



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

March 2020



It's Not About the Numbers!

Once upon a time, a company needed to fill the position of accountant. Each applicant was asked the same question, "How much is 7 plus 2?" Person after person was interviewed, and they all answered, "9." Each candidate was dismissed. Finally, one young woman came. "How much is 7 plus 2?" she was asked. "How much do you want it to be?" she responded. She was hired right then and there.

Numbers and statistics are not always clear. Most times, there are more complications and considerations than we know. For example, I read about statistics gathered with regard to married couples. It turned out that in this particular study, "married couples" were defined as two people who are legally married, those legally married but not living together, two people living together as a couple but not married.... You get the idea!

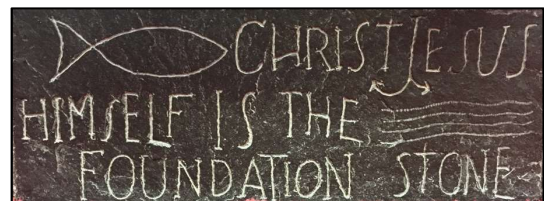
Similar questions arise when we look at our church statistics, which our talented Parish Administrator Sandy Peterkin compiles annually. People who are not members of our church help with our Motel Ministry feeding program. There are some people who attend worship weekly who are not members. People who come to church once a year are members. You get the idea!

How regular worship attendance is defined is different today than it was 25 years ago. People who attend once a month consider themselves regular attenders. The same is true for some who come only on Christmas—they come every Christmas! If all our members attended every Sunday, we would need to add more worship services.

Church is not about the numbers; it's about following Jesus. Perhaps a better question is, how many lives do we touch with love through Christ? When we emphasize getting new members or growing in numbers, we lose sight of God's call to mission for us. Our formal mission statement is: *To celebrate and receive God's Gifts of Word and Sacrament; to express our belief in loving service to others; to commit ourselves to lifelong study of the faith; to seek the unchurched; to welcome all believers into our Christian faith community; to sustain ourselves as a family of believers.*

This all said, how do we use the statistics we have collected? First, be aware not to use them to compare ourselves to other churches. When we compare two different entities, or even individuals, we lose sight of the whole. We ignore what makes the person or, in this case, the church unique. Comparisons seem to end up as judgment. We can compare membership from year to year if we use the same criteria. Our baptized membership at the end of 2018 was 392. At the end of 2019, we had 393 baptized members. Our average weekly worship attendance in 2019 was 201. But it's not about the numbers---it's about following Jesus.

Pastor Cheryl Ann Griffin





Wednesday evenings in Lent
March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1 at St. Stephen

6:00 PM: soup and bread suppers. Sign up in the Gathering Space to bring homemade soup and/or bread, or to oversee setup and cleanup.

7:00 PM: Holden Evening Prayer.

Early church documents show that there was considerable variation in the development of Lent. At one time, it was a time to prepare people for baptism on Easter. During Lent, Christians have focused on personal sinfulness, on giving money to the poor, on prayer and fasting. These actions are not to gain God's approval. The rituals and disciplines we hold to in Lent are to remind us of the renewal of life that baptism calls forth. Our Sunday readings reflect this rebirth in our life through our baptisms.

Baptism is one of two sacraments in the Lutheran church. Holy Communion is the other. The living heart of these sacraments is the presence of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, given to us as a gift of pure grace from God. Our theme for Lent this year is Sacramental Living and is based upon Henri Nouwen's book, *Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World*.

Mid-Week Themes:

March 4: Chosen; March 11: Blessed; March 18: Broken;
March 25: Given; April 1: Being.



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

- **March 3** – Women are invited to join together for breakfast the first **Tuesday** of this month.
- **March 5** – Men are invited to join together for breakfast the first **Thursday** of this month.

Both gatherings take place at **8:00 AM** at the Colonial Pancake House, at the corner of Page Street and Penniman Road, Williamsburg, VA. The get-togethers promote conversation and friendship in a casual setting.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL



The St. Stephen Council met on February 11. Present at the meeting were Pastor Griffin, Bob Achenbach, Paula Agor, David Allen, Amy Bergh, Ellie Bergh, Nancy Carter, Sandy Croushore, Jeanne Garrison, Linda Laity Hite, Corey Knestrick, Doug Moore, Randy Punched, George Vonderheide, Carol Wiers and David Wills. The following items were discussed:

- The lighting throughout our Church building will be converted from fluorescent to LED, which is expected to result in an annual savings of 20-30% on our lighting bill. It is anticipated that we will recoup the cost of the conversion within 3 years. Did you know that St. Stephen has over 147 light fixtures?
- The Safety and Security Committee has completed their report. Council will vote on the report at March's meeting, after which it will be presented to the congregation.
- Council approved the Ministry Site Profile. The next step will be for the MSP to be sent to the Virginia Synod.
- The Preschool had an excellent turnout for the Winter Carnival, and raised over \$775. This was matched by an anonymous donation of \$800 by a member of our congregation. Be sure to watch out for the upcoming Pancake Supper!
- Three members of St. Stephen attended Winter Celebration. Pastor Griffin proudly reported that Ellie Bergh gave a very moving faith testimony at the event.

Carol Wiers, Secretary, Congregation Council



STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. STEPHEN



An Interesting Juxtaposition

What are Stephen Ministers? Well, we're ordinary people, just like me and you, who feel a calling to help others. We participate in 50 hours of high-quality training to prepare us for a role that's not a professional counselor but a trained lay person who walks with another in a time of need, providing Christ-centered support. Our services are free and confidential, and high quality is maintained by the supervision network in which we participate.

Who would benefit from a Stephen Minister's presence in their life? Anyone who is going through a difficult time and would like a confidential, trusted individual to help walk through your journey with Christ's leadership.

So what is the juxtaposition? When I embarked on this journey, I expected the training to be mediocre (I was wrong – it was exceptional!), and I expected to meet some wonderful people in the training class and as leaders (that one I got right!). What I didn't expect was that my care receiver would be such an open, honest person, successful in life and relationships, who was going through life events that would tax the most knowledgeable of us all. What I didn't expect was that through this relationship, I would come to know myself better and appreciate things in my life that I'd come to take for granted or (wrongly!) attributed to my own persistence and talent. What I didn't expect was that the Lord would work through both of us, enabling both of us to enrich each other's lives. What I didn't expect was the extent to which I look forward to our meetings and feel a kind of euphoric high after our meetings. I often reflect that I feel that I am benefitting more than the care receiver from our relationship, and I hope she feels the same way. We are truly blessed to be in each other's lives.

If you've had any thoughts of joining the Stephen Ministry team but had reservations, please seek out any one of us and ask any questions that come to your mind. Look over the training syllabus, and give it another thought. You just may find that you will be enriched and blessed just as I have been. I give thanks to the Lord and to all who have made this ministry possible at St. Stephen.

Kathy Skube, Stephen Minister

THOMAS JEFFERSON AWARD



The Thomas Jefferson Award is given each year to a member of the William & Mary family for significant service through his or her personal activities, influence and leadership. **Heather Macdonald** was the recipient of the 2020 Thomas Jefferson Award. The program for the 2020 Awards Ceremony on January 29 said this about Heather:

Heather Macdonald, in the classroom, across William & Mary and throughout the discipline of geosciences, you have been a force for generating new perspectives, knowledge and change. Always curious, interested and thinking about ways to improve and grow, your leadership has consistently connected people and inspired new ideas and solutions.

Your decision to pursue the scholarship of science education as a major line of inquiry, and to share this knowledge through published articles and continuing professional workshops and collaborations has resulted in wide application of creative teaching approaches and respect for alternative perspectives and learning styles. Your careful mentoring has changed the lives and career trajectories of countless students, junior faculty and colleagues at every level.

Throughout your career you have received many of the most coveted recognitions awarded by the profession of geoscience education, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and your alma maters. It is our great pleasure to honor your exemplary contributions by awarding you the 2020 Thomas Jefferson Award.

Congratulations Heather!



WOMEN'S RETREAT

REGISTER FOR THE MARCH 14 WOMEN'S RETREAT

- What:** St. Stephen 2020 Women's Retreat – "Not your Mama's Church"
- Who:** All St. Stephen Women
- When:** Saturday, March 14, 2020, 9:00 AM to 4:15 PM
- Where:** St Stephen Fellowship Hall
- 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 at St. Stephen. The Women's Retreat includes AM and PM programs and four choices of breakout groups, as well as an outreach project, continental breakfast, lunch, and a closing social with snacks and beverages

Program: "Not Your Mama's Church"

Through storytelling, humor, church history, recent research, scripture, group activities, and technology, Pastor Anderson engages her participants. She involves all ages and generations in conversation about the church we grew up in and the church we live in now, and to envision together the church for the next generation. May we hear one another's experiences of being disciples in the world, hear how the good news of Jesus gives grace to our lives, hear how we can be the body of Christ, and discern how we can keep telling the old, old story in a very new world.

We are pleased to welcome our presenter, the **Rev. Dr. Mary Williams Anderson**, a Columbia, SC, native and Lutheran pastor. As a graduate of Newberry College, Newberry, SC; the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia (now United Lutheran); and the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago; she has served in rural and urban congregations in Philadelphia, South Carolina, and metro-Chicago. She has a doctoral degree in preaching and has taught at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, SC. Pastor Anderson currently serves as the interim pastor of Christ Lutheran, Hilton Head Island, SC.

Want to get to know Pastor Anderson prior to the retreat? Visit her new website at www.mypocketpreacher.com, which includes her devotional blog, Ponder Anew.

There will be four choices of breakout groups:

- **Margaret Krull** is leading a thoughtful book discussion of *The Invention of Wings*, by Sue Monk Kidd (author of *The Secret Life of Bees*).
- **Jeane Moore** is leading a breakout group discussion on prayer, followed by the hands-on crafting of prayer bracelets.
- **Janice Mayfield** is leading a gentle yoga stretching session, including stretches that can be done on the floor, with options for stretches that can be done in a chair and while standing with support of a chair or wall.
- **Pastor Anderson** is leading a breakout group in sharing memories and making memories, working together towards nurturing faith in the next generation.

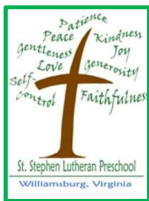
Look out for your registration letter, which is coming soon! The letter includes retreat details and registration instructions; retreat cost is \$35. We look forward to seeing you at the retreat!



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ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

What a wonderful partnership our congregation has with our Preschool!

- Our Annual Winter Carnival was an overwhelming success! Preschool and Church families and extended families came together for an afternoon of fun! Our members led the games for our children and everyone had a good time. Thanks so much to Sherry Phipps and Lindsey Napier for their leadership for this event. More than 30 members of our congregation helped make this so successful. In addition to the money raised from the sale of tickets, the total was anonymously matched by a member of our congregation! Thank you!
- Our Koala Classes organized a plea for funds to help the koalas so injured by the fires in Australia. A total of \$800 was raised and sent off with a card and picture to the World Wildlife Federation in Australia. Thank you for your support of this cause.
- On Tuesday, February 25 we again sponsored a **Shrove Tuesday/Pancakes & PJs dinner**. Thanks to folks from the congregation, we were able to serve pancakes with all sorts of wonderful toppings, sausage, orange juice, coffee and tea. Proceeds from this event help to enhance the educational experiences of our children

On **March 2** we will host Fathers' Night for our four- and five-year olds. This STEAM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Art-Math) event has become very popular with our children and their fathers! During the evening, they work their way through various science and art stations – and enjoy some pizza, too!

Registration for next years' classes is very strong – three of our five classes are already filled! If you know of a child turning three between now and the end of September – guide them to us.

Plans are underway and registration will soon begin for our Summer Camps! These themed-camps are popular

with our current students as well as those entering St. Stephen in the fall.

I cannot say it enough - thank you for supporting our Preschool! Together, we are making such a difference in our children's lives!

Sandy Peterkin, Administrator



ENDOWMENT FUND NEWS

Enduring Gifts – New Endowment Fund Brochure

Gifts and bequests to the Endowment Fund provide support for ministries and mission outreach now and far into the future. That's the message on the cover of a new brochure encouraging giving and bequests to the Fund. Look for the brochure in the Gathering Space rack.

The Endowment Fund Committee is elected by the Congregation of St. Stephen Lutheran Church to serve as custodian of the Fund.

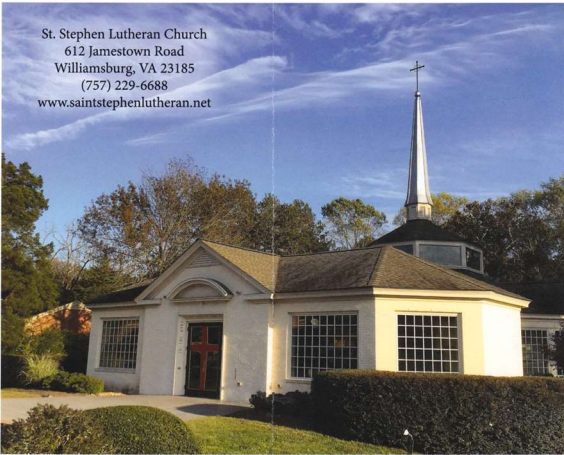
Those who make a gift or arrange legacy giving to the Endowment Fund are recognized as members of **The 1956 Society**, established by the Committee in remembrance of the founding of St. Stephen Lutheran Church in 1956.

THE ENDOWMENT FUND OF
ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Enduring Gifts

**Ministries and mission outreach
now and far into the future!**

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
612 Jamestown Road
Williamsburg, VA 23185
(757) 229-6688
www.saintstephenlutheran.net



Looking for new ideas to put Endowment Fund proceeds to work this year

What needs and opportunities do you see right now in our congregation or in the Williamsburg community at large? You are invited to suggest special projects that will:

- strengthen, nurture and grow our community of faith here at St. Stephen Lutheran Church, or
- extend our mission outreach into the community.

The Endowment Fund Committee is looking particularly for new ideas like start-up or demonstration projects, where a one-time infusion of money from Endowment Fund investment proceeds this year could have a big impact.

Your ideas for special projects may be noted on the bulletin insert, given directly in person to any member of the Endowment Fund Committee: **Joyce Beene, Jane deSolms, Glenn Joppa, Bob Harman, Charlene Smith, Council Liaison Corey Knestrick**; or sent via email to bobharman101@gmail.com

KITCHEN KEEPERS:



We are looking for a group of folks (men or women) to be Kitchen Keepers. I'm hopeful that with enough volunteers this will be a one month a year commitment. Cleaning supplies are in the kitchen. What's Involved:

the kitchen. What's Involved:

- once a week wipe down and disinfect the countertops
- wipe off any other surfaces such as inside the microwave and the refrigerator door
- **RUN THE DISHWASHER!** This is important to help keep our drain trap from clogging and overflowing. You can run it with or without dishes. Directions for loading and running the dishwasher are on the bulletin board.

A sign up for a month will be on the bulletin board in the kitchen or you can indicate your willingness to help on the bulletin insert. You can contact **Chris Punchard** with questions at (757) 880-3347 or mrschris16@aol.com.



Craig and Pam Little

Matt and Rachel Vanlandingham
Wesley

Paul Reier – New email

Call the Church Office for new addresses.





THEOLOGIAN IN RESIDENCE

APRIL 17, 18, & 19

Jeffrey C. Pugh, Distinguished University Professor, Elon University

- Former Member of the Board, International Bonhoeffer Society
- Author of Religionless Christianity, Dietrich Bonhoeffer in Troubled Times (2008)

Bonhoeffer in Prison: Revisiting His Legacy On the 75th Anniversary of His Death in Prison

“I was in prison and you came to visit me.”
Matthew 25: 36

Friday Evening Session, April 17

Pot-Luck Dinner in the Fellowship Hall 6:00 – 7:00 PM
Presentation in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Bonhoeffer in Charlottesville: When the Nazis Come to Town You Have to Show Up

On August 12th, 2017 Neo-Nazis, White Supremacists, and other members of the extreme right descended on Charlottesville for the “Unite the Right” rally. In response to this provocation a small group of determined citizens, Congregate Charlottesville, trained and prepared for resistance to the rally. Motivated by a career studying Dietrich Bonhoeffer and other theologians during the Nazi regime, I joined this group of resisters. Little, however, could have prepared us for what we faced that morning. During my time on the line I continually thought about Bonhoeffer and Germany in 1933, though the lessons of that morning were not what I expected. The story of the trained clergy in Charlottesville may well be an untold story of August 12.

Saturday Morning Session, April 18

10:00 AM – Noon

The Battle for Bonhoeffer: A Contested Legacy

When Bonhoeffer penned his letters from prison, searching for a way forward for Christianity after the Holocaust, he could not imagine that these writings would launch the “God is Dead” movement years later. Nor could he have anticipated how his legacy

would become a battlefield between political and theological camps during the 21st century. The fight over Bonhoeffer has reached an intense moment as America finds itself challenged by politics and partisans on all sides wonder if we’re in a “Bonhoeffer moment.”

Sunday Morning Services, April 19

8:30 and 11:00 AM

Coffee in the Fellowship Hall 10:00 AM

Sermon Title: **Somedays We’re All Thomas**

THEOLOGIAN IN RESIDENCE COMMITTEE 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German pastor and theologian whose writings and actions stressed that Christians must work for justice in the world rather than back away from the sinful conduct of a seemingly godless world. He also was an adamant opponent of Hitler and his Nazi regime from the very beginning of their ascent to power in 1933. Eventually, his work with the German resistance led to his imprisonment in 1943. After the failure of the July 1944 to assassinate Hitler, Bonhoeffer was accused of association with the conspirators. Next year will be the 75th anniversary of his execution at the Flossenburg concentration camp, just two weeks before American soldiers liberated it.

The committee planned a spring weekend program to examine how Bonhoeffer’s life and ideas can inform and enlighten Christians in 2020, which is detailed above. The members of Theologian in Residence Committee are **George Bass, Michael Powell, Lou Rossiter, and Larry Shoberg**. Anyone interested in joining the committee to plan future events is welcomed to speak with Pastor Griffin or me.

We are also always pleased to receive suggestions from the congregation for future possible topics and presenters for our Theologian in Residence program.

George Bass, Chair

THANK YOU

GREATER WILLIAMSBURG OUTREACH MISSION

A Coalition of Faith Groups United to Serve the Homeless



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

Your support of our mission allows GWOM to minister to the needs of the marginalized in our society with the goal of helping them to become productive members of society. The monies you have provided will go toward ongoing support of GWOM activities. We are thankful to you for this partnership that enables us to help our homeless neighbors turn their lives around.

Carl Gerhold, Greater Williamsburg Outreach Mission



Thank you very much for your gift to Avalon of \$1,420. We appreciate your continued support, especially during the Christmas season to provide some smiles to our clients.

For 40 years, Avalon has worked to end domestic and sexual violence. Each year we help more than 1,500 people in our community – more than half of those children – find safety, heal, and build a better future.

Teresa Christin, CFRE, Executive Director



The Board of Directors and all the Volunteers, as well as the thousands of clients referred to FISH for service, join me in writing this THANK YOU letter for your continued support of FISH, Inc. The need for our sharing with those less fortunate continues even as the economy has improved for many of us.

All of us at FISH join in this message of thanks to all the members of your church who so willingly continue to share their blessings with others in need.

Gene Bruss, President



Beginning in February, we are moving our Tuesday night NAMI Williamsburg Support Groups to the Williamsburg Community Chapel. How many years have you all provided us a place to help people? People like me, who were desperate, who did not know the first thing about serious mental illness. Sadly, I don't know. So long that we have become embedded in you and you in us.

Whether it was support groups, our Family to Family course, Super Suppers, or Hope Family Village, you have always been there for us. You understood us and accepted mental illness as a condition needing prayer supported by a special understanding and attention. A number have been your parishioners. One thing I can state emphatically, We will always be there for them.

In the past two years, NAMI Williamsburg has grown. We're still growing. Last week there were 20 peers attending our Connections Group. The most ever! Our facilitators have become so sought after, people travel from Hampton Roads/Newport News to be part of their group. It not is not unusual for the family support group to host 20 as well. In that group, people come from Gloucester, Charles City, for example. Somehow, over the years, we have managed to consistently see 1200 - 1500 people a year. Many have found friends.

On many levels, we have needed space. We may not be done. The commitment from The Chapel is for 6 months. We will be able to address the parishioners of another church, further spreading the word that "You are not alone."

Hope Family Village and NAMI Williamsburg will share an office and board room at One Child Center for Autism on Midlands Drive. We have moved everything from the church to our new place. It's all kind of scary. We have developed some very strong and committed boards, who believe the community needs us now more than ever. We're doing our best to get new programs going and developing more relationships, particularly with the faith-based community. Some of our ideas involved College youth (their parents), which makes our move less than ideal.

As I said, this is not an easy move. Selfishly, I won't be able to walk next door! You will still see me. I will need Sandy to keep me in line. What a big heart! Again, my sincere thanks for all you have done for us.

Corey Trench, President, NAMI Williamsburg



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2	Paul Lawson	
3	Sarah Harms	Janice Mayfield
4	Shelley Delehanty	Christine White
5	Dave Gamble	Reed Nester
6	Jennifer Martin	
7	Gary Chenault	
8	Janet Higgs	
9	John McCurry	
10	Marilyn Mallue	Rachel Vanlandingham
11	James Wiers	
12	Alexander Stauffer	Rachael Wiers
13	Preston Burton	
14	Susan Kauffman	
16	Pam Buckley	Jeanne Garrison
17	Karen Einarsen	Pat Gamble
18	Hans Tiefel	
19	Ina Berkey	
21	Jane deSolms	
22	Matthias Hallman	
24	Julian Jefferson	
26	Stew Fretz	
27	Bill Arnold	
28	Joyce Behlendorf	JR Griffin
	Erik McKenna	
	John Watson	
31	Margaret Krull	



WHEN A SALAD IS NO LONGER HEALTHY

There have been numerous cases of e-coli infections and sickness from eating lettuce. So, how does this happen and what can you do to make sure you are doing your best to eat healthy? The history is long and complicated. Basically, the toxin enters the lettuce from water or soil that is contaminated with animal waste. This is a

problem that is known to farmers as they battle with all that science and common sense has to offer. Some farmers report hiring people to stand at or in the fields to scare away birds. They also build 8 ft fences to keep animals out. Science is trying to come up with ways to keep the same waste off tires, equipment, shoes, etc that enter the lettuce fields. It is a work in progress to say the least.

We have to do our part as well. Many stores offer packages of lettuce labeled "triple washed". It sounds like they are doing their part, but really, triple washing is only to remove visible grit and dirt. It is not meant to remove bacteria. Once greens reach the packaging plant, they are mixed with greens from other farms. According to Consumer Reports, labels can help us choose better greens. Labels must be truthful and not misleading, but there are few regulated definitions for the claims. If it says organic, it must come from a certified organic farm that doesn't use synthetic fertilizers or pesticides. If it claims to be a good source of/"high in" a nutrient, it must have a nutrition label to show this. If it says it is fresh, it can not ever have been frozen and must be in the raw state. Unregulated terms include: washed/triple washed, pesticide free, hydroponically grown, and non-gmo, to name a few.

There are safe ways to eat salad greens. Cooking greens until wilted will kill harmful bacteria. It is especially helpful for sturdy greens such as kale, collards, Swiss chard and spinach. Buy the whole head of lettuce as inner leaves are less likely to be contaminated. Consider buying hydroponic or greenhouse grown greens which are less likely to be contaminated. Soak your greens in vinegar or a vinegar-water solution. This helps to reduce bacteria levels when left for 10 minutes.

The most important tool you have is to stay educated. The Food and Drug Administration posts on Twitter @FDAfood or @USDAFoodSafety. You can also go to their respective websites for updates. The next thing to do is report any incidents of illness that you may remotely think is linked to food consumption.

<https://www.consumerreports.org/food-safety/leafy-greens-safety-guide/>
<https://www.consumerreports.org/food-safety/how-to-report-food-poisoning/>

Diana Tiller-Dichtel, Parish Nurse

MUSIC NOTES



At a recent Worship and Music Committee meeting, questions were raised "Why do we" and "Did you know ..." with, well, you can fill in the blank. So why do we sing a Latino flavored liturgy during Epiphany or any time of the year? Setting Seven, our Spanish influenced liturgy, was selected for Epiphany to highlight that we celebrate a "Lord of all Nations." From our lectionary on Epiphany Day we read of the visit of the "Magi from the East" to Paul's message in Acts (Baptism of Our Lord Sunday, January 12) "You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all."

Every Sunday of this season we are reminded of Jesus' vast reign: January 19 – "Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! (Isaiah 49:1-7) and January 26 – "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles" (Matthew 4:12-23). So that answers the question of "why we did" - but did you know that our church, the ELCA, has a Spanish language worship book called *Libro de Liturgia y Cántico*, and this liturgical Setting Seven comes from that resource. The hope is that as we gather we will experience the unity and some of the diversity of the church. "Whether most of the people in our assemblies share an ethnic identity or our assembly is broadly diverse, we encourage an ever-widening repertoire of diverse song. The incarnation is heard as a more astounding reality when we sing songs that connect us to the many people and places of the world that are all claimed and blessed by God." (*Exploring Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 12)

We have an amazing wealth of diversity in the ten musical settings plus a Service Music section in our little one volume cranberry book. Some are amazed, some bewildered, some thrilled, some not so much. When the process began for ELW, "there was a significant effort to find one common melody for singing the foundational portions of Holy Communion. With the help of many congregations that took up this challenge by testing the approach, we discovered that it would be common texts that could unite us even when singing a wide variety of musical styles." (*Exploring Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 12)

By the time you are reading this article we will have moved on to a new liturgy for the season of Lent. The selection of Setting Ten was thought appropriate for this more penitential time of the church year. This setting paraphrases all the liturgical texts into a simple metric form and uses familiar hymn tunes.

I leave you with this prayer:

A prayer for God's people...

Leader: Beautiful are the works of God!

People: Beautiful also are the skins of God's people!

Leader: Beautiful is the mind of God!

People: Beautiful also are the hopes of God's people!

Leader: Beautiful is the heart of God!

People: Beautiful also are the souls of God's people!

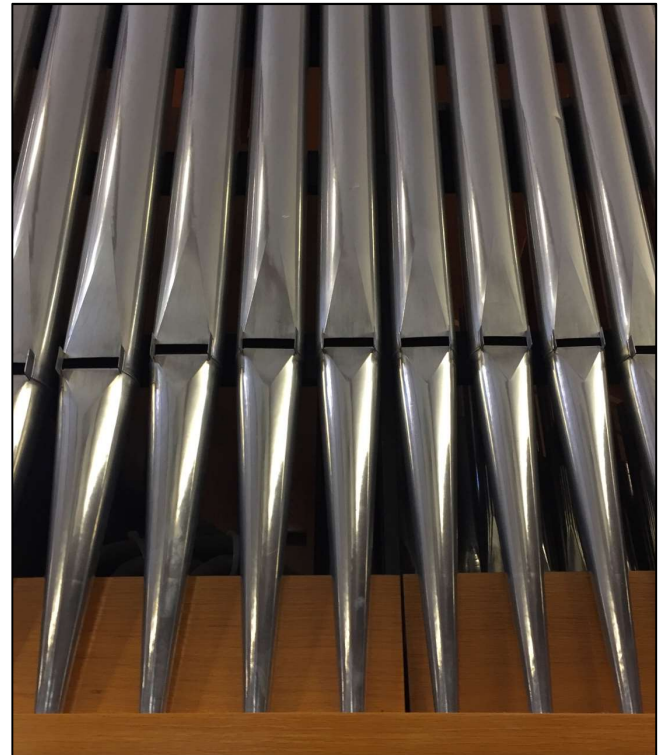
Leader: God made the heavens and the earth!

People: To God be the glory for the things God has done. Amen.

Prayer 824, The New Century Hymnal (UCC)

Adapted, Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago.

Karen Ives, Music Director





MARCH 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

- 3 Marj Gottschalk-Trone
- 5 Charlie Nelson
- 6 Larry Shoberg
- 9 Greta Zimbauer
- 11 Anders Timberg
- 17 Holly Newsome
- 18 Janice Mayfield
- 22 Joyce Behlendorf
- 30 Logan Timberg, Danielle Walker
- 31 Wesley Vanlandingham

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

PRAYERS



Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Bill Arnold, Joe Beene, Sharon Brown, Kristin Carter, Steve Grant, Chuck Hilbinger, Lynn Knestrick, Ned Neidlinger, Don Nelson, Kathy Skube, Laura Spencer, Phyllis Spencer, and Susie Yancey.**

Pray God's blessings on **Sara Harms** and **Ray Beatty** celebrating the birth of their baby boy, **Coleman DeLaney Beatty.**

Pray God's blessings on those in our community who have no permanent home and on those serving this week from St. Martin's Episcopal Church through 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: Mary Ann Arnold, Jane Ayers, Jean Ballentine, Gary Baumgarten, Rose Baumgarten, Eliza Bicknell, Tom Black, Steve Blanks, Julie Boardman, Marla Canny, Alex Cline, Nancy Cline, Graham Darnell, Kathryn Dieter, Inge Felbier, Mary Fitzgerald, Hollis Fulton, Patricia Garcia, Burt Gay, Carole Gilman, Andrea Gonzalez, Bill Gottschalk, Kara Gustafsson, Ted Harms, Andy Havola, Sharon Hegland, Lilly Higgins, Terry Holland, Phyllis Humphrey, Robin Jones, Diane Kelly, Fran Kibler, Chris Kinney, Rodney Knauss, John Knestrick, Eugene Kreitzer, Rebecca Krueger, Torri Larson, Margaret Lewis, Mildred Lindblad, Patrick & Kristin McGraw, Pam McHose, Laura Moseley, Sterling Nichols, Janet Overdorf, Tony Poplin, Emily Reubush, Jenny Rice, Jennifer Rideout, Edith Roberts, Shann Rufer, Marion Seidl, Inge Seiter, Patricia Simpson, Ale Skinkle, James Smith, Sharon Smith, Evelyn Spear, Mitchell Stauffer, Ralph Stonebraker, Jill Watson, Carolyn Williams, Donna Wood, Aaron Zabell



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

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<i>Director of Music</i>	Karen Ives	MusicDir@
<i>Parish Nurse</i>	Diana Tiller-Dichtel	Parishnurse@
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