

Cross Connections



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

April 2024

Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024

- + 8:30 am Worship
- + 9:45-10:45 Sunday School
- + 11:00 am Worship

Both services will start with the procession of palms from the foyer.

Maundy Thursday, March 28, 2024

- + 12:00 noon Holy Communion (in-person only)
 - + 7:00 pm Holy Communion and Foot Washing
- Vimeo live link: <https://vimeo.com/event/4073589>



Good Friday, March 29

- + 12:00 noon The Way of the Cross (in-person only)
 - + 7:00 pm Tenebrae
- Vimeo live link: <https://vimeo.com/event/4073602>

Vigil of Easter, March 30

- + 7:00 pm. There will be a reception following the Easter Vigil. (This service will be in-person, no recording.)

Easter Sunday, March 31

- + 8:30 am Worship
- + 11:00 am Worship, live streamed at <https://vimeo.com/event/1478223> and recorded for viewing on vimeo at <https://vimeo.com/stpaulsdurham/videos>
- + 9:30-10:30 am Easter Breakfast in Trinity Hall. We will be serving pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits, fruit along with beverages.
- + 10:15 am Children's Easter Egg Hunt. Assemble on the main entrance patio. Bring a basket to gather eggs from the playground and ark areas.



The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor

The Rev. Amanda Highben, Associate Pastor, Duke Lutherans

Gina Schaefer, Vicar

Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor

Dr. Ted Turner, Minister of Music

Alan Rigsbee, Bookkeeper

Amanda Stoen, Preschool Director

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Facebook: St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, ELCA

FROM THE PASTOR...

Many of you have been to Camp Agape just an hour to our south. Camp experiences put more people into church vocation than any other single ministry, followed closely by campus ministry programs. We currently use the camp for confirmation and for other retreat settings.

The Triangle Conference of the NC Synod has joined forces with Agape+Kure Beach Ministries to share the love of camp with new



generations. As the closest neighbors to the camp, we feel like Agape is part of us. Several of the Triangle churches teach confirmation camp together at Agape, and many of the board members, volunteers, staff, and alumni belong in our congregations. Joined together in our fond memories of Agape and our mutual desire to see it continue to shape lives, seven congregations are part of this effort to secure the camp’s future. To that end, we will be doing a fund raising campaign for Camp Agape in the month of April this year. St. Paul’s has made no commitment as to how much we will raise, but the total goal for the campaign between the seven congregations that are participating, is \$171,000. This will help them with the nearly \$700,000 cost to replace the pool. The \$171,000 is the amount needed to complete this project. Approximately \$130,000 of this has been committed by the two largest area congregations: Christ the King in Cary and Good Shepherd in Raleigh. I would love for us to help make up the gap. Any money raised over the goal will be used to raise compensation for summer camp counselors and help with deferred maintenance at the Camp.

I am quoted in the brochure about the camp below:

“I started going to Camp Agape and Kure Beach in the summer of 1968. Camp is loving, comforting, caring and uplifting. When I became a pastor in 2007, I began bringing confirmation students for a week at Camp Agape. Every camper has found the same things I found at Camp Agape and more. I have held retreats for Councils, bereavement groups, young adults, and sent campers to BYG and held day camps at my

congregations. Camp Agape trains counselors well, encourages a holistic life of faith and is a blessing to the world. We need such places in this world. Places where we can unplug, embrace nature and see the love of Christ become tangible.”

Look for brochures and donation opportunities throughout the month. Donations can be made to St. Paul’s with a notation for Camp Agape.

Pastor Scott

Dear Friends at St. Paul’s,

A word about media release forms.

Some of you may have been asked, especially if children accompany you to church, to sign a media-release form. A media-release form is a document that gives St. Paul’s permission to use your image (photograph or video) in media publications like: live stream, Facebook, the newsletter, and other general publications of the church. Release forms can be important because they protect the church from liability in case someone objects to having their image used. They also help ensure that we have the consent of the people in the media we publish.

In general, when it comes to pictures we try not to post anything that is embarrassing, objectionable, or hurtful to anyone in the photo. In addition, if someone asks us to take down a photo of them, we will do so. Another note about privacy is that we will never post identifying information of congregants such as phone numbers, emails, addresses, full names, etc., to our social media or website. Finally, we do not seek to profit off any videos or photos we post.

However, it can still be good to know for sure that we have someone’s permission before we post a picture, thus: the media release form!

So far, we have not done a lot with media release forms but as we continue to post on and develop our social media pages, there will be a movement to using them more. We especially want minors to have media release forms to ensure we have permission from their parent or guardian before we use their image in media. We are also searching for anyone who does *not* want their image shared.

If you have a minor in your family or would like to fill out a form, feel free to contact me – whether by email or just swinging by my office. I plan to have forms available for those interested.

Peace and blessings
Vicar Gina

Preschool Pitter-Patter

by Amanda Stoen



A few weeks ago, the preschool received a visit from a Go Durham city bus!



One of our preschool parents works in Durham’s transportation department and loves to talk about transportation. Did you know that Durham city buses are free to ride? The closest bus stop to St. Paul’s is located just up the road on Chapel Hill Street.



Crystal, the bus driver, greeted us and she opened up the bus for the children to explore inside. Many of our children have not ridden on a bus before. As the children explored the different seating options, they settled in and began to sing the Wheels on the Bus song. The children also learned where bicycles and strollers can be stored so that people can bring these along while they ride on the bus. The bus that visited us is one of Durham’s electric buses with a very cool wrapped skyline of Durham, and we learned that the

bus can take us to the library, museums, parks, and many restaurants.

This month, the preschoolers will be visiting Chestnut Ridge for our spring field trip. We will be learning about what it is like to be a farmer, composting, what parts of plants we eat and learning about and meeting different farm animals. We are so fortunate to have many community programs to teach our children about how the world works.

Duke Lutherans Spring Fundraiser Campus Ministry Madness

by Pastor Amanda Highben

Spartans and Blue Devils and Yellow Jackets, Oh My! This year during NCAA March Madness, the Duke Lutherans are participating in Campus Ministry

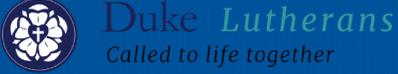
Madness, a fundraising challenge between Lutheran Campus Ministry sites across the country. Did you know that 89% of students who participated in campus ministry planned to continue being active in a faith community? Your support of Campus Ministry allows students to have a space to explore and grow in their faith and prepare themselves for a deep faith life after they graduate. **Help the Duke Lutherans reign supreme and support the transformational work happening at our Campuses nationwide!** Give today at <https://campusministrymadness.org> or <https://gifts.duke.edu>

Take the Duke Lutherans Survey – We’d Love Your Feedback!

by Pastor Amanda Highben

Calling all students, alumni, parents, partner church members, campus partners, and supporters! The Duke Lutherans are building a 3-year strategic plan and we’d love your help! Your feedback will guide us as we look to our future with hope and expectation. simply click on the Google survey link

(<https://forms.gle/2LTXB6qHm6V2ZaCJ7>)



We'd love your feedback!
Take the Duke Lutherans online survey (we promise it's not long...)



Your answers will provide valuable insights as we build a 3-year strategic plan

to submit your responses by April 30. Thank you so much for your partnership in our mission to share God's gift of life together! If

you have any questions or problems taking the survey, please don't hesitate to reach out to Pastor Amanda (amanda.highben@duke.edu) or DL Committee Chair Cindy Snyder (cindysnyder24@gmail.com).

Young Adults/Working Adults Events

Some people may have started to notice more and more that we have a growing group of younger adults, but we prefer to be seen as working adults in our 30s and 40s that enjoy getting together to laugh and experience new things around the area. Each month we get together on a Friday evening or Saturday for our outing. We started 2024 with a potluck dinner and conversation game hosted by Nicoline Strom-Jensen.

In February, some of the group went to a Carolina Hurricanes game.



But our most recent outing was a tour and tasting at the Durham Distillery on Saturday, March 16. We had the chance to learn about how some local gin and

spirits (not the holy kind) are created right here in our backyard of Durham. We tried the 8 different gin and spirit flavors they create, also saw the bottling process, and how the distillery is one of the best in the nation and soon to be in the world with their different winning titles.

On April 12, the group will be going to the Carolina Tiger Rescue in Pittsboro for one of the Twilight Tours. We will meet there at 5:15 pm to sign our very important safety waivers and go over the safety rules before we go in and learn about the sanctuary and what is being done for these majestic large cats and what we can do to stop the cruelty in the private illegal large cat industry. If you ever want to hear or see what we are up to or will be doing soon, reach out to Megan Cunningham (mcunni16@gmail.com). Or if you ever want to join in our fun, please ask. We always love getting to know our brothers and sisters in Christ and St. Paul's!

March/April Youth Corner

March was a fun and active month for the youth group, even though we did not have our monthly lock-in, spring break intervened. We have continued our conversation about Holy Week and Easter during the Sunday School hour. If you didn't get the chance to see us on Sunday, March 10th, after diving into the topic and understanding of Easter, we dyed Easter Eggs. Let's just say the eggs were not the only thing that left with color on them when we were done! It was fun to see how we used rubber bands, crayons, and laying colors for a cool outcome.

Some of the teens also participated in the Rise Against Hunger. Megan and Sarah Herring, along with Ben Hodges were just a few that helped on that amazing day!

During the Sunday, March 17th, 11:00 am services in preparation for Easter, some of you may have noticed youth participating as crucifer and acolyte. We are going to continue to work on different parts of being involved in the services. Most of our youth all go to the



11:00 am service, so if you don't get a chance to see us at 8:30 am, you can check us out via the online streaming service. If you want to get to know the youth that are participating, you will be able to check out their pictures and biographies on the bulletin board in the hallway under learning.

We have all continued to prepare for our trip to New Orleans in July for the national youth gathering. We have made the decision on our daily t-shirts and will be getting the order completed soon. Our shirts will be proudly displaying both the cross that is brought into the sanctuary on Sunday mornings, and also the beautiful stained glass. We will have shirts in 5 different colors with the designs and the proud "St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Durham, NC" on the front. We again thank everyone for all the support we have received so far, but along with these t-shirts and other requirements such as clear bags and specific water bottles, we need to raise an additional \$3,500. If you would like to continue to help us, donations can be made online, specifying for the "youth group" or via donations during Sunday morning offering.

The group going to the gathering has continued to talk about how we are "Created To Be" FREE and DISRUPTIVE. These topics have brought up some great conversations that we will be able to use in our daily lives and only learn about in more depth while we are in New Orleans. As we have talked about how we are "Created To Be" FREE, we talked about freedom during the season of Lent and trying to go without single-use plastic. We encourage you all to think about how the season of Lent and fasting from something is also allowing you to be free.

You probably have seen this month's youth spotlight member at the 11:00 am service sitting up front with her parents. Here is a little more about Adsila Getz written by Adsila. "I am an 8th grader at Orange Middle School in Hillsborough. My favorite hobbies are art (scrapbooking/painting), playing the piano, and horseback riding. An interesting fact about me is my name means 'Blossom' in Cherokee and is Hebrew for 'Noble.'" If you want to learn more about Adsila or any youth, you again can soon check out the bulletin board in the hallway by Whitesell Hall or just ask us, we would love to tell you more. Check back in the next article of Cross Connections to see what else we have been up to.

CROP Walk 2024

On behalf of the Social Ministry committee, I'd like to thank everyone who participated in Durham's

50th anniversary CROP Walk hunger walk (Palm Sunday, March 24); walkers, orange cutting team (eight crates!), and donors. I'd also like to extend our thanks to Megan Cunningham for her past service as St. Paul's CW Team Captain.



We appreciate your continued support of the Durham CROP Hunger Walk... as we work and walk together to help end hunger, both here in Durham and around

the world.

(Note: At the time of publication of this CC issue, we do not yet have final data for # of registered walkers or for donation totals; look for final 2024 CW update in the May issue.)

Christ has no body now on earth but yours;
no hands but yours;
no feet but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which the compassion
of Christ
must look out on the world.

Yours are the feet with which He is to go about
doing good.

Yours are the hands with which He is to bless His
people.

- St. Teresa of Avila

Social Ministries Committee EXPAND/EXPLORE/EDUCATE

WE WANT YOU!

We want you... if you have a passion for or experience with:

- Voter Registration and Education (our new focus area for 2024)
- Juneteenth (June 19th) event (One suggestion we've received: a visit to Historic Stagville)

We are actively recruiting shared leadership teams* to begin planning for these two areas. You DO NOT have to be a member of the Social Ministry Committee to be on one of these leadership teams!

- ▶ We value your passion and energy regardless of your interest/disinterest in serving on a committee!

- ▶ And we are NOT asking for a long term commitment from you... once the work of the leadership team is completed, you are “free to go your own way”!

(*Note: We call them “Cords of Three,” see Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

Recent SM “goings on”:

- ◆ Seven members of St. Paul’s car pooled to Baldwin Auditorium on Duke’s campus to attend the Sanford Lecture presented by **Isobel Wilkerson**, Pulitzer prize winning journalist and author of two highly acclaimed books, The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America’s Great Migration (2010) and Caste: the Origins of Our Discontent (2020). *If you haven’t yet had an opportunity to read one or both of her books, we encourage you to do so! Check out St. Paul’s library to find her books... plus many other interesting reads!*
- ◆ Another car pooling trip to Duke’s campus! This time to the Sanford School of Public Policy to attend a panel discussion on current housing inequalities in Durham and then over to the nearby Rubenstein Building to view the exhibit “Uneven Ground: the Foundation of Housing Inequality in Durham, NC,” which was part of the Bull City 150 project in 2019. *A digital version of this exhibit is available 24/7 at www.bullcity150.org.*
- ◆ Out to the MOVIES! St. Paul’s members went to local cinemas – some individually, some as couples, and others in small groups (carpooling again!) – to see Origin – a movie by Ava DuVernay, – which is based on the story of how Isobel Wilkerson came to write Caste. Several small group discussions have followed, the most recent at Guglhuf on a rainy Friday afternoon!

Next Meeting: The next Social Ministry committee meeting will be held **Tuesday, April 9 at 7:00 pm in Whitesell Hall**. *All church members and regularly attending visitors are always welcome to join us; hope to see you there!*

Volunteer Opportunities with ongoing Social Ministries:

- ▶ **Urban Ministries:** Volunteers to serve lunch at UMD’s “Community Café” on the 3rd Saturday of each month: sign-up link: bit.ly/UMD_Signup
- ▶ **Creation Care:** New CC team members to assist with the increasing number of CC projects.
- ▶ **The Refugee Support Team:** Additional female

drivers

- ▶ **Camp Destiny & Burton Magnet Elementary (BME) Community:**
 - **BME - Volunteers to read 1:1 with 1st graders*** - weekly commitment on your choice of weekday/s
 - **BME - Volunteers to assist students with homework during afterschool program*** – weekly commitment on your choice of weekday/s
 - ***NOTE:** Prospective volunteers for the BME in-school activities must first complete a volunteer application through Durham Public Schools; application available at: <https://www.dpsnc.net/domain/133>

If you are interested in volunteering in any of these capacities, please contact either Joan Pepper or Pastor Scott; they will connect you with the contact person for that area of ministry.

Earth Day Recycling

Spring cleaning time is here. Time to discard things that are just taking up space on the shelf or in the closet. From electronics, to toys with metal, there are so many items around the home that people aren’t aware can be recycled.



St. Paul’s is celebrating Earth Day by providing an opportunity to dispose of many home items not accepted by local trash recycling.

From **April 9-15**, accepted items can be dropped off in an area that will be clearly marked at the back of the parking lot between the mobile classroom and the shed. Please do **NOT** leave them anywhere inside the church building. Items will be picked up on **Tuesday, April 16** by “Anything With A Plug Recycling” from Raleigh.

Accepted items can include:

- ▶ LCD, LED, or flat screen tvs up to 4 inches thick
- ▶ Computers, printers, copiers and related items
- ▶ game consoles
- ▶ SMALL kitchen appliances
- ▶ cords, cables, stereo equipment
- ▶ Kids’ toys (plastic, bikes, powerwheels)
- ▶ Cell phones, batteries, all plastic except bags
- ▶ Plastic or metal furniture

Items NOT accepted:

Styrofoam, CRT Tube Type TVs, light bulbs, wood items, smoke alarms, large items such as home appliances, grills, and furniture; vhs or magnetic tapes
Additional information can be found at anythingwithaplugrecycling.com

Change of Address

Anna Snyder
Pruitt Carolina Point
5935 Mt Sinai Road
Durham
Mailing Address:
206 Sturdivant Rd
Durham, NC 27705

Anna would appreciate visitors where she is now living at Pruitt Carolina Point.



We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of Ida Norris Elliott, who died on March 5, 2024 at the age of 93. Her funeral and interment in the Columbarium was held at St.

Paul's on Saturday, March 16, 2024 at 1:00 pm. Memorials may be provided to Trinity View Retirement Community, 3533 Hendersonville Rd, Arden, NC 28704; to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1200 West Cornwallis Rd, Durham, NC 27705; and to Four Seasons Hospice, 571 S Allen Rd, Flat Rock, NC 28731.

We welcome by Holy Baptism

On Sunday, February 25, 2024, we welcomed Ayla Jane Mora Garcia by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Ayla is the daughter of Alannah Garcia and Josue David Mora Brenes. Sponsors are Tyson Le Roy and Laura Le Roy.



THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
APRIL 1-5, 2024.

Rise Against Hunger



Thank you to all who joined us Saturday, March 9, for a rainy morning of packaging 10,000 meals which will feed 60,000 people. Thanks to a couple special grants and congregation donations, plus the many hands that were there, it was a blessed day of giving! We look forward to another opportunity to work with Rise Against Hunger in 2026.



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Young In Spirit

The April activity for Young In spirit will be a meet-and-eat at 11:30 am at Monterrey's Mexican Grill, Oak Creek Village shopping center (same shopping center as JoAnn Fabric). Anyone available for a daytime lunch "date" is welcome to join us for delicious authentic Mexican food and good fellowship with our St. Paul's family.



PASTA for PARKTOWN!! Help Stock the St. Paul's Shelf at Parktown Food Hub!

The folks at Parktown Food Hub love our St. Paul's pasta! THANKS to your generosity the "St. Paul's Dry Boxed Pasta Shelf" stays stocked and ready to help hungry families. Please continue to add dry pasta to your shopping list to share with the St. Paul's shelf. The Women's Connection Group is leading this initiative to support the Parktown Food Hub, led by Pastor Sharon Schulze.

Nurturing

Make April a month of gratitude opportunities: Instead of saying "I have to," start your day with "I get to:"

- I get to exercise
- I get to work and earn money
- I get to experience new things
- I get to make someone's day better
- I get to see my friends and family
- I get to tell someone I love them.

From the Nurturing Committee Ministry

Sign-Up Genius Links

Please visit the Sign-Up Genius links which we use to enable volunteers to fill in where needed, for both services. Click on the link and fill in your name on the date(s).

- ◆ **Sunday Worship** – <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-sunday1> Sign up for: lector, worship assistant, altar guild, communion assistants, and ushers. Staff will be glad to provide guidance for any of these tasks.
- ◆ **Devotions** – <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eabad28a3fd0-daily1> Send your devotions to Vicar Gina Schaefer - vicar@stpaulsdurham.org

UMD (Urban Ministries Durham) Food Prep!

We will volunteer our services on the third Saturday of each month, 11:30 am-1:30 pm. Next date is **April 20, 2024**. During the shift, you will prep for the dinner meal and serve lunch. Sign up online at this site: http://bit.ly/UMD_Signup Volunteers must be 13 years old, must wear closed toed shoes and shirts that cover armpits. Hairnets and aprons are provided – you can bring a hat and apron as well. Urban Ministries is located at 410 Liberty St, Durham NC 27701. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Anderson at andersona1129@gmail.com

Adult Sunday School classes

Classes meet in Trinity Hall, 9:45-10:45 am Sundays. Here are our April leaders and their topics:

- April 7 – Bill Dahl – Diaconal Life, part 2
- April 14 – Lorrel Strom-Jensen – the Caring House
- April 21 – Morris Casper – Martin Luther bowl of worms and ban
- April 28 – Aaron Klink – End of life decision making in Faith