

Cross Connections



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

March 2023

Wednesdays during Lent – March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29

- ▶ 12:00 pm Holy Communion and Healing Service
- ▶ 6:00 pm Suppers in Trinity Hall
- ▶ 7:00 pm Lenten Worship
(Live stream worship link: <https://vimeo.com/event/2806391>)

At 12 noon, we will have a Communion and Healing Service in the sanctuary.

At 6:00 pm we will have our mid-week Lent meals in Trinity Hall.

Vicar Amanda Spangler is in charge of our Wednesday Lenten Worship which begins at

7:00 pm. This year, we will read biblical texts that use female imagery or feature female characters. Each of the preachers has been invited to approach their homily preparation from a feminist perspective, helping us to see Christ through the eyes of the women in the stories.



Follow the Path

The Stations of the Cross will again be offered on Fridays at 12:00 noon in the Sanctuary. I hope that long time members are looking forward to seeing St. Paul's beautiful collection of the Stations as they are back up on the side walls of the Sanctuary for the Lenten season. For those who are new, the Stations follow Jesus from Gethsemane to the tomb with visual depictions of his journey. On Fridays, you can join me to follow Jesus on this path with scripture and prayers that tell the Holy Week story. Following Jesus on this path offers pause to contemplate our here and now. Please join me on any of these Fridays at noon during Lent: February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31.

Pastor Lorrel Strom-Jensen



The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor

Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor

Ted Turner, DMA, 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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From the Pastor...

It doesn't feel like March is coming in like a lamb this year. That's the old, old saying. March comes in like a lamb and goes out like a lion. Mostly I think this is talking about the weather, but I also think Jesus the lamb brings us repentantly into Lent and we charge head long this year into the busyness of Holy Week in very early April.

We had a very busy February with concerts, worship, lectures and lots and lots of activity. This seemed especially evident after the lull of the past three years.

Things you need to be aware of for the coming month are:

- ◆ We have contracted to paint the ceiling in the sanctuary and a schedule for that will be coming soon. Insurance is paying for the painting.
- ◆ We have contracted for repairs to the side stained glass windows and that work will also begin soon. Insurance is covering the cost of the repairs.
- ◆ The furnace downstairs has been replaced and paid for without having to take money from capital reserves. THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

We will continue with our tradition of mid-week worship at noon on Wednesdays, with Communion and Healing Service. We will hold evening communion services at 7 pm on Wednesday evenings after the Lenten suppers that begin at 6 pm weekly.

Lenten devotion books are available in the Atrium.

My Bible Study on the difficult words of Jesus will continue through Lent on Thursdays at 10:30 am. If you didn't get a copy of the book and would like to participate, let me know and I will order in some more books.

Continue to pray for our congregation and for each other. Lent, I pray, will be a time of prayer.

Pastor Scott

From the Vicar...

Lent is my favorite time of the Church year, because it invites introverts like me to curl up with the good Word, listen for God's still, small voice, and engage in some soul-tending work.

One of the ways God will be tending to my soul this Lent is through the words and Word offered by our midweek preachers. Rev. Wendy Waugh, Rev. Jan Huntley, Rev. Racquel C. N. Gill, Rev. Scott Anderson, and Vicar Robin Pingilley will help us dwell in Scripture as we explore the gospel through the

lives of the women who encountered the Living Word. We will sing Holden Evening Prayer and celebrate with Holy Communion. Come join us for supper and for worship!

I am so thankful for the excellent participation of so many of you in the February adult study on the history of Black Lutherans in North America. Thank you for your interest, your curiosity, and your engagement with the people, places, and stories that we don't often get to hear about.

The Tuesday Morning Group recently invited Pastor Scott and me to speak with them about call. How are we each called by God to live out of our baptism, and how do we recognize that call? Continuing that conversation, my deaconess sister, Deacon Adrainne Gray, will be with us on Sunday, March 26. She holds a Master's in Practical Theology from Columbia Theological Seminary. She was consecrated a Lutheran Diaconal Association (LDA) deaconess and ordained an ELCA deacon in 2017. She served four years as an ELCA missionary with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land with her partner Ben (a seasoned photojournalist), and their two children, Sylvia and James Everett. Adrainne is bi-vocational and works as the Communication Officer for Communion Relations at the Lutheran World Federation (LSR), Geneva, and as the Director for Recruitment at the LDA. She works remotely from her home in Atlanta, Georgia, for the LWF and the LDA. She is joining us as a guest preacher and speaker on discerning vocation/call in our everyday lives.

I am so honored to continue my walk among you. Thank you for being a blessing to me. You are part of that good Word that I get to curl up and contemplate on quiet Lenten mornings.

Blessed Lenten journey,
Vicar Amanda

Spring (Semester) has Sprung with the Duke Lutherans!



Since Duke returned to classes in January, the Duke Lutherans have also resumed our life



together of worship, faith formation, service, and fellowship. While it's true that our students participate in a host of activities

beyond the classroom (a few examples include serving in student government, tumbling with the Duke Cheerleading Team, writing for Duke's student paper The Chronicle, and tutoring DPS students), I am



thankful for their commitment to our campus ministry faith community.

When I had coffee recently with one of our undergraduate leaders, she said that Sunday Evening Prayer is a priority for her because she begins

a new week rooted in God's love and grace. "Things just don't feel right if I don't get to worship Sunday night," she said. Particularly in a competitive academic environment like Duke, students feel pressured to constantly perform, achieve, and hustle. But as Duke



Lutherans, we want them to *rest* in God's presence, to find their worth not in *doing*, but in *being* claimed as God's beloved children. This is why worship is the most important time for us.

Whether we sing Holden Evening Prayer, pray Lectio

Divina, or follow the traditional Word and Sacrament liturgy, students are embraced by God's unfailing love, forgiveness, and hope ... and thus embraced, they are able to be Jesus' hands and feet for their neighbors.

One particular way the Duke Lutherans seek to be Christ's hands and feet is through prayer ... for one

another, for our St. Paul's and Grace siblings, for their fellow students, and for a world in need. As such, our leaders have created a new Google document that allows students, church and community friends to share their prayer requests with us. Simply follow the link to submit your request:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1jj6U6bCgn0mBqNg2cmuBuZQMnXNj5V75vtlHMrcR9YI/edit>

Thank you as always, dear Church, for the many ways you love and support the Duke Lutherans!

St. Paul's Endowment Fund

St. Paul's Endowment Fund consists of invested assets whose income is used in support of the Congregation and its



mission in ways not covered by the Congregation's operating budget. The Endowment Fund Committee is responsible for the receipt, acknowledgment, and investment of contributions of assets to the Fund, and for the distribution of income from the investment of these assets. In 2022, \$1,700 was distributed from the Fund which, per the Bylaws, should be split equally between the Congregation's Capital Reserve account and to support needs identified by the Social Ministry Committee. The fund's value on 12/31/2022 was \$85,794.66.

The Fund grows from the generosity of individual contributions, estate gifts, and investment planning. We look forward to the day when St. Paul's Endowment Fund can make available even more dollars for Capital Reserve and Social Ministry. With this in mind, we encourage every family to prayerfully consider making a contribution or including St. Paul's Endowment Fund in your estate plan as a way to make a perpetual gift to support our mission. If you would like to talk with someone about how your contribution can benefit the Endowment Fund, please contact an Endowment Committee member (Greg Hudgins, Steve Mzyk, Rachel Harter, Larry Ostrowski).

In the Mailbag...

Dear St. Paul's Congregation,

Thank you for your support and kind words of condolence on the passing of my mother, Jane. They are appreciated beyond measure.

Maria, Curtis, and Victor Chi

Preschool Pitter Patter

by Amanda Stoen

As children grow and begin to play with other children, some kind of conflict usually occurs. Children must learn to use his or her BIG Voice in tough situations. The first step in approaching a conflict is to focus our attention on what we want to happen (a solution), not what we don't want (the problem).



Misbehavior by a child does not make a child a bad child, it means a child needs help getting their needs met. We teach children to use their language skills assertively, effectively and respectfully.



When children are involved in a conflict, we first ask the child, "Did you like it?" Asking this question first accomplishes three things. First, it activates an executive state in



preparation for problem solving. Second, it indicates the child's level of assertiveness. Third, it creates a powerful teaching moment for all involved. Then we can help the child assertively gets his or her needs met in an appropriate way.

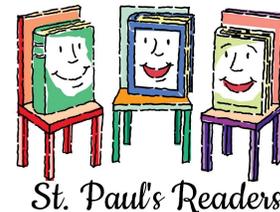
The preschool has a few remaining spots available in some of our classes. We offer classes for children ages 10 months - 4 years old. If you are interested or know of anyone who is, registration forms are available on our website, stpaulspreschooldurham.weebly.com. I am also offering phone calls, virtual or in-person tours throughout our registration period.

Did you know? Since 2009, the preschool has welcomed families from 15 countries, covering four continents! Many of these families are here for a few years while a parent pursues a degree through one of

our local universities. Other families have moved to our area for work. We truly have global reach!

St. Paul's Readers Meet on Thursday, March 16 at 3 pm

Please join us in Trinity Hall on Thursday, March 16 at 3 pm as we delve into our latest selection *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell. Wendy Waugh is leading our group discussion.



Our genre this month is historical fiction, an imagination of the life of William Shakespeare. More specifically, it revolves around the playwright, his wife Anne (or Agnes), and the couple's son Hamnet, who died at 11 years old in 1596. The author breathes life into the personal life of the greatest playwright and provides a backstory for one of his most notable works – Hamlet.

Books for the following two months are *Native* by Kaitlin Curtise (Christian Faith) in April and *When Should Law Forgive?* by Martha Minow (Non-fiction, Ethics in Law) in May.

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 a wide range of people.

I continue to hear that people are reading our books but not coming to meetings. Please consider joining us in March or for another of our meetings. We welcome you (men and women) to come and check us out, even if you have not read the book. For questions or more information, please contact Katherine Trexler at katherine.m.trexler@gmail.com

Adult Sunday School Topics

Classes for the month of March will be somewhat fragmented. On March 5, a Lutheran made movie on the New Testament will be shown, followed by discussion. No class on March 12 due to the Congregational Meeting. On March 19 we will look at the Synoptic Gospels briefly. And March 26 we have a special speaker—Deaconess Adrainne Gray. She works with the Lutheran Diaconal Association and the ELCA. Come join us in Trinity Hall.

News from Growing thru Grief

Our in-person Growing thru Grief meetings continue each week at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church. Meetings are on Tuesday, with registration starting 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.



Here is the schedule for March:

- March 7 – Tracy Lamar – “In Their Shoes: Exploring Children’s Grief”
- March 17 – Bodie McCann – To be announced
- March 21 – Donna Kaye – to be announced
- March 28 – Diana Newton – “How the Things They Left Behind can Help us Manage our Grief”

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.

Changes of Address

Dick Forringer

205 Emerald Pond Lane, Unit 101
Durham, NC 27705
Phone number and email unchanged

Angela Maine

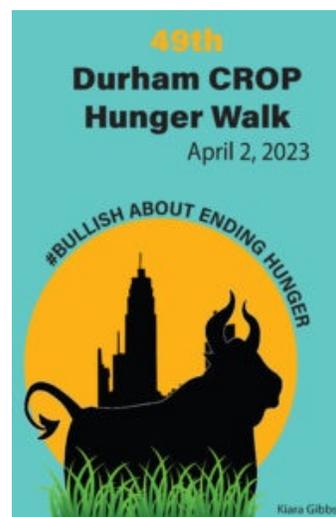
122 Oliver Lane
Durham NC 27713
Phone number and email unchanged

As a reminder, you can always download the **Instant Church Directory** to your smart phone. It is an amazing app with members information right at your fingertips, along with photos. If you want more information, there are info sheets on the credenza below the monitor in the atrium – for Android and Apple phones.

Speaking of photos – keep in mind that we update the directory constantly for phones and on-line. Check your selfies and send an updated photo of you or your family. Email to Susan at admin@stpaulsdurham.org.

Amazon Smile

As most of you who participated in the Amazon Smile program were informed, they have discontinued the incentive this month. We did receive our last deposit from Amazon Smile on February 9 in the amount of \$63.41. Thank you to all who included us when you purchased from Amazon Smile.



The 2023 Durham CROP Hunger Walk will be 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. Virtual participation is still an option.

Sunday, April 2nd

- **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. Connect to the 2023 Durham CROP Hunger Walk at this site:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/event/durham-nc>

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 2022 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/accept?challenge=megan-cunningham-3&team=st-pauls-lutheran-church-of-durham>

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

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

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Young In Spirit
Wednesday, March 8
11:30 am in Trinity Hall
Please bring your own lunch

Judy Schlegel will share her experiences through the Methodist Church with Project Agape in Armenia. Project Agape provides supplies, rehabs homes, created a children's home, and built a church in Armenia.

(Armenia, is the country of Transcaucasia, and lies just south of the great mountain range of the Caucasus and fronts the northwestern extremity of Asia. To the north and east, Armenia is bounded by Georgia and Azerbaijan while its neighbors to the southeast and west are, respectively, Iran and Turkey. The modern Republic of Armenia became independent in 1991 during the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Armenia is a developing country and ranks 85th on the Human Development Index.) You may want to Google for more about the history of Armenia.

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 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am - 12:00 noon.

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.



Thursday Bible Study

Join us on Thursdays at 10:30-11:45 am where we are studying *The Difficult Words of Jesus* by Amy Jill Levine. The class takes place in the Conference Room and by Zoom. Study notes will be emailed.

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).

Organ Recital
Sunday, March 5
at 3:30 pm



You are invited to an Organ Recital in the sanctuary by Dana Robinson, presented by the Durham/Chapel Hill Chapter of the American Guild of Organists in conjunction with St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Mr. Robinson's credits include performances for the national conventions of the Organ Historical Society, the Westfield Center for Early Keyboard Studies and regional conventions of the AGO. Works by Bach, Scheidemann and Cherubini's Sonata for two organs (Dana Robinson and St. Paul's minister of music, Ted Turner). A great way to spend part of your Sunday afternoon!