

Cross Connections



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

April 2019

Lent ...

Wednesdays - 12:00 noon

(April 3, and 10), Pastor Scott leads a brief service of communion which includes the rite of healing and anointing. All are invited.

Mid-week Lent Suppers - 5:45 pm

Wednesdays during Lent we begin the evening at 5:45 pm in Trinity Hall with supper.

- ◆ Apr 3: Lasagna
- ◆ Apr 10: Salad Pot Luck - you are invited to bring any type(s) of salad (green, pasta, potato, slaw, chicken, tuna, bean, fruit, garden, waldorf, etc.)

All meals will have salad and desserts provided.

Mid-Week Lenten Services - 7 pm

Images of Sin – Images of Grace

- ✠ April 3: *Hierarchy – Harmony* in Numbers 22, Balaam and the Donkey
- ✠ April 10: *Avoidance – Attention* in Luke 10, the Parable of the Good Samaritan

Fridays at 12:00 noon (April 5 and 12),

Lenten Journey: Biblical Stations of the Cross.

Through scripture, hymns and prayers we will follow the way of the cross and ponder the connections to this path that we experience daily in our own lives.

Holy Week ...

Since the earliest days of the church the Paschal Triduum, the three sacred days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, have been experienced as one celebration marking the central events of the Christian faith. Our evening services are all contained in one booklet with neither Maundy Thursday nor the Good Friday liturgy ending with a benediction. As the benediction (“good word” from our God) concludes the worship; it is reserved for the end of the Vigil of Easter.

Maundy Thursday (Apr 18)

12:00 noon and 7:00 pm Services of Holy Communion

Good Friday (Apr 19)

12:00 noon Service – This Far by Faith, The Way of the Cross

7:00 pm Service – Tenebrae

Holy Saturday (Apr 20)

7:00 pm Vigil of Easter

Easter...

Sunday (April 21)

- 8:30 and 11:00 am Easter Worship
- 9:30 am Easter Breakfast
- 10:15 am Easter Egg Hunt (bring a basket)



The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor
Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor
Jacqueline Nappi, Minister of Music
Amanda Stoen, Preschool Director
Megan Hoewisch, Vicar

The Rev. Ali Tranvik, Associate Pastor, Duke Lutherans
The Rev. Dr. Charles R. Huggins, Pastor Emeritus

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From the Pastor...

There's a story told of two children playing together while a movie about Jesus' life was on television in the background. One of the children was Christian; the other was not. As the film reached the point of Jesus' crucifixion, the second child became more and more interested in what was happening on the television and began to neglect their play. Frustrated, the first child said, "Never mind about that! He gets out of it in the end!"

I wonder sometimes if this is our attitude toward Easter in the church too. It's tempting to fast-forward through Jesus' suffering and death to the Easter lilies and the happy ending. In a broken world, we long for happy endings.

A happy ending is the last thing Jesus' disciples expected. We read in the Gospels that Jesus told the disciples three times that he must suffer and die and that he would be raised again on the third day (Matthew 16:21-23, 17:22-23, 20:17-29; Mark 8:31-33, 9:30-32, 10:32-34; Luke 9:21-22, 9:43-46, 18:31-34), but they didn't understand him. They just couldn't believe it. Humans know something about death, and in our experience, death is final.

Perhaps that's why the first time Jesus referred to his upcoming death and resurrection, Peter actually talked back to him, rejecting his words (Matthew 16:2-23, Mark 8:32-33). When Jesus was arrested, the disciples ran away (Matthew 26:56, Mark 14:50). After Jesus' death and burial, John reports that the disciples hid away together in fear (John 20:19). Mark reports that the women who found Jesus' tomb empty on Easter morning didn't tell anyone because they were afraid (Mark 16:8). Luke reports that when the women did tell the other disciples, they didn't believe them (Luke 24:11).

The disciples had experienced Jesus' crucifixion – a real, slow, painful and shameful death – and were convinced that was the end of the story. They couldn't imagine a reality in which death didn't have the last word.

And then everything changed.

The above is a reprint of an Article from Living Lutheran Magazine.

I invite you to begin Holy Week with us on Sunday, April 14 when we hear the story of Palm Sunday and Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. Then join us for the Three Days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil of Easter. The week culminates on Easter Sunday with the joy of Jesus' resurrection and the truth that Jesus overcomes death and the grave once for all.

Pastor Scott

From the Vicar...

Holy Week approaches! From the excitement of waving palm branches to the strange somberness of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday to the bright joy of Easter morning. I have always loved Holy Week. When I studied abroad in Turkey during college, I spent my spring break in Egypt, and Easter fell on the first full day of the trip. One of my fellow travelers was an Armenian Orthodox Christian, and he knew the exact time and place to celebrate Easter, Armenian Orthodox style, in Cairo. He graciously allowed me and another friend to join him, even though much of the service would be foreign to us. I figured we wouldn't be able to participate in much of the service, but how many chances does a person have of celebrating Easter in Egypt in an Armenian Orthodox Church? Of course we were going!

As our trio of Americans walked up the stone steps of the warm, creamy church, one usher made a beeline for us. In pretty good English, he enthusiastically invited us in and gave us charmingly old postcards of the church.



Our Armenian Christian friend explained a bit of who we were, and then the usher leaned forward and whispered conspiratorially to us two non-

Armenians, "Please, take communion with us. You are welcome! You are welcome!"

This man knew that we were not Armenian Orthodox. He knew that we were not baptized members of one of the sister churches of the Armenian Orthodox Church. He knew that officially, we should not take communion. And he couldn't have known how hard I took it, growing up, when I was denied communion at the Catholic services I found myself at. And here, in a place where I was *clearly* the outsider, I was being welcomed in, welcomed joyfully, even gleefully!

In one of those quirks of memory, I've forgotten if I took communion or not. But how well I remember the warmth and healing power of that man's invitation to worship fully with this church.

Holy Week usually pulls many people to church. We won't know their full story, whether they're in Durham for a risky surgery, or whether they came to church to honor a parent who recently passed away, or whether they're studying abroad and just want to experience something new this Easter. But we do know the good news that Christ has died and Christ has risen to save both the folks we know and the folks we don't know. I hope that the welcome we extend this Holy Week – and *every* week – can be as gracious as Christ's invitation to

us into the new life of the resurrection. I hope our welcome, be it in words or actions, gestures or smiles, can be as joyful and sincere as the welcome I found in Cairo that blessed Easter morning.

Preschool Pitter Patter



by Amanda Stoen

This month, we are partnering with Durham Community Preschool again to offer two Conscious Discipline Parent Sessions. You are invited to join us as we discuss *Scaffolding Success with Visual Routines and*

Encouraging Children Effectively with Noticing.

The sessions will be offered here at St. Paul's on Wednesday, April 17 and Thursday, April 26 from 10:00-11:00 am in Trinity Hall. We will offer one evening session at Durham Community Preschool on Tuesday, April 23 from 6:30-8:30 pm. Please let me know if you would like to attend any of the sessions.

Last month, the preschool collected books to donate to Book Harvest. We are still collecting books as I write this but we have collected lots of books so far. Thank you!!

We have a few more spots in our PMO and Twos classes this fall. Registration information can be picked up downstairs in the preschool area or can be downloaded from our website:

<http://stpaulspreschooldurham.weebly.com>. If you are interested or know of anyone who is, please contact me at the church or email: preschool@stpaulsdurham.org for more information.

Living Sabbath

by Pastor Ali Tranvik

Sabbath shows up throughout Scripture. We read about God resting after creating (Gen 2:2-4), about Sabbath as a holy commandment (Ex 20:8-10), and about Jesus breaking it (Matt 12:10-12, Mark 2:23-28). But how do we faithfully honor Sabbath today? Is it a certain day of the week? Or time of the year, like Lent? Does it require or forbid particular practices or activities? Is Sabbath simply "taking a break" from busyness or does it mean something else? If so, what?

These are some of the questions Duke Lutherans wrestled with a couple weeks ago during a Spring Break trip to Wilmington, NC. A group of eight of us – undergraduates and graduates, men and women, ELCA and LCMS Lutherans – explored Sabbath in the context of cooking and sharing meals, studying Scripture, praying, walking Wilmington on an African American

Heritage Trail tour, worshipping with neighbors experiencing homelessness at another St. Paul's Lutheran Church, and yes, watching the Duke-UNC basketball game.



We also discussed what others think about Sabbath. Here are a few thoughts from theologians, poets, rabbis, and pastors about what this ancient commandment means for us today:

- ▶ "Sabbath is a mighty antidote to an economy of depletion and diminishment, because it entails participation in a community that does not believe that human well-being and worth are established by endless productivity." – Walter Brueggeman
- ▶ "Sabbath [is] a way to equalize relations between rich and poor, slave and free, employer and employee, parents and children, humans and animals, friends and strangers alike by reminding us all of our universal need for rest." – Renita Weems
- ▶ "To rest, we are persuaded, we must 'get away.' But getting away involves us in the haste, speed, and noise, the auxiliary pandemonium of escape. There is, by the prevailing definition, escape, but there is no escape from escape. Or there is none unless we adopt the paradoxical and radical expedient of just stopping." – Wendell Berry
- ▶ "Some religions build cathedrals or temples, but Judaism constructs the Sabbath as an architecture of time [...] Six days a week we live under the tyranny of things of space; on the Sabbath we try to become attuned to holiness in time." – Abraham Joshua Heschel
- ▶ "Sabbath [is] paying attention." – Deidre Riggs
- ▶ "Sabbath is not a break from life but rather a profound theological lens for examining all of life." – Norman Wirzba

I'm not sure we came away with clear answers to what Sabbath means. It seems it can mean many different things. Sabbath is not mere inactivity, Duke Lutherans suggested. It's not just a get-away. It's not simply pausing. Rather, the group agreed, it is what happens *when* we stop. It is an openness to God, to our neighbors, to creation. It's a new kind of paying attention. And it's

usually practiced in the midst of community. Regardless of what our Sabbath practices look like, we will continue to think, talk, and try to live into what it means to “honor the Sabbath and keep it holy” in our lives and Duke, in Durham, and beyond.

What Does it Mean to be a Stephen Ministry Congregation?

by Nan Treul



In the pews in the sanctuary, there are small cards that proclaim that we are a Stephen Ministry Congregation. But what does this mean?

It means that in addition to our pastor, vicar, and small paid

congregational staff, that we have a dedicated group of Stephen Ministers who are available to serve members of our congregation. Stephen Ministry is the one-to-one lay caring ministry that takes place in congregations that use the Stephen Series system. Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay care givers – called Stephen Ministers – to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to congregation members who are hurting.

The Stephen Ministry program was started in 1975 by Dr. Kenneth Hauck in St. Louis, MO. He was an ordained Lutheran minister. Stephen Ministry is a distinctly Christian ministry. It originally served Lutheran congregations, but today is an ecumenical ministry, serving 170 Christian denominations and 13,000 congregations in 31 countries. Since 1975, more than 600,000 Stephen Ministers have been trained around the world.

The Stephen Ministry program at St. Paul’s was started in 2014. The original group of Stephen Ministers numbered nine; since then we have had four additional training classes, including two conducted jointly with neighboring Stephen Ministry congregations. In total, we have trained 19 Stephen Ministers during the past five years; we have gained three additional Stephen Ministers through transfers from other churches. Today we have thirteen active Stephen Ministers, with three additional ones on leaves of absence. Three of our group also serve as leaders, and have attended the national training sessions for leaders.

Stephen Ministers receive fifty hours of training, and commit to serve at least two years. Many Stephen Ministers serve for more than two years, as it is a wonderful way to use the gifts of empathy, compassion, and caring.

“Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2, RSV)

Triangle Conference Featured Congregation for April 2019

Christus Victor Lutheran Church, Durham

Brief summary:

Christus Victor started a new worship schedule last September. We expanded from 1 worship service in the Sanctuary with both a choir and a small band, to 2 very different worship experiences and the same Jesus. Now at 8:30 AM, there is a band-led worship service in Fellowship Hall with the bulletin on screen and moveable chairs. At 10:30 AM, there is a choir-led worship service in the Sanctuary with paper bulletins, hymnals, and pews. Amazingly, the worship attendance is almost equal. Please pray for us as we miss the unity of worshiping together every Sunday. As both services have grown since September, we are working to find ways to be church together (and get to know each other) outside of worship too.

Christus Victor has been working for months on discerning a new mission statement that will have a large amount of community buy-in. We have met 5 times since October as an entire congregation to work on the mission statement. This work is rooted in 3 things: prayer, Bible Study, and discussion (because we know God speaks through us today too). Four concepts have risen to the surface that we are wrestling with: Acceptance, Give Comfort, Fearless, and Trust. Pray that we not only discover God’s mission for us, but that we live it out in powerful ways.

Contact Information:

Christus Victor Lutheran Church

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<https://facebook.com/pg/christusvictorlutherandurham>

Band led Worship at 8:30 AM and Choir led Worship 10:30 AM every Sunday

Prayer:

From Lent, to Holy Week, to Easter, You are always with each one of us, Lord. Be with Lutherans throughout the Triangle Conference through the season they are experiencing. We especially pray for our brothers and sisters at Christus Victor Lutheran Church in South Durham. Speak clearly to Christus Victor as they discover and live out Your Mission for them, and enliven both their new band-led and choir-led worship services. In Jesus’ Name we pray.

(Article with photos are on the atrium bulletin board.)

Our Sympathy

We remember in prayer the family and friends of Bill Anderson, who died on Friday, March 1 at the Forest at Duke. His funeral was held on Saturday, March 9 at 4 pm at St. Paul's. Memorials can be made to St. Paul's in memory of Bill.

Memorials Received

We have received the following memorials as designated. We thank the donors for their generosity.

In memory of Marian Rhoads by Melba Fowler, Raleigh

In memory of William (Bill) Anderson by the following:

Barbara and Charles Ellertson, Durham
 Cynthia Snyder and Charles Fennimore, Durham
 Rachel Harter and Richard Havill, Chapel Hill
 Gus Holshouser, Durham
 Gary and Diane Archer, Hillsborough
 John and Jane Hurlburt, Durham
 John and Linda Foreman, Durham
 Peter and Barbara Fish, Durham
 Norbert Enzer, Ann Arbor, MI
 Jack and Scott Hughes, Durham
 Wilmot Losee, Jr. Durham
 Victor and Anne Moore, Durham
 Nick Bush, Chapel Hill
 Martha Bush, Chapel Hill
 Bates Buckner, Chapel Hill
 Nancy Schiebel, Durham
 Lewis & Anderson, Chapel Hill
 Margaret and Dick Hodel and Katie and Chris Schroll, Durham
 Shirley Few, Durham
 Kathryn and Don Di Galbo, Tujunga, CA
 Diana Wang, Durham
 Ida Elliott, Creedmoor
 Diana and Theodore Dominick, Durham
 Henderson and Jane Davis Rourk, Durham
 Ruth and Russell Roberson, Durham
 William Roeske, Tucson, AZ
 Robin Winfree, Durham

Given in Memory of Bill Anderson to the Stephen Ministry Fund

Audrey Busch, Durham
 Thomas and Judy Kraska, Chapel Hill
 Timothy and Kimberly Hoke, Chapel Hill
 Phillip and Sally Hart, Durham
 Ronald and Marcella Brown, Durham
 Nancy Treul, Chapel Hill
 Dean and Marcia Redman, Chapel Hill
 Paulette Misenheimer, Durham
 Thomas and Judith Kraska, Chapel Hill

Charitable Giving and Traditional IRAs

by Steve Mzyk

This is one article in a series of topics about various types of planned giving. We will feature one topic each month in *Cross Connections*. To see the other articles in the series, check our website stpaulsdurham.org under Resources.

Part 1: IRAs

Part 2: Life Insurance

Part 3: Wills

Part 4: Charitable Gift Annuities

Part 5: Charitable Trusts

This month we feature IRAs.

Article #1: IRAs

If you have a Traditional IRA and want to avoid withdrawal taxes, this article may interest you.

I was surprised to learn that when I reach age 70 ½, I can arrange for my Traditional IRA account to make contributions to St. Paul's without the distributions being called income. I'd always thought taxes on Traditional IRA withdrawals were inevitable. They're not when you arrange an IRA charitable contribution.

Tax law says at age 70 ½, money withdrawn from a Traditional IRA is not reported as income if it is sent directly to a qualified charity. This means that if you use your IRA to fund your charities, your Required Minimum Distributions (those mandatory withdrawals required when you reach age 70 ½) aren't reported as income. This not only saves you income taxes, it could potentially keep you in a lower tax bracket.

Here's an example. With a \$10,000 annual IRA donation, you escape \$1,200 in federal income taxes if you are in the 12 percent tax bracket and \$2,200 if you are in the 22 percent bracket. With NC income taxes set at 5.25 percent, you avoid sending \$525 to the State on that same \$10,000.

You may also appreciate that with this charitable giving method, you don't have to itemize or meet any itemized tax return limits.

This is something to consider if you own a Traditional IRA. I believe in giving to Caesar what is Caesar's, but since Congress passed a law that allows me to sign some papers and give more to God, I'll be signing those papers.

To learn more, do an internet search using the keywords "IRA charitable contributions." Ask your IRA fund company to guide you. Here at St. Paul's, Larry Jenkins, our financial secretary, can assist with this as well. Thank you!

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Katherine Circle

All women are invited to the Katherine Circle gathering on Tuesday, April 9 at 10:00 am in Trinity Hall. Nan Treul will present the devotion. Vicar Megan will present the program, "Women and Sex in the Old Testament." Marcia Redman and Diana Dominick will furnish refreshments.

St. Paul's Readers

Read and come join the discussion of The Story of Arthur Truluv, by Elizabeth Berg, at 3:00 pm on Thursday, April 25, in the library. Everyone is invited. The book selection for May is Little Princes by Conor Grennan.

Young in Spirit

Wednesday, April 10 at 10:00 AM Meet in Trinity Hall – Lunch to follow

Janet Seiz, St. Paul's resident art historian, will present an in-depth look at the picture of the Last Supper by Leonardo DaVinci. She will have us look at how Leonardo evolved his unique rendition and how we can come as close as possible to seeing the way the painting originally looked. While living in Illinois/Iowa, Janet amassed a collection of Last Supper renditions – that actually grew to over 100, gracing all the walls and empty surfaced of her office at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa. When she moved to North Carolina, she kept twelve.

DaVinci painted Last Supper in 1490s on the dining hall of a Monastery in Milan, Italy, and it is the standard by which all subsequent images of this sacred event is judged. The original work suffered a host of tragedies – experimental paint slippage, wall cuts, several wars and bombs – but this ghost of a masterpiece still speaks.

You're Invited: Worship and Potluck with Duke Lutherans in Duke Gardens!

Members of St. Paul's and Grace are invited to join Duke Lutherans for our final worship gathering of the semester as we celebrate another year. On Sunday evening, April 14th at 5:30 pm, we'll gather at the Fisher Amphitheater of Duke Gardens for



an evening of worship, food, fellowship, and family-friendly fun. Fisher Amphitheater is located just off Flowers Drive, approx. 50 yards east of the fish pond, and parking is available in the Anderson Lot. In the case of rain, we'll gather in the York Room of Duke Divinity School, in which case parking is available in the Bryan Center Lot. Please bring your own blankets or lawn chairs, and a food item to share according to your last name:

- ◆ A-G: Veggie, fruit or salad
- ◆ H-L: Bread or dessert
- ◆ M-S: Main course item
- ◆ T-Z: Beverages

We look forward to this evening together in the gardens as we celebrate Palm Sunday, another year of Duke Lutherans' ministry, and the relationship we share across campus and congregation. See you there!

Dear St. Paul's Family,

Thank you for your many gestures of loving support following the death of Bill Anderson. It's astonishing to think of how many people worked together to prepare and conduct the service, the interment in the Memorial Garden, and the reception in Trinity Hall. Many more of you attended the service, welcomed our guests, and reached out in other ways. The church was of first importance to Bill from his birth to his death, and I know he looked on with approval as we celebrated his life together.

*Yours gratefully,
Barbara Anderson, Tina Bessias, and family*