

Cross Connections



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

August 2018

*"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior"*



*St. Paul's Lutheran Church and Duke Lutheran Campus Ministry
invite you to the Ordination and Installation of*

Alexandra Tranvik

Sunday, Sept 2nd | 6:30 pm | St. Paul's Lutheran Church | Durham, NC

Clergy are invited to vest.

The color of the day is red.

A reception will follow.

The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor
Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor
Jacqueline Nappi, Minister of Music
Amanda Stoen, Preschool Director
Megan Hoewisch, Vicar
Ali Tranvik, Pastor, Duke Lutherans Campus Ministry
The Rev. Dr. Charles R. Huggins, Pastor Emeritus

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From the Pastor...

It is that time of year again when we transition from one vicar to another. I want to take a moment to remind us just what a vicar is and how we are to interact.

In the broadest sense, a **vicar** (from the Latin vicarius) is anyone acting as a substitute or agent for a superior (compare “vicarious”). In this sense, the title is comparable to *lieutenant*. Usually the title appears in a number of Christian ecclesiastical contexts, but in the Holy Roman Empire a local representative of the emperor, perhaps an archduke, might be titled “vicar.”

In the case of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a vicar is a third or fourth year seminarian. Typically the third year of the four-year seminary experience is set aside as a time of internship. Vicar Megan is a fourth-year intern much like Vicar Sue or Vicar Joseph and she will perform all of the duties of a pastor except for presiding at the sacraments (except under special circumstances) and performing Marriages. She is available for counseling, visitation, work with the youth and children, and on and on.

Our job will be to be her teachers and mentors. We are called in love, to show her what it means to be the Body of Christ in this place. That doesn’t mean that we are all her bosses. We are called to live the good news and help her to continue her formation into a pastor of the church.

She will have studies and responsibilities assigned by the pastor, but she will also be free to explore all aspects of ministry here.

Vicar Megan does not need hundreds of supervisors. The pastor is the vicar’s supervisor. So, please be aware of this and feel free to make requests of her time, but know that your requests will be put into the mix and that the pastor will be making the final decision on her weekly activity.

Vicar Megan also has an excellent internship committee, and they will be asking some of you to participate in her learning in a variety of ways, including: sermon critiques, evaluation of her work with you and/or your committee, evaluation of her special internship project and on and on. This evaluation process will be part of the committee’s ongoing work and will be done using standard evaluation tools provided by the seminary.

Remember to wear your nametags, introduce yourself over and over for the first few weeks, and try not to make comparisons between previous vicars and Megan. Vicar Megan and I will appreciate your willingness to work with us to make this year fulfilling and meaningful for us all.

God’s Peace,
Pastor Scott

From the Vicar...

Hello, St. Paul’s! To begin my letter of introduction, I turn to your namesake, the Apostle Paul, and his often used greeting: Grace and peace to you from our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that there will be peace for Vicar Adam as he returns to LTSS, and I pray that there will be grace for me as I join your community as your incoming vicar.

I have heard and read many admirable and exciting things about St. Paul’s, and perhaps some of you have heard or read a few things about me. I’ll paint a fuller picture of myself here, but I look forward to a year of mutual learning and growing!

Whenever I’m asked to name an interesting fact about myself, I almost always say, “I was born in the home my family lives in now, and yes, the home delivery was planned.” This little anecdote nearly encapsulates an important part of my life: my family has



always provided me with stability, safety, and support. Even though this home lies in sunny San Jose, California, my parents hail from Wisconsin. My mother came from German Catholic farmers, and my father from deaf German Lutheran city folk. My mother was always told that non-Catholics were pagans, and my father that non-Lutherans were heathens. Thankfully, this didn’t stand in their way, and after seven years of dating, they were married.

By the time my home birth rolled around in 1989, my parents had moved to California (as far west as they could go without needing a visa), opened my dad’s chiropractic office, and had my older brother. We attended a small ELCA church – if there were more than 20 people on Sunday morning, we thought the place was overflowing. However, the pastor’s sarcastic attitude and vitriol eventually drove all of us away from that church. Now, some fifteen years later, the rest of my family has yet to find a spiritual home.

After high school, I went to Occidental College in Los Angeles, a small, private liberal arts school. I chose Oxy for its academic rigor, beautiful campus,

and proximity to my aunt and her wonderful, welcoming ELCA church. I worshipped there on Sundays, and during the week I explored my faith with Oxy's InterVarsity Christian Fellowship chapter. I studied for a semester in Istanbul, and while I missed my faith communities, living and traveling in a predominantly Muslim country was incredible.

Long before I graduated from Occidental, I knew that I wanted to go to seminary, but I did not want to be a straight-out-of-undergrad seminary student; I wanted more life experience before presuming to be a pastor. In addition, I dearly wanted to travel and pay off loans. So I moved to Korea to teach English to kindergartners and to see more of the world.

Korea offered me independence, adventure, and a chance to experience in-depth a culture different than my own. Life was so great in Seoul that part of me wanted to stay longer. However, the pull I had felt toward seminary had grown stronger, especially as I participated in more and more ministries at my interdenominational church. So I applied to seminaries that were committed to coupling study and service (and that offered hefty scholarships), with Candler School of Theology at Emory University being the ultimate winner.

My sense of call to the ministry has taken years to discern, which was one reason why I did not go to a Lutheran seminary: I wasn't sure if I wanted to be a Lutheran pastor. I'm grateful that a Methodist institution helped me figure out my Lutheran identity and call to ministry. I'm also grateful to have met, within a month of moving to Atlanta, a fellow Candler student named Matthew Erdel. He liked the courage and joy behind my smile, and I liked the intelligence and compassion behind his. We've been dating for more than two years – and who knows where the future will go! For now, he is working as a hospital chaplain in Atlanta. While being apart for the next year will be difficult, we're both excited for this opportunity for me to explore ministry with such a welcoming congregation as a guide.

To conclude, I return to St. Paul: the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen!

Megan Hoewisch

Confession

by Ali Tranvik

There is a distinctly Lutheran way we begin our worship each Sunday. The first words on our bulletins and on our lips are not words of praise or peace or

proclamation, but rather words of confession. As Lutherans, confession is always the way we begin. It is always our starting place.

Luther distinguished between two kinds of confession in the life of faith. The first is our confession before God. The second is our confession to our neighbors. Thus, as I begin this call as your Associate Pastor and as the Duke Lutherans Campus Minister, I am compelled to start with confession. I'll take care of the confessing-to-God part on my own, but this confession is for you – my neighbors, beloved parishioners, and dear students:

- ✦ I confess that I am undeserving of this call.
- ✦ I confess that I have much to learn.
- ✦ I confess that I mess up.
- ✦ I confess that not every one of the sermons I'll preach will be packed with funny yet inspiring stories, eloquent language, and punch lines that change lives.
- ✦ I confess that there will be times when I will be fooled into believing in the merit of my own achievements.
- ✦ I confess there will be days when I measure ministry by how many people show up.
- ✦ I confess there will be times when I don't pay close enough attention.
- ✦ I confess there will be days when I fail to recognize the gift and gravity of God's grace.

I begin this call, therefore, asking you for forgiveness and grace. I don't need grace to make me feel better (though it tends to have that effect as well). I need it so that I can wake up each morning, trace the sign of the cross on my forehead, and "become Christian again," as Soren Kierkegaard once said. So that I can become your pastor again. I need grace so that I might – imperfectly and boldly, as sinner and as saint – try to do God's work in this role. So here are some things that I, by God's grace and yours, will work to do as your new pastor:

- ✦ I will try to do this job as faithfully as I can.
- ✦ I will be open to learning from you and with you.
- ✦ I will try to love you the way God loves all of us, both when that love compels me to speak words of comfort, and when that love compels me to tell you things you may not want to hear.
- ✦ I will invite you into deep relationship with Duke students, our sisters and brothers at Grace, and our neighbors throughout Durham.
- ✦ I will meet you around tables and cradles and death beds and fonts. I will celebrate with you in

- times of joy and sit with you in times of pain.
- ✦ I will share life with you, and tell you stories about the God who gives it to us in abundance.

I look forward to sharing in this very humbling, holy, wild, and wonderful work with you. And I invite you to join me as I'm officially ordained into it on Sunday, September 2.

In Christ,
Ali Tranvik



“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”

-Ephesians 2:8

The youth of St. Paul's—along with nearly 31,000 other Lutherans from across the country—had an amazing experience at this year's ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston. We explored Bible stories, sang and danced to Lutheran rap music (yes, that's a thing), connected with friends from across the NC Synod, got to know the city of Houston during our Service-Learning Day, heard inspiring stories and sermons at each evening's Mass Gathering, helped serve Communion to the entire NRG Stadium, and learned how God's love, grace, and hope changes everything. But don't take it from us vicars, check out what the kids have to say!

“First of all, thanks to everyone who helped us get to Houston in any way, shape, or form. I had a complete blast all week and there were certainly some highlights. I especially enjoyed the Interactive Learning Day. There were tons of educational booths and fun games going on everywhere, and I had fun jumping from group to group. My overall favorite thing was walking around downtown Houston with the four of us and meeting tons of new Lutheran friends from all over the country. The speakers each night were also really powerful and inspiring. The speaker that struck me most was Carson McCullar, who talked about his drug use, the power of God's forgiveness, and how he is now ten years sober. I will remember these experiences for a long time. Once again thank you to all who helped get us there. It certainly changed everything for me.”

-Jonathan Maine

“I had lots of fun at the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering. My favorite part was making friends from different places. I had conversations with people from Ohio, Minnesota, Alaska, California, and many other exciting places. The Synod Day was especially fun, because I got to meet people who live in the same state as me, see what part of NC they were from, and what church they were a part of. I even recognized some people from Camp Agape! At the Mass Gathering each evening, we heard from people who had gone through adversity in their life, which was very powerful. I can't imagine how hard it was for them to share these stories in front of a crowd of 31,000 youth. My favorite speaker was Nadia Bolz-Weber. Not only was she a powerful speaker, but she had an amazing sense of humor. I definitely understand the theme “This Changes Everything” by seeing how God is with me wherever I go. I could see God's love through all the people I met and talked to at the Gathering. I would like to sincerely thank the people of St. Paul's for helping make this trip possible through your financial gifts, prayers, and encouragement. I am very thankful I was able to take part in this experience and look forward to the next one in Minneapolis!”

-Mary Margaret McKenzie

Hello from your new Duke Lutherans Congregational Liaison!

Greetings! My name is Anastasia (Anya) Varanko, and I will be serving as the Duke Lutherans Congregational Liaison to both St. Paul's and Grace this academic year. Since beginning my PhD studies in Biomedical Engineering at Duke last fall, Duke Lutherans has been a constant source of spiritual and emotional support. Through this community, I have met a diverse group of friends, learned what it means to be a neighbor in Durham, and grown in my faith. My experience with Duke Lutherans has motivated me to take on a leadership role and contribute to the growth of this ministry.

Campus Ministry has had a significant impact on my life over the last five years. While an undergraduate at Cornell University, I served as the Campus Ministry Chair at the local Lutheran church. There, I developed programs that worked to build relationships between members of the congregation and college students, and I am excited to continue doing so in my role with Duke Lutherans next year.

In addition to hosting the annual Shrove Tuesday

Pancake supper, Duke Lutherans hopes to lead a Campus Ministry Sunday during the spring semester, during which students will play an active role in the Sunday service. An Adopt-A-Student program, which seeks to provide a meaningful way for students and congregation members to build strong and lasting relationships, is also in the works. Bimonthly "Student Spotlight" articles will be featured in newsletters. And as always, we welcome you to join us for our Sunday evening worship services in the York Room of Duke Divinity School, which will recommence at the start of the semester.

As the new school year soon begins, I'd like to highlight two specific opportunities that you are encouraged to attend:

- **Sun, Aug 26 from 5:30-7 pm:** Join us for our first worship service and picnic dinner at Fisher Amphitheater in Duke Gardens. Please bring a potluck item to share!
- **Fri, Sept 21-Sun, Sept 23:** Come spend the weekend with Duke students as we embark on the Durham Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope. This is a great opportunity to learn about one another as together we learn about the place we live. Learn more at www.durhamcares.org/pilgrimage. Email Ali ahw22@duke.edu to claim your spot!

I am excited to serve as the Congregational Liaison this year. If you have any questions or just want to chat, feel free to reach out at akv12@duke.edu. I also look forward to attending Sunday services at both St. Paul's and Grace, and would love to meet you in person. May God bless our congregations and Duke Lutherans this coming year!

Preschool Pitter Patter



by Amanda Stoen

Preschool Summer Camp wraps up August 9. We have had six weeks of fun! We welcomed 40 children, ages 2-5, to our summer program. In July, we learned all about Fairy Tales and

Construction. This month we finish our summer camp with a Pirate theme. Check out the Preschool Facebook page for photos of our summer fun!

It's already that time of year to relink your Harris Teeter VIC card. When you link your card to St. Paul's Preschool & PMO, we will receive a portion of your purchases from Harris Teeter. The Harris Teeter

account number is **3049**. You can link in any store or online and you do not need to be a preschool parent to link your card. Thank you for supporting the preschool!

Finally, 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.



Christmas DOES come in July!

Social Ministry wants to thank very much all who offered their financial support for an opportunity to purchase: 8 pigs, 25 chicks, 5 roosters, and 12 goats! So, several families should be receiving this much needed support.

Memorials

Memorial gifts has been thankfully received from the following persons:

- ✚ In memory of Helen Henderson by Mary Sturgeon, Carrboro
- ✚ In memory of Irving "Peter" Hymphrey by Melanie Marshall-Park, Rocky Mount
- ✚ In memory of Doris Tilley by Francis Melba Fowler, Raleigh, NC.

NO WORDS CAN DESCRIBE OUR THANKFULNESS

"Love thy neighbor as thyself." (Galatians 5:14)

In Tony's and my Stephen Ministry training classes, we learned that one of the signs of God's grace is LOVE. When you believe God loves you, the natural emotional progression is to love God and one another.

This is exactly what we have experienced from our wonderful Christian family at St. Paul's during Tony's surgery and long recovery. In fact, we have been humbled and sometimes brought to tears by the thoughtfulness and generosity of so many from our congregation. It is truly remarkable the number of people who have supported us in our time of need. We

definitely have felt surrounded by your love, 'good neighbors'!

I admit that for me, it is easier to give than to receive. However, there are extraordinarily difficult times in life when reaching out to those who share your faith is the key to hope and perseverance. Quite frankly, we have been overwhelmed with everyone's kindness in keeping me company at the hospital; supplying meals; sending flowers, cards, emails and texts; visiting; bringing communion and most importantly praying for us both.

When we began this arduous medical journey, I really tried to send a thank you note to each thoughtful person "bearing gifts" (and yes, you know who you are!), but I have found that I am simply unable to sustain accomplishing that goal! Therefore, please know how grateful we are to you ALL and how blessed we feel having so much love and support from our Christian brothers and sisters.

Finally, I want to express my personal appreciation for the heartfelt notes and cards I have received at the passing of my mother back in June.

With much Christian love and thanksgiving, Tony and Penni Perrotte (and Tootsie, our fur-baby, too!)

Worship and dinner with DUKE LUTHERANS

Sunday evenings ... 5:30 ... York Room (Divinity School) ... Join Duke Lutherans for worship and supper!! Volunteer to bring a simple supper (for 20 or so) and get to know our amazing students living their faith in a new place.

We are planning now for fall semester. Open dates are:

- ▶ Sept 9, 16
- ▶ October 14, 21, 28
- ▶ Nov 4, 11, 18, and Dec 2

Please consider signing up – as an individual, family, set of friends or group/committee. To reserve your spot, please contact Linda Foreman:

lindapforeman@gmail.com

In the mailbag...

Dear St. Paul's family,

Thank you so much for your prayers, notes, and calls in support of our family following my father's recent passing. We are blessed to have such kindness and compassion during difficult times. My brother and

I are helping our mother, which, for me, has included taking her to worship at her church in Bahama. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,
Lois Boynton

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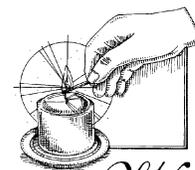
I would like to thank all the members of the congregation for their prayers, their visits, the cards, rides, and the new railing by my steps. It is appreciated more than you'll ever know. May God bless all of you for your kindness.

In Christ's love,
Johnny Friedrich Jr.

Attention all Budding Assisting Ministers!

by Lisa Lewis

We are now recruiting for Assisting Ministers. No experience needed. No singing talent needed. All that is needed is a desire to serve. There will be a training and organizational meeting held in August for those interested. Can't serve at both services? That is perfectly okay! Serving at just one service is a wonderful thing!



Worship Assistants

If you have any questions at all regarding what the job entails, how the prayers get written, how you remember to set the table, how do you know when to start the recession, please join us when the date is set – or contact Lisa Lewis.

O.L.L.I. Classes Schedule

The fall catalog for O.L.L.I. classes is available on the credenza in the atrium. Registration opens August 7. Note: Popular classes fill early, so don't wait to register.

Our prayers of sympathy to...

- ✦ the family of Alijah Yates-Ahmad who died suddenly. Elijah is a cousin of Morris Casper.
- ✦ the family and friends of Rosa Barrett (mother of Sharon Wilson) who died July 17 in Columbia SC.

Planned Giving: Charitable Trusts

This is one article in a series of topics about various types of planned giving. We feature one topic each month in Cross Connections and bulletin inserts. 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 Charitable Trusts.

ARTICLE #5: Charitable Trusts

For some people, establishing a Charitable Trust can provide great opportunities for themselves, their heirs, and for our church. Charitable Trusts work two ways.

Remainder Trusts: With a remainder trust, the donor gifts an asset to the trust (often to avoid capital gains taxes), then the donor receives an income for life, or a period of years from the trust. It is also possible to grant your children or grandchildren a period of time to receive that trust income. Following the prescribed time period, the trust assets are then transferred to the church.

People who don't want their children to inherit a lump sum of money will appreciate this option so that the income is provided to heirs over a period of time.

Lead Trusts: These work opposite of remainder trusts. In a lead trust, the charity receives an income stream from the donated assets for a period of years. Following the term of the agreement the asset transfers back to the original donor or to whoever the donor designates.

Both Remainder trusts and Lead trusts require professionals to set them up. St. Paul's will utilize the ELCA Foundation that has small fees, but a long history of servicing these charitable vehicles.

For more information on Charitable Trusts, contact a member of the Stewardship Committee.

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 church know that you have included St. Paul's in your estate plans.

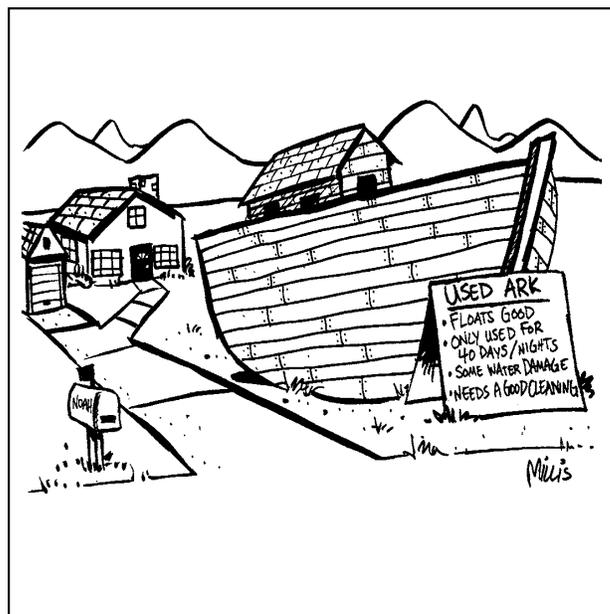
THANK YOU!

Retirement of Pastor Bryan Chestnut

Pastor Bryan will conclude his ministry with Grace Lutheran Church in August. There will be a retirement celebration for him on Saturday, Aug 4 at 12 pm at St. Paul's. St. Paul's and Grace have partnered in the Duke Lutheran Campus Ministry program. We wish him the best on his retirement. If you wish to attend the celebration, please RSVP by July 29th by filling out an RSVP form online at their church's website: www.gracelutheranchurch.net or by phone at 919-682-6030.

Thursday Bible Study

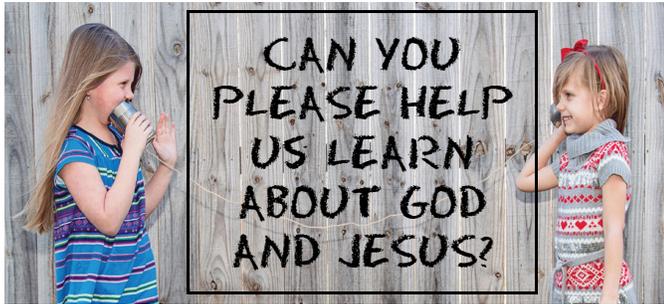
The morning Bible study which meets on Thursdays at 10:30-11:45 am is currently doing a study of the book "Love Wins" by Rob Bell. You are welcome to join in -- they meet in the conference room.



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WE NEED SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS. TIME COMMITMENT IS 1 HOUR A WEEK (NOT EVERY WEEK, MAYBE ONCE A MONTH?). PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING US TO GROW OUR FAITH FOUNDATION. CONTACT PASTOR SCOTT, BETTY HINSHAW, OR TRACEY DISSEL.

Happy Birthday to Arloa!

Everyone is invited to help Arloa Bittikofer celebrate her 100th birthday! There will be a reception in Trinity Hall on **Sunday, August 26** following the 11:00 service until 2:00 pm. Please join us for refreshments. Cards or notes would be greatly appreciated (no gifts, please).



New Members

We will receive new members on Sunday, **August 5**. If you would like to join at this time, or if you have questions about the membership process at St. Paul's, please contact Pastor Scott Anderson.



St. Paul's Readers

Please join St. Paul's book group this month by reading The Book of Joy, by the Dali Lama and Desmond Tutu with Douglas Abrams, then joining us for discussion on Thursday, August 16, at 4:00 pm in the church library.



A heads up for all – in September – we will continue to meet on the third Thursday in the library, but we will be changing our meeting time to 3:00 pm. Our September book selection is A Man Called Ove, by Frederik Backman.

Wednesday Night Supper

There will only be one supper in August -- on the 15th. Since schools will soon begin after the meal, we will have our traditional back to school menu -- "Reading, Writing, & Ravioli" which means ravioli, meatballs, sauce, garlic bread and desserts. So come on out and enjoy a great meal and fellowship, supper begins at 6:00 pm.



Looking ahead...

The **Yard Sale** this year will take place on **SATURDAY, SEPT 29 at 7 am - 1 pm**. Start thinking about what you want to give up for a good cause! The **Silent Auction** will be held at a later date in the year, closer to Thanksgiving. We will also be doing another **SERRV Consignment sale** in November. Lots of great opportunities -- plan ahead!