

Cross Connections



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

October 2018



Join us on Wednesday, Oct 17 in Trinity Hall for a fun Oktoberfest evening. We begin at 5:30 pm enjoying music from the Croasdaile "Rusty Pipes."

Supper will begin about 6 pm. Still working on the final menu but this is the day to get your German food tastes ready. If you can help with this meal, please contact Martha Dahl – could be making a dish (sides, dessert, etc.) or help with cooking, setting up, or cleaning up. We always get a nice crowd – enjoy with us!



Time for FUN!

Friday, Oct 26 at 6:00 pm we will have our costume party and Trunk or Treat beginning with a simple hot-dog supper. If you can bring a side for the hot dogs (salads, chips, etc.) or some desserts to share that would be great. After a parade on the stage of costumes we then head to the parking lot for the Trunk or Treat. Start getting your ideas to decorate your trunk/back where you can hand out treats.

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

FROM THE PASTOR...

So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. – Romans 12:5

It seems to me this is fellowship. We are one, although we are individuals with different opinions, needs and desires.

This all came to mind this week in some conversations I've had with members of the congregation. I realize that we do not do the best job of sharing all that goes on within the walls of St. Paul's on a daily and weekly basis. Those of us that spend most of our time doing the work of the congregation know the inner workings of the church and the day to day activity seems routine and mundane.

So, I thought that I'd share some things that happen or have happened recently that could give everyone a little taste of the activity that occurs. In the midst of preparation for Florence, the Tuesday Crew (many of you may not know that up to a dozen men of the church come in each Tuesday morning for worship and service) took down all the outside tents, signs, playground shade, cleaned the roof drains and air conditioner drain lines, secured anything outside that was loose and could blow about in the storm. The staff (mostly Susan) worked on how to notify every one of the impending storm schedule. The staff met to discuss plans for worship, Susan completed Sunday's bulletin on Tuesday. Council President, George Seiz, met with pastor to discuss the upcoming council executive committee meeting and council agenda for September. The finance committee met to review the previous month's finances and Larry Grovenstein prepared the monthly financial statement. Jayne Baum got payroll for all the staff including the preschool ready to deliver. Pastor Ali and Vicar Megan prepared for worship, with practice and sermon prep. Pastor Scott held a Bible Study on the Gospel according to John. Time was spent in visitation and prayer for members. New copier arrived (old lease ended, new one started) and staff needed to coordinate all computers and learn some new particulars. Worship was held at Croasdaile Village. Potential new members were contacted and notes were out to visitors and absent members. Work was begun on a new committee called the Nurturing Committee which we hope will support one another in our life together, through contact, support and prayer. This committee plans to phone members that have been absent, touch base with our homebound regularly and connect new members to the fellowship. Flowers were purchased for worship on Sunday as our regular delivery was interrupted due to the storm.

Post storm, the Tuesday crew put everything back in place. Pastor met with his Mutual Ministry Committee (Jeff Anderson, Bill Dahl, and Bee Ellertson) to discuss our mutual life together and talk about the past month at St. Paul's. Many of you may not know that the Mutual Ministry Committee is a support committee for the pastor and also shares congregational concerns and joys with the pastor on a regular basis. Susan Esposito began planning for the next Wednesday night meal. Wednesday night meals are important to our connections with one another, but we cannot continue to rely on staff for the meal preparation and clean up. Many have helped and know the amount of work it takes to serve these meals. Special thanks to all who have served. We need more people to step forward to help with this effort.

In the midst of this activity, we handled the usual requests for assistance, people inquiring about our fellowship, finance counted the receipts, paid the bills, preparation by the Stewardship Committee for Consecration Sunday continued, the Arts Committee met, our new librarian Katie Benjamin began working in the library, Curtis Chi replaced the Pastor's computer and installed a computer in the reception office, preparation for the upcoming internship retreat took place, rehearsals, Duke Lutheran activities, members worked at the reception desk, Growing thru Grief met, the altar guild prepared for worship, counseling and conversation and most nights of the week every room in the church is filled with outside groups – from scouts to 12 step programs.

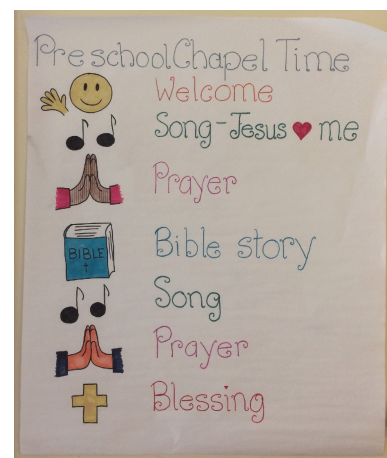
All in all, a pretty normal week. I'm sure I've left someone and too many activities out, but I wanted to give you a taste of how life in the church happens.

The staff and committees appreciate your prayers.

Peace,
Pastor Scott

FROM THE VICAR...

Psalm 148 begins with "Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!" The psalmist goes on to invite the heavenly bodies, the



sea monsters, the trees and animals, and even the weather, to this great, cosmic song of praise. The psalmist makes sure that the chorus is sung by every age: “young men and women alike; old and young together!”

The vicar at St. Paul’s is tasked with leading chapel for the 3-year olds and 4-year olds at the preschool. I look at this as less of a task and more of delight. I spent three years in Seoul, South Korea teaching to kindergartners before seminary, and I have missed little children tremendously. Praising the Lord with little ones – it feels like two disparate parts of my life coming together in a happy, Spirit-filled union!

And how do we praise the Lord in St. Paul’s Preschool? We use a simple liturgy passed down from Vicar Sue. We sing “Jesus Loves Me” and a song of the day. We read a story from the Bible and ponder what it means about God and us. We pray for boobos and big sisters and little brothers, and we thank God for new shoes and teachers and mommies and daddies. We end with a benediction that I’ve gratefully borrowed from another previous vicar: “God bless you and keep you wherever you go!”

I’ve put together a kind of lectionary for the school year. Until December, we’ll be going through stories from the Old Testament, learning about God’s promises to God’s people and ways that people have responded. In December we’ll await the coming of Christ with stories of Elizabeth, Zechariah, and Mary. In the new year we’ll follow Jesus’ ministry – especially his parables and the ways he loved everyone – until Easter, which comes just one month before the preschool year is over. I’ll leave some room for the Holy Spirit to guide the texts for that last month, and we’ll see what surprises are in store.

On Rally Day last month, we blessed the murals and the playground downstairs, and I invite you to keep on blessing the little children who learn and grow among the artwork and the jungle gym. We can praise the Lord, young and old, together. And may God bless you and keep you wherever you go!

Adopt a Duke Lutheran

Interested in being part of a young person’s life? Willing to provide a home away from home for a college student? Want to serve as a mentor, friend, or “surrogate” family member to a Duke Lutheran?

We are excited to announce Adopt-a-Duke-Lutheran, a new program that pairs members of St. Paul’s or Grace with Duke Lutheran students. Throughout the 2018-2019 school year, adopted pairs

are encouraged to share life together, both in and outside of church. We hope this program will provide Duke Lutherans with a “home away from home” during their time in Durham, as well as build meaningful relationships between campus and congregation.

If you are interested in getting involved, we encourage you to check out our information flyer for more details and fill out an application. Both the flyer and the application are available on our website (www.dukelutherans.org) and at the church office. Applications are due October 15 and can be submitted online or to the church office. After pairs are made, a Meet-and-Greet will be held on October 30 at 7:00 pm at Grace House (820 Buchanan St.) for pairs to begin getting to know one another.

Important Dates:

October 15 – Applications due

October 30 – Meet-and- Greet at Grace House

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me at akv12@duke.edu. We look forward to having you join us for what we hope will be a fun and enriching experience for all involved.

Anya Varanko

Duke Lutherans Congregational Liaison

Preschool Pitter Patter



by Amanda Stoen

September brought us a fabulous start to the school year! We welcomed new and returning families to St. Paul’s and the children began to settle in to their new classrooms. Then just as children were learning their routines, we got hit with Hurricane Florence. Our preschool families collected paper goods and nonperishable items for those affected by the hurricane. The NCaeye Conference was postponed so we hope to attend it once it is rescheduled. It definitely has been a memorable start to the school year. We look forward to drier weather and the season of fall.

Please consider linking your Harris Teeter VIC card to St. Paul’s Preschool & PMO, and 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.

Finally, we still have a few remaining spots for this fall in our PMO classes (10-23 months old). If you know of anyone who may be interested in our preschool, please contact me at the church or by email, preschool@stpaulsdurham.org for more information.

CHOIR RECRUITMENT

If you ever think about singing, no matter where, please keep reading.



Do you sing in the shower?
Do you sing when others cower?
Do you sing when fixing a tire?
You should join us in the choir!

If you sing high, if you sing low
If you sing loud, if you sing soft
You can sing, just let flow
In the St. Paul's choir.

Do you sing to the radio?
Do you like to sing Pretty Peggy-O?
Do you like to sing around a fire?
You should join us in the choir!

In the choir you can sing Bach.
Don't worry, making the choir is a lock.
In the choir we also sing Rutter
You join says your Mutter!

No worries if you sing a wrong note
You won't like the Bible be smote.
All you need to succeed is a voice.
You will be our first choice.

— John Foreman

Could a Stephen Minister be Right for You?



by Nan Treul

"My Stephen Minister listened to me as no one else could at that point in my life. She was always there – listening, sharing Scriptures, praying with me.

That was when I realized that God was still working on me and present in my life." Jesus was still saying "yes" to me, and I was going to be okay."

These are words from a person who received weekly visits from a Stephen Minister when she

became widow. She resisted asking for help at first, but a "voice deep inside" challenged her to ask for help.

- ▶ Do you feel a loss of God's presence?
- ▶ Do you question how God is working in your life?
- ▶ Are you experiencing a life situation that leads you to question whether or not you'll be okay?
- ▶ Could you benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister?

If so, please contact Pastor Scott or Judy Kraska, our referral coordinator.

Council Updates

by George Seiz

Congregation Council President

Top 20 excuses not to get engaged at church and especially not to be on the church council –

1. I don't want to be accountable if something goes wrong.
2. It's somebody else's job to cook meals, serve food and clean-up.
3. There are plenty of people to do all of those things.
4. I just want to sit and worship, and be left alone.
5. I'm pretty sure there are people on the council that don't think like I do.
6. I figure I can be more helpful by complaining and grumbling.
7. I really don't have much to offer in the way of skills or abilities.
8. I pledge, don't I?
9. We have a huge church staff to do all of that.
10. I'm a busy person – school, work, you know.
11. My children have grown up.
12. Interferes with my social life.
13. The last time I had to do most of the work myself.
14. I'm already on a committee. Find somebody who doesn't do anything.
15. I can't make a difference.
16. An hour a week at worship should be enough.
17. Oh God, evening meetings.
18. I did my time on the council, many years ago.
19. If there were more people in the choir I might join it.
20. I don't like council presidents who write articles trying to guilt me into doing something.

Let me know if I left anything off the list. Next month – Top 20 reasons to be more engaged at church. Send me your suggestions. – George Seiz

Featured Congregation



Did you know that our congregation is a member of the Triangle Conference, one of the sixteen conferences that make up the North Carolina Synod of the ELCA? The Conference brings together the fourteen ELCA congregations and four Lutheran Campus Ministries in the Triangle for mutual support and cooperation and to work together as the face of Lutheranism in our area. The congregations included in the Triangle Conference are: in Cary – Christ the King; in Chapel Hill – Holy Trinity; in Durham – Arbol de Vida, Christus Victor, Church of the Abiding Savior, Our Savior, and St. Paul's; in Fuquay Varina – Abiding Presence; in Garner – Lord of Life; and in Raleigh – Good Shepherd, Grace, Holy Trinity, Joy of Discovery, and St. Philip. Lutheran Campus Ministries in the Triangle serve UNC (Holy Trinity Chapel Hill), Duke (St. Paul), NC State (Holy Trinity Raleigh) and NC Central (Church of the Abiding Savior).

Rostered leaders in the Triangle Area get together regularly to share how the Spirit is moving in their communities and to discern how local congregations can work together and support each other. Being part of the Triangle Conference gives us all the opportunity to get to know and be part of this larger Lutheran community.

This month, we are highlighting the ministries of one of our Triangle congregation: Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Southern Pines.

For over 50 years, Our Saviour Lutheran Church has been a beacon in the Sandhills region. Our congregation includes long-time residents of the area, many others who have recently retired to this location so well-known for golf and other amenities, as well as families associated with the several military installations in the area. The variety and transiency of people served means that the congregation is always seeking to define itself and its ministries. At OSLC, we are a family that uses a blended worship form, sponsors an attractive pre-school program, and offers the usual Bible study programs and youth ministry activities. Of special note, each week, using food donated by local grocery stores, the congregation's Matthew 25 program prepares over 150 meals and then shares them with people in need in nearby Robbins, NC.

Lord God, in all our coming and going, in all our seeking and finding, in all our giving and receiving, remind us that you are with your people always. Remind us that your love is full and constant and all

encompassing. Bless the people of Our Saviour Lutheran Church that their witness may continue to shine brightly.

In the mailbag...

Heartfelt thank you to the people of St. Paul's for the well wishes and joyous 100th birthday celebration for Arloa Bittikofer.

*Thanks be to GOD,
Arloa's family*

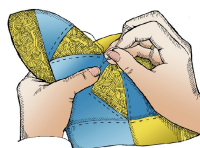
Our Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of the following families:

- ✱ Joel McDonald (Mac) Adams, uncle of Pat Casper, who died September 2 in Cartersville, GA
 - ✱ Penny Vandewater, friend of Marcia and Bill Wilson who died September 8
-

Congratulations!

We celebrate the birth of Weldon Hartley Jones, born to Caroline and Seth Jones on Saturday, September 15th. Proud grandparents include Sherry and Stanley Stubbs.



Tongue & Thimble Group

The "Tongue & Thimble" quilting ministry is an opportunity for members of St. Paul's to answer God's call to love and serve our neighbors in need, and to provide a tangible symbol of God's love and compassion. This year they created 72 comforter quilts and 22 NICU blankets which will be distributed between the Cancer Unit at Duke, Neonatal Unit at Chapel Hill, Murdoch Center and Project Nite Nite. Throughout the year, these women of St. Paul's sew quilts, blankets, and other items to help those in need. Most fabric is donated, however occasionally we must make purchases to have enough supplies, especially batting for the quilts. Please consider a donation to help (checks to St. Paul's noted for "quilts"). Sewers are always welcome. Tongue and Thimble meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 10:30 am downstairs at church.

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Feeling Playful?

Would you like to get to know some of our youngest and perhaps most charming members? Please speak with Signe Offenberg about playing with preschoolers during the 11:00 am service in our nursery. Serving twice a year would be a huge assistance for this ministry. There is a sign-up sheet on the credenza under the TV monitor.



Young In Spirit

On Wednesday, Oct 10, we will leave church at 10 AM to travel to Greensboro for lunch and then a tour of the Guilford Courthouse



National Military Park. It is a Revolutionary War battlefield that commemorates the Battle of Guilford Courthouse between Major General Nathanael Green's militia and continental army vs. Lord Charles Earl Cornwallis British and Hessian army in 1781. We will do a driving tour of the battlefield, see a live action theater film which explores the historical personal accounts of American and British soldiers involved in the battle as well as Quakers and civilians caught in the after effects, and visit Hoskins Farm at the battlefield Discovery Center. There is a sign-up sheet on the desk in the reception office to indicate if you will be attending.

St. Paul's Readers

Everyone is invited to join St. Paul's book group as it meets at 3:00 pm on Thursday, Oct 18, when they will be discussing Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger. The book selection for the following meeting on November 15 will be Paris Letters by Janice MacLeod.

Best of Enemies

You are invited!

On Sunday, Oct 7, the Continuing Conversations Group is hosting a light lunch after the 11:00 am worship service. We'll watch a video about the remarkable friendship of Ann Atwater and C. P. Ellis and will discuss Osha Davidson's book about how these two former enemies



became close friends and allies. Theirs is a tale of Durham during the 1970s tensions of public school desegregation. Atwater, a black community activist, and Ellis, a leader in the KKK, were able to recognize common humanity across deep social boundaries. Even if you haven't read the book, come join us as we explore their powerful story.

Community Café Saturdays



The Community Café is looking for volunteers for our work days on October 20, November 17, and December 15. Please check your calendars right away and sign

up to serve your community for 2 hours on a Saturday morning. Let's try to fill October first! The sign up sheet is on the atrium bulletin board. Thanks for serving!

Katherine Circle of WELCA

All women are invited to the Katherine Circle meeting on October 9 at 10 am. Marcia Redman will present our devotion. Jennifer Bowling and Marcia Redman will do refreshments. Judy Schlegel will present the program, "She has cancer, what do I say?"