

Cross Connections



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

September 2022

September 11, 2022 Rally Day

Rally Day is a special day at the end of summer in which we “rally” together with a similar purpose – seeking God’s Word, for praying, serving, learning, and worshiping.

We will return to two worship services this morning – 8:30 am and 11:00 am. The 8:30 am services will be in person, the 11:00 am services will be live, in-person, and recorded for viewing at your convenience on our Vimeo channel.



Adults are invited to participate in various Adult learning sessions throughout this year which will include Bible studies and current topic discussions, on Sundays and weekdays. We invite all children aged 4 through 14 to begin a new schedule of lessons, music, crafts, and snacks in their own Sunday School sessions based on the Vacation Bible School theme of Rocky Railroad. More information will be given out on Rally Day.

You are invited to join us in Trinity Hall at 9:45 am on Rally Day for fellowship, accompanied by fruit, pastries, and other food items and beverages. Classes, teachers, leaders, and plans will be discussed at 10:00-10:30 am for adults and children. Please plan to join us as we celebrate a new year together.

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

From the Pastor...

It doesn't feel like fall outside, but we are planning as if the leaves have turned and the new school year has begun. Rally day, September 11, will soon be upon us. We will be switching to two services again and we will be removing the tape from the pews, so people can fill them once more.

Sunday School will begin and I want to send a special invitation to any middle school or early high school age students that have yet to be confirmed. Vicar Amanda and I are going to propose an intensive schedule to educate students for confirmation. We are planning a series of every other month lock-ins, possibly Friday night to Saturday noon, for the next year. This would allow us to make sure they got the training they need while having fun. I am still going to recommend they attend summer camp for two years with our camp confirmation cluster, but if they can't make that we can help them learn the basics during the lock-ins. So there will be postcard reminders going out to those families that we know have youth in those age groups. We want to have a planning meeting on Rally Day during the Sunday school hour. So watch for a postcard.

In addition, our music minister, Ted Turner will be offering some musical training for our young children during the sermon time. He will lead the children in to Whitesell hall for some singing and fun. So watch for additional information about that opportunity.

September 4th, Pastor Nikkeya Berryhill will be with us to preach during our last 10 am worship service of the year. Pastor Nikkeya is part time at Christ the King in Cary and part time as a pastor to the Triangle helping us make inroads with the African American community. So please make her feel welcome. She will be offering some educational opportunities online in the fall.

We plan to begin once a month evening meals beginning in September. So look for that calendar.

In October, we will hold Oktoberfest, with one change this year. We will be serving beer and plan to work with our members, the Bluschkes, who own and operate the Der Nacht Bar Bottleshop and Taps, here in Durham. So, mark your calendar for October 19.

In November we plan to celebrate Martin Luther's birthday a day early, on Wednesday, November 9 with a meal and fun activities.

So, I hope you can see that the fall will be a busy and fun time here at St. Paul's. Come join us.

Pastor Scott



FROM THE VICAR

Hello, people of St. Paul's!

I've only had one Sunday among you, so we are still very much in the getting-to-know-one-another phase of our relationship. As such, I thought I'd share a little more of my call story.

I'm not a cradle Lutheran. My maternal family is mostly Missionary Baptist, and on the rare occasion that I attended church with my grandmother, that's where we went. I also had a next-door neighbor who was Southern Baptist and would take me to Vacation Bible School with her. My neighbor across the street was Church of Christ, and it was in her Sunday School classroom that I learned Bible stories by heart.

My stepfather is Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and when our family moved to Memphis, Tennessee, we joined an LCMS congregation. I was baptized there at age 11, and later made an affirmation of baptism at a congregation in Alabama, where I spent the remainder of my teenage years.

During high school, my stepfather's dad had an aneurysm. As the family disconnected life support, I read Psalm 23 and held his hand. My maternal aunt wondered if I had considered ministry before. That seemed silly to me – my confirmation pastor had told me that women could only be missionaries, and only then if there was a man to oversee them. I liked traveling and learning about other cultures, but I didn't think I wanted to be a missionary.

Before I went to college, the church organist warned me about people in higher ed who "try to take away your faith." I showed up at Valparaiso University on the lookout for bad influences, and found deaconesses. Let me tell you, those footwashing basins looked very suspicious to a child of Sand Mountain (of serpent-handling infamy)!

I spent my first two years at Valpo trying to convince a bunch of women that they couldn't be ministers. I finally threw in the towel after a church history course in which I chose to research and wrote about the ways women have served the Church. The day after I turned in my final paper, I found a deaconess waiting for me in the Chapel. I said, "I think God wants me to be a deaconess." She said, "God told me to wait here for you today."

Over my years of ministry, I've consistently found myself in congregations recovering from trauma. My focus began shifting more to the center of the assembly, around font and table. At my last congregation, I was the permanent assisting minister

and the default worship leader when the pastor was away. I felt an increasing sense of homecoming and rightness in facilitating the divine dance of God and people. It seemed that multiple strands converged: joy in worship leadership, blessing in assisting with sacraments, an increased demand for pastoral care and counseling skills, and a focus on equipping the saints for their ministries out in the world. I realized I needed a bigger toolkit and more synodical backing, so I went to seminary.

Now here I am among you! I am looking forward to growing alongside you this year as we explore our gifts for ministry together. Thank you for partnering with me in this journey. St. Paul's comes highly recommended by previous vicars; I know my pastoral formation is in good hands here.

Vicar Amanda Spangler

Music Ministry



by Ted Turner
Minister of Music

Music ensembles are starting up again this fall! The adult choir, which meets at 7:15 on Wednesday nights, beginning August 31st, is open to any and all interested in singing, no prior experience is necessary. September 11th will be our first Sunday back.

Handbell choir is also making a return, our first rehearsal will be Wednesday, September 14th at 6:30 pm. No prior ringing experience is necessary, but some understanding of sheet music is helpful.

Preschool Pitter Patter



by Amanda Stoen
We are excited to begin our 2022-2023 school year on Tuesday, September 6! We will welcome 50 children to our program, including many new families. As the pandemic evolves, the Covid-19 landscape looks different today than it did two years ago. More has been learned about the



virus and effective tools to reduce the risk to people. Now that children six months and older are eligible for vaccinations, we can consider easing some

of our procedures that we have followed for the past two years. We will continue to follow guidance from the local health department. We continue to focus on providing a safe learning environment for our children and staff. Much of our school day will still be spent outside in our outdoor spaces.

As we ease back into a more normal preschool setting, we will remain intentional with our lesson plans and activities. Our teachers have learned a lot these past two years about leading their classes outside and creating engaging outdoor activities for the children. We also plan to gather as a preschool for some potluck meals and find ways for our families to get to know each other. Young families have not been able to socialize very much the past 2.5 years and we look forward to finding time to gather together.

Lastly, we appreciate all 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. We ask for your prayers as we embark on our upcoming school year.



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

A Stephen Minister is a layperson trained in his or her congregation

to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to a person experiencing a life crisis. Since 1975, over 600,000 people from all walks of life have been trained as Stephen Ministers. These individuals, in turn, have brought God's healing love to millions of people going through difficult times in life.

Our Stephen Leaders, at St. Paul's, are participating in a joint training program with six other local congregations in Durham and Chapel Hill area, which will start on September 6th. The training will happen in person on Tuesday nights from 7 pm to 9:30 pm at Chapel of the Pines, 314 Great Ridge Parkway, Chapel Hill, in Chatham County off of Mann's Chapel Road. A zoom meeting is available as well for those

who have difficulty with meeting in person. We have been informed that this facility has a large meeting place that accommodates rigid Covid requirements for safety with also the technical capability to handle in person and zoom needs.

If you are interested in learning more about this training program or if you are in crisis or hurting and need care that is Christ-centered, please contact Kim Hoke, John Foreman, or Pastor Scott.

Election Season Volunteers



Election season is here!

The Continuing Conversation Group is planning election education and support activities for this fall. On Rally Day, we'll once again provide information about registration and ways to find your precinct.

We've also rescheduled the Zoom election forum with Derek Bowens, Director of Elections for Durham County to **Sunday, September 18 at 4:00 pm**. Once again, members of St. Joseph's AME congregation would join us for this virtual information session. Mr. Bowens will describe the process and the people behind registration, early voting, election day voting, and counting. He will describe changes for this year and give an update on the attempt to require voter ID (a subject of ongoing litigation). **ZOOM information:** Meeting ID: 884 0073 2004 Passcode: 179563 Link: <https://bit.ly/3AdZ6qV>

We have lots of ideas for additional outreach efforts, but we need additional volunteers to make these a reality. Are you interested in helping us with voter registration drives? Neighborhood outreach? All of our activities would be completely non-partisan, aimed toward support and education for all voters. Training for voter registration volunteers is being arranged.

Although Election Day this fall is on November 8th, absentee voting by mail opens on September 9th. One-stop Early Voting – when you can both register and vote at the same time – starts on October 20th and ends on November 5th. These dates will be here soon!

If you would like to be a part of CCG's fall election efforts, please send a note to either Tina Bessias (tina.bessias@gmail.com) or Bee Ellertson (bellertson@icloud.com); tell us what kinds of activities you're interested in, and how much time you might be able to contribute, then we'll work to coordinate activities and schedules. Activities might take place intermittently between mid-September and early November. We hope to hear from you!

Continuing Conversation Group

Join the Discussion

Plans are underway for fall classes for Adults on Sunday mornings.



First up is a set of four Sunday classes on the prophet Isaiah. Key parts will be read plus a presentation on the main structure of the book.

Second is a set of four Sunday classes on Martin Luther. His life and writings, plus key history will be considered.

Thirdly, a final set of Sundays will be devoted to symbols and artwork, with a big emphasis on Advent and Christmas.

All classes will be in Trinity Hall and should happen from 9:50 until 10:30 am to allow for fellowship and choir timing. See Jim Shoaf if you want to know more.

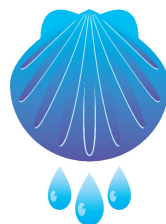
Beautiful New Linens Have Arrived!

The next time you go up for Communion, please take a look at the custom made linens that now adorn both the altar and the small table behind it.

As you may recall from a previous newsletter, they were custom manufactured by New England Pure Fair Linens and embroidered with crosses on all four corners. They replace ones that have been used here at St. Paul's for the last 35 years! They were purchased with the loving donations given in memory of my husband, Tony Perrotte.

Thank you ALL again for touching my heart with your kindness.

Penni Perrotte



Welcome by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism

On Sunday, August 21, we welcomed George Keys, child of Danielle and Dustin Keys in Holy Baptism. George was born on December 16, 2020 in Durham.

Change of Address

Anna Snyder has moved into Harmony House, an assisted living residential home and would welcome calls and visits! Please look at the Church Directory for her contact information. Or you may contact the church office.



Memorials Received

We thank everyone for their generous donations to our Memorials Fund.

To the Stephen Ministers Fund in memory of Arloa Bittikofer by Nan Treul

To the Memorials Fund in memory of Arloa Bittikofer by:

John and Linda Foreman, Durham
 Dick Clendaniel, Durham
 Gus Holshouser, Durham
 Penni Perrotte, Durham
 Dean and Marcia Redman, Chapel Hill
 Lois Boynton, Chapel Hill
 Martha Dahl, Durham
 Richard Havill and Rachel Harter, Chapel Hill
 Malcolm and Leahn M. Meyer, Mason, OH
 Marlene Coulter, Roxboro, NC

From Vicar Mac,

By the time you read this, I'll already be across the Atlantic at the World Council of Churches in Germany. Even from over there, I want to express my thanks to the entire congregation of St. Paul's for your love and generosity in your gifts, well-wishes, and goodbyes from my last Sunday. All of them were incredibly meaningful, and I am deeply grateful to you all. I miss you, and hopefully our paths will cross again soon in the future. Again, thank you so much! All my love,

Vicar Mac

Wednesday Night Suppers are BACK!



On **September 21**, we will have a St. Paul's Picnic – hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, and desserts. There will be sign-up sheets for the meal so watch for them.

October 19 – Oktoberfest!!! Plan on a great meal of German foods (mostly), and lots of fun.

November 9 – we celebrate Martin Luther's birthday with a good ol' Lutheran pot-luck supper and fun.

December 14 – Our traditional Christmas Dinner.

All these meals will require volunteers, so think about how you can lend a hand for a great evening! Suppers will begin at 6:00 pm. Sign up!

PASTA for PARKTOWN!!

Help Stock the St. Paul's Shelf at Parktown Food Hub!

The Women's Connection Group is leading an initiative to support the Parktown Food Hub, a ministry of South Durham Connections, led by Pastor Sharon Schulze.

St. Paul's has committed to **"adopting a shelf"** in the Food Hub for at least the next 6 months.

St. Paul's Shelf - dry boxed pasta – spaghetti, macaroni, ziti, penne, etc. (NOT: kits or dinner, nor canned pasta entrees).

- ▶ **Fact:** at least 21 packages of dry pasta are distributed each week to clients.
- ▶ **Fact:** all basic food needs are greater than ever.
- ▶ **Fact:** your generosity makes a difference to our neighbors!

Please consider adding a box or two or more of pasta to your shopping list and place it in the box in the atrium at the bulletin board.

THANK YOU!



St. Paul's Readers

Our September book is *Stronger: Courage, Hope and Humor in My Life with John McCain* by Cindy McCain.

This memoir is a love letter to her late husband, their thirty-eight year marriage, and the trials and triumphs of a singular American life. The book also chronicles how John's humor and strength helped Cindy transform into the confident woman she has now become – one who believes in family, honor, and country – and is willing to stand up for all of them.

In October, we read the *Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate. This novel is based on letters written by former slaves; some are included in the book. The freed slaves published letters in newspapers, hoping to find family members who were sold to other owners. The book is the fictional story of one of these families.

We hope that you will consider joining our group this fall. Our next meeting is **Thursday, September 15 at 3 pm in Trinity Hall**. We welcome all readers. Please contact Katherine Trexler (katherine.m.trexler@gmail.com) with any questions.



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Here – In God's Garden



by George Seiz

How would you like to --

- * Be a good steward of the earth
- * Build community
- * Do something with a friend or family member
- * Take pride in accomplishments
- * Get some exercise
- * Have some fun?

You can do all these things and be a steward of God's Garden at St. Paul's by working with the Outdoor Work Crew a couple of hours on various Saturdays throughout the year with other members.

Projects include activities such as leaf removal, spreading of mulch, removal of weeds and scrub trees, watering, planting, trimming, and pruning. No prior experience needed.

Work usually takes place on Saturday mornings from roughly 9 am till 11 am. You don't need to be there every Saturday and hours are flexible. Contact George Seiz at geoseiz@aol.com or 919-824-0130 (text or call) if you are interested and would like to help maintain the church campus.

Croasdaile Worship

The Croasdaile worship this month will be Thursday, September 22, the Fourth Thursday of the month, at 2:00 pm.

Piano / Organ Lessons

Ted Turner, our Minister of Music, is available for piano and/or organ lessons. Ted has experience teaching a diverse array of skill levels and ages, no prior experience is necessary. More information is available at www.tedturnerorganist.com, contact him at 217-898-3467 or taturner16@gmail.com

Young In Spirit

The next meeting of Young In Spirit is **Wed, Sept 14 at 11:30 am**. YIS proudly presents Dick Clendaniel as he shows and talks about some of the gorgeous pictures he took on his week-long walking trip with his daughter and son through the Cotswolds in England. Please bring a sandwich. Drinks, chips and desserts will be provided. Please let Robin Winfree know if you plan to come so we have enough desserts, etc.

Thursday Bible Study

Join us on Thursday, September 8 at 10:30-11:45 am where we will pick up where we left off in June, studying the book of Genesis, chapter 9. The class takes place in the Conference Room and by Zoom.

Nurturing Committee Notes

Reach Out and Touch someone with a card and note. September 11th Rally Day will be an opportunity for you to connect with someone – maybe a friend, a St. Paul's member or someone you don't know. On the table in the foyer is a collection of cards with envelopes. Feel free to choose one – or more – write a note of help, encouragement, or thinking-of-you and send it. It doesn't need to be a St. Paul's family member, but it could be a way to connect with someone from our sisters and brothers in Christ at St. Paul's. Just imagine how you would appreciate a note, so as you REACH OUT AND TOUCH SOMEONE you know how much they will appreciate it! Say "hello – how are you today," "we haven't met but I would like to say HI to you" or "Hope you are having a good day" with a card.

If you don't know who to write to, there is a fishbowl with congregation members, and you may draw out a name and connect with that person.

Our REACH OUT AND TOUCH SOMEONE will be once a month. As we look ahead there will be an Oktoberfest month, a birthday month in honor of Martin Luther's birthday, a Christmas month, plus other themes.