

Cross Connections



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

May 2019

NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY

Saturday, May 18 • 11 am - 2 pm

ALL welcome! Shine only.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

* Sign up in the foyer *

**St. Paul's t-shirts are available for \$10 each.
Show your pride and be recognizable in the crowd.**

See more information on Page 2 in Vicar Megan's article!

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 Past or ...

May is a time of transition here at St. Paul's. It is the season of Easter and we celebrate the resurrection promise of new life in many and varied ways. As strange as it seems this is a time to begin saying good bye to our current Vicar Megan. I know she has some 3 months left with us but the older I get the faster this time flies by. So, if you have been planning to take her out for a meal or have her come visit, now is the time to make those plans. I will save further comment about what a wonderful year we have had for a time closer to her leaving.

Planning for an ending means planning a new beginning. We will welcome Anna Carter as our new Vicar in August. Anna is from Winston-Salem and a member of Augsburg Lutheran Church. She is attending Southern Seminary along with our own James Dahl.

Spring is a time of blooming new life and Vicar Megan will be breathing new life into our relationship with our neighbors. Her project is a community party here at St. Paul's on May 18th. There is more information about this elsewhere in this newsletter.

May is a time to think about our property and the new life that springs up around our grounds. Special thanks go out to George Seiz and his Saturday morning work crews for keeping up the external appearance of our property. Thanks also need to go out to our Tuesday Morning Men's group led by Dean Redman. They keep the property functioning and well maintained.

For everything there is a season and a time for everything under heaven. Let us give thanks for this blooming season and the joy and blessing of transition and of new life.

God's peace,
Pastor Scott

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

by Vicar Megan Hoewish

We are all familiar with the Parable of the Good Samaritan, which Jesus told to widen our definition of neighbor, and we certainly need that expanded vision of who our neighbor is. But that doesn't mean that "love your neighbor" shouldn't also be taken at face value. Who is our neighbor? Yes, our neighbors are folks who gather at the Community Café, yes, our neighbors are the victims of hurricanes who live across North Carolina ... but might our neighbors also be the people who live on Pickett, on Cornwallis, on Chapel

Hill Road?

Many churches these days are commuter communities, and don't worry, we love our members who hail from Orange County, Granville County, and beyond. But being a commuter community means we don't know our neighbors, and they don't know us. Especially without the pumpkin patch and the yard sale, we have very little interaction with the people who pass by our building more than many of our own parishioners.

And so, St. Paul's is throwing a Neighborhood Block Party on **Saturday, May 18, from 11 am - 2 pm** as a chance to meet our neighbors and to let them meet us. We'll have food trucks from local eateries, a bouncy house, games, music, and (hopefully!) the kind of conversations between strangers that remind us that we're not alone. The Block Party committee and myself would love for you to volunteer for a shift and/or come for the fun. There will be a lot of activities for kids, so feel free to invite grandkids, nieces, and nephews, regardless of their zip code! There's no cost for the Block Party, but we will be taking a canned food donation to go towards our neighbors at Urban Ministries.

All folks affiliated with St. Paul's are encouraged to purchase for \$10 a new St. Paul's t-shirt and wear it on May 18 to help our folks be distinguishable and approachable. Plus, these St. Paul's shirts can and will be used for future events – you don't want to be the odd one out!

So how can we love our neighbors? Perhaps it's as simple as sharing a laugh in line for a snow cone.

From the Council...

Easter greetings!! Spring seems to bring a buzz of activity—the constant jobs of fixing things large and small, caring for our grounds, children learning and playing, committees and task groups meeting,— or, in short, the ongoing work of an active church family.

The council wishes to thank all who participated in the discussions and congregational meetings in February and March. Our conversations together raised good and at times challenging questions and important issues. It illustrated the ongoing need to keep channels of communication open and active. As we move forward together, we do so respecting the diversity of perspectives and passions of our members as well as a commitment to truly living the Easter messages of love, redemption and forgiveness as we continue to build a strong future for St Paul's.

Duke Lutherans Spotlight



Welcome to "Duke Lutherans Spotlight," a bi-monthly feature story that spotlights a member of the Duke Lutherans community. This month, we hear from Alex Miley, a sophomore economics major and cross-country runner from Maple Grove, MN. This

year, Alex was selected to take part in Duke's Chapel Scholars Program, which provides opportunities for undergraduates to discern and respond to God's call through study, counsel, service, mission trips, internships, and community. Chapel Scholars come from a variety of majors, backgrounds, and denominational affiliations, but come together to discern how to connect their deepest passions to the world's deepest needs. As another academic year wraps up, let's hear from Alex about his experience as a Chapel Scholar thus far!



Alex Miley

Why did you apply to be a Chapel Scholar?

One of my favorite places to study is the Chapel basement where the Duke Lutherans office is. I was spending a lot of time in the Chapel already, but wanted to get more involved in Chapel life. I care a lot about my faith, so after

a friend recommended the program, I decided to apply.

What kinds of activities can Chapel Scholars take part in?

There are community-building events (like the Chapel lock-in or Chapel climb) and spring break trips we can go on, and opportunities to meet with Dean Powery. He's a really cool guy.

What have you learned about your faith through being a Chapel Scholar thus far?

When I came to Duke, I saw my faith and my classes as two separate entities. But Chapel Scholars helps us think about what it means to bridge faith and learning. It's helped me learn that faith is not just an accessory, something I just do on Sundays. Faith is part of everything I do (or at least that's the hope). So if I'm learning about policy, I think how faith might inform decision-making. Or if I'm in a science class, faith helps me see how elaborate and intricate creation is.

How has Chapel Scholars helped you discern your own calling?

I don't have a plan for my whole life, and am becoming more OK with things changing as I go. I want to try and stay open to God working in me and to listening to the people around me. What I do know is that whatever I do, I want to work with people. I'm interested in real estate and in helping people find a home and be a part of their communities.

What is it like to do that discerning in community with other Chapel Scholars?

God has called us to be in community with one another. Being part of Chapel Scholars means I get to listen to people who think and believe differently than me. But at the core, we are all people who believe in Jesus and the power of his love.

Preschool Pitter Patter

by Amanda Stoen



May is the last month of our school year before we break for summer. We have had a wonderful year and I enjoy watching our families get to know each other throughout the year as both parents and children form lasting friendships. We will send another class of children off to kindergarten, ready to learn more about the world. This summer, we will offer six weeks of summer camp and we are excited that it is already full!

Thank you for helping the preschool collect over 200 books to donate to Book Harvest. Book Harvest is a wonderful organization that gives books to families who may not be able to afford books at home. There are so many benefits to reading to young children including building a love of reading, increasing vocabulary and knowledge, bonding between children and adults and increasing creativity in all areas of development. Thank you!!

We have a few more spots in our Older PMO and Twos classes this fall. Registration information can be picked up downstairs in the preschool area or can be downloaded from our website –

<http://stpaulspreschooldurham.weebly.com>. If you are interested or know of anyone who is, please contact me at the church or email:

preschool@stpaulsdurham.org for more information.

Donating Life Insurance to the Church

by Steve Mzyk

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: IRAs

Part 2: Life Insurance

Part 3: Wills

Part 4: Charitable Gift Annuities

Part 5: Charitable Trusts

This month we features **Life Insurance**.

ARTICLE #2: Life Insurance

When we think of making contributions to the church, we seldom think about donating a life insurance policy. Let's look into it. This can be a great way to make a contribution.

When you were younger, you bought insurance so your family wouldn't struggle if you could no longer provide for them. Older now, and blessed with a secure financial situation, the death benefit your life insurance provides may not hold the same importance as it did years ago. If this is so, consider using the policy to make a gift towards something you're passionate about. If you enjoy giving and it's an important part of who you are, donating an insurance policy to the church allows for a sizable donation.

There are two ways to donate a life insurance policy to the church.

1. Make the church the owner and beneficiary of the policy:

By making the church the owner and beneficiary, you get a tax deduction (your insurance company can tell you the amount. It will be very near the cash value of the policy, but for tax purposes, can't be more than 50% of your Adjusted Gross Income). The church then has the option of surrendering the policy and taking the cash value or continuing to pay the premiums (if premiums are owed) and using the proceeds from the death benefit.

2. Make the church a beneficiary of the policy:

If you don't want to give away ownership of your policy, you can make the church beneficiary of your policy. You do this if you think circumstances could change and you might need the cash value or death benefit in the future. You still own the policy, but you

don't get a tax deduction while you're alive.

When you decide to leave a gift through insurance, ask your agent for a "Change of Ownership and Beneficiary" form. Your agent can guide you with this. If an agent isn't available to help, let our church staff know you want to make a gift of an insurance policy and we will arrange to meet with you. Thank 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.

St. Paul's respects requests for anonymity, but since gift amounts are not being made public, we are hopeful that publishing a list of names will be seen as a statement of faith and will encourage others. Please let the Stewardship committee know that you have included St. Paul's in your estate plans.

"Everybody Get Together"

Celebrate the Ministries of Lutheran Services Carolinas in May

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

— Hebrews 10:24-25

Each year, congregations in North Carolina set aside a special Sunday in May to celebrate their partnership with Lutheran Services Carolinas and to learn more about the mission and vision of LSC. Thank you for joining with us, thank you for your support, and thank you for honoring the work of LSC this month and throughout the year.

In 2018, LSC served nearly 8,000 individuals and families including seniors and caregivers, children in foster care, those affected by natural disasters, refugees, unaccompanied children, and adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

This month, consider ways in which you can show compassion to the vulnerable populations within your own community. You can volunteer your time at a local LSC program or make a tax-deductible contribution. Checks can be made payable to Lutheran Services Carolinas and mailed to P.O. Box 947, Salisbury, NC 28145. Gifts also can be made securely

online at LSCarolinas.net.

Please come together with Lutheran Services Carolinas as we serve as the “hands of the church” to provide healing and help for those in need. For more information, visit LSCarolinas.net or call 1-800-HELPING.

Our Newest Members

On April 14, 2019, we welcomed the following new members to St. Paul's.

Leslie Anne Johnson, who transferred from Christ Lutheran Church in Palatine, IL.

2727 Heather Glen Rd

Durham NC 27712

email: duke4me80@yahoo.com

Joan Diane Pepper, whose previous congregation was Resurrection United Methodist Church in Durham.

3104 Sparger Rd

Durham NC 27705

Cell: 919-801-5939

email: irisdragonfly45@yahoo.com

In the mailbag...

Dear Friends,

We are incredibly grateful for your recent gift of \$1,800 to Rise Against Hunger (a 501(c)(3) organization), formerly Stop Hunger Now, received 3/11/2019. Your gift gives us the ability to change lives, create sustainable communities and respond quickly in times of disaster.

(complete letter is on the reception office bulletin board)

Thank you for your gift of \$88.53 to Lutheran Disaster Response.

(complete letter is on the reception office bulletin board)

Memorials Received

We have received the following memorials as designated. We thank the donors for their generosity.

In memory of Addie Sturgeon Felkel

by Daniel Fogle, North, SC

by Marie McLean-Choi & David Choi,
Orangeburg SC

In memory of Bill Anderson to the Stephen Ministry Fund by Anthony and Penni Perrotte

In memory of Bill Anderson by the following

Karl and Otilie Freundt, Durham

Richard and Nancy Clendaniel, Durham

Joanne and Crosby Deaton, Hockessin DE

Debbi and Rich Marion, Durham

Herbert and Charlotte Saltzman, Durham

James Davis Associates, Durham

Thomas and Lynn Evans, Durham

George Davis, Durham

John and Linda Deaton, Orlando, FL

William and Lisa Anderson, Greenwood Village,
CO

Linnartz Studio Spring Recitals

Saturday, May 11, 2019

2:00 pm for the High School Studio

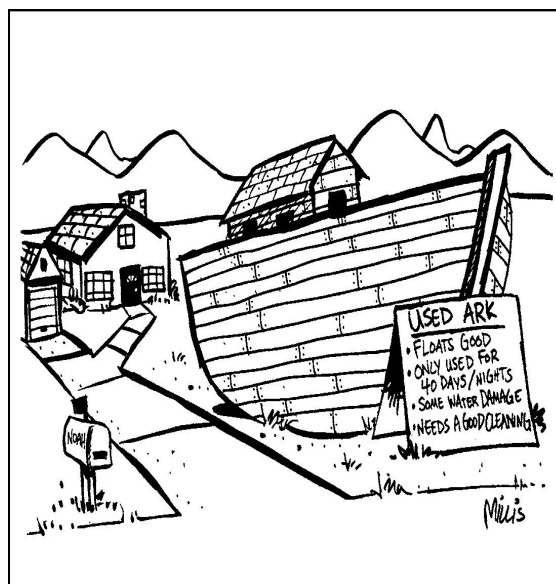
3:00 pm for the Adult Studio

at St. Paul's Lutheran Church Sanctuary

Public is invited

Graduating?

If you are graduating from college, high school, or other higher place of learning, please let us know the information. We would like to recognize all our graduates. You can also provide us with the school, degree, what your future plans are, anything you would like to announce. Email to admin@stpaulsdurham.org.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church, ELCA
1200 West Cornwallis Road
Durham, NC 27705-5731

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Time to sign up for Vacation Bible School

"ROAR" is being held on June 17-21, 2019 at 9:00 am - 12:00 noon. Classes will be available for children 3 years

through 6th grade. We are in need of:

- ◆ shepherds (people who can shepherd a group of children through the morning's activities)
- ◆ leaders (people who can present the day's lesson, craft, science experience, video, bible study, or play time to each group of children)
- ◆ teen team members (teens who will cooperate with the shepherds and leaders in helping our younger children through the week)
- ◆ decorators (people who wish to help decorate on the weekends in June)

Contact the staff if you have specific questions. Registration forms, which are for attending children, teen team members, and shepherds or leaders are available at the atrium display.



Young In Spirit visits NC Museum of Art

On Wednesday, May 8, the Young in Spirit Group will visit the NC Museum of Art on Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh. All are welcome so please join us. This is a good opportunity for fellowship with a fun group.

After viewing the exhibits we will have lunch in the Museum restaurant. There is a sign-up sheet for the visit and information about the Museum on the desk in the reception office. We will need an accurate count since we will have to make advance reservations for lunch. Don't delay – SIGN UP!

Katherine Circle of the WELCA

All women are invited to the Katherine Circle gathering on Tuesday, May 14 at 10:00 am in Trinity Hall. Arloa Bittikofer will present the devotion. We will have our Spring Picnic for Tuesday work crew and church staff.

St. Paul's Readers

Join the discussion of the book Little Princes, by Conor Grennan, on Thursday, May 16, at 3:00 pm in the Library. Book selection for June is Varina, by Charles Frazier.

Thursday Bible Study

On Thursday, May 9, the Thursday morning bible study will resume after the spring break. The current topic is Job.

Wednesday Night Suppers

In May, the Wednesday Night Suppers will be held on May 1 and May 15. May 1 is our Cinco de Mayo meal – make-your-own burritos/tacos, salad bar, and desserts. Watch for the May 15 menu to be announced! Questions? Contact Martha Dahl.