

Cross Connections



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

January 2021

Martin Luther King Interfaith Celebration

ONLINE Sunday, Jan 17, 2021 at 3:30 pm

www.ctkcary.com/dreamfest



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

For the second year in a row, Christ the King Lutheran Church in Cary, NC, will host the interfaith prayer service that is part of the Town of Cary's "Dreamfest" during the weekend of Martin Luther King Day. Set for Sunday, January 17, at 3:30 pm, the service will originate from Christ the King and will be live streamed on the church's YouTube channel. Similarly, this year's guest preacher, Rev. Brenda Smith, until recently the director of the ELCA's Book of Faith Initiative, will participate from Chicago via video. Music will be provided by a small Gospel ensemble from Pleasant Grove Church of Cary and by Dr. Abraham Cáceres of Worldhousemusic. Also participating will be CTK member Vicki Gallagher with the "virtual MLK experience" which she leads at NC State. Other event sponsors are Beth Shalom Synagogue, the Islamic Association/Cary Mosque, the Town of Cary, the Cary Area Ministerial Alliance and the Triangle Conference of the NC Lutheran Synod. The service can be viewed live on January 17 at 3:30 pm at www.ctkcary.com/dreamfest or as a recording after the live event.

The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor

Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor

Jacqueline Nappi, Minister of Music

Amanda Stoen, Preschool Director

Judy Goans, Vicar

Jackie Fryt, Bookkeeper

The Rev. Amanda Highben, Associate Pastor, Duke Lutherans

The Rev. Dr. Charles R. Huggins, Pastor Emeritus

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

From the Pastor...

All I can say is that was one crazy December and Christmas. Between being in isolation for COVID exposure and the weather, we were not able to be with each other in person. That meant relying on recorded worship services. I thank you all for your understanding and patience during this unusual season of life.

I want to encourage you to pray for our congregation and for our staff. The whole church is groaning over the loss of connection and the new way we continue to struggle to form relationships.

The pandemic has caused other things to be abnormal as well. Please be aware of how slow the mail system is during this time. I find it is taking between two and three weeks for mail to reach people within Durham and sometimes longer for those outside the Durham city limits. I bring this up because we are working hard to record end of year giving and would ask your understanding if something does not reach us before we have to close out the year. We will do our best to credit end of the year giving appropriately.

On a more positive note, we are rejoicing in the hope of a new year. May God bless you and all of us as we begin a new Calendar year. May 2021 be a year of hope and joy and healing.

Pastor Scott

Welcoming the New Year

Many of us are tremendously glad to say goodbye to 2020 and welcome a fresh start in 2021. While I hope 2021 will be a better year for all of us, I would like to take a moment to reflect with thanks on some of the good things that happened in the year just past. A big one for me has been the opportunity to be here at St. Paul's, to serve as your vicar, and to get to know as many of you as possible. I am hoping this will expand in the coming year.

While the pandemic has thrown the proverbial monkey wrench into many of our activities, I am also thankful that St. Paul's has risen to the occasion – many times – by finding work-arounds. Worshipping outdoors means we miss the beauty of St. Paul's lovely sanctuary, with its stained glass and paraments, but being outdoors has a charm of its own. I am grateful for the technology that has allowed us to see each other via Zoom and Vimeo instead of sentencing us to isolation. For a number of St. Paul's members, I know you principally through our Zoom interactions at Coffee Hour and Bible Study each week, and via Zoom meetings. It's not as good as seeing each other

in face-to-face meetings, but what a blessing it is to have this alternative way to meet. I am also grateful to be able to participate in drive-by communion every week and look forward to weeks when weather will allow us to worship outside.

I look forward even more to a time when each of us will be able to take part in church activities in-person. Until then, please stay safe and healthy. I wish each of you a blessed and happy 2021 and look forward to seeing you in this new year.

Judy Goans, Vicar

Council Corner Jan 2021

Traditionally, the Council conducts minimal business in December while the focus is on worship and celebration of Advent and Christmas. Surprise! December 2020 wasn't like that.

First, we completed the sale of Damascus House with a closing on December 2. Then there was a possible COVID exposure that forced cancellation of in-person services and sent staff to work from home for 10 days. During that period we had a congregational meeting over Zoom to approve the budget for 2021 and elect new council members. Maria Chi, Barbara Ellertson, and Tim Hoke will serve three year terms, and we thank them for their willingness to serve.

Later in the month, the Council had a Christmas party of sorts over Zoom, and a few days after that we had an extra meeting to consider a refinancing offer on our mortgage. Thanks to the efforts of our treasurers, John Foreman and Angela Maine, we have an offer from Fidelity Bank that would cut our interest rate by a full percent and reduce monthly expenses by about \$4,000. There will be costs that offset some of the benefit in 2021, but the interest rate will be fixed for seven years. The council voted to approve the Finance Committee's recommendation to pursue this option.

We weren't able to celebrate our staff in person this year, but many of you reached out in various ways to express your love and appreciation. In this extraordinary year, we have pulled together to support each other and keep St. Paul's strong.

Since May, Phil Hart has maintained a loose network of members calling to check on other members. He is looking for additional callers and would welcome a co-leader of this effort. If you would be willing to get involved, please send him a message at psbhart@gmail.com. Similarly, if you have not been receiving a regular call and would like to, please let him know. COVID-19 continues to challenge our physical and mental well being, and it helps all of us to

stay connected.

Beyond our own congregation, we know the needs in our community and throughout the world are greater than ever. Let's continue to pray for the Lord's guidance as we seek to do his will by easing suffering and spreading love.

Tina Bessias

Congregation Council President

Preschool Pitter Patter



by Amanda Stoen

Happy New Year! I think we are all ready to put 2020 behind us and start a new year. We have hope with the vaccines now available that we will be able to gather together again

as an entire preschool family and add back many of the preschool activities that we have put on hold. We have missed our preschool family potluck meals! We are grateful to have another layer of protection with the iWave air purification system that the church installed. We will still be spending much of our preschool days outside, even during the winter, but those cold rainy winter days are challenging. The teachers feel better about being inside for longer periods on those challenging weather days.

The teachers and I look forward to starting 2021 with our preschool children. We are just about half way through our school year and will begin registering for Fall 2021 later this month. St. Paul's members (children and grandchildren) receive priority registration, which will begin in late January. We will offer classes for children ages 10 months - 4 years old. If you are interested, or know of anyone who is, we are offering virtual tours at this time.

Registration forms and enrollment procedures will be available on our website once our class offerings are finalized. If you have any questions in the meantime, please let me know. We ask for your continued prayers throughout the school year.

Memorials Received

The following memorials were received by those as designated. Thank you.

In memory of Carol Sackett

Patrick and Neely Alt, Davidson, NC

Karl and Otti Freundt, Durham

In memory of Jim and Carol Sackett

Pat Lichty, Durham

Deborah Keller, Morrisville

In memory of Kaaren Johanson

Tom and Judy Kraska

Pat Lichty, Durham

In memory of Nancy Clendaniel

Cindy Snyder Fennimore, Durham

In memory of Addie Sturgeon Felkel and Carson Sturgeon

Mary Sturgeon, Carrboro

In memory of Jim Keller

Deborah Keller, Morrisville

Prayers of Sympathy

...to the family and friends of Staryl Braisted, father of Dawn York, who died on December 22, 2020

...to the family and friends of Bonnie Marple, who died on December 28, 2020 in Wilmington, NC.

Address Change

Jim and Jean Klausman

2701 Pickett Road, Apt 4042

Durham NC 27705

The Ministry of Listening



Think of a time when you really felt cared for. Chances are someone focused on what you had to say, was attentive to your needs, and listened to how you felt instead of telling you how you should feel or what you should do.

In Stephen Ministry, a great deal of time is spent in teaching and practicing listening skills because of its importance as a caregiving tool. Here's a sample of what Stephen Ministers learn in their training about listening:

1. Listening is active. It takes energy and commitment to listen really well. Focus your attention on what the other person has to say instead of thinking of what you'll say next.
2. Listening takes patience. Often you need to build trust before someone will open up to you.
3. Listening involves more than just words. Pay attention not only to what is said, but to what is not said. Pay attention to body language, too. Does it agree with or contradict a person's spoken words?

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4. Good listeners aren't completely silent. They restate key thoughts or ideas to be sure they understood correctly, and they ask focused questions to encourage the person to reach a little deeper.
5. Listening happens over time. One conversation might build upon an earlier one. As you listen over several conversations, are there any recurring themes or patterns in what the person has said? Are there any contradictions from what was said earlier? These are signs there may be more to explore underneath.
6. Listening is confidential. A great way to build trust and show the person you really care is to maintain confidentiality and not to share with others what was told to you in private conversation.

Jesus was the model of a good listener. Much of his ministry was listening to people. By listening to what people had to say he demonstrated how much he really cared about them. Do you remember the stories of the woman at the well, Nicodemus, or the disciples on the road to Emmaus? These were all times when Jesus showed his care and concern by first listening to people and then giving them what they needed.

Our Stephen Ministers at St. Paul's follow Jesus' model as a listener and caregiver, helping to make this a caring place where members and guests truly feel people care about who they are and how they feel. Just as our Stephen Ministers use good listening skills to communicate how much they care, so can you! Listening is a great gift we can give to one another, and one we can all use in our everyday caring and relating.

Nan Treul, Stephen Minister

Be Kind

Wendy Waugh

The 'Be Kind' t-shirts and yard signs are now available only at my home. If you want some, just email me: rev.wendywaugh@gmail.com. The shirts

and yard signs are still free but you may donate to the cost of making them. T-shirts are \$5.50, sweatshirts are \$15.00 and yard signs with stands are \$10.00. There are plenty of shirts and yard signs still available.

St. Paul's Calls Ministry

During this period of pandemic and uncertainty, a group of more than 20 St. Paul's members have shared the love of Christ with other St. Paul's members via a frequent phone call. These calls have helped everyone to stay connected to St. Paul's and each other.

As we begin a new year, we are seeking volunteers to expand the number of callers. Also, we are reaching out to anyone who is not currently receiving a call but would like to receive calls. Please contact Phil Hart to volunteer to help with this ministry or to be put on the list for calls. Phil may be reached by email at psbhart@gmail.com or by phone at 817-692-9487.

St. Paul's Readers

Join in the discussion of The Water Dance, by Tanehisi Coates, on Thursday, January 21 at 3 pm. Book selection for February is Reason for Hope, by Jane Goodall.

Annual Reports

It is time again for our annual reports to be submitted. Please have them to Susan Esposito by January 20. They should come from each committee and active group at St. Paul's. Content should include membership and what has been accomplished in 2020. They can be left in Susan's mailbox or emailed to admin@stpaulsdurham.org.

If anyone has changed emails, phone, or addresses, please be sure we have that information updated in the church office.