



# Crossroads Connections

FEBRUARY 2019

## *A note from Pastor Adam*

I'm proud of the beautiful, life-affirming steps Crossroads and St. Paul's continue to make. It's exciting to see new ministry come alive in Crossroads building, in early meetings of the executive committees being together, in the call process proceeding, and in our preparations for more and more life together.

Wow...this is a lot for just a couple of months of intentional life together. These are moments to take some deep breaths around and celebrate. These are also times to dig deeply into this new beginning and examine what is taking shape. One of the things that I said throughout the fall in preparations for these days is that our work is just beginning. I definitely see this here and now. And I am profoundly excited to see the vision of this partnership becoming enfolded.

Some of the hardest work of any deepening relationship is that this deepening calls for care around how we treat one another and the world around us. In our scriptures in worship in January and February, we have read Paul's letters to the early church in Corinth. These passages show us how God calls us to relate to one another. In short, Paul tells the church, both then and now, that we are in this life of faith together for the sake of Jesus' work in the world. In essence, none of what we do is only about us. It's also about how we can be the way God gets things done in the world for the sake of the community around us.

In our partnership we will see ways that St. Paul's and Crossroads do things that don't make sense to one another, and we will also learn that the other congregation has some gifts to share that contribute to the betterment of the whole. These learnings happen at the individual level as well. In our discovering these things, and in the ways we will stumble every now and then, I ask you to remember that we are all on the same team in this new life together.

Together, we are called to shine God's grace and good news into the lives of our nearest neighbors,

including one another. This is the main goal of our individual lives of faith, and the main goal of our collective lives of faith, as two congregations and as one united partnership. We are all in this together, for the sake of our neighbors, so that God's life changing work can impact us and the world around us.

Perhaps because it's February, I'm thinking about these things through the lens of love. Not the sentimental romantic love of Valentine's Day. Rather, I think about faith, and our partnerships with one another, through the lens of God's love for you and for me and for the entire world. We have an enormous gift as these two churches to witness the power of love as revealed in and through Jesus to the world. The power of God's love calls us to see one another through this lens of love.

Later in February, as we continue to read about Paul's words to the Corinthian church, we will hear a scripture that is often read at weddings. Love is patient and kind, not arrogant, boastful or rude. Love builds up and does not tear down. With the love of Jesus as our model, I invite you to build one another up and support one another with patience and kindness. Give one another the benefit of believing each other's best intentions. In the spirit of God's love for the whole world, let us use our partnership as a way and a place to amplify Jesus' love for one another and all of our neighbors.

God's love is more than a feeling. God's love is action. This love is meant to be shared and expressed and witnessed to in your life, in my life, and in our life together. God's love is expressed in our interactions with those we live with, and work with, and go to school with, and see when we run our everyday errands. Living God's love is an intentional choice we make, and I want us to make that intentional choice in this partnership, and in our everyday lives.

Maybe what I'm trying to say is simply this: in the midst of this moment in St. Paul's and Crossroads lives I believe God's love calls us to treat one another well.

This treating one another well is hard work, especially as we embark on something new. Sometimes the phrase “treating one another well” is too nebulous for me. When this is true, I return again and again to a simple 3 word phrase I learned many years ago...”interact with respect.”

I invite you to interact with respect...respect for one another; respect for our neighbors outside of the church; respect for this new life together; and, most importantly, respect for our God of love!

Pr. Adam

### ***A note from Vicar Adam***

I’ve had the opportunity to live in several different cities in my life. As a result, my family and friends are all over the country. Kristen and I have friends in Minneapolis, Washington, DC, and the Bay Area in California. We have family in North Carolina, Indiana, Green Bay, and Spokane, Washington, to name a few places. Having friends all over the country is exciting, but it is also tough. Sending out Christmas cards recently reminded me of all my friends and family, which was great! But it also reminded me that I have not been able to keep in touch with as many people as I’d like to. It takes time and effort to stay in close contact with others. It takes energy to be in relationship, even when our friends and family are close. It takes energy to make that call on the phone!

In January, I was able to take a class for a week in Philadelphia where my class walked through the Gospel of John. It was one of the best classes I’ve taken at seminary. One of my take-aways is that the Gospel of John urges us to be in close relationship with Jesus. Each of us is asked to be continually in relationship with Jesus. Jesus talks about how his sheep hear his call, and he calls his sheep by name. John illustrates this continual call from Jesus with a number of personal stories where the person who you would least expect is the person who hears Jesus and listens to him.

In February our gospel texts are from the Gospel of Luke, not John, yet the themes of listening to Jesus’ voice and continuing in relationship with Jesus are very present this month. Will we hear Jesus call to be in relationship with him? Will you hear Jesus call your name? Are we each listening for this call?

And when Jesus calls for us, what does he say? This month Jesus will call us to bring in people with our proverbial nets, to fish for people bringing them also

into loving relationship with Jesus. He will declare that the poor and grieving are blessed, reminding us that the least among us have worth and dignity, and are seen by God. And Jesus will call on us to love our enemies, and be kind to those who curse us. This is not an easy call! We don’t need to make a special phone call or write a letter to Jesus. Jesus is already waiting for us to pick up the phone, always! Jesus’ call for us to follow him and to love each other never stops. It is our call to turn and follow.

In February, take time in prayer to listen for God’s voice. Take time to recognize the abundant grace that Jesus offers. Call your friends and family, and live in that love together. Reach out to a neighbor. I pray that we will hear Jesus voice and abide together in his love. Then let’s take the next step and share this grace with those who need it most.

### ***Family Support Update!***

Progress is being made on the launch of the new Tiger's Den Family Support Center. People from both St. Paul's and Crossroads are making plans for the second floor of the Crossroads Campus. Clean out and demolition are beginning. New walls are being added and giving the FSC two small and two large meeting areas for individual counseling, group trainings, parenting support groups and mentor trainings. We'll also be adding space for meditation, prayer and supportive conversation.

As part of the needs for planning and communication, the Councils of both churches have launched the new: Executive Leadership Team (ELT). This group is made up of the Executive Teams from each church and will meet roughly every other month. Their roll will be to become the lead vision and coordination group for the Partnership and then to share information for input and approval by each Church Council.

The group met on January 22nd, got to know one another, clarified the roll of the new team and then dealt with some pressing and future issues for the Partnership. Our first task, once approved by Councils, will be to hire a marketing team to help us come up with a better way to describe this Partnership for ourselves and the community. That will come with logo, design and communication tools to help us more clearly share with others what it will look like to be: “Doing More Together.” We want to make sure that our new

vision together is simple for people to understand and yet maintains our congregational identity.

Each month, we will try to add as many updates as we can to keep you well informed about the exciting next steps of this new adventure!"

Please keep this new school/church project in prayer as we move forward.

Pr. Adam & Pr. Steve

### ***2019 Crossroads Church Council***

Thank you all for participating in Jane's Retirement Party on January 13<sup>th</sup>. We had a wonderful turn out and it was a huge success! It was so nice being able to spend time with friends from both services. It was also wonderful to see Pastors Nancy and Mary Ellen again. Pastor Nancy flew 2000 miles across the country just to attend this event! Happily, Jane was completely surprised with their attendance. A delicious brunch was catered by Christine Storfer and Kathryn Francis who help with the food truck at St. Paul's. Wasn't it nice having the use of that beautiful banquet facility and caterer? By chance, Jane's party gave us the opportunity to experience one of the benefits of our new partnership with St. Paul's. Most importantly, her party gave us the opportunity to recognize Jane, who has been such a significant part of our Crossroads family. She will be missed!

Please welcome Katie Nagel-Santillo, who is our new church secretary. She will be at Crossroads on Tuesdays and Thursdays, as she is dividing her time between Crossroads and St. Paul's. We are still seeking volunteers to staff the office on Mondays and Wednesdays. If you are interested, please contact Katie, Pastor Adam or Vicar Adam.

Our Church Council met in January and finalized choosing the officers. They will be as follows:

President: Mary Mindel

Vice President: Ed Weiss

Secretary: Arlene Eberhard

Treasurer: Dawn Goren

John Svec has relinquished his brief role as treasurer to become our new "property person." He will be the one to handle any issues that arise with our building.

Our council will meet again on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The executive teams from both Crossroads and St. Paul's met again on January 22<sup>nd</sup> to continue with plans in moving forward as partners in 2019. As we move

forward, if you have any suggestions, new ideas, concerns or comments, please contact any member of the church council.

Kelley Omel

### ***2019 Crossroads Church Council***

***President: Mary Mindel***

***Vice President: Ed Weiss***

***Secretary: Arlene Eberhard***

***Treasurer: Dawn Goran***

***Kelley Omel***

***Martin Troutman***

***Financial Secretary: Neal Nesselbeck***

### ***From the Treasurer***

Hi! First, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve as the new Treasurer of Crossroads. I look forward to working with the Council and Finance Team as we partner with St. Paul's and call a new Pastor. Meantime, I wanted to help anyone who should be reimbursed for church related expenses. There is a form next to the copier in back which you should attach your receipt to. Fill in your name and a description of the expense, so Mark can figure out where it fits in the Spending Plan. If you want the check mailed to you, please indicate that in the comments. Then leave it there or give it directly to Mark Robson when you see him. He'll return the check there for you to pick up the next week unless asked to mail it. With our office staffed two days a week, and volunteers covering in between, this is the surest way for you and our bookkeeper to communicate.

If you have any questions, either I or Mark will be happy to answer them.

Dawn Goran

### ***A note from Jane***

Dear Friends,  
Thanks to all of you for the wonderful retirement celebration on January 13th. Special thanks to Pastor Adam, Pastor Steve, Mary Mindel and the Church Council for all their planning and to St. Paul's for hosting the delicious luncheon. Thanks to you who were able to attend the luncheon, it was wonderful to see all of you. What a wonderful surprise to see Pastor Nancy and Pastor Mary Ellen. This was a day I will always remember.

Thanks to everyone who sent their best wishes with cards. I truly have been blessed these past 38 years and especially by all the people I have been fortunate to know.

Love, Jane

### ***Tiger's Den Food Pantry***

**THANK YOU** for helping to supply the Tiger's Den Food Pantry. For the month of February, we are asking for donations of rice and cereal. You may continue to place your food donations in the food barrel.

-Carolyn Catalano

### ***February Birthdays***

3 Laura Cassata	15 Hailey Palmer
4 Gladys Beverly Hunter Paul	18 Bonnie Bennett
5 Raymond Rauh	22 Sheena Palmer Cherie Rondeau
7 Leslie Garcia Donald Kuhn	23 Elsie Allyn Glenn Gentzke
11 George Koch	24 Ted Myers
12 Alexis Scholze	27 Harry Graser

### ***February Birthday Lunch***

The February Birthday Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, February 19th at the Mr. Bills, 1500 Cleveland Dr 14225 at 12:00 pm. Everyone is welcome whether it's your birthday or not. Call the church office for reservations.

***\*If you are not able to make it to church on a weekend or just want to listen to the sermon again, go to [CrossroadsLutheranChurch.org](http://CrossroadsLutheranChurch.org) and click on the "Sermon Library" link.***

### ***A Note from Katie***

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Kathleen Nagel-Santillo. Everyone calls me Katie. I am so grateful for this amazing opportunity to be a part of your church. I am a life-long member of St. John Lutheran Church on Main Street in Williamsville. I had my First Communion and Confirmation, was married and both my children were baptized there. My children participate in the Youth program there and I am on Church Council. So when I got the job at St. Paul's in Eggertsville, I was so excited to be an active part in another Church. THEN when the process of partnering with your Church came along...I couldn't wait. There are so many exciting things going on here and such amazing ways to reach out to the community. I look forward to meeting every one of you! Please don't hesitate to call if you need something. And next time you are in during office hours, please stop by and see me! Thank you so much for all of the support and love you all have already given. I look forward to working with you all here at Crossroads!

### ***A Note from the Youth Director!***

#### **FEBRUARY YOUTH NEWS**

**YOUTH NIGHTS:** Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited for these fun, impacting nights together at Crossroads Lutheran Church. Our February theme is going to be related to hunger and privilege to prepare for SOUPER Bowl Sunday. Families and youth are invited to worship at 5pm. Then youth stay to eat dinner together before our games and activities begin at 6pm and go until 9pm. Save the dates for Mar 2<sup>nd</sup> and April 6<sup>th</sup> as our next upcoming youth nights.

**THE HATE YOU GIVE - MOVIE & DISCUSSION:** February 10<sup>th</sup> at 12pm at St. Paul's. 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to a showing of the movie "The Hate U Give" based on a novel by the same title. We're inviting youth from all over WNY to come watch with us and to discuss how our faith intersects with racism, justice and privilege.

**SPAGHETTI DINNER: March 30<sup>th</sup>!** – Join us for our annual youth fundraiser! We serve the food and work alongside our awesome kitchen crew to put on a delicious dinner which raises fund for LCLC camperships and the National Youth Gathering.

**ORGANIC YOUTH BUFFALO MISSION TRIP** – February 8-10. \$20. Organic Youth is coordinating a local mission trip for our 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders. The group will stay at Parkside Lutheran Church and work with various local organizations to serve the community of Buffalo. Registration and more details can be found at [organic-youth.org](http://organic-youth.org).

Peace,  
~Kristen Arends (KK)

Sat. Feb 2nd - Youth Night at Crossroads 6-9pm  
Sun. Feb 10th - The Hate U Give at St. Paul's 12-4pm  
Sat. Mar 2nd - Youth Night at Crossroads 6-9pm  
Sat. Mar 30th - Spaghetti Dinner at St. Paul's 4-8pm  
Sat. April 6th - Youth Night at Crossroads 6-9pm  
Sat. May 11th - Youth Night at Crossroads 6-9pm  
Sat. June 1st - Youth Night at Crossroads 6-9pm

### **A Note from Organic Youth Director**

February 8-10 \$20

Each year Organic Youth teams up with local organizations to serve our neighbors in Downtown Buffalo. This year we will be working with Vive, a program of Jericho Road Community Health Center, to help their facilities and staff be ready as they can to serve our Buffalo Community. We will also take part in a workshop with the amazing Abbey Sandonato, Learn more about ourselves and God, relax and watch a movie each evening and cook, eat and hang out together. This is a 9th-12th grade event. We will be staying at Parkside Lutheran Church all weekend (2 Wallace Ave. Buffalo, NY 14214),

### **LUTHERAN CHARITIES FUNDRAISER!**

Lutheran Charities Festival of Wine and Craft Beer

7:00pm Saturday February 9, 2019

Enjoy select wines, craft beers, soft drinks and hors d'oeuvres!

Basket Raffles, Contest and Prizes! LIVE MUSIC!!

Tewksbury Lodge

249 Ohio Street

Buffalo, NY 14204

Tickets are \$45.00 per person and includes commemorative glasses, all beverages and foods.

Register on-line at

<http://lcwinecraftbeerfest2019.bpt.me> or call

Lutheran Charities at 716-632-2623

### **Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Paint Night**

Join us for snacks, fun, and art! Price includes all painting supplies, instruction and snacks. Feel free to bring your drink of choice!

Wednesday February 27, 2019 6:00pm

\$20 per person

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

2311 George Urban Blvd, Depew 14043

Please call (716)685-2216 to sign up. Space is limited.

### **MEAT RAFFLE**

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Saturday March 9th at 1pm

\$3.00 Admission includes food, drinks and snacks.

Doors Open at 12!

Basket Raffles and 50/50 drawing.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

2311 George Urban Blvd

Depew 14043

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Reminder that Pastor Adam will be away from January 28th through March 3rd. Service Leadership will be shared between Vicar Adam and Pastor Steve.*

*Bishop Macholz will be at Crossroads for worship leadership on February 9th and 10th!*

*Crossroads Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, March 10th after service.*

*Ash Wednesday Service – will be held at 12pm at Crossroads and 7pm at St. Paul's.*

*If you are responsible for anything for the Annual Reports, please get them to Katie by Sunday the 17th so that the Reports are ready for the 23rd and 24th. Thank you!*

## **Your Money at Work**

*Journey's End Refugee Services -*

*Friends, thank you once again. Your kind donation will go a long way towards supporting and empowering the world's most vulnerable people and ensuring the United States remains a nation of immigrants.*

*With gratitude, Karen M. Andolina Scott – Executive Director.*

*Family Promise of WNY –*

*On behalf of the families we serve, thank you for your generous donation to Family Promise of WNY. We are delighted to have your support! We cannot achieve our mission without you.*

*Sincerely, Luanne Firestone – Executive Director*

*Friends of Night People –*

*Thank you for your help. Each week we meet individuals who come to Friends of Night People for the first time. It is because of your kindness, they will not be hungry, forgotten or alone. We simply couldn't do it without you.*

*Sincerely, Joseph S. Heary- Executive Director*

*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America –*

*Thank you for your generous gift to the ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Your support makes a difference. Your generosity embodies God's grace by equipping leaders, positioning communities to grow, service those affected by disasters and spreading the good news of Christ's love far and wide. Your support empowers so much good work in Jesus' name – thank you.*

*With gratitude, Christina Jackson-Skelton – Executive Director, Mission Advancement*

**SNOW  
CLOSING**

**N CASE OF SNOW CLOSING  
TUNE IN TO CHANNELS 2 & 7**

# FEBRUARY 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Groups Using Crossroads Building:</b> AA Meetings: Tuesday & Thursdays 6-7pm in the Fellowship Hall Northside Writers: 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays 7-9pm in the Lounge St. John Board Meeting: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month 2-3pm in the Lounge (Sept.-June) Al-Anon Meetings: Saturdays 10-12pm in the Lounge Garden Nursery School: Basement & Stage (Sept.-June)					1	2
3  10:15 am Worship	4  10 am Bible Study	5	6	7  Sandwich Team	8	9  5 pm Worship 6 pm Youth Night
10 10:15 am Worship 12 pm – 4pm: The Hate you Give (movie for 9th – 12th graders)	11 10 am Bible Study	12	13	14  Sandwich Team	15	16  5pm Worship
17  10:15 am Worship	18  10 am Bible Study	19 12pm Birthday Luncheon at Mr. Bills	20	21  Sandwich Team	22	23  5 pm Worship
24  10:15 am Worship	25  10 am Bible Study	26	27	28  Sandwich Team		

Crossroads Lutheran Church  
4640 Main St  
Amherst, NY 14226

Address Correction Requested



**CARING FOR OTHERS, NEAR AND FAR,  
BECAUSE CHRIST CARES FOR US.**

## February 2019

4640 Main Street  
Amherst NY 14226-4593  
www.CrossroadsLutheranChurch.org  
Email: [CLC@crossroadslutheranchurch.org](mailto:CLC@crossroadslutheranchurch.org)  
(716) 839-1314  
(716) 839-1691 fax

Our Pastor: Rev. Adam Miller-Stubbendick  
[PastorAdam@crossroadslutheranchurch.org](mailto:PastorAdam@crossroadslutheranchurch.org)  
Our Vicar: Adam Arends  
[VicarAdam@crossroadslutheranchurch.org](mailto:VicarAdam@crossroadslutheranchurch.org)

### ***Won't You Join Us?***

Saturday worship	5 pm (Informal)
Sunday worship	10:15 am
Sunday School	9:15 am