

# Cross Connections



*St. Paul's Lutheran Church*

*October 2021*

# TRUNK OR TREAT

## Friday, October 29

### at 6:00 pm

### St. Paul's Parking Lot

**New to Trunk or Treating?**

It's a great fall event where

you have a fun time decorating your trunk, and the treaters come to your car. Search the internet and you will find lots of great ideas. Oriental Trading even has prepared kits to use – or put your thinking cap on and start creating - get the kids involved in the fun! Trunk decorators (you don't need to have children to



participate – just like trick or treat at your house), can

arrive at the Pickett Road parking lot between 5:30-6:00 pm, leaving one parking

space between each car. This will allow time to set up decorations and have

traffic completed before beginning the trunk or treating at 6:00 pm. Costumed

Treaters will visit from car to car to gather their treats. We will end by 7:00

pm. Treats will be safely distributed by the adults using gloves or tongs to drop

into the treaters' bags. Treats should be pre-packed and not home-made. Everyone

over age 3 needs to be wearing a mask. Contact the church staff if you have any questions!

The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor

Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor

Kathleen Stanford, Interim Organist

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

[pastor@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:pastor@stpaulsdurham.org)

[admin@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:admin@stpaulsdurham.org)

[vicar@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:vicar@stpaulsdurham.org)

[preschool@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:preschool@stpaulsdurham.org)

[bookkeeper@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:bookkeeper@stpaulsdurham.org)

[amanda.highben@duke.edu](mailto:amanda.highben@duke.edu)

[crhugg@charter.net](mailto:crhugg@charter.net)

Church Office Phone: 919-489-3214 \* Fax: 919-490-1088 \* Website: [www.stpaulsdurham.org](http://www.stpaulsdurham.org)

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

## From the Pastor...

It is October already. Another month with pandemic on our minds. Yet, we are gathering in worship, planning activities together, but also still offering options for online attendance and connections.

The Nurturing Committee is working on a new program to stay more fully connected with one another and offer continued support and love.

We plan on holding Trunk or Treat on October 29<sup>th</sup>, much like we did last year. No meal together, but lots of decorated trunks in the parking lot and an opportunity for our children to dress up and have a fun time at St. Paul's.

The Vicar's year is off to a good start and I know many of you are happy to have a personable, connected intern on staff this year. So, he has been invited to participate in every aspect of St. Paul's life. That's great, but know this is a learning year for him that is guided by not only his committee, but by the Pastor as supervisor. I really need to approve and guide his activity. Unlike the rest of staff, we have made a commitment to keeping his hours between 40 and 45 per week. This limits his availability. It means I need to thoughtfully schedule his time. So, please know that if Vicar Mac does not accept your invitation to participate, it may be because I have said he must decline. Please check with me if this is a concern for you and I can discuss his schedule with you.

I want to thank Tina Bessias, George Seiz, Curtis Chi, Bee Ellertson, and Rachel Harter for their work with the music search team. We are hoping to announce our new music minister before you receive this newsletter. We couldn't have done this without their hard work.

October 10 is Consecration Sunday. We will receive estimate of giving cards that week and will be diligently refining the budget after that week. So please keep this congregation in your prayers.

Thanks to everyone that is assisting with worship and if you would like to be part of the video production team, please see either Tim Hoke or Curtis Chi.

God's peace,  
Pastor Scott

## From the Vicar...

I am thrilled at how quickly our Sunday morning greetings have gone from "Nice to meet you!" to "Good to see you again! How was your week?" For me, this shows how welcoming and open-hearted St. Paul's is as a congregation. My family felt equally

welcomed when they visited this past month. Thank you for your hospitality, St. Paul's!

One of the educational opportunities of a vicar is to plan and lead adult education while they're here. This Fall, I will be leading a study of the Small Catechism for adults. No, I promise this is not Confirmation 2.0! We will be using the series "By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism," published by Augsburg Fortress. This is a wonderfully in-depth series that looks at the theology, history, and spirituality that went into creating the Catechism and how it can be a source of spiritual nourishment for Lutherans today. Each session always ends by asking "So what? What does this matter," bringing the Reformation into our lives now. "By Heart" is perfect for newer and life-long Lutherans alike! Fittingly, our first meeting will be the first Wednesday after Reformation Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm. The classes will be about seven weeks, aiming to finish just before the week of Christmas. In-person and Zoom will both be available. Please sign-up in advance (either using the link or by emailing me) so we can order enough books for everyone ahead of time. If you have any questions about the class, please don't hesitate to ask. I hope you'll be able to join us!

Peace,  
Vicar Mac

Sign-up Link: <https://forms.gle/kNtsAkPzg7eRQDgs5>

## Duke Lutherans in "Fall" Swing!



It's been a wonderful start to the new year, as we've joined in "life together" with returning and new students alike. From freshmen with undeclared



majors to PhD students in their fifth year, we have a diverse group from across the country and even the world, though one that is united in their desire to grow in faith, serve their neighbors, and build a community that is rooted in the love of Christ.



As in past years, our cornerstone weekly event is Sunday Evening Prayer + Holy Communion in the York Room of the Divinity School, and we always welcome members of our St. Paul's and Grace families to join us. A very special thank you too to everyone who's prepared and served our delicious homemade fellowship dinners: the Duke Lutherans Committee, Phil and Sally Hart, Aaron Klink, Ellen and Kevin Lavery, Tim and Kim Hoke, Margot and Bruce Wuebbens, and Marilyn and Larry Hawley. We still have seven nights that need filled. If you'd like to help, please sign-up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b49a5ab2da3f49-duke1>



Two other fall highlights included a Durham Bulls game and fireworks (Bulls won 10-1!) and a night climb to the



top of the Duke Chapel bell tower (all 239 steps). We're also excited to announce that we'll soon be launching a brand new Duke Lutherans website (funded through a generous grant from the Hine Fund of Augsburg Lutheran Church,

Winston-Salem). Of course, to stay in the loop and see pictures of the students in action on campus and throughout Durham, you can also follow us on Instagram (@dukelutherans) or join our Facebook group (Duke Lutherans).

Thank you, dear ones, for continuing to pray for and support the Duke Lutherans. We can't do this vital work without you! Our ministry with students during such a formative and critical time in their lives depends on your prayers, partnership, and generosity.

God's Peace,  
Pastor Amanda

## Preschool Pitter Patter

*by Amanda Stoen*

The preschool began our new school year a few weeks ago and the children are settling in well to the class routines and making new friends. We are all



learning the importance of flexibility, especially with the weather. Thanks to your generous donations to our Un-fundraiser this spring, we have been able to add some additional equipment and materials to support our outdoor spaces for the children.

Here's just some of the items we purchased: a sturdy gazebo for Luther Woods, 2 wagons, 6 picnic tables for outdoor snack time, an outdoor rug, plexiglass for outdoor painting/art activities, 2 tuff

trays and more sand for our sandboxes and mud kitchens! Our teachers are putting all of these things to good use and we're glad to have these items to support our outdoor classroom spaces. Thank you again for your donations.

Don't forget to link 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.

## Here In God's Garden – Azalea Celebration

*by George Seiz*

God's gardeners have been busy this past summer weeding, trimming, pruning, and pressure washing. Fall is right around the corner and it's time to do some shrub planting. St. Paul's is the fortunate recipient of 25 azalea shrubs as part of the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Azalea Celebration sponsored by Capitol Broadcasting Company. The Annual Azalea Celebration promotes

environmental education, stewardship, and provides an opportunity for non-profit organizations to improve community appearance. St. Paul's applied in early August of 2021 and was notified on September 9<sup>th</sup> of the award. The shrubs will be planted in several different areas to supplement existing plants and to replace some that have been lost over the years.



**The scheduled day for planting the 25 one-gallon potted plants is Saturday, October 2, 2021, from 9:00 am to about 11:00 am.** If you are interested in helping to plant these shrubs which will beautify our campus, please contact George Seiz via email

at [geoseiz324@gmail.com](mailto:geoseiz324@gmail.com). The work will entail digging and backfilling holes and spreading mulch. Equipment and materials will be provided.

There is a lot to take care of on our church campus. The buffer and planting areas on the main entrance side of the church alone include 29 trees, 37 understory trees and approximately 250 shrubs. **More help is always needed.** If you are interested in working with the Saturday morning outdoor work group or working at a time during the week when you're available, please contact George Seiz at [geoseiz324@gmail.com](mailto:geoseiz324@gmail.com), 919-824-0130, or preferably talk to him in person on Sunday morning. No special skills required. The group typically meets on Saturday mornings from 9 am till 11 am depending on workload and weather. **You don't need to be there every Saturday and hours are flexible.**

## GI Legacy Bill

*by Rachel Harter*

St. Paul's Continuing Conversation Group discusses issues of social justice, including racism. One participant proposed the idea of a GI Legacy Bill to extend GI Bill benefits to today's direct descendants of veterans who were denied such benefits because of their race or ethnicity. (Although GI Bill benefits were funded by the federal government, administration and distribution of funds were usually placed in the hands of local boards; applications by African-American veterans were routinely denied in some locales.) The thinking behind the bill is that justice over the handling of the original GI Bill would be served without a simple handout, and the cost would eventually be recouped many times over in a stronger economy and increased tax revenue. If you think the

GI Legacy Bill is an idea worth discussing, please join the Continuing Conversation Group where ideas such as this can be discussed respectfully. If you think the idea is worth your individual support, please spread the word and propose the idea to your legislators.

## Pandemic Reflection

*by Nan Treul*

In last month's meeting, one of the Stephen Ministers, Blaise Mercadante, offered this short poem as a devotion:

### Covid Poem

When this is over,  
may we never again  
take for granted  
A handshake with a stranger  
Full shelves at the store  
Conversations with neighbors  
A crowded theatre  
Friday night out  
The taste of communion  
A routine checkup  
The school rush each morning  
Coffee with a friend  
The stadium roaring  
Each deep breath  
A boring Tuesday  
Life itself.

When this ends,  
may we find  
that we have become  
more like the people  
we wanted to be  
we were called to be  
we hoped to be  
and may we stay  
that way – better  
for each other  
because of the worst.

– Laura Kelley Fanucci

I hope that this poem inspires all of us to reflect. Although the pandemic has had many negative aspects, there are some positive outcomes that we can gain from surviving and thriving throughout the past 18 months.

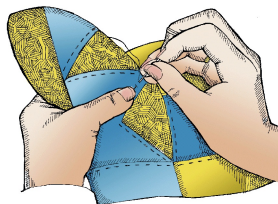
If you know of someone who would benefit from a listening ear, please contact Pastor Scott, Kim Hoke, or Nan Treul to talk about a possible Stephen Minister to fulfill this role.



## CROP Walk

We were not quite “in step” with the usual CROP Walk again this year but we did have some faithful servants who contributed to the “virtual” walk. We thank our donors for the \$1,230 we received in contributions to CROP Walk for their hunger appeal. Thank you!

## Quilts Distributed



*by Barbara Dahl*

Once again the ladies of Tongue and Thimble have outdone themselves as dozens of beautiful handmade quilts were donated this month to Project Night Night. As the local representative of this

charitable organization, I get to deliver a gift bag containing a new blanket, a new book and a new stuffed toy to each homeless child in shelters in Durham, Chapel Hill, and Raleigh. While the children treasure these gifts as something they can call their own in a time of displacement and turmoil, the parents are especially thankful for the individual attention given to their children and their smiles are outward expressions of their gratitude. Thank you St. Paul's and the gifted ladies with the nimble fingers of Tongue and Thimble.

## Memorials Received

We thank the following persons for their generous donations to our St. Paul's Memorial Fund.

In memory of Christina Setiawan by Hananiel (Han) Setiawan, Durham

In memory of Leon Bowman by the following persons:

Gus Holshouser, Durham  
 Phyllis and Harvey Little, Jason and Tashia Little,  
 Jack and Ross, Taylorsville, NC  
 Janet Ravert, Durham  
 Phil and Sally Hart, Durham  
 Michael J. Rice, Elizabeth City, NC  
 Anthony and Penni Perrotte, Durham

In memory of William Horne, ELCA Vice President,  
 by Greg Hudgins, Durham

## AmazonSmile

Since the program began, St. Paul's Lutheran Church has received \$590.19 as a result of qualifying purchases which have designated St. Paul's as their charity. If you would like to know more, go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). You shop the same stock, same prices, use the same account. Select St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Durham as your recipient. St. Paul's has nothing to do with your orders, lists, etc. AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible purchases to St. Paul's. If you have any questions, contact a Staff Member. We thank those who have been using SmileAmazon, every little bit helps.

## Burton Elementary Support

*by Bee Ellertson and  
 the Continuing Conversation Group*



The students and staff of Burton Elementary send glad thanks to members of St. Paul's who donated so generously for the start of their school year. With Charles' truck, we were able to get everything transported in one trip; Pastor Scott lent a hand, as did a lot of folks over at Burton. It took a big hand truck to get everything inside!

Ms. Piggee is now launching a girls' mentoring program at Burton. As she describes it,

“we are looking for tutors to come in once per week to work with our girls on improving their classroom skills. Please let me know if you all would be interested in serving in this capacity starting in October. This would be during school hours.”

Burton Elementary is in East Durham, near the NCCU campus. If you would be interested in serving as a mentor, please get in touch with Bee Ellertson or with Tameko Piggee at 919-560-3908.

A BIG ‘thank you’ to everyone who helped us help the students get their new year off to a good start!

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

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## Thursday Morning Bible Study at 10:30 AM

Bible Study is back in session and will be in-person in Trinity Hall and over Zoom. We are studying the book: *Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis. We will send emails if any study guides are needed.

### Here is the zoom information.

Topic: Pastor's Bible Study

**Time: Sep 16, 2021 at 10:30 AM** (and the weeks following will use the same link)

### Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 895 2669 3517 -- Passcode: 727541

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,89526693517#,,,,\*727541# US (New York)

+13017158592,,89526693517#,,,,\*727541# US (Washington DC)

Find your local

number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kjXLtywXY>

## Meeting OWL

by Pastor Scott Anderson

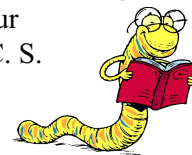
As we continue to hold combination meetings (in person and zoom at the same time) we have been able to purchase a new piece of technology. We now own an OWL. The OWL is a camera and microphone combination that sits in the middle of a room. The camera automatically focuses on the speaker in the room with a 360 degree field of vision. The microphone also picks up in every direction up to a distance of 18 feet. Thus, the new OWL works wonderfully for those on zoom. It allows those over zoom to hear everyone in a meeting space as well as see the speaker. It also broadcasts the sound from zoom participants to those within a live meeting space. The OWL connects directly to a computer. Once connected via a USB cable and plugged into a power outlet, all you have to do is select the OWL as your video and sound source from the pull down menus.

In a space like Trinity Hall or the conference room, you can also connect your computer to the overhead projector and sound system so that those attending in person can see zoom participants on the large screens.

Anyone needing a tutorial on the new equipment should make an appointment with Pastor Scott to learn first hand. We have used the OWL for Tuesday Morning Bible Study and for Thursday Bible Study with the Pastor.

## St. Paul's Readers October Meeting

We invite all readers to join us for our discussion of *The Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis. Our next meeting is on Thursday, October 21 at 3 pm in Trinity Hall, widely spaced apart. Although written as fictional satire, this book addresses Christian theological issues, mainly relating to temptation and resistance to it. The letters are lessons from a senior demon to an inexperienced tempter, who is responsible for securing the damnation of an ordinary person. Wendy Waugh is facilitating our discussion. The book is available through Amazon Kindle for less than a dollar.



If you have time to read ahead, our November book is the *Murmur of Bees* by Sofia Segovia. This epic tale is set in Mexico in the early 1900s. During this time, the country was ravaged by chaotic revolution and the scourge of the Spanish flu epidemic. It is an unforgettable read during pandemic times.

We are beginning to make our selections for our reading list for next year. We request that all those interested please submit one or two books with brief summations to Barbara Shade and/or Katherine Trexler. You can also bring them with you to our October 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. Happy Reading!