently being reviewed. Any possible amendments to the St. Stephen constitution will be presented at the Congregational Meeting in February.
- The Virginia Synod is offering a new opportunity for inspiration, learning and growth. Effective Practice for Innovation Congregations (EPIC) is a one day conference that will be open to all interested members of the congregation. More information about the conference will be announced soon.
- The Council approved a contract for the painting of much of the interior of the church.
- The parking loop around the church will be repaved in the Spring. Dates that the parking loop will be closed will be announced.
- A cipher lock will be installed on the exterior door adjacent to the Preschool and College rooms. The combination will be the same as the one on the existing lock near the church office.
- Three middle school Youth attended the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Retreat. It was reported that a good and inspirational time was had by all!

**Carol Wiers, Secretary, Congregation Council**



## MEN'S & WOMEN'S BREAKFASTS

- **January 2** – Men are invited to join together for breakfast the first **Thursday** of this month.
- **January 7** – 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.



## WOMEN'S RETREAT- SAVE THE DATE

**What:** St. Stephen 2020 Women's Retreat  
**Who:** All St. Stephen Women  
**When:** Saturday, March 14, 2020  
**Where:** St. Stephen Lutheran Church  
**Why:** Faith, fellowship, friendship, learning, laughing, worshipping, praying, singing, serving, sharing.

- Join your sisters in Christ – and bring a friend – for this one-day gathering being held at St. Stephen.
- Strengthen connections and continue conversations during a post-retreat social (also at St. Stephen) including snacks and beverages.
- Several choices of breakout activities/sessions

We are pleased to welcome our presenter, the Rev. Dr. Mary Williams Anderson, a Columbia, SC native and Lutheran pastor of 36 years. Pastor Anderson has a Doctor of Ministry in Preaching and loves to share God's Word in writings and sermons. She has been active in issues of racial reconciliation, homelessness and supporting public education. Dr. Anderson serves at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary as Coordinator for Contextual Education. (Want to get to know Pastor Anderson prior to the retreat? Subscribe to her devotional blog, Ponder Anew: [www.ponderanewpma.com](http://www.ponderanewpma.com))

Details for this one-day retreat will follow soon. Registration begins in January 2020.



## LSA OFFICERS

We give thanks for our newly elected Lutheran Student Association officers. Please offer your blessings to **Lindsey Rogers**, President; **Carolyn Shinseki**, Vice-President; **Rebecca Wagner**, Treasurer; **Grace Caudill**, Secretary; and **Katie O'Neill**, Historian.

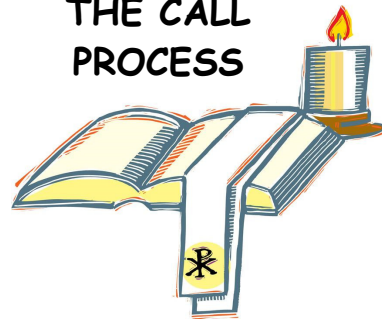
## EPIC Leadership Conference

at St. Paul, Hampton



The Virginia Synod is conducting a workshop entitled, *EPIC: Effective Practices for Innovative Congregations*. This conference is designed to strengthen lay people and pastors for ministry in their church and the world. Workshop topics include sessions on diversity, engaging young families, and congregational vitality. This conference is on **Saturday, January 11 from 9 AM to 2 PM at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Hampton**. This is an opportune time in the life of our congregation to hear new ideas, and to learn how to spark new energy! Speak with **Pastor Griffin** if you are interested in attending.

## THE CALL PROCESS



We believe it is our Lord Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit, who guides the call process. The calling of a pastor represents a valuable partnership among God, the calling congregation, and the synod of the ELCA. An ideal call process builds on trust, openness, and good communication. When the call process results in a good match between pastor and congregation, the total mission of the church is furthered. On the basis of our Lutheran theology, a pastor is called to serve a congregation, not hired. Members of St. Stephen's Call Committee are **Tara Grove**, **Sandy Peterkin**, **Michael Powell**, **Charlene Smith**, **Susan Yancey**, and **Stan York**. **Sandy Croushore** is Council liaison to the Committee. **Pastor Griffin** serves as an *ex-officio* member of both the Ministry Site Profile and Call Committees.



## ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

The highlight of December was celebrating the birth of Jesus!

- Bethlehem Town Once again our dramatic play area was turned into Bethlehem and the children took the rolls of Mary, Joseph, shepherds, sheep and cows. The area was a stable, complete with star and manger. Our creative teachers fashion this area of the Preschool into a farm stand in September; our firehouse in October, and our pumpkin patch in November.
- Our five-year-olds made nativity scenes from shoe boxes and paper towel rolls. It is an interactive piece – wonderful for teaching the Christmas story.
- The Art Room was transformed into Santa’s Workshop as the children made Christmas gifts for their parents.
- Santa’s Workshop was a new addition to our Preschool area this year. Children (or elves, as they became) worked on making toys and wrapping packages. Once again, imagination was the main ingredient in their final products.
- Joining the church’s Reverse Advent Calendar, food was collected for FISH and was delivered along with the congregation’s offerings.
- Our Christmas parties began with a time in our worship space with Nina Simone, one of our Preschool mothers who has a degree in Christian Education, discussed how to relate faith to Christmas happenings with our parents and grandparents. Pastor Griffin told the Christmas Story and the children, portraying various parts, sang 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**



## THE CHURCH MOUSE HEARS

... that **Reed & Karen Nester** finished teaching another session of the Norge Elementary School Bike Club, assisted by Andy Ballentine and club sponsor Lynn Miller. The Bike Club curriculum covers bicycle safety and bicycle handling skills. This is one of the afterschool clubs sponsored by SHIP (Student Health Initiative Program).





## 2019

Each year we serve in the Community of Faith Shelter I pray to find the words to convey the impact that our ministry has on those with no permanent home who come to the shelter for assistance.

So, how were you Jesus this year?

“Not me! I just contributed some money,”

“Not me! I just bought some socks,”

“Not me! You needed coffee, so I just brought some in.”

“Not me! I just checked people in for the night”

“Not me! I just helped cook a meal.”

“Not me! I only stayed for a half-night shift.”

Yes, you! The effect that your smiling, welcoming face, warm socks, or healthy food has on a person who has no home is tremendous. Often, what we would consider insignificant actions, are monumental to those on the receiving end.

I'll call them Ben and Gail – a married couple staying at the shelter. Ben has gout – and so could not eat pork or beef. I learned this at our meatloaf dinner night. For breakfast we had prepared bacon and eggs. The following night we were making baked ham, followed by sausage biscuits on our final morning. Trying to be helpful, I asked Gail if Ben could eat chicken. When she answered yes, I told her that I would make chicken for him the next night. “Really?” she said with tears in her eyes. “You would do that?” Of course! It would really be a simple thing to bake some chicken along with the ham.

Ben came up and asked, “Are you really going to make me chicken tomorrow night?” He explained that he had spent five days in the hospital for gout and was trying to be careful about what he ate. I assured him that there would be food for him the next night and the next morning we made breakfast – turkey sausage!

I got a phone call the next afternoon from the shelter - Ben had to work a double shift and would not be able to get there that night. We arranged that I would make the chicken and put it in the refrigerator with his name on it for when he was able to get there.

I was surprised to see him that evening – he got out of the second shift so that he could come to the shelter to eat the chicken we made for him. In my head it was “just baked chicken.” To Ben, it was a wonderful gift of food that he was able to eat.

*“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” ... “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?”... “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you did it to me.” (Matthew 25:35-40)*

The number of workers from St. Stephen who came out to physically assist in the shelter exceeds 40 people. The number of people from St. Stephen who prayed for us, contributed cash, coffee, socks, underwear, snack crackers, paper towels, juice, etc. is innumerable. All of us help as we are able and all gifts of time, talent, and funding are so very appreciated.

**Sandy Peterkin**



## YOGA CLASSES!

Are you interested in starting yoga? **Janice Mayfield** is offering a six-week beginner yoga class to any interested members. The class will focus on stretching and breathing. It will be held on **Tuesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 PM beginning in January**. There is no charge for the class, but donations will be used to purchase items needed for Avalon. If you are interested, please call Sandy Peterkin in the church office. This helps us to better plan the space we will be using.



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2	Elliott Lawson	
4	Ralph Johnson	Kenny Spencer
	Penelope Sulouff	
5	Gayle Spencer	
6	Amanda Buckley	Melissa Buckley
	Jim Mayfield	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	Brandon Jefferson
	Brock Jefferson	Justice Jefferson
16	Julie Jefferson	
17	Susan Bosworth	Ned Neidlinger
	Mira Powell	
19	Chuck Frey	
20	Mark Gulesian	Susan Neidlinger
21	Tommy Peterkin	Emily Rossiter
22	Leah Hardenbergh	Julia Mahony
25	Margie Ehrhardt	
26	Holly Newsome	
28	Nancy Carter	Ethan Owens
30	Andrew Stahl	
31	Corey Knestrick	



## WEATHER EMERGENCIES

WAVY Channel 10 will provide emergency information concerning the church's operations regarding closings for Sunday services and/or meetings at the church. Please turn your television to Channel 10 and look for the church's name at the bottom of the screen in the message crawl if there is inclement weather. Questions? Contact **George Vonderheide**, (757) 645-4059 or [gandl525@cox.net](mailto:gandl525@cox.net).

# Thank you



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

Thank you for your gift of \$3,000 to ELCA World Hunger.

*"Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above." (James 1:12a)*

Your generous gift is enabling transformative works of love here in the United States and in 60 countries around the world, providing what is needed to end hunger and poverty: access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock, education, and peace and justice. Together, we are creatively and courageously working toward a just world where all are fed.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our neighbors around the world. With this beautiful gift you are lifting up and building up neighbors in Christ, reflecting the glory of God.

The Rev. Robin Brown  
Mission Funding Director, Congregations



Thank you for your overwhelming response to Reverse Advent Calendar! Whenever a new idea or program is tried, one never knows what will happen. I wondered if we would collect much food. I mentioned this initial concern to a

few people and their response was, "You know this congregation!"

Indeed I do know this congregation and I know firsthand the many blessings we bestow on those in need. Thanks to **Tim Crittenden, Jim Ogborn, Paul Reier, and Jo Hanny** for transporting three trucks and a car full of food to FISH. Thanks also to **Marilyn Mallue and Karen Einarsen** who helped move the food from the Gathering Space to the vehicles.

Personally, I am going to use the calendar as a guide for purchasing food for FISH. Maybe not all of it each month, but it will help me to remember the items needed in the food pantry.

**Sandy Peterkin**



## 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.”

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!

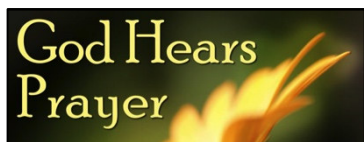
### Pastor Cheryl Ann Griffin

- 1 Jane Gingerich
- 5 Kathryn Harms
- 7 Matthew Vanlandingham
- 11 Sandy Croushore
- 12 Barbara Youngk
- 13 Alyssa Martin
- 15 Travis Meermans            Karen Sanderlin  
Kenny Spencer
- 20 Carl Stauffer
- 31 Sammi Crittenden

Others who were baptized in January:  
Karen Arledge            York Doerr

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

### PRAYERS



Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Brian Agor, Judy Althans, Bill Arnold, Joe Beene, Joyce Behlendorf, Ward Bourn, Kristin Carter, Art Dorsey, Dianne Harris, Lynn Knestruck, Randy Punchard, Paul Reier, and Laura Spencer.**

Pray God's blessings on **Sara Harms** and **Ray Beatty** as they wait for the birth of their baby.

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

Pray for those unable to come to worship: **Doris Bass, Martin Bleck, Preston and Birdie Burton, Gene and Martha Clements, Bob and Angie Groom, Mary Jamerson, Billie Jo Purse, Dick Reeves, Jessie Schmitthenner, Jo Schumacher, Jean Shivel, Joanne Shue, Darlene Simon, Jerry Trone, Ladonna Wiederholt**

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Gary Abrams, Brian Anchondo, Mary Ann Arnold, Jane Ayers, Gary Baumgarten, Rose Baumgarten, Eliza Bicknell, Tom & Bea Black, Blume family, Julie Boardman, Lou Byers, Jr., Terri Byers, Marla Canny, Elaine Cari, Alex Cline, Nancy Cline, Robin Daniel, Graham Darnell, Karen Deperini, Michael Dorsey, Will Draughton, Diann Ehlers, Nancy Ely, NeYsa Ely, Inge Felbier, Mary Fitzgerald, Pinkie Ford, Betty Frazee, Steven Friend, Hollis Fulton, Burt Gay, Carole Gilman, Laurie Giner, Andrea Gonzalez, Bill Gottschalk, Barbara & Edward Granlund, Kara Gustafsson, Ted Harms, Dan & Nan Hawks, Sharon Hegland, Lilly Higgins, Terry Holland, Robin Jones, Fran Kibler, Chris Kinney, Art Kirk, John Knestruck, Eugene Kreitzer, Rebecca Krueger, Torri Larson, Christopher Lee, Devin Lee, Mildred Lindblad, Jackie Lohr, Patrick & Kristin McGraw, Brittney & Aiden McQuage, Al Meyer, Laura Moseley, Janet Overdorf, Mike Overdorf, Mary Ann Price, Jenny Rice, Jennifer Rideout, Edith Roberts, RoseAnn Roberts, Shann Rufer, Paul Sampson, Ale Schinkle, Marion Seidl, Inge Seiter, Patricia Simpson, James Smith, Sharon Smith, Evelyn Spear, Nancy Wiers, Carolyn Williams, John Wilson, Donna Wood, and Aaron Zabell.



**Philip Arnold**  
Carol Schmidt  
Harlan and Anne Schone

### Endowment Fund

*In Honor of Sandy Croushore*  
John Croushore

*In Memory of Robert Rumpf*  
Ward Bourn

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 2020**

***Congregational Officers:***

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

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



***Church Staff:***

<i>Pastor</i>	<b>Cheryl Ann Griffin</b>	876-6371
	email	Pastorcg@
<i>Parish and Preschool Administrator</i>	<b>Sandy Peterkin</b>	Office@
<i>Director of Music</i>	<b>Karen Ives</b>	MusicDir@
<i>Parish Nurse</i>	<b>Diana Tiller-Dichtel</b>	Parishnurse@
<i>Preschool Lead Teacher</i>	<b>Susan Ruane</b>	Preschool@

***Congregation Council:***

Bob Achenbach	206-1789
David Allen	645-8220
Amy Bergh	566-4557
Ellie Bergh (Youth Member)	566-4557
Sandy Croushore	476-5789
Dave Gamble	564-7030
Jeanne Garrison	229-0978
Linda Laity Hite	876-7431
Corey Knestrack	367-9904
Doug Moore	903-4969
George Vonderheide	645-4059
Carol Wiers	564-0164
David Wills	378-2715

*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.***