



# The Quill

## THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

September 2024



### NAMES

There are a lot of names for God found in Holy Scripture. Over two dozen different names are used in the book of Genesis alone. So I thought we might explore some of them.

The most common name used for God in Genesis is *Elohim* (אֱלֹהִים), which comes from the root *El* (אֵל), which simply means “God.” What is striking about *Elohim* is that it is plural in Hebrew; almost conveying the sense that the divine cannot be contained in a single entity. Various other names based on the root *El* are used throughout the Hebrew Bible, including *El Elyon* (אֱלֹהֵי עֵלְיוֹן) “God Most High,” *El Shaddai* (אֱלֹהֵי שַׁדַּי) “Almighty or All-Sufficient God,” *El Olam* (אֱלֹהֵי עוֹלָם) “Everlasting God,” and many others.

The second name variation I want to draw your attention to is the name God reveals to Moses from the burning bush, *Yahweh* (sometimes *Jehovah*) which is known as the tetragrammaton. This name is made up of four consonants and appears in Hebrew as יהוה. The root of this name comes from the Hebrew verb הָיָה which has to do with existence. Orthodox Jews will neither write nor speak this version of God’s name, believing that to do so would profane it. In those communities you will find the tetragrammaton often being substituted with the Greek *Adonai* (which means Lord) or G-d.

The last name I want to draw your attention to is my favorite name for God in the Hebrew Bible. I could have included it in the list of *El* names, as it uses the that form,

but I pulled it out from that list for one very specific reason. This name is the first name Scripture tells us is given to God by a human. The name is *El Roi* (אֱלֹהֵי רֹאֵי) and it comes out of Genesis 16.

As a quick reminder, Genesis 16 tells the story of Sarai becoming jealous of Hagar and her son, Ishmael. This is after Sarai encourages Abram to have a child with Hagar, which makes it particularly galling! Sarai complains to Abram and he tells her to do as she pleases. Well, what pleased Sarai was to deal “harshly with”<sup>1</sup> Hagar, causing her to run away with her infant. God then sends an angel to Hagar and promises to bless her with a multitude of offspring if she returns to Abram and Sarai. Hagar responds to this blessing by naming God *El Roi* which means “God who sees.”

What a beautiful name! Now, the text tells us that Hagar gives God this name while wondering “Have I really seen God and remained alive after seeing him?”<sup>2</sup> But even more than that, what a beautiful name for God from someone who likely feels lost, abandoned, alone, and unseen! Hagar is in a terrible situation, she has every reason for despair. And yet, God sees her. God sees the hopelessness of her plight, and God intervenes. What a powerful thought. No matter how desperate the straights, or how terrible the trials, God sees you. And the promise of Christ is that not only does God see you, but God is with you too! Another powerful name for God, Immanuel, God-with-us!

In Christ,  
**Pastor Jon**

<sup>1</sup> Genesis 16:6b

<sup>2</sup> Genesis 16:13b

## CONGREGATION COUNCIL



The August Council meeting was held on August 13, 2024.

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

- Rev. John Wertz, ELCA Director for Evangelical Mission/Assistant to the Bishop, was welcomed with appreciation for his knowledge, experience, and counsel.
- New Council members were welcomed: Bill Dichtel, Beth Grant, and Terri Larsen.
- In support of the HVAC campaign, \$238,000 has been raised toward the \$300,000 goal. Total to date includes both money received and pledged.
- Estimates for automatic front door openers are being reviewed.
- Reconciling in Christ (RIC) committee is working on a selection of one-on-one meetings to gather input.
- New members will be welcomed at worship on Sunday, October 5.
- The slate of officers was approved: J.R. Lyons, president; Julie Meeks, vice president; Alison Carney, secretary; Brian Agor, treasurer; and Karen Nester, financial secretary.
- Washer/dryer units are planned for addition to the college room. Funding is still needed to cover balance of \$3,000.
- Rev. John Wertz and Council discussed at length next steps for St. Stephen's ministry plan. Council is in discernment, looking at current and coming needs. Information will be shared as it becomes available.
- Loneliness is a serious problem for the aging, and for many, many others. We are reminded to make a point to reach out, connect, make a difference; we are called to be the hands and feet of Christ for one another.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for September 10.

**Alison Carney, Secretary, Congregation Council**



## HEATING VENTILATION AND AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM (HVAC)

### HVAC PROJECT PLEDGE DRIVE UPDATE

To date we have received \$250,758 (84%) in pledges or other contributions toward the goal of \$300,000. Don't forget that we are still accepting pledges. You can place your pledge card in the offering plate, turn it in at the Church office, or email your pledge to:

[finsec.saintstephenluthern.net](mailto:finsec.saintstephenluthern.net)

**Karen Nester, Financial Secretary**

## GOAL: \$300,000





## STEWARDSHIP ESSENTIALS

The stewardship focus for September is Learning and Caring Within the Congregation. Have you noticed the lovely flowers in our courtyard? Have you attended a faith formation discussion of a book or theme? Have you enjoyed refreshments at a reception? Do you know a homebound person who receives communion?

These things don't happen on their own. They are made possible through dedicated teams and ministry leaders who share their time and talents to share beauty, caring, comfort, enlightenment and support to our congregation.

Under the Learning Ministry we have:

- **Faith Formation – classes and discussions**  
Pastor Jon
- **Preschool**  
George Bass
- **Theologian in Residence**  
George Bass
- **Women's Retreat Planning Committee**

Our Caring Ministries include:

- **Prayer Shawls – knitting or crocheting shawls for those who need to be wrapped in prayer**  
Carol Wiers and Sandy Croushore
- **Stephen Ministers – provide comfort to those in distress**  
Bill Dichtel
- **Home Communion**  
Diana Tiller-Dichtel
- **Altar Flower Delivery**  
Neila Lamoureux
- **Caring Cooks – providing meals in times of stress**  
Margaret Steel

- **Parish Life – Funerals and Receptions setting up, hosting, clean up and provide food**  
Chris PUNCHARD
- **Garden and Property Maintenance**
  - Garden Maintenance  
Chris PUNCHARD
  - Other Outside Maintenance  
Randy PUNCHARD
  - Inside Property Maintenance  
Property Committee (Brandon Cave, Paul Reier, Randy PUNCHARD and Parish Administrator Hollie Jones)

Service in these areas can be a one-time contribution or ongoing for a season or many years. Serving with other members of the congregation is a great way to make contacts and friendships.

**Susan Williamson**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Stockholders' Dinner.** All stockholders of the Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) Gathering Trip are invited to attend a stockholders' dinner on **Saturday, September 7 at 5:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. We will present a program with pictures and stories from our trip followed by a spaghetti dinner as a THANK YOU for supporting this important and formational trip!

**Bible Study Resumes.** Join us in the Library every **Monday at 1:30 pm starting on September 9** as we look at and discuss the upcoming Sunday's texts.

**Walk & Talk.** Enjoy walking? Join us on **Sunday, September 22 at 6:00 pm** for a group walk. We will meet on the church forecourt for a walk around Colonial Williamsburg.

**Pub & Grub.** Join us on **Monday, September 23 at 7:00 pm** at Billsburg Brewery for some food, drinks and conversation.



## THANKS FOR SHOES FOR GROVE



Many thanks to the St. Stephen community for 19 years of contributing to the start of a brand-new school year for the children of the Grove community. In August the Egloffs and the Larsens delivered 32 pairs of shoes to Grove Christian Outreach Center, and St. Stephen sent a check as a result of your generous cash donations of \$2,990, allowing Grove staff to purchase a lot more shoes to send kids off to school!

**Nancy Egloff**  
Social Ministry Coordinating Committee



Thank you for your gift in support of Williamsburg Faith in Action (WFIA). Your donation and generous support of \$1,000 on July 26, 2024 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 support services with a personal touch to greatly benefit seniors in our community. We appreciate your support and 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 every day in the lives of seniors in our community.

Wendy K. Satchell, Executive Director







## MUSIC NOTES



Jeffrey Berry and Karen Ives at Valpariso Chapel during Summer Music Camp and Association of Lutheran Church Musician's Conference.



Jeffrey Berry with friends before Morning Prayer



Signing up at the Worship and Music Ministry table – Let's get ready to sing!

Karen Ives, Music Director



## SEPTEMBER

1	John Gregoire	Arnie Janot
2	Anne Schone	
3	Zachary Meermans	
5	Brian Bergh	P.J. McAteer
	Jim Ogborn Jr.	
6	Jennifer Voigt	
7	Diana Lyons	
8	Joe Beene	
9	Ailene Bartlett	
10	David Allen	Erika Cave
11	<b>Ed Brown (93!)</b>	
13	Kendall Delehanty	
14	Bob Achenbach	Jonathan Hallman
	Karen Ives	
16	Stan York	
17	Mallory Spencer	
19	Daniel Owens	
20	Charlene Smith	Rushton White
23	Katie Harms	George Martin
	Philip McKenna	
24	Phyllis Spencer	
26	Sandy Croushore	Bob Harman
	Hunter Ogborn	
28	Hannah Wiers	
30	Mark Hinders	



## MEN'S & WOMEN'S BREAKFASTS

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

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



## ST. STEPHEN FALL 2024 WOMEN'S RETREAT

### "WALKING THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY"

- Evening social **Friday, September 27**.
- Day retreat **Saturday, September 28**, led by our own Christina Nelson.
- **Sunday sermon, September 29**, by Kristen Berkey-Abbott.

**Venue:** St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Plan to come (and bring a friend!) for part or all of the retreat weekend. A light continental breakfast and box lunch are provided on Saturday. Registration opens early August.

#### Women's Retreat Outreach Project

At our 2024 Women's Retreat, we will put together School Kits for Lutheran World Relief. We will be assembling these kits during the retreat. You are welcome to work on these in the fellowship hall at any time throughout the day!

Each kit will contain the following items:

- 70-sheet Spiral Notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper, approximately 8"x 10½"; no loose leaf-paper. Four notebooks will be included in each kit.
- Crayons: 1 box of 16 or 24
- Ruler: 1 with centimeters, or centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- Pencil Sharpener: 1
- Blunt Scissors: 1 pair
- Unsharpened No. 2 Pencils with Erasers: 5
- Black or Blue Ballpoint Pens (no gel ink): 5
- 2½" Eraser: 1

We are asking for donations of these items. Please look for a basket and poster in the gathering space. Monetary donations can be made by writing a check to St. Stephen and putting "Special Campaign - School Kits" on the memo line. If you have any questions, please contact **Pam Buckley**, [GuamMom16@aol.com](mailto:GuamMom16@aol.com), 757-869-3373.

Thank you for any help you can give





## ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

The final two weeks of summer camp were our most creative for sure! Our little summer campers enjoyed Week 5 “Preschool Art, 101” and Week 6 “Shake, Rattle & Roll: Music and Movement.” We sang, we danced, we did yoga, we molded with clay, and we had the best time meeting more new 3’s.

The floors were redone and all of our rugs cleaned. Our preschool team has been in and out setting up classrooms and getting ready to welcome students and families in for our open houses on **August 28 and 29**. Thank you to each one of you for supporting the preschool, from everyone who helped move furniture, power washed the playground, took care of the landscaping, helped hang things in the classrooms or simply prayed for the safety of our students, families and teachers. We appreciate you all so much – thank you!

We cannot wait for another wonderful school year to begin!

**Jessica Kimball, Preschool Director**



## STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. STEPHEN



### The Loneliness Epidemic

Pastor Jon spoke about loneliness in his sermon on August 11. The Surgeon General wrote a book about loneliness. Loneliness is defined by Merriam-Webster as being without company, cut off from others, and not frequented by human beings. It truly is an epidemic. Single people can be lonely. Married people can be lonely. You can be lonely in a crowd of people. Loneliness often goes hand in hand with depression. Lonely people are not likely to reach out for help. They are not likely say, "please come visit me."

At the beginning of the pandemic, our church asked the Stephen Ministers to divide the directory and reach out to everyone to see how they were doing. We were to ask if they lived alone or if they had people around them. We were to call them at least monthly to see how they continued to manage the pandemic and quarantine. As the pandemic ended and we began to come back to church, we tried to continue the practice. Now we are four years after the beginning of the pandemic. Most of us have returned to our normal. But there are so many who have not been able to return to any normal. They may have chronic illness and cannot move about in public freely. They may not drive and may have no way of getting out of the house to join others.

There are so many other reasons a person may need to talk to someone. Are they going through problems with a relationship, or have they lost someone recently? Do they live alone?

While we are not licensed counselors, we are Stephen Ministers. We can help. We talk to people in confidence. But, we need your help. If you or someone you know is struggling with loneliness, please reach out to our **Stephen Leader Bill Dichtel** or **Pastor Jon**. If you or someone you know is going through a difficult time, please let us know. We are here to help.

**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**

### SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

We have moved to our summer schedule of one joint worship service. We will have coffee at **9:00 am** and worship at **9:45 am** on these Sundays. This worship service will be live-streamed as well. We hope that this joint service will help foster connections between "8:30 folk" and "11:00 folk" as well as give our worship leaders a lighter Sunday morning for these weeks of summer.

Our final joint service will be on "God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday" on **September 8**, which will give us some extra time for a service project that morning.

### OUTDOOR WORSHIP AT CHICKAHOMINY PARK SEPT. 1



### Picnic

Given the fun we had at our start of summer picnic at Freedom Park we decided to do it again, this time with worship! We will have an outdoor worship service followed by a potluck picnic on **Sunday, September 1 at 10:00 am** in the shelter between the playground and pool at Chickahominy Park. We have invited Our Saviour's Lutheran Church to join us. Hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers, buns, water, lemonade, plates, cups, and silverware will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share, and your own lawn chairs. **Please RSVP** so we can plan an appropriate amount of food – you can let us know you're coming (and your numbers) by either marking the bulletin sign-up sheet or contacting the church office.





## SEPTEMBER 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

2	Heidi Flatin	George Vonderheide
6	Christine Drake	Forrest Fenstermaker
11	Karen Schlicht	
12	Jeane Moore	
14	Thom Recktenwald	
16	Jack Harris	
18	Susan Britcher	
20	Ann McAteer	
21	Josiah Hallman	
23	Erika Cave	

Others who were baptized in September:  
Marcie Clark

Were you baptized in August 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.**

**God has blessed** **Ed Brown** with **93** years of life! His birthday is Wednesday, September 11 - send him a card!

**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 Heintzelman, 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.



# Virginia Lutherans

## 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](http://www.saintstephenlutheran.net)      September 2024**

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<i>Treasurer</i>	<b>Brian Agor</b>	757-561-5889
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	<b>Karen Nester</b>	757-869-2949
	email	Finsec@
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**Church Staff:**

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	email	Pastorjn@
<i>Parish Administrator</i>	<b>Hollie Jones</b>	Office@
<i>Director of Music</i>	<b>Karen Ives</b>	MusicDir@
<i>Preschool Director</i>	<b>Jessica Kimball</b>	Preschool@

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