



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

MARCH 2017



Tenth Anniversaries and Entering Into the Season of Lent

For the past six months, I've been observing 10th anniversaries of when I was becoming so sick, and then recovering. (For those of you who have become part of our community since then: In the fall of 2016, I suffered a mysterious life-threatening illness. By the time infectious disease doctors at Eastern Virginia Medical School had diagnosed me with *histoplasmosis*, the fungus had taken over my lungs, and I was in Norfolk ICU, on a ventilator, receiving nourishment through a feeding tube.)

So, I've been observing 10th anniversaries—of being admitted into the hospital in Williamsburg, and into the ICU in Williamsburg, and then being transferred to Norfolk, and then “graduating” from the ICU and entering the Progressive Ventilator Care Unit, of being moved to a regular hospital room, of being discharged, ... I was home for two months of recovery. Now, I only have one more 10th anniversary to observe: **March 1**, the date in 2007 when I returned to work!

When I returned to work, Lent was about to begin. And, here's another 10th anniversary. We began using *Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW)* on Ash Wednesday of 2007.

This year, Lent begins on **March 1** with Ash Wednesday, and the Worship and Music Committee has decided to

use Evening Prayer from *ELW* (instead of Holden Evening Prayer). The chief reason is that Holden is an Advent liturgy, and we can insert Lenten themes into Evening Prayer from *ELW*. But, I think it's also a great way to celebrate the 10th anniversary of using the worship book.

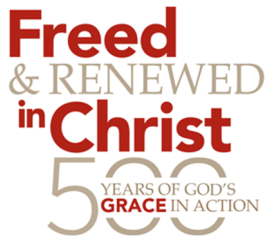
Here is how we will enter in the season of Lent at St. Stephen:

- **Ash Wednesday, March 1**
 - **6:00 PM** pot luck dinner in the Fellowship Hall.
 - **7:00 PM** worship, featuring imposition of ashes, sermon and Holy Communion.

- **On the Wednesdays of Lent, March 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5:**
 - **6:00 PM**—We will share simple homemade soup and bread suppers. (Sign up on the poster in the Gathering Space to coordinate a Lenten supper and/or to bring soup and/or bread.)
 - **7:00 PM**—Evening Prayer. Each night Pastor Griffin or Ballentine will offer teaching from a section of Luther's *Large Catechism*.

Blessings to you during your journey through Lent—
Pastor Andy Ballentine





**Ongoing Events
Commemorating
the 500th Anniversary
of the Lutheran
Reformation**

Forty-eight members of the congregation are reading the current study book, *Martin Luther: Visionary Reformer*. So far, 49 have signed up to read the *Large Catechism*.

What makes Lutheran teaching distinctive? What do Lutherans teach about the 10 Commandments, the Creed, the Lords' Prayer, the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion?

To get into these questions, join Pastor Ballentine in a study of Luther's *Large Catechism*. Luther wrote the *Small Catechism* for use in families. He wrote the *Large Catechism* for clergy and others who were educated, but very few contemporary Lutherans have ever read it. A new Annotated Study Edition has just been published, with fresh scholarship and commentary.

These Lenten study groups meet on **Monday evenings** at 7:00 PM and **Thursday afternoons** at 2:00 PM (beginning **March 2**).

The 2017 Women's Mini-Retreat will be held at St. Stephen and run from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM on Saturday, **March 25**. The retreat will feature a presentation on the Women of the Reformation, a service project, and two smaller group activities.

The main presenter will be Ellen Hinlicky, who will speak on Women of the Reformation. Ellen is a life-long Lutheran, pastor's wife, and pastor's mother. She grew up in Michigan and has lived in Virginia for nearly 20 years.

For the Service Project, headed by **Heidi Flatin**, books for children ages 6 and up will be collected. Children from 6 months to 5 years of age receive books through the *Reach Out and Read* national literacy program when they visit the doctor at *CHKD*. Books are needed for their older siblings who accompany them to doctor appointments. Then, no one will leave without a book!

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.



**March Baptismal
Anniversaries**

Those celebrating anniversaries of their new birth in Christ:

- 3 Marj Gottschalk-Trone
- 9 Greta Zimbauer
- 4 Thord Einarsen
- 6 Larry Shoberg
- 11 Anders Timberg
- 18 Janice Mayfield
- 20 Gretchen Williams
- 21 Alex Stauffer, Mitchell Stauffer, Peter Stauffer, Zhou Hui Stauffer, Abby Cummings
- 30 Logan Timberg, Danielle Walker



Musical Expressions of Lent

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lent season, occurs on March 1 this year. As many of you have observed, the music (the text, as well as overall mood) tends to change somewhat during Lent. In past positions, people have remarked to me that, “your music, is like, more depressing during Lent.”

When it comes to liturgy settings, many of you are aware that the Hymn of Praise is omitted, and the Gospel Acclamation never contains the word “Alleluia.” Alleluia is a word associated with joy, and this season is one that is contemplative and penitential.

As with any Sunday in the church year, the preludes and postludes, hymns, and choir anthems reflect the readings in the lectionary, which accounts for music with a comparatively more reflective mood.

Some organists will withhold the use of the cymbelstern during Lent, since it is often used to reflect joyous and delightful musical moments. The cymbelstern, located behind the organ case in the sacristy, contains several bells that form a “bell tree.” When it is activated by the organist, they all ring together.

Palm Sunday and services during Holy Week are great examples of times when music (or lack thereof) especially helps to reinforce the theme of the day. Often, the postlude for Palm Sunday is either meditative, which is uncommon for a postlude, or deleted entirely. For services during Holy Week, departing in silence, without a postlude, is incredibly effective.

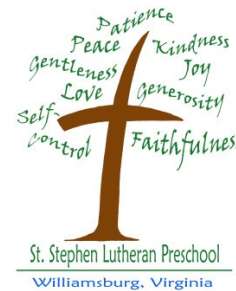
This varies greatly from denomination to denomination. Many churches celebrate Easter and Christmas, but avoid other observances such as Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday almost entirely, since they do not wish for Christ’s atonement to be a focal point in their tradition.



This period in the church year has been an inspiration for timeless musical gems. Much of Handel’s *Messiah*, believe it or not, is appropriate for this season. The oratorio is divided into three parts: Part I is related to Christ’s Advent and Birth; Part II is His suffering; Part III is about his resurrection. The famous *Hallelujah Chorus*, which closes Part II, is actually about Christ’s resurrection, even though it is usually sung during the Christmas season.

Blessings to all as we approach this important time in the church year—

Marty Barstow, Music Director



March Preschool News

Spring is in the air, and all around the Preschool! While the children are making rainbow and shamrocks, wild birds are flying everywhere.

We started off the month with our annual Books and Breakfast; the children were asked to bring in a lightly used book, and in return could choose a “new” one. The children and their families enjoyed breakfast treats, too.

On **March 8**, the four- and five-year-old classes will visit the Williamsburg Fire Department, and on **March 23**, York River State Park will visit the extended day students to teach the children about the Web of Life. Spring break will be **April 1-9**.

We are collecting large oatmeal containers, glass baby jars and small yogurt cups for art projects. If you have any of these, please bring them to the Preschool or drop them by Lauren McQuain’s office (across from Sandy Peterkin’s office). Thank you in advance for any donations.

Thank you!
Lauren McQuain



INTERVIEW WITH A CARE RECEIVER

Stephen Minister (SM): Thanks for agreeing to share your experience with our congregation. Please tell me a little about what was happening in your life when you started your journey with your Stephen Minister.

Care Receiver (CR): We had only lived in Williamsburg for about a year when my wife was diagnosed with breast cancer. She underwent a mastectomy and the surgery went well. She had just come home from the hospital and the first night at home, she had a stroke. She was rushed back to the hospital. They said the stroke was minor, but she still experienced trouble with her speech, memory, and had some motor/coordination issues with her left side. She was in rehab for a few weeks. But once she became strong enough, she still was facing rounds of chemo and radiation therapy.

SM: That must have been an especially trying time.

CR: I was a mess. I thought my wife was going to die. I just wanted to be strong for her, but, the thought of living without her was more than I could comprehend. I tried to put on a brave face for my wife and kids, but I would come home from the hospital to the empty house and feel lost. I would sit in the dark and try to figure out what to do next. I had no answers.

SM: How did a Stephen Minister come into your life?

CR: The pastors visited us several times while my wife was hospitalized. I guess I was looking pretty rough from lack of sleep and the stress. The first time the topic of having a Stephen Minister came up, I immediately and emphatically said no. I'm of the generation where men don't show their feelings, especially their weaknesses. Men are just supposed to deal with whatever comes their way. About the third time the pastor brought up Stephen Ministry, I guess I was just too tired to say 'no'. The pastor suggested I just try it for a few months and see how it would go. Boy, am I glad I finally caved in.

SM: How did having a Stephen Minister at that time in your life prove helpful?

CR: It was more than helpful. My Stephen Minister was a lifesaver. I felt so alone. I must admit I was angry with God, too. I questioned why my wife had to be the one to suffer, and, I couldn't see how things were going

to improve any time soon. I felt almost paralyzed with all the responsibilities I had to assume in caring for my wife and our home. At my first meeting with my Stephen Minister, I didn't think I would have anything to say, and, we didn't even talk much about my situation that day. We discussed football. I think it was one of the few conversations I'd had in weeks that was about something other than the reality my wife and I were living. I felt myself genuinely smiling. Before he left, we prayed together. He prayed for me. I'd been praying earnestly for my wife, but I hadn't thought about asking God to help me. My heart somehow seemed lighter after that time spent together.

SM: How long did your relationship with your Stephen Minister last?

CR: My Stephen Minister was with me for about 18 months. We met for about an hour almost every week, and he worked around my schedule. Sometimes we'd meet in the morning and sometimes it was in the afternoon. He even came to the infusion center, and we would talk while my wife was receiving chemo. One time, we played cards. I realized it was OK to laugh and have fun without feeling guilty. My Stephen Minister's presence made me appreciate that God was present, too. I became a better caregiver for my wife because of my Stephen Minister reminding me of God's love. We are still friends to this day.

SM: What advice would you offer someone about accepting a Stephen Minister?

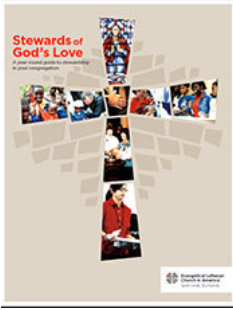
CR: When you are going through a crisis, you become overwhelmed. Being offered a Stephen Minister is a gift. It's not a sign of weakness. My Stephen Minister never tried to 'fix' me or act as a counselor. He walked with me for a while on my journey, and I came to understand that I was never alone, that God was always with me. I would encourage people to use this resource within our congregation. In fact, don't wait until the pastor asks you if you'd like a Stephen Minister—ASK the pastor if you can HAVE a Stephen Minister!

SM: I am grateful to you for your willingness to share your story. Blessings to you.

Are you going through a difficult time? Do you feel alone or abandoned? Do you feel overwhelmed? Please contact one of the pastors or me, if you are interested in having a Stephen Minister.

Jane Wills, Stephen Leader

wilspwr@gmail.com or 757-378-2715



THE 1956 SOCIETY— ANNUAL DINNER

The Endowment Fund Committee gives thanks for all of those who have joined The 1956 Society. The 1956 Society has 48 members with a total estimated pledging to the Endowment Fund of over \$900,000.

You joyously give today, and you want to carry on your legacy of faithfulness into the future. The 1956 Society is made up of persons who have given or declared their intent to give to St. Stephen's Endowment Fund, including by provisions in wills and trusts.

Each spring the 1956 Society gathers for a modest dinner and to hear an inspirational message. This year we welcome Rev. Palmer D. Clemmer to the Fourth Annual 1956 Society Dinner on Thursday, **April 27**, 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. He is a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and a graduate of Southern Theological Seminary, where he was a fellow student of our Virginia Synod Bishop Mauney.

Pastor Clemmer has served seven parishes in four states that ranged from 150 to more than 1350 members. No matter the congregation's size or circumstances, he led each church family to grow in strength of faith and stewardship. His ministerial priorities included pastoral nurturing of people of all ages—both in daily needs and in times of crisis—and creating and leading joyful worship. In 2008, after being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, he retired from the parish after 30-plus years of full-time pastoral ministry, but he stays as active as possible in preaching and conducting weddings and other special functions. He and his wife Cindi Clemmer live in Hickory, NC.

The Endowment Fund Committee invites anyone to become a member of The 1956 Society simply by completing the post card available in the pews or just speaking to a member of the committee, noted below.

Gerri Bass **Gary Krull** **Lou Rossiter**
Ingrid Brown **Charlene Smith**



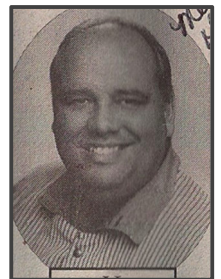
THANK YOU

- ... from *GraceInside*, Virginia's Prison Chaplain Service, for a \$500 contribution toward providing spiritual care for more than 30,000 men and women behind bars in the state.
- ... from Grove Christian Outreach Center, for ongoing support of its ministry to the people of the local Grove community in Williamsburg.
- ... from Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center for a \$1,500 donation toward its ministry of counseling.
- ... from Greater Williamsburg Outreach Mission for a combined \$1,260 donation toward its work.



THE CHURCH MOUSE HEARS

... that, people from nearly 20 congregations gathered for the January 29 Hymn Festival at Williamsburg's St. Bede Catholic Church, commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation and celebrating the Week of Prayer for Christian unity; e-mail Pastor Ballentine, if you want a printed copy of Susan Palo Cherwien's meditations ... that, *Hillbilly Elegy*, by J.D. Vance, is a very important book—join Pastor Ballentine for a one-session book study on Wednesday, **March 22**, at 2:30 PM ... that, **Jonathan Hallman** (right) was honored by The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation for 20 years of service as a Cooper, a maker or repairer of casks and barrels.





March Birthdays

2	Paul Lawson Rebecca Timberg	John Scanlan
3	Sarah Harms	Janice Mayfield
4	Shelley Delehanty	Christine White
5	Dave Gamble	Reed Nester
7	Gary Chenault	Sam Melvey
8	Janet Higgs	Adam Wolff
9	John McCurry	Spencer Sipes
10	Marilyn Mallue	
11	James Wiers	
12	Stan Hobday Rachael Wiers	Alexander Stauffer
13	Preston Burton	
14	Daniel Walker	
16	Pam Buckley	Jeanne Garrison
17	Karen Einarsen	Pat Gamble
18	Hans Tiefel	
19	Ina Berkey	Erika Rinehimer
20	Carol Gabram	Jim Wolff
21	Jane deSolms	
22	Liana Alpino	Matthias Hallman
24	Julian Jefferson	
26	Stew Fretz	
28	Joyce Behlendorf Erik McKenna John Watson	JR Griffin Truett Melvey
31	Margaret Krull	

Do you know someone who needs to be wrapped in our prayers?



Prayer shawls are available in the Gathering Space. Please take a shawl to him or her, with our love.

PRAYERS



Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for Edith Haecker, Stan Hobday, Jon Lund, Ursula Murden, Regina Root, Dan Stimson, Jerry Trone, and Corky Umberger.

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

Pray resurrection hope and comfort for the family and friends of Arthur Hanson.

Pray God's blessings upon

- **Matt Bosworth**, serving in the Army in Iraq.
- **Those in our community who have no permanent home.** Pray that God will strengthen those serving them through the Community of Faith Mission.

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: John, Peggy, Joyce, Nathalee Accomando, Robert Anderson, Terry Bauer, Brennan Bayer, Tom and Bea Black, Blume family, Matt and Jess Bosworth (awaiting the birth of their baby), Grady Calhoun, Elaine Cari, Compton family, Marla Canny, Mike and Katie (Punchard) Czajkowski (awaiting the birth of their baby), Rosemarie Cristofolo, John DeVries, Kathryn Dieter, Brian Doyle, Ronald Dunn, Inge Felbier, Mary Fitzgerald, Dale and Sonja Franz, Mertie Funkhouser, Marilyn Gehr, Bill Gottschalk, Frank Greenday, Carol Haecker, Madeline Hanlon, Anthony Hargrave, Tammy Harman, Chris Harris, Sam and Ronnie Hayes, Alan Hochstetler, Marian Hunt, Fran Kibler, Art Kirk, Jane Kristiansen, Mary Beth LaFave, family of Roger Lapp, Mildred Lindblad, Bill Macdonald, family of Bill Mauer, Simon Mayfield, McGraw family, Nicki Micfatter, Heidi Morris, Danielle Neubauer, David Oppold, Bob Orwoll, Marsh Parker, Paris family, Inge Petersen, Robert Pushaw, Pat Ramering, Paul Ratzow, Vivian Reaver, Brad Ross, Joyce Rumpf, Georg Siegert, Linda Smalarz, Nancy Spaniol, Evelyn Spear, James Storm, Hallie Thrash, Pierrette Tipton, Charley Underdahl, Tyler VanHiest, Sue Weilmuenster, Sean and Sarah Wills (awaiting the birth of their baby), Jim F. Wolff, and Micah Zabell.

Address Updates



Nancy J. Carter

274 William Way
Williamsburg, VA 23185

Karen Schlicht: schlicht.k@cox.net

Chuck and Rosalie Frey: clfrey@cox.net



IN MEMORY AND HONOR

In memory of Rick Meyer

Dave and Marcie Clark

In honor of Nelia Lamoureux

Ursula Murden

COMMUNITY OF FAITH MISSION

St. Stephen assisted in serving those in our community without permanent homes twice during this past shelter year through the Community of Faith Mission (COFM). Along with King of Glory Lutheran, we served at the Williamsburg Methodist Church the week before Christmas, and a call came from COFM for help the week following Christmas at the Church of Christ on Merrimac Trail. The need seemed great, and we accepted this challenge, which doubled the number of meals that we would provide.

There were more than nine guests that I recognized from years past. I knew some of their stories, but marveled at their strength of will to live for years on the streets. One woman I recognized would not make eye contact with me the first meal we served, and I thought that she was embarrassed to be seen in the shelter, again. But, the following meal, she came up to me, acknowledged that I had been at the shelter the year prior and started sharing the list of serious illnesses she had survived during the past year. She thanked me for feeding her--hugged me--and kissed me.

One night there was a barber giving haircuts to the guests, if they wanted. One man, who rarely spoke, got up from the table and got in line to have his already closed-cropped hair cut. After a time, he came up to me and asked, "Well, what do you think?" I smiled and gave him a hug.

One man used to coach sports for a local high school, and he coached against my son. As we spoke about

those years of sitting in the bleachers and on the field and court, I recognized him and could only wonder at what had happened to put him out onto the streets. I learned that he has a job in Richmond and drives there each day before returning to the shelter. There are so many questions I'd like to ask.

I give thanks for the many who give so much to make the shelter a success:

- ✓ **Jo Hanny**, who coordinates and schedules all of those willing to physically help—from checking guests into the shelter, to cooking and serving crews, to those staying through the night, to checking guests out of the shelter and doing cleanup;
- ✓ All those who give of their time—reporting for duty as early as 4:00 AM and some staying up all night;
- ✓ Those who gave clothing and those who contributed money so generously for food and supplies that were needed.
- ✓ Our Preschool students who made placemats for the tables for breakfast and dinner. It was a wonderful witness that also served to cheer up the meal times.

This is a ministry of St. Stephen that enables all to assist as they are able or want.

Near the beginning of our meal service, someone asked me if, when we were serving, I consider myself "Mary" or "Martha?" The story of the sisters who were so present in the stories of Jesus' ministry--Martha, the obsessive fixer, organizer, preparer; and Mary, who sat at Jesus' feet, listening to him teach. I've always identified with Martha--and have tried to be like Mary. But, my answer to this question was simply, "yes."

When planning, organizing, and shopping for meal preparation, I am obsessive about the details, trying to ensure that everything runs smoothly for all those who have given their time and talents to make a healthy, tasty, love-filled meal for those who don't necessarily get it every day. When at the shelter, I generally leave the serving to others and join our guests, talking, joking, and bringing a bit of normalcy into their anything-but-normal lives.

So, yes, I believe that we are all, at times, both Mary and Martha—and I give thanks to God for the many who work this ministry with me.

Sandy Peterkin

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Vice President	John McCurry	606-389-1082
Treasurer	Paul Kristiansen	220-2709
Financial Secretary	Linda Vonderheide	645-4059

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	email	pastorab@
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	email	pastorcg@

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Dir. Music/Organist	Martin Barstow	MusicDir@
Parish Nurse	Marcie Clark	ParishNurse@
Dir. Of Preschool	Lauren McQuain	258-3759
	email	preschool@

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

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Jeanne Garrison	229-0978
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John McCurry	606-389-1082
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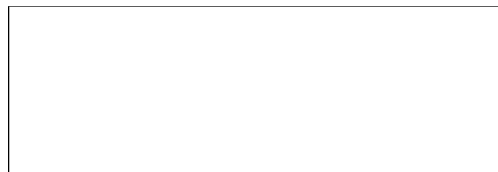
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 God's work. Our hands.

