

Cross Connections



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

July 2018

PILGRIMAGE MOVED TO SEPT 21-23

Given the volume of response for upcoming Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope, the July session will no longer fit us all. This a great problem to have! Now we have the opportunity to create our own custom Pilgrimage--with Duke Lutherans, friends of Duke Lutherans, and folks from St. Paul's and Grace. Mark your calendar - our new Pilgrimage is scheduled for **Sept 21-23**. I hope that the new date will allow even more of you to experience what is sure to be a powerful couple of days together. Please RSVP to Ali if you are interested in attending.

Note: The cost per person is \$100, which covers 11 meals, speakers, transportation, and admission to each of the sites. Even if you are not able to join us on the Pilgrimage, we are still collecting donations that enable students to participate. Please consider making this Pilgrimage possible for a student by writing a check to Duke Lutherans and writing "Pilgrimage" in the memo line. Thank you!

For more information about the Pilgrimage, visit www.durhamcares.org/pilgrimage.



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

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

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From the Pastor...

As I write this, Ali Tranvik has been approved for ordination on June 7th. She will now be approved for administrative assignment on June 12th.

Ali has grown Duke Lutherans into a viable campus ministry. Her time with us has been exceedingly productive. Because of her work with Duke Lutherans, the call process is very different from most calls, but I want to assure you we are doing this in consultation with Bishop Tim Smith.

Because Ali has grown the program and has been an effective minister at Duke, the Campus Ministry Committee was in agreement that they wanted her to stay, so there was no need to seek other candidates for the call. If she had not been so productive and so connected to the students we would have gone about the call very differently.

But, because she was so good for the organization, her call to this position was the best outcome for the students at Duke. Members of the committee represent both St. Paul's and our Missouri Synod brothers and sisters at Grace in Durham. They all were in total agreement to call Ali.

Having said that, the Bishop talked us through a process to call her quickly. We have worked diligently to make her available for call. This entailed approval by her Bishop in Minnesota and the ELCA. All have given their approval for this process to move forward.

The congregation council met on June 18th to approve her call and recommend her to the congregation. Even though this position is both an ELCA and Missouri Synod Ministry, the call comes through St. Paul's.



The biggest difference in this call is that the Campus ministry committee will set the details of her compensation, but according to our commitment with Ali, total compensation is not to exceed \$85,000. This is money that comes from Campus ministry dedicated funds that are designated for compensation for the Campus pastor and does not come from St. Paul's budget. This is why we can approve a total dollar amount and let the Campus ministry committee determine how it will be divided between housing, salary, health care, retirement, and other expenses.

I am so excited to have Ali as a colleague in ministry and look forward to the congregational vote on July 8.

God's peace,
Pastor Scott

St. Paul's wants us all to be aware that smelling good can have consequences for others.

by Pastor Scott

About 15 percent of the general population have adverse health effects from perfumes and solvents, becoming ill from even small amounts of fragrance products.

Nearly 72 percent of asthmatics have adverse reactions to these items.

Reported adverse health effects from these items range from chronic nausea, migraine headaches, asthma attacks and other respiratory problems, chronic fatigue, burning and watering eyes, dizziness to cardiac and neurological symptoms.

Some U.S. employers ban fragrances in the workplace due to the health needs of their employees.

While St. Paul's does not have a specific fragrance-free policy, we are asking all of us to be sensitive to those who may suffer adverse reactions to fragrances. This is a serious health issue for a significant number of people. Courtesy toward your fellow worshipers is always a top priority, and may include limiting or eliminating fragrances (e.g., perfumes/colognes, hair spray, and air freshener).

St. Paul's congregation are asked to be respectful of the needs of others. Please remember that your use of fragrances is voluntary, while another's adverse reaction is not.

From the Vicar...

"Goodbye." I hate the word. There is rarely anything "good" about a "goodbye." However, it is that time of the year when this vicar wraps up and the congregation prepares to welcome the next vicar. In thinking back to my first week as the "Vicar of Durham" (as I came to call myself), I remember Pastor Scott telling me rather plainly, "If you do internship right, saying goodbye will be one of the hardest things you'll ever have to do." Apparently, I did internship right.

Sunday, July 29 will be my last worship with you as your vicar. There will be a reception between services to fellowship and exchange gifts and parting words. I would love for as many people to attend as is possible. At the completion of internship here, I will be returning to Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC for my final 7 classes.

They say some common symptoms of grief include denial, sadness, disappointment, and anger. I

must admit that I have experienced all of these in the last few weeks – denial that internship is coming to a close and disbelief that the end is coming so soon, sadness in the loss of fellowship that I shared with so many of you on a daily or weekly basis, disappointment in not sharing another Advent, Christmas, Lent, or Easter with you, and anger that my final few seminary classes and the pastoral formation process is keeping me from continuing here with you.

What can I say about a year of ministry in this place? I have learned much from so many of you and loved getting to know you and hearing your stories. If there is one thing I will probably be remembered for, it will be the vicar who loved hearing and telling stories and made you tell your own stories. Thank you for humoring me and allowing me to explore storytelling as a faithful Christian practice with you. I will treasure each of the stories you shared and ponder them in my heart. I will carry those stories – shared publicly or privately – with me throughout the rest of my years in ministry, and in return, I leave behind a piece of my heart. Thank you for indulging me.

You were gracious with me in the first few months while I was still finding my footing. You were open to me in welcoming me as a part of the community and entrusting me with your spiritual care. Many of you have said that you learned from me this year, but I have learned just as much from you. This community's commitment to the vicar program is a gift to the whole Church, and it is clear that you do not take that commitment lightly. I have challenged a few of your comfort zones in my preaching and teaching, and you have pulled me out of mine on a regular basis.

I will miss you and this place; however, in deference to the new vicar's pastoral formation in this place, I cannot be a frequent visitor. If you are on social media, please feel free to connect with me. I would love to stay in touch. Leaving a legacy with cherished memories and dearly established relationships is one thing. Haunting the halls as a ghost is quite another. Whether I like it or not, it is time for me to make the next step in the process of becoming a pastor which takes me back to seminary for two more semesters. In the Apostles' Creed when we profess that we believe in the "communion of saints," we who are in Christ are never really separated from one another, not by death, not by distance, not by differing points of view. Through Christ, we are one and share in open communion – one fellowship – with one another. So, when you come to the Table on Sunday morning to share in the broken body and shed blood of Jesus, know that I am communing there with you and all the saints! And if you think you see my face out of the

corner of your eye at the railing, I hope you smile.

As I spend these final weeks saying goodbyes, I pray this prayer for each of us: "O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, now knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; though Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Love in Christ,
Vicar Adam

Life Together with Duke Lutherans – You're Invited!

In his book, *Life Together*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes, "Community is not an ideal which we must realize; it is rather a reality created by God in Christ in which we may participate." Community, in other words, is a gift. It's not up to us to create community (thank goodness!), for we already belong to it. We belong to community – to each other – because we belong to God. Life together is only possible in Jesus Christ.

As another year of campus ministry is just around the corner, we invite you to be a part of our life together next year. Here are some ways to do so:

- Join us for worship and dinner on Sundays at 5:30 pm in the York Room of the Divinity School. Are you able to provide the dinner? Open dates for the fall semester include Sept 9, Sept 16, Sept 30, Oct 14, Oct 21, Oct 28, Nov 4, Nov 11, Nov 18, Dec 2. Contact Linda Foreman (lindapforeman@gmail.com) for more info and to claim a date!
- Join students for tutoring, teaching, service meals, and more, as we grow in relationship with our neighbors throughout Durham.
- Pray for students, especially those who will be new this fall, that their faith may be nurtured, challenged, and formed in this community.
- Introduce yourself to our new student Congregational Liaison, Anya Varanko, who will be working to deepen the relationship between the two supporting congregations and the campus ministry. You'll hear more from Anya in next month's newsletter!
- Give a financial gift that will help us provide community meals, guest speakers and preachers, retreats, educational resources, worship materials, and more! Here's how to give:
 - Visit us online at

www.dukelutherans.org/support

- write a check to St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Attn: Duke Lutherans
- Direct your Thrivent Choice dollars to Duke Lutherans. See page 7 for instructions with two easy ways to do this!

Thank you for the many ways you support this ministry. We look forward to doing life together next year with you!

Together in Christ,
Ali Tranvik

Preschool Pitter Patter



by Amanda Stoen

We have had a busy summer so far at the preschool. We have had three weeks of summer camp and have three more to go this summer. You may have seen our camping area downstairs in

Genesis. We made our own s’mores by using the warm sunshine and read camping stories in the tent. During Music week, we painted watercolor pieces to classical music and enjoyed playing lots of instruments! Check out the Preschool Facebook page for photos throughout the summer!

Also, we still have a few remaining spots for this fall in a couple of our classes for 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.

**2018 Fill That Bus!
School Supply Drive
Mark your calendar for
July 23 - August 12**

Fill That Bus! is a community-wide supply drive to help stock the shelves at Crayons2Calculators (C2C) with basic school supplies. Begun by Durham Rotary clubs, Fill That Bus! collected \$130,000 in supplies in 2017. We want to surpass that this year!

Our Mission

Crayons2Calculators serves the educational and creative needs of students in Durham Public Schools by providing free school supplies to classroom

teachers. Supplies help teachers be more effective and efficient in their quest to educate the next generation. Teachers report that they spend on average between \$500 and \$1000 out of their own pockets to supply their classrooms each year and 75% say that a lack of supplies hinders their ability to implement their desired lessons.

The Problem

Sixty-two percent of students in Durham Public Schools qualify for free- or reduced price lunch, which means they live at or near the poverty level. Their parents simply cannot provide the supplies they or their teachers need for learning. Teachers have to rely on parents to provide supplies because budgets have been cut in half in the last 3 years. Teachers simply do not have the tools they need to do their difficult job, especially at high-poverty schools. Twenty-three of the 30 elementary schools in Durham are deemed high-poverty because more than half of students qualify for free- or reduced-price lunch.

Our Solution

We believe education is society’s most important public investment. A first-class education prepares Durham students to be the next generation of active citizens, good parents, and community leaders. To ensure that all Durham students have equal access to educational resources. Crayons2Calculators operates a warehouse that provides school supplies to Durham teachers for free.

How We Do It

We operate a free warehouse store in Durham where teachers can “shop” for supplies. Teachers from particular schools are invited on a set schedule which is determined by a school’s free/reduced lunch rate. Teachers from the highest poverty schools are invited to come into the warehouse once a month to pick out approximately \$50-\$75 worth of supplies as part of our Monthly Shopping Program. Teachers from other schools are invited once per year to a Giveaway Event when they can choose about \$100-\$150 of supplies they need for their classes.

Top 10 Items Needed

- ▶ Dry erase markers
- ▶ Clip boards
- ▶ Box Sets of Color Markers
- ▶ Mechanical, colored, and regular pencils
- ▶ Erasers (cap and large)

- ▶ Post-It Notes
- ▶ Tape (clear and masking)
- ▶ Construction Paper
- ▶ Student and Adult scissors
- ▶ Hand Sanitizer
- ▶ Tissues

Other items include calculators, filler paper, pencil sharpeners, pens, composition and spiral notebooks, staplers, staples, book bags and pencil cases

If you do not have time to go shopping, you may prefer to make a financial donation. We can take your donations and purchase supplies at the back-to-school sales or pass them on to Crayons2Calculators to purchase supplies at wholesale prices.

You can drop off school supplies in the collection bins located in the atrium after July 24. Deadline is August 12.

Thanks!

Many, many thanks to the **Young in Spirit Group** for their generous Birthday gift, in the form of a special collection at our annual Birthday Party held at Kanki Japanese Steak House on May 9, 2018. The donation will be used to purchase a landing gear and provide an air sickness bag for **Flight 627**. This vital equipment will be installed just before takeoff on runway 4 at **St. Paul's Foyer International Airport**. That flight will be carrying very precious cargo in the form of a small, but Mighty Delegation of Four to the National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX. Our prayers and best wishes will be with the group throughout their flight and everyday.

Planned giving

This is one article in a series of topics about various types of planned giving. We will feature one topic each month in Cross Connections. To see the other articles in the series, check our website stpaulsdurham.org under Resources.

Part 1: Wills

Part 2: Charitable Gift Annuities

Part 3: IRAs

Part 4: Life Insurance

Part 5: Charitable Trusts

This month we feature Life Insurance

ARTICLE #4: LIFE INSURANCE

After getting out of school and working for a few years, my bride and I learned to regularly set aside

money in a savings account. Soon we visited a financial adviser with the aim of establishing a long-term financial plan. It is here we realized the importance of life insurance.

Early on, we bought life insurance policies for ourselves to cover final expenses. Later, when children arrived, we increased our insurance to ensure child care and education costs were met should one of us die. With the purchase of a home and taking on a mortgage, we increased my insurance so my wife could stay in the home should I pass away and my salary be discontinued. So, as our family situation changed, we adjusted our insurance situation.

Today, the kids are done with schooling and have families of their own. Our house isn't paid for, but money is available to cover payments. And in our financial files, we have paid-up life insurance policies that we want to aim in other directions.

With these paid-up policies, we can make prepaid funeral arrangements, send a nice gift to the kids when we die, and we can name the church as a policy beneficiary, making a significant gift with no further out-of-pocket expense. We figure since we can't take it with us, we put it to good use.

One of the easiest ways to make a gift to St. Paul's Lutheran Church is through life insurance. Simply, you can make the church a full or partial beneficiary of a life insurance policy that you own or intend to take out.

Another way to leave a life insurance gift to St. Paul's is to make the church the owner of the policy. Then, you can provide a gift to St. Paul's each year to pay the premium. The annual premium payment will qualify as a gift to the ministry each year and so may be tax deductible. St. Paul's would then make the annual payment to keep the policy current.

To learn more about life insurance and other gifts, complete the coupon below and return it to the church office or place it in the offering plate and we will be in contact with you.

THANK YOU!

St. Paul's Lutheran Church would like to thank individuals and families who have notified the congregation that the ministry of this church has been included in their estate plans. Gifts through a person's estate are a great lasting testimony to the importance that the church and service to God has held in their lives.



Shipwrecked VBS June 18-22, 2018

There were 55 children and over 30 adults here from 9 am - 12 noon to enjoy singing, learning bible stories, playing games, creating crafts, eating snacks, having discussions, producing science experiments, making new friends, hearing new puppet critters each day – all while knowing that “Jesus Rescues.” When you’re lonely ... Jesus rescues! When you worry ... Jesus rescues! When you struggle ... Jesus rescues! When you do wrong ... Jesus rescues! When you’re powerless ... Jesus rescues! Many thanks to all: parents, shepherds, leaders, and all volunteers. It was a GREAT week!



Eating Together Faithfully

by Alta Lindsay

Do you remember your mother’s homemade pies or her potato salad? Have you thought about the relationship between the Eucharist and food for our bodies? How do we get fresh fruits and vegetables to the hungry? Under the leadership of Alta Lindsay, these are some of the questions we have been discussing at Eating Together Faithfully.

“EATING TOGETHER FAITHFULLY”: Food that LAUGHS is an eight-session curriculum that explores what it means to eat daily bread as disciples of Jesus Christ. EATING TOGETHER FAITHFULLY focuses on the biblical narrative and the ways Jesus invites us to share Eucharist – literally ‘thanksgiving’ – at the table and at our tables. The core of the curriculum develop the idea that “food can laugh.”

Food that LAUGHS is Local, Affordable, Uncomplicated, Good, Healthy, and Seasonal. We believe this acronym expresses the delight God desires us to discover when we eat and invite others to eat.” (from the Study Book)



We meet once a month. Each session includes eating, studying biblical passages related to food, remembering food activities in our lives, and discussing current issues related to food. We have some lively discussions and always run out of time. To get a better understanding of food issues, we have met at the Durham Co-op for one meeting, and at future sessions, we will meet at a farm and a farmer’s market.

We are an experimental group, one of seventeen groups from different churches testing this curriculum. After receiving feedback from these groups, the curriculum will be revised and made available for churches to use.

Do you have Thrivent Choice Dollars?

The Thrivent Choice program encourages eligible Thrivent Financial members to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes an amount of its charitable grant funds. Since 2010, more than \$370 million has been distributed to churches and nonprofits



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nationwide. Members make this recommendation by directing Choice Dollars to enrolled nonprofit organizations. There are thousands of participating organizations, including Duke Lutherans and St. Paul’s Lutheran Church.

To direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Duke Lutherans, St. Paul’s or another qualified nonprofit, log on to Thrivent (<https://www.thrivent.com/>) and click on My Thrivent – Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars to select the recipient of your Thrivent Choice Dollars. Or call Thrivent at 800-847-3836 and say “Thrivent Choice” when prompted.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Dr. and Mrs. James Shoaf proudly announce the commissioning of their daughter, Karen Renee Shoaf as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army, as well as her graduation from Campbell University with a Masters of Science Degree in Public Health, Magna Cum Laude.

After completion of her Basic Officer training in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, Lt. Shoaf will be sent to Airborne School and then report to her first duty station at Fort Bragg, NC, Home of the 82nd Airborne Division.

THANK YOU!!!

It is with joy and appreciation that I thank you for the amazing display of generosity seen with the recent Emergency Food drive for the Urban Ministries of Durham. With only four days’ notice you filled three car loads with food. This was taken to UMD on Monday following the food drive to be put to immediate use. Please see the following letter from Gin Jackson, Director of Community Engagement: A big shout out to you and the great folks of St. Paul’s Lutheran! The 3 donations totaled 719.50 pounds. You really have no idea of how wonderful this display of compassion and generosity is ... from empty shelves to full shelves AND a ton of variety. All to bring choice, dignity, respect, and relief to our neighbors in need.

With gratitude,
Gin Jackson
Director of Community Engagement

Although the generosity of our church members doesn’t surprise me, the rapidity of the donations was spectacular! Thank you to everyone who participated.

Nancy Dewhirst

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 1200 West Cornwallis Road
 Durham, NC 27705-5731

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Hurricanes Hockey



This fall we hope to again form a group to attend several of the Canes Hockey games. If you've never seen an NHL game, you're in for an exciting treat. We need at least 10 interested to form the minimum size group and take advantage of the 3 for 1 group rate that the Canes are offering.

If you're interested or would like to learn more, please contact Tom Kraska (takraska@gmail.com) or Pastor Scott for more information.

Welcome

Lisa Lewis has agreed to answer God's Call to serve, by taking over the duties of coordinator of Assisting Ministers. We want to thank Margot Wuebbens for her years of service to this ministry and look forward to new people answering the call to help with worship.

Community Café Help Needed This Summer!

Hi St. Paul's volunteers! It is time to step up and reserve a time to work at the Community Café at the Urban Ministries this summer. We need to fill Saturdays on **July 21st** and **August 18**. Please look at your calendars and pick one of these days to do fun and rewarding work from only 11 am - 1:30 pm. Still time for the pool or golf afterwards! A sign-up sheet will be available on the atrium sign-up board. Alternately, contact Nancy Dewhirst and nancydewhirst@yahoo.com or 919-451-8872. Newcomers welcome and experienced volunteers are welcome too! Come and show what a giving church St. Paul's is to our community!



St. Paul's Readers



Everyone is invited to read To Free A Family, by Sydney Nathans and then join St. Paul's book group to discuss it at 4:00 pm, Thursday, July 19 in the St. Paul's library. The August 16 selection is The Book of Joy, by the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu, with Douglas Abrams. Question can be addressed to Barb Shade or Vicar Adam.

Wednesday Night Supper

The next Wednesday night supper will be on July 18 at 6:00 pm. This will be the only meal in July. Menu will be a summertime picnic: hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, chips, and ice cream treats!

Pop-Up Choir Time!

Our fun Summer Pop-Up Choir continues Sunday, July 8 & 22, and August 5 & 26 at 10:30 am in Trinity Hall. **What is Pop-Up Choir?** It is a fun way to get into singing at church without any commitment other than showing up on Sunday morning 30 minutes before the late service. We learn an easy tune or special hymn verse to sing either during a hymn, psalm, or the offertory at the late service. No experience necessary! You do not have to come to every Pop-Up Choir date and you don't have to be in our regular Choir either! All songs/verses will be sung in the upstairs balcony during the service. If you're interested in learning more, or would like to get on the email list, please contact Jackie: music@stpaulsdurham.org

There will be a called congregational meeting on Sunday, July 8 at both services for the purpose of issuing a call to Ali Tranvik for the position of Lutheran Campus Minister at Duke University. Please plan to attend as we need a quorum.