

Cross Connections



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

April 2023



PALM SUNDAY - APRIL 2, 2023

Worship will be at 8:30 and 11:00 am, gathering in the foyer to process with palms into the sanctuary. Both services will celebrate Holy Communion, the 11:00 am will be streamed and recorded for viewing on Vimeo.



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

- + **Maundy Thursday, April 6** – 12:00 noon Holy Communion and 7:00 pm Holy Communion and Foot Washing
- + **Good Friday, April 7** – 12:00 noon The Way of the Cross and 7:00 pm Tenebrae
- + **Vigil of Easter, April 8** – on Saturday at 7:00 pm



HOLY WEEK

EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 9, 2023

- + **We will have worship** at 8:30 and 11:00 am in the sanctuary, the 11:00 am will be streamed and recorded for viewing on Vimeo.
- + **Easter Breakfast** will take place at 9:30-10:30 am in Trinity Hall. If you are able to assist with the breakfast (setting up, cooking, clean up, etc.), please contact Susan Esposito.
- + **Easter Egg Hunt** for children begins at 10:15, gathering on the patio by the main entrance. Bring a basket to gather eggs from the playground and ark areas. You will keep the items from the eggs, return the plastic eggs and receive an Easter bag of treats.



The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor
Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor
Ted Turner, Minister of Music
Amanda Spangler, Vicar
Amanda Stoen, Preschool Director
Alan Rigsbee, Bookkeeper

The Rev. Amanda Highben, Associate Pastor, Duke Lutherans
The Rev. Dr. Charles R. Huggins, Pastor Emeritus

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

From the Pastor...

Spring has sprung and Easter will be here before you know it. We plan on all of the usual festivities for Easter Sunday morning. Two services, breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt for the children. But, we need children to find the eggs – so bring your grandkids, neighborhood friends, and all the families with young children you know. Of course – come yourselves and celebrate with us.



We are continuing to work on the 100th anniversary celebration for this year and if you'd like to help you can contact Maria Chi. Our kick-off event will be Sunday, April 30th with one worship service at 10 am and a celebratory meal following worship. We have

secured a harpist to play during lunch and we will offer a selection of wine with lunch. Former members (now pastors) Ann Sundberg and Kim Carlson will be preaching and presiding that Sunday.

We are looking for someone to sort through pictures from the congregation and put them in collections to be shown on the big screen TV on Sunday mornings and also during the luncheon on the 30th. If you are interested in helping with that, please notify the pastor, Maria Chi, or Susan Esposito.

Spring time is also time to do some cleaning and I am going to work with the reopening committee to set a date in the near future to do some cleaning and sorting of spaces around the church. So watch for an announcement and come and join in the fun of spring cleaning.

Easter season is also a time for renewal and rejoicing, so let us begin to invite members to participate in the work of committees and strive to support our congregation and community in many ways. There is always need and always opportunity. As a strong community of faith we can be a force for justice, peace and hope in Durham. Let's make Easter a season of hope and renewal.

Pastor Scott

From the Vicar...

As we begin our Easter season, living into the new life God promises us in our baptism, I hope you will take some time to think a bit about how God is calling you to new or renewed adventures in your own circles

of influence.

On March 26, Deacon Adrainne Gray, a dear sister and friend, will be among us. My hope is that she will engage us in a dialogue about who God calls us to be in baptism and the different ways we live that out in our contexts. She'll also have time to speak about what diaconal ministry is, and how all of us are called to *diakonia* (service) through our baptism, though some are called to engage in *diakonia* through public ministry among Church and world.

To support and follow up her time among us and the Duke Lutherans, I've created a six-part video series that you can view. Each part describes one of the five images diaconal people use to explain diaconal theology, as well as a short introduction. The six videos are

- a brief history of *diakonia*
- washing feet
- waiting tables
- telling the story
- bearing the light
- and tending the door

Video links can be found in our e-news blasts as well as on our Facebook page. As you engage these videos, I hope they will be a resource for you this Easter season, helping you to contemplate ways that you (metaphorically or otherwise) wash feet, wait tables, tell stories, bear the light, and tend the door.

As I continue my journey toward ordination to Word and Sacrament, I cherish my formation as a deaconess that has made me into the minister you encounter today. I am blessed to be part of a diaconal community that welcomes deaconesses who live out their call to service as Ministers of Word and Sacrament. This means I will always be a deaconess, even though I (hopefully!) will receive the honor and responsibility of being "pastor."

I am so excited to share this part of myself with you all!

Christ is risen! Alleluia!
Vicar Amanda Spangler

Duke Lutherans Worship in Duke Gardens + Blessing of Graduates



All are welcome to join the Duke Lutherans on Sunday, April 16, at 5:30 pm at the Fisher Amphitheater in Duke Gardens for our last Evening Prayer of the year. In addition to singing Holden

Evening Prayer, we will recognize and bless nine (yes, nine!) of our students who are graduating (2 undergrads, 3 master’s, 1 MDiv, and 3 PhDs). Then, join us after worship for a potluck dinner. Please let Pastor Amanda know if you can bring a dish or dessert to share (amanda.highben@duke.edu). This is a wonderful opportunity to worship together with our beloved students and wish our graduates Godspeed; we hope you’ll join us!

Preschool Pitter Patter

by Amanda Stoen



At preschool, we teach children to treat others as we wish to be treated. Teachers do this by modeling behavior and language to encourage children. Noticing children’s actions by saying “*You pushed your chair in so Sam could get by. That was helpful,*” helps children become



aware of their actions and how they impact others.

Noticing teaches children to become conscious of their words and actions and how those impact others. No two



people are alike and each person has the opportunity to contribute his/her unique talents to the success of the whole. We are all in this together, and together we can build a compassionate culture.

Additional examples that use noticing include: “*You picked up your toys so that Grandpa can walk safely in your room. That was helpful.*” “*You did it!*

You brought your dishes to the sink. Way to go!”

Did you know? We love field trips. Our threes and fours classes enjoy visiting local farms and other educational places during the school year. This year we

have had two centers come to us for a visit! In March, we met a turtle, a bunny and an owl and learned about their habitats, their food and their predators. Connecting our children to nature with field trips helps our children learn about the world around them and the many different types of animals that live in our world.

A Stephen Minister Story

A Steady Reminder of God’s Presence

Mark and I had been married 26 years. Our sons were 18 and 20. We loved being parents, but with our younger son graduating high school, we were eagerly anticipating the empty nest and having more time for each other.



In the fall, when our younger son started college, Mark began having stomach issues and back pain, which would linger for a few days and then disappear, only to reappear later. He also developed a cough. When his doctor ordered an MRI, the results were devastating – stage IV pancreatic cancer, already in his liver and both lungs. Mark was only 53.

Our lives were turned upside down. I suddenly found myself trying to provide emotional support to Mark and our sons during the worst experience any of us had ever endured. I wanted and needed to keep myself together to focus on caring for Mark, but I was emotionally drained – full of sadness and terrified of what the future held. I had always been a “take responsibility for everything myself” kind of person. However, I knew I couldn’t do this alone.

I talked to my pastor about it, and she suggested matching me with a Stephen Minister. I agreed, and less than two weeks after Mark was diagnosed, my Stephen Minister came for the first of her weekly visits. It’s difficult to convey how important this Stephen Ministry relationship was for me.

Our pastor was wonderful, and we had an amazing amount of support from many other people, but the time I spent with my Stephen Minister was the only time in the week when I could truly focus on my own needs. She was there just for me. My Stephen Minister let me know that, while she was very concerned for Mark, her role was to be my support – to listen and help me process what I was feeling and going through, without giving advice or telling me what to do.

The consistency of our Stephen Ministry relationship was crucial in helping me cope. Her weekly visits became an anchor in my life – something I could rely on when everything else was so uncertain.

She was a steady reminder of God’s presence, helping me know I was never alone. The time I spent with my Stephen Minister was the only time in the week when I could truly focus on my own needs. She was there just for me.

Although Mark and I chose to talk publicly about his condition, my Stephen Ministry relationship was completely confidential. I knew I could share anything with her, and that’s where it would stay. Mark’s illness progressed rapidly – ten weeks of treatment, followed by six weeks of hospice, and then his passing.

My needs changed as I went from being a wife to being a caregiver to being a grieving widow and dealing with everything that the loss of a spouse entails. Through it all, my Stephen Minister’s love and support continued.

She was there for me at every stage of my journey. It was never easy, but my Stephen Minister helped me through the most difficult moments of my life. I really can’t say enough about how much I appreciate my church’s Stephen Ministry.

The compassionate, consistent, and confidential support of my Stephen Minister was so important in helping me cope – and then begin to heal.

Her weekly visits became an anchor in my life – something I could rely on when everything else was so uncertain. She was a steady reminder of God’s presence, helping me know I was never alone.

Stephen Ministry is a lay caring ministry being used in over 12,000 congregations across the US, Canada, and 29 other countries. It provides one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people experiencing grief, divorce, major illness, loneliness, financial stress, and other life difficulties.

To request a Stephen minister, contact Pastor Scott, Kim Hoke, or John Foreman.



Memorials Received

We have recently received memorials with the following dedications. Thank you.

- ❖ In memory of Juli Keller McKinney by Penni Perrotte, Durham
- ❖ In memory of Jean Klausman by:
Philip and Sally Hart, Durham
Gus Holshouser, Durham
Rachel Harter, Chapel Hill
Dean and Marcia Redman, Chapel Hill

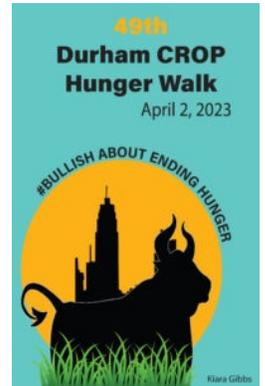


We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of Jean Klausman, who died on February 20, 2023. Her funeral service was

held at St. Paul’s on Thursday, March 16 at 1:00 pm with interment in the Columbarium immediately after. Memorials can be made to St. Paul’s Memorials Fund.

**The Durham CROP Hunger Walk
Sunday, April 2, 2023.**

The CROP Hunger Walk is a family-friendly walk that links the Durham community together in solidarity with our neighbors all around the world who have to walk long distances daily for food and water. Funds raised from the walk provide food and other resources for families in Durham and across the globe. This will be an in-person, outdoor Walk on April 2, 2023.



- 1:30 pm – Registration, Music, Greetings, Global Village Activities
 - 2:30 pm – Walk Starts in front of Duke Chapel
- You can make contributions to Durham CROP Hunger Walk securely on-line at this site:
<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/event/durhamnc>

You can search for a specific walker or team you would like to support with your donation. There is also an option to make a general donation in support of the 2023 Durham CROP Hunger Walk. You may also link directly to Megan Cunningham who is the team leader for St. Paul’s at this link:
<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/megan-cunningham-3>

Let’s see if we can top our \$3,000 giving from 2022! Help out by walking, seeking sponsors, or giving to help others!

Child Care on Sunday mornings!

We have an attendant, Courtney Rosenstein, on Sunday mornings who will care for your small children so parents and older children may attend Sunday School and worship. She is available during the 8:30 service through the 11:00 service. Care will take place in the Parlor which is the room between the atrium and Whitesell Fellowship Hall.

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).

Do you sew? Crochet? Knit?

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 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am - 12:00 noon. If you have an interest in sewing, please stop by.

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 the group.

Do you have Thrivent Choice Dollars?

The Thrivent Choice program encourages eligible Thrivent Financial members to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes its charitable grant funds. In 2022, St. Paul's received \$1,014 in Thrivent Choice Dollars. To direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars to St. Paul's, Duke Lutherans, or other qualified nonprofit, log on to Thrivent (<https://www.thrivent.com/>) and click on Get Involved and Thrivent Choice -- Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars to select the recipient of your Thrivent Choice Dollars. Or call Thrivent at 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" when prompted.

Join us at the 8:30 am service for music time with Ted Turner, our minister of music. Following the children's message, all children (and parents) are invited to come sing songs and have some fun in Whitesell hall. They will return to the service after the sermon to continue worship.

St. Paul's Readers Meeting Thursday, April 20 at 3:00 pm

We invite all readers to join us as we discuss *Native* by Kaitlin Curtice. This book explores identity, soul-searching, and the never-ending journey of finding ourselves and finding God. As both a member of the Potawatomi Nation and a Christian, the author writes of how reconnecting with her Native American roots both informs and challenges her Christian faith. Our meeting will be held on Thursday, April 20, at 3 pm in the Library. Vicar Amanda Spangler will lead the discussion.



St. Paul's Readers

Drawing on the narrative of her personal journey and the poetry, imagery, and stories of the Potawatomi people, Curtice addresses themes at the forefront of today's discussions of faith and culture, doing so in a

positive and constructive way. She encourages us to embrace our own origins and to share and listen to each other's stories so we can build a more inclusive and diverse future for the church. As Curtice shares what it means to experience her faith through the lens of her Indigenous heritage, she reveals that a vibrant spirituality has its origins in identity, belonging, and a sense of place.

Please consider participating in our monthly meetings (3rd Thursdays at 3 pm). We welcome all readers – men and women! Even if you have not read the book, we would love for you to come check us out. Please contact Katherine Trexler (katherine.m.trexler@gmail.com) with any questions. We hope to see you soon!



"I put in a jelly bean for pastor."

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Adult Sunday School Topics

Come join us at 9:45-10:45 am in Trinity Hall on the following Sundays for discussion, coffee available.

- ▶ Apr 2 Gospels: Luke and John
- ▶ Apr 9 no class – Easter Breakfast served!
- ▶ Apr 16 Acts and Paul's Journeys
- ▶ Apr 23 Early History of NC Lutherans
- ▶ Apr 30 no class – 100 year Celebration Event

Young In Spirit

The Young In Spirit group will meet on Wednesday, April 12 at 11:30 am in Trinity Hall for game time and pizza lunch. If you have a favorite table game, bring it along to share.



Table games for large group play will be available.

Young In Spirit activity for May 10 will be St. Paul's resident art historian, Janet Seiz, sharing her insights to a work of art.

Watch for information coming soon about a Sunday baseball game in June.

Habitat Work Crew

St. Paul's has a Habitat Work Crew and you are invited to join them! Morris Casper is our contact person and coordinator. The best way to reach him is by email: mcasper913@gmail.com Our work dates are: April 22, May 13, and June 10. All genders are welcome.

Growing Thru Grief

The Growing thru Grief 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 begins. "Truth-Telling and Grief Companionship" will be 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 if you have any questions.



Caring Tree

Have you taken the opportunity to chose a name from the Caring Tree and send a note or card to connect with a church friend? It's a St. Paul's connection to St. Paul's brothers and sisters

in Christ. Make someone's day! Let them know they are thought about and cared for! There are still items available in the basket "tree" that can be sent to someone. The goal is to connect, nurture, and care for the family of St. Paul's.

The Caring Tree will soon be removed so that pictures of St. Paul's history through the years can begin to be displayed in preparation of the 100th anniversary.

Nurturing Committee



Put Sunday, April 30 on your calendar! We will be celebrating 100 years of St. Paul's Lutheran Church!

There will be one worship service at 10:00 am in which we will welcome to the pulpit our former members who are now pastors in their own churches: Ann Sundberg and Kim Carlson. After worship we will have a grand luncheon. Contact Pastor Scott, Maria Chi, or Susan Esposito if you can help with photo scanning for our media presentations, or contact Martha Dahl if you can help with luncheon preparation, serving, or cleanup.