

# Cross Connections



*St. Paul's Lutheran Church*

*April 2021*

## *Worship Opportunities*

Beginning with Palm Sunday, March 28, we will live stream by Zoom and record the live stream service. Because we can have people in the Sanctuary and Trinity Hall, we have decided to eliminate the Wednesday recording of weekly worship. We will begin using setting 4 (the same setting we have been using for recorded worship) and will hold one service at 10 am on Sundays. This service will be live streamed on Zoom. In addition, we will record this service for later viewing and plan to send you the link as soon as it has been uploaded to our Vimeo site, usually by early afternoon. We will continue to have drive-through Holy Communion from approximately 11:15 am until 12:00 noon weekly.

## *Holy Week Worship Options*

During Holy Week we will be offering a combination of live, recorded and Zoomed worship:

- + Maundy Thursday (Apr 1) will be a live and Zoomed service at 7:00 pm with Holy Communion.
- + Good Friday (Apr 2) will be a Vimeo recorded worship of Stations of the Cross and the sanctuary will be open for meditation.
- + The Easter Vigil (Apr 3) will be a live and zoomed service at 7:00 pm.

## **Triduum**



- + Easter Sunday (Apr 4) will be a live service at 10 am, Zoomed, and recorded for viewing on Vimeo by Sunday afternoon. The service will contain recorded portions of live music with our voice and handbell choirs participating. Easter bags for children will be distributed at worship and during the 11:15 am - 12:00 noon drive-through Holy Communion time.

**The Church Office will be closed Easter week, April 5-9.**

The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor

Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor

Jacqueline Nappi, Minister of Music

Amanda Stoen, Preschool Director

Judy Goans, Vicar

Alan Rigsbee, 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...

When April 1<sup>st</sup> hits the calendar, I think this past year has been one big April Fools. Not in the sense that COVID 19 is foolish or a joke, but that I never thought we would remain under such unusual life circumstances for a whole year.

If someone would have told me last April Fools, which was Easter Sunday by the way, I would have thought this a not very funny fools joke. But, now that we continue under the effects of this disease my prayer is that by next April Fools (and much sooner) we will look back and rejoice that pandemic is over and we will have a sanctuary full of people again.

For now we are moving in that direction, slowly – oh so slowly. We are in person indoors again and we can accommodate meetings in small groups in Trinity Hall, the library and the conference room. All of these spaces are open to committees of the church or small groups for study and fellowship. We are not ready to hold meals together yet, but we are looking to plan for Vacation Bible School the first week of August.

Many of us are fully vaccinated and there is an opportunity for the vaccinated to gather under different rules than for those not vaccinated. I began to wonder if the vaccinated would like to gather for in-person Bible Study or to listen to worship together in Trinity Hall. If anyone is interested in those opportunities, please contact me and we can see about scheduling something.

The hospitals and assisted living centers are still off limits for staff, but if you have been vaccinated and would like a visit, I would be glad to have the vicar or myself schedule one with you. We would like to suggest those still be masked and outdoors if possible. There is hope with the coming of spring, and I want to take advantage of this hope. So let me start by sharing a poem of hope. God bless you and fill you with hope.

### **The Instinct of Hope** – John Clare

Is there another world for this frail dust  
To warm with life and be itself again?  
Something about me daily speaks there must,  
And why should instinct nourish hopes in vain?  
'Tis nature's prophesy that such will be,  
And everything seems struggling to explain  
The closed sealed volume of its mystery.  
Time wandering onward keeps its usual pace  
As seeming anxious of eternity,  
To meet that calm and find a resting place.  
E'en the small violet feels a future power  
And waits each year renewing blooms to bring,  
And surely man is no inferior flower  
To die unworthy of a second spring?

Pastor Scott

## The Light at the End of the Tunnel

This season reminds me of John 1:5: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

We have faced a lot of darkness lately: dealing with the pandemic, loss of loved ones, giving up things we love to do. We have faced a cold, wet winter. And at church, we have been unable for a year to worship together. Even our Lectionary readings have been cause for sorrow, as we built up to Jesus' suffering and death.

Now, however, the season of resurrection is peeking through the gloom. As St. Paul's members get their vaccines, we are worshipping together inside the church. What a joy that is! I have met in person for the first time people I had already come to love when we met over Zoom. The weather is warmer and for the most part less dreary. Flowers are blooming, adding sparks of color to a landscape that looked pretty barren with its leafless trees, a scene that sometimes mirrored our own bloom. As I write, we still face the dreadful suffering of Jesus during Holy Week, but we know that soon we will hear the good news of Jesus' resurrection.

This is the season where we begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel: the return of the sun that replaces our gloomy winter, the return of our way of life as we combat a deadly disease, and most especially, Jesus' return to life and the sure and certain knowledge that we, too, shall rise. Even through the gloomy times, this light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never overcome it.

Wishing you a blessed Easter season,  
Vicar Judy Goans

## Council Corner

by Claire Cooney  
President Congregational Council

It is hard to believe that we have surpassed a year of altered living due to the pandemic. In so many ways, I still feel 'new' to St. Paul's. Though I have been a lifelong Lutheran, my family and I moved to Durham in 2018 and it's been only three years that I have been a member. I look forward to safely returning to in-person activities as it is safe to do so. There is a light at the end of the tunnel! Council has continued to discuss our financial position, and how our budget will look throughout the year. Thank you for your commitment to St. Paul's – through your time, talents, and financial contributions. They all matter. As always, feel free to send your thoughts and ideas to our Council email – [council@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:council@stpaulsdurham.org).



*I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.*

Philippians 1.3-6

Because we couldn't have made it this far without you...

**You are invited to join the Duke Lutherans for a special Holden Evening Prayer via Zoom as we celebrate and give thanks for all of our alumni and supporters.**

**18 April 2021, 5:30 p.m.**

<https://duke.zoom.us/j/96838098980?pwd=Z1hWd2haa0d3b05MMHM4RDU5cjBaUT09>

*Please R.S.V.P. to Pastor Amanda Highben by April 15 (amanda.highben@duke.edu)*

## Duke Lutherans Sunday at St. Paul's

Please join us on April 11 as the Duke Lutherans lead worship and share highlights from this past year in campus ministry. Pastor Amanda will preside and Christina Nesslage (St. Paul's member, Duke Lutherans field education student, and M.Div. senior) will preach. Although it's been a challenging year, the students have experienced God's grace in countless ways, and we are so thankful for your prayers and faithful support. We hope to see you on April 11 so that we might worship God together and express our gratitude for your ongoing love and care.

## Preschool Pitter Patter

*by Amanda Stoen*

Welcome spring! We made it through a wet and chilly winter and we are looking forward to warmer days at the preschool. Spring is a time of growth and new blooms. Our preschool children love to watch nature come back into bloom from its winter slumber. As we continue to spend much of our day outside, the children feel the warm sun and find new creatures to observe in their natural habitats. We've also been able

to move many of our indoor learning centers outside, including block play.



As our preschool children continue to learn through active play, here is another stimulating activity that children of all ages enjoy –

blocks, cars and trucks!

When I play with Blocks, Cars and Trucks, I learn...

- ▶ Concepts of shape, size, length and location
- ▶ To create and repeat patterns
- ▶ To exercise imagination
- ▶ To express ideas
- ▶ To cooperate with others
- ▶ To solve problems
- ▶ To see myself from a different perspective



Playing with blocks provides the foundation for learning in many areas of a child's development. Children find joy and challenges when stacking them to make a tall tower.



Sometimes the ground is uneven and they must find a solution to keep their tower or other structure from falling over. This involves a lot of problems solving and cooperation with friends to collaborate and experiment with different ideas.

We have a few more spots remaining in our PMO and Twos classes for the 2021-

2022 school year. Registration forms and enrollment procedures can be found on our website

[stpaulspreschooldurham.weebly.com](http://stpaulspreschooldurham.weebly.com)

Please contact me if you are interested in learning more about our preschool program.

Lastly, we are celebrating that the preschool staff has been vaccinated! While the staff may be vaccinated, our preschool children and many family members still are not. Our preschool COVID protocols and procedures will still remain in place as we



continue to practice the safety measures recommended from the NCDHHS childcare guidelines. We are very glad to be doing our part to help keep our preschool staff and families as healthy and safe as possible.

## Reparations: What Did We Learn?

In February, the Continuing Conversations Group (CCG) held two Zoom sessions to learn about questions about reparations. About twenty members of St. Paul's watched a video lecture by Duke professor William (Sandy) Darity and then shared our thoughts and questions. We decided that the topic is sufficiently important and complex that we would benefit from more study, so we're planning another Zoom gathering on Thursday evening, April 22 at 7:00 pm. You are invited to join whether or not you participated in the February conversations.

One question was: "Why are we talking about this at church? Isn't this a political issue?" Our answers came from the Bible and from the ELCA Church Council:

- Isaiah 1:17: "Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed."
- Micah 6:8: "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy; and to walk humbly with your God."
- ELCA Church Council resolution of November 2020 encouraging "continuation of research and work toward economic justice and the study of reparations and engagement in anti-racism work. . . ."

With this guidance, we began our study.

While it has been over 150 years since the abolition of slavery in the US, the impacts of race-based discrimination throughout our society and economy continue to this day. The average white family possesses 8 times the amount of wealth as the average black family, a disparity accumulated over generations.

Among the insights we encountered are the lasting effects of home mortgage discrimination on black families. The GI Bill was administered by local boards, which often denied applications from African American veterans for the favorable mortgage terms extended to white veterans. The FHA and insurance industry policies reinforced segregation in housing patterns, which further impeded the ability of black families to build equity. One of Dr. Darity's main points is that the ability to accumulate and transfer wealth across generations through home ownership has been a primary path toward financial stability for many

Americans. However, while black Americans comprise 13 percent of the US population, they collectively possess only 2.6 percent of the wealth in private hands. And education alone does not solve this problem: Black college graduates earn only 2/3 as much as the average white person without a high school degree.

To address the wealth gap, reparations are increasingly being discussed as a remedy. This might take the form of endowments for higher education, forgiveness of student debt; assistance with home ownership, direct payments, investment in community resources, etc. Reparations advocates encourage the appointment of a federal commission to study proposed remedies, recommend actions, and ultimately administer reparations. We also learned about the need for national dialogue: as a society we need to know about and acknowledge the harms that are visited upon black citizens in order to make amends. Only then will we be able to heal and grow into a future of "liberty and justice for all."

We hope you will join us on April 22 as we continue to study and learn. If you can't join us on Zoom, we invite you to watch Dr. Darity's talk: <https://bit.ly/2QreNrW> and explore some of the resources posted at <https://bit.ly/3tIL9w4>. And please feel free to reach out to a member of the CCG to share your thoughts or ask questions.

– Bee Ellerson for CCG (Tina Bessias, Patricia Bynum, Pat and Morris Casper, Alta Lindsay, Greg Hudgins, Mary Runestad, Wendy Waugh)

## Memorials Received

We thank the following persons for their donations given to our memorials Funds in memory of those indicated.

In memory of Jim and Carol Sackett, by John Guran, Highlands Ranch, CO

In memory of Seth Kitange by Neema Kitange, Durham



## Address Changes

Ann Grovenstein - new email  
[anngrovenstein2@gmail.com](mailto:anngrovenstein2@gmail.com)

## Stephen Ministry: Lay Caregiving to Hurting People

"The sun is going to keep coming up."

That's a healthy perspective shared by Carolyn K. these days. She wasn't always so sure. Her series of

sad events began with the death of her mother. On the heels of this first loss came a bigger and more unexpected one. Her son took his own life.



Someone told Carolyn about Stephen Ministry, a ministry at her church which provides one-to-one care to individuals who are hurting due to a death, illness, divorce, job loss, unplanned pregnancy, or other kind of life crisis. Carolyn was soon matched with a Stephen Minister, a church

member trained to provide compassionate, confidential, Christ-centered care.

Carolyn's Stephen Minister met with her weekly to listen, care, and offer reassurance as Carolyn worked through her anger, pain, and sorrow. Carolyn says she's in a much better place now, and she credits Stephen Ministry.

"My Stephen Minister provided a great sounding board," Carolyn said. "She helped me move forward – always at my own pace – instead of wallowing in self-pity and pain. It's a very positive thing."

Stephen Ministry is named for Stephen, the first Christian martyr, who was earlier commissioned by the apostles to care for people in need (Acts 6:1-6). This ministry began in St. Louis in 1975, when Rev. Kenneth Haugk (a pastor and clinical psychologist) trained members of his congregation to provide Christian care to other members and individuals in the community in need of encouragement. Within a few years, the non-profit organization began to offer itself to other churches by "training the trainers" who enroll in their ministry system.

Galatians 6:2 instructs the church to: "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (ESV). Stephen Ministries, from their St. Louis headquarters, helps Christians do this by providing support for more than 12,000 congregations worldwide that represent 172 denominations. More than 70,000 pastors and laypeople have been trained as Stephen Leaders who, in turn, have trained more than 600,000 church members to become Stephen Ministers. Over the years, more than 1.5 million people have received care from a Stephen Minister.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church began its Stephen Ministry in 2014 and currently has 12 active Stephen Ministers. Each is assigned to one care receiver at a time; men are paired with men, women with women. Stephen Ministers are not counselors – their role is to listen and care, and their ministry is supervised by the congregation's Stephen Leaders.

The training is completely Christ-centered and gives you the tools needed to fulfill Paul's instructions in Romans 12 to "Rejoice with those who rejoice and

mourn with those who mourn." Not only do the recipients of Stephen Ministry benefit, the caregivers do as well.

If you know of a member of St. Paul's who might benefit from having a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Scott, Kim Hoke, or Nan Treul.

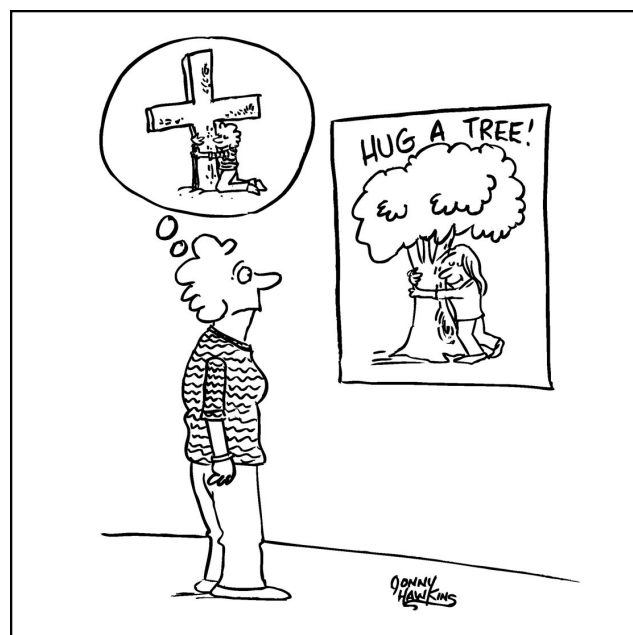
## St. Paul's Preschool Seeks Congregation Members to Serve on Board

St. Paul's Preschool and PMO (Parents' Morning Out) needs congregation 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, and fundraising, and grant writing. Most importantly, the board seeks members who are committed to the support and development of young children in the community.

Anyone who is interested should contact Kim Hoke, Board Chair, at [zoelenny5@gmail.com](mailto:zoelenny5@gmail.com) or by calling her at 919-489-3547. Inquiries by April 23 are appreciated.



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## St. Paul's Readers

In April, we will be discussing Garlic and Sapphires, by Ruth Reichl, via zoom on Thursday, April 15, at 3:00 pm. The book for May is Beneath a Scarlett Sky, by Mark Sullivan.

## Permit Received

Wildflower Cottage for Children received from the City of Durham, their special use permit to operate a daycare facility at 2416 Pickett Road (formerly Damascus House). They are now able to begin renovation of the property. They are working toward being open in the new facility this fall.

## Coffee Hour on Zoom

Pour a cup of tea or coffee and

join the Pastor and Vicar for Coffee Hour on Mondays on Zoom from 10-11. We are looking forward to seeing you, chatting, and catching up. We will start back up after Easter on April 12. Here is the info:

Topic: Coffee Hour with the Pastor and Vicar, Time: 10:00-11:00 am on Mondays

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/91351103753?pwd=WVVCRLgrSUhLzJWN3pPYnlyL25LZz09>

Meeting ID: 913 5110 3753 – Password: 292680

## Attention Golfers!

The Camp Agape Kure Beach Ministries Golf Tournament is on for Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Lochmere Golf Club in Cary. Tee times will be starting at 8:30 am. Primary cost is \$90 per person or \$350 per foursome registered. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Warren Pusak at [wrpusak@aol.com](mailto:wrpusak@aol.com) or by cell phone at 919-219-4090. Please leave a

message if he doesn't answer and he will return the call ASAP. It's a great reason to get out of the house – Camperships for Youth, for those can't afford to go to Bible Camp. In past years, we have sent 50-60 kids to Camp who ordinarily could not have gone.



## Sign-Up!

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>

Vicar Judy Goans is coordinator for the daily devotions. Sign up and send your devotions to Vicar Judy ([vicar@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:vicar@stpaulsdurham.org)) at least 2 days in advance of the date.

### ♦ Sunday Morning 10:00 AM Worship

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

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

## Amos Bible Study

Scott Anderson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom Bible Study on

Thursday mornings. We will

take a break and not have class on April 1 nor on April 8. Bible study will resume on April 15.

Topic: Bible Study - the study of Amos – Time: 10:30 am on Thursdays. Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/946532621?pwd=UTJqYjV0V3laMmpROStMdGRvTGhUT09>

Meeting ID: 946 532 621 – Password: 402561

