


# Cross Connections



*St. Paul's Lutheran Church*

*November 2021*




Celebrate  
Reformation Sunday  
with the  
Duke Lutherans!

October 31,  
2021  
6:30 pm

Rev. Dr. Mary Hinkle Shore  
preaching

York Room (Div School) & via Zoom

#dukелutherans #lifetogether #bygracethroughfaith



## Celebrate Reformation Sunday with the Duke Lutherans!

This Reformation Sunday, October 31, at 6:30 p.m. the Duke Lutherans are hosting a special Evening Prayer service and inviting members of our beloved partner congregations, Grace and St. Paul's, to join us.

This night is an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for our shared Lutheran heritage, while also asking God to continue to bless and sustain Lutheran Campus Ministry at Duke. Dr. Mary Hinkle Shore, the Dean of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, will preach and the Duke Lutherans will help to lead the service.

You can either join us in-person in the York Room (Div School, Gray building 2nd floor, masks required) or via

Zoom: <https://duke.zoom.us/j/95489129301>

Please RSVP to Pastor Amanda ([amanda.highben@duke.edu](mailto:amanda.highben@duke.edu), 612-418-4192) by October 27 so that we know how many folks to expect in-person. Parking is available in the Bryan Center parking garage (just a short walk from the Divinity School). Contact Pastor Amanda too if you have any questions or need help with directions.

We hope you'll join us on October 31 so that together as the Body of Christ we might express our love and support for the Duke Lutherans and give thanks for God's abundant grace shown to us in Jesus.

Peace, Pastor Amanda Highben, Campus Pastor



Dr. Mary Hinkle Shore

The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor

Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor

Kathleen Stanford, Interim Organist

Mac Mullins, 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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## From the Pastor...

I can't believe I am writing the November Cross Connections already. However, I do not wish to suggest this year has flown by. It has been a year of frustration, joy, sorrow, hopefulness, fear, and yet filled with God's assurance.

This month we finish year B (the year of Mark) on Christ the King Sunday and begin Advent the last day of the month. I am looking forward to thinking about the Gospel according to Luke in the coming year and spending time thinking of others, which is one emphasis of Luke. A new church year brings new hope and new promise.

We are beginning to work with some folk from Holy Family in Chapel Hill concerning refugee resettlement. Morris Casper is taking the lead to coordinate this effort. Watch for information soon.

In addition to that, one of our member families has recently made a donation to the Triangle Land Conservancy. Bob and Ellie DeVries and the Kellogg Foundation have donated a Healing Labyrinth on property owned by the Conservancy.

The "Healing Labyrinth" at Brumley Preserve is a space for reflection, meditation and restoration. There are now two trails from the parking lot that lead directly past it at the intersection of Stoney Creek and Cemetery Connector trails. If you're familiar with Brumley North, it's by the cemetery, about 100 yards into the property.

*"People who have walked the labyrinth say it has helped with healing, deepened self knowledge and empowered creativity. Walking slowly can clear the mind, clarify correct action, and be calming in times of life transitions. Often people see their lives as a journey. With all the stresses of today's world, a contemplative walk can be enjoyable and freeing." – Eleanor DeVries*

This space is a wonderful space to enhance your spiritual journey and begin to contemplate how God is calling you to live and to be in this world.

We may soon organize some trips to the Labyrinth, so watch the e-news for future events.

Also beginning on November 7 we will once again offer drive through communion, the first Sunday of each month, from 11:30 am until noon. Drive into the entrance on Cornwallis Road and come around to the rear entrance, receive communion, and exit the lot at Pickett Road. PLEASE NOTE, THIS IS OFFERED THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH – BEGINNING IN NOVEMBER, AND ONLY THE FIRST SUNDAYS!

So, November is a time of renewal, restart and refresh. Come join us in worship and see you at the labyrinth.

Pastor Scott

## From the Vicar...

The end of November begins the season of Advent in the church year. In fact, it is the beginning of a new church year all together. There will be noticeable changes to our worship life: we will switch from Mark to Luke for our weekly gospel readings; the liturgical color will switch from green to blue; we will begin singing favorite seasonal hymns; the Advent wreath and Chrismon tree will appear in the sanctuary. And with the weather cooling off, it will feel like we're getting ready for Christmas.

However, Advent is not ONLY about preparing for Christmas! The word "advent" itself comes from the Latin for "coming; arrival." Christmas is a celebration of the Incarnation of Jesus, the first coming of our savior. Naturally, it's easy to assume this season before Christmas is awaiting the "advent" of Jesus' birth. As we move through the season, though, you may pick up language in our readings and hymns that also points us towards the second coming of Jesus, his Second Advent! We Christians are a people of trust and hope, believing deeply in the promises of God and Jesus. During the season of Advent that is exactly what we do. Just as God fulfilled God's promise of a Messiah in the incarnation and birth of Jesus, the Son of God, so too do we remember Christ's promise to come again in glory and honor! That is why for the last hymn on the last Sunday of Advent we will all boldly sing, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come!" With another Christmas season coming up still amid this pandemic, Advent gives us the courage for finding inspiration to keep us grounded and focused on the things that matter most: our families, our neighbors, and the promises of God. So remember, as we settle into Fall this month, that the joy and cheer of Advent and Christmas is not just for something we remember, but for something we are excited to hope for too!

Christ's Peace, Vicar Mac

## Council Corner

*by Claire Cooney, President*

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." – Proverbs 3:5*



I hope you have had a chance to prayerfully consider your 2022 stewardship pledge. If you haven't, it is not too late. Your support makes all of the ministries of St. Paul's possible. I know that many times over the past year, I have felt like I was in the middle of a labyrinth – not sure how to get out and not clear what my step should be. The faith community at St. Paul's has been such a place of support and respite. St. Paul's is a blessing to me and I look forward to finding our way together! Peace to you!

## Preschool Pitter Patter

by Amanda Stoen



There are so many benefits of being outside. Young children have been affected by this pandemic just as we have, and being back at preschool, establishing routines and playing with friends brings a sense of normalcy and safety to our preschool children. Playing in and with nature provides children with many physical, cognitive and social and emotional benefits. We have noticed that children are much calmer and willing to try new things when we are outside. Children have better concentration, less stress, more physical activity and increased engagement in learning.

Chapel Time with Vicar Mac has begun! Each Wednesday, he meets with our threes and fours classes outside. And new this year, he is doing Chapel Time with each class separately. This allows him to get to know each class and engage with

them more easily. Outside is a great place to hear Bible stories and learn about God's love.

Check out the photos of Chapel Time as well as how our classes use their Tuff trays. This is a large sensory table with a lip on the edge and it accommodates several children at one time. Our two year olds painted and glued, the three year olds played with bubbles, and our four year olds made cloud dough and colorful potions, and played with play dough. Sensory play activates and stimulates a child's senses and it allows children to explore and create things using their sense of touch, smell, sight and hearing. They learn about the world around them and getting messy is all part of the fun!

Thank you for your continued prayers and support during this time. We are grateful to continue our preschool program outside and to teach our children about God's wonderful creation.

## Nurturing Committee – Be-Friend



The **Be-Friend** branch of Nurturing Committee is ready to “sprout” Reformation Sunday. It is born out of the pandemic limitations that are on all of us. With the combination of visitation ministry and check-in calling, the goal of **Be-Friend**

ministry is to build connection among the St. Paul's family. It may be that you already have a friend relationship in those that you have been calling through the Covid-call-ministry, or you may be lonely and just want to have a friend to connect with. You can give the gift of presence to someone – or someone can give the gift of presence to you. There can be a mutually rewarding relationship honoring the human spirit and providing life-enriching connection. Being a friend is natural and is the caring presence of God. **Be-Friend** can be visiting, making a phone call, sending a caring note, bringing a “thinking of you” treat. The time shared can be a blessing to both! It doesn't take the place of family or other support systems, it is accepting the gift of another's presence.

Tom Rankin, Duke Professor in the Documentary Studies Program and photographer in charge of an exhibit of Covid-related imagery, <https://sixfeet.photography/pieces-of-light> commented: “We've all experienced a tangle of time, a displacement from the normal markers and seasons, an absence of our regular signposts on the calendar.”

If you are interested in being connected to

someone or want to be connected with someone, please call Marcia Redman, 919-797-0501, or Janet Seiz, 919-381-9753.

There are **Be-Friend** idea kits available by the Caring tree in the atrium.

## "Sing for Joy" Thanks!

Thank you so much to the many members who have willingly given of their resources in behalf of St. Paul's effort to collect gifts in support of WCPE 89.7 fm and its Sunday program, "Sing for Joy," which originates from St. Olaf's College in Northfield, Minnesota. St. Paul's has exceeded its goal of making a collective gift of \$1,000 to the station. For this support of the program, our congregation will continue to be mentioned Sunday mornings "on air" throughout another year.



We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of **Lois Kinzie**, who died on October 5, 2021. Her

funeral service will be held on Saturday, November 27, 2021 at 1:00 pm at St. Paul's. Interment in the St. Paul's Columbarium will immediately follow the service. Memorials may be made to the St. Paul's Memorial Committee, which will be designated for Music Ministry.

## Sacrament of Holy Baptism

We welcomed Seamus Martin Gehring, child of Jodi Anderson Gehring and James M. Gehring, on Sunday, October 24, 2021.

## Welcome New Members

We welcomed James Gehring, Jodi Anderson, Gehring, as new members at St. Paul's on Sunday, October 24, 2021. Their child, Seamus Martin Gehring, was also baptized on this day. Children in the family include Gabriel Dodds, Caroline Dodds, Alexander Dodds, and Bethany Dodds.

## Memorials Received

We thank the following persons for their generous donations to our Memorials Fund.

- ✙ In memory of Allie Hart to the Stephen Ministry Fund by Nancy Treul, Chapel Hill

- ✙ In memory of Lois Kinzie to the Stephen Ministry Fund by Nancy Treul, Chapel Hill
- ✙ In memory of Lois Kinzie to the Music Ministry fund by the following persons:  
Anthony and Penni Perrotte, Durham  
S. Diane Davis, Statesville, NC  
Arloa M. Bittikofer, Durham  
La Femme Concierge, Inc., Durham

In memory of Seth Kitange by The Kitange Family:

*We all have good memories about Seth – what he said and did for our families and friends. He passed on October 15, 2020.*

*He visited the sick.*

*He took some to the hospital.*

*He spent money to assist.*

*He attended funerals.*

*He showed love.*

*He used his phone well.*

*He loved God and showed it.*

*The Kitange Family*

## An Enigma

*by Nan Treul*

It is an enigma. During a year and a half when we have had limited contact with others, forced distance from family and friends, and concerns about health of loved ones, we have had few requests for Stephen Ministers.

While I was attending a podcast about how to recruit Stephen Ministers, I came across this lengthy list of situations where Stephen Ministers may provide care:

- Grief
- Divorce/separation
- Cancer diagnosis
- Medical crisis
- Stress related to being a caregiver
- Hospitalization
- Terminal illness
- Chronic health conditions
- Empty nest
- Issues related to aging
- Adjustment to retirement
- Job loss
- Unemployment
- Relocation
- Infertility
- Changes in living situation
- Inability to see loved ones
- Rehabilitation from illness or injury
- Financial stress
- Other life challenges



Wow! I was surprised to see how long is this list! It made me realize that most of us, or even all of us, have experienced one or more of these situations in our own lives.

Do you know of a person in our congregation who is experiencing one of these situations? Do you think that he/she would benefit from a Stephen Minister to walk with him/her during this time, and to provide a listening and empathetic ear?

If so, please contact Pastor Scott, Kim Hoke, or Nan Treul. We have several Stephen Ministers who would be happy to meet with a fellow sojourner on a regular basis.

## First Sunday Drive-through Communion

Because we still have many people who are not comfortable returning to worship and we desire to serve our whole congregation, we will once again offer drive through communion at the rear entrance of the church from 11:30 am until noon on the First Sunday of each month, beginning on November the 7<sup>th</sup>.



## Ways to View Our Sunday Worship

You may join us in person on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am for worship in the sanctuary with options to view in Trinity Hall.

To view in your own home, we have two ways:

- 1) We have a live link used to view our weekly Sunday morning Worship Services on Sundays at 10:00 AM Here is the link: <https://vimeo.com/event/1312724>
- 2) The live feed is a much better video experience and the recording of this live service will be put on our regular vimeo site after the service is concluded and can be watched at any time. That link is: <https://vimeo.com/stpaulsdurham> (then choose the service date or event you wish to watch).

## We Need Worship Assistants

Here is a listing of the Sign-Up Genius links we are presently using to accomplish our many needed tasks. Please fill in as you are able. You can bookmark these sites to make it easier to return to them.

- ◆ **Devotions –**  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eabad28a3fd0-daily1> Please send your devotions to Vicar

Mac Mullins at [vicar@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:vicar@stpaulsdurham.org)

- ◆ **Sunday Morning 10:00 AM Worship Tasks**  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-sunday1>

Tasks include setting up, lector, worship assistant, sound, video, altar guild, etc.

- ◆ **Sunday morning 10:00 AM Communion Assistants and Lock-Up**  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-communion>

## Parktown Food Hub Christmas Giveaway

Here is how our congregation can help with the giveaway activity:

- Sponsor a child (or more than one child!) -- families are signing up now and will be available for "adoption" starting on 11/3/21. If you would like to sponsor a child, please contact Pastor Sharon Schulze at [parktownhub@gmail.com](mailto:parktownhub@gmail.com). She will help you find a child that sounds good to you and share more information. The basic procedure is to contact her for the name and information about a child, purchase gifts based on that information, wrap the gifts and deliver them to the Parktown Food Hub (5123 Revere Road) on days and times that will be shared when the child is adopted. Multiple families can also go together to support one child.
- Purchase gift cards for gifts: We are glad to receive Target, Walmart, or VISA gift cards in amounts of \$25 or \$50. These cards will all be distributed to the community.
- Purchase gift cards for food: Food Lion gift cards will be used instead of boxes of food. This way the families are able to buy their own food items, live out their own customs, address particular dietary needs, and eat the food that means the most to them. You are invited to bring gift cards to Food Lion in the amount of \$25 or \$50.
- Help with preparations: We will be publishing a schedule of dates when we will be receiving and sorting gifts, signing cards that accompany the food, wrapping gifts, etc. Watch for the information.

At the Parktown Food Hub we say that when there is abundance there is enough for everyone. Families and children are blessed with gifts but volunteers also benefit and often tell us how much participating has enhanced their own holiday celebrations.

Thank you for helping!  
Pastor Sharon Schulze  
South Durham Connections  
Parktown Food Hub

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

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## St. Paul's Readers November Meeting

We invite all readers to join us for our discussion of *The Murmur of Bees* by Sofia Segovia. Our final meeting of this year is on Thursday, November 18, at 3 pm in Trinity Hall, widely spaced apart. Lorrell Strom-Jensen is facilitating the discussion.

The Murmur of Bees is set in a Mexican ranching hacienda in the early 1900s. During these years, the country was ravaged by a chaotic revolution and the scourge of the Spanish flu epidemic. The story chronicles the life of a remarkable child who experiences the world differently and imparts his love and wisdom in unforgettable ways.

We are beginning to make our selections for our reading list for next year. The book club strives to choose books from different genres, both fiction and nonfiction. We request that all those interested please submit one or two books with brief summations via email to Barbara Shade and/or Katherine Trexler. We hope to finalize our list of eight books for 2022 at our November meeting.

Please consider participating in our monthly meetings (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 3 pm). We welcome all readers! Please contact Katherine Trexler ([katherine.m.trexler@gmail.com](mailto:katherine.m.trexler@gmail.com)) with any questions. We hope to see you soon!

## Attention St. Paul's Singles

*by Megan Cunningham*

A new bible study will be starting December 2, 2021 and going for six weeks until January 13, 2022 (skipping the week of Christmas), on Thursday evenings from 7 to 8 pm in Trinity Hall. We will be discussing topics about being single and how God and God's word can help navigate our path. We will have a different topic each week that has a corresponding bible story and questions. Each Sunday before our Thursday meeting the group will get their prep information so we can get to know each other and the

word more in depth. If you feel the calling to join me and other of God's single children, please reach out to me at [mcunni16@gmail.com](mailto:mcunni16@gmail.com) so I can get an estimated number of people. I look forward to getting to know more singles in the church and how we can grow together. God Bless all.

## "By Heart" Study

Vicar Mac will be leading a study of "By Heart," a historical, theological, and spiritual deep-dive into Luther's Small Catechism. Fittingly, our first meeting will be the first Wednesday after Reformation Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm. The classes will be about seven weeks, aiming to finish just before the week of Christmas. In-person and Zoom will both be available. Please sign up in advance so we can be sure to order enough books. You can sign-up on the table outside the sanctuary on Sundays or by following this link: <https://forms.gle/B5qomw74hEnPv2ju9> Email Vicar Mac ([vicar@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:vicar@stpaulsdurham.org)) with any questions.

## Thursday Morning Bible Study at 10:30 AM

Bible Study will be in Trinity Hall and over Zoom. We are studying the book:

*Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis. We will send emails if any study guides are needed.

### Here is the zoom information.

Topic: Pastor's Bible Study

**Time: Thursdays at 10:30 AM** (same link for all weeks)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89526693517?pwd=UVI2Sl12RTVtYTdQOHFEa2N1THREdz09>

Meeting ID: 895 2669 3517 -- Passcode: 727541

One tap mobile

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kjXLtywXY>

