

Cross Connections



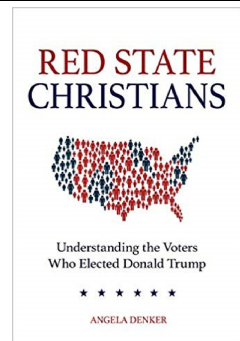
St. Paul's Lutheran Church

October 2019

Put these events on your calendars...

Angela Denker - October 1

On Tuesday, October 1 at 7:00 pm we welcome Angela Denker, a Lutheran Pastor and Journalist, who will speak to us about her research and book, Red State Christians. The NC Synod is co-sponsoring this evening with us. Angela Denker traveled the country, probing the most fascinating contradiction in modern America: the religious Trump supporter.



Oktoberfest - Wednesday, October 16

Join us on Wednesday, October 16 at 5:30 pm for a fun Oktoberfest evening. To start the evening, we will enjoy music from the Croasdaile "Rusty Pipes." They are a great band composed of their residents at Croasdaile. Get your German taste buds ready for a great meal. We'll have the menu announcement soon. If you can help with the meal in any way, please contact Martha Dahl.

Trunk or Treat - Friday, October 25 at 6 pm

We will begin the evening with a simple hot-dog supper. If you can bring a side (salad, chips, mac&cheese, etc.) for the meal or some desserts to share that would be great! After a parade across the stage of costumes, we then head to the parking lot for the Trunk or Treat. Start getting your ideas on how to decorate your trunk/back of car 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

Anna Carter, Vicar

The Rev. Ali Tranvik, Associate Pastor, Duke Lutherans

The Rev. Dr. Charles R. Huggins, Pastor Emeritus

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Author, Author, Fellowship and more...

October and November will bring several events to St. Paul's. October 1 at 7 pm, Angela Denker, a Lutheran Pastor and Journalist, will come and speak to us about her research and book Red State Christians. Angela wants to find ways for us to talk together about tough topics and doesn't think this can happen until all sides understand one another. The NC Synod is co-sponsoring this evening with us. Angela is in the area participating in an event in Goldsboro for the Poor People's Campaign. We look forward to hosting her. Please note that this event will take place during our normal committee time so each committee should plan alternate meeting times this month.

October is time for Oktoberfest. October 16th at 5:30 pm will be our annual celebration of fall. We may even have a surprise with some non-alcoholic beer this year.

In addition to all that, we have the great opportunity in November to host Paul Young, who wrote "The Shack." Paul is in town for an event on November 20 in Chapel Hill and has graciously agreed to come for an evening the night before on November 19th. This dynamic book has been out for several years and was a meaningful movie as well. The power of forgiveness is a powerful theme and I hope and pray we get a crowd for this event. A free-will offering will be collected.

In other news, the council and finance committee are working on hiring a bookkeeper and we hope that by the time you get this we have made a hire.

In other news around St. Paul's. We rejoice with former Vicar Megan Hoewisch at the news of her engagement and ask you to pray for her and her fiancé Matt as they plan for a wedding and as they recover from a car accident. Both are okay, but Megan sustained a concussion.

We continue to do work on the stage and will be working on the flooring next.

Much thanks to all who worked on God's Work Our Hands Saturday, Sept 14. The cleaning of the sanctuary and work on the stage and pre-school playground went very well.

I would ask you all to continue to pray for our congregation and to step up and answer God's call to serve.

God's peace,
Pastor Scott

From the Vicar...

You can ask anyone that knows me and they will tell you that I love autumn. It is my favorite time of year. My heart and body are awakened by everything that the season brings. My heart echoes this sentiment from Anne Shirley in Anne of Green Gables, "I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers." I love the cooler temperatures, the changing colors of leaves and their crunching under my feet after they fall from the trees. I love pumpkins and scarves, apples and the crisp autumn air. George Eliot wrote, "Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, and if I was a bird, I would fly about the earth seeking successive autumns."

I have gone into several stores recently and they seemed to have skipped over autumn and are already preparing for Christmas. Christmas items line the shelves ... decorations, wrapping paper, artificial trees, etc. Advertising, both overt and subtle, is prompting us to begin our preparation for Christmas.

However, as followers of Christ we live by a different calendar. Not only have we not journeyed through Advent yet, we – the church and Christians – are still in the season of Ordinary Time. Ordinary Time is the season in the church calendar that begins with Pentecost and leads us to Advent. The color for Ordinary Time is green, symbolizing growth. The gift of the Holy Spirit given at Pentecost guides us through this long season of growth in discipleship and service.

It won't be easy, but we can and must resist the strong temptation to rush to Christmas. We still have some work and some growing to do in Ordinary Time. When you are sitting in worship, notice the green paraments and vestments and let them remind you of the growth that God desires for us in every area of our lives. As we continue to journey through the book of Luke on Sunday mornings, notice the ways that Jesus' words challenge and prompt us to live more faithfully.

I've heard it said that autumn is the southerner's reward for enduring summer. (I could not agree more!) May autumn also be for us a time to abide in God's love and God's Word and may they continue to transform us more deeply and fully into the likeness of Christ.

Peace be with you!
Vicar Anna

Taking Root

by Pastor Ali Tranvik

The new semester at Duke is officially underway. In these first weeks, Duke Lutherans has been

delighted to welcome new and returning students into our life together. But despite our best efforts during Orientation Week, being in a new place can be *disorienting*. These times of transition can feel unsettling.

At our Evening Prayer gathering a few weeks ago, we read the words that God speaks through the prophet Jeremiah to the Israelites who – for utterly different reasons – found themselves in new and unfamiliar place: “Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce ... seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare” (Jer 29:4-7).

Against conventional wisdom, in the midst of uncertain and disorienting new beginnings, God calls us to garden. To dig in. To plant new things. To eat together – not only with those near us or like us but with neighbors throughout “the city.” As the new year begins, I’m excited about the new things being planted here at Duke Lutherans (including an actual community garden!). I look forward to the things that, by God’s grace, will take root. For the relationships that will form, the conversations that will take place, the meals we’ll share around the table.

At the end of the summer, Duke Lutherans announced a Matching Gift Campaign, where every dollar given between Aug 1-Oct 31 is doubled. We’re already well on our way to our \$25,000 goal! I wanted to *thank you* for the seeds you are sowing in the Duke Lutherans community. For the new growth you’re making possible through your generosity. For seeking and praying for the welfare of this ministry that we share. To contribute to the campaign, please go to “Support Us” at www.dukelutherans.org. Thank you!

Duke Lutherans Receives Knutson Endowment Grant

Duke Lutherans is excited to share that we’ve been selected for a Philip N. Knutson Endowment for Lutheran Campus Ministries grant. The Knutson Endowment, based at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, supports the mission of the church in higher education, providing funding particularly for “Programs, exhibits, and conferences that address timely life issues and concerns facing Christians in higher education, including the subject of human sexuality and the Church.” The grant will fund the continuation of “Images of God,” an Advent exploration that lifts up under-explored or lesser-known biblical images of God through worship, music,

and art. Drawing on three new biblical images of God in scripture, Duke Lutherans will continue to lead this exploration this coming Advent as together we seek to experience God – and the image of God in our neighbor – anew. The grant will primarily cover the costs of guest preachers and speakers, as well as an art exhibit that invites members of Duke Lutherans, St. Paul’s, and the wider Durham community to re-encounter God in the image of the “other.” The exhibit will work to feature artists in particular whose divine image has less often been recognized in the Church, including those from the LGBTQ+ community. We are humbled to receive this grant and look forward to continuing to explore images of God in new ways together this coming Advent Season.

From the Council...

*by Linda Foreman
Council President*

For me, late summer and early fall are times to “get back into it,” resume routines, pick up projects and reconnect. It also occurs to me that much of life seems to be a “work in progress” – a continuous journey of planning and doing and, sometimes, starting/stopping/re-evaluating/restarting. And, so it often is with the many projects and ministries of St. Paul’s.

This is an exciting time of making plans, carrying work forward, and thinking and acting in new ways as we strive to be God’s people.

So, we’re back into it ... it is exciting that we are learning to know a new Vicar, and that we have started to interview candidates for a part time bookkeeping position. Our Planting Hope team will inspire and challenge us with a renewed statement of purpose to guide our lives together here and in our larger community. Our council authorized funds to complete Trinity Hall stage lighting and sound – a huge thanks to Michael and Jim Shoaf!! – that will enable new ease in use of this great resource. And, we have begun the 2020 budget process. September and early fall gives us all an opportunity to recommit ourselves to supporting the many – and ever growing – ministries of St. Paul’s, including the work of our excellent staff and lay leadership that help us meet our purpose and mission.

Please join me and the council in prayerfully considering your response and pledging your support to our many “works in progress.”

As the tee shirt reminds us: God’s Work – Our Hands!

Preschool Pitter Patter



by Amanda Stoen

Our preschoolers are getting settled in their new classrooms and routines as we wrap up our first month of the school year. Our teachers provide a warm, safe environment for children as this is usually their first experience away from home. Our play-based program includes developmentally-appropriate activities, toys and materials both in the classroom and on the playground. Our daily schedules include free choice center play, open-ended art, sensory play, small group and individual play, snack time, outside play as well as music and story time. Early math, literacy and science concepts are woven into all areas of play throughout the day. Using Conscious Discipline, we teach social skills, including learning how to navigate conflict and problem solve.

Each week our three and four year old classes gather for Chapel Time with Vicar Anna, where they read Bible stories and learn how to pray for others. We also enjoy music each week with Barbra who shares her love of music with the children. Music includes instrument exploration, pre-literacy and math skills, movement, rhymes and finger plays. Additionally, our classes spend time outside riding trikes, big wheels, and scooters. It is a fun way to engage those gross motor skills and learn to take turns on the different trikes.

Each month we will continue to celebrate 10 years as a preschool at St. Paul's. Here is a little reflection from one of our current preschool families.

We have been a St. Paul's Preschool & PMO family for 5 years. My oldest started in the older PMO program when she was 2 and my youngest is now in the 4's class. We have nothing but wonderful things to say about this preschool. Every teacher my children have had has been kind and nurturing. They love each child as if they were their own. Children gain so many skills through play so our family loves that the school is play-based. They are not just learning, but also figuring out how to socialize and the wonderful teachers have helped our children navigate toddlerhood. We consider ourselves extremely lucky to have found St. Paul's Preschool and we hope the program can continue to grow.

– The McCarthy Family

Merciful God,

*Everything in heaven and earth belongs to you.
We joyfully release what you have entrusted to us.
Signs of our whole lives returned to you,
Dedicated to the healing and unity of all creation.*

THANK YOU for your generosity and for sharing abundantly of your gifts of time and talents at St. Paul's.

THANK YOU to everyone who already turned in a Commitment Card on Consecration Sunday – or anytime before or after!!

If you have not yet returned your 2020 pledge, there is still time to do that. There are extra Stewardship materials on the ushers' table.

Got a question or comment? Would you like to join the Stewardship Committee? Or would you just like to talk about what Stewardship means to you? Just talk with any member of the committee. We thank you!

Stewardship Committee: Phil Hart, Deborah Steed, Barbara Ellertson, Steven Mzyk, Tracey Dissel, Alice Barnes, or speak to Pastor Scott Anderson.

Stephen Ministers



by Nan Treul

This is an article about a Stephen Minister in another congregation, Steve. He gave his permission to reprint his responses to several questions, in the hope of reaching men of other congregations to ask them to consider becoming a Stephen Minister. We will start a new training class in January to train additional Stephen Ministers. If you would like to talk to one of us about joining this ministry, please see Judy Kraska, Kim Hoke, or Nan Treul.

Men are sometimes reluctant to reach out for help or to accept help. How can men benefit from having a Stephen Minister?

I would encourage any man going through something difficult – divorce, loss of a job, death of a loved one, financial difficulties, a serious illness – to be open to having a Stephen Minister. Men are often conditioned to be strong and self-reliant, so we put a wall around ourselves and don't talk about what's going on inside. But talking with a Stephen Minister really will help. I've seen the difference it can make.

Your Stephen Minister is going to respect you. He's not going to tell you what to do; he's not going to judge you. He's there to listen – to walk alongside, to

help you talk things out and work things through. And it's totally confidential. No one will even know you have a Stephen Minister, and your Stephen Minister won't share anything you say.

And remember, it's not just the two of you in that caring relationship – the Lord's there too, and that's where the healing comes in. It's God who will help you take hold of what's buried deep inside and bring it out and kick it out the door. So I would recommend Stephen Ministry to any man – or woman – during a difficult time.

What would you say to encourage other men to become Stephen Ministers?

I'd say, if you think God's calling you to this ministry, if you even have an inkling that you might want to be a Stephen Minister, give it a shot! The training is fantastic. It took an old nub like me, rounded off the edges, and taught me how to relate in a more caring way. You're going to be very well trained, and you'll have the Lord right there shoulder to shoulder with you.

And if you're like me – and you're not a real touchy-feely person – you can *still* be a good Stephen Minister. You just need to be willing to listen with the heart of Jesus to someone who's going through a difficult time. Stephen Ministry is about one man supporting another in the name of the Lord.

It feels so good to be able to really help someone. The rewards you get from being a Stephen Minister, personally and spiritually – I just can't tell you how great they are. You have to experience it for yourself.

How are you different now than you were before Stephen Ministry?

Well, for one thing, my wife no longer tells me I don't listen. So *she* appreciates my Stephen Minister training too. You really do use these skills in all areas of life.

Five years ago I never would have told you I'd be capable of doing this kind of ministry, but the training gave me the tools and confidence I needed. It's shaped my faith too. I've learned to listen to the Holy Spirit and rely on God, I've grown in my ability to pray, and I can really feel Christ's presence when I'm with my care receivers.

Being a Stephen Minister has allowed me to serve the Lord in ways I never imagined I could. It's helped me to grow my heart to be more like Jesus, to become more patient, caring, and understanding. Stephen Ministry has helped me become a better person.

Many Thanks!

Dear St. Paul's,

On behalf of the preschool, a huge thank you to George Seiz for planning and organizing improvements to our small playground! With the help of preschool teachers and parents as well as church members (Steven Mzyk, Jim Shoaf, Kevin and Ellen Lavery), we improved the ground surfacing and mulched. This summer Dick Clendaniel, Amanda Anderson, and preschool staff children put together the new outdoor play equipment for this updated space. Many thanks to everyone who has helped make improvements to the small playground! Our ones and twos classes are enjoying their renovated space!

Amanda Stoen, Director

St. Paul's Preschool & PMO

New Members Received Sunday, September 1, 2019

Deborah W. Fullbright (Debbie)

6016 St. Thomas Dr

Durham NC 27705

Cell: 540-239-7530

email: dwwfullbright@gmail.com

Pamela Herring

607 Wellingham Dr

Durham NC 27713

home: 919-572-1775 Cell: 919-698-8437

email: RPhNC777@gmail.com

Tom Herring (son), **Leslie Herring** (daughter)

William and Lisianna McManes

811 S. Bend Dr

Durham NC 27713

home: 919-680-0444

William (Cell) 714-812-9711

email: wmcmanes@att.net

Lisianna (Cell) 714-299-5707

email: LmcManes@gmail.com

Ryan Turley and Megan Turner

2507 Pickett Rd

Durham NC 27705

Megan: Cell Phone: 425-466-5982

email: megaturner@gmail.com

Andre Yayo

2920 Chapel Hill Rd, Apt 86C

Durham, NC 27707

Cell: 919-667-8241

email: andreyayo066@gmail.com

Children: **Gilles Oscar Yayo, Belvia Yayo**

Granddaughters: **Esther Yayo, Fleur Yayo,**

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Social Ministry and Continuing Conversation Group

by Pat Casper

Social Ministry Committee will be letting the congregation know the time and date for another opportunity to glean in the local fields. Watch for future announcements.

Also, SERRV will be offered to allow the congregation the time to shop for gifts made by artisans near and far, allowing them to improve their economic situations.

Ask Morris Casper about local Habitat for Humanity building opportunities.

The Continuing Conversation Group will be announcing future events like sharing meals & discussing movies and books about racism in our community as well as across the country.

Memorials Received

We thank the following persons for their donations in memory of those designated.

In memory of Jan Hooft:

Marilyn H. Fox, Elon, NC

In memory of Dorothy (Dot) Costa

Mary Herring Drummond, High Point, NC
 Shirley M. Shackelford, Raleigh
 Nancy Anderson, Durham
 Sharon and Stanley Stubbs, Durham

St. Paul's Readers

Join the group to discuss Peace Like a River, by Leif Enger on Thursday, Oct. 17 at 3:00 pm in the library. The selection for November is Dear Even Hansen, by Val Emmich.

Young in Spirit Event

The Young In Spirit have planned a tour of the Sunset Ridge Buffalo Farm located in Roxboro for Wednesday, Oct 23 at 10:30 am. There is a sign-up sheet on the desk in the reception office.



You're invited to "Adopt a Duke Lutheran" this academic year!

by Anya Varanko

As the new semester begins, we invite members of Grace and St. Paul's to take part in "Adopt-a-Duke-Lutheran" during the 2019-2020 school year. This is a great way to get to know a member of the Duke Lutherans community one-on-one and form a meaningful relationship, take part in their life on campus, and invite them into your life off campus. This could include anything from worshipping together on a Sunday, to attending a concert or athletic event with them at Duke, to inviting them over for a home-cooked meal. If you were matched with a student last year and wish to continue, there is no need to reapply. If you're interested in taking part in the program for the first time, please complete an application online at www.dukelutherans.org or fill out a paper copy, available on the credenza in the atrium (under the monitor). If you have any questions, please reach out to me at akv12@duke.edu. Thanks!

Katherine Circle of WELCA

The Katherine Circle will meet on Tuesday, October 8 at 10:00 am in Trinity Hall. All women are welcome to join the group!