

# Cross Connections



*St. Paul's Lutheran Church*

*March 2018*

## Lent

Lent Wednesday Night suppers continue on March 7, 14, and 21, each night the meal begins at 5:45 pm to accommodate the earlier rehearsal time of Handbells at 6:15 pm.

Lenten Mid-Week Worship – March 7, 14, 21

At 12:00 noon, there is a brief service of communion which includes the rite of healing and anointing. At 7:00 pm we continue our Lenten theme of "God's Story, Our Lives." We gather in the sanctuary to examine the connection between the biblical narrative and the stories of our lives that come together in God's story of enduring love. Themes which remain are: "Stained" on March 7, "Washed" on March 14, and "Promised" on March 21. We invite you to journey with us through scripture and story as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter.

A Lenten Journey: Biblical Stations of the Cross – Fridays at Noon – March 2, 9, 16, and 23

Join Pastor Lorrel Strom-Jensen to journey through the Biblical Stations of the Cross. Through scripture, hymns, and prayers we will follow the way of the cross and ponder the connections to this path that we experience daily in our own lives.

## HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday, March 25 – Worship at 8:30 and 11:00 am – We will concentrate on the Palm Sunday story and let people hear the Passion story as it unfolds on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Saturday. Please join us for all the Holy Week services in preparation for the joy of Easter Sunday morning.

- ✚ Maundy Thursday – March 29 – services at 12:00 noon and 7:00 pm
- ✚ Good Friday – March 30 – services at 12:00 noon and 7:00 pm
- ✚ Vigil of Easter – March 31 – service at 7:00 pm
- ✚ Easter Sunday – April 1 – services at 8:30 and 11:00 am with Easter Breakfast at 9:30 am and Egg Hunt at 10:15 am

The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor

Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor

Jacqueline Nappi, Minister of Music

Amanda Stoen, Preschool Director

Adam Schultz, Vicar

Rev. Laura Wind, Duke Lutheran Campus Pastor

Ali Tranvik, Vicar, Duke Lutherans

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

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## From the Pastor...

It's a foggy day outside my window, as I sit down to write this letter. I think it somehow mirrors my mood today. The congregation council and I have begun to talk about the mission and purpose of St. Paul's. We are beginning to ask the question, what is God's purpose for us in this place? We are wondering, what are our core values?

Those are hard questions. We know that we are called to be people of worship and fellowship and we do both well. We know that we want to raise up new generations of faithful followers of Jesus. We know that we can have an impact on our community. How we do those things is the question.

So in the coming weeks and months the council and you, the congregation, will be asked to consider these questions and others. We will need and want your participation as we strive to communicate to Durham and NC who are the people of St. Paul's and how are we responding to God's call.

God has a mission and God's mission has a church – we are a part of that one true church.

In addition, I am a little foggy today as I contemplate transition at Duke Lutherans. As you read the letter from Pastor Laura, I ask you to pray for her and her future, to give thanks for her time with us and to rejoice in her returning to be with family. Laura has started some excellent initiatives at Duke and they will continue with Vicar Ali. Ali will be with us until her internship completes in August and after that we are working to have her continue in the role of Campus pastor at Duke. You will be hearing much more about this as our conversations with Synods and Candidacy committee's progresses.

In the midst of the fog the sun shines through and we will soon be able to see clearly the direction in which we are to proceed. Please keep St. Paul's and Duke Lutherans in your prayers.

Peace,  
Pastor Scott

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## From the Vicar...

According to author Morgan Schmidt, every teen has three central desires. They are: (1) someone to become, (2) somewhere to belong, and (3) something to do that matters (i.e. changes the world). I remember attending National Youth Gathering when I was a youth and recall how formational that was to me and my faith in helping me understand who I wanted to become, where I belonged, and what I could do in the world to make a difference.

This summer (June 27-July 1), Vicar Ali and I will accompany Mary Margaret McKenzie and Jonathan Maine to the National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX. These young leaders of the Church will join over 30,000 other Lutheran youth from across the nation for four days of theological exploration, faith formation, fellowship, and worship. Our theme for the gathering will be "This Changes Everything," and our primary Scripture text will be Ephesians 2:8. *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."*

Have you ever had that moment where you just knew everything was going to be different from that point forward? Maybe it was on your wedding day or at the birth of one of your children. Maybe it came when you graduated high school or moved out of your parents' house on your own for the first time. Maybe this realization came at the moment of great relational or financial loss. These are the moments that make us say, "This changes everything." Our daily experience of grace is like one of those moments, only we rarely realize it.

At the National Youth Gathering we will explore the core Lutheran idea of grace and how that understanding of grace as a truly unearned gift from God changes how we live and respond to our world. By the gift of grace, we are *freed from* the power of the grave so that we might be *freed for* loving service to our neighbors. In other words, once we realize that God's grace has saved our lives, we are no longer bound to preserve our lives. God already has that taken care of. We are freed from worrying about our lives so that we can give our lives away (in time and energy) in the service of our neighbors. (This is what Martin Luther calls the "freedom of a Christian.") This absolutely changes everything! In Houston, we will have the opportunity not only to learn about this kind of loving service but also to practice it as we will assist in Houston's ongoing recovery from devastating flooding only months ago.

In order for us to be able to make this trip to Houston to take part in the National Youth Gathering, we are going to need your help. We are asking parents to shoulder a third of the cost of the trip, our congregational youth fund will cover another third, and the final third we ask the youth to raise. This way, the families, the congregations, and the youth themselves are all invested in this experience. In the months ahead, be on the lookout for the youth's fund raising efforts to get us to Houston, and if you are able, please give gladly and generously. More details on how your generosity can help us get there will be forthcoming. In the meantime, I encourage you to

check out gathering details online at [www.elca.org/YouthGathering](http://www.elca.org/YouthGathering) and to talk with Mary Margaret McKenzie and Jonathan Maine about this trip.

Love in Christ,  
Vicar Adam

## Pretzels for Lent

by Vicar Ali Tranvik

I'd always thought Lent was a season of giving something up. Of fasting. Of abstaining from the indulgences of soda or sweets or salt as we enter the wilderness of these 40 days, turning our attention to our dependence on God.

But Anya Varanko, a first year in Duke's Biomedical Engineering doctoral program and one of our Duke Lutherans students, recently complicated such thinking. Anya has been making homemade pretzels for Lent since she was a child, leading the German Lenten practice at her home church in Connecticut and at her Campus Ministry group at Cornell, where she attended college. This year, she brought the tradition to Duke.



The tradition dates back to the 7<sup>th</sup> century, A.D., Anya tells us. Italian monks would bake pretzels during the Lenten season, as they were considered a "simple food," containing only flour and water (although we added a little bit of sugar, salt, and yeast to our batch!). They were then handed out to those who were hungry, as a means of both spiritual and physical sustenance. As the custom spread throughout



medieval Europe, the pretzel's three holes came to represent the holy trinity, and the entire shape of the pretzel was made to resemble a child praying, hands crossed across their chest. Some say pretzels

were originally called "bracellae," the Latin term for "little arms," from which Germans later derived the word "bretzel."

So as Lent began, Duke Lutherans gathered to make, bake, and eat pretzels together. We made traditional pretzel-shapes, carefully watching Anya's ties and twists. We got creative and braided the dough.

We made spirals and hearts. And then, as we sat down to eat the freshly-baked pretzels on the first Sunday evening in Lent, we folded our arms and prayer:

"God, we ask you to bless these pretzels which we are about to eat. As we eat them, may we be reminded of the season of Lent, a time of prayer. May these pretzels help us remember to make our very lives into a prayer, for You and for others. And as we pray, keep us and hold us in your loving arms." Amen.

## Council Updates

by George Seiz  
Congregation Council President

You're reading this in March and hopefully the council will have finished its review of 2018 Project Goals and objectives at a meeting on February 26. As noted in last month's article the council has challenged itself to look at longer term needs of the church. Subsequently, one of the project goals is for lay leaders and pastor of our church to participate in some type of visioning process or training to help better define who we are as a congregation. It is anticipated that with a clearly defined vision (and core values) our congregation will be better equipped to develop programs and make decisions according to its vision.

The Triangle Conference of the North Carolina Synod is making available a program that may fit our needs as described above. The program is called ***Planting Hope*** and is designed to help congregations live out God's mission by using tools of transformational ministry. Various council members and Pastor Anderson attended the information meeting about ***Planting Hope*** on February 19, 2018 and will be further evaluating this program and its possibilities. I can tell you at this time that it looks very promising. You'll be hearing more about this effort in the very near future.

In other news, representatives from the Finance Committee, Stewardship Committee, church staff and church council met on February 13, 2018 to talk about the budget planning process. A result of this meeting was the development of a Budget Planning Calendar for guidance thru the course of the year. Various stewardship activities were also included in the planning process. The calendar will be distributed as soon as possible after review and adoption by the church council.

## Preschool Pitter Patter



by Amanda Stoen

Many, many THANKS to everyone who came to the Preschool Spaghetti Fundraising Dinner! About 140 church members and preschool families came out to enjoy a delicious spaghetti

dinner and bake sale. Thanks to your generous donations, the preschool received just over \$675 which will be put toward financial scholarships for families needing assistance. We also received \$390 from the bake sale which will go toward our playground renovations. Thank you for your support of our preschool and families.

During the month of March, the preschool will be collecting books to donate to Book Harvest. If you would like to donate new or gently used children's books, please place in the bin in the narthex. To learn more about how Book Harvest supports the Durham community, visit [www.bookharvestnc.org](http://www.bookharvestnc.org)

We have a few more spots in our PMO 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](mailto:preschool@stpaulsdurham.org) for more information.

## Young In Spirit Celebrates Durham's National Historic Landmark: The Pauli Murray Home

On March 14, Barbara Ellertson will introduce us to Pauli Murray at the YIS gathering at 10:00 am in the Conference Room.



In 2017, the local Pauli Murray Project realized a long-term goal when The Dept. Of the Interior designated the Murray home in west Durham as a National Historic Landmark. Fundraising to restore the interior of the home is ongoing.

Pauli Murray, who grew up in Durham, coined the term "Jane Crow" to describe unequal opportunities for women in the US. Her work led to the inclusion of the term "sex" in Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act; she was a founding member of the National Organization for Women. There are books in the Fowler Library on Pauli Murray for you to peruse.

The YIS presentation will include a short film about Rev. Murray's accomplishments and struggles as a racial and gender equality activist; and lawyer. At the end of her career, she became the first female African American Episcopal Priest.

The film and discussion will be followed by a visit to the Murray home and then lunch at one of several new restaurants in the area, such as The Grubhub, Durham Food Co-op, or the Lakewood Restaurant.

Please join us!

## ELCA presiding bishop to participate in rally to end racism

In commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), will join ecumenical and inter-religious partners for Act Now: Unite to End Racism April 3-5 in Washington, D.C. The focus of the three-day event will be a rally April 4 on the National Mall.

The event, organized by the National Council of Churches in Christ in the USA, will bring together many ELCA members from across the country. The ELCA is a founding member of the council.

The rally's call to action emphasizes three key points: awaken to the truth that racism is evil and hurts us all; confront racism through truth-telling and action to right the wrong; and transform the hearts, minds, and behaviors of people and institutions.

Events begin April 3 with an ecumenical worship service at St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral and will be capped off by a lobby day on Capital Hill, April 5. All are invited to join Bishop Eaton at the event.

## PANTS, PANTS, PANTS was a SUCCESS, SUCCESS, SUCCESS!!!

by Nancy Dewhirst

Thanks to everyone who contributed gently used or new pants to the Urban Ministries of Durham last month. There were additional goodies added to the "pants soup" like new socks and a winter coat so we presented the clothes pantry with a joyful mess to sort out! In fact, the day the pants were delivered, they were being tagged and put out for use. They REALLY



needed them and were so appreciative!

Then to top it off, our wonderful congregation added 129 pounds of food to the mix! Yes, that is how much was delivered along with a SUV FULL of pants! I think everyone did a great job of helping out our neighbors in need this February. Thanks for your contributions! But keep the food coming in – their needs never end!

## Come for Tea!

Betty Hinshaw is organizing a Tea Party for Saturday, April 28, 1:00-3:00 pm. Go ahead and put it on your calendar, more details will be coming. If you have a favorite tea cup and saucer, plan to bring it along. There will be a sign-up for RSVP and snack sign up.



## In the mailbag...

*Dear Friends,*

*We recently received your gift of \$140 to Lutheran World Relief. Thank you! I'd like to share with you one way your support is making a big difference.*

*Just like me, I'm sure you've been praying for the people of Syria. Years of ongoing conflict have left the country in shambles, with many people struggling for daily survival. High on the list of needs for the people of Syria is a daily staple: bread.*

*With your support, LWR is able to work inside Syria, helping repair and renovate bakeries in two areas of the Aleppo district. Those bakeries will go on to provide affordable, daily bread to more than 80,000 people.*

*That's just one example of how your gift helps alleviate suffering around the world. I hope you will visit our website ([lwr.org](http://lwr.org)) or blog ([blog.lwr.org](http://blog.lwr.org)) to learn more about the great work you make possible.*

*Warm regards,  
Daniel Speckhard  
President and CEO*

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*Thank you for all the thoughts, prayers, cards and words of sympathy following the sudden illness and death of my mother, Helen Henderson, in Iowa. My family, Chelsey, and I really appreciated all your kindness and support.*

*Jayne Baum*

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*Thank you for your recent generous donation of \$125. Now that 2017 has officially come to a close, I'd like to offer you our sincerest thanks for your support. Your commitment to families experiencing homelessness in the Durham community is very much appreciated by our dedicated staff, board, volunteers, and most importantly, by the families who are accessing our services.*

*Thanks to your support, we can continue to serve families in the crisis of homelessness with the dignity and respect that they deserve. Our ever-evolving programming for the adults and children living at FMF is helping families find support and guidance as they gain self-sufficiency while looking for permanent housing. We're proud to be both a product and a means of Durham's compassionate community.*

*In Community,  
Shana Carignan, Development Director  
Families Moving Forward*

## Memorial Received

We have received a contribution to the memorial fund in memory of Jayne Baum's mother, Helen Henderson by Sharon, Terry, Ben, and Barry Wilson.

## Congregational Meeting - March 11

A Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, March 11 after both services. The agenda includes receiving the annual report and election of voting members to the Synod Assembly. Nominees for the Assembly are: Johnson Sheelam, Lisa Lewis, and Marilyn Bell Hawley.



"These are vegetables, mother. You wouldn't want me to eat something I've given up for Lent, would you?"

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## Be a Communion Assistant

Sign-up sheets are on the credenza in the atrium for both services. Although present and past council members fill a lot of the slots, it is open to members who would like to participate. Two assistants are needed for each service. This is a wonderful way to be engaged with the worship service. Please sign up, and if you have never served in this capacity, easy instruction will be provided.

## Katherine Circle Meeting

The next meeting of the Katherine Circle will be on Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00

am. The program will consist of the group preparing food for Urban Ministries to be used in their bag lunches.

Martha Dahl will be doing devotions. Marcia Redman and Marilyn Hawley will be providing refreshments. All women are invited.



## Support to WCPE

*by Hitch Havill*

For the past few years, FM station WCPE of Wake Forest, NC has mentioned, on the air on Sundays mornings, support given by our St. Paul's Lutheran Church together with four other Triangle Area churches. Such acknowledgment of support by our congregation will continue through June 2018. This results from annual requests to our parishioners, who regularly contribute to WCPE, to instead, cumulate their contributions within the congregation and have the congregation give one collective contribution to the station in the name of the congregation.

Now is the time to start collecting contributions for continuing WCPE's mention of our congregation for another year. Starting in February 2018, an effort will be made to collect the necessary \$1,000.00 of

gifts, from interested members of our congregation, to continue the relationship with WCPE for another year. Please contact Hitch (Dick) Havill if you are interested in making a gift to WCPE. He can be reached at Sunday services and at 919-929-2755 or [dhavill@bellsouth.net](mailto:dhavill@bellsouth.net).

To make a contribution, please make your check payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and give it to Hitch for delivery of a St. Paul's cumulated gift check to the FM station when we reach the goal.

## Lent Wednesday Meals

We will begin the meals at 5:45pm during Lent to accommodate the handbell choir members who rehearse at 6:15 pm. Brief menus for the remaining dates are:

- March 7 Hummus, Eggplant stew with Couscous, Salad, Pita, Grilled chicken, Tabouli, Turkish potato salad, Cheese quesadillas for children, and dessert
- March 14 Variety of soups, bread, PB&J, fruits, and desserts – if you can supply a crock-pot of soups that would be GREAT! Let Susan Esposito know.
- March 21 Ravioli Lasagna, salad, bread and desserts

If you can help with any of the meals, it would be greatly appreciated – cooking, setting up, or cleaning up.

## Last Call for Photos and Changes

The pictorial directory will be published soon and we would still like to fill in any photos that are missing or need updating. Email a jpeg of your photo to Susan at [admin@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:admin@stpaulsdurham.org) so we get all become more familiar with everyone. Please keep us updated with address, phone and email changes. If you are using the phone directories, your changes are updated when the office updates.