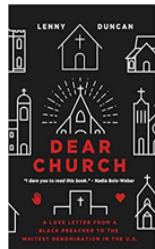




SUNDAY'S WORSHIP

Pastor Brook will be posting a recorded service on Sunday at 8:15 a.m. It will be posted on Facebook, YouTube, and on our website www.crossandcrown.org/sermon. In addition a link will be emailed at 9 a.m.



WE'RE EXCITED!

Beginning this **Wednesday, July 15th at 7 p.m.**, our Social Justice Team will offer an eye-opening virtual study of the book, **DEAR CHURCH**.

This book is written by the Rev. Lenny Duncan, a black ELCA Lutheran pastor, to the whole ELCA Lutheran church. But, it is a challenging love letter to all white America. **DEAR CHURCH** is a step toward discerning what we can do to overcome racism. It asserts the church led by the Holy Spirit is the vehicle best equipped to lead the response to the current crises.

From the book's introduction:

"Our task is not so much to reject politicism as it is to reject evil. The message of Jesus is radical and political."

Also:

"We are the whitest denomination in the United States. If not us, then who will enter this battle for freedom?"

The virtual study will be held on Zoom every Wednesday for six weeks from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. The host, Felicia Eybl, will provide log-on information to those signed up. **Use the link in the eblast to sign up for the book study. Simply click on the sign-up button and it will take you to the form.**

Both pastors are participating in the study. Please join the discussion.

Once you have signed up for the study, use the Zoom link below to join the call on Wednesday:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7083664106?
pwd=OWNlbjBNHSbnlGQIBNQINmRnpPZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7083664106?pwd=OWNlbjBNHSbnlGQIBNQINmRnpPZz09)

Meeting ID: 708 366 4106

Password: Books



Join the Racial Justice Network of the NC Synod and walk with others in our synod who are learning to be anti-racist. Online courses and regular emails with ideas for stretching and growing in this journey will keep us energized. **The first course in the network is Tuesday, July 14th, with Dr. Shanitria Cuthbertson leading.**

The course will be live every Tuesday for 6 weeks, from **noon to 1:15 p.m.** And then posted for viewing when you are able. You'll remember Dr. Cuthbertson works with Emmaus Church in West Charlotte, a ministry to which Cross & Crown has given financial support. She preached for us a couple of years ago as well. To join the network, see the NC Synod FB page or website (www.nclutheran.org). You must join the network to be part of the courses. Your \$25 participant fee will be matched by our synod, and 50% of the funds collected will be reinvested into our worshiping communities of color to strengthen their witness. If you'd like to join but need help with the cost, speak to one of the pastors.

Through faithful giving among our members, a few unexpected gifts, and a PPP loan that will assist us with payroll and utility obligations, we are able to maintain financial stability in this time of uncertainty. Being thankful for our many blessings,

Council unanimously voted to approve the allocation of monies to the Community Care Committee. The committee has distributed financial donations totaling \$3275 to the following organizations: COS Kids, Turning Point, Bright Blessings & Common Heart.



COMMUNION TO BE OFFERED SOON

Watch for an eblast coming soon inviting you to sign-up to receive Holy Communion in a small group or family unit, socially distanced and with precautions. We will be administering the sacrament at the church, outdoors.



COVID-19 UPDATE

Our Covid-19/Regathering Task Force continues to closely monitor the current conditions in terms of the coronavirus and is actively developing strategies for us to safely gather in person as a congregation. Our Council voted to follow the Synod Guidelines and refrain from gathering in person (indoor and outdoor) until NC officially moves into Phase III. Once we are officially in Phase III, the Task Force is recommending to Council an outdoor service, including Holy Communion, to take place 1 week after the official date of Phase III. This will be voted on at the next council meeting, which is currently scheduled for July 23. We are working on specific guidelines for this gathering, which will be formalized once we receive specifics from the Governor. These are undoubtedly strange times, and the current spike in cases is only complicating our decisions. But as Christians, we commit to protecting the entire body of Christ, so we will be as cautious and diligent as possible so that all are kept safe and healthy. Stay tuned for details!



VIRTUAL VBS THIS WEEK!

Calling all Superheroes at Cross and Crown!

Everyday Superheroes Virtual Vacation Bible School is underway! Every Wednesday a link to a video interview with a local hero will be posted on social media, along with a weekly craft that you can do with your family, a weekly Bible verse, and a weekly challenge! Please share pictures with your family making crafts or doing the challenges.

This week's theme is: "Be A Protector." The interview will be with a school resource officer.

A New link will be sent out each Wednesday morning.



Good Soil is taking a summer hiatus and will resume in August. Stay tuned for details about late-summer social gatherings (pending Covid-19 developments). Also, if you have ideas for topics and programs for the Fall, email Kristan. Have a safe and healthy summer!

JUNE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- Council members were officially introduced to Dr. Larry Stratemeyer, our new music director.
- Council unanimously agreed to have the regathering team continue looking into the options for outdoor worship, including the necessary guidelines and procedures.
- Council unanimously approved an Eagle Scout project to paint the education wing hallway and bathrooms.
- Council unanimously approved applying for a Peeler-Casey Grant to provide funding for technology and equipment for online worship and give us the ability to host and broadcast other events.

Dear Cross and Crown family,

A couple of days ago I received a lovely surprise on my doorstep. Two beautiful hydrangea bushes, with a sweet card, from all of you, as a thank you for my music during the past year. Thank you so much! It was my pleasure, and I so much look forward to working with our new director when we can all be together again. Let's all be safe, and thanks again.

Elaine



Hey, have you been reading Matthew? Jump on board the NC Synod summer Bible study and get some moments with Matthew! You can find daily installments of [Moments with Matthew](#) on the [synod Facebook page](#) or website (www.nclutheran.org) or follow

the link there to subscribe to daily emails. Female leaders across our synod have written reflections to go with each day's reading from Matthew. It's one chapter a day, some brief thoughts and a prayer, to get your day started right. Give it a try!

ONLINE REFLECTIONS

PASTORS BROOK AND GINN BOTH POST OCCASIONAL REFLECTIONS ON THE CHURCH FACEBOOK PAGE AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

Camp-In-A-Box with Agape+Kure Beach Ministries:
<https://agapekurebeach.square.site/s/shop>

Each box contains five days of: family devotions, nature activities, crafts (with instructions & most supplies), mealtime graces, games, Candle Power evening devotions with a candle, and an Agapé t-shirt & sticker, a postcard from a staff member, and one to send! Facebook videos can help make this an "in person camp" experience.

If you have more than one camper in your household you can order Add-Ons! These will ship with your original box and will include another shirt, sticker, candle, craft supply and postcard. Maximum of 3 add-ons per box!

Use code: **CamInABox2020** to get free shipping on your box! Questions? program@agapekurebeach.org



Portico Update

Hugh Klutts has updated the Executive Committee on the rebuilding of the portico, which was destroyed by the tornado earlier this year. We have multiple bids for the project, but are awaiting sign-off from the architect and structural engineer. Once this happens, we will work in conjunction with the insurance company adjuster to begin the process of hiring a contractor to begin construction. We have received bids from remediation contractors but since this is a permitted project, no work can begin until Charlotte-Mecklenburg Standards signs off on the project. This will be a slow process and we don't have any dates as of yet project and will keep you posted throughout the process!



Don't forget about our Facebook page! Check it out for all the latest news at C&C!

NEW BUILDING PROTOCOLS

With our staff continuing to work at home, our church building remains locked during most of the day. **If you should need to be in the building, please remember to wear a mask.** It is for your safety and the safety of others. We have also added a sign-in station with hand sanitizer and sign-in instructions. For insurance purposes, we need to know who enters the building and when, so please comply. Even if you have a building key, we ask that you use only the main entrance. Watch for further details about building protocols from our Regathering Task Force.

A big thank you to Bill Rhyne for providing our new hand sanitizing station! This station will help us all stay healthy and safe. Thanks Bill!

ZOOMING WITH YOUR PASTORS!

NEW TIME!

Porch Time with Pastor Brook

Porch Time with Pastor Brook has a new time slot! Wanna chat? Zoom on in!

Join him on July 13th at 5 p.m. for another chat!

Link for July 13th:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89063013419?
pwd=ZXVrY2dEUGFjTHBpeXF5UzVhRU13dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89063013419?pwd=ZXVrY2dEUGFjTHBpeXF5UzVhRU13dz09)



Table Talk with PG

Pull up a chair for Wednesday evening for conversation with PG and others around the virtual table. Bring a plate or a beverage if you want. Show up to talk or just to listen.

Table Talk topic for Wednesday, July 15th, 5:30 p.m.: How are you feeling 'in quarantine' these days? Let's talk about the 'downs' and 'ups' of the past 4 months. What do you miss most about the days before the pandemic? What new blessings have come into your life in this time?

Send PG an email or text to sign up, or just show up on Zoom, using this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82677455853>



A NOTE FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

Greetings! I am grateful to be among you at Cross and Crown as Director of Music.

Your warm welcome during this time of social distancing is appreciated. I am enjoying getting to know each of you as time and opportunity allow. The Pastors, members of the church council, church staff, choir and parishioners have made the transition easy for me. It is hard to believe that a month has already passed.

Among my first impressions is the enthusiasm that you have expressed for the music ministry, as an integral part of the worship life of Cross and Crown. I hope to encourage people as they participate in the music ministry. As we have prepared for online services, people have generously shared their gifts.

I look forward to getting to know all of the people in the music ministry, and to call upon their talents placed at the service of God and others. I look forward to exploring together the richness of musical traditions within the church's liturgy.

As online worship continues this summer, may our musical offerings allow us to grow in a prayerful dialogue with our gracious God.

Peace,
Larry Stratemeyer