

Cross Connections



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

April 2022

PALM SUNDAY - APRIL 10, 2022

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



EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 17, 2022

- + 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 in the eggs, return the plastic eggs and receive a Easter bag of treats.

The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor

Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor

Ted Turner, Minister of Music

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...

As I sit to write this article, I have just gotten to church having sat with Penni Perrotte as Tony died. Death is a part of life, yet a part in which I would rather not participate. I think what Tony's passing brought to mind is just how disconnected from the normal rhythms of life we have all been these last two years. Hospital visits and time with families during these transitional times is what a pastor does. It is what family does. I have not been allowed in because of Covid restrictions and so life has been disconnected. We have gone a significant amount of time not being able to grieve as God's family. We have not come together to remember those who have died for far too long.

As we continue our Lenten journey to Easter I would ask you to remember those who have died since the pandemic began and remember their new life this Easter Season.

Alice Richmond, Theodore Watson, James Sackett, Sonja Bock, Carol Sackett, Kaaren Johanson, Seth Kitange, David Taylor, Hans Hillerbrand, Bonnie Marple, William Jewett, Audrey Pearson, Blanche Brewer Bragg, Oscar Yayo, Leon Bowman, Lois Kinzie, David Dahl, and Tony Perrotte.

In the midst of grief and loss, we can rejoice and give thanks to God for their new life, which is thanks to Jesus and his sacrifice. So come, celebrate Holy Week with us. Walk the way to Jerusalem with Jesus. Walk all the way through the cross and grave to the blessings of Easter resurrection.

Council Actions at the March Meeting

Pastor Scott Anderson

The congregation council made some decisions related to the upcoming Easter Season:

1. We will hold two services at 8:30 am and 11:00 am beginning Palm Sunday, April 10
2. We will continue two services at these times until Sunday, June 5
3. Beginning June 12th, we will go back to one service at 10 am for the summer months (the remainder of June, July, and August)
4. We will then go back to two services on Rally Day in September
5. On April 16, after the 7 pm Easter Vigil, we will hold a champagne and hors d'oeuvres reception.
6. Easter Sunday (April 17) we will hold our annual Easter breakfast and hold an Easter Egg Hunt for the children. In order to get an idea of how many may attend the breakfast, we ask that you fill out

the reservation form that will be available in the bulletin in coming Sundays, or contact Susan at the church office. We will prepare for a few extra, but it would be great help if you would reserve a space. We will set up some tables in the Creation Garden for those wishing to dine outside (assuming the weather will permit).

7. We plan to continue live streaming and recording one worship service each Sunday. When we go to two services, we will stream and record the 11:00 am worship. During the summer we will stream and record the 10 am worship.
8. We will hold a training session for assisting ministers, altar guild, and ushers in the near future. Watch for an announcement. Please consider joining these groups.
9. We will continue the social distancing seating arrangement for the near future.
10. Should the Covid situation change, we will change plans as the situation dictates. We will follow the City and County guidelines.

From the Vicar...

By the time you read this month's newsletter, you will likely already know that Council voted at the end of March to remove our mask requirements for worship and inside the church building. A decision like that we knew would cause a wide range of emotions: excitement, nervousness, anger, relief, worry. Some members of our church family still won't be able to come back in person until the severest threats of COVID are behind us. Others of us will be thrilled at what seems like the beginning of new life after two years of loss. It is perhaps fitting that this decision should be made so close to Easter, our festival remembrance of Christ's own resurrection from the dead.

But new life doesn't mean we will return to our old life. To be resurrected, one must truly die, and there is much about how we lived as a church before this pandemic that will be very different. We will still continue to monitor and be concerned for our communal safety as we know this pandemic is not yet over. Our worship practices have changed and likely will stay the same for many more weeks. In these two years of separation, we have lost the ability to form and nurture fellowship between ourselves and with our children and youth. Some people who we haven't seen may never return to our church again. But none of this stops God. The promise of the resurrection that God gives to us through Jesus is a promise that God will be constantly working in and through us as we enter this

new life. In the midst of our excitement or worry, God has not and will not abandon us. It is through God's Holy Spirit that we will learn exactly what kind of new life God is calling us to, and we will do everything we can to proclaim that new life to the world. If these Lenten weeks have been a time for reflection and reconciliation, then let this Easter be a time of new hope and trust that God isn't done with us yet.

Peace,
Vr. Mac

Duke Lutherans Spring Giving Campaign: Support Our Trip to Atlanta and Montgomery!

Two years ago in March, the Duke Lutherans were on the cusp of taking an alternative learning spring break trip called "Exploring Race and Faith in America." With visits scheduled for the *National Memorial for Peace and Justice* and the *Legacy Museum in Montgomery*, and the historic headquarters



of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in Atlanta, students were set to explore the complex relationship between

race and faith in America, while learning about how God calls us to seek justice and practice the ministry of reconciliation.

However, just a few days before the trip's start, Covid forced Duke's campus to shut down entirely. There would be no trip that spring or even the next year.

But at last, this May 19-22, the Duke Lutherans will take our long-delayed "Race and Faith" trip, and we are eager and ready to visit the historic places that have been so critical to the fight for civil rights and equality in our country.

We are also particularly excited for this pilgrimage because our fellow students and friends from St. Joseph AME, our racial reconciliation partner congregation, will be joining us.

Experiences like these are so vital to the growth and formation of Christian young adults. Indeed, years after they graduated, students still talk about how these opportunities impacted them and revealed Jesus' love and grace in life-changing ways.

But we can't take these kinds of trips without your help. Several of our students cannot afford the cost, particularly our international students. And we never

want lack of funds to prevent their participation.

Your support makes all the difference for Lutheran Campus Ministry at Duke! With your help we can provide scholarships for our students, enabling them to participate in this year's alternative spring break trip and other formative experiences, like our fall beach retreat.

Plus, it's easy to give! Simply...

- Go online <https://www.gifts.duke.edu/> to make a secure deposit
- Or make your check payable to Duke Lutherans (with Spring Break Trip in the memo line) and mail it to: St. Paul's at 1200 W Cornwallis Rd, Durham NC 27705

Thank you so much, dear ones, for your support for our "Faith and Race" trip this year and for your faithful and ongoing support for Lutheran Campus Ministry at Duke. You are a great blessing to our students and their lives of faith!

Rev. Amanda L. Highben
Duke Lutherans Pastor
amanda.highben@duke.edu

Council Corner

by Tim Hoke

Congregational Council President

For two years now we have been worshipping and operating under pandemic restrictions. We all know how we have suffered. The inability to freely connect to friends and family has been demoralizing. It now seems that we may truly be seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

During our worship time under Covid, our committees have been strongly impacted. Some have continued by using Zoom and emails. Still it is not with the same vibrancy that we need and come to expect. During this period while we are beginning to restart our normal lives, please consider how you can help to begin our committees anew. For our church to be healthy, vibrant, and sustaining we need the good works of all our congregation members. There is always a talent you possess that can be used.

Won't you consider prayerfully the part you can play in the lifeblood of our church and mission?

UPDATE:

Last night at Council meeting we discussed the mask mandate for activities inside our church. After reviewing the latest Covid numbers, the guidance from the state, and the local policy in Durham, we decided to revise our mask policy. The congregation is no longer required to wear masks while indoors, however,

we felt that it was important to state that masks are still optional. We have a number of our members who are immuno-compromised and need to be more careful with their health. There are also a number of grandparents who have grandchildren who are not old enough to be vaccinated. Some of these are likely to remain masked as well. We still need to consider the protection of these two groups. As a caring congregation, we always need to be aware of the needs of others. Remember to keep your mask on indoors at church during the weekdays to continue to protect the children in the preschool and daycare.

More changes are coming to our congregation as well. Beginning with Palm Sunday we will begin having two services. The later service is the one that will be broadcast live. With this change, there are more opportunities for service to the church: lectors, ushers, altar guild, sound system, and assisting ministers. Please check the on-line Genius sign-up sheets to volunteer for these duties.

The Council also approved a couple of other fellowship items last night. There will be a champagne toast after the Easter Vigil. There will also be an Easter morning breakfast. We are also planning an Easter egg hunt. Requests for helpers and cooks with the meal will be coming soon.

Tim Hoke, tim1@hnva@gmail.com

Preschool Pitter Patter

by Amanda Stoen

A huge THANK YOU for the generous donations the St. Paul's community made to the Preschool Un-fundraiser campaign so far. The campaign is still underway so I will report a final tally in next month's newsletter.

We are thrilled to receive the financial support to allow us to continue to provide financial scholarships to preschool families as well as to purchase additional outdoor equipment to operate the preschool during this pandemic. We are making plans to add an outdoor music space for our preschoolers as well as working with the church to create a garden for many of us to share together.



Our Fours Class has been learning about our bodies and germs. They have been learning about the bones in our bodies and four different parts of the blood (red blood cells, white blood cells, platelets, and plasma). A favorite activity for the class



was playing in the sensory tub with a model of the blood (using red water beads, white foam balls, red foam platelets, and water/plasma). Here are some photos of them hard at work.

We have a few more spots in our PMO and Fours classes this fall. Registration information can be found on our website –

<http://stpaulspreschooldurham.weebly.com>. If you are interested or know of anyone who is, please contact me at the church or email: preschool@stpaulsdurham.org for more information.

New Church Software

by John Foreman

Finance Committee Chair

Over the last several years, our current church software has proven to be quite dated. It has served us well, but it is limited. It is time to move on from a Blackberry to an iPhone.

Therefore, the Finance Committee researched new platforms and chose Realm from ACS Technologies with Council's approval. ACS Technologies is the leader in church software and is used by the vast majority of churches, both large and small. Realm is cloud-based so we won't have to worry about losing our data if the finance computer dies. Realm will allow better connectivity between the administration and the congregation and within congregational groups. Texting, for example, is possible through Realm to communicate important messages quickly or for groups to communicate with their membership. E-giving may become simpler through Realm. Obviously, there will be some glitches and a "learning curve" to master before we become proficient using Realm. We plan to begin the process in April. Stay tuned!

News from the Continuing Conversation Group

On Sunday, Feb 27, CCG and Pastor Scott hosted a "Lunch & Learn" gathering for guest speaker **Pastor Jay Augustine**, from St. Joseph's AME Church in

Durham. After a brief summary of his new book, “Called to Reconciliation,” Pastor Jay spoke to us about his vision for a future of more equity and understanding in church communities across America. The small audience of about 25 people made a lively question and answer session possible. Among Pastor Jay’s suggestions: consider hosting thematic, focused programming throughout the year to lift up, celebrate, and teach about special concerns; examples might include Women’s Rights, Black History, Hispanic Heritage, and disability concerns. We were inspired by his vision of Christian faith shared among all members of Christ’s community, and we look forward to his next book!

Dialogues on Race: this seven-week, small group study series will start on Thursday evening, **April 21**. We look forward to spending time together, getting to know each other better, and learning about methods for respectful, constructive conversations across some of the many common divides in contemporary society. The meetings will be from 6:30 to 8:00, with a “brown bag supper” option. One or two spots remain, in case you’re interested but haven’t yet signed up. (Send a note to Bee Ellertson or Alta Lindsay.)

Movie Night!! Mark your calendars for Friday evening, May 13: CCG and Pastor Scott will be hosting an outdoor movie screening of the film, “My Name is Pauli Murray.” This recently released documentary recounts the biography of Rev. Dr. Murray and her remarkable career as lawyer, professor, poet, civil rights leader, author, and ordained Episcopal priest. (If there’s interest, we may also be able to organize a trip to visit the West Durham home where Pauli Murray grew up.) Come share a fun evening with St. Paul’s friends; popcorn will be provided!

St. Paul’s Preschool Seeks Congregation Members to Serve on Board

by Kim Hoke

St. Paul’s Preschool and PMO (Parents’ Morning Out) needs congregational members to serve on the Preschool Board. Any adult in the congregation is eligible.

The preschool board sets policy for the operation of the preschool, selects the director, approves and monitors the budget, and serves as a link between the congregation and the preschool.

The board includes four to seven members of the congregation and meets monthly. Specific expertise the board needs include, but are not limited to: finance, pediatrics, law, nonprofits, fundraising and grant

writing.

Most importantly, the board seeks members who are committed to the support and development of young children in the community.

Three board members’ terms expire this year: Sharon Wilson, Heather Slane, and Kim Hoke.

Anyone who is interested should contact Kim Hoke, Board Chair, at zoelenny5@gmail.com or by calling 919-489-3547. Inquiries by April 30 are appreciated.



Music ensemble opportunities at St. Paul’s

Handbells and choir are starting up soon with the first rehearsal for both ensembles on Wed, Mar 30 at 6:30 and 7:30 pm respectively. No prior experience is necessary, all skill levels are welcome. The only prerequisite is an eagerness to learn music! There is some flexibility in the rehearsal times for the two Wednesdays involving the Lenten Worship. Contact the music director, Ted Turner, with any questions – music@stpaulsdurham.org

Duke Lutherans Worship in Duke Gardens

The final worship service for the Duke Lutherans in Spring semester will be April 24 in the Duke Gardens at 5:30 PM with a potluck dinner afterwards at 6:30 pm. The Duke Lutherans invite anyone in the St. Paul’s congregation wishing to contribute and participate to join them. Please contact Emily Pauline at epauline1451@gmail.com if you are planning to bring food so she can coordinate dinner.



With Deepest Sympathy

We extend our prayers of sympathy to the family and friends of Tony Perrotte, who died on

Monday, March 21, 2022 at Duke Hospital. His Funeral service will be held at St. Paul’s on Saturday, April 9 at 2:00 pm. There will be a reception after the service. Memorials may be made to St. Paul’s Lutheran Church.

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Thursday Morning Bible Study

We now begin studying the book of Genesis. The beginning of the Bible and the beginning of the relationship between God and God's creation is a complex and fascinating book. As with all of my bible studies, we will study the book in depth. Join us in person in Trinity Hall or over zoom. Here is the Zoom information:

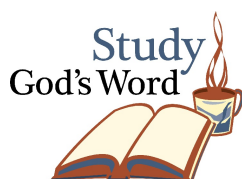
Topic: Pastor's Bible Study

Time: Thursdays at 10Z:30 am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89526693517?pwd=UV12S1dvRTVtYTdQOHFEa2N1THREdz09>

Meeting ID: 895 2669 3517 Passcode: 727541



St. Paul's Readers Meeting Thursday, April 21 at 3 pm

by Katherine Trexler

We invite all readers to join us as we discuss *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen* by Paul Torday. This satire tells the story of a British civil servant being recruited to establish Scottish salmon fishing in the desert wadis of Yemen. This prize-winning novel has garnered recognition for comic fiction and drama. Our meeting will be held on Thursday, April 21, at 3 pm in Trinity Hall, widely spaced apart. Tim Hoke will lead the discussion.

Salmon Fishing in the Yemen is the tale of an unassuming scientist who takes an unbelievable adventure in the Middle East. This debut novel combines fishing and all that it means, with a satire on politics, bureaucrats, the Middle East, the war in Iraq, and a sheikh, who is really a mystic. The book proves to be a thought-provoking and memorable read – an original plot that basically queries “What does it take to make us believe in the impossible?” It has been adapted into a successful film of the same name.

Please consider participating in our monthly meetings (3rd Thursdays at 3 pm). We welcome all readers! 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!

Piano and/or Organ Lessons

Ted Turner, the Minister of Music, is available for piano and/or organ lessons. Ted has experience teaching a diverse array of skill levels and ages, no prior experience is necessary. More information is available at www.tedturnerorganist.com. Contact him at 217-898-3467 or taturner16@gmail.com

May 17 Election: What district am I in and how do I vote? Voter Information Session on April 24



Have you been confused by all the news about redistricting in North Carolina? Are you wondering how it all came out for your representatives in Congress and the state legislature? And will there be races for school board, judges, etc.? Come to Trinity Hall between services on April 24 to:

- Find out whether you're registered
- Find out where and when you can vote
- See a sample ballot
- Ask questions!

Sponsored by the St. Paul's Continuing Conversation Group.