

Cross Connections



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

January 2019

Epiphany - Sunday, January 6, 2019

Epiphany is coming January 6 – it is the day we celebrate the Gentile World, the whole world coming to Jesus and Jesus being recognized as the light of and for the whole world. The Christmas season lasts twelve days and the next day is the day that we celebrate the Magi coming to visit Jesus. Worship will be at 8:30 and 11:00 am.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Worship is planned for St. Paul's Durham Sunday, January 20, 2019 at 3:00 pm

Our Continuing Conversation Group is working with the Triangle Conference of the NC Synod to plan the event. Vice President of the Synod, Diana Haywood, Pastors Margaret and Wolfgang Herz-Lane are working on the planning team.

A Preacher has been secured and they are working on a Mass Choir to provide lively and inspiring music. The worship service will have many special features, the details of which are still being worked out. So please, put this on your calendar.

Children's Gathering Area



ROMANS 8:16

We have placed an area rug outside the narthex to be a special gathering space for our young children. We have many young children and want to encourage young families with children to use this space. Pastor Scott is looking for 6 to 8 adults to help lead a program of Godly Play during the sermon time of our worship services. The hope is that children will come forward for the children's sermon, then be led out to this area for a time of learning. The learning will be centered on the lessons for the day and will encourage the young children to learn and play together. Our hope is this bonding experience will help them stay connected to one another and foster community for our kids. The space currently has Whirl Bibles which are children's lectionary based Bibles. It is also where families can find activity bags for use in the sanctuary or on this carpet.

If you have an interest in helping with this ministry, please contact Pastor Scott.

The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor
Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor
Jacqueline Nappi, Minister of Music
Amanda Stoen, Preschool Director
Megan Hoewisch, Vicar

The Rev. Ali Tranvik, Associate Pastor, Duke Lutherans
The Rev. Dr. Charles R. Huggins, Pastor Emeritus

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From the Pastor...

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Colossians 3:15

As I reflect on the past 12 months, I am thankful and at peace. St. Paul's is a dynamic place in which the Spirit is at work. We have ups and downs and round and rounds, but we are one body striving to be what God would have us to be in this place. We will be reporting on the Vitality Survey shortly, but to give you a brief preview, the report said we are a very sustainable place that is seeking to find our definable mission in Durham. We recognize that we have a vibrant worship life, a connected fellowship, quality staff and leadership, and commitment to our teaching nature. We love our Vicars and Duke Lutherans. We would like to be more fully connected to both ministries. We know we are aging and we struggle to attract young families and youth. We will soon be recognized for our continued activity related to putting candidates for ministry in seminaries and Divinity schools. We know we have debt but we are developing better plans to deal with it. We are working on plans for Damascus House and there will be plans presented during January.

We have reduced the size of Congregational Council down to nine with this year's election and we feel this is a better size for governance. We are working with the Synod and one of our recently approved for ordination candidates to attract young adults and families to our congregation and others in the triangle. The area around our congregation continues to grow and we will be looking for new ways to reach our neighbors. Watch for an exciting announcement about our intern's project in the spring.

We are continuing to find ways to utilize our bus to draw our seniors into the fellowship by providing transportation. We continue to look for drivers for the bus.

I ask you to pray for our fellowship, find new ways to help us answer God's call and grow in new and vibrant ways.

May the God of hope and peace bless us in the new years.

Pastor Scott

From the Vicar...

January 18-25 is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and St. Paul's, along with many other Durham congregations, will be marking the occasion with a

Service of Christian Unity on Thursday, January 24 at 7 pm at Pilgrim UCC. All are invited to join, and if you are unable to gather in person, then I invite you to add Christian unity to your January prayers.

And why should be focus for a month or a week or an evening on Christian unity when there are so many other pressing concerns? Well, Christ himself prays for the unity. In John 17, Jesus prays for his disciples of every generation, that we will all be one, just as Jesus and his Father are one. When Christians of different stripes gather to worship together in Spirit and truth, we are stepping into Christ's hope for the Church.

Paul was especially concerned with Christian unity. His letters to the early churches were often written in response to ruptures between believers; huge swaths of the New Testament only came about because of the need to be united. Paul knew the Church would not stand if her members warred against each other. How well can we share a Gospel of reconciliation with the world if we can't be at peace among ourselves, Paul wonders.



Our denomination also takes ecumenism (the movement toward closer relationships between Christian denominations) seriously. It's part of our identity, as seen in our constitution: "Foster Christian unity by participating in ecumenical activities, contributing its witness and work and cooperating with other churches which confess God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" (ELCA Constitution 4.03.E). The ELCA is not meant to be in competition with other churches; we are to be partners with a common goal.

Even as we share a common goal, we recognize that diversity within the body of Christ is a good thing. Christian unity is not trying to get rid of our differences, but rather figuring out how we can live at peace *with* our differences. Isn't that a compelling message for our divided, often hostile world? If brothers and sisters and siblings in Christ can figure out how to live at peace while honoring our differences, then we offer the world a countercultural model of reconciliation. Working toward peace is part of our witness to the world.

Finally, how many of us have beloved non-Lutherans in our families? Yet there was a time when denominations vilified other Christians, and building relationships outside of your "tribe" was almost sacrilegious (perhaps this tendency toward suspicion hasn't entirely left us...). Praying for Christian unity is

a chance to celebrate and thank the Lord that many boundaries of fear and mistrust have been broken down and that love flows more freely. This is the Spirit at work among us!

"You are one body and one spirit, just as God also called you in one hope. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all, who is over all, through all, and in all" (Ephesians 4:5-6).

Vicar Megan Hoewisch

Why Duke Lutherans?

As the first semester ends and a new one begins, a few Duke Lutherans take a moment to reflect on what this community means to them. Why Duke Lutherans? See what some of them have to say for themselves!

- ✱ Duke Lutherans has provided me the community and support to reignite my faith life. It's an intimate group where we can learn, mess up, and grow closer to God and one another. I'm blessed to be a part of it!" -Emma Schindler, senior
- ✱ "What I love about Duke Lutherans is that it's not about me, it's about us. It shows me that serving Christ means serving others. It encourages me to grow in faith while being uncomfortable for my neighbor's sake." -Angel Mcharo, sophomore
- ✱ "Duke Lutherans transcends the traditional idea of church on Sundays, challenging me to engage with the larger Durham community and integrate my academic passions with my faith." -Alex Goff, sophomore
- ✱ "Through Duke Lutherans, I have explored and strengthened my faith, grown as a church leader, and made many close friends. The interconnectedness between the campus and our supporting congregations makes this community unique and special." -Anya Varanko, doctoral candidate
- ✱ Before I found Duke Lutherans, I asked myself "Why God? Why church? Why Lutheran?" And the answer I found was Duke Lutherans. Here we are encouraged to reflect on big questions like "What does it mean to be a neighbor?" and to act upon our answers. -Eric Juarez, doctoral candidate

Why does the ministry and mission of Duke Lutherans matter to YOU? To share your story or learn more about the many ways you can get involved or support this ministry, contact Pastor Ali at ahw22@duke.edu.

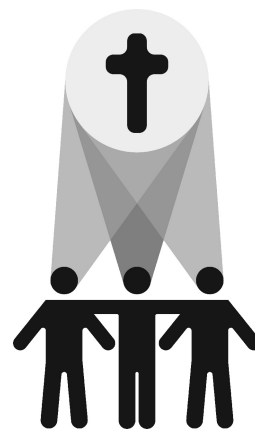
Getting to Know our Neighbors

Throughout Scripture, we see that much of Jesus' ministry takes place around food. Community is formed through our common need to eat. Life together happens at tables. This fall, a few of us from Duke, Grace, and St. Paul's have been in conversation about ways that we could gather with one another—and with neighbors throughout the broader Durham community—not only to share food, but to share life together.

Beginning in the new year, neighbors of all kinds are invited to cook, eat, and share meals together on a regular basis. To that end, Grace Lutheran Church has graciously offered their house next door—the Grace House—as a gathering place for this purpose. While the table lies at the heart of this calling (and indeed, all our callings), we also foresee the possibility of the Grace House serving as a “community hub” more broadly, where in addition to shared meals, we gather to form relationships with neighbors new and old. This could entail reading and conversation groups, community gardening, cooking classes, and intercultural exchange more broadly. We firmly believe that even the most well established among us have as much—and likely more—to gain as those among us who have only recently arrived.

In sum, we hope to build a place of radical community. A place where each person who walks through the doors recognizes that they have both gifts to give and needs to be met. A place where we can all be fed. A place where we live into our call to life together. We recognize that building this kind of life together will take time, patience, and perseverance. We do not expect it to be easy or comfortable. We will most certainly make mistakes—indeed, we already have. Nonetheless we will continue to try to live into God's call to life together. Given God's gift to us and to the world, how could we not?

Stay tuned for more information. We look forward to seeing you at the table, Pastor Ali Tranvik, Jovita Byemerwa, Alex Goff, Isak Tranvik, Hananieli Setiawan



Share a Meal with Duke Lutherans!

The Duke Lutherans Sunday evening gatherings continue to grow. After the service of Evening Prayer each week, Duke Lutherans share in a fellowship meal, prepared and served by members of St. Paul's and Grace. Whether you've served a meal in the past or if it would be your first time, we invite you to take part in this important ministry and we need your help!

If you are able to bring food on Jan 20, Jan 27, Feb 3, Feb 10, March 3, March 24, March 31, April 7, or April 21, please email john.foreman@duke.edu.



Preschool Pitter Patter



by Amanda Stoen

What a memorable December we had at the preschool! The teachers and I attended the NCAEYC conference in early December. Then we received 10 or so inches of snow

which closed the preschool for a few days. December is always a busy month for teachers as they have lots and lots of fun holiday crafts and gifts to make in the classroom! We also collected hats, mittens and scarves for Urban Ministries in Durham.

Dr. Becky Bailey was the keynote speaker at the NCAEYC conference this year and the teachers and I attended several Conscious Discipline workshops too. Dr. Bailey spoke about 3 super powers every teacher needs: Give instead of Get; Offer Positive Intent; and Be Someone's Person. We learned more strategies and ideas to take back to the classroom to continue focusing on relationships and connection with each child.

Mark your calendars for our annual **Spaghetti Dinner and Bake Sale Fundraiser** which will take place on **Wednesday, February 6** in Trinity Hall. Proceeds from the dinner portion will benefit our financial scholarship fund, which assists families who need financial support to send their child to preschool. The Bake Sale proceeds will benefit our playground. We plan to add a music space to our playground.

This month, we begin enrollment for Fall 2019. Priority enrollment is given to St. Paul's members beginning January 9. We will be offering classes for children ages 10 months - 4 years old. If you are

interested or know of anyone who is, registration forms and tours are available. If you have any questions in the meantime, please let me know. We ask for your continued prayers throughout the school year.

Here – in God's Garden

by George Seiz

It was another good year for God's Gardeners at St. Paul's. The year began with heavy snow on January 17 and ended with about 6+ inches of snow on December 8. A good deal of work took place in between.

Here are some highlights thru the year:

- ◆ Routine maintenance and pruning of shrubs, flowers and other plants including the Damascus house, Creation Garden, Journey Plaza, Memorial Garden and planting area along Cornwallis Rd.
 - ◆ Maintenance of planting bed around main sign at front of church
 - ◆ Mowing, trimming and blowing of Memorial Garden and inside Ark play area
 - ◆ Routine trimming and blowing clear of sidewalks
 - ◆ Organized removal of badly decayed sycamore tree adjacent to the Damascus house utilizing a contractor
 - ◆ Routine watering and maintenance of interior plants
 - ◆ Continued pruning of 7 crape myrtle trees adjacent to Damascus house driveway to improve health and shape.
 - ◆ Winter pruning of various low and broken tree limbs.
 - ◆ Re-built small drain in patio area at west building entrance
 - ◆ Watering during dry periods
 - ◆ Installation of several ornamental grasses at front of Sanctuary
 - ◆ Maintained summer flowers on bench in Creation Garden for decorative purposes and American Black Vulture deterrence
 - ◆ Routine hosing of vulture poop in Creation Garden
 - ◆ Pressure washing of Memorial Garden Brick Wall
 - ◆ Installation of underdrain along perimeter of playground area to improve drainage and the spreading of many cubic yards of special playground mulch. Accomplished by pre-school parents, teachers and church members working collectively.
 - ◆ Assisted with re-roofing of one storage shed.
- About 22 church members contributed in some way or fashion this past year to provide maintenance

and garden care to our campus. This community of caretakers graciously gives their time and effort as good stewards of the church campus and deserve much praise for the approximately 350 labor hours served. They include: Dick Clendaniel, Kevin Lavery, Jim Shoaf, John Foreman, Tracey Dissel, Tom Kraska, Doug Whitfield, Curt Hahn, Dean Redman, Audrey Busch, Tim and Kim Hoke, Mark Petersen, Larry Grovenstein, Bill Dahl, Phil and Sally Hart, Robin Winfree, Ted Dominick, Steve Mzyk, Tony Perrotte, Morris Casper and George Seiz. If I have left anyone out, I am truly sorry. Special thanks to Susan Esposito and Pastor Scott for their continued support of this ministry.

If you would also like to be a stewards of God's Garden at St. Paul's, please contact me or Susan Esposito. 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.

Appreciation For Such A Caring Church Family

Some of you may not know that my mother passed in early November while I was away on my Habitat mission trip to Vietnam.

She had been ill and suffered a massive stroke earlier this year, so was not expected to live. However, I don't think any of us are ever prepared to lose a parent.

To return to such news was very shocking, but being showered with your love, visits, cards, and kind messages of condolences has been comforting beyond what I can express.

Returning to the familiarity of the warmth of your voices and hugs has been so reassuring.

I am so thankful for each of you and feel especially blessed to have you as my church family to come home to.

In Christ,
Marilyn Bell-Hawley

In the mailbag...

Dear St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Thank you for your gift of \$715 to Lutheran Disaster Response. Your generosity brings deep and abiding hope to communities dealing with a disaster, providing water, supplies, shelter and support. Your

generosity makes possible both short- and long-term care, sustaining communities throughout the recovery process and into new life.

Your gifts are bearing the love of Christ to many in need.

With gratefulness,

The Rev. Daniel Rift

Director, ELCA World Hunger and
Disaster Appeal

Reflections on Stephen Ministry at St. Paul's



- ✠ "I believe a Stephen Minister would be of help in whatever situation you find yourself where you need support and love and encouragement."
- ✠ "I expected more uncomfortable feelings with someone new but, instead she was gentle and understanding. The most meaningful part was that she was a confidant that I could talk to. I would recommend Stephen Ministry to a friend who may be in need of help through a difficult time. Although we may have wonderful families, another unrelated, caring person gives another perspective."
- ✠ "A few years ago I was in a chronic illness situation. A member of St. Paul's told me that Stephen Ministers helped people like myself. I was met by the ministry leader who paired me with a gal of similar interests. We were to meet once a week for an hour. We always ended our meeting with a short prayer."
- ✠ "My Stephen Minister was not to give advice but to listen to what was happening in my life. She never criticizes nor will she ever pass information I have shared. We have met for several years. I have gained a wonderful and caring friend through Stephen Ministry."

Do these comments resonate with you? If you think you'd like to consider having a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Scott or Judy Kraska. Your inquiry will be kept in confidence!

Rite of Confirmation

On Sunday, December 2, 2018, Ezra Betts affirmed his baptism and participated in the Rite of Confirmation.

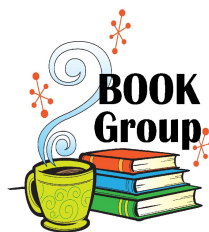
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St. Paul's Readers

Everyone is invited to join in discussion of our January book selection, A Gentleman In Moscow, by Amor Towles, on Thursday, January 17, at 3:00 pm in the library. In February we will be reading Educated, by Tara Westover.



Congregational Council

We welcome our newly elected Congregational Council members:

- ▶ Tony Perrotte (*completing the remaining two years on Curt Hahn's term*)
- ▶ Claire Cooney
- ▶ Ted Dominick
- ▶ Phil Hart

We thank the outgoing council members for their three years of service to the congregation:

- ▶ Marilyn Bell-Hawley
- ▶ Maria Chi
- ▶ Bonnie Cooper
- ▶ George Seiz

New Members

Sunday, December 16, we welcomed the following people:

Christina Nesslage

Christina was formerly a member of Roots of Life Community in Noblesville IN. She is a student at Duke Divinity School

Meredith Schmehl

Meredith comes to us from Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Camp Hill PA. She is a Ph.D. student and Graduate Research Assistant at Duke University, in neurobiology.

Rodney and Mary Runestad

Rod and Mary come to us from St. Michael's Lutheran Church in New Canaan CT.



Welcome
Our New
Members

A Huge Christmas Thank You!



The Women's Connection would like to thank everyone who participated in contributing gifts and food for Durham Urban Ministries. Everything was delivered on Monday 12/03.

Thank You to Mark and Nancy Dewhirst for orchestrating the delivery. We had three car loads of food and gifts. The food weighed 219.5 lbs. Our gifts will go towards providing Christmas gifts for each Durham Urban Ministry client. Thank you for helping to make Christmas brighter for our neighbors.

Young In Spirit

The plans were for Young In Spirit to travel to the Morehead Planetarium in Chapel Hill in January. However, the date we chose is unavailable due to the snow days interrupting their schedule. Watch the Parish Notes (in bulletin and in email) for details on the January event.

Annual Reports

It is time again for our annual reports to be submitted. Please have them to Susan Esposito by January 20. They should come from each committee and active group at St. Paul's. Content should include membership and what has been accomplished in 2018. They can be left in Susan's mailbox or emailed to admin@stpaulsdurham.org.

Our Sympathy

We express our prayers of sympathy to the family and friends of Addie Felkel, mother of Mary Sturgeon. Addie died Saturday, December 15. Services were held at St. Paul's on December 22. Memorials can be made to St. Paul's Memorial Fund and condolences for the family may also be sent to the church address.