



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

March 2025



STORIES

I have been thinking a lot lately about stories. In many ways our lives are governed by them. Most of our frames of reference and ways of thinking are influenced by various stories. We are people of stories.

Why do you think movies, books, music, television, and art can have such powerful impact on us? They are full of powerful stories! We are constantly exposed to other stories, and we incorporate those stories into our own. We think of them when making decisions (often unconsciously), we refer to them in conversations, we are surrounded by them.

I am a perfect example of this, as my favorite stories have greatly influenced my own story. I have referred in past sermons to some of my favorite stories: the Lord of the Rings, the Chronicles of Narnia, Star Wars, musicals, even comic book characters. My writings are full of references to other stories too! And when I find myself in peculiar situations or having to make tough decisions my mind often thinks of similar stories and how others (real and fictional) have handled what I am now facing.

What are some of the stories that influence you? The boy who cried wolf? Aesop's fables? The lives of various presidents? TV shows? The Andy Griffith show? Grey's Anatomy? Movies? Star Wars? Westerns?

All of this leads to wonder about how important we find God's story in our lives. I'm just a little bit worried that God's story often seems to get drowned out by other stories. I'm also a little bit worried that we don't know God's story as well as we ought to.

Time magazine observed in a 2007 cover story that only half of U.S. adults could name one of the four Gospels. Fewer than half could identify Genesis as the Bible's first book. Popular television late-night hosts have made sport of Americans' inability to name the Ten Commandments – even among members of Congress who have pushed to have them posted publicly. And it's not just the general population. In a study of incoming freshman by Wheaton College of students representing every Protestant denomination one third of the students tested could not put the following in sequential order: Abraham, the Old Testament prophets, the death of Christ, and Pentecost. Half could not sequence the following: Moses in Egypt, Isaac's birth, Saul's death, and Judah's exile. One-third could not identify the book of Acts as the location of Paul's missionary travels; half did not know that the Christmas story was in Matthew, half did not know that the Passover story was in Exodus.

These figures are disheartening, but I don't think they're surprising. As other stories have gained prominence and gotten louder, we have not clung to God's story with much conviction or audacity. And it's too bad because as others have noted, God's story is the greatest story ever told. The challenge before us is to commit to learning God's story; understanding that our stories are a part of God's story; and seeing God's story as primary in our lives and frames of reference.

I hope and pray that the coming year be one of spiritual growth in our parish; one of immersing ourselves in God's story. With that aim I am committed to preaching God's story purposefully to help us all to learn it better and to see our own stories within it. I am also committed to growing in my own understanding of God's story, along with you, and providing more opportunities to study it and grow in it (don't forget our weekly bible study on Mondays). Will you join me?

In Christ, **Pastor Jon**



STEWARDSHIP ESSENTIALS

The March Stewardship focus will be seniors, and speakers from Williamsburg Faith in Action will be coming to talk to the congregation. Faith in Action is a nonprofit which provides transportation and other services for seniors, age 60 and up. Several members of the St. Stephen congregation are or have been volunteers for Faith in Action. After completing training and background checks, volunteers sign up to transport seniors for trips to doctors' appointments, grocery runs, beauty shop visits and more. Interested volunteers may also provide home visits, well check calls, pick up and deliver from food pantries, or help with household or yard chores.

Each week, the Faith in Action office provides a list of needs, and volunteers can sign up for one or more trips or visits. There is no minimum number of hours required of any volunteer. This service allows for seniors to remain in their homes, but still have access to transportation and other needs. In addition to providing a useful service, volunteers have the opportunity to meet many of our local seniors.

Anyone interested in joining the volunteer cadre at Faith in Action, or in requesting services can contact the organization at info@wfia.org or call (757) 258-5890. The organization also accepts monetary donations to help provide staff and training needs.

Susan Williamson



SHROVE TUESDAY ON MARCH 4



Support our St. Stephen Preschool fund at our Shrove Tuesday PJs & Pancakes Supper **Tuesday, March 4 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.** Tickets are \$10.00 per person (children two and under are free) for fellowship and pancakes. Our Preschoolers invite you to join in their fun as they wear their PJs to have dinner. Can you help in the kitchen or with ticket sales? Please mark the Sunday bulletin insert or call the church office if you are able to attend and if you are able to help.



MEN'S & WOMEN'S BREAKFASTS

- **March 4** – Women are invited to join together for breakfast the first **Tuesday** of this month.
- **March 6** – Men are invited to join together for breakfast the first **Thursday** of this month.

Both gatherings take place at **8:00 a.m.** 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.



Ash Wednesday: March 5 at St. Stephen:

- 12:15 p.m.:** Ashes-to-Go. Please call the church when you arrive – 757-229-6688.
- 6:30 p.m.:** Worship featuring the invitation to observe Lent, ashes, and Holy Communion.

Wednesday evenings in Lent: March 12, 19 and 26, and April 2, 9 and 16 at St. Stephen:

- 5:30 p.m.:** Soup supper in the Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m.:** Lenten Midweek Service

**STEPHEN MINISTRY
AT ST. STEPHEN**



**happy
birthday**

MARCH

Dealing With Difficult Feelings

We are dealing with a lot of issues right now. I can name only a few that I have heard concern expressed regarding the issues. We are divided by our political views. We are divided by what we feel is required to maintain our earth as it is today. We are divided by how we view others expressions of love and self. We are divided by how we feel we want to be treated by others. Some people choose to be “in your face” with their beliefs. They want to change how everyone looks at the world and those in it. Some people want to withdraw into a corner and not say anything at all. A lot of people are confused and hurting without knowing where to turn and whom to trust. These are definitely trying times indeed.

Maybe your concerns are not so worldly. Maybe you are grieving or going through a period of giving care to a loved one. Caregivers need support as well. Maybe you are struggling with a concern that is more private. The pain you experience is real. You need to have support and caring but don’t know where to turn.

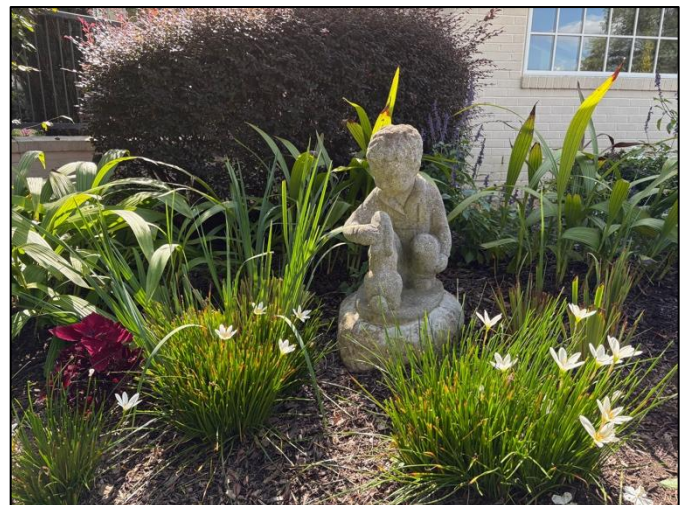
I would like to remind you that there is comfort to be found in all of this. We have Stephen Ministers in our midst who are here to help. They are people who will listen without judgement. They will provide empathy and compassionate support. They will not provide solutions but they do listen. There is comfort in being able to talk about what is concerning you in a safe and loving environment. Oh, did I mention it is all confidential? Yes, the support is kept in strict confidence.

Do you feel like this describes you? Please don’t suffer alone. You can reach out to **Pastor Jon Nelson** or **Stephen Leader Bill Dichtel** (bill.dichtel@gmail.com, 757-232-5334).

We are here to help.

Diana Tiller-Dichtel, Stephen Minister

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|-----------------|
| 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 | Ingrid Squires |
| 10 | Marilyn Mallue | |
| 11 | James Wiers | |
| 12 | Alexander Stauffer | Rachael Wiers |
| 13 | Preston Burton | |
| 14 | Susan Kauffman | Brody Wood |
| 16 | Pam Buckley | Jeanne Garrison |
| 17 | Karen Einarsen | Pat Gamble |
| 18 | Hans Tiefel | |
| 19 | Ina Berkey | |
| 20 | Carol Gabram | |
| 21 | Jane deSolms | |
| 22 | Matthias Hallman | |
| 24 | Julian Jefferson | |
| 26 | Stew Fretz | |
| 28 | Erik McKenna | John Watson |



SOUND AND LIVESTREAM MINISTRY AT SAINT STEPHEN



For quite some time there have been efforts to improve the sound equipment in the sanctuary at St. Stephen, and recently the team has been working to provide livestream services as well. The middle of a cold winter seems like a good time to relay my thoughts from the volunteer perspective. There have been lots of ups and downs, challenges and yes, successes too. The volunteers on our audio-visual teams are deeply appreciated. They have worked very hard and are committed to this important ministry. If you were around for the pandemic, that is when video recording of services really began in earnest. Immediately the challenges of working with one microphone and a domed sanctuary ceiling were evident. Blessings for **Doug Moore** and **Sandy Croushore** for their key efforts to prepare and post a service online during that difficult time.

Since the pandemic ended, audio equipment has broken, been replaced and supplemented with new and more equipment. You can't miss the new cabinetry and sound mixer that complements our sanctuary and provides a supportive technical environment. New



volunteers come onboard and sanctuary use continues to evolve with additional activities. That domed ceiling inspired by Thomas Jefferson's design is both a blessing and a technical curse. The original church design was solely the domed sanctuary which allowed everyone to hear well – sound bounces around very well, no amplification needed. If you have ever visited the Capitol Building or domed European churches you probably became aware that even a whisper is clearly transmitted to those on the other side of the dome. Very good during pre-electronic times! But time moves on, and the

congregation and church grew. Multiple building additions were made, especially the two wings off the sanctuary. Unfortunately, sound does not flow into or out of the wings. Long ago the two speakers were added to the crossbeams above each wing to facilitate hearing. Microphones had to be added to obtain the signals to send out to the wings. The hearing aid loop was added to allow those signals to be electronically relayed to hearing aid users. The technologies have been growing ever since, most recently with the addition of cameras for livestreaming.

I have provided a lot of history, but really, the priorities of the sound and livestream ministry remain pretty constant over time. It is the equipment and sanctuary environment that changes. Volunteers control the incoming microphone levels and outgoing speaker and camera signals to (1) provide audio into the two wings (we call them east and west wings), (2) provide signal into the hearing aid loop (the black wire running around the sanctuary where the wall meets the ceiling), and (3) provide video (with sound) to the livestream audiences (YouTube and Facebook).

The volunteers and I do receive questions and critical comments. All of us are deeply committed to doing the best we can in the church environment. But there are challenges (you knew that was coming 😊). The most common questions we receive seem to be:

- Why can't I hear the cantor/lector/prayer request/handbells/soloist/etc.? If anyone is not standing near a microphone, there is no way to capture their voice audio. Some people are shy, some people have naturally soft voices (the audio team knows who you are 😊) and some people turn away from the microphones or their voices naturally drop at the end of sentences.
- Why can't I hear well when I am sitting directly under a cross beam? The beam is reflecting sound away from you, and you are also directly under the speaker. Try sitting farther back to get more speaker or sit closer to the altar to get more direct sound.
- Why can't I hear on my hearing aid? The loop works best when you do not sit very close to the walls. Some of our hearing aid users provide regular feedback to me. They note that if you lean forward and downward, the signal from the loop does not reach to the floor. Sitting in the entrances to the side corridors will not work well

with the loop. If you are having difficulties, please change location and consult one of our regular hearing aid users. Paul Kristiansen is a regular loop user at the early service, he would be happy to help anyone with their hearing aids. His contact info is in the directory

- Why does the organ drown out choir/soloists/piano/etc.? Notice that the choir microphone is hanging directly in front of the organ. While the microphone is aimed away (most of our microphones are directional), there is only so much the microphone and soundboard operator can do to capture the soloist when those big pipes are directly behind the microphone.

From a technical perspective, we know that hearing aid loop technology has changed a lot. Our loop is an old Ampetronic system. It is the last piece of original equipment because it is very tough to replace. The only loop vendors I've found are in Michigan and Utah with no local distributors. Investigation shows that small churches like St. Stephen use a Wi-Fi distributed signal that either requires the user to wear a small device on a cord suspended around the user's neck, or have a hearing aid with wireless capability. Both options make the old, universal loop system obsolete. So, our current loop system remains in place until it breaks, literally. If you know of a different hearing assistive technology, please tell me!

I have discussed audio/sound and will save video/livestream stories for another day. Audio is a challenge for everyone (note the recorded music faux pas during soloist portion of the recent Presidential Inauguration as one example). Once you start noticing, you will see imperfect audio often. Most notably I see it during football games where the presenters voice levels are quickly adjusted, or news broadcasts where the remote reporter audio hiccups. I am very grateful for our committed volunteer team! They have stuck at their tasks through thick and thin. For myself and others, we realize we really can't worship in the traditional sense when we are serving the congregation in this way. It is a true ministry.

Nancy Carter, Technology Team Leader (call me anytime at 410-598-7455)



QUILTING/SEWING WORKSHOP

Greetings Ladies,

I am reaching out to all of you because you have been registered attendees at either the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO) Convention last summer at Our Saviour's OR at the All Lutheran Women's Retreat in November. The Women's group at Our Saviour's is getting ready to "resurrect" their quilting/sewing group. We would like to invite the women from St. Stephen to join us.

We have a volunteer from Waynesboro who has assisted numerous quilting circles get started and she is willing to come to our Church to help us get re-established. Her name is Judy Humphrey. She attended the VSWO Convention last summer at our Church, so maybe some of you have met her. She would like to meet with ANYONE who is interested in this Ministry to discuss your wishes/goals for this group, as well as meeting times/frequencies.

I have arranged for the kick-off meeting with everyone to be on **Saturday, March 1, 2025 from noon-2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Our Saviour's**. You can either join our newly forming group or use this training to begin one of your own. Either way, it should be great fellowship (and a free lunch!).

Once we are established, we have committed to Latisha's House (our current VSWO service project recipient) to teach the residents there how to sew as an outreach from this group. We would love any assistance with this ministry as well.

I hope you will consider joining. An approximate head count for the luncheon would be great if you all can attend. *(If you are interested in attending, contact **Chris Punched** at 757-880-3347 or christinepunched@gmail.com so she can provide a head count)*

Looking forward to seeing you all again,

Diane Priestley, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

WHY WAIT? JOIN THE NEW MONTHLY WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP!



Sparked by interest and positive feedback from the fall 2024 St. Stephen women's retreat, women at St. Stephen are now gathering monthly. The thinking was, "As sisters in Christ, why wait until a weekend women's retreat for the invaluable individual and community experiences?!"

The St. Stephen monthly women's study group emphasizes nurturing one another on our faith journeys, continuing to explore and learn through spiritual development, study, discussion, and growth.

We offer a **1:00-2:30 p.m. afternoon session (Fellowship Hall)** and a **7:00-8:30 p.m. evening session (Library)** on the **second Thursday of each month**. You may participate in either session according to your availability, and change from one session time to the other as needed. To keep participation as open as possible, we also create each session as independent of the next. There is no registration or preparation needed or required, and no homework! The important things are connection and community.

Since its January 2025 start, the monthly women's study group has had strong participation for its first two months. With many thanks to **Sandy Johnson**, who is facilitating, we have had 22 participants each for the January and February sessions.

We have had time together in a larger group and in small groups, with a variety of activities to date: reading and reflection, a brief video, discussion topics and questions, icebreakers, listening and sharing, and prayer. The occasional sound of laughter marks lighter moments during the sessions and adds to the joy! It is a blessing to see new relationships forming and to experience the new connections, with God as our guide and center.

We envision an alternating leadership model for upcoming sessions – please let **Sandy Johnson** know if you are interested in leading a session and to coordinate details. After the next few months we will assess how

things are going, and make adjustments as needed. Your feedback is welcome. **Come and join us! Bring a friend!**

If you want to join the monthly women's study group but foresee a barrier that keeps you from doing so, please let us know and we will do our best to support your participation. Questions? Reach out to **Ina Berkey**.

DEACON - WHAT'S THAT???

In January we had a guest preacher - Deacon Liz Fox. Did you wonder what that title meant?

In the ELCA we have ministers on two rosters: **Minister of Word and Sacrament** and **Minister of Word and Service**.

The **Minister of Word and Sacrament** serves to offer the sacraments and to proclaim the Gospel. Some are called to specialized ministry such as chaplaincy and campus ministry.

The **Minister of Word and Service** (called **Deacon**) serves in congregations and other ministries of the ELCA, including family ministries, youth, parish administration, social services, music or parish nursing. Deacons connect the church with the needs of the world.

Deacons have two years of seminary training plus other training as may be useful. Yes, I am a Deacon of the ELCA and I have been to seminary and to other additional training in music and church programs like youth and seniors

We all are called to serve - some of us are called to specialized ministries Now you know what a Deacon is! (Additional information can be found on the ELCA web site).

Ina Berkey



Marilyn Johnson
5500 Williamsburg Landing Dr.
Apt 263
Williamsburg, VA 23185



MUSIC NOTES

DRUMMING THE BIBLICAL NARRATIVE

Faith Formation Music is not just about having our children sing and/or chime at the Blessing of the Animals service or the Christmas Pageant (even though both worship services held an extraordinary cute factor!). Faith Formation and Faith Formation Music all begin with a meaningful biblical text – either a key verse or a main story. This spring our young people are concentrating their efforts on two of those stories in Faith Formation Music, hopefully to be presented in Sunday morning worship. Borrowing percussion instruments from our neighbors down the road, Walsingham Academy, we are grooving, chanting, and yes, there’s also some singing, too. Our focus has been on two Bible events: the Ten Commandments (We call it “God’s Big Ten.”) and the story of Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. We first learn a “Bible Beat” and then we combine other rhythms and other percussion instruments to create a “Groove.”

You may have heard some of our percussion instruments being used this Epiphany season as we celebrate our Lord of all Nations with our Latino flavored liturgy and other global influenced music. Our instrumentation includes djembe and conga drums, agogo bells (double cow bells), claves (basically two thick sticks), egg shakers and maracas, finger cymbals, tambourine, guiro (a notched hollow gourd that is played by a stick rubbing across the notches, making a “ratchet” sound) and a shekere (gourd shaker).

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD!

Karen Ives, Music Director



Thank You

WILLIAMSBURG AREA MEALS ON WHEELS

Today, because of you, our neighbors in need in Williamsburg, James City County and the Bruton District of York can continue to age in their homes, living independently and with dignity without currently having to be put on a wait list. Your gift will help us to continue to carry out our mission to prepare and deliver meals to individuals who for a physical, psychological, or for economic reasons are unable to provide nutritious meals for themselves.

Williamsburg Area Meals on Wheels continues to serve as an invaluable resource to residents in our community. Your generosity ensures they receive a hot, nutritious meal each weekday afternoon and just as importantly, a visit and a smile with the support from a friendly volunteer who checks on them.

We deeply appreciate your donation of \$1,500. With rising food and gas prices, I am humbled and grateful for the outpour of donations to eliminate a waiting list to feed our neighbors in need. I thank you for supporting your community and the Williamsburg Area Meals on Wheels.

Together, we can work to bring food and human connection to our neighbors who are living with hunger in silence.

Catherine Upton, Executive Director



From my office near the waiting room, I often hear our therapists greeting their clients, and those brief interactions always bring a smile to my face. Each counseling session is an opportunity for healing, a step toward wholeness and health, and a chance to rediscover joy. Thanks to generous supporters like you,

these opportunities are available to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. Your contributions have a profound impact, allowing us to provide mental health counseling that integrates mind, body, and spirit.

The Board of Directors and Staff of Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center sincerely appreciate your contribution of \$1,500 reflecting your commitment to PPCC's mission.

Your support is making a meaningful difference in the lives of our clients. Thank you for partnering with us to bring wholeness and healing to our community!

Ford McFall, Development Director



The season of renewal is upon us. A fresh new year comes with new opportunities to provide to those less fortunate than us. For many families this is a time of stress, anxiety and hopelessness. We will continue to make sure every family is fed through our continued food distribution and pop-up pantries. We also want to make sure every parent is able to receive the services they need from HOPE Pregnancy Center.

Thank you for your recent donation which allows us to:

- Provide diapers and formula for struggling parents
- Alleviate the worry of utility cutoffs to our clients who identify as ALICE (Asset limited income constrained employed)
- Stock our community kitchen with fresh ingredients so we can serve lunch each week day
- Enable our case managers to walk a path of greater sustainability for those individuals in our permanent supportive housing programs
- Purchase shelf-stable food and farm-to-table product to ensure our weekly food pantry distribution is robust for our neighbors faced with food insecurity

Our focus is on the expansion of HOPE Pregnancy Center. Construction has been completed allowing more space and services for the 91 new clients that have

reached out since July 1. We look forward to providing more one-on-one case management and support. We continue to support those in need through our Outreach Program – keeping every home warm with utility assistance for cut-off notices. 2025 will focus on providing programs to those who utilize our Harbor Day Shelter. We will provide clients with needed immunizations, blood pressure checks, vision and hearing testing and diabetes screenings during our Health Fairs. Our job fairs will give those who need work the opportunity to become employed with local businesses. A resource fair will provide clients a one stop location to get a photo ID, library card, information on literacy, and information on local services.

Our community continues to come together to give each other a hand up. Please check out our website – www.williamsburghouseofmercy.org to learn more about volunteering, donating, and charity give back programs.

Lisa Pacheco, Director of Development



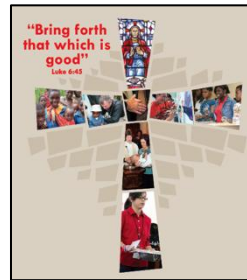
Thank you for faithfully supporting the ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as a monthly partner in 2024. This year brought new challenges and opportunities, and your gifts were a hopeful and joyous response to them.

You have sustained the work of this church month after month. In just this past year, you supported refugees fleeing war and conflict, equipped people to overcome hunger and poverty, empowered leaders here at home and in our global companion churches around the world, provided shelter and hope to those impacted by natural disasters, strengthened communities of faith, and so much more. Your support and God's grace bring hope amid despair by allowing us to share peace with those who need it most.

Through your monthly support, you have shown the love of Christ to the world. Thank you for empowering this church in its mission to share the good news, near and far.

Rachel Wind, Executive for Development

SUPPORTING SSLC MISSION THROUGH THE ENDOWMENT FUND



The SSLC Endowment Fund plays a vital role in supporting our mission by providing financial resources above and beyond our annual budget. This fund ensures that our outreach and ministry efforts continue to thrive and expand, allowing us to make a meaningful impact within our congregation and the broader community. The Endowment Fund is specifically authorized to support community outreach initiatives, synod programs, educational scholarships for church ministries, and large, unbudgeted maintenance projects that help preserve and enhance our church facilities. In 2024, for example, the Endowment Fund provided financial support for the Theologian in Residence workshop by Rev. Jim Cobb on a Lutheran perspective about Christian Nationalism, a scholarship for one of our youth to attend the Lutheran Summer Music Academy, and funding toward the much-needed new HVAC system. As we look ahead to 2025, we invite all church members to share ideas for utilizing the Endowment Fund to further our mission. Your input is essential in identifying new opportunities to serve and grow.

Additionally, we encourage members to consider contributing to the Endowment Fund. There are many ways to give, including designating the Endowment Fund in your estate planning, naming it as a beneficiary of insurance or investment holdings, making a Qualified Charitable Deduction from your IRA, or donating cash or securities. Each gift helps secure the future of our church's ministry and outreach.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity. Together, we can ensure that our church remains a beacon of faith, service, and community for generations to come.

For more information or to share your ideas, please contact any member of the Endowment Fund Committee (**Paula Agor, Jane deSolms, Reed Nester, Tom Peterkin, or Jim Weilmuenster**).

Paula Agor, Endowment Committee Chair



ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

February was filled with community, love, and tons of fun!

Our Winter Carnival was an absolute blast! From the delicious treats at Frosty's Snack Shack and the Cakewalk station to the never-ending snowball fight, face painting, the raffle, and all the excitement at the game stations — it was truly SNOW MUCH FUN! A huge thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate, and to all the bakers and volunteers from our Preschool families, our Church, local Girl Scouts, and our W&M friends. Each of your contributions made this day extra special for the children, and it helped make this our greatest fundraiser of the year.

We also celebrated Valentine's Day with our sweet students. The teachers came up with creative (and delicious!) ways to celebrate, including sorting and counting activities using a variety of heart candies.

Our Hippo, Bear, and Frog Dads joined us for our annual Father's Night event. This special evening allowed our four and five-year-olds to celebrate their Dads and spend quality time together. The teachers prepared fun activities for the students to enjoy with their Dads while they feasted on pizza and indulged in cookies for dessert!

Lastly, we opened up summer camp registration. Please share with anyone you know who might be interested. For more information, email us at preschool@saintstephenlutheran.net. Thank you always for your support!"

Jessica Kimball, Preschool 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 Jon Nelson

- 3 Marj Gottschalk-Trone
- 11 Mira Powell
- 16 Tom Witt
- 18 Janice Mayfield
- 28 Ruby Umberger

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



Virginia Lutherans

FAITHFUL + BOLD + SERVING

Virginia Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

PRAYERS



Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for, **Kristin Carter, Bob and Ginny Cummings, Sharon Jacobs, Donna Kittelson, Jim Mayfield, Carole Meyer, Helen Nelsen, Paul Reier, and George and Linda Vonderheide.**

Pray for those unable to come to worship: **Ailene Bartlett, Martin Bleck, Ed Brown, Bob and Angie Groom, Pat Janot, Marilyn Johnson, Jeanne Nelson, Darlene Simon, and Kay Wasaff.**

We hold the family and friends of **Jack Harris** in prayer as they grieve his death.

We hold the family and friends of **Birdie Burton** in prayer as they grieve her death.

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Susan, Charles Baugh, Donald and Carol Baum, Robi Bayard, Sally Blackburn, June Brantley, Mary Bloom, Tim Brown, Raymond Bunn, Karin Cavanaugh, Chris Clarke, Amaree Cluff, Ruth Ann Coski, Judy Craun, Judy Drezek, Becky Drury, Darrin and Rosemary Dunn, Tanya Fritz, Hollis Fulton, David Gade, Joel Gillespie, Greg Gildner, Joan and John Goodhart, Jonathan Hallman, Charee Hampton, Mark Harbison, Sue Hassan and family, Andy Havola, Nick Havola, Bradley, Kim, Joan and Laurie Heintzelman, Lisa Hill, Jaxon Ireland, Claudia Jacobik, Brian Johnson, Don Johnson, Connie Kendrick, The Kennedy family, Jenn Kramer, Judy Leister, Marnah Lund, Keara Mahony, Jim Monteith, Trish Macerelli, Laura Margolin, Jack Mayfield, Doug MacKenzie, Jimmy Mitchell, Liz Montalvo, Mia Monteith, Ed Moninger, Kim Morris, Bob Myers, Jeanette Osborn, Coral Pumley, Kurt Recktenwald, Kurtis Schultz, Lou Schuster, Sam Scovill, Inge Seiter, Pamela Sharp, Vasili Soutoukis, Kenneth and Laura Spencer, Chad Strausbaugh, Al Stern, Monika Stern, George and Jewel Thomas, Charley Underdahl, Brenda Webster, Caleb Winig, and Elaine Wrich.



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

The Quill www.saintstephenlutheran.net March 2025

Congregational Officers:

<i>President</i>	J.R. Lyons	757-920-5355
<i>Vice President</i>	Julie Meeks	804-432-5149
<i>Treasurer</i>	Brian Agor	757-561-5889
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	Karen Nester	757-869-2949
	email	Finsec@
<i>Congregational Secretary</i>	Alison Carney	703-819-6607

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

Church Staff:

<i>Pastor</i>	Jon Nelson	320-295-8861
	email	Pastorjn@
<i>Parish Administrator</i>	Hollie Jones	Office@
<i>Director of Music</i>	Karen Ives	MusicDir@
<i>Preschool Director</i>	Jessica Kimball	Preschool@

Congregation Council:

Jeffery Berry (Youth Member)	804-432-5149
Alison Carney	703-819-6607
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