

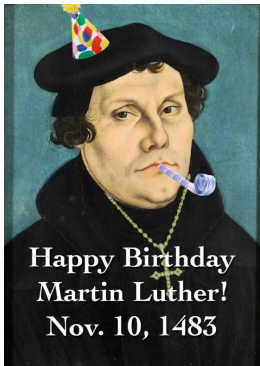
# Cross Connections



*St. Paul's Lutheran Church*

*November 2022*

## NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



Happy Birthday  
Martin Luther!  
Nov. 10, 1483

We are celebrating Martin Luther's birthday – one day earlier!

On Wednesday, November 9, at 6:00 pm, we will have our next Wednesday Night Supper with all things Martin Luther. The meats for the meal will be provided (chicken tenderloins and meatloaf). We hope you will consider bringing a side dish for the evening's meal. These can be salads, pastas, bread, vegetables, starches, or desserts. If you can indicate how many attending, what you are bringing, and which meat you wish to eat on the sign up sheet in the atrium or in your email to Susan ([admin@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:admin@stpaulsdurham.org)) by Sunday, Nov 6, it would help our planning.

There will be a trivia contest, pin the theses on the door, a diet of worms gummie worm eating contest, as well as a throw the indulgences in the trash can contest. Prizes will be awarded. Also, we will once again offer beer from Der Nachbar Bottleshop and taps.

## Make Ready for Holy Disruption: A Contemplative Advent Midweek Series

**Wednesdays: Nov 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21**

**6:00 pm Fellowship Dinner (soups, salad, bread)**

**7:00 pm Worship**

Advent carries expectations for two events: as we wait for the birth of the babe in Bethlehem, we also await the time when Christ will come again to make a new heaven and new earth. Christ's coming brings peace ... but also disruption of the sin, injustice, and brokenness that burdens our lives and our world. When we pray for Christ to come, we are praying for a holy disruption of the status quo of death and the revealing of God's kingdom of life.

Led by the Duke Lutherans, our midweek Advent series this year is built around four steps to help us prepare for God's holy disruption: breathing, releasing, receiving, and rejoicing. Each week's liturgy (consisting of prayer and silence, singing, listening, and reflection) will focus on one step. Together, the steps will remind us that discipleship is always a process and journey. As we worship, we will ask the Holy Spirit to open our eyes so that we might see all of the ways that God promises to come and will come into the world.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come!



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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### *From the Pastor...*

November is a month that always feels like in between times to me. We have gotten through Rally Day, Oktoberfest and Trunk or Treat. These days are behind us and we wait until the end of the month to begin a new church year with the start of Advent. So, in this between time, let me recap some of October and highlight November.

There was much to celebrate last month and celebrate we did. Oktoberfest felt like a pre-pandemic normal. We had almost 120 people in attendance. The Rusty Pipes were outstanding and the food was oh so good. It was a joy to rejoice with one another and to have some fun. I need to give special thanks to Martha Dahl, Susan Esposito, and all who helped in the kitchen for this event. Thanks too to the Bluschkes for supplying adult beverages. And I'm still trying to figure out who that crazy beer server was.

Rally day was good and we are getting some attendance at Sunday School. I want to thank all the teachers for preparing and being ready to serve.

October also was the beginning of our offering a paid nursery attendant at both services. Courtney Rosenstein is with us every Sunday. She will be in the room formerly and currently the Ladies Parlor. We felt the nursery downstairs was just too removed for most families.

In November we will hold Martin Luther's Birthday Bash on Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> (the day before his birthday). Come and join us for this party. We will have a trivia contest, pin the theses on the door, a diet of worms gummie worm eating contest and a throw the indulgences in the trash can contest. Prizes will be awarded. Meat dishes will be provided and we ask you to bring side dishes, watch for the sign up sheet. Also, we will once again offer beer from Der Nachbar Bottleshop and Taps.

And don't forget that at the end of the month, Wednesday evening Advent worship will be planned and led by Pastor Amanda and the Duke Lutherans.

*Pastor Scott*

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### *From the Vicar...*

In the internship committee manual for "Month 3," the committee and intern are encouraged to offer prayers of thanksgiving for the internship program at the specific site. I read that and remembered Brother David Steindl-Rast, whose approach to gratefulness I used to craft an intergenerational Thanksgiving dinner program several years ago. Brother Steindl-Rast says, "I don't speak of the gift, because not for everything

that's given to you can you really be grateful. You can't be grateful for war in a given situation, or violence, or sickness, things like that. So the key, when people ask, 'Can you be grateful for everything?' – no, not for everything, but in every moment."<sup>1</sup> As I reflect on my first quarter year with you all, I am indeed grateful – "not for everything, but in every moment."

I am not grateful that many of you carry weighty burdens. The loss of friends and family, changes in living situations, isolation and loneliness, financial strain – these are things for which I am not grateful. The fear that many live with because of health concerns, or because of their immigration status, or because of the color of their skin, or because of their gender identity, and expression – no, I cannot be grateful for that.

I am grateful for:

- A hot pot of coffee made by Martha, always when I need it most
- Golf cart tours of exotic chickens with the Veazey family
- Children laughing as they follow Mr. Ted out of the sanctuary
- Pastor Scott's gleeful expression as he opened a box of new paraments
- Three- and four-year-olds who pray fervently every week that unicorns and Black Panther would be real
- Cries of "Prost!" at Oktoberfest
- Commending beloved members of the congregation to God with song and Scripture and wine and remembrances
- Witnessing the tender affection, caregiving, and teasing between couples
- Thoughtful responses of sermons I've preached
- Volunteers pulling all-nighters with Confirmation students
- A picture from a three-year-old
- Conversations that slip in and out of German
- People who understand part of their vocation as forming a new generation of leaders for the Church
- The multitude of stories told and untold in each of your lives, and the moments you share them with me

I am grateful for my baptism, which unites me with all of you, and has led me to this place at this time.

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<sup>1</sup>Brother David Steindl-Rast, "How to Be Grateful in Every Moment (But Not for Everything)," interview by Krista Tippett, *On Being*, The On Being Project, January 21, 2016.

I am grateful for the bread of life and cup of blessing which we share, and the communion of saints across all time and place that happens every Sunday. God breaks in around the table, and it is holy ground I stand upon with all of you.

What are you grateful for?

With a grateful heart,

*Vicar Amanda Spangler*

## Abide in Love: Duke Lutherans 2022 Annual Campaign

At the heart of who we are and what we do as a campus ministry stands this verb: **abide**.

In the words of 1 John, God is Love, and as we seek to **abide** (dwell, sojourn, live) together

with students in love, we believe that God also abides in them and in our campus community of faith.

For over 80 years now, with the help of God's grace, we have **abided** with students in love, in hope and faith, learning and growth, in compassion, justice, and service.

And through it all, you have **abided** with us too. Whenever you pray for students, feed them, encourage them, listen to their stories, and support us with your generous financial gifts, you **abide** together with us in God's unfailing love.

Now through December 31, we invite you to give to the **Abide in Love** campaign. Please prayerfully consider the amount you can give (either as a one-time gift or each month as a sustaining giver).

It's simple to support the Duke Lutherans!

- ◆ Go online to [www.gifts.duke.edu/](http://www.gifts.duke.edu/) to make a one-time gift or set-up a recurring gift.
- ◆ Or make your check payable to Duke Lutherans and place it in the offering or mail it to: St. Paul's: 1200 W Cornwallis Rd, Durham, NC 27705.
- ◆ Consider making a lasting legacy gift to the Duke Lutherans through your QCD (Qualified Charitable Distributions) through your IRA, or through your will, trust, or estate.

Please consider making a gift to the **Abide in Love** campaign before the end of the year.



On behalf of our current students and all those we hope to **abide** with in the future, thank you!

In Peace and Gratitude

Pastor Amanda

## Preschool Pitter Patter

*by Amanda Stoen*

Our 2022-2023 school year is underway! We have had a wonderful start to this year. We continue to operate our preschool classes outside as much as possible. Our preschool children and teachers love to be outside and there are so many benefits to being a part of nature. 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 Amanda has begun! Each Wednesday, she meets with our threes and fours classes outside. Vicar Amanda has spent time getting to know each child while she reads Bible stories and prays with them. Outside is a great place to hear Bible stories and learn about God's love. In

October, the fire truck visited the preschool to discuss fire safety with our three and four year old classes. Several classes learned about many kinds of apples and tasted several varieties to determine their favorite. They also learned about pumpkins and scooped out the insides!

Last month, our staff and Vicar Amanda attended a Conscious Discipline training which focused on the powers of perception, attention and free will. Conscious Discipline is a research-based program that helps adults stay calm enough to see misbehavior and upset as a signal to teach instead of punish. It then provides effective strategies for teaching social-emotional and life skills to children. Since March

2020, we have been mostly focused on operating a preschool safely during this pandemic. This training was exactly what we needed as a staff to remember the *why* in our work with young children and address some of the big emotions and feelings we have experienced throughout the pandemic.

Lastly, 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 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.

## An Essential for our new Family

The Afghan refugee resettlement group has been hard at work helping our new neighbors from Afghanistan settle in Durham. They are a wonderful family of 10 with another child on the way. The father drove US military personnel in Afghanistan and we would like to purchase a van for him. Additionally, the oldest son needs tuition for community college in the fall. He dreams of one day being a doctor. In order to help raise funds for these needs we have started a gofundme page: <https://gofund.me/1cf5b6e8>

We encourage people to donate (everything helps) and also to share the link. This is an easy way for us as a church to simultaneously help a family in need and to reach out beyond our walls and show everyone the good work we are doing.

## Calling All Needle Crafters



### The Dropped Stitch

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** is returning. They meet the last Friday of the month from 1:00 - 3:00 pm, usually in the sofa area in the atrium. This group creates prayer shawls by knitting or crochet.

We also welcome back the **Tongue and Thimble** group. This 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am - 12:00 noon.

## Sunday Mornings

- **Children's Music Time -- 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 some songs and have some fun in Whitesell hall during the sermon at the early service. They will return to the service after the singing to continue worship.
- **Children are meeting each Sunday downstairs** in the Genesis Hall (the larger room with the kitchen). They begin at 9:45 and conclude at 10:45 am. Leaders are Betty Hinshaw and Carole Ostrowski. They are incorporating the Vacation Bible School curriculum so the children will be learning all about Jesus through bible stories which accompany the series "Rocky Railroad." We welcome all children to this interactive and varied activities program.
- **Child Care on Sunday mornings!** We now have an attendant, Courtney, on Sunday mornings who will care for your small children so parents and older children may attend Sunday School and worship. She will be 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.
- **Adult Sunday Class at St. Paul's** continues. Morris Casper is leading a session of four Sundays on Martin Luther. Join us in Trinity Hall on Sundays at 9:45-10:45 am. Coffee will be available.



## Thursday Morning Bible Study

Join us on Thursdays at 10:30-11:45 am where we are studying the book of Genesis. The class takes place in the Conference Room and by Zoom. Study notes will be emailed.

## Want a 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Statement?

Please contact our Bookkeeper, Alan Rigsbee ([bookkeeper@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:bookkeeper@stpaulsdurham.org)), or one of the co-financial secretaries, Phil Hart ([psbhart@gmail.com](mailto:psbhart@gmail.com)) or Rod Runestad ([rodrunestad@gmail.com](mailto:rodrunestad@gmail.com)) to receive a 3rd quarter financial statement. We will mail full-year 2022 statements to everyone in early 2023.



## November is Election Month!



Members of St. Paul's were glad to be part of the Souls to the Polls event on Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. With lights flashing and flags flying, we drove in the caravan from St. Joseph AME church to the NCCU Law School, where we were able to join other voters in casting our ballots during Early Voting. Marc Monial, President and CEO of the National Urban League, spoke about the importance of this election, and about encouraging young people to be involved with the electoral

process. If you have not yet cast your own ballot, please remember to get out and vote on November 8<sup>th</sup>!

Bee Ellertson, Rebecca Jules, and the Continuing Conversation Group

## Young In Spirit

**Tuesday, November 8, at 11:30 am**

(Due to Church dinner on Wednesday evening, Nov. 9, we are moving our get together up a day.)

Meet and Eat at Gugelhof at 11:30 am. Whether you choose a warm cup of coffee, lunch, or just to visit, please join us for conversation and fellowship. Weather permitting, we will gather in the wonderful dining garden at the back of the restaurant.

**Thursday, December 8, at 2:00 pm**

Looking ahead to December, the play "A Christmas Carol," performed by community actors at Temple Theater in Sanford is scheduled for December 8, at 2:00 pm. Dinner will be at Ale House in Durham when we return. Tickets are \$29.00 per person and sign-up and money is due to Jim Shoaf by November 6. Sign-up is on the bulletin board. Join us for a fun Christmas adventure.



## Sign-Up Genius Links

We need worship assistants weekly. Please visit the Sign-Up Genius links which we use to enable volunteers to fill in where needed, now for both services. Click on the link and fill in your date(s).

◆ Sunday Morning Worship Tasks

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-sunday1>

Tasks include setting up, lector, worship assistant, sound, altar guild, video, etc. Staff will be glad to provide assistance for any of these tasks.

◆ Sunday morning Communion Assistants and Lock-Up

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-communion>

◆ Devotions -

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eabad28a3fd0-daily1>

Please send your devotions to Vicar Amanda Spangler at [vicar@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:vicar@stpaulsdurham.org)

## What a Fellowship!

*by Martha Dahl*

Oktoberfest was a huge success! Hopefully you were able to participate. It was so wonderful to see Trinity Hall filled with people enjoying themselves. Thanks to everyone for making it happen, both attendees and helpers. In answer to one question asked, we prepare and cook the dinner ourselves. It takes a crowd to please the larger crowd! Without complaint, help was needed for planning, set-up, decorating, kitchen prep work, cooking at home, cooking at church, kitchen help, serving and clean-up. It was great, and necessary, that so many people stepped up to help, and many of our new and newly retired members were included! Don't misunderstand, we need attendees too! And we're aware not everyone can help. But if you have some time, want to have some fun, meet and get to know others – think about offering to serve once in a while. We are more than happy to teach you the ropes! But in the meantime, continue to come and enjoy!

## Recognitions

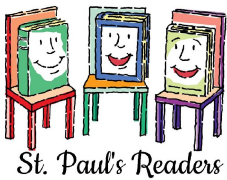
If you would like to make a recognition through a request for Altar Flowers, please stop by the credenza under the TV monitor in the atrium. Sign up for the day(s) you would like to request, pick up an envelope and form in the lower box and turn in your request form(s) which should indicate your announcement for the bulletin, and payment (\$40) at least one week in advance. If you have any questions, speak with a staff person.



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## St. Paul's Readers Meeting Thursday, November 17 at 3 pm



St. Paul's Readers

We invite all readers to join us for our discussion of *Damien the Leper: A Life of Magnificent Courage, Devotion and Spirit* by John Farrow. Our final meeting of this year is on Thursday, November 17, at 3 pm in Trinity Hall. Lorrell

Strom-Jensen is facilitating the discussion.

*Damien the Leper: A Life of Magnificent Courage, Devotion and Spirit* chronicles the extraordinary journey of Joseph De Veuster. This priest left his secure life in Belgium, thrust aside all thoughts of personal danger, and spent the rest of his days as Father Damien comforting the sick and the dying in a leper colony. His statue is displayed in the National Statuary Hall Collection in the US Capitol Building. John Farrow's splendid biography tells this unforgettable story of valor and sacrifice.

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 non-fiction. We request that all those interested please submit two books with brief summations via email to Katherine Trexler. We hope to finalize our list of eight books for 2023 at this 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!

## The Giving Tree

By mid-November, there will be a Christmas tree set up in the Atrium decorated with envelopes. Some will include gift ideas for students from Burton Elementary and others will request a variety of gift cards for the Parktown Food Hub Christmas giveaway. Details will be announced.



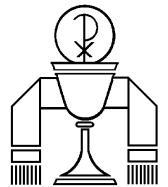
## Time with Wildflower Staff and Open House

On Sunday, November 13, we will have time during the 11:00 am service with Krissy Snyder and some of her staff. They have been getting settled into Wildflower Cottage next door and have invited us to an open house after the 11:00 am service that day. They have created a wonderful educational and creative space which you are welcome to visit that day.



## Worship on Sundays

We have two services: 8:30 am and 11:00 am, both using Setting One of the ELW. The 8:30 am service will be in-person. The 11:00 am service will be in-person, live-streamed and recorded. The link to watch the 11:00 service live is: <https://vimeo.com/event/1478223>. The link to watch any services which have been recorded is: <https://vimeo.com/stpaulsdurham> then choose the service date or event you wish to watch. We now are offering child-care during the worship times. Our attendant will be located in the room between the foyer and Whitesell Hall.



## PASTA for PARKTOWN!! Help Stock the St. Paul's Shelf at Parktown Food Hub! THANK

YOU for your generous gifts of boxed pasta. They are making a difference! Please keep adding a box or boxes of dry pasta to your grocery list and deliver to the box in the foyer. 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).

