



# The Quill

## THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

October 2024



### A LUTHERAN PRIMER, 1

I have a confession to make, I love Lutheran theology. Some of the happiest times in my life have been with friends and professors, usually with a pitcher of beer, talking for hours about scripture, theology, religion, and the world. I know...I am a nerd; I've come to terms with that fact. But, since I love Lutheran theology so much, I thought it might be fun to cover some of the basics as either an introduction to the topic or a refresher, depending on where you are at.

**Justification:** God's act of making a sinner righteous. From a Lutheran perspective, this comes to us from God (and God alone) as pure gift. God accomplishes this through...

**The Happy Exchange:** This is a particularly Lutheran understanding that in the person of Jesus Christ (and possible through the communication of attributes) our sin and brokenness is assumed by Christ and Christ's righteousness is imputed to us.

**Communication of attributes:** This is an attempt to describe how the two natures of Christ (divine and human) exist together in the Incarnation. I say attempt, because we humans are too limited in understanding to express or comprehend how Christ was/is at the same time fully human and fully divine. This has been a bone of contention among theologians for many centuries. But it leads Lutherans to understand that in Holy Communion Jesus' body and blood are truly present "in, with, and under" the bread and wine.

**Sacrament:** Luther drew heavily upon early church fathers and Scripture to define sacraments with these criteria: 1) it has been instituted by God; 2) it combines God's Word with an earthly element; 3) it effects the forgiveness of sin through God's grace. These criteria led him to chop the list of sacraments down from Roman Catholicism's seven to, first three (Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Confession/Forgiveness), then just two (Baptism & the Lord's Supper).

**Predestination:** Luther largely encouraged avoidance of this topic, understanding that it was/is contentious and in the end, it is simply a mystery. Luther understood that God intends salvation for all. He believed that some are elect/predestined to salvation and that is as far as he would go (single predestination). He did not believe in double predestination (unlike Calvin, who did) which teaches that some are predestined to salvation, and some are predestined to damnation.

**Justification by grace alone through faith alone:** This is a key understanding in Lutheran theology; and the major cause of the Reformation. Luther taught that humans have no activity in our salvation. In other words, we can neither earn it nor will it. It is entirely God's action.

Okay, maybe this went deeper than just "the basics," but one summary seemed to lead to another; and we've barely scratched the surface at this point. I think I will leave things here for now (but please feel free to ask me any questions these summaries might inspire), and we will continue these summaries in my newsletter articles in the months ahead.

In Christ,  
**Pastor Jon**

## CONGREGATION COUNCIL



The September meeting was held on September 10, 2024.

In attendance: Pastor Jon Nelson, Julie Meeks, Jeffery Berry, Nancy Egloff, Paul Reier, J.R. Lyons, Sandy Croushore, Brandon Cave, Roberta Sulouff, Beth Grant, Terri Larsen, Bill Dichtel, Alison Carney.

- HVAC replacement project equipment is anticipated to be on hand late 2024 or early 2025.
- Washer/dryer is being purchased and installed in the college room.
- Agreed to have a supply pastor once a month as we continue to focus on and discern staffing needs. Council will begin forming new position responsibilities for an additional staff person and continue conversations with Rev. John Wertz.
- Property committee is reviewing contractor estimates for installation of automatic front door openers.
- Council members will be installed on September 15.
- Approved an amendment to the Ballentine Scholarship Fund's mission statement to increase the opportunities for the Fund to have greater impact.
- Shared news that the HVAC campaign is 89% funded to date.
- Noted that the Social Ministry Coordinating Committee is seeking to expand, and extends open arms to those who would like to join.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for October 15.

**Alison Carney, Secretary, Congregation Council**



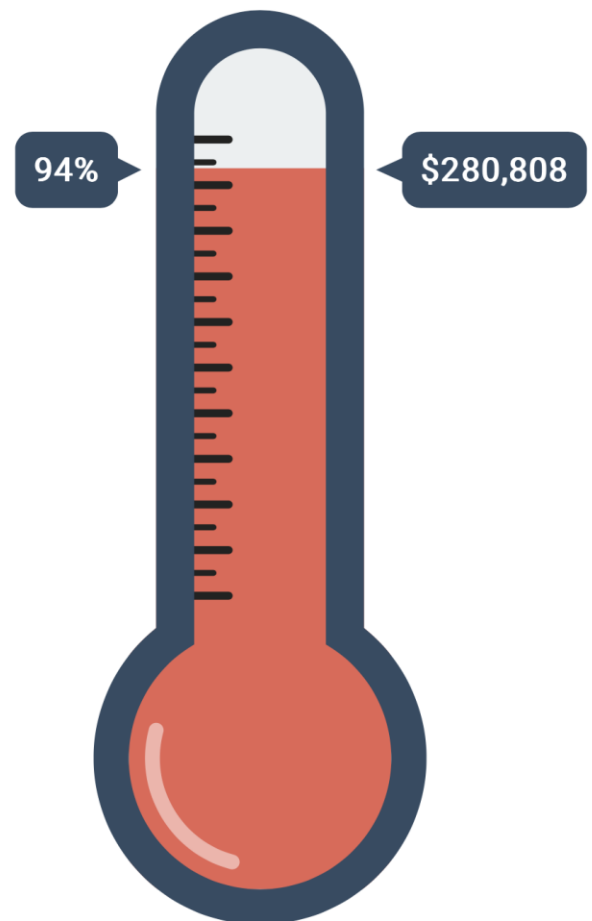
## HEATING VENTILATION AND AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM (HVAC)

### HVAC PROJECT PLEDGE DRIVE UPDATE

To date we have received \$280,808 (94%) in pledges or other contributions toward the goal of \$300,000.

**Karen Nester, Financial Secretary**

## GOAL: \$300,000





## STEWARDSHIP ESSENTIALS

### Because of God's Great Mercy

During the past few months, we have focused on stewardship opportunities using our time and talents. October's focus deals with financial stewardship. "Because of God's Great Mercy" is a financial stewardship program designed to help us consider our response to that mercy through our financial support of St. Stephen Lutheran Church.

God's mercy comes to us in our Lord, Jesus Christ. God's mercy also comes to us in many other ways. Among these are the material possessions we enjoy. They come from our loving God, but more than this, they are entrusted to us by God. The Bible teaches us that all we have in this life comes from God. Our time, our talents, and our money and possessions all come from God, and in a very real sense, still belong to God. In this life we are stewards, caretakers, managers of God's incredible bounty. Through Jesus, we are "God's own people." God has entrusted into our care all that we "have." This good news is the beginning of our understanding that we are stewards. It is also the starting point of our thinking about our giving. When we give to the church, we are giving some of what God has entrusted to our care, to accomplish God's work in the world and in particular the many missions supported by St. Stephen Lutheran Church. *(taken from Because of God's Great Mercy program materials)*

Susan Williamson



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Faith Formation Schedule.** Check out the chart below for our Sunday morning schedule for Faith Formation for all ages.

Class	Time	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday
PreK-6 <sup>th</sup>	9:50-10:40 AM	Lesson	Ministry Speaker	Lesson	Lesson/Music
AoB	9:50-10:40 AM	Catechism Class	Discussion Group	Help w/FF Lesson or Spiritual Practice w/HS group	Help w/Music or Attend Fun! w/HS group
HS/College	9:50-10:40 AM	Catechism Class	Discussion Group	Spiritual Practice	Fun!
Adults	9:50-10:40 AM	Catechism Class	Ministry Speaker	Adult Ed.	Conversation

**Blessing of Pets.** On **Saturday, October 5**, St. Stephen will hold a Blessing of the Animals at **10:00 am** on the forecourt of our building. October 4 is the feast of St. Francis, the patron saint of animals and the environment. This will be a brief service of songs, prayer, and blessing. Bring your family pet (or a picture) for a blessing!

**Board Game Night.** We will be having a board game night **Saturday, October 5 at 5:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your favorite board/card game and a dish to share. Water, Lemonade, and paper products will be provided.

**Walk & Talk.** We will meet on the St. Stephen forecourt on **Sunday, October 13 at 6:00 pm** for a walk through the William & Mary Campus (weather permitting).

**LYO Halloween Party.** Put the **evening of October 27** on your calendar for a Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) Halloween party. Check the bulletin and weekly emails for more details as they are arranged.

Thank you



FISH wants to thank you for your generous check of \$1,000. This will go a long way in helping us provide meals for those less fortunate in the Greater Williamsburg area.

FISH has been an integral part of Williamsburg for almost 50 years. Our Golden Anniversary will be in 2025. FISH has always been an all-volunteer organization – no one has ever received a salary for working at FISH. That is quite an accomplishment.

During 2023, FISH served 367,311 meals to clients. During the first seven months of 2024, we have served over 229,000 meals. Food insecurity is great in our area.

Once again, FISH sincerely thanks you for this donation. We could not help those families without your generous support.

Jill Holroyd, FISH President

On behalf of the Board of Directors and 200+ Volunteers of FISH, THANK YOU so much for your generous donation of one large box of food.

FISH is serving many more struggling people these days, including over 500 households new to FISH so far in 2024. In the last several months, we have provided groceries for more than 220,000 meals and over 9,000 outfits of clothing.

Linda A. Stanzione, FISH Volunteer



Thank you for your in-kind donation of 59 pounds of food and school supplies to

the Williamsburg House of Mercy. In 2022, we received 184,725 pounds of in-kind donations and rely on these to supplement our costs in providing to the most vulnerable in our community.



Thank you for your recent donation of \$2,990 on August 13, 2024. Summer months fly by with

vacations and get aways, but they can drag on for kids that are out of school and missing out on free federal meals. At Grove Christian Outreach Center, we partner with many great organizations to deliver summer lunches to over a hundred kids a day when school is out. Your contributions help make that important work possible!

At the Outreach Center, our mission is to foster relationships through love and grace, with the goal of improving the overall health our surrounding community. Your contribution not only helps us achieve this mission but also strengthens the bonds within our community.

Thank you for this generous gift to support our back to school program and SHOES!!. Together, we are making a real difference in the lives of many.

Katie Patrick, Executive Director





## MUSIC NOTES

### Musical Liturgies

This month's musical musings are some that you have heard before, but maybe need refreshing or I just like repeating myself. As we enter a new autumn season, we remain in the long church season of Pentecost. However, a new school year brings with it changes in scheduling: worship is back to two Sunday morning services, Faith Formation returns, choir rehearsals crank up, and we are using a new musical setting of our liturgy.

Have you ever attended a non-English speaking "liturgical" church and wondered whether you would actually get anything out of it? But then, the pattern, the rhythms, and the actions were familiar and comfortable. Those patterns and rhythms and actions are what we call liturgy. Many of you might have heard that liturgy is Greek for "work of the people." The Greek words, *laos*, means "people" and *ergos* means "work."

For me, liturgy is order. At my house, I like order – my cats do not (and I'm not so sure about my husband, either). Choir folk will tell you I like for them to turn their music in so I can file it right away. Handbell people will tell you I like for our tablecloths to be "unwrinkled," and I like for us to wear white tops and black bottoms when we play. I like our Sunday morning worship order – I like to have spoken word and musical responses intertwined.

When you look inside our Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book on pages 92-93 (this would be near the front of the book with the page numbers at the bottom), you will find a most excellent explanation of our Pattern of Worship that includes Gathering, Word, Meal, and Sending. This is the structure "*that allows for freedom and flexibility in the ways worship may be shaped locally, while focusing on what the church holds in common.*" (ELW, page 91)

While each week our hymn selections change, many musical elements remain the same, notably the Kyrie (which is optional – we are currently not using a Kyrie), Cantic of Praise (which is optional – we are singing one now 'Glory to God'), Gospel Acclamation, Holy, holy, holy, and Lamb of God. We refer to these musical elements in our "cranberry red" hardcover book or pew edition as musical settings for Holy Communion, of which we have 10. We also have two more Holy Communion Settings in the more recent *All Creation Sings* hymnal supplement. And,

we can also "create our own" musical setting with the many options offered in the "Service Music" section of our hymnal that are found in the hymnody #151-238 (this would be near the middle of the book with the Hymn numbers at the top).

This past summer, we experienced Setting Eight from the cranberry Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal. (Those are still in our pews, even though we print most all our worship materials in the bulletin.) We did sing a Kyrie this summer, but not a Cantic of Praise. As we moved into the fall season, we have changed settings to Setting One from our ELW – this time we are not singing a Kyrie, but we are singing a Cantic of Praise. Perhaps comparing liturgy to grammar and language will help. The "grammar" (Kyrie, Cantic of Praise, Gospel Acclamation, Holy, holy, holy, Lamb of God) is the same; however, we are using a different "language" (musical style). The summer's Setting Eight might be described as more contemporary or "praise band" sounding, while Setting One might seem somewhat more traditional sounding.

There are actually three composers of Setting One, and all three of them are alive and continuing to enliven and enrich our Lutheran musical heritage. Mark Mummert, composer of the "Glory to God" we are currently using, is Cantor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Worcester, Massachusetts. The Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia) and "Holy, holy, holy" were composed by Thomas Pavlechko, Director of music and principal organist of Christ the King Catholic Church in Highland/University Park, Dallas, Texas. Robert Buckley Farlee composed our "Lamb of God." Recently retired, Farlee was Associate Pastor and Director of Music at Christ Lutheran Church in Minneapolis and served on the editorial staff at Augsburg Fortress.

### Orchaband

The Orchaband is back and currently seeking new and old members. Dust off those instruments and join us on **Sunday, November 3** to accompany the congregational song for our All-Saints' Sunday Festival worship. Rehearsals will be **6-6:50 pm Wednesday, October 30** and **Saturday, November 2, 11:30-noon**. Come see Karen to pick up music for violin, viola, cello, euphonium, trombone, French horn, trumpet, flute, saxophone, clarinet or any instrument that you do not see named. In addition, the night before worship, you will receive an extra hour of sleep – Daylight Saving Time ends November 2.

**Karen Ives, Music Director**





## GODPARENTS FOR TANZANIA UPDATE

This letter was received from Kristin Westermann:

Rehema has completed her Bachelor's degree coursework at St. Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT) in Mwanza. She took her final exams in July, and she defended her research paper earlier this month. Her graduation ceremony will take place in November. She has maintained a high GPA throughout her degree program, and she has thoroughly enjoyed her time at SAUT.

Rehema's research project addressed implementation of dress codes at government versus private secondary schools. (Note: all schools in Tanzania require uniforms.) She interviewed staff and students at several different schools to learn how dress code impacts academic performance and overall student experience.

After graduation, Rehema will apply for employment with the Tanzanian government to teach Swahili and History in a government secondary school. However, she knows that government employment is not guaranteed, so she also plans to apply to private secondary schools (e.g., Lutheran, Roman Catholic). She is willing to work as a volunteer teacher if permanent employment is not immediately available.

Rehema has always dreamed of becoming a teacher, and it is exciting to see her dream come true. Her Bachelor's degree from St. Augustine will open doors for her and empower her to support herself and her family. Thank you for giving Rehema this precious opportunity. She and her family give thanks for St. Stephen every day!

With gratitude,

Kristin

*St. Augustine University of Tanzania*  
25<sup>th</sup>/05/2024

*Dear friend at St. Stephen,*

*I greet you in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ. I hope that you're fine together with your family. Back to my side I am good and proceeding well with my studies.*

*Aim of this letter is to inform you about my studies, that I am doing well and last university exam (UE) we did on March. I achieved to get GPA of 3.6 in total of six courses. So I thank God on that but I would like to inform you that on July this year 2024 be where I am going to accomplish my University studies that is Bachelor in Art with Education in SAUT, the University with good and supportive environment for studies.*

*Special thanks goes to you for your support since I started my studies until now in final stage.*

*I have nothing to pay you back for what you had did to me but Our Lord in Heaven bless you abundantly and give you more than what you have be blessed.*

*Lastly, please pass my greeting to your family and all relatives. I love you all.*

*Your lovely daughter,  
Rehema Peter*





## ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

What a wonderful start to the new school year we have had! Our students and families have all been great about learning our rules and each classroom's routine. We are excited to share more about what's happening in the school next month as we are really getting into chapel, music, yoga, bookmobile, art, and all of our amazing classroom learning activities and play.

We would love to invite you all to volunteer in the preschool this year if you are ever interested. Here are some ways you can volunteer:

1. **Spirit Nights:** We will send out information throughout the year about our spirit nights. These are fundraisers for the Preschool and all we ask you to do is come out to get some delicious food or desserts at a local restaurant. When you are checking out you let them know you are there with St. Stephen Lutheran Preschool and they will write us a check for a portion of what they make that day.
2. **Guest Readers:** We invite you to come in and read to our students. If you let us know when you'd like to come in, we can set it up with the teachers. You can choose a preschool appropriate book to read or we can give you a recommendation – we have plenty of books!
3. **Fundraisers and Holidays:** We will be hosting the Winter Carnival in January, the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast in March, and a Tie Dye event in the spring as fundraisers for the Preschool. We also do lots of fun activities for the holidays throughout the year during the school day (please see important dates list). We can always use help decorating, running activities, etc.
4. **Art Prep:** Mrs. Kirkpatrick does amazing art projects with our students all year long. Another opportunity to volunteer with the preschool is in helping her with prep for upcoming art projects.

5. **Other Ideas:** We are always open to hearing your ideas if there is something not listed that you're interested in. Thank you!

And here are some important dates that we know about as of now. We will add to these as we schedule more spirit nights this year.

- **September 26:** Shoofly Dairy Bar Spirit Night
- **October 3:** Holly Fork Farm Field Trip
- **October 24 & 25:** Picture Day October 30 & 31: Halloween In-School Trick-or-Treating
- **November 8:** Jamestown Settlement Field Trip
- **December 19 & 20:** Christmas Party
- **January 12:** Winter Carnival
- **February 10:** Father's Night
- **February 13 & 14:** Valentine Swap
- **March 3-7:** Celebrate Reading Spirit Week
- **March 4:** Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast
- **March 6-7:** In-School Book Swap
- **April 16 & 17:** Easter Egg Hunt
- **April 24:** Williamsburg Regional Library Field Trip
- **April 25:** Fire Station Tour Field Trip
- **May 9:** Mother's Day Brunch
- **May 29:** End-of-the-Year Celebration for Giraffes
- **May 30:** Graduation Celebration for Hippos, Bears & Frogs

If interested in volunteering please email me, Jessica Kimball, at [preschool@saintstephenlutheran.net](mailto:preschool@saintstephenlutheran.net). Thank you always for your support!

**Jessica Kimball, Preschool Director**

## STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. STEPHEN



# happy birthday

### Community

We hear the word community a lot lately. Community is the state of being together with others. It may be a group who has like world views. We are not meant to live a solitary life. We have families and friends. We care for one another. Community requires participation. We join in activities with other people. We have fellowship with others. We share time and conversation with others also. We share our lives and our experiences with others. Community is support. You find that you can vent or bounce ideas off others. They share in your joy as well as your pain.

There may come a time in your life when you are not able to take part in community. Life can give us struggles that make it difficult to open ourselves to others. We find ourselves being lonelier and then it becomes hard to be in community. That is where a Stephen Minister comes into play. A Stephen Minister is someone who will listen without judgement. We are here to help people find community again. We are not counselors, but we are great listeners. We keep everything confidential.

If you feel you are having a challenging time with something in your life, talk to **Pastor Jon** or **Stephen Leader Bill Dichtel**. They can help you decide if a Stephen Minister would be beneficial to you. You really do need community, and we can help you get there.

**Diana Tiller-Dichtel, Stephen Minister**

## UPCOMING SHARED MINISTRY EVENTS FOR WOMEN

An All-Lutheran Women's Retreat is planned for **November 7-9, 2024** in Glen Allen, VA. The retreat leader will be Author Jacqueline Bussie. I will post a flyer for anyone interested.

**Pam Buckley**

## OCTOBER

1	Jeff Bushmire	
3	Heather Macdonald	Sharon Powell
4	Keith Egloff	Joe Jansson
	Caitlin Leek	Jaina Leek
5	Ruby Umberger	Ellie Berg
6	Ellen Bushman	Sandy Peterkin
7	Tom Berkey	Jonathan Toler
8	David Nelson	Roberta Sulouff
9	Jayne Lawson	
10	Ilianna Ogborn	
11	Evelyn Kernan	
13	Jane Gingerich	
14	Brenda Lee-Allen	
17	Sandy Brust	Joel Gillespie
19	Martha Reier	
20	Magnolia Sulouff	
22	Barbara Morris	
24	Steve Jacobs	
29	Neil Bailey	
31	Pam Groman	



## MEN'S & WOMEN'S BREAKFASTS

- **October 1** – Women are invited to join together for breakfast the first **Tuesday** of this month.
- **October 3** – 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.





## OCTOBER BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

## PRAYERS



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

- |    |                  |                |
|----|------------------|----------------|
| 1  | Paul Kristiansen |                |
| 2  | Kathie Eichfeld  |                |
| 4  | Henry Lawson     |                |
| 8  | Dorothy Hinders  | Phil McKenna   |
| 9  | Diana Lyons      |                |
| 12 | Erik McKenna     |                |
| 13 | Katy Wood        |                |
| 14 | Stan York        |                |
| 21 | David Allen      |                |
| 22 | Jim Larsen       |                |
| 24 | Jennifer Voigt   |                |
| 27 | Jonathan Hallman | Sandy Peterkin |
| 31 | PJ McAteer       | Sharon Powell  |

Others who were baptized in October:

- |                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Meghan Osborn   | Sara Osborn |
| Ann Booth Young |             |

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

**Join your prayers for healing** with God's desires for **Trudi Arnold, Karen Bailey, Linda Baumgarten, Ed Brown, Kristin Carter, Bob Cummings, Jack Harris, Sharon Jacobs, Jim Mayfield, Carol Meyer and Helen Nelsen.**

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

**Pray for these loved ones of our congregation:** Bob Alt, Charles Baugh, Donald and Carol Baum, Rose Baumgarten, Sally Blackburn, June Brantley, Sharon Brown, Linda Bonfiglio, Mary Bloom, Amy Carl, Karin Cavanaugh, Ruth Ann Coski, Judy Craun, Sophia Czajkowski, Judy Drezek, Mark Flatin, David Gade, Greg Gildner, Joan Goodhart, Sue Hassan and family, Nick Havola, Bradley Kim Joan and Laurie Heintzeman, Char Henry, Lisa Hill, Jaxon Ireland, The Jacobs Family, Brian Johnson, Don Johnson, Connie Kendrick, The Kennedy family, Marnah Lund, Trish and Matthew Macerelli, Laura Margolin, Jack Mayfield, The Keith Meins family, Liz Montalvo, Becky Murphy, Ed Moninger, Bob Myers, Silvana Oderisi, Denise Ogborn, Lori Ogborn, Kurtis Schultz, Lou Schuster, Sue Sena, Chad Strausbaugh, Charley Underdahl, Brenda Webster and Caleb Winig.



**FAITHFUL + BOLD + SERVING**

*Virginia Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*



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

**The Quill      www.saintstephenlutheran.net      October 2024**

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<i>Preschool Director</i>	<b>Jessica Kimball</b>	Preschool@

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