

Cross Connections



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

December 2022



WEDNESDAY ADVENT SUPPERS AND WORSHIP

On Wednesdays: November 30, December 7, 14, and 21

- 6:00 pm Suppers consisting of soup, salads, and bread, will be served in Trinity Hall (sign-up)
- 7:00 pm Advent Worship will take place in the sanctuary (see article pg 3)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE

- ◆ 4:00 pm Children and Family Christmas Eve service
- ◆ 6:30 pm Concert prior to the 7:00 pm service in the sanctuary, consisting of carols, organ music, and chamber music
- ◆ 7:00 pm Candlelight Service with Communion. Special music with the Mallarme Chamber Players and guest soloists presenting the cantata Und da die Engel von ihnen gen Himmel furhen, by Georg Philipp Telemann (1681-1767).
- ◆ 10:00 pm Candlelight Service with Communion



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

- † 10:00 am Abbreviated service with Holy Communion, carols, Confession and Forgiveness

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1 - NEW YEAR'S DAY

- † 10:00 am Service of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion

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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From the Pastor...

December is always a busy time and this year will be no exception. We are doing one more lock-in with the youth for confirmation on Dec. 3. Also that day, I will be hosting a Via de Cristo team planning meeting, in preparation for a retreat in mid February. If you have ever wanted to spend 3.5 days immersed in God's grace, come and talk to me about Via de Cristo (the Way of Christ).

We will have our annual Christmas dinner and I am sure there will be more about that in this newsletter.

Christmas day is a Sunday this year and we will gather for worship on that day. We plan to do one service at 10 am. It will be an abbreviated communion service and I would suggest that we come as we are. Pajamas and robe is okay, or comfy Christmas duds. We will sing a couple of carols, confess, receive forgiveness, and partake of communion.

New Years day will also be one service of lessons and carols with communion at 10 am.

Christmas Eve will be our regular three services: 4 pm a children's shortened service, 7 pm with lots of music, and 10 pm.

One thing I want to talk about in December is getting some of our young adult members together for a meal and a time of fellowship. I will be reaching out to visitors and members alike to plan an event in mid-December.

I want to give a special word of thanks to the finance committee and the stewardship committee for all their hard work this year. Special thanks also to the Duke Lutherans for planning and presenting Advent worship.

I also want to remind you to begin writing your annual report, if you work on a committee or some group within the church.

God's peace as we move into the season of Advent and Christmas.

Pastor Scott

From the Vicar...

The Reign of Christ is quickly approaching, and the Church's annual cycle will begin anew. I am a church nerd, and so I tend to organize my life by the Church's seasons instead of the Gregorian calendar. This means that as November 20th draws near, I find myself doing a lot of end-of-the-year reflection.

In **Advent**, I pondered sin and hope. I read *Advent: The Once and Future Coming of Jesus Christ* by Episcopal priest Fleming Rutledge. Her collection

of sermons spoke to me as I navigated my dear friend's illness and took a crash course in cholangiocarcinoma. "Advent is not for the faint of heart," Rutledge says. I kept vigil with my homemade wreath, watching the light grow as nights lengthened. How did Advent candles warm you during this season?

I celebrated **Christmas** with a congregation founded in 1762. I told them that under no circumstances were we going to burn down the building while I was their supply preacher. We laughed, and sang carols, and I actually preached on the lesson for Christmas 1, which never happens. I made cinnamon and orange ornaments for my tree, so that my apartment smelled like my mother's Christmas tea for the twelve days of Christmas. What celebrations did you enjoy?

At **Epiphany**, I did not chalk my door, because my friend was sick. The season after Epiphany the Church began reading about discipleship. I designed and began an independent study about how the Church defines "human," and what implications that definition has for the care for and inclusion of persons with dementia within the congregation. I grappled with questions about sin and empathy, about terms like "inhuman" and "dehumanizing," and what it means to be made in God's image. How do you see God shaping you into God's image?

I don't remember much about **Lent**, except that on March 22nd I discovered that I would be your intern. It was a lovely evening with many friends and good food, and a giant packet of information all about you all! What surprises did you enjoy?

Easter and the season thereafter were a blur of pulpit supply, work, school, and taking care of my friend. I anticipated graduation, and moving, and summer employment. I preached on Easter Sunday for a tiny, 110-year-old congregation in rural South Carolina. They had five people. It was a huge crowd for them – they usually have two. Preaching on Easter was another first for me, and the small group was so happy to have someone with them. Who received you with joy this season?

Then came **Pentecost** and the Ordinary Time of discipleship training. I spent a week in Alabama at my synod's camp for young people grades 6 through second year out of high school. I taught first- and second-year college students about how to lead small groups. I sat with them as they wept for friends lost by suicide, for eating disorders and anxiety disorders that they are just figuring out how to manage, and for the shame they feel for never being good enough. It was holy and heartbreaking work to accompany these young people, some of whom I've known since their

middle school years. How does your discipleship journey intersect with and advocate for vulnerable populations?

I joined you in August, and we've been walking this discipleship journey together ever since. My friend died in September, and my last act for her was planning her funeral and giving her eulogy. I walked her home, then I came back to you. I am learning your stories, individually and as a community. I am growing into my identity as your vicar. I am watching you all wrestle with important and challenging questions, again individually and as a community. As the Church year comes to a close, I am curious: how do you see yourselves growing in Christ?

In peace,
Vicar Amanda

Music Ministry

The choir, in conjunction with the Mallarme Chamber players and guest soloists, will be presenting the cantata *Und da die Engel von ihnen gen Himmel furhen*, by Georg Philipp Telemann (1681-1767) at the 7:00 pm service on Christmas eve. This piece was transcribed by our music director, Ted Turner, from the handwritten facsimile found in the archives of the library of the Goethe-Universitat in Frankfurt. There will also be a brief, 30 minute concert prior to this service, consisting of carols, organ music, and chamber music.



Make Ready for Holy Disruption: A Contemplative Advent Midweek Series

Wednesdays: Nov 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21
6:00 pm Fellowship Dinner (soups, salad, bread)
7:00 pm Worship
Advent carries

expectations for two events: as we wait for the birth of the babe in Bethlehem, we also await the time when Christ will come again to make a new heaven and new earth. Christ's coming brings peace ... but also disruption of the sin, injustice, and brokenness that burdens our lives and our world. When we pray for Christ to come, we are praying for a holy disruption of the status quo of death and the revealing



of God's kingdom of life.

Led by the Duke Lutherans, our midweek Advent series this year is built around four steps to help us prepare for God's holy disruption: breathing, releasing, receiving, and rejoicing. Each week's liturgy (consisting of prayer and silence, singing, listening, and reflection) will focus on one step. Together, the steps will remind us that discipleship is always a process and journey. As we worship, we will ask the Holy Spirit to open our eyes so that we might see all of the ways that God promises to come and will come into the world.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come!

Preschool Pitter Patter

by Amanda Stoen

At the preschool, we enjoyed gathering together again during the month of November. The preschool classes and their families shared meals together and enjoyed delicious food. We talked about who and what we are thankful – our family, friends, teachers, mud cakes, the trees and dinosaurs!



In November, our preschool collected items and made shoebox gifts for Operation Christmas Child. We have also been collecting dry pasta for the Parktown Food Hub. Our children have been learning about ways to help our local community and the world. Small donations can make a big difference!



Please enjoy a few photos from our youngest class – the Parents' Morning Out class! These children are 10-23 months when they begin in the fall and they are learning to be away from their caregivers for the very first time. The children have settled in very well and love to explore with all of their senses. Our teachers provide many open-



ended sensory experiences for them to explore independently and in small groups.

Children learn through their play and they must learn to play. There is so much learning that takes place during sensory experiences by exploring textures, manipulating items and scents. When a child explores the world

through their senses, they develop fine motor skills, gross motor skills, language abilities and self-confidence. While sensory play definitely is based on the body's senses, there are also the vestibular and proprioception senses that provide input to a child.

A Look at the Art of Advent

The Advent Season is all about reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts and homes for Christ's birth in the world as it is today.



This Advent at St. Paul's, Art Historian Janet Seiz will present four consecutive sessions during the morning Adult Education featuring all of these things. Each session will highlight a comparison between a "classic" and a "contemporary" work of art related to a specific event in the Christmas story. Aspects of the creative process and the Artist's use of technique and materials will be covered as well as the development and use of symbols. Each class will open and close with a short video blending Advent art and music together.

- ▶ Week I: The Annunciation, November 27, 2022
- ▶ Week II: The Visitation, December 4, 2022
- ▶ Week III: The Adoration of the Shepherds, December 11, 2022
- ▶ Week IV: The Nativity, December 18, 2022

Abide in Love: Duke Lutherans 2022 Annual Campaign

At the heart of who we are and what we do as a campus ministry stands this verb: **abide**.

In the words of 1 John, God is Love, and as we seek to **abide** (dwell, sojourn, live) together with students in love, we believe that God also abides in them and in our campus community of faith.

For over 80 years now, with the help of God's grace, we have **abided** with students in love, in hope and faith, learning and growth, in compassion, justice, and service.

And through it all, you have **abided** with us too. Whenever you pray for students, feed them, encourage them, listen to their stories, and support us with your generous financial gifts, you **abide** together with us in God's unfailing love.

Now through December 31, we invite you to give to the **Abide in Love** campaign. Please prayerfully consider the amount you can give (either as a one-time gift or each month as a sustaining giver).

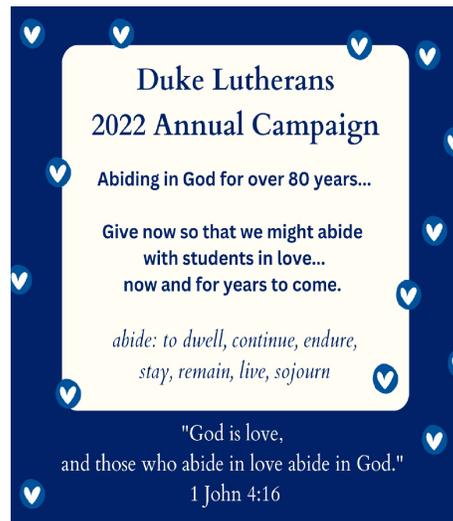
It's simple to support the Duke Lutherans!

- ◆ Go online to www.gifts.duke.edu/ to make a one-time gift or set-up a recurring gift.
- ◆ Or make your check payable to Duke Lutherans and place it in the offering or mail it to: St. Paul's: 1200 W Cornwallis Rd, Durham, NC 27705.
- ◆ Consider making a lasting legacy gift to the Duke Lutherans through your QCD (Qualified Charitable Distributions) through your IRA, or through your will, trust, or estate.

Please consider making a gift to the **Abide in Love** campaign before the end of the year.

On behalf of our current students and all those we hope to **abide** with in the future, thank you!

In Peace and Gratitude
Pastor Amanda



Memorials Received

We have received memorials with the following designations.

- To the Stephen Ministers Fund in memory of Barbara Shade by Nancy Treul, Chapel Hill

To the Memorials Committee in memory of Barbara Shade from the following:

- G Spohn and K Spohn, Birchrunville, PA
- Donna Hollander, East Stroudsburg, PA
- Mary and James Gray, Durham
- John and Linda Foreman, Durham
- Dean and Marcia Redman, Chapel Hill
- Dick Clendaniel, Durham
- Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Bangor PA – Barbara was pastor for this congregation from 2001 to 2011. The donation came from individual congregation donations and she was also recognized at their All Saints Sunday service.

Memorial to Seth Kitange from Neema Kitange and family. Neema wrote a lovely note which we share:

Memories of Seth are real. We went through lives' thorns together.

We ate and drank together.

We had walks together.

We sang and listened to music we loved together.

We read the Word and prayed together.

The loss still stings, but Seth is in a better place in glory with Jesus.

Glory Be To God!

Neema Kitange for Family

All Saints Sunday

On Sunday, November 6, we acknowledged the four members of St. Paul's who have died since last All Saints Sunday in 2021. During the service we honored Tony Perrotte, JoAnn Bowman, Arloa Bittikofer, and Reverend Barbara Shade. We also received names of loved ones which our members submitted to be recognized: David Dahl (son of Gary and Susanne Dahl), Larry Mengel (father of Stephanie Knudsen), Shirley Braisted (mother of Dawn York), Shirley O'Brien, Kathy Pauline, and Sebastian Graber (by Emily Pauline).

Also on this morning, we set apart and blessed for ministry the following gifts that were given in memory of those who died in this past twelve months.

- ✦ Memorials from Tony Perrotte purchased two sets of fair linens for the altar and the credence table.
- ✦ Gifts from JoAnn Bowman provided for the new

accounting software.

- ✦ Multiple gifts were given in honor of Seth Kitange, Lois Kinzie, David Dahl, and Nancy Clendaniel to Stephen Ministry, the Music Ministry and Lutheran World Relief.
- ✦ Gifts from Arloa Bittikofer and the St. Paul's Fund of the DeVries purchased the new Green Paraments.
- ✦ Gifts from a variety of memorials including from the Sacketts and Addie Felkel, contributed to the Microphone headset.



We had a great time at Oktoberfest, on October 19.

We had about 118 people in attendance, enjoying

such great foods as bratwurst, sauerbraten, Spaetzel, Black Forest Cake, Apple Strudel and lots of German side dishes. Many thanks to all who assisted with the preparation, serving, and clean up from this meal. We also thank the "Rusty Pipes" for beginning our celebration with rousing music. So glad you could join us for the evening.



More photos will be posted on our website.



We had a marvelous time at our Trunk or Treat on October 28.

There were about 70 people participating between 6 and 7 pm, going around collecting treats from uniquely decorated cars. There will be photos posted on our website but here are a couple teasers.



Plan to join us next year!

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, ELCA
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Drivers!

St. Paul's has a handicap accessible bus, and we have members who need transportation to church or evening events. We are in need of volunteers to sign up to transport people. You do not need a special driver's license, but you will need information that is provided at church regarding the proper safety of wheelchair transportation. If you are willing to help, please contact a staff member at church.

St. Paul's Readers

During the month of December, our church book club takes a holiday break. We are currently finalizing our 2023 reading list. Our selections are from a variety of genres to broaden our reading horizons and to appeal to a range of book lovers. Our next meeting will be on January 20, 2023.



St. Paul's Readers

St. Paul's Readers meets at 3 pm on the third Thursday of the month in Trinity Hall. Please consider participating. We welcome all readers – men and women! Contact Katherine Trexler (katherine.m.trexler@gmail.com) with any questions. We hope to see you soon!

Young In Spirit

The Young In Spirit group is traveling this month on Thursday, December 8 to Sanford to see the play *A Christmas Carol*, performed by community actors at Temple Theater. Reservations and tickets were made in November.

Child Care on Sunday mornings!

We have an attendant, Courtney, on Sunday mornings who will care for your small children so parents and older children may attend Sunday School and worship. She is available during the 8:30 service through 11:00 service. Care takes place in the Parlor.

Christmas Dinner

Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 6:00 pm

Plan to attend the Christmas Dinner in Trinity Hall on Wed, Dec 14 beginning at 6:00 pm. Menu is tentatively Pork Loin and a Shrimp dish, Garlic Potatoes, Broccoli and Cheese Casserole, salad, rolls and a variety of desserts. There will be a sign-up ahead of time so watch for them. If you can assist in any way, please contact Martha Dahl! The Advent Service will follow in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm.



Worship Details

We have two services: 8:30 am and 11:00 am, both using Setting One of the ELW. The 8:30 am service is in-person. The 11:00 am service will be in-person, live-streamed and recorded. The link to watch the 11:00 service live is: <https://vimeo.com/event/1478223>. The link to watch any services which have been recorded is: <https://vimeo.com/stpaulsdurham> then choose the service date or event you wish to watch. We now are offering child-care during the worship times. Our attendant will be located in the room between the foyer and Whitesell Hall.

Sign-Up Genius Links

We need worship assistants. Please visit the Sign-Up Genius links which are used to place volunteers in the positions needed on Sundays. Click on the link and fill in your name on the date(s) you choose.

◆ Sunday Morning Worship Tasks

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-sunday1> Tasks include setting up, lector, worship assistant, sound, altar guild, video, etc. Staff will be glad to provide guidance for any of these tasks.

◆ Sunday morning Communion Assistants and Lock-Up

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

◆ Devotions –

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eabad28a3fd0-daily1> Please send your devotions to Vicar Amanda Spangler at vicar@stpaulsdurham.org