

# Cross Connections



*St. Paul's Lutheran Church*

*September 2023*



**Sunday, September 10, 2023**

**9:45 - 10:45 am in Trinity Hall**

Join us for some brunch treats as we prepare for a new year of insightful conversations and discovering answers to questions you may be pondering. Here is the exciting schedule of topics and lessons for adults to look forward to.

Sept 17 – Ask the Pastor, lead by Pastor Scott

Sept 24 – Church World Services, lead by Madison Burke

Oct 1 – Diaconal Life and Services – lead by Bill Dahl

Oct 8 – The Psalms part 1 (History and background information) – lead by Megan Cunningham

Oct 15 – The Psalms part 2 (Christ in the Psalms) – lead by Megan Cunningham

Oct 29 – Reformation Sunday – NO Sunday School – more information to come

Nov 5 – All Saint Sundays and Growing thru Grief – lead by Jan Huntley

Nov 12 – Duke Lutherans – lead by Pastor Amanda Highbend and Cindy Snyder

Nov 19 – More information coming soon

Nov 26 – Music of Advent – Information provided by Tom Kraska and Jim Klausman, lead by Megan Cunningham

Please reach out to Megan Cunningham if you have any questions about Adult Sunday School or want to lead an upcoming Sunday in the spring.



Children's Sunday School will begin on September 17 in the Genesis Room downstairs, 9:45-10:45 am. Leaders are Betty Hinshaw and Carole Ostrowski. Please consider lending some time to assist with the morning sessions. Contact Betty or Carole or visit with them on Rally Day to see where you can help.

The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor

The Rev. Amanda Highben, Associate Pastor, Duke Lutherans

Gina Schaefer, 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

[pastor@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:pastor@stpaulsdurham.org)

[amanda.highben@duke.edu](mailto:amanda.highben@duke.edu)

[vicar@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:vicar@stpaulsdurham.org)

[admin@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:admin@stpaulsdurham.org)

[music@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:music@stpaulsdurham.org)

[bookkeeper@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:bookkeeper@stpaulsdurham.org)

[preschool@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:preschool@stpaulsdurham.org)

[crhugg@charter.net](mailto:crhugg@charter.net)

Church Office Phone: 919-489-3214 \* Fax: 919-490-1088 \* Website: [www.stpaulsdurham.org](http://www.stpaulsdurham.org)

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

## *From the Pastor...*

Hurray, it is September! It is the time of year that we get excited about restarting Sunday School, resuming monthly meals together, Duke Lutherans resuming regular activity, beginning the fall stewardship campaign, asking members to begin thinking about serving on council, and participating in the annual Durham Pride Festival.

We will also be celebrating the marriage of Christina Nesslage and Shawn Allred on Labor Day weekend.

We have a great schedule of adult Sunday school topics and Betty and Carol are still looking for some help with the children. In addition, we plan to get our high school youth together more regularly. Megan Cunningham and Joan Albright are working with almost a dozen young people to plan continued confirmation classes, youth activities and planning for the national youth gathering.

The national youth gathering will be in July of 2024 but registration is open this month. We are anticipating the need for over \$12,000 for this trip. So, be prepared to help the cause.

Pride Festival is September 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will be setting up at 8 am with the festival beginning at 10 am. I would like some help in planning the event and we need 5-6 people to attend most of the day. Plan to bring a bag lunch and something to drink. Vendors at the event are usually overwhelmed and food lines are long. Contact me if you are able to help.

Amanda Anderson is gearing up to restart the Urban Ministry meal assistance ministry. There will be announcements soon about our next date. We need 4-6 people on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month to help serve a meal at the Urban Ministry location. See Amanda for information.

Joan Pepper is reforming the Social Ministry Committee and lots of activity is planned, so please watch for information from this Committee.

Refugee resettlement continues to need assistance. Contact Morris Casper.

Lots of good things are happening at St. Paul's, so come and join the fun!

*Pastor Scott*

---

## *Greetings, friends at St. Paul's,*

It's been a whirlwind of a week! And I'm not just talking about the storm that knocked out power in the church... I officially started my time among you on Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup> and have begun to settle into my new role as Vicar here at St. Paul's. My books are on

the shelves in my office, the printer is working for me, and I'm just beginning to learn names and faces. Now begins the work!

In the next couple weeks, I hope to: sit in on the various meetings and committees of the church; start visitations to members who are in need of communion and conversation; and continue to learn the ins-and-outs of worship, life, and ministry here. I am also in conversation with Amanda Stoen as we prepare for chapel time when the preschool starts in September.

I'm extremely grateful and cannot say 'thank you' enough for your hospitality. Not only have you greeted me with warm smiles and kindness, but you have all been very generous. I have received many gift cards, cleaning supplies, and other useful items through the 'Pound the Vicar' drive, as well as many greeting cards and emails offering me words of support.

I can tell that this is a church that cares about its Vicar! And that care has been very meaningful to me. I can see how God's spirit has moved you into this ministry as a teaching congregation.

As a more personal update, I have successfully moved and settled into my new home. I am pleased to announce – for those who read my introduction article – that I have adopted a cat! Her name is Forest and she is a long-haired tabby (explaining the cat hairs you will now no doubt notice on my clothes). She's a very loving cat who likes to cuddle and follow me around the house. Please ask me to show you her picture, as I will *gladly* do so.

Peace and Blessings to you,  
Vicar Gina Schaefer

---

## **Announcing a NEW Duke Lutherans Home + Back-to-School Appeal**

Greetings St. Paul's family,

As I write this, new students are arriving, orientation has begun, and the first day of the new year is August 28! We are so excited!

**And we are especially thrilled to officially announce the opening of the Duke Lutherans Center (or DLC) at Grace Lutheran Church!**

Located just a block from East Campus and with its own separate entrance, the DLC will be a warm and welcoming space to worship on Sunday nights, gather for meals, meet for coffee, study, play games, watch a movie (or Duke basketball!), and simply rest and relax.

We also believe that the DLC will provide new opportunities for us to deepen in community together with our beloved siblings in Christ at St. Paul's and Grace.

Having a dedicated space to call your own is essential to building a thriving campus ministry community, and we pray God will bless our new life together at the DLC.



**Duke Lutherans**  
*Called to life together*

**Back-to-School Appeal**  
**Aug 18 - Sept 15**

Join us as we start a new year with new and returning students, sharing new opportunities to grow in God's gift of life together and building community in a NEW place for the Duke Lutherans to call home!

"I am creating something new. There it is! Do you see it?"  
Isaiah 43:19

**With so much that is new, we're also excited to kick-off our Back-to-School Appeal! Now through September 15, you can support us as we prepare to welcome our new and returning Duke Lutherans.**

Your gifts enable us to host our community-building events – like the DLC open house and cookout on August 27, weekly fellowship lunches on campus, and our fall break beach retreat – while also providing for ministry needs like care packages, campus signs and postcards, new Duke Lutherans t-shirts, and pastoral care coffee and meal visits with students.

It's simple to support us!

- ▶ Visit [www.gifts.duke.edu](http://www.gifts.duke.edu) (type "Duke Lutherans" in the search box) to make a secure donation through Duke.
- ▶ Or make your check payable to Duke Lutherans (with Back-to-School Appeal in the memo line) and mail it to the Duke Lutherans at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1200 W Cornwallis Rd, Durham NC 27705

Thank you so much for supporting our Back-to-School Appeal and for everything you do for the Duke Lutherans in the name of God's always abundant, always new love!

Peace and Grace,  
Pastor Amanda (612-418-4192)  
[amanda.highben@duke.edu](mailto:amanda.highben@duke.edu)

## Pub Theology Durham: All are Welcome at the Table



As Pub Theology made its happy return this summer, it's been wonderful to come together again to share



our lives and stories with open hearts and minds. Featuring thus far the topics of **Faith + Rest, Faith + Church, and Faith + Film**, Pub

Theology fosters thoughtful conversation and community-building by engaging with people of diverse traditions, perspectives, and life experiences.

In our polarized world, we believe such dialogue is not only welcomed, but vital. We meet the third Thursday of each month from 7-8:30 pm at Der Nachbar (4916 Hillsborough Rd, Durham). Join us next on September 21 (we'll announce the topic soon). No RSVP needed and all are welcome ... whether you're a Duke Lutheran, church or community member, or simply seeking good community and conversation! Questions? Contact Pastor Amanda (612-418-4192, [amanda.highben@duke.edu](mailto:amanda.highben@duke.edu)).

## Update on our Refugee Family

*by Morris Casper*



### REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

Currently, I am happy to report that our family, the Safis, are doing quite well. The oldest child, Sher Wali Safi, has enrolled in Durham Technical Community College. The remaining children are either in public school or being tutored in English at home by some of our volunteers. The new baby is thriving. The father, Gul Wali Safi is now working a day shift. We are awaiting news about when the family will get its permanent visas.

We thank everyone for a great response to our request for a TV and sewing machine. Both have been donated to the family.

In the October Cross Connections, we will give you a full report.

### Preschool Pitter Patter

by Amanda Stoen



This month we welcome our new and returning families to the preschool to start an incredible new school year. We continue offering six classes among our four classrooms, with about 50 children enrolled. Our school year begins on Tuesday, September 5! Children attending the preschool range in age from 10 months through four years old. We ask that you pray for us as we begin the school year and continue in our care of God’s children.

We are very fortunate at St. Paul’s to have so many outside spaces to use. The preschool staff continues to learn new ways to immerse the children in learning while outside. Teachers incorporate brain development and learning with math, science, art and language while in these different spaces. Children have more space to move their bodies and create a joyful connection to the natural world. They connect their gross and fine motor skills when

they scoop, push, pull and pour materials. We welcome and encourage them to get messy!

We appreciate all of the support from St. Paul’s members. One easy way you can support the preschool is by linking your Harris Teeter VIC card. When you link your card to St. Paul’s Preschool & PMO, we will receive a portion of your purchases from Harris Teeter. The Harris Teeter account number is **3049**. You can link in any store or online and you do not need to be a preschool parent to link your card. Thank you for your support of the preschool!

### Council Corner

by Maria Chi, President

As September rolls around and Rally Day approaches, we’d like to tell you about one of the Council’s initiatives during 2023. As we emerge from the pandemic, one of Council’s initiatives has been to re-design the ways that we connect with the many groups of our congregation. We started with our mission statement: *“The mission of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church as part of the family of God is to share God in Christ with the world by equipping one another through worship, learning, witness, service, and support.”*

Rather than assign individual Council members as liaisons with specific committees, the new structure groups all committees and groups into one of the five ministry areas: Worship, Learning, Witness, Service, and Support. Council members are assigned to each area and have tried to meet with committees/groups within their area over the past summer. If you have a concern or question you would like brought to the attention of Council, please reach out to these Council members:

**Worship:** Joan Albright and Katie Benjamin

- Altar Guild, Music, Worship Assistants (including lectors, ushers, communion assistants), Worship Arts

**Learning:** Bee Ellertson and Emily Pauline

- Christian Education (including adult, youth and children), Sunday School, Duke Lutherans, Internship, Pre-School

**Witness:** Jayce Getz and Megan Cunningham

- Social Ministry, Evangelism, Caring for Creation

**Service:** Maria Chi

- Fellowship

**Support:** Jim Klausman and Tim Hoke

- Finance, Memorials, Stewardship, Property, Communications, Mutual Ministry

Please keep in mind that some of these names will change, as three members rotate off of Council in December, and three new Council members join in January.

### Memorials Received

Memorials have been received in memory of the following people:

- Sally Midyette by John and Jane Hurlburt, Durham
- Ted and Naomi Watson by Gus Holshouser, Durham
- Neema Kitange, Durham

## Growing thru Grief

### Fall Series

“The Questions of Grief” is the theme of the Growing thru Grief Fall Series, led by Margaret Albert from Duke Hospice and Bereavement Services. Since grieving is often



a process of self-discovery, this six-week series explores the questions that arise when we experience a significant loss – questions that may not be easy to answer. By exploring grief from different perspectives and asking difficult questions, we may gain new insights into our unique experience, learn more about the changes we see in ourselves and discover how to navigate adapting to life after loss.

### Margaret Albert, LCMHC, NCC

After leaving a 30-year career in communications, Margaret now specializes in supporting people who are grieving a loss. She has served as a bereavement counselor with Duke Hospice Bereavement Services for more than seven years, during which time she also provided mental health counseling to individuals of all ages through in-home therapy and mental health private practice. Her counseling career includes organizing and facilitating support groups, developing and presenting workshops and creating educational opportunities to train hospice staff. Margaret holds a master’s degree in mental health counseling from North Carolina Central University, and she is a nationally board-certified counselor.

### Topic: The Questions of Grief

#### Sept. 5: What does grief look like?

Our grief seeps into every part of who we are as human beings, and we will explore all of those areas in order to get a better sense of what grief looks like in ourselves.

#### Sept. 12: How long does grief last?

It can be confusing and scary to see changes in ourselves, and we often wonder if we will always be this way following our loss. In this segment, we will explore the different dimensions of grief, internally and externally, to offer insights into our own experience.

#### Sept 19: Why is grieving so hard?

We will look at messages we receive when we are mourning, expectations, social norms and secondary losses. During this segment, we explore how past losses, trauma and unresolved issues

influence our experience of grief.

#### Sept 26: Who am I now?

When we lose someone who is significant to us to death, it can cause our sense of self to be shaken. We may question our identity and how we see ourselves and our place in the world. During this segment, we explore why we may feel so lost and how we might discover who we are now.

#### Oct 3: How do I find a way through grief?

We explore intentional ways to be active participants in grieving and develop a support system to sustain us through mourning. During this segment, we consider the importance of support from others, the practice of self-care and rituals.

#### Oct 10: What does the future look like?

During this segment, we look at the relationship of being loss-focused versus restoration-focused in our grief, and we reflect on what we have learned in our grief and identify possibilities for living as we move forward.

Growing thru Grief meets each Tuesday, at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, 1200 W Cornwallis from 4-6 pm. We are a coalition of Triangle area religious and civic organizations to offer ongoing support and education to those who mourn. This program combines speakers with small group discussion. All are welcome. For more information, visit [www.growingthrugrief.org](http://www.growingthrugrief.org).

### In the mailbag...

To the Congregation of St. Paul’s,

*I want to thank everyone for their sharing of cards, visits, and food while I have been*

*recuperating. I am extremely grateful for the outpouring of care and assistance – Thank you!*

*Jim Shoaf*



### Our sympathy

We offer our prayers of thanks to God for the lives of Theodore Watson (February 15, 1926 - March 24, 2020) and Naomi Watson (September 19, 1929 - July 28, 2023).

A funeral service and interment was held on Friday, August 11, 2023 at 11:00 am at St. Paul’s for both Ted and Naomi. Memorials may be made to St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Memorial Fund.



### Time to Update!

It is time again to bring us up to date on our current pictorial directory. To help us – please submit a photograph of you/your family. It does not have to be a professional photo – many of you probably already have selfies and vacation photos handy on your phone. You may send it to Susan Esposito at [admin@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:admin@stpaulsdurham.org) and it will be uploaded into your family profile. You are also reminded to make any changes, such as address, email address, birthdays, anniversary, phone numbers – at the same time.

You can get the latest directory on your smart phone app “Instant Church Directory.” As changes occur, the updates are made in the church office and are instantly updated on your app when you use it. Instructions for Android and Apple phones are available on the credenza below the TV monitor in the Atrium.

### What is Your Name?

We have just received several new members and have a new vicar with us. This is a great time to get back in the habit of wearing your nametags for all to become familiar with putting names and faces together. If you are missing your nametag from the board, drop a note in the offering plate or an email to Susan at [admin@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:admin@stpaulsdurham.org). We will be happy to replace it.



### 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 ongoing 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).

### Sewing/Knitting/Crochet Ministries



The **Tongue and Thimble** group creates small quilts which are distributed to the local hospitals for their youngest 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 wish to make a contribution so they can purchase batting for their quilts, you may do so at anytime, using “Fiber Arts” in the subject line on your check or notification.

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, next time is Friday, September 29.



### Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at 6:00 pm

This is the next date for our Wednesday Night Supper taking place in Trinity Hall. Menu will be announced as we get closer to the date. If you would like to help with any of the Wednesday meals, please contact Martha Dahl at [mjdahlhouse@gmail.com](mailto:mjdahlhouse@gmail.com) or 847-612-6687.



### Altar Flowers

If you would like to make a recognition through a request for Altar Flowers, please stop by the credenza under the TV monitor in the atrium. Sign up for the day(s) you would like to request, pick up an envelope and form in the lower box and turn in your request form(s) which should indicate your announcement for the bulletin, and payment (\$40) at least one week in advance. If you have any questions, speak with a staff person. You can also find altar flower requests on our website (stpaulsdurham.org) and look for "forms". You are welcome to print those out and send them in with your payment for any weeks you choose.



### Sunday Worship

We will continue worshipping at 8:30 and 11:00 am through Sunday, September 3. The 8:30 worship will be using "Now the Feast and Celebration" worship books, and the 11:00 will continue to use the Setting Five booklets from the ELW.



On Sunday, September 10, which is also Rally Day, we will continue with two services at 8:30 and 11:00 am but are starting to use **Setting 10** on that day for both services.

The 8:30 worship will continue to be in-person only, the 11:00 service will be in-person, live-streamed, and recorded.

### St. Paul's Music Ministry

Music ensembles are starting back up at St. Paul's! Rehearsals begin Wednesday, August 30. Handbell rehearsal will be in the choir loft from 6:30-7:15 pm, and choir rehearsal is in Whitesell Hall and runs from 7:15-8:30 pm. For any questions or concerns, please contact music director, Ted Turner, at [music@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:music@stpaulsdurham.org).



### Croasdaile Worship

The Croasdaile worship this month will be Thursday, September 28, the Fourth Thursday of the month, at 2:00 pm. All are welcome to come.

### Shredded Paper

Do you machine shred your documents and papers? If so, we have another way to help the Parktown Food Hub. They use shredded paper in their compost piles and it takes quite a bit. St. Paul's will accept closed bags of shredded paper **only on the first Sunday of the month**. The program will be evaluated every month to see how it is going and if they need as much in the cooler months. So, if you have some, bring it by **Sunday, September 3**.

### Thursday Morning Bible Study



Beginning Thursday, September 7, the new topic for the Bible Study will be Galatians! They meet on Thursdays at 10:30-11:45 am in the Conference Room and by Zoom. Study notes will be emailed before the meeting. Here is the Zoom link information for the Bible Study class.

Topic: **Pastor's Bible Study**

Time: 10:30 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82845097165?pwd=YWEydlI0lTmQvTXVPaFJwYi9SZkFVQT09>

Meeting ID: 828 4509 7165

Passcode: 165276

### Social Ministries Committee – Come Join the RE-FORMATION!

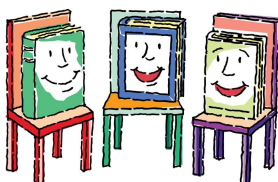
Following the July 16<sup>th</sup> Social Ministries summit, the Social Ministries Committee has begun a rebuilding phase. Our initial goals are threefold: 1) to strengthen support for existing St. Paul's outreach ministries, 2) to explore options for expanding St. Paul's outreach ministry opportunities, and 3) to educate ourselves as a congregation about the most pressing needs faced by our Durham community.

We welcome you to become a part of this committee... especially if you have a passion for serving others and/or are already involved in an outreach ministry, either through an ongoing St. Paul's outreach opportunity or independently in the community. We want and need your voice and experience at the table! If you are interested in serving with this committee, please contact either Joan Pepper or Pastor Scott. Next meeting is Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. We will be sharing updates and upcoming opportunities for service on Rally Day (Sept. 10) – see you then!

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

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

### St. Paul's Readers Resumes September 21 at 3 pm



St. Paul's Readers

Calling all book lovers to join us for one of or all of our fall meetings! Our September selection is *Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes, translated by Edith Grossman. This epic Spanish novel plot revolves around the

adventures of an hidalgo of the lowest nobility. He either loses or pretends to have lost his mind so that he may become a romantic knight, revive chivalry, and serve his nation. The simple farmer recruited to serve as his squire often employs an earthy wit and droll realism to deal with Don Quixote's imagination and idealism – resulting in a knightly tale for the annals of time. Tim Hoke will lead our discussion.

Books for the remainder of the year are: *Judas* by Amos Oz on October 19 and *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks on November 16.

Our meetings are held in Trinity Hall on the third Thursday of most months at 3 pm. It is an informal gathering to talk about our book for the month, led by a facilitator. We try to select books from different genres to stretch our horizons, as well as to appeal to diverse readers. The reading list for 2024 will be selected in October; we invite your input.

Please consider joining us. We'd love to see you at our September meeting. For questions or more information, please contact Katherine Trexler at [katherine.m.trexler@gmail.com](mailto:katherine.m.trexler@gmail.com).

### Duke Lutherans Sunday Night Dinners: Help to Feed Students' Bodies and Spirits!



Did you know that one of the best ways to support the Duke Lutherans while getting to know our students better is by joining us on Sunday nights for Evening Prayer and Fellowship Dinner? Helping to prepare and serve the meal is a

tangible way to share Jesus' love, and we promise you'll also have a wonderful time!

Even better, it's easy to serve this year because we'll be gathering at our brand-new Duke Lutherans Center at Grace Lutheran Church (824 N. Buchanan Blvd). Plenty of free parking is available in Grace's parking lot and the kitchen is just down the hallway.

Dinner is at 6:30, but we ask that you arrive by 5:15 so that we might help to set up the meal; you can then join us for worship at 5:30, followed by dinner. You provide the food and beverages; we provide plates, cups, utensils, napkins, and the hungry appetites! Examples of meals we love include tacos, pasta, chili, fried chicken, baked potato bar...or anything really! (There are plenty of outlets for crockpots.) A few sides (such as salad and fruit) and dessert are welcome too. We average between 15-20 students.

The available dates are listed below. Please sign-up here with our Signup Genius link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054AABAB2EA4FB6-duke2>

**Available Dates:** Sept 10, 17, 24; Oct 1, 8, 22, 29; Nov 5, 12, 19; Dec 10, 17.

Thank you so much for sharing in this ministry of love and grace!

Pastor Amanda Highben (612-418-4192)  
[amanda.highben@duke.edu](mailto:amanda.highben@duke.edu)

### The Revelations of Julian of Norwich

Come to a bible study led by Vicar Gina Schaefer starting Sept 28 and continuing to Nov 16. We will meet every Thursday at 6 pm in the Conference Room, in person and online. Explore the "Revelations of Divine Love" by Julian of Norwich, a church mystic and teacher from the Middle Ages. Her beautiful and compassionate writing reveals God's love for us and creation, and invites us to contemplate the mystery of the divine.

