

Cross Connections



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

March 2019

Tuesday, March 5 – Shrove Tuesday at 5:30 pm

Shrove Tuesday is also called Mardi-gras because on this day, households would use up the fatty foods and cooking fat which would not be used during Lent. Most times today, it is an excuse for a festive time before Ash Wednesday begins the forty days of Lent. So, as usual, we will have a supper of pancakes (plain and chocolate chip with toppings available), sausage, and applesauce. We will also be entertained with the sounds of the Dixie Dukes band. The evening begins at 5:30 pm, the band will join us for supper and then play again before the evening ends. All are invited!



SHROVE TUESDAY



Ash Wednesday, March 6 services at 12:00 noon and 7:00 pm

Both services will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

Mid-week Lent Suppers at 5:45 pm

Wednesdays during Lent (March 13, 20, 27, April 3, and 10) we begin the evening at 5:45 pm in Trinity Hall with supper. Meals include: Mar 13: Chicken Pot Pie; Mar 20: Soups and Salad Bar; Mar 27: Baked Potato and Salad Bars; Apr 3: Lasagna; Apr 10: Salad Pot Luck. All meals will have salad and desserts provided. If you can help on any evening, contact Martha Dahl or Susan Esposito.

Mid-Week Lenten Services at 7:00 pm

Images of Sin – Images of Grace

March 13: *Chaos – Order* in Genesis 6, the Flood and the Ark
March 20: *Rejection – Incorporation* in Genesis 21, Sarah and Hagar
March 27: *Hostility – Hospitality* in Exodus 1-2, Pharaoh and Baby Moses
April 3: *Hierarchy – Harmony* in Numbers 22, Balaam and the Donkey
April 10: *Avoidance – Attention* in Luke 10, the Parable of the Good Samaritan



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

pastor@stpaulsdurham.org
admin@stpaulsdurham.org
music@stpaulsdurham.org
preschool@stpaulsdurham.org
vicar@stpaulsdurham.org
ahw22@duke.edu
crhugg@charter.net

Church Office Phone: 919-489-3214 * Fax: 919-490-1088 * Website: www.stpaulsdurham.org

Facebook: St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, ELCA

From the Pastor...

March begins the season of Lent, a time of thoughtful meditation, prayer, penance and repentance. It is a time to prepare to receive the greatest gift of all, God's grace.

Two Sunday's before Lent we hear the Gospel text from Luke chapter 6:

²⁷"But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bleed those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁸To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. ³¹And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them."

This verse is pre-Lenten preparation. It tells us to love our enemy so much that we do audacious things to change their behavior. Offering the other cheek is not to be seen as a stupid move, but as such a ridiculous gesture that the one who struck you would be too shocked to do it again. It would change the nature of their relationship with you.

We are going to make difficult and what some might see as divisive decisions in March regarding the fate of Damascus House. I have had people tell me that we should make no decision because we just are too divided. I have had others say they cannot abide by one decision or the other and proclaim that their side is the only side.

God's side is the only side. Prayerful people can see issues differently and be equally correct in their decision. Prayerful people can proclaim very different truths and yet be faithful.

We are called to love one another, not just our enemies, not just our compatriots. We are called to love.

I for one will honor whatever decision we make. I know that some of our discussions have led to the opening of old wounds and the realization that life at St. Paul's has changed and is changing. I also hear wonderful words of compassion and love shared on a daily basis.

We will soon also be participating in Rise Against Hunger and feeding thousands. We will be discussing what shall our purpose be in the future. My prayer for the people of God at St. Paul's is that however we decide the future of Damascus House, we will decide to remain God's house in this place. My hope is we will remember that we have one hope, one faith, and one baptism.

Love one another, pray for discernment and work together in God's holy name.

Pastor Scott

From the Vicar...

Sometimes theological words get used so often that their potency, the punch they pack, gets a little weak. Words that carry the weight of the *Godhead*, or the power of *salvation*, or the scope of all *creation* – sometimes these mighty words sound to our church ears as humdrum as *burrito*, *weeds*, or *airport*. During Advent, Pastor Ali and the Duke Lutherans shook up our usual understanding of the most theological word of all – *God* – through an exploration of four unusual scriptural images of God Immanuel. Shaking up traditional understanding of theological concepts is part of our Lutheran heritage, after all. Luther wrote his Ninety-Five Theses because *repentance* – another weighty word – had lost its faith-shaping power. Repentance had changed from being the business of Christian life (Thesis 1: Jesus Christ “willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance”) to being Big Business, big enough to fund cathedrals and basilicas and wars. Luther's re-imagining of *repentance* helped spark the Reformation.

Wednesday night services at St. Paul's typically don't spark worldwide movements, but they can spark shifts big and small in our lives of faith. Our Wednesday night Lenten services this year will focus on two words that are bandied about so often (including by yours truly!) that we sometimes forget the power of these theological terms: sin and grace. Huge concepts in such small words! Guided by five stories from Scripture, we will look at five nontraditional images of sin and of grace. Some stories will be familiar (like Noah's Ark), and some might be new (Balaam's Donkey, anyone?).

Even if you're unable to come to the Wednesday night services, I invite you to reflect throughout Lent on your personal metaphors for sin and grace. What images come to mind when you read those words? Has there been a prayer, a sermon, a book, or an experience that changed your understanding of grace or sin? How did those changes affect your relationship with God, with the world, or with yourself?

Our United Methodist brethren have also been deeply engaging their understanding of sin and grace. The UMC convened their special General Conference regarding the status of LGBTQ+ ordination and marriage from February 23-26. Because the UMC spans so many countries and continents, the

denomination hosts widely differing theological positions. Throughout the often-tense conference, the delegates paused for silent reflection and group prayer and worship. There were also spaces set aside for meaningful one-to-one conversations between people with different viewpoints and experiences. The journey ahead will be rough, but I am thankful that the UMC so purposefully called upon the Holy Spirit.

As the worldwide church journeys together through Lent, may love, wisdom, and grace guide us to the sure hope of the resurrection.

Vicar Megan

Jesus and Jazz

by Rev. Ali Tranvik

It was Augustine who once said “[s]he who sings prays twice.” Martin Luther agreed. “Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world,” Luther claimed. In these comments, both Augustine and Luther point to the importance of music in the life of faith. Here at St. Paul’s, we know this well, as is evident in the beautiful music of our Sunday morning worship services.

A few weeks ago, folks from across Durham and across faith tradition gathered to explore this intersection of faith and music at our Pub Theology gathering. Hosted by Duke Lutherans, the Congregation at Duke Chapel, and Duke’s Presbyterian Campus Ministry, these monthly ecumenical gatherings provide the opportunity to wrestle in community with faith questions (usually, only to come away with more). Last month, our conversation about faith and music focused on the genre of jazz.

Before coming to the table, we asked people to check out “seeing God in Jazz,” a short article by Rev. Dr. Willie Jennings, and a YouTube video of renowned jazz saxophonist and NC native John Coltrane playing “A Love Supreme.” Here are a couple of the questions we grappled with ... what do *you* think?

- Coltrane’s wife once said that “to play jazz is to worship – to be in church.” What makes playing or listening to music a form of worship or prayer? Or if it isn’t, why not? Does it matter if we’re playing it or listening to it? Hearing it live or recorded? Listening along or with others?
- Jennings writes that when he listens to jazz, he “catch[es] glimpses of something not definable, certainly not quantifiable, but nonetheless actually present.” Music gives witness to the reality that

“we are much more than we can grasp, understand, control.” What might Jennings mean? How is faith similar or dissimilar?

- Music charts often distinguish between sacred and secular music. What distinguishes the two? If there is no distinction, why not? Does it matter?
- Improvisation is a musical term that describes the “act of creating, composing, inventing, or playing something without prior preparation.” Is the Gospel story improvisation or a set score of music? Does it make a difference?

To learn more about Pub Theology Durham, visit <https://www.facebook.com/PubTheologyDurham/>

Council Notes

*by Linda Foreman
Council President*

As most of you know, much of the past month has been spent talking about the future of Damascus House. In this process we – as a council and congregation – have asked hard questions of one another, perhaps challenged beliefs and assumptions, all in a faithful attempt to discern the best path.

It is a challenging and important decision. How do we balance risk and opportunity, faith and fear?

Thanks to each of you for your participation in the recent discussions and decisions. I truly believe we are as good as the respectful, mission focused conversations we are willing to have. May they continue as we move forward!

Look for information soon on our Planting Hope initiative, an opportunity to identify and craft our vision and priorities for the future. I hope you will be an energetic part of the process.

I choose to trust that God will guide us on the journey and keep us safe and united as we serve our mission with each other and in community.

Blessings and peace,
Linda Foreman

Planting Hope: Vitality Survey

by George Seiz

A summary of the results from the Vitality Survey completed late last summer will be presented between services (at 9:45 am) on Sunday, March 10 and March 17. The survey indicated we are a very sustainable congregation and with a little work can easily become both a vibrant and sustainable congregation. Please

come join in the review and discussion of some very interesting information.

Planting Hope Team: Pastor Anderson, Betty Hinshaw, Ellen Lavery, George Seiz, and council members Tina Bessias and Lisa Lewis. Planting Hope Team Purpose: *to engage the congregation in discerning a vision for our future.*

The Caregiver’s Compass and Stephen Ministry

by Nan Treul



The Caregiver’s Compass is a symbol that summarizes the most important characteristics of a Stephen Minister. It guides Stephen Ministers in their caregiving and their learning.

Stephen Ministers are compassionate caregivers; they share their care receivers’ pain and help them bear it. They embody Jesus’ promise to never let us suffer alone.

By God’s grace, Stephen Ministers are full of faith. They bring Christ’s care to their care receivers and trust God to bring results. They pray for their care receivers, share Scripture with them, and use other distinctively Christian caring tools in their caring relationships.

Stephen Ministers are skilled caregivers. They take their training seriously and are committed to their care receivers. They strive to care in the right way at the right time. They not only recognize their God-given gifts, they work to develop them.

Stephen Ministers know that trust makes caring relationships possible, so they relate to their care receivers in a trust-worthy manner. They maintain confidentiality. They show up for visits and follow through on promises. They stick with their care receivers through thick and thin.

The first and most important element is the symbol at the center of the compass. That is a Chi-Rho, which is a symbol for Christ. Stephen Ministers are Christ-centered. They know that their calling to care comes from Jesus and that he is the power behind all that they do as Stephen Ministers. When Stephen Ministers care, they bring Christ’s care to their care receivers; they never think their care receivers’ well-being depends on what they do, but on what Jesus does in and through them. Stephen Ministers work on staying connected to Jesus so that they will be able to bring his love to others.

Duke Lutherans Spotlight

Welcome to “Duke Lutherans Spotlight,” a bi-monthly feature story that spotlights a member of the Duke Lutherans community. This month, we hear from Carly VanDewark, a freshman from Concord, NC who is a prospective Statistical Science Major (or at least “until convinced otherwise,” she says). Below Carly talks marching band, finding community at Duke, and what it’s like to watch Zion Williamson basketball up close.

Much of what you do here at Duke revolves around music. You play trumpet in the marching band, and you’ve jumped in with singing and even playing guitar at Duke Lutherans. Describe the role music plays in your life.

Being involved in music has given me a sense of belonging. It has brought me into instant community wherever I go. That’s been true with different faith communities here at Duke, and it’s also true with marching band. There is a very strong support system among Christians in the marching band who are involved in all kinds of different ministries at Duke. I spend a lot of time with those people, and they encourage me to live out my faith outside of church settings. I’ve become more open to living as a Christian with them in band, which has been very cool. It’s powerful to know that I’m not alone in that.



What is it like to play at Duke basketball games with the band?

Games are incredibly fun. There’s nothing quite like Cameron Indoor. I get to watch Zion Williamson dunk from the second row, but also play music which is something I love, and do it with a community I love.

You are a woman of many musical gifts. What instruments do you play? Do you have a favorite?

I play trumpet, guitar, piano, and I sing. I also played handbells at church growing up. Piano is always the instrument I go to in order to de-stress and process emotions. But guitar is great because it allows me to take it on the go and use it to worship.

What role has Duke Lutherans played in your life at Duke thus far?

Duke Lutherans feels like home. I love hearing the

same prayers and hymns and liturgy I grew up with each Sunday night. Also, I love that Duke Lutherans is not only undergrads but also grad students and seminarians. I'm usually surrounded by only other freshmen, especially on East Campus. So getting together with people from all different stages of life and seeing how they're living as Christians and as Lutherans at Duke is really cool.

Charitable Giving and Taxes

by Larry Grovenstein

These two things were once often discussed together. But now, after the 2018 tax law changes, maybe not so often. For many of us with the Standard Deduction being increased and what can be itemized changing, most tax filers (almost 90% by many estimates) will use the Standard Deduction meaning they will no longer get a tax deduction for their charitable gifts. Obviously, people don't give to charity just to get a tax deduction, however, many try to optimize the tax deduction so they can give more. Optimizing is still possible, however, each of us may have to look closely at our financial options and planning to be able to do so.

One option that has worked for my family is a Donor Advised Fund (DAF). A DAF allows you to make a contribution to a charitable foundation, invest that contribution so it can grow tax free, specify the distribution timing and charitable organization for grants, and leave instructions for unused funds if you die before all funds are distributed.

Here's an example of how it could benefit some. Maybe I plan to give \$10,000 for the next five years to one or multiple charities. The \$10,000 may not be enough to get someone a tax deduction. But if I have \$50,000 available now (maybe IRA, Roth, or savings), I can contribute the \$50,000 to a DAF and get a tax deduction for the full amount, and still get the Standard Deduction the next 5 years. Plus, with the right investment option chosen, I may be able to give more than the \$10,000 each year because the investment can grow. There may be other advantages (reducing IRA balance thereby reducing current or future required minimum distributions, estate planning, etc.) depending on your specific situation.

If you haven't considered a DAF in your financial/giving plans, now may be a good time to consider it. As with any financial options, cost and investment gain potential should be part of the DAF selection process. Discuss a DAF with your financial advisor, or if that is you, look into options from

Vanguard, Fidelity, or other institutions that offer Donor Advised Funds in their portfolio. And of course, I would be glad to discuss how a DAF benefitted my family's giving situation if you're interested in learning more.

Gift Giving

*by Pat Casper
Social Ministries*

Gift giving is a year round event here at St. Paul's.

- + At different holidays the Women's Connection give goody bags to Duke Lutherans, those homebound, and others. See Ellen Lavery for details.
- + Marilyn Hawley is coordinating a gift giving to those in need of food – Rise Against Hunger. Talk with her.
- + Kaaren Johanson and Tracey Dissel help us organize to give to those who hunger as they coordinate CROP Walk. Talk with them.
- + Nancy Dewhirst champions Urban Ministries – clothing drives, food drives, Christmas gifts. See what she has to say.
- + Alta Lindsay and a group of others offered 10 weeks of prayer, Bible readings, and discussion centered on Eating Together Faithfully. She would be glad to answer questions you have.
- + Sherry Stubbs is an avid gardener and is investigating a unique way for any and all of us to give back to creation by planting seeds and tilling the ground. She has discovered a program available to all through Durham County Library. She has been finding out ways she can show this – just speak with her.

There are many more who give and help others to give. Just stop and think about all we do here at St. Paul's.

Preschool Pitter Patter

by Amanda Stoen



Many thanks for supporting the Preschool's annual Spaghetti Dinner and Bake Sale. We raised \$873 for families needing financial assistance and \$382 for the playground. We plan to add a

music space to our larger playground and a house with a slide to our smaller playground. It was a wonderful evening of fellowship with our preschool and church members. Vicar Megan also led our 3 and 4 year olds

in a few favorite Chapel Time songs. Thank you for your support of our preschool families and the playground.

During the month of March, the preschool will be collecting books to donate to Book Harvest. If you would like to donate new or gently used children's books, please place in the bin in the narthex. To learn more about how Book Harvest supports the Durham community, visit www.bookharvestnc.org.

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.

My Journey to Vietnam

by Marilyn Bell-Hawley

When I decided to do my 2018 Habitat for Humanity International build in SE Asia, particularly Vietnam, I had no idea what to expect, I just knew I wanted the experience of building in that country.

My first thoughts were of the Vietnam War. I was a college student during that time and joined the protests against our involvement, as well as the treatment of African American, and all Veterans upon their return to this country.

My brother served in the US Air Force and was stationed at Da Nang, located in Central Vietnam. He survived the war but later died from what was believed to be complications from exposure to Agent Orange.

And so part of my interest was wanting to see this place, this land, and its people that had had such an impact on my life personally, and so many others, some of you included. While the War was a devastating experience for my brother, he liked the country and its incredible natural beauty. He always spoke fondly about the Vietnamese people and their culture. I was always very curious about his impressions.

Like many of you, I had watched the 2017 award winning PBS documentary on The Vietnam War by Ken Burns, and relived many of the horrible atrocities it depicted. I had wondered what it must be like there more than fifty years later.

Our Habitat Build was in the south of the country, in the Province of Dong Thap, in the Mekong Delta, bordering Cambodia, and about 2 hours from Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon.

The country is absolutely beautiful and reminded me of my hometown in coastal NC, with lush greenery, beautiful flowers, and lots of water!

I was part of a team of eight volunteers from throughout the US, including Hawaii. We all comprised a Habitat Big Build Team, which included several other teams from various countries such as Germany, Japan, and Kenya, that totaled more than 200 volunteers. Together we built more than 20 homes in the Province.

Our Team built a home for a single mother with two young children. She has mental illness challenges and her brother allowed her home to be attached to his in order for him to help support her and the children. This practice of caring for extended family is characteristic of Vietnamese culture where the status of family is more important than salary. A family's reputation demands respect and open doors.

The Mekong River runs throughout the entire area forming a water world where boats, houses, and markets float upon its numerous canals, streams, and arteries.

As you will see in my presentation, the house we built is along the river, which serves as a source of transportation as well as a place for doing laundry.

For the short time I was there, I found the Vietnamese people to be warm, friendly, committed to their traditions and respectful. One gets the impression that the country is progressive and on the move, with its big city skylines, defined by glass and steel corporate headquarters, where it's not unusual to take 10 minutes to cross the street through a tsunami of motorbikes! But also a country that honors its past through its many museums, ancient temples, and rich traditions of indigenous crafts.

Join me on Sunday, March 24, 2019 after late worship for a light lunch and presentation of my trip. Again, I am grateful to each of you who donated to Habitat on my behalf and kept me in your prayers during this experience.

Growing Thru Grief

A new Introduction to Grief Series will take place March 12 through April 16. Aaron Klink is Chaplain and Bereavement Coordinator at Pruitt Hospice in Rocky Mount, NC. He is a graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Yale Divinity School, and Duke Divinity School. He will discuss the following topics:

- Mar 12 - Grief and the New World after Loss
- Mar 19 - The Geography of Grief – Returning

Spaces

- Mar 26 – Relearning Relationships with the Living
- Apr 2 – Relearning our Relationship to the Dead
- Apr 9 – Relearning Ourselves
- Apr 16 – Relearning the Vision for the Future

This is an open program, with each week standing on its own.

Growing thru Grief is a coalition of Triangle area religious and civic

organizations to bring ongoing support and comfort to those

who mourn. This program features education and small group discussion. We meet every Tuesday except holidays at St. Paul’s Lutheran. Come and gather for conversation and refreshments at 4:00; the program runs from 4:30 to 6 pm.



What Can You Buy for Thirty-Four Cents?



by Marilyn Bell-Hawley

Not much, you say, and you are right! Not a bar of candy, nor a pack of gum, and definitely not anything to wear or read!

But there is one

nutritious, healthy, protein, mineral, and vitamin filled thing you can purchase for thirty-four cents that will not only change a life, but is life giving!

And that is a **Rise Against Hunger meal!**

The meals are made from dehydrated vegetables, rice, soy, and 23 essential vitamins and minerals, with a shelf life of up to two years.

Mixed with a liquid, usually water, and a person receives the essential nourishment for a day and longer.

There are 815 million people in the world who do not get the food they need to live a healthy life. One in nine people goes to bed hungry each night, according to the United Nations. **Rise Against Hunger** is driven by the vision of a world without hunger. It’s mission is to end hunger in our lifetime by providing food and life changing aid to the world’s most vulnerable and by creating a global commitment to mobilize critical resources. **Rise Against Hunger** is committed to the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of ending hunger by 2030.**

It is very exciting that we here at St. Paul’s have the opportunity to contribute to that goal by spending thirty-four cents to buy one meal, or as many meals as

we choose and can afford! And if you come out to church on Saturday, March 23, 2019, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, you can fill bags, weigh, package, and help send these meals on their way to feed our brothers and sisters around the world.

We look forward to joining with Duke Lutherans, and members of other faith communities from throughout the area in fellowship as we do this important work.

Thank you for supporting this effort.

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

On Sunday, February 24, 23 welcomed Johnny Ray Solis, son of Jennifer and Christian Solis, by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Johnny was born on July 5, 2018 in Durham. Chris Westerfeldt is a proud grandparent.

Changes of Address

Sean and Heather Slane
54 Citation Dr
Durham NC 27713-9159

Jacqueline Nappi
1111 Lady’s Slipper Ct Apt I
Raleigh NC 27606

Christina Nesslage
1607 Forest Rd Apt 10
Durham NC 27705-3386

Memorials Received

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

In memory of Addie Felkel from International Business Machines Corporation

In memory of Marian Rhoads by the following:

- Eleanor McCann, Durham
- James and Sara Ott, Chapel Hill
- Dr. James and Allison Lawson, Greensboro

We have received many thank you letters from organizations after receiving donations from St. Paul’s. These letters are posted on the bulletin board in the reception office if you would like to review them.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, ELCA
1200 West Cornwallis Road
Durham, NC 27705-5731

Address Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Durham NC
Permit No. 600

Young in Spirit

On Wednesday, March 13, the Young In Spirit Group will visit the NC Museum of History in Raleigh. Admission is free. Lunch at a Raleigh restaurant will follow. All church members are invited to attend. We will be leaving from St. Paul's at 9:30 am. Please sign-up on the sheet located in the church office.



St. Paul's Readers

Everyone is invited to join in the discussion of the March book selection of Abraham by Bruce Feiler, on Thursday, March 21, at 3:00 pm in the library. The book for April is The Story of Arthur Truluv, by Elizabeth Berg.

Katherine Circle of WELCA

ALL women are invited to the Katherine Circle gathering on Tuesday, March 12 at 10:00 am in Trinity Hall. Diana Dominick will present the devotion. Bill Dahl will present the program, "Martin Luther: Meditation, Prayer and Bible Study." Pat Casper and Martha Dahl will furnish refreshments.

Planting Hope: Initiative to Develop a Purpose Statement for St. Paul's

by George Seiz

The Planting Hope Team will be hosting a retreat for congregation members to participate in developing a "Purpose Statement" for St. Paul's. Planting Hope is a visioning process that was started last year to help better define who we are as a congregation. The team

would like to have 40 to 50 church members participate in a facilitated session led by Pastor Danielle DeNise, Director for Evangelical Mission with the NC Synod. The date for the retreat is Saturday, March 30, 2019 and will run from 9:00 am to about 2:00 pm with lunch provided. It will be held in Trinity Hall at St. Paul's. More details to follow, including a sign-up sheet.

Planting Hope Team: Pastor Anderson, Betty Hinshaw, Ellen Lavery, George Seiz, and council members Tina Bessias and Lisa Lewis. Planting Hope Team Purpose: *to engage the congregation in discerning a vision for our future.*

Lent Worship and Meditation Opportunities

- ✘ **At 12:00 noon on Wednesdays** (March 13, 20, 27, April 3, and 10), Pastor Scott will lead a brief service of communion which also includes the rite of healing anointing.
- ✘ **At 12:00 noon on Fridays** (March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5 and 12), Join Pastor Lorrel Strom-Jensen on a 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.

SUNDAY WORSHIP ON MARCH THE 3RD WILL BE A SINGLE SERVICE AT 10:00AM With the Congregational Meeting to follow.

- Agenda:
- acceptance of the annual report
 - election of NC Synod Assembly delegates
 - Decision on Damascus House