

Cross Connections



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

June 2021

Saturday, July 24, 2021 VBS Day at St. Paul's Begins at 9:00 am, Lunch at noon



We will have a fun time learning about Noah and the Ark, animals, rainbows, and God's promises.

Plans for our VBS Day are shaping up and here is how you can be involved:

- Volunteer** your time and talents to help that day or some set-up time previous to the 24th.
- Register** your children **NOW** so we can be sure to include them in this wonderful day.

We hope to be mostly outside on our grounds for singing, crafting, puppetry, play acting, learning about nature, hearing stories, and having a good time.

Everyone is invited to the picnic lunch – church members, friends, neighbors – served outside. After lunch, there will be a special event inside Trinity Hall – everyone is invited to enjoy the magic and laughter of **Happy Dan: The Magic Man**.

Let us know if you can help, or attend, or help set up or clean up the event. Contact Susan Esposito (admin@stpaulsdurham.org) ASAP!!!

The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor

Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor

Jacqueline Nappi, Minister of Music

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...

The summer is almost upon us and gradually we are reopening the church building. The people have gathered in various ways in the previous year but rarely have we been able to be together. That really changed rapidly in May.

We opened worship to live members and even began to hear the live organ play again. We started singing and humming behind masks. We installed a new two camera pan, tilt, zoom system in the sanctuary and are working to get it fully operational so we will be able to better live stream the worship service. It is our hope to have this system functioning and a standard web address for Sunday morning worship. This system will require operators on Sunday morning and I encourage you to answer God's call (and mine) to serve as a member of the video and sound team on Sunday morning. Currently, Curtis Chi, Tim Hoke, Kati Moore, Jonathan Maine and Tracey Dissel are serving but we need several more to assist with this effort.

We will continue our 10 am worship through the summer with the hope of returning to an 8:30 and 11:00 am worship service on Rally Day. Rally Day will also feature a job fair as we reconnect with one another, reform committees and find new ways to serve God.

We are also in need of Altar Guild members to make a commitment to help set up and clean up in the sanctuary on Sundays. If you would like to assist, please contact Joan Albright.

As you all are aware, our Vicar, Judy Goans, has returned home due to health concerns. To lose a Vicar is always difficult. I want to thank everyone who has interacted with her for your support and care. Judy is the first vicar we have had that was not able to complete her year. So, overall, our track record is very, very good.

I met with our incoming Vicar, Mac Mullins on May 26 and 27 over zoom. Mac is a single man from Concord, NC. Mac has a BA from DePaul University and is on what used to be called the traditional track toward ordination. He will have completed two years of seminary, come to us for internship and return to Southern for his final year. Mac is very interested in Reconciling in Christ/LGBTQ ministries. Our congregation will be the first RIC congregation in which he has participated. We have secured living space for him and the current internship committee has agreed to serve one more year with him.

Transitions are never easy and we not only begin to prepare for a new intern, but we prepare for the

transition to a new musician. You will be hearing more about that in the coming weeks.

Please keep the congregation in your prayers.
Pastor Scott Anderson

Council Corner

by Claire Cooney, Council President

Greetings to you from council! As you've seen by now, we are slowly and safely re-opening the Church. Our June council meeting will be hybrid, meaning we'll have zoom as an option, but will also meet at the church, masked, for those who would like to. We're encouraging you to come back to St. Paul's as you are able and comfortable doing so. I know I have certainly missed sitting in the pew, kneeling, and taking Communion at the altar. What a gift. With the Vicar having to leave early, Pastor Scott and the staff will need your help. Please consider signing up for a spot to help set up or assist for Worship, learn the new camera equipment to help film, or altar guild.

Preschool Pitter Patter

by Amanda Stoen



We did it! The preschool successfully completed this pandemic school year. The teachers and I have been celebrating what we have



accomplished this year. We are so grateful for the support of the preschool board, church staff and church members for all of your support through this very challenging year. We focused on grace, flexibility and community as we shifted



much of our preschool day program outside. Things can change in a moment's notice and that required pivoting to change up our lesson plans.

The teachers worked together to navigate the COVID protocols put in place to keep us as safe as possible.

As a staff, we missed being together in person. Our protocols, kept us separate to prevent potential spread throughout our classes. as we reflected on this year, each teacher noted that they missed being together. We look forward to a different school year in the fall so that we can be together more. We hope to host our family potlucks again and share some meals together.

While we have missed quite a few things this year, we have also enjoyed things we may not have experienced otherwise. Our classes experienced nature more – from playing in the woods, to interacting with insects and bugs, to watching the bunny hop from place to place through the church grounds. When the classes are outside, there are no walls. There is just more space to be in and the children had more room to move and be active learners.

Thank you for keeping us in your prayers throughout the year. We are blessed that we were able to offer a safe and nurturing place for our preschool children and their families to come each day. Please enjoy these photos celebrating our Four Class as they head on to new adventures in the fall.

You Don't Have to Be Alone

*by Nan Treul
Stephen Ministers*



After 15 months of socially distancing, and not seeing many people, it feels almost strange to be told that we can see each other without wearing a mask once we are

vaccinated. For most of us Stephen Ministers, we have not been able to visit our care receivers in person. This feels strange to us! Nor have we been able to meet together and give each other support.

But change is in the air! We hope to meet in person for our June meeting. And more importantly, we can begin to visit our care receivers in person, once both the care receiver and the Stephen Minister are vaccinated and comfortable meeting in person. If some of us are not vaccinated, or are not comfortable meeting in person, we can continue to talk on the phone, or meet via Zoom. Life is changed, and we now have more options!

During the pandemic, we have only had one request for a new Stephen Minister. So we would like to get the word out that we have several Stephen Ministers available to meet with you, if you would like

to meet regularly with a Stephen Minister. With all of the social distancing, loneliness, inability to visit family, loss of hugging and personal contact, it seems as though there might be several people in a congregation of our size that would welcome having a Stephen Minister. Just having someone to talk to is usually quite helpful.

If you would like to consider having a Stephen Minister, or if you know a member of our congregation who you think would benefit from having a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Scott, Kim Hoke, or Nan Treul. We will be happy to talk to you.

God is in the midst of us!

Be Kind T-Shirts and Yard Signs

The Be Kind T-Shirts and Yard Signs made by Wendy Waugh are still available and are still free. Sizes are S, M, L, XL,



and a few XXL and XXXL. Donations are accepted to cover the cost of having them made. T-shirts \$7.50, yard signs with stands \$10.00. Just email me what you want and your address and I will deliver. Delivery is easiest for me. Email: rev.wendywaugh@gmail.com

WE DON'T HAVE TO AGREE ON ANYTHING TO BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER

Welcome by Holy Baptism

On Sunday, May 16, we welcomed Adelaide Marie Brandt French (Ada), child of Rebecca Hope Brandt French (Becca) and William Francis Brandt French (Billy), by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism at the 10:00 am service. Sponsors are Bethany Brandt and Dan French.

Changes of Address

Arnie Johanson

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Deborah Tabert

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St. Paul's Readers – No meetings this summer!

by Katherine Trexler

St. Paul's Readers will not meet in June, July, or August while most members are planning summer getaways. Please add our next selection, *Bury Your Dead* by Louise Penny, to your reading list and join us in September. The plot surrounds a death in the Literary and Historical Society in Quebec City, which then connects to the death of Samuel de Champlain over four hundred years earlier. The subject matter should appeal to both sleuths and historians alike!

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AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same prices, selection and convenient shopping experience as [Amazon.com](https://amazon.com) with the added bonus that Amazon will donation a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization – St. Paul's Lutheran.

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purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping and handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges.

Donations are made by the AmazonSmile Foundation and are not tax deductible by you.

St. Paul's has just received our quarterly deposit from AmazonSmile, which was \$37.52. The amount fluctuates based on shoppers designating St. Paul's when they shop on AmazonSmile. Every little bit helps.

Altar Flowers Requests

You are invited to sign up for altar flowers by stopping by the credenza in the atrium under the monitor. In the double-stacked box are the sign up sheets in the top, with the forms and envelopes in the bottom. Sign up for your date(s) and then complete the forms/envelopes and return **at least** one week before your selected date(s). Any number of people may sign up for flowers each week. Donation cost is \$30.

