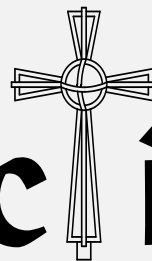


# Cross Connections



*St. Paul's Lutheran Church*

*May 2023*

## **Pentecost Sunday** **May 28, 2023**

Pentecost is one of the principal festivals of the liturgical year. Fifty days after Easter we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. It is observed in commemoration of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples in the form of rushing wind and flame, bringing God's presence to all people. Paul reminds us that though we each have different capacities, we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. Scripture tells us Peter was the preacher on that day, and 3,000 were baptized. The Spirit gathers the church together. It is the same Spirit that enlightens us by the word, calls us in baptism, and sanctifies us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God's redeeming love to all the world. Come, Holy Spirit!



The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor

The Rev. Amanda Highben, Associate Pastor, Duke Lutherans

Amanda Spangler, Vicar

Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor

Dr. Ted Turner, Minister of Music

Alan Rigsbee, Bookkeeper

Amanda Stoen, Preschool Director

The Rev. Dr. Charles R. Huggins, Pastor Emeritus

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## From the Pastor...

I looked out my window this morning and realized everything was green. Somehow in all the busy-ness of the last few weeks I missed spring arriving. It reminded me of how quickly things can change. Now I know that in one day the trees just didn't get green. They have been gradually growing. The trees are in the same place they have been for years and the Noah's Ark out my back window is filled with children in the morning and all alone in the afternoon. So, what caused me to notice? Frankly, I think it was the fact that we had the sanctuary painted this week, moved worship into Trinity Hall and changed. It caused me to notice change. It caused me to pay attention to the little things.

As we moved into Trinity for worship, I realized how much it takes to set up for worship. It made the staff search for things we hadn't used in quite a while. We always want to set an environment that is worshipful and has an ease of use, while being prudent with the cost and the amount of work required. That's all pretty easy in the sanctuary, but moving the sanctuary to the fellowship space required logistics. First we wanted to cover a table to the floor to make it appear altar like. However, we couldn't find any of the four floor length table cloths we used to have in inventory. Change. Things get moved, things get borrowed, and things disappear. I know that happens at your homes too.

Then we knew we wouldn't have access to hymnals and worship folders without a lot more work, so we adjusted and Susan produced full bulletins. Again change. I have to admit we debated this long and hard, because we knew that this change is one that people would love. It made worship so easy. But this change added 3 hours to the work week for Susan and to do this every week would add significant cost to an already stretched budget.

Now part of the reason I want to share this treatise on change is because we are trying to make it easier for those who would like a full bulletin. We do it for those home bound that watch us online. We produce a full bulletin in pdf format that anyone could print or upload to an ipad, kindle or tablet and bring to church with you. I know this isn't as easy as us producing them for everyone, but it is the best we are going to be able to offer.

I know we have had lots of changes since pandemic times. We will have a newly renovated worship space. We will continue to invite those worshipping with us online to come in person. We will adjust to smaller in person worship. We are a faith

filled people that are getting better at living with change. My prayer is that as the summer approaches and we make decisions on worship schedules and service formats that you all will always be comfortable as you share your thoughts and hopes and make adjustments to change.

Pastor Scott

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## From the Vicar...

In April, the Readers Group met to discuss Kaitlin Curtice's *Native: Identity, Belonging, and Rediscovering God*. Curtice is a citizen of the Potawatomi Nation, and in her first book she wrestles with what it means to be both white and Potawatomi, and how these identities intersect and clash within "Christianity. What I love most about this book is how she intersects story – hers, ours, and God's – to ask hard questions and abide with hard truths. She also grounds herself in land and water, in the sacredness of God's good creation as a source of life for us all. As someone who ran wild through my family's 40+ acres of land as a child, I appreciate her rootedness in land and story.

One of the things Native persons have asked of the ELCA in recent years is to have each expression of the church (congregation, synod, and Churchwide) ask hard questions, consider hard truths, and acknowledge where we are. To that end, I've written a land acknowledgement for St. Paul's Lutheran Church at its location here at 1200 W Cornwallis.

Land acknowledgements are an important tool for combating the systematic erasure of Native persons and tribes from our histories and from our collective consciousness. By using land acknowledgements, we aren't changing the world. We aren't undoing centuries of abuse, neglect, and genocide that Native populations have faced. We are making sure that they aren't forgotten. Whenever we remember the past, we remember those who have gone before us. Memory is important. So let us remember those who have gone before us in the place, and let us build the communion table wider. Let us recognize that in remembering, we acknowledge God's children at the table with us, children we may not have noticed before but whom we cannot fail to see when we take the time to acknowledge their presence.

"Let us begin by acknowledging the land upon which we gather today. This land has been playground and campground for many generations of people, including the Lumbee, Skaruhreh/Tuscarora, Cheraw, Catawba, Occaneechi, and Shakori Nations. Its

waterways were their highways, its flora and fauna their banquet table, its starry skies their canvas upon which their stories were painted. They cared for this land, and we remember their lives here with gratitude. We give thanks for all Indigenous peoples who continue to care for this land and to call it their home.”

In Christ,  
Vicar Amanda Spangler

### Preschool Pitter Patter

*by Amanda Stoen*



I Love You Rituals are delightful interactions and games that adults and children can play with children from infancy through eight years old. These interactions send the message of unconditional acceptance. Unconditional acceptance is love.

Unconditional love is something we all seek to find and hope to give.



This unconditional love is sent in “child language” through I Love You Rituals. It is sent in a game, in words, through touch, and it is sent repeatedly.



Delightful and cute as these activities are, they are designated to accomplish four goals. First, these activities are designed to increase your child’s attention span and cooperation. Second, they increase your child’s learning potential and effectiveness through touch. Third, I Love You Rituals create loving rituals that hold families

together even through the roughest times. Fourth, they strengthen the bond between adults and children, laying the foundation for mental and emotional health.

A favorite at the preschool is called Round and Round the Garden. Here’s how it goes: “Round and

round the garden goes the teddy bear.” While saying these words, gently hold your child’s hand and draw two circles on their hand with your pointer finger (or belly if an infant). “One step, two step, tickle under there.” Next walk your fingers up the child’s arm and give a gentle tickle under the child’s arm. These delightful interactions sprinkled throughout the day help to reduce conflict and increase cooperation with your child.

This month we are wrapping up another successful school year. We have had a wonderful year and it has been a joy to watch our families get to know each other throughout the year as both parents and children form lasting friendships. We will send another class of children off to kindergarten, ready to learn more about the world.

### Stephen Ministry

*by Nan Treul*

Last month, Bill Gresham and I traveled to Florida to visit his sister’s family, and several of my friends, who have retired to Florida. The trip was filled with good times and meaningful conversations with family and friends.

One visit, however, stands out in my mind, and I have thought of it every day since then.

We were visiting my mother’s 94 year old friend, Mary Ann. Mary Ann and her family had been neighbors to us when we lived in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in the 1950s. Mary Ann and my mother were best friends. When Mary Ann went back to teaching, her two children came over to our home every morning, and my mother would get them off to school. We went on vacations with Mary Ann’s family, and Mary Ann encouraged my mother to also become an elementary school teacher. Mary Ann and her husband eventually retired to Florida, and my parents visited them every winter.

My mother died 12 years ago of ALS, and I have stayed in touch with Mary Ann. Her husband died six years ago, and I have visited her at her beautiful home on a small lake, as well as sending her cards, gift baskets, and books. Two years ago, Mary Ann decided that she would move to assisted living, selling her home and her car. It was a lovely place, and she was happy there. However, this past October, Mary Ann fell and broke her pelvis. She had to go to a Rehabilitation Center until she could learn to get out of bed and walk again.

I called Mary Ann and told her that we were coming to visit her in March, and gave her the date.

She said that she was looking forward to our visit; we planned to celebrate her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday while we were there.

For the week prior to our arrival I repeatedly tried to reach Mary Ann on the phone, but had no success. I was concerned, and texted her son who told me that she often forgot to keep her phone charged, and sometimes forgot to turn it on! I sent her a card reminding her in writing of the date when we would visit.

On the day of the visit, I felt uneasy for some reason. I told Bill that I had a bad feeling about the visit. When we went into Mary Ann's room, my worst fears were confirmed. Mary Ann appeared small and shrunken in the big hospital bed, and appeared to be near death. I was sad and shocked! I went to talk to the nurse, and immediately realized that they would not give me any medical information about her unless I was her family. So I pretended to be her daughter, Chris, whom I have known since I was seven years old. Thinking that I was Mary Ann's daughter, the nurse confirmed that she was near death.

I then called Mary Ann's son and told him that she had only days or hours to live. He also was shocked. He knew that she was receiving hospice care, but had been told that she was doing "as well as could be as expected." Alan and his sister Chris did not know that she was near death.

I asked the nurse to make Mary Ann as comfortable as possible, and to administer morphine or some other equally powerful drug to take away her pain. The nurse assured me that Mary Ann would be started on stronger medications that afternoon. I went back into Mary Ann's room, and told her that her children loved her. I showed her photos of her home in our former neighborhood, and I told her about my last visit there. I was immensely sad that Mary Ann did not have the comfort of her family during her last few days. I called her best friend in Florida, and asked her to come and visit Mary Ann; Marilyn said that she would visit that afternoon.

Mary Ann died two days later; she was no longer in pain and ready to leave this world.

And why did I want to share this sad story with you? It makes my heart ache, and I'm not sure that it had to be so sad. I wish that Mary Ann's daughter and son could have been with her. At the same time, I realize that sometimes family doesn't live nearby, and visits may be impossible. I also thought that Mary Ann would be a perfect candidate to have a Stephen Minister (if her church had had a Stephen Minister program.)

A Stephen Minister will walk with a person while

they are experiencing a rough patch in their life. That rough patch could be a death, an illness, loneliness, or any type of a situation that would be improved by companionship and a listening ear. I am sad that Mary Ann did not know about the Stephen Ministry program, and that she did not have the comfort of having a Stephen Minister.

If you are experiencing a rough patch in your life, and would like to have a Stephen Minister visit you, I urge you to tell Pastor Scott, Kim Hoke, John Foreman, or me. Or, if you know someone in our congregation whom you believe could benefit from having a Stephen Minister, please let one of us know. A Stephen Minister is not a counselor and will not tell you what to do or give you advice. He or she will simply listen, ask questions, and be present to walk along with you during this chapter of life.

For me, experiencing this visit with Mary Ann was a shocking and sad experience. But it was also a powerful reminder of how a Stephen Minister can help and comfort us during some of life's most challenging situations.

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## *Ordination of Mac Mullins*



By the grace of God, Vr. Mac Mullins has been called as Pastor in Residency to St. Paul Lutheran Church Quad Cities in Davenport, IA. The residency program at St. Paul is a two-year term call in which new pastors receive one-on-one mentoring, professional development, and the chance to work in a large, established church at the beginning of their ministry. Vr. Mac's ordination will be held on Saturday, June 17, 2023 at 11:00 am at St. Paul's Durham. He will begin at St. Paul Quad Cities in mid-August. All members of St. Paul's Durham are invited to attend and celebrate with Vr. Mac. A very special thanks to the Internship Committee and everyone at St. Paul's who have supported Vr. Mac in his ministry!

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## *Memorials Received*

We received a memorial in memory of Jean Klausman by Margaret Keller of Durham, NC. We thank all who remember a loved one with a donation to the Memorials Fund. If you ever have questions about the Memorials Committee, please contact Steve Mzyk.

### Fiber Arts Groups

- ▶ The **Tongue and Thimble** group creates small quilts which are distributed to the nurseries at local hospitals for their critical patients. They meet downstairs in the Fiber Arts/Music room off of the Genesis Hall on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am - 12:00 noon. If you have an interest in sewing, please stop by and see what we are working on.
- ▶ The **Dropped Stitch Prayer Shawl Ministry** meets on the last Friday of the month at 1:00 pm in the sofa area of the atrium. This group creates prayer shawls by knitting or crochet. Come join in.

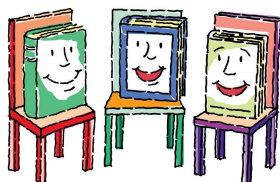
### 2023 Durham CROP Walk!

*by Megan Cunningham  
St. Paul's Team Captain*

I would like to say a big THANK YOU for your continued support with the Durham CROP Walk. Our congregation met and exceeded our 2023 goal of \$3,000 by raising **\$3,200**. It is with your help we are making an impact in the support to fight against hunger in Durham County and around the world.

### St. Paul's Readers May 18, at 3:00 pm

Please join us on Thursday, May 18, at 3 pm in Trinity Hall as Wendy Waugh leads our discussion



*St. Paul's Readers*

of *When Should Law Forgive?* by Martha Minow. This nonfiction work by an attorney explores strengthening the role of forgiveness in the administration of the law. In an age increasingly defined by accusation and resentment, there is room to examine cases where letting go of legitimate grievances can make the law more just, not less.

Crimes and violations of the law require punishment, and our legal system is set up to punish. But what if the system was recalibrated to also weigh grounds for forgiveness? Martha Minow explores the complicated intersection of law, justice and forgiveness, asking whether the law should encourage people to forgive, and when courts, public officials, and specific laws should forgive. Her eloquent, deeply researched argument focuses on three case studies, addressing foundational issues such as: Who has the right to forgive? Who should be forgiven? And under what terms?

St. Paul's Readers meets at 3 pm on the third Thursday of the month in Trinity Hall. Please consider participating even if you have not read the book – check us out! We welcome all readers – men and women. This May meeting is the last before our summer pause. Contact Katherine Trexler ([katherine.m.trexler@gmail.com](mailto:katherine.m.trexler@gmail.com)) with any questions. We hope to see you soon!

### Sign-Up Genius Links

Please visit the Sign-Up Genius links which we use to enable volunteers to fill in where needed, for both services. Click on the link and fill in your name on the date(s).



#### ◆ Sunday Worship

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-sunday1>

Sign up for: lector, worship assistant, and ushers. Staff will be glad to provide guidance for any of these tasks.

#### ◆ Sunday morning Communion Assistants and Lock-Up

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-communion>

#### ◆ Devotions –

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eabad28a3fd0-daily1>

Send your devotions to Vicar Amanda Spangler-[vicar@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:vicar@stpaulsdurham.org)

### Growing thru Grief

The meetings continue each week at St. Paul's. Meetings are on Tuesday, with registration at 4:00 pm. First time attendees must show proof of Covid vaccination and booster(s). Masks are encouraged. We ask people to come at 4; the program begins at 4:30, and all will end by 6.



On April 4 our spring "Introduction to Grief" series began with "Truth-Telling and Grief Companionship" which is being led by Katherine Henderson. This six-week series will be in dialogue with the book *It's OK that You're Not OK* by Megan Devine. Everyone is welcome. Please contact [admin@growingthrugrief.org](mailto:admin@growingthrugrief.org) if you have any questions.

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### Young In Spirit

- Young In Spirit activity for **May 10 at 11:30 am** will be St. Paul's resident art historian, Janet Seiz, sharing her insights to a work of art. Bring your own lunch and join us in Trinity hall.
- Baseball game, **Sunday, June 25 at 5:05 pm.** Syracuse Mets vs. Durham Bulls. Price is \$15.00 per ticket. **Please reserve your spot** and reimburse Redmans by May 14. (Redmans will be gone April 25 thru May 10).



### PASTA for PARKTOWN!! Help Stock the St. Paul's Shelf at Parktown Food Hub!

Please continue to add a package – or two – of dry pasta to your shopping cart to support this important community ministry and keep the St. Paul's Pasta Shelf well stocked. The Women's Connection Group is leading this initiative to support the Parktown Food Hub, a ministry of South Durham Connections, led by Pastor Sharon Schulze. **St. Paul's Shelf - dry boxed pasta** – spaghetti, macaroni, ziti, penne, etc. (NOT: kits or dinner, nor canned pasta entrees).

### Sunday School Classes A Musical Month!

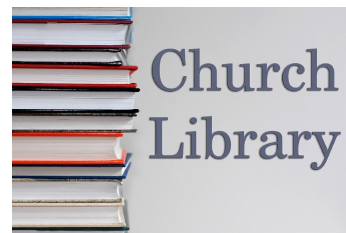
Here is the schedule of Sunday School sessions for adults during the month of May. We meet in Trinity Hall 9:45-10:45 am:

- ◆ May 7 – Early history of hymns
- ◆ May 14 – Latin hymns and Reformation hymns
- ◆ May 21 - English and German hymns – 16-17 centuries
- ◆ May 28 – English and German hymns – 17-19 centuries



### National Library Week was April 23-29, 2023

During this time, we wanted to celebrate all that libraries and librarians contribute to our society and promote the use and support of all libraries. We do not have a current on-site librarian and have missed some opportunities to focus on our Fowler Memorial Library at St. Paul's.



We invite you to show your love for our extensive church library by making a special library offering during National Library Week, or any time convenient for you. The funds we take in will comprise the library's total budget for the year of 2023. This will pay for magazine subscriptions, and the purchase of new books and journals. You may also donate money or materials in honor or in memory of a loved one's birthday, anniversary, etc.

The library also accepts donations of new or gently-used religious books for adults and children. As Martin Luther said, "No effort or expense should be spared to establish good libraries and depositories of books."

### GRADUATIONS!

It is that time of year where we would like to be made aware of and announce any and all graduations. This applies to all graduations -- college, and high school or other schools as well. You may also include any plans for after graduation. Please submit your information by emailing to Susan at [admin@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:admin@stpaulsdurham.org) or you may drop it in her mailbox in the reception office. All graduations will be printed in the June issue of Cross Connections.

