



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

September 2026



THE MESSY WORK OF COMMUNITY

September brings a palpable sense of new beginnings. The relaxed rhythms of summer fade, the program year kicks off, committee meetings resume, and our schedules quickly become busy. We return to the pews, fellowship halls, and classrooms. Yet, as we return to this close proximity, we are also reminded of a fundamental truth: doing life together can be messy.

Whenever people gather (even those united by faith and a shared vision), friction is inevitable. We bring our different communication styles, differing priorities, and personal exhaustion into the room. Misunderstandings happen. Feelings get hurt.

Interestingly, Jesus didn't expect the church to be a flawless, frictionless utopia. In the Gospel texts assigned for the first half of this month, he anticipates our inevitable conflicts and equips us for the hard work of handling them.

On September 6 (Proper 18), the lectionary brings us to Matthew 18, where Jesus outlines a pragmatic framework for conflict resolution. He tells his disciples that when someone wrongs them, they shouldn't gossip or harbor quiet resentment. Instead, they are to go directly to that person. If that doesn't work, bring a few others to help mediate. Jesus lays the groundwork for a culture of accountability, one that requires us to sit across from one another, listen intentionally, and prioritize the restoration of the relationship over simply being "right."

Building on this, the reading for the following week (September 13) features Peter asking Jesus exactly how far this grace is supposed to extend. "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?"

Peter likely thought he was being generous. But Jesus replies, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times."

Jesus illustrates that forgiveness isn't a quota we meet or a box we check off. It is the continuous, breathing culture of a healthy community. A thriving congregation isn't one where conflict never happens; it is one where grace is practiced so habitually that relationships can withstand the stress tests of disagreement.

As we launch into this new season, as we map out our next five-year ministry plan, build our agendas, and look toward the future, the strength of our work will ultimately depend on the strength of our relationships.

Let's commit to the messy, collaborative work of community this fall. When frustrations arise, let us speak directly and honestly. When we fall short, let us be quick to ask for grace. And when we are wronged, let us remember the limitless forgiveness we ourselves have been shown, choosing the hard, holy work of reconciliation every time.

In Christ,
Pastor Jon

CONGREGATION COUNCIL



What's Happening at Congregation Council

The July meeting of Council was held on Tuesday, July 28.

Sonya Lim, Sandy Johnson and Dave Sulouff are the members newly elected to Council at the June Congregational meeting and they were welcomed as members.

Pastor Jon led us in devotions to open the meeting. Members of Council shared items of concern and blessing, after which Pastor Jon led us in prayer.

We elected Council officers for the upcoming year. The elected officers are Russ Dabel – President, Beth Grant – Vice President, and Jonathan Hallman – Secretary. Brian Agor will continue as Church Treasurer, and Karen Nester as Financial Secretary. At this point, Sandy Croushore, who has completed her three-year term on Council and her term as President, turned the gavel over to Russ Dabel. She was thanked for her excellent service and she retired from the meeting.

We reviewed the minutes of the June Council Meeting and those were approved.

Committee Reports:

- **HVAC.** Paul Reier provided an update on the HVAC system. Lately we have been having issues related to neighborhood power outages and effects on the system. We are still trying to arrange a troubleshooting session with the contractor to figure out the causes of our continuing issues. Final payment of the last 10% of the bill is still being withheld pending resolution of the issues with the system.
- **Website.** JR Lyons provided an update on the website update process. Further work is being done to examine other church websites and to look into search engine optimization.
- **Call Committee.** Pastor Jon provided an update on the Call Committee process. Call documents have been submitted and approved by the Bishop and we are now hopefully waiting to receive names of potential candidates.

Old Business:

- **Church Rolls.** Nancy Egloff and Jane deSolms updated us on efforts to clean-up our church rolls to make sure they accurately reflect the membership or our congregation.
- **Vision Process.** Pastor Jon talked about the Vision Process that is planned for this fall. This will follow a “Time and Talents Survey” to look at what our talents and interests are in the congregation and making use of those in our ministries. The point was made that we may want to revisit the visions after arrival of second pastor or other ministerial professionals that come to serve our congregation and that the decisions made in visioning may also have a huge impact on pastoral recruitment as well.

New Business:

- We discussed Committee Liaison assignments, which will be largely the same as the prior year but with Dave Sulouff being the Council liaison for Youth and Faith Formation and Sandy Johnson being the liaison for Campus Ministry. These assignments will be finalized before the next Council meeting.
- Installation of Council will take place in our church services on Sunday, September 13.
- Pastor Nelson related to us that St. Stephen received an invitation to participate in the celebration of the 250th anniversary of First Baptist Church.
- Jane deSolms reported that we are running about 3.4% below our budgeted giving although this is not too unusual because many members of the congregation make lump-sum contributions at the end of the year from 401K or similar accounts. She reminded Council that the budget process for 2027 begins soon and asked Council members to relay to their committees that have budgets to prepare their requests.

A closing prayer was offered and the meeting was adjourned.

Bill Dichtel, Council Member



STEWARDSHIP ESSENTIALS

Fall is coming. Back to school, perhaps end of vacations, and time for our traditional stewardship drive. This year's plan is a bit different. This season we will be issuing a pastoral call. While our baseline budget allows for a half-time pastor, the Church Council believes the Holy Spirit may be calling us to a bigger goal.

During the coming weeks, our campaign will determine if we can expand this call to more than a half-time position. A 10 percent increase would allow us to fund a full-time second pastor. This leadership would allow us to deepen our youth programs, expand our pastoral care and increase our outreach.

Thanks to your stewardship, we were able to replace our HVAC system, although that is still a work in progress. That campaign ends in 2027, but transitioning that giving into our operating ministry for the next five years will help us bridge the \$50,000 gap and issue a full-time call.

As you learn more about this dream, prayerfully consider the possibilities.

Susan Williamson

STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. STEPHEN



Are we all becoming more isolated?

Often when I am out walking around in public places, I am increasingly feeling more isolated. It isn't that there aren't as many people out and about as in the past, but it seems many people are not open for making contact with those around them. We have always had some around us very self-absorbed and inward thinking, but it seems to me that we now have a modern-day epidemic

of self-isolationism. As I study this apparently increasing phenomenon, I see a number of factors that promote it.

One major driving factor is ear buds and headphones. These modern inventions, which connect the user to all the sounds of the Internet and the world, do wonders to close off the immediate world. It is amazing to see individuals walking and singing along, almost totally oblivious to those around them, sometimes almost running into them. Or they may be listening to seemingly earth-shattering political podcasts while almost running down someone walking more slowly right in front of them. The diversity of podcast silos out there allows all of us to find our own rabbit holes to dive into rather than have sound discussions and seek common ground.

Cellular telephones are another factor. It is amazing that there is enough bandwidth to carry all the conversations going on that you see when you are out walking!

It seems that many out walking will go out of their way to avoid making eye contact or any other contact as you pass by. Some appear to look for any excuse to divert their attention away or appear otherwise distracted. Others wear hoodies or other clothing that helps them hide in their shell.

Another factor is the common divisiveness and lack of acceptance of others out and about in our communities. Unfortunately, for others, there is legitimate cause for fear, as they are concerned that they are targeted by our own federal government for impoundment or deportation.

The bottom line is, we, as a society, are increasingly isolating ourselves resulting in higher levels of feelings of loneliness and depression. Discussions that we used to take for granted are less common and sorely missed. If you personally feel that you are in a situation where you are increasingly more isolated and depressed, you may benefit from having a Stephen Minister to listen to you and converse with. Call **Pastor Jon** or **Bill Dichtel** if you would like to explore that option.

Bill Dichtel, Stephen Minister

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH, WILLIAMSBURG

2026 Theologian in Residence

Featured Speaker: Kimberly Knowle-Zeller

Writer, pastor, and author exploring faith, creation, and everyday wonder.



Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026

God of the Cosmos: How God Walks with Us in Our Everyday Lives

- 9:30 a.m. Gather
- 10:00 a.m. Presentation
- 11:50 a.m. Pot-luck lunch
- 12:45 p.m. Questions & discussion

Sunday, Sept. 27, 2026

Helping Your Children Grow Through Change

- 8:30 a.m. Preach early service
- 10:00 a.m. Dialogue in the College Room
- 11:00 a.m. Preach late service

Location

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
612 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg, VA

Theme

Faith, creation, everyday wonder and blessings

The speaker's Living Lutheran reflection invites families to marvel at creation through the night sky, prayer, and everyday wonder. Her newest book is "Small Steps: Blessings to Lift Your Soul on the Pilgrimage of Life."



"CELEBRATING ORDINARY" FALL WOMEN'S WORKSHOP: REGISTRATION COMING IN SEPTEMBER



The St. Stephen Fall Women's Workshop, "Celebrating Ordinary," is being planned as a one-day event at St. Stephen on **Saturday, November 7**, with a Friday evening social the evening before, **November 6**. The Saturday workshop sessions will have spiritual themes and highlight relevancies to women's daily lives. The planning team is creating breakout sessions now – let **Sandy Johnson** know if you are interested in helping with a breakout session!

Registration is coming in September, with details on the workshop. Thanks to Sandy Johnson and the planning team for their preparations.

Come and bring a friend for the day Saturday, or Friday evening, or better yet – both! (Note: This annual St. Stephen women's event was formerly known as the Fall Women's Retreat; the planning team has renamed it the Fall Women's Workshop to better reflect its format.)

Alison Carney

THANKS FOR SNEAKERS FOR GROVE



Well, we did it again! Many thanks to our St. Stephen caring community for more than 20 years of sending the kids in the Grove area off to school well-shod in new shoes. Inspired by the past work of Marilyn Johnson, in August we delivered 42 pairs of sneakers as well as a check for \$1,670 to the Grove Christian Outreach Center, which will allow the Grove staff to purchase more shoes and other items that the kids can use to start school. Your generosity is always amazing and such a blessing! And thanks to **Hollie Jones** and **Amy Goldberg** who kept us organized!

Nancy and Keith Egloff

SUMMER FILM SERIES



All summer films will take place on the **second and fourth Sundays of the month at 2:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Light snacks will be provided. There will be an optional discussion for those who stay afterwards. Each

month the movies have a theme: September – A Funny Kind of Faith. Any questions/suggestions contact **Elara Strand** at elaram@mac.com.

September 13, 2:00 – *Monty Python's Life of Brian* (1979) Rated R

Come for: Witness the titular Brian (Graham Chapman), an ordinary Judean, getting mistaken for the coming Messiah, with hilarious results! "...a hilarious satire of dogma and blind faith in which nothing is sacred."

Stay for: A discussion of faith and humor. God seems to have a sense of humor; do we have a sense of humor about our faith? What do comedies and satires about Christianity have to tell us about our faith? We'll discuss it!

September 27, 2:00 – *Honk for Jesus. Save Your Soul.* (2022) Rated R

Come for: A mockumentary satire about a megachurch pastor and his wife trying to rebuild their following after a mysterious scandal has decimated it. Starring Regina Hall and Sterling K. Brown.

Stay for: A discussion about what happens when showmanship and large sums of money enters Christianity. Also, what is prosperity gospel? We'll talk about that and how we see that in this movie. There's also the role of women in church, especially evangelical churches, something this film pokes fun at but also brings up quite seriously.

Upcoming Attractions:

October 11 – Double Indemnity

October 25 – Sunset Boulevard

FINAL SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICE AND PICNIC



Our final joint summer worship service will be on **September 6 at the Freedom Park Picnic Shelter at 9:45 a.m.**



Following the worship service will be our end-of-summer church picnic and new member welcome. If you are attending the picnic, please plan on bringing a dessert or side dish to share.



ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

As we prepare for another wonderful school year, we would like to share some exciting updates regarding our teaching team and an important transition that will take place over the coming year.

After more than 15 years of dedicated service, Mrs. Kelly Kirkpatrick has shared her plans to retire from her role as our Art Teacher at the end of the 2026-27 school year. While it will be difficult to imagine our art program – and our preschool – without her, we are incredibly grateful for the lasting impact she has made on our community. Through her creativity, patience, and steadfast leadership, Mrs. Kirkpatrick has inspired young artists and enriched the lives of countless children and families. We feel truly blessed to have had her as such an important part of our preschool, and we look forward to

celebrating her and honoring the positive impact she has made here throughout the year.

To ensure a seamless transition, our current Giraffe (Three-Year-Old) Class Co-Teacher, Mrs. Rachel Wolf, will spend time shadowing Mrs. Kirkpatrick in the art room throughout the school year and will teach art classes for all of our students on Wednesdays. This thoughtful transition will allow Mrs. Wolf to learn alongside Mrs. Kirkpatrick while becoming familiar with all aspects of our art program. We are excited for Mrs. Wolf to step into the role of Art Teacher beginning in the 2027-28 school year and are confident that her creativity, warmth, and dedication to early childhood education will continue the tradition of excellence that Mrs. Kirkpatrick has established.

As Mrs. Wolf begins this transition, we are delighted to welcome Ms. Rebecca Clay to our preschool team as our new Giraffe (Three-Year-Old) Class Co-Teacher. Ms. Clay is relocating from Sterling, Virginia, where she served as a Kindergarten Assistant Teacher. She is also currently writing a children's book, reflecting her passion for nurturing young minds through creativity and storytelling. Ms. Clay brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm to our preschool, and we cannot wait for your children and families to get to know her.

Throughout this transition, I will work closely with Mrs. Kirkpatrick, Mrs. Wolf and Ms. Clay to ensure consistency, continuity, and the high-quality learning experiences our families expect in every classroom. On Wednesdays, when Mrs. Wolf is teaching art or shadowing Mrs. Kirkpatrick, I will serve as the Giraffe Class Co-Teacher. Having served in that role from December 2025 through May 2026, I look forward to continuing those relationships with our youngest preschoolers and their families while supporting a smooth transition for everyone involved.

We are excited about this thoughtful plan for the future while honoring the incredible contributions of Mrs. Kirkpatrick. Thank you for your continued trust, support, and partnership as we begin another year of learning, growth, and joyful discovery together.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. Thank you!

Jessica Kimball, Preschool Director

2026-2027 | St. Stephen Lutheran Preschool Calendar

August 2026

8/26 - Giraffe Open House
8/27 - Frogs, Bears & Hippos Open House
**Open House details emailed to families in July*
8/29 - Summer Carnival 11AM-2PM
8/31 - **First Day of Preschool** for Frogs, Bears, Hippos, and 3/5-day Giraffes

September 2026

9/1 - **First Day of Preschool** for 2-day Giraffes
9/4 & 9/7 - **Closed** for Labor Day
9/8 - Extended Day begins!
9/10 - Shoofly Dairy Bar Spirit Night 5-7PM
9/17 & 9/18 - Fall School Pictures

October 2026

10/8 & 10/9 - Fire Truck comes to preschool
10/16 - Holly Fork Farm Field Trip 9:45AM arrival - ALL STUDENTS WELCOME; *parent or guardian must accompany student*
10/29 - Halloween Celebration for 2/5-day Giraffes, Hippos & Bears
10/30 - Halloween Celebration for 3/5-day Giraffes & Frogs

November 2026

11/2 - **Closed** for students and teachers
11/3 - **Closed** for students; teacher work day
11/17 - Community Meal from 5:30-7PM
11/19 - Jamestown Settlement Field Trip 9:45AM arrival - Hippos, Bears & Frogs ONLY - normal school day for Giraffes; *parent or guardian must accompany student*
11/25, 11/26 & 11/27 - **Closed** for Thanksgiving Break

December 2026

12/16 - Registration forms due for 2027-2028 SY; internal families only
12/17 - Christmas Program for Hippos & Giraffes
12/18 - Christmas Program for Bears & Frogs
12/21-12/31 - **Closed** for Winter Break

January 2027

1/1 - **Closed** for New Year's Day
1/11 - 2027-2028 Registration opens to public
1/18 - **Closed** for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
1/24 - Winter Carnival 2-4PM

February 2027

2/9 - Community Meal from 5:30-7PM
2/11 - Valentine's Day Exchange for 2/5-day Giraffes, Hippos & Bears
2/12 - Valentine's Day Exchange for 3/5-day Giraffes & Frogs
2/15 - **Closed** for President's Day

March 2027

3/1 - Read Across America Spirit Week kicks off today! *Details will be shared in February & March Newsletters.*
3/4 & 3/5 - Book Swap
3/5 - Dad's Lunch 11AM-12:30PM
3/24 - Easter Egg Hunt for 3/5-day Giraffes, Hippos & Bears
3/25 - Easter Egg Hunt for 2/5-day Giraffes & Frogs
3/26 - **Closed** for Good Friday

April 2027

4/5-4/9 - **Closed** for Spring Break
TBD - Spring Portraits and Class Pictures
TBD - Muscarelle Museum of Art Field Trip; *parents are not able to attend this one as space is limited by the museum*

May 2027

5/4 - Community Meal from 5:30-7PM
5/7 - Mother's Day Brunch 10-11:30AM
5/21 - Last Day of Extended Day!
5/27 - Giraffe Moving Up Celebration at 10AM; **NO SCHOOL for Hippos, Bears & Frogs - Giraffe last day**
5/28 - Graduation Celebration for Hippos, Bears & Frogs at 10AM; **NO SCHOOL for Giraffes - last day for all other classes**

June 2027

Summer Camps are offered from 9AM-12PM Monday thru Friday unless noted otherwise in tentative dates below:
6/1-6/4 - Week #1 (reduced rate due to 4 day week)
6/7-6/11 - Week #2
6/14-6/18 - Week #3
6/21-6/25 - Week #4

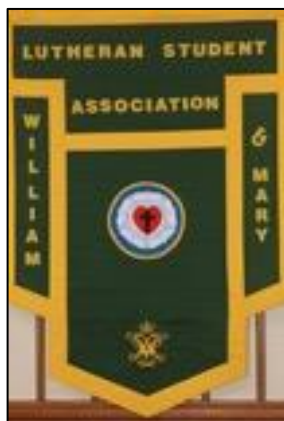
July 2027

7/12-7/16 - Week #5
7/19-7/23 - Week #6
7/26-7/30 - Week #7

**Please note that weekly themes and ability to register will be shared at a later time as these dates are tentative and subject to change.*



WILLIAM & MARY STUDENTS RETURNING EVENTS



The William & Mary Lutheran Student Association (LSA) students will soon be returning to campus, with classes beginning on **August 26**. Incoming freshmen arrive on **August 20**, and some may stop by on **Sunday, August 23**. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to these new students as they begin this exciting chapter.

We will welcome all William & Mary students on **Sunday, August 30**, and host our first dinner at **6:00 p.m.** that evening. A dinner sign-up sheet will be available in the Gathering Area. Please consider providing a meal or part of a meal for the students. They truly appreciate the hospitality, and it is a wonderful opportunity to meet and greet them – an uplifting experience for everyone involved.

We are also planning a William & Mary LSA Homecoming Luncheon on **October 24, 2026**, and inviting alumni to worship with us on **October 25**. This is an important initiative for LSA and for the people of St. Stephen, as former students return to reconnect with the community that was part of their college experience. We look forward to this special time together.

Gerry Johnson, LSA Pastor

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL RECAP



Many thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to Vacation Bible School this summer. We were blessed with 33 volunteers, 41 children, and four junior crew members – teens who helped make the week a success. It was a spirited and joyful week filled with adventure, learning, and fellowship.

The children learned about King David and our Good Shepherd. They sang catchy songs, planted flowers, panned for emeralds, made Celtic crosses and sheep masks, enjoyed lunch together, walked under a

waterfall, played water games, and even pelted **Pastor Jon** with water balloons. Most importantly, they made new friends and shared in God's love throughout the week.

The following Sunday, 22 children joined us in worship and sang their hearts out. It was truly a wonderful week, and we are grateful for all who helped make it possible.

Gerry Johnson, LSA Pastor



SEPTEMBER

1	John Gregoire	Arnie Janot
2	Anne Schone	
5	Brian Bergh	P. J. McAteer
	Jim Ogborn, Jr.	
7	Diana Lyons	
9	Ailene Bartlett	
10	David Allen	Erika Cave
11	Ed Brown (95!)	
13	Kendall Delehanty	
14	Bob Achenbach	Jonathan Hallman
	Karen Ives	
16	Stan York	
17	Mallory Spencer	
19	Daniel Owens	
20	Charlene Smith	Rushton White
22	Jim Kittelson	
23	George Martin	Philip McKenna
24	Phyllis Spencer	
26	Sandy Croushore	Bob Harman
28	Hannah Wiers	
30	Mark Hinders	



Joe Beene

Alison and Michael Carney

Jim Mayfield

Alison and Michael Carney

Thanks



Thank you for your gift of \$3,000 to ELCA World Hunger. "From [Christ's] fullness we have all received, grace upon grace." - John 1:16

As a church, we are empowered to love and serve our neighbors as Christ first loved us. Your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA help people around the world feel the power and hope that flow from God's full, boundless love. Drawn together and guided by the Holy Spirit, we accomplish together what none of us could do alone, grace upon grace.

Your generosity is getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries, including the United States. It provides access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock and education, and it advances peace and justice for all people. Through your gifts, you join the whole church in working toward a just world where all are fed.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. You make God's love real.

The Rev. Daniel Rift, Director, Congregational Generosity



FAITH
IN ACTION

Thank you for empowering volunteers to serve so that seniors can thrive!

We have received your donation for Williamsburg Faith In Action (WFIA). Your generous support of \$1,000 on July 13, 2026 helps the seniors of the Greater Williamsburg area age safely

while living in their own homes.

With support of donors like you, we are able to provide free volunteer services with a personal touch to greatly benefit more than 300 seniors in our community. We appreciate your commitment to Williamsburg Faith In Action. Once again, thank you for choosing WFIA as a recipient of your generosity and support and for making a difference in seniors' lives.

Lauren S. Satchell, Development and Communications Coordinator



Thank you for your in-kind donation of 86 pounds of food to the Williamsburg House of Mercy.

On average we receive 18,000 pounds of in-kind donations per month and rely on these to supplement our costs in providing to the most vulnerable in our community. Thank you for remembering the Williamsburg House of Mercy through your donation.

Liz Buckley, Executive Director



Thank you for your generous gift to FISH.

For 50 years, FISH has rented, leased and borrowed space for our Food Pantry and Clothing Closet needs and the time is now to put a

larger footprint in the Greater Williamsburg Area. The new building on Pocahontas Trail is nearing completion and this is very exciting. We are getting very close to begin moving in late August.

Jill Holroyd, FISH President

DINING GROUPS ARE BACK



Sign up now for the next round of Small Dining Groups. Consisting of about seven to nine people, each dining group will set its own "approach" for meals,

such as: dinner out, brunch or lunch at a group member's house, potluck after Sunday worship, take-out, picnic, etc. Do whatever works best for the group. Each group is asked to meet three times between late September and the end of January. Of course, you are free to meet more often if that works for your group. Sign up on the bulletin insert or call the church office; the **deadline to sign up is September 20**. Contact **Alison Carney** or **Diane McCurry** if you have any questions.



MUSIC NOTES

Here we go...the beginning of another school year. September has a Labor Day weekend worship in the park; God's Work, Our Hands Sunday; Rally Day; and our Theologian in Residence weekend.

Besides our busy Sundays, all our musical groups are coming back together for regular rehearsals. Please prayerfully consider joining one or more of these faithful groups, whether it be ringing a joyful noise to the Lord or singing a joyful noise to the Lord, or perhaps playing a joyful noise to the Lord with an instrument.

All our music ensembles are facilitators of worship, not performers. Choirs and instrumentalists help lead the congregation's song on Sunday mornings as well as other services throughout the year. Our singing choirs not only provide anthems at worship but also lead and teach our liturgy and hymnody. Both Chancel and Matins choirs as well as the St. Stephen Ringers rehearse in the worship space.

Chancel Choir: This group of dedicated singers supports the **11:00 a.m. Sunday morning worship service**. Members are an intergenerational group that sing unison, two-part, SAB (soprano, alto, baritone), and SATB (soprano, alto, tenor, bass) selections. Rehearsals are at **7:00 p.m. Wednesday evenings** with warm-ups at **10:30 a.m. Sunday morning**. **(First rehearsal is August 26 at 7:00 p.m.)**

Matins Choir: This group of dedicated singers supports the **8:30 a.m. Sunday morning worship service** – warm-ups are at **8:00 a.m.** Members are an intergenerational group that sing unison, two-part, SAB (soprano, alto, baritone), and SATB (soprano, alto, tenor, bass) selections. Rehearsals are at **9:30 a.m. Sunday mornings** following the early service. **(First rehearsal is August 30 at 8:30 a.m. Please note the special time. All future rehearsals are at 9:30 a.m.)**

Cantors: These individuals lead our liturgical rites and psalmody.

St. Stephen Ringers: Our handbell choir rehearses on **Thursday afternoons at 5:30 p.m.** The ringers accompany hymns, psalms, and provide special music

for centering, communion, and postlude. The Ringers, also an intergenerational group, play at both Sunday morning worship services every 4-6 weeks during the school year. **(Those interested in trying out handbell ringing are invited to come to a handbell retreat on August 30 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. No experience required and no commitment expected. Join the fun!)**

Orchaband: We welcome all who wish to share their musical talents. Whether one plays guitar, ukulele, flute, clarinet, trumpet, French horn, violin, viola, cello, saxophone, oboe, percussion, kazoo, or ones not mentioned, please share your gifts with our congregational family. Orchaband instrumentalists play at both worship services accompanying hymns and liturgy. Individual players also help with Centering, Offering, Communion, and Postlude selections. The Orchaband plays every 4-6 weeks. **(Rehearsals on Saturday morning 11:00)**

Children's Music: Recently we have been having our children help us with special occasions such as "Blessing of the Animals," a Christmas pageant, and Palm Sunday worship. Rehearsals are during the "Faith Five" weekday time slot. Our youth enjoy singing, ringing chimes, and occasionally playing percussion for these special worship services.

Youth and College Music: Chancel, Matins and St. Stephen Ringers are multi-generational. Middle School Age on up are welcome and encouraged to join!

Lectors: This is not a musical group, but is an important ministry for our worship service, and I do schedule these readers. These ministers proclaim the Old and New Testament scriptures at our worship services. By practicing and preparing each week, lectors assist the congregation in understanding the readings.

Please contact me if you have any questions and especially if you would like to be a part of any of these wonderful ministries, or just show up!

Karen Ives, Music Director
757-229-6688, musicdir@saintstephenlutheran.net



SEPTEMBER 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 Jon Nelson

2	Heidi Flatin	George Vonderheide
11	Karen Schlicht	
12	Jeane Moore	
14	Thom Recktenwald	
18	Susan Britcher	
20	Ann McAteer	
21	Josiah Hallman	
23	Erika Cave	

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



MEN'S & WOMEN'S BREAKFASTS

- **Tuesday, September 8** – Women are invited to join together for breakfast.
- **Thursday, September 10** – Men are invited to join together for breakfast.

Both gatherings take place at **8:00 a.m. on the first full week of the month** 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.

PRAYERS



Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Kristin Carter, Ginny Cummings, Craig Eichfeld, Edith Haecker, Dave Hoyer, Jim Ivey, Sharon Jacobs, Marilyn Johnson, Donna Kittelson, Terri Larsen, Carole Meyer and Charles Osborn.**

Pray for those unable to come to worship: **Ailene Bartlett, Ed Brown, Pat Janot, Marilyn Johnson, Jon Lund, Darlene Simon, and Kay Wasaff.**

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Bob Alt, Thomas Alt, Randy Altona, Phyllis Andrews, Sam Areheart, Philip Baker, Bob Bastian, Carol Baum, Robi Bayard, Lila Bradley, Carol Bergh, Mary Bloom, Doug Bolick, Robert Bunn, David Carr, John Coski, Amaree Cluff, Judy Craun, Ronnie Dodson, Pat D'Orazio, Dru Dowdy, Judy Drezek, Anne Dwiggin, Bob Friend, Danny Gass, Debbie Glenn, Joan Goodhart, Charee Hampton, Sue Hassan and family, Andy Havola, Nick Havola, Bradley, Kim, Joan and Laurie Heintzelman, Char Henry, Henry Hespeneide, Lisa Hill, Doris Hillenbrand, Michelle Holdsworth, Jaxon Ireland, Don Johnson, Connie Kendrick, Jenn Kramer, Bob Loubach, Pat Layton, Marnah Lund, Doug MacKenzie, Keara Mahony, Trish Macerelli, Laura Margolin, Barry and Mabel Martin, Ellen Martin, Mabel Mater, Jackie Mazzone, Jimmy Mitchell, Carolyn Money maker, Marian Mongelli, Liz Montalvo, Chuckie Moore, Bob Myers, Jeanette Osborn, Rodger Osborn, Maricel Paulin, Dima Pavlenko, Lloyd Peppard, Coral Pumley, Scott Radley, Kurt Recktenwald, Paula Rega, Carol Sue Repass, Brian Ritter, Ruth Sandoval, Lou Schuster, Pamela Sharp, Kelsey Slay, Valerie Smith, Vasili Soutoukis, Laura Spencer, Charlie Stayton, Chad Strausbaugh, John Steigerwalt, Al Stern, Monika Stern, Lara Templin, Lenorah Thomas, Karli Wallace Thompson, Betty Lou Tulloh, Elaine Wrich, Lynda Wright, and Bev Utrich.



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

The Quill **www.saintstephenlutheran.net** **September 2026**

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