

Cross Connections



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

May 2017



Vacation Bible School

June 19-23, 2017 - 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Registrations are due JUNE 1

Forms are now available in the foyer and on-line at our webpage: stpaulsdurham.org, under resources as "forms." Complete the form, mail it and \$20 registration fee to the church. The same form can be used for registering your children for VBS, as well as Teen Team helpers, and adult shepherds.

You may have seen in the bulletins or emails about building a robot or a spaceship! We invite any and all children, youth, adults - anyone who would like to build a model robot or spaceship - any size, shape, design. This is your imagination. Creativity abounds in this program and we invite you to help us!

Our hours this year for VBS will be 9:00 am until 12:00 noon with aftercare available. You must sign up for aftercare and it is an additional charge, spaces available are limited.

We are gathering supplies for some of the crafty projects: sports type water bottle tops only (the kind that pull up and down) for one

project. We will also be creating from lots of materials so we need a supply of small containers, boxes (juice or broth boxes washed out, small cereal boxes, plastic jars) - safe items for children to use. Also: buttons, bottle caps, springs, pieces of tubing, plastic jar lids, rings from mason jars (all sizes), etc. If you think it could be found at Scrap Exchange - bring it! There is a box in the atrium for all items.

Sign up your child(ren), invite their friends. Teens and adults are needed to shepherd children from place to place. If you have any questions - ask a staff member.

The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor
Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor
Jacqueline Nappi, Minister of Music
Amanda Stoen, Preschool Director
Susan B. Holland, Vicar
Rev. Laura Wind, Duke Lutheran Campus Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Charles R. Huggins, Pastor Emeritus

pastor@stpaulsdurham.org
admin@stpaulsdurham.org
music@stpaulsdurham.org
preschool@stpaulsdurham.org
vicar@stpaulsdurham.org
duke@stpaulsdurham.org
crhugg@charter.net

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Facebook: St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, ELCA * Twitter: #St_Pauls_Durham

From the Pastor...

Psalm 150 – Praise for God's Surpassing Greatness

¹Praise the Lord!
 Praise God in his sanctuary;
 praise him in his mighty firmament!
²Praise him for his mighty deeds;
 praise him according to his surpassing greatness!
³Praise him with trumpet sound;
 praise him with lute and harp!
⁴Praise him with tambourine and dance;
 praise him with strings and pipe!
⁵Praise him with clanging cymbals;
 praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
⁶Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!
 Praise the Lord!

After we spent Lent studying the Psalms it seemed appropriate to use Cross Connections to wrap up our study and give praise to God. Special thanks go out to all who participated in the writing and compilation of the Lenten devotional booklet.

The comments from within and outside the community were amazing. The devotional really set the tone for Lenten study and aided in our discussions of God's amazing grace.

Easter week was truly a blessing, beginning with Palm Sunday and on through the remainder of Holy Week. It was a blessing to see so many of you as part of the week-long worship.

As we wrapped up the month of April, I hope you will notice some changes in the sanctuary. All of the light bulbs in the chandeliers have been replaced with LED lights. They are brighter and should help us be able to see more clearly. Thanks to the Tuesday crew, especially Larry Grovenstein, Dean Redman, and Ben Morgan for their help with lighting issues.

In addition, the sound system will be replaced in the next few weeks. We are still a little short of having all of the funds, but God will provide.

Also, thanks to the generosity of this congregation we were able to meet the needs of the member that needed help because of the loss of employment. You are very special people and I praise God for you every Day.

God's peace,
Pastor Scott

Pastor Scott Elected

Pastor Scott Anderson was elected Dean of the

Triangle Conference at the Conference meeting on April 23rd. Pastor Scott will be installed at the Synod Assembly in June.

From the Vicar...

May and June will be busy months for our youth. May 21 is Youth Sunday. On that day our youth will lead worship at both services and after the 11 o'clock service, both youth groups and their families will enjoy a cookout followed by games. The weeks leading up to Youth Sunday will be spent in planning and preparation of the services. In June, we'll be celebrating the graduation of our High School Seniors on June 11 and Vacation Bible School will be June 19-23.

May and June are also busy and stressful months for our youth in school as well. Our middle and high schoolers face final exams, AP exams, papers, projects, prom, the last day of class, and graduation as the school year comes to a close. Our younger children have to work hard to stay focused as the sweet smells of summer call to them. And of course, these last few weeks of the school year are equally challenging for the parents and the teachers in our congregation.

I recently read an article in Gather Magazine (May, 2017) written by a mother about the experience of sending her son off to college and the comfort of knowing that God was with her child every step of his way. In this article, the boy's mom prayed with the words of the hymn, "Bless Now, O God, the Journey," found in our hymnal:

"Bless now, O God, the journey
 that all your people make,
 the path through noise and silence,
 the way of give and take.
 The trail is found in desert
 and winds the mountain round,
 then leads beside still waters,
 the road where faith is found" (ELW 326).

As a congregation, we can support our youth, their parents and our teachers in May and June by using these words to pray for our youth, their parents and our teachers as they complete this part of the journey and look forward to the future. It is comforting to our youth to know that God is with them and also that they have the love, support and encouragement of their church family.

Vicar Sue Holland

From Pastor Laura Wind

Duke Lutherans Campus Pastor

In the Bible, we find the story of the Feeding of the Five Thousand. This is a story that shows up in several of the gospels, is probably one of the most familiar stories, so much so that you know exactly how the story goes.

Jesus has been healing people. When evening comes the disciples come to Jesus and want to send the crowd back to town to get something to eat. The crowds are out in the middle of nowhere, and there is no place to get anything to eat.

Jesus instead says, "You give them something to eat." The disciples reply "We only have five loaves and two fish."

Jesus says, "Bring the crowds here." Jesus takes the loaves and the fish, looks up to heaven, blesses and breaks the bread, and the disciples gave the food to the crowds. All ate and were filled, and there were even twelve baskets left over. (Matthew 14:13-21)

Did you ever wonder about this story, though? It's so important that it shows up in all four gospels, and in some of the gospels it shows up twice. What's up with that? I think maybe because the world is a hungry place, but the world is hungry in many different ways. Certainly, people are literally hungry, but there are many other ways that people are hungry as well. People are hungry for community, hungry for connectedness, hungry for new life, hungry for meaning and purpose. Students at Duke are hungry for these same things. And at the end of the semester hungry to be able to suspend time as they face the pressures of deadlines and papers and tests and applications and questions about the future. We are all hungry for something. The world is hungry for a good word, and we who have been claimed in the life-giving waters of baptism have some good words to share.

God loves you, not because of who you are or what you do, but because God loves everything that God has created.

There is nothing that you can do to make God stop loving you; nothing can separate you from God's love in Christ Jesus.

You are not alone. Jesus is with you. You have a family who loves you and cares for you. There is always a place at God's banquet of grace.

No matter how much suffering is present in the world, Jesus is there present in the suffering bringing healing and hope and second chances.

You are so much more than your grades, or your MCAT or GRE scores, or your class standing or your internship, or your GPA. You are a precious, beloved

child of God, and nothing you can or can't achieve will change the core truth about who and whose you are. You belong to God.

These are just some of the good words I think the world wants to hear, that people want to hear. Part of the Easter season is to share the good news of God's love – to share and receive God's love and grace in our brothers and sisters in Christ here in Durham, at Duke, and in those we meet in our daily life. Because sometimes, we're the ones who are hungry and need to hear the good word that is bread for a thousand.

Duke Lutherans Reflection

by James Demmel

As I reflect on Duke Lutherans' recent Spring Break trip to Germany, I am constantly struck by how meaningful the trip was for both my personal spiritual life and for the health of our ministry. The trip was a bit stressful. With cancelled flights and last minute train trips across Northern Germany, getting to Berlin was not an easy endeavor. We started the week tired but were re-energized as we soaked in the Germany scenery and learned about the life of Martin Luther. As we were constantly confronted with newness around every turn we bonded closer together in lasting ways. The trip, which was ordered by morning and evening worship each day, brought spiritual rejuvenation. As we heard and participated in devotions and conversed about our own Lutheran tradition we grew both in our Christian faith and in our Lutheran heritage.

Peace, James Demmel

From Pastor Laura: Let me say thank you again for your support of Duke Lutherans. Our trip to Germany was transformative on many levels. It would not have been possible without your generous support. I am excited about next year and looking forward to many more wonderful experiences with our students. Thank you for all you do to support this important ministry.

Young In Spirit's May Event

by Bonnie Cooper

Young In Spirit's activity for May will be an Un-Birthday Party to celebrate everyone's birthday at the Kanki restaurant in Durham on Wednesday, May 10th. We will enjoy lunch and birthday cake, along with the cooking show at Kanki. Instead of exchanging gifts, we ask everyone to consider gifting a monetary contribution to the Youth to cover some of the costs of attending the Youth Gathering in Houston in 2018.

Kanki does not seat reserved tables until everyone arrives, so we will take the van and leave the church parking lot at 11:15 am (be sure to be on time!). Lunch menu runs from \$9.50 to \$14.95. A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board in the atrium at church or you can email Bonnie at cooperkd@nc.rr.com. Hope you can join us for a fun social outing before our summer break!



Happy Spring! Your Fowler Librarians have been working hard on getting many, many new books added to our library catalog. Thanks to the generous book donations of many members, we have substantially added to our collection this year. To see what is new at the library, check out our library cart featuring our new books. There is something for everyone – from Christian fiction to theological commentaries. We have also added many titles on Martin Luther this year in celebration of the 500 year anniversary. We welcome you to check out these books and engage in recognizing 500 years of God's Grace in Action. If you have suggestions for books that you would like us to add to our collection, please let us know! We have a Comment Box in the library available for you to provide feedback and suggestions.

Happy reading!

Your Fowler Librarians,
Emily Vardell and Brenda Linares

Preschool Pitter Patter



by Amanda Stoen

THANK YOU for your support of our March service project benefitting the Durham CROP Walk! With the sale of the preschool garden pots and seeds, we donated \$175 to the CROP

Walk. The preschoolers have learned about hunger needs in our community and how they can help. In April, our preschoolers collected new and gently used children's books to donate to Book Harvest. Book Harvest provides free books to children who need them and engages families and communities to promote children's lifelong literacy and academic success. As I write this, we are still collecting books but I thank you in advance for your support of our April service project.

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.

We will again offer six weeks of summer camp at the preschool for children ages 2-5. Enrollment is open to the community as well as our families. Additional information can be picked up downstairs in the preschool area or can be downloaded from our new web site – <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.

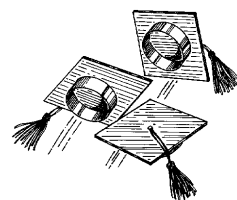
Continuing Conversations

Upcoming Events at St. Paul's:

- ◆ Saturday, April 29: Civil Rights Walking Tour in Downtown Durham led by Barbara Ellertson.
- ◆ Watch this space for more info about summer movie and book discussions.

Parents of High School Seniors

On June 11 we will be celebrating our High School seniors and sending them off with a blessing. Please send Vicar Sue information about your child's upcoming graduation (graduation date and high school) and future plans, if you have not done so already, so we can prepare to recognize and celebrate this major milestone in their lives.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Michael Shoaf will be graduating from the University of Illinois with a Master's in Fine Arts in Lighting Design (Summa Cum Laude!).

Hannah Shoaf will be graduating from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with dual Bachelor's degrees in Biophysical Sciences and Hispanic Linguistics.

Karen Shoaf will be leaving to attend two months of Officer leadership training with the United States Army at Fort Knox from May 25-August 1.

Changes of Address

Larry and Roberta Lloyd
884 Catalpa Place
Marysville, OH 43040

Marion Rhodes
Croasdaile Farm Parkway
Heritage Hall, Apt C218
Durham, NC 27705

WCPE (89.7 fm) and "theclassicalstation.org"

Thank you so much to the many members who have willingly given of their resources in behalf of St. Paul's effort to collect gifts in support of WCPE 89.7 fm and its Sunday program, "Sing for Joy," which originates from St. Olaf's College in Northfield, Minnesota. St. Paul's has exceeded its goal of making a collective gift of \$1,000.00 to the station. For this support of the program, our congregation will continue to be mentioned Sunday mornings "on air" throughout another year.

THANK YOU



by George Seiz

Many thanks to Doug Whitfield, Curtis Chi, John Foreman, Curt Hahn, Tracey Dissel, Dick Clendaniel,

Ellen Lavery, Kevin Lavery, Tom Kraska, and Jim Shoaf for your hard work on Saturday, April 22 moving mulch. All of the work accomplished helped to greatly improve the church campus. Also, thanks to Susan Esposito for ordering and picking up sandwiches and potato salad and to Janet Seiz for getting break snacks/water and setting out lunch. (Editor note: also many thanks to George Seiz for not only this event but for all Saturdays and the extra effort on the exterior of our campus – the consistent attention has definitely improved our appearance! Thank you!)

Will

Do you have a will? It is a basic question, but one that many people prefer to not answer. We don't like to think about our will because we don't like to think about life after we are gone.

The sad reality is that as many as 60% of

Americans don't have a valid will. A will is an important final way to tell family and charities what is most important to you.

A will simply directs those we leave behind how to divide up what is left. When instructions aren't given, chaos can ensue. That is when relatives fight with each other and tension enters relationships.

A will can also be a statement of what was important to you. It can be a final way to teach your kids that they were important to you, but so were some ministries that are making a difference in the world.

Contact your attorney to make a will or to add a codicil to your will to include St. Paul's Lutheran Church. If you don't have an attorney, we can help you find one. There are options for how your gift will be used by St. Paul's. It can go to greatest need, be used for a capital project, or it could even begin an endowment to care for a particular ministry at St. Paul's.

Perhaps you can consider tithing to St. Paul's through your estate or even adopting your church as an additional child.

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.

In the mailbox....

To my fellow St. Paul's members who took the time to write of your reflections on various Psalm verses. Many thanks for your thoughts that made my Lenten journey so meaningful. I could hardly wait for the newest one the next day. I hope this becomes an annual Lenten tradition at St. Paul's.

Robin Winfree

* * * * *

A Keepsake for You

This is a replica of the virtual chair you purchased through our Buy-a-Chair Campaign. The actual virtual chair can be viewed on our website at: www.historicrussellschool.org.

The name printed on the back of the chair will also be engraved on a plaque displayed in the Russell School located at 2001 St. Marys Road, Hillsborough, NC 27278. The Friends of Russell Rosenwald School (FORRS) thank you for participating in the Buy-a-Chair Campaign.

We are sincerely grateful for your support.

The note card with the photo of the chair is on the bulletin board in the reception office.

The FORRS Board Members

* * * * *

Thank you for your gift of \$1,055 through Urban Ministries of Durham to offer neighbors food, shelter and a future.

Bryan Gilmer, Director of Marketing & Development, Urban Ministries of Durham

(Full letter on the bulletin board in the reception office.)

Welcome Our Newest Members

On the night of the Easter Vigil, Harmony Mollica was baptized. Harmony is the daughter of Kim Mollica, and was born on February 17, 2011.

Grandmother is Barbara Mollica.

In March we received the following new members:

Melissa Hodges, Teddy Siyoun and son Elijah T. Hodges. Melissa is a graduate student at Duke. Elijah attends the St. Paul's PMO program.

815 Ivy Meadow Lane, Apt 2B
Durham, NC 27707 919-903-6444

Lloyd "Noah" Moore who transferred from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Alexandria, VA. Noah is married to Jennifer Moore.

1315 Morreene Rd, 4L
Durham, NC 27705 571-278-7689

Amy Rajerison, Noé Rajerison and children Joshua and Emily.

4407 Nightfall Court
Durham, NC 27713 309-830-6778

Leigh Stock who is a registered nurse on active duty with US Public Health Service, is married to Suzanne Stock. Leigh transferred from Christus Victor Lutheran Church, Ocean Springs, MS.

1913 Glendale Ave
Durham, NC 27701 919-433-7679

Joy in the Journey: Celebrate LSC Senior Services

"You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy... ." – Psalm 16:11

Bible studies, art and exercise classes, and group outings are just a few examples of the life-enriching

activities that occur during a typical day at a senior living community or adult day program of Lutheran Services Carolinas. These activities bring joy to the lives of the older adults trusted to LSC's care.

Caregivers also find joy through LSC in the moments of rest and support they receive from in-home care staff and care management services.

Nearly 4,000 individuals benefitted from LSC's senior services ministries in 2016. This would not have been possible without the continued prayers, donations, and volunteer work from congregations across North Carolina. Take time throughout the month of May to celebrate the LSC senior services ministry as well as the older adults within your own congregation. LSC invites you to reflect on the message of Psalm 16:11 and consider ways in which you can share the joy that comes from the Lord with others.

Lois is looking for Rides around Town

Long-time St. Paul's member Lois Kinzie is going to stop driving herself. She would still like to get out and about in Durham and would be grateful for rides to any places that you might be going anyway.

She lives in Woodside Apartment, near Croasdaile Retirement Village (near Hillandale Rd, & Carver St.) She enjoys going to stores such as Kohl's, AC Moore, JoAnne's Fabrics, Barnes & Noble, the Mall, Kroger and other places around town such as Libraries, Duke Gardens, museums, etc. She is independent once arriving at these locations and would be glad to go out for any amount of time that you are going; meeting back up with you for the return trip home.

She has a cell phone and can be very flexible about times of coming and going.

If you feel like you could offer her a ride on your next outing, please give her a call. No amount of notice is too much or too little. If you would like to chat more, just give Lois a call.

Lois Kinzie
224 Millspring Dr, Durham 27705
919-544-8211

Articles and information for the June issue of *Cross Connections* are due on May 22 with mail out on May 31.

Youth Ministry News

Next Gen Youth Group

(3rd to 5th Graders)

Come to the monthly meetings of Next Gen Youth Group for fun, fellowship and service, and bring your friends!

Email Vicar Sue at

vicar@stpaulsdurham.org to receive emails about Next Gen activities or for more information.

Upcoming Next Gen Events:

- ▶ Sunday, May 21, 12:30-3 – Youth Group Season Finale Cookout (Family event)
- ▶ Mon-Fri, June 19-23, 9 am-12 pm - Vacation Bible School!! (Age 3 - 5th grade)

Middle School/High School Youth Group

All middle and high school students are invited to attend MS/HS Youth Group and Sunday School events.

Email Vicar Sue at

vicar@stpaulsdurham.org to receive emails about youth group and Sunday School activities or for more information.

Youth Group Meeting!

Sunday,

April 30 - 12:30-3

We'll gather for lunch after the 11 o'clock service and develop our program for Youth Sunday, which is scheduled for May 21. We will leave plenty of time for some fun. Ga-ga ball anyone?

2018 ELCA Youth Gathering!

Even though the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston is over a year away (June 27-July 1, 2018), it is time to start planning to attend now!

Volunteers: If you will be at least 19

years old, have graduated and been out of high school for one year by the time of the Gathering and would like to volunteer at the Gathering, you must apply between May 15 - June 15, 2017. Go to:

<http://www.elca.org/YouthGathering/registration/volunteer-opportunities> for more details and to apply.

Participants: Youth who are in 8th - 12th grade in September of 2017 are eligible to attend. Save the dates for the Gathering and watch this space for more details about the trip and fund-raising opportunities.

Upcoming MS/HS Youth Group Events:

- ▶ Sunday, Apr 30, 12:30-3 - Rehearsal for Youth Sunday
- ▶ Sunday, May 21, 8-12- Youth Sunday Worship
- ▶ Sunday, May 21, 12:30-3 - Youth Group Season Finale Cookout (Family events)
- ▶ Mon-Fri, June 19-23, 9 am - 12 pm - Vacation Bible School!! Be part of the leadership Teen Team!

Children's Sunday School

Children Pre-K through 5th grade meet in Genesis Hall (lower level) at 9:45. We have fun every week exploring Bible stories through crafts, dramatic play, cooking, videos, games and more.

MS/HS Sunday School

Meet in the Youth Group room at 9:45. We plan to practice for youth Sunday on Sunday, May 21.

Calling All Youth!

We need you to be part of the Sunday Morning Worship Team
Needed every Sunday: youth to help

lead worship as Junior Crucifers, Acolytes, Torch Bearers, Bible Bearers, Crucifers, and lectors depending on their age. This is a wonderful way for the youth to contribute to the life of the church and take an active role in worship. If your child or youth would like to be part of the worship team, contact Vicar Sue (vicar@stpaulsdurham.org). We'll set up a time before the service to go over everything they need to know so they'll be ready.

Summer Camp Opportunities at Camp Agape

Camp Agape offers a variety of Christ-centered residential camp experiences for youth and families. Brochures are available on the Youth Ministry bulletin board outside of Whitesell Hall and more information can also be found on-line at www.agapekurebeach.org

For St. Paul's families with 3rd-6th Graders!

Several St. Paul's families have already registered their 3rd-6th graders to attend the *Prime!* Camp program at Camp Agape during the week of July 23-28. All of St. Paul's 3rd-6th graders (and their friends) are invited to sign up for those dates as well to enjoy a week at camp with church friends. Contact Amanda Stoen for more information or go to www.agapekurebeach.org to register your child.

Other Upcoming Camp Agape Events:

- May 12-13: Mother-Daughter Retreat
- May 20: Agape-Ganza! – Ga-Ga Ball Tournament and other activities!

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

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Mr. and Mrs. Warren Pusak
cordially invite you to attend the
Eagle Scout Court of Honor
for
Ryan Pusak
on
Sunday, May 7, 2017
at 2:00 pm
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
1200 W Cornwallis Road
Durham, North Carolina
Reception in Trinity Hall
following the Ceremony

Wednesday Night Suppers

May 3 and May 17, serving starts at 6 pm

If you can help with any of our Wednesday night meals, please let Susan Esposito or Karen Hassett know. We have a Trinity Kitchen crew email listing which you can be put on to let us know when you are available to assist.

Black Nativity

If you would like to attend the "Black Nativity" at Barn Dinner Theater in Greensboro on Saturday, Nov. 18 at 6:00 pm, contact Dean or Marcia Redman. They have two extra tickets but have a possibility of filling those extra 2 seats. If anyone else is interested in going, there are plenty of seats for now but they sell out quickly. If anyone else is interested in attending, they can contact the theater directly to order their tickets which are \$51.00 for center level. Ticket included dinner, tax and tip. Phone 336-292-2211. Everyone could travel together or take the church van if there are others who want to go.

Agape-Ganza

May 20

1:00-5:00 pm

www.agapekurebeach.org

Come for archery! Obstacle Course! Zip-Lining!
Canoeing! Gaga Ball Tournament! Cornhole
Tournament. Come for a Free day of fun.

Katherine Circle

The Katherine Circle of the WELCA will meet on Tuesday, May 16 at 10:00 am in Trinity Hall. We will have a lunch to celebrate our last meeting before the summer. All women of St. Paul's are invited to join us, as well as the Tuesday men workers and the church staff.

