



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

November 2017



Practicing Thanksgiving

I believe that God has created me together with all that exists. God has given me and still preserves my body and soul: eyes, ears, and all limbs and senses; reason and all mental faculties. In addition, God daily and abundantly provides shoes and clothing, food and drink, house and farm, spouse and children, fields, livestock, and all property – along with all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life. God protects me against all danger and shields and preserves me from all evil. And all this is done out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all! For all of this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.

-- Martin Luther in *The Small Catechism*

I got out of bed
on two strong legs.
It might have been
otherwise. I ate
cereal, sweet
milk, ripe, flawless
peach. It might
have been otherwise.
I took the dog uphill
to the birch wood.
All morning I did
the work I love.

At noon I lay down
with my mate. It might
have been otherwise.
We ate dinner together
at a table with silver
candlesticks. It might
have been otherwise.
I slept in a bed
in a room with paintings
on the walls, and
planned another day
just like this day.
But one day, I know,
It will be otherwise.

-- "Otherwise," by Jane Kenyon

I'm thankful for the gift of this day of life.

I'm thankful for the physical ability to get out of bed, to dress myself, and to walk to the kitchen for a cup of coffee.

I'm thankful for the mental alertness to know who I am and where I am.

I'm thankful to be living with someone who loves me.

I'm thankful that my children and grandchildren are healthy.

I'm thankful that my children have chosen wonderful partners.

I am thankful for friends who both support me and who bring me to account.

What a difference it makes, to live in thankfulness. It leads to joy because, each day, we notice that God gives us what we need for this day. (Do you notice that I say, "what we *need*?" Could it be that the most important spiritual challenge in our culture is to discern between our needs and our greeds?)

When I visited the people of our sister parish in Tanzania about 10 years ago, it was life changing for me. I was spending time among people who were so thankful for surviving another day. They do not take that for granted. I also realized how nearly every material possession we have is a luxury, when we think in global terms. That is true, even for much of what we think we need! For instance:

I'm thankful for electricity.

I'm thankful for a house in which the heating and air conditioning works.

I'm thankful for work that is fulfilling.

I'm thankful for good medical care, and for health insurance.

I'm thankful for police officers, EMTs, fire fighters who respond to our emergencies.

The great majority of people in the world do not enjoy these material “needs.” Indeed, many people from what we call the developing world wonder why we Americans are not more thankful than we are!

Thanksgiving is a crucial spiritual practice that orients us towards God. In fact, thanksgiving is a counter-cultural practice because of the dominant message we receive in the marketing messages telling us that we do not have enough things; that we need to buy more, to acquire more, to consume more. How can we prevent these messages from turning us away from God who gives us what we need for this day? We can do that by practicing thanksgiving – in our thoughts and in our words. What joy there is in giving thanks!

Pastor Andy Ballentine



From the Music of Bach to the Reformation Symphony

The Virginia Symphony Orchestra will perform a concert of special interest to Lutherans on **Friday, November 3** at 8:00 PM at the Ferguson Center for the Arts in Newport News. The concert is titled “From the Music of Bach to the Reformation Symphony,” and includes:

- Bach – Cantata No. 80, *Ein feste Burg is unser Gott*, with four soloists and the Virginia Symphony Orchestra Chorus. Bach used the hymn of the same name by Martin Luther as its foundation.
- Bach – Keyboard Concerto No. 1 in D minor
- Bach/Arr. Webern – *Ricercare* from *Musical Offering*
- Mendelssohn – Symphony No. 5 in D major. The *Reformation Symphony* was composed in 1830 in honor of the 300th anniversary of the Presentation of the Augsburg Confession. The fourth movement is based on *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*. At the very end of the coda, a powerful version of Martin Luther's chorale is played by the entire orchestra.

Tickets are available from the Virginia Symphony box office at (757) 892-6366, or their web site at www.virginiasymphony.org.

Passion for Stewardship

First of all, many thanks to the people who pledge this fall to St. Stephen, and to all of you who give your resources, your time, and God-given talents. We believe in a God who is generous; we are transformed and made new through our heart-felt offerings, as are the people whom we touch through the ministries at St. Stephen.

When you drive by and see the church aren't you proud of how good the church and grounds look. When you enter the Gathering Space do you give thought to the person who welcomes you, coffee that has been made, the nibbles to eat, the new information on the monitor screens, the cart of good books to read, the Fair Trade Coffee stand, the person that welcomes you, the usher that shakes your hand and gives you a bulletin, the altar, sound system, and teller people, and I could go on with the lights, heat, and etc. Wow!! So many people participate in a worshipping community.

Yet none of these small things in the life of our church would happen without the attention and diligence of special people. Now, an outside observer might not think that any of these examples amount to much. How could they be important for the life of a church of God? But our life as a community of faith is made up of countless bits and pieces just like these. But more important, we hold each other close. We are God's community.

Keith Egloff, Stewardship





NOVEMBER 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 Andy Ballentine

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Barbara Morris |
| 10 | Josh Egloff, Carolyn McKenna |
| 11 | Henry Mallue, Hannah Wiers |
| 13 | Deloris Hanley, Alaina Jones, Alyssa Jones, Kaili Jones |
| 15 | Greta Scheitrum |
| 16 | Hunter Ogborn, Ilianna Ogborn |
| 18 | Bethany Brisson-Wilkins |
| 30 | Kevin Drake, Julian Jefferson |

Also in November:

Stephanie Drake
Thomas Drake
Audrey Root

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



MEN'S & WOMEN'S BREAKFASTS

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



Just because the leaves are falling doesn't mean you should!

Did you know that approximately one-third of all people ages 65+ will suffer a fall once a year? Each fall, depending on the severity, can cost as much as \$30,000 in medical expenses. Falls can lead to immobilization, depression, loss of independence, and even death. More than half of all reported falls happen at home.

Falls are a significant hazard, especially for the senior population, but there are steps you can take to make your home safer and prevent falls from happening:

- Know your medications. Many medications, especially those for high blood pressure, can cause dizziness upon standing.
- Wear rubber-soled, low-heeled shoes that provide good support for your feet.
- Keep the pathways in your home free of clutter.
- Ensure that your home has good lighting and easily accessible light switches. Use night lights, especially in the bathrooms.
- Firmly tack down all carpets and throw rugs to minimize tripping hazards.
- Use “reach sticks” to reach things that are up high rather than standing on a chair.

For more tips and information, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Falls/index.html>

Rebecca Groman, RN
Rebecca.groman@rivhs.com

The Church Mouse Hears



. . . that Zion Lutheran Church, Baltimore, founded in 1762 sponsors an annual "Lutherfest" on the Sunday evening nearest Luther's birthday. Speaker for this year's event on Nov. 5 will be Rev. **Dr. James G. Cobb**. Topic is "Celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation through Parish Stories: Gleanings and Glimpses of Grace." The sponsoring "Dr. Eric Gritsch Memorial Fund" wished to emphasize the pastoral ministry focus of Martin Luther with an invitation to a parish pastor to highlight this topic.

. . . that **Bob Harman, Harlan Schone** and **John McCurry** have ramped up their ministry efforts, using their considerable skills to built a wheelchair ramp for long-time St. Stephen member **Mary Jamerson**!



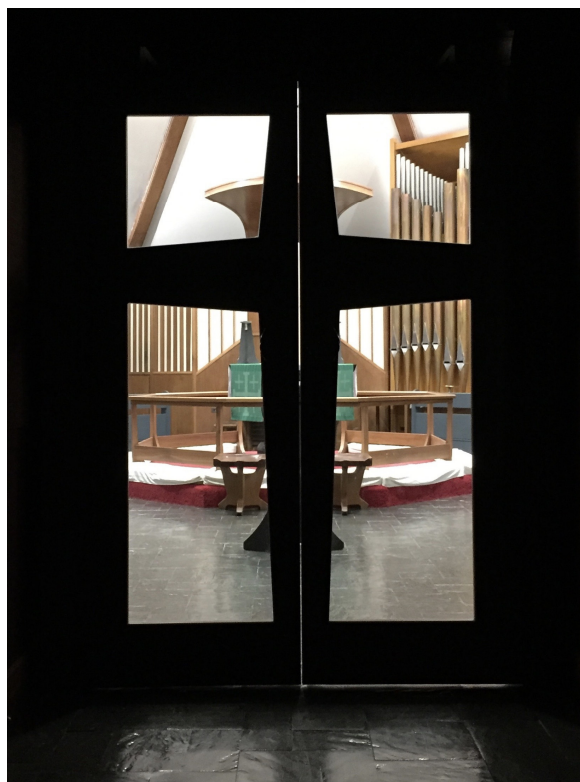
Harlan displays the results of their ministry



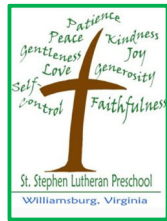
Susan Frontain, **Mary Jamerson's** daughter, had this to say: "We feel so truly blessed and can't thank you enough for the wonderful ramp you built for my mom. It worked perfectly for us and she was able to attend her granddaughter's wedding."



Mary is pleased with the result



ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL



With October, we expected typical fall days. Instead we had 80 degree temperatures and no leaves were turning color!

October is Fire Prevention Month and our September Farm Center was transformed into a Firehouse. Our Williamsburg Fire Fighters came for two days to teach our students about fire safety. We learned to check our smoke detectors twice each year; and how to stop, drop, and roll if we were on fire. We also learned that if fire fighters came to our house in an emergency, we shouldn't be afraid of them when they are wearing all of their fire-fighting gear. We got to go out and look at a firetruck and an ambulance, and later made pictures of fire trucks and Dalmatians.

We hope that you were able to see the wonderful art work our students exhibited in An Occasion for the Arts in Merchants Square the first weekend of October. Art Teacher Kelly Kirkpatrick worked with students in each class to create unique masterpieces. Take a stroll down the hallway by the Preschool and see some of the wonderful art that our students create every week.

The first day of our visit to Pumpkinville was rained out, but we were able to visit for two additional days. Each student got to pick out their own pumpkin and a gourd to take home with them. We had snack at Pumpkinville and a hay ride. This was our first field trip and it was such fun! We held our Halloween Parades on October 30 and 31, and children and teachers got caught up in the fun.

Look for our November Spirit Night flyers – we'll be going to Blaze Pizza on Thursday, November 16. Present the flyer upon check out and our Preschool will receive 20% of your bill. This is a great opportunity to show your support for the Preschool, as well as meet with our parents, students, and teachers.

We are most thankful for the support that St. Stephen has given to the Preschool – we are having an amazing year!

Sandy Peterkin, Administrator



Endowment Fund Committee

Membership in the 1956 Society Of St. Stephen Lutheran Church affords us all an opportunity to leave a legacy by supporting the mission of the church for future generations. The Endowment Fund Committee is pleased to announce that estimated future giving to the endowment fund now exceeds \$1 million dollars. With a goal of \$1.2 million in mind, we are getting closer by the day.

A grant of \$5,000 from the Endowment Fund has been allocated for the evangelism project to video record sermons for viewing on the internet. The possibilities for additional outreach are limitless. Where else shall we go?

The Endowment Fund Committee will focus on an educational plan to help SSLC members who wish to include the church in their estate planning. There are many resources available to us, such as the inFaith Community Foundation and Thrivent Financial's Endowment Guide. We will be exploring these options and bring their guidance and expertise to the congregation.

With new members **Bob Harman** and **Glenn Joppa** on board, the Endowment Fund Committee is pleased to announce this year's officers. **Gerri Bass** will serve as chairperson, **Charlene Smith** continues as recording secretary and **Glenn Joppa** takes over as financial secretary. Along with **Bob Harman** and **Gary Krull**, we look forward to the congregation's input, suggestions and questions.

Gerri Bass, Bob Harman, Glenn Joppa, Gary Krull and Charlene Smith

Endowment Fund Committee





NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4	Annie Collins	Art Dorsey
	Erika Geier	Soni York
8	Paul Black	Sammi Crittenden
9	Joyce Beene	
10	Helen Allen	Martin Bleck
	Bradley Cummings	
11	Steven Harms	
14	Elsie Hall	
15	Alaina Jones	Kaili Jones
	Karen VanRosendale	
16	Linda Reuben	Carol Wiers
17	Debi Austin	Stacey Cummings
19	Julie Pierce	
21	Jo Schumacher	
23	Marcie Clark	Travis Meermans
24	Stephanie Leek	Karen Nester
25	Marilyn Asprey	Benjamin Berry
	Susan Voigt	
26	Diana Krieger	
27	Don Nelson	
29	Ursula Recktenwald	
30	Bob Hanny	Matthew Sandridge



Alan and Mitzi Balma

145 Hollinwell, Williamsburg, VA 23188
(their address for about six months while their new house is being built)

Nate and Annie Collins

PO Box 2203
Staunton VA 24402-2203

Elise Emanuel

EliseLEmanuel@gmail.com

PRAYERS



Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Ed Brown, Otis Childress, Marilyn Johnson, Gary Krull, Sandy Peterkin, Paul Reier, Linda Reuben, and Karen Shoberg.**

Pray for these who are unable to get to worship: **Philip Arnold, Bob and Angie Groom, Elsie Hall, Stan Hobday, Donna May Hochstetler, Mary Jamerson, Helen Lenox, Ursula Murden, Betty Rickerson, Dick Reeves, Jo Schumacher, Jean Shivel, Joanne Shue, Rudy Stegmann, and Jerry Trone.**

Pray God's blessings of Easter hope for **Danya Zimbauer** and her family on the death of her grandmother, and **Rosemary and Clare Stimson** and **Krista Stimson Crider**, mourning the death of husband and father **Dan Stimson.**

Pray God's blessings on **Sharon** and **Michael Powell**, and **Kristin** and **Chris Stahl**, as they await the birth of their babies.

Nathalee Accomando, Tom and Bea Black, Blume family, Eliza Bicknell, Grady Calhoun, Elaine Cari, Marla Canny, Arlene Carruthers, Shirley Cocke, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Kathryn Dieter, Inge Felbier, Karen Felton, Mary Fitzgerald, Mertie Funkhouser, Bill Gottschalk, Char Grabowski, Jean Gray, Anthony Hargrave, Sara Jane Harlan, Sam and Ronny Hayes, Alan Hochstetler, Marian Hunt, Anne Johns, Fran Kibler, Tim Keaney, Art Kirk, Carl Kountze III, Dean Kreitzer, Mary Beth LaFave, Gaston Lambert, Frances Link, Mildred Lindblad, McGraw family, Bruce Milne, Louise Mitchell, Heidi Morris, Mary Newberg, Barb Pendleton, Lesa Peppers, Inge Petersen, Dino Polizois, Robert Pushaw, Pat Ramering, Paul Ratzow, Shann Rufer, Bob Rumpf, Kenneth Sage, Linda Smalarz, James Smith, Sharon Smith, Evelyn Spear, Karl Spiker, Dave Splittorff, Bill Stewart, James Storm, Janelle Story, Pierrette Tipton, Kimberly Turner, Cassie Wallace, Sue Weilmuenster, Janea Whitacre, Scott Wimbish, and Micah Zabell.



Thank You



On behalf of LINK of Hampton Roads, we would like to acknowledge and thank you for your contribution and support of our agency through your donation of \$700 to our PORT Winter Shelter Van Fund. Your donation was a blessing towards our efforts to help those less fortunate in our community.

Your donation will assist persons who participate in PORT Winter Shelter. These programs serve men, women, children, and the elderly, who are disabled, mentally/physically challenged, HIV/ terminally and chronically ill. Once again, thank you for your generosity!

Most Sincerely,
Lynn Finding, Executive Director



Because of YOU, GraceInside keeps getting better! Your care for those behind bars is changing lives. Thank you so very much for your generous support of \$500! You are keeping grace inside Virginia's prisons!

With 33 chaplains serving throughout the state, your impact is widespread. With more help, we can do more. Many of our chaplains are eager (and are needed) to serve their congregations full-time.

THANK YOU for joining Jesus and bringing the hope of new life across every spectrum of life behind bars.

With gratitude,
Rev. J. Randy Myers, President

Williamsburg Volunteer Fire Department

The Williamsburg Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad thanks you for your recent contribution. It is through contributions such as yours that we can continue our service to the community. Thank you for helping us help you.



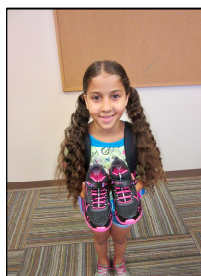
Thanks to **Diane Reeves** for serving as Interim Editor of the Quill from September 2016 – October 2017.



On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff and our Grove friends, I want to thank you for once again giving so generously and sharing your love with the children of Grove. Because of your faithful support, 198 children received new shoes to begin the school year with dignity and confidence. It's always a delight for me to see the children open their shoe boxes and discover that they have received a pair of shoes that they wanted and that are just perfect for them. I hope you will be blessed to see the smiling faces of the children receiving their shoes in the enclosed photos and know that your gift has had a tremendous impact on their lives.

Thank you again for your continued support of our ministry and helping us to shine the light of Christ into a community that desperately needs to experience His love. You are such a blessing to us!

In His Service,
Pat McCormick, Executive Director



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<i>Financial Secretary</i>	Linda Vonderheide	645-4059
<i>Congregational Secretary</i>	Carol Wiers	564-0164

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