

# Cross Connections



*St. Paul's Lutheran Church*

*August 2022*

## Time to Update!

It is time to bring us up to date on our current pictorial directory. To help us – please submit a current photograph of you/your family. It does not have to be a professional photo – many of you probably have selfies and vacation photos handy on your phone. You may send it to Susan Esposito at [admin@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:admin@stpaulsdurham.org) and it will be uploaded into your family profile. You may also make any changes, such as address, email address, birthdays, anniversary, phone numbers – at the same time.

You can get the latest directory on your smart phone app "Instant Church Directory." As changes occur, the updates are made in the church office and are instantly updated on your app when you use it.

## Young In Spirit Event in September...

The Young In Spirit group will not meet in August. The next meeting is Wed, Sept 14 at 11:30 am. YIS proudly presents Dick Clendaniel as he shows and talks about some of the gorgeous pictures he took on his week-long walking trip with his daughter and son through the Cotswolds in England. Please bring a sandwich. Drinks, chips and desserts will be provided. Please let Robin Winfree know if you plan to come so we have enough desserts, etc.

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Our church directory is a great resource tool that allows you to get to know our church family better!

Simply go to the App Store, search for *Instant Church Directory*  and download the FREE app to begin.

You will use your email address listed in the directory to CREATE A LOGIN the first time you use the directory app.

If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office.



The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor  
Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor  
Ted Turner, Minister of Music  
Amanda Spangler, Vicar  
Amanda Stoen, Preschool Director  
Alan Rigsbee, Bookkeeper

The Rev. Amanda Highben, Associate Pastor, Duke Lutherans  
The Rev. Dr. Charles R. Huggins, Pastor Emeritus

Church Office Phone: 919-489-3214 \* Fax: 919-490-1088 \* Website: [www.stpaulsdurham.org](http://www.stpaulsdurham.org)

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

[pastor@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:pastor@stpaulsdurham.org)  
[admin@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:admin@stpaulsdurham.org)  
[music@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:music@stpaulsdurham.org)  
[vicar@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:vicar@stpaulsdurham.org)  
[preschool@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:preschool@stpaulsdurham.org)  
[bookkeeper@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:bookkeeper@stpaulsdurham.org)  
[amanda.highben@duke.edu](mailto:amanda.highben@duke.edu)  
[crhugg@charter.net](mailto:crhugg@charter.net)

### *From the Pastor...*

I thought this newsletter might be a good time to catch up on a few things prior to the fall. Summer is not a slow time around here and I was reminded that there are probably things happening that the congregation may not be as aware of as the rest of the church staff.

So I want to title the beginning of this article: **Did you know?**

- ▶ That there is a member family that has given funds to the church for special uses. The fund is administered by the DeVries family and me, the pastor. We call it the St. Paul's fund. It has enabled us to help fund the vicar's trip to Germany. It has paid a portion of the new security camera system, paid our portion of the new Triangle area Lutheran Church's marketing campaign, given to Ukrainian Relief, Stephen Ministry, Durham Sr. Life Center, special musicians funding and several other projects. This is a gift and blessing to the congregation.
- ▶ Wildflower Cottage passed all their inspections and will move to their new home beginning August 25.
- ▶ We have a new piece of art on the wall in the Atrium. It is "outsider art," folk art from an African American artist from Texas. It features the last supper with Jesus and the disciples as people of color (most likely a very accurate portrayal of them). Come and see this new art. Thanks CCG for the suggestion.
- ▶ We will plan to pound the new vicar the first two Sundays in August. (August 7 and 14). Things to bring are household supplies, gift cards to area stores (Target, Walmart, Harris Teeter, Wegmans, etc.) We want to welcome Vicar Amanda well.
- ▶ We will be keeping the spaces that Wildflower occupied vacant for the most part until early in 2023. That doesn't mean we won't use those spaces, it means we won't designate any of them for a permanent new use for a little while, as we figure the best use of those spaces.
- ▶ Until this round of Covid surge slows, we will continue to ask people to maintain social distancing in the sanctuary and masks are still optional.
- ▶ 2023 is our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we are looking for people to work on the committee to plan activities.
- ▶ The major gift to Duke Lutherans is complete and so this ministry needs financial support if we are to continue this vital ministry. Currently we have

about 2 years of funding left in their account and are working diligently to raise more funding.

Many of these items have been in the works for some time and will continue to be kept in the forefront of our life together.

We are hoping to begin with Rally Day (September 11), two services and Sunday School. We are also hoping to begin Wednesday night meals again in September with a special Oktoberfest in October. I am beginning to plan a Martin Luther birthday party on November 9<sup>th</sup> (the day before Martin's birthday), so be on the lookout for this event.

May the remainder of your summer be blessed.

Pastor Scott

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### *Dear Friends in Christ,*

Hello! My name is Amanda Spangler, and I am excited to be joining you on August 16 as your 2022-2023 vicar. I have gotten to know a little bit about you all through conversations with Pastor Scott and Vicar Mac, as well as your internship site materials you provided to Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. I want to let you know a little about me in return!

I am a native of Alabama and grew up in the tail end of Appalachia. I have a diverse denominational background, but I was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Wanting to meet Lutherans under the age of 45, I went to Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Indiana, where I studied German and theology. My German is a little rusty, but I remember it quickly when given opportunities to practice, so I hope to meet some fellow German-speakers!

While at Valpo, I became a deaconess student with the Lutheran Diaconal Association, and I was consecrated by that diaconate in 2010. By that time I had moved my membership to the ELCA congregation in which I was serving, and I have been a member of the ELCA since 2009.

After serving in parish ministry for three years, I moved from Ohio to Chicago for graduate studies at Loyola University Chicago, where I obtained a Master of Arts in biblical languages and literature. I took a year to have a quarter-life crisis and work at an academic library, then began serving at a congregation in Tennessee. Following the end of my time there, I moved to Athens, Georgia, and began work at a congregation there. I learned that the kind of ministry I wanted to do really required further training, so I enrolled at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, from which I graduated in May with a Master of

Divinity.

I am a candidate for Word and Sacrament ministry in the Southeastern synod. This is a little confusing since I will still remain a deaconess regardless of my possible status as an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament. This is because my diaconate is an independent Lutheran organization, which has many different Lutheran denominations represented. There are a number of women in my community who are "Reverend Deacs," women who have been wonderful mentors and models for me. I hope to continue the work they've begun in holding together the principles of Word and Service within the Ministry of Word and Sacrament.

Other fun trivia: I am butler to a 14-year-old tortoise shell (torti) cat named Pi (not the mathematical symbol – ask me!) who is full of sass. I also provide entertainment for a two-and-a-half-year-old pittie named Percy, who is a blanket hog and a hardcore snuggler. He also has a fan club of stray cats that accompany us on walks. I like crafting, and will dabble in anything creative, though I am skilled in crochet. I also play the ukulele, though I confess I picked it up just because it irritated a friend of mine – I've since grown to love it, though I'm by no means proficient. I like mountains and beaches, margaritas and tap water, hiking and reading. If I have to exercise, I prefer swimming. The hardest part of moving to Durham for one year is leaving behind 90% of my books, but I know you all will be worth the temporary separation.

I look forward to meeting you in person soon!

Vicar Amanda Spangler

## Blue Devils, It's Almost Time!

Dear beloved Duke Lutherans family and friends,

We are SO close now to the start of a new school year and we can't wait to welcome new and returning students alike!

Even now, freshmen are receiving their O-Week and "First Big Week" schedules, as graduate students settle into their Durham apartments.

**Mark your calendars, dear ones, because Aug 29 is FDOC (or Blue Devil speak for the First Day Of Classes)!**

Campus will soon be humming ... and the Duke Lutherans are humming too with excitement and hope for all the good things we believe God has in mind for our life together this year, like:

- ◆ Sunday Evening Prayer + Fellowship Dinners
- ◆ NEW Ecumenical Weekday Morning Prayer Service

- ◆ Fall Beach Retreat
- ◆ Thursday Fellowship Lunches
- ◆ Monthly Grace House Community Meals
- ◆ Racial Reconciliation Ministry with our St. Joseph AME siblings
- ◆ The RETURN of Pub Theology
- ◆ Duke Forest Hikes
- ◆ Faith and Film Nights
- ◆ Alternative Spring Break Service Trip

– and so much more as we continue to build an inclusive campus ministry community, rooted in God's boundless love and called to serve our neighbors, work for justice and peace, and share God's gift of life together on campus, in our local congregations, and throughout Durham.



Duke Lutherans Christina Sigler (junior), Kristina Urberg (sophomore), and Camryn Johnson (sopomore) are all smiles at Mad Hatter's on East Campus.

As we pray and prepare for the new year, you can also help us to serve returning and new students alike, all of whom need trustworthy relationships and a grace-filled community to nurture their well-being and accompany them during such a critical stage in life.

Whether you're a Duke alum, parent or

family member, St. Paul's or Grace member, or someone who deeply understands the difference that campus ministry makes in the lives of students ...

Whether you make food for us on Sunday nights, serve as an Adopt a Duke Lutheran parent, join us for service, worship, or fellowship events, make a financial gift, or pray for us...

...we are so very grateful and blessed to share in God's gift of life with you.

Peace, Pastor Amanda Highben

PS. For ALL THINGS Duke Lutherans this year, be sure to follow us on Instagram (@dukelutherans) and Facebook (Group: Duke Lutherans)

## Preschool Pitter Patter

by Amanda Stoen

As August approaches, we will soon begin gearing up for our next school year. We are shifting our focus from the pandemic playing a dominant role in our decision making to learning to live with Covid. We are figuring out how to gather again as a community and what activities and events we can bring back and tweak. It will continue to be a learning process, but we

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

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will make plans, knowing that Covid could still affect them. We welcome the return of many preschool families as well as new families to our program. We are excited to be offering six classes this school year for children 10 months – 4 years old for about 52 children.



Preschool Summer Camp wrapped up July 21, with about 40 children attending camp this summer. The children enjoyed lots of outdoor time with water play, messy process art activities, and science experiments. We cooled off inside halfway through out mornings by reading stories and our oldest group enjoyed music with Mr. Ted, our music minister! We combined some of the ages for camp this summer and the children were able to play with



new and different children. We watched new friendships blossom and the younger children learned how to problem solve issues, such as moving a large bucket of water across the



playground.

Lastly, we appreciate all of the support from St. Paul's members. One easy way you can support the preschool is by linking 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.

### Memorials

We have received the following memorials as designated. Thank you for your generosity.

- † In memory of JoAnn Bowman by Amy and Jay Wilson, Charlotte
- † In memory of Toni Perrotte by Gary and Susanne Dahl, Durham

### Nurturing Committee

THANK YOU to Robin Winfree, Mary Runestad, Kim and Tim Hoke, Sally Hart, Michelle Meadors, Ted and Diana Dominick and Alta Lindsay – wonderful volunteers who have helped with providing transportation to a weekly medical appointment for a member of our St. Paul's family. Definitely Saints among us!

We are also in need of transportation for a sight impaired lady who lives at Durham Regent and would like to be a part of St. Paul's by attending church on Sunday.

THANK YOU to Sally Hart and Karen Mzyk who coordinate the food ministry of the Nurturing Committee! There are MANY saints through that ministry that volunteer to provide food for those with illness, or surgery recovery. For those cooks who work so hard to help the ministry, a HUGE thank you. You touch many!

If interested in being a part of either of the above ministries, please contact Marcia Redman or Janet Seiz.

### Our prayers of sympathy

In the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life, we commend to Almighty God, Arloa Bittikofer, who died on July 25, 2022, a month shy of her 104<sup>th</sup> birthday. Her funeral service and interment will take place at St. Paul's, date as yet undecided but we will keep you informed. Memorials may be made to St. Paul's Memorials Committee.

**Croasdale Worship will be Thursday, August 25 at 2:00 pm in the Chapel.**