

Cross Connections



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

February 2019

Preschool Supper, Wednesday, February 6, at 5:45 pm

8th Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Bake Sale Fundraiser!

Please join us on Wednesday, Feb 6 at 5:45 pm in Trinity Hall. Proceeds from the dinner portion will benefit our financial scholarship fund, which assists families who need financial support to send their child to preschool. The Bake Sale proceeds will benefit our playground. We plan to add a music space to our playground. This is always a wonderful evening to join our preschool and church families together for a delicious dinner and fellowship.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2019 AT 12:15 PM

Agenda includes: election of NC Synod Assembly Delegates; Acceptance of Annual Reports; and Decision on Damascus House.

Valentine Big Band Bash Saturday, February 16 at 7:30 pm



Time again for our fabulous Valentine's Day Big Band Bash and dessert pot-luck in Trinity Hall. Come and enjoy the sounds of the Durham Jazz Orchestra, an 18 piece big band plus vocalists. Their music will have you ready to dance and we will be accommodating – the dance floor will be open to anyone. Bring along a dessert to share if you can and we'll celebrate the evening in good fashion.

The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor

Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor

Jacqueline Nappi, Minister of Music

Amanda Stoen, Preschool Director

Megan Hoewisch, Vicar

The Rev. Ali Tranvik, Associate Pastor, Duke Lutherans

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

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

From the Pastor...

I can't believe that January is over. Where does the time go?

We have begun planning Lent and will soon begin preparation for Holy Week. We have begun to think about the summer too, with VBS, Campfirmation, and times of transition. So think about ways you can help us with some of these events. We especially need teachers and assistants for VBS.

That all seems so silly. Here we are in the dead of winter and we should be able to take a little Sabbath time, but life at St. Paul's never slows down.

Some of what is planned for the month of February should be fun and dynamic. February 16th the Durham Jazz Orchestra will be with us for an evening of big band music and dance. Invite friends and family to hear this marvelous group. Refreshments and great music will welcome you at 7:30 pm that evening.

The following day, February 17, the Duke Lutherans will be leading worship and inviting us to think about their vibrant ministry at Duke University.

February is also Library month and Sunday the 24th will be our annual library month fund raising drive. We invite you all to stop in the library that Sunday (well, every day if you'd like). It looks very different, with new shelves added, a TV with DVD player in the children's section and so much more. We hope you will take advantage of one of the best church libraries around.

February is the month we hope to kick off our new time with the children during the 11 am worship. This will take place during the lesson and sermon time and give the kids a way to engage the texts more fully. New felt boards and characters have been acquired and we are still looking for assistants to teach. We have a leader's guide and can help you be prepared to teach our young children.

Lenten devotion books will be available beginning the second Sunday in February, so that you are ready for Lent.

God continues to bless us with opportunities to serve God. If you are looking to answer God's calling, contact Pastor Scott, Vicar Megan, or Susan Esposito for a list of needs.

Peace,
Pastor Scott

From the Vicar...

Our brothers and sisters and kin in Christ of the United Methodist Church (UMC) are at a crossroads.

The time has come for this international denomination to decide the UMC's position on LGBTQ issues going forward. Currently, the official position in the UMC is much like the ELCA's had been before the vote in 2008, when ordaining an openly LGBTQ person was not allowed. On February 23, 2019, the UMC will convene a Special Session of the General Conference in St. Louis. The UMC's General Conference is a lot like the ELCA's Churchwide Assembly; both are the primary decision-making bodies for the denomination, and both are composed of laity and clergy. This Special Session of the General Conference will be looking at two plans for how to maintain church unity in the face of this emotionally charged issue. Both plans seek to keep the 12-million member church together while allowing greater freedom for individual consciences. Both plans make space for the "progressive" position and the "traditional" position to exist side-by-side. However, given the strength of people's convictions over this topic, there remains the possibility that a large number of congregations, pastor, and laity might leave the UMC no matter what decision is reached.

We in the ELCA know the pain of a church divided. We know how hard these conversations can be. As a denomination in full communion with the UMC, and as members of the same body of Christ, I offer to you a prayer from the bishops of the UMC that you are invited to lift up.

"May the Holy Spirit draw us together. May we see the image of God in one another, treat one another with tenderness, and love one another fiercely. Bearing Christ's love in these ways, may we be God's faithful witnesses. Amen."

May all of the hard conversations that are part of life together, whether in a denomination or in a congregation, be filled with the love of Christ.

Vicar Megan

Join us for Duke Lutherans Sunday

by Pastor Ali Tranvik

On Sunday, February 17th, Duke Lutherans will help lead the 11:00 am worship service here at St. Paul's, and we would love for you to come and take part! This is an opportunity to meet some Duke Lutherans, to hear how this ministry helps shape their lives at Duke and in Durham, and to celebrate the relationship we share across campus and congregation. If you are interested in making a special gift to Duke

Lutherans on the 17th, envelopes will be available for check and cash donations. We are so grateful for the many ways St. Paul's supports this ministry, and we look forward to being with you on the 17th as we worship God together.

Duke Lutherans By the Numbers

Ministry can't be measured in numbers. But here are just a few that help give you a sense of what Duke Lutherans has been up to so far this year...

- 15** The chapter in the Gospel of Luke we explored at our first undergraduate Bible Study this fall
- 46** Duke Lutherans t-shirts handed out at orientation
- 10** Local sites visited as part of the Durham Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope in September
- 80** Miles run on an average week this fall by Alex Miley, a sophomore on Duke's Cross-Country team
- 37** Members of St. Paul's, Grace, and Duke Lutherans gathered in Duke Gardens for outdoor worship and a potluck dinner in September
- 30** Mice involved in a lab experiment conducted last fall by Anya Varanko, a Duke Lutherans doctoral student studying Biomedical Engineering
- 501** Years of Lutheranism celebrated at our Reformation party in October
- 242** Miles driven in the St. Paul's van to our fall beach retreat
- 14** Homework assignments completed last semester by a Durham Public Schools' first-grader with the help of a Duke Lutheran at the Bilingual Tutoring Program

Council Corner

*by Linda Foreman
Congregation Council President*

Happy New Year!

First, a warm welcome to four newly elected council members: Claire Cooney, Ted Dominick, Phil Hart, and Tony Perrotte (filling Curt Hahn's term). They join Tina Bessias, Linda Foreman, Lisa Lewis, Johnson Sheelam and Jim Shoaf.

The council got off to a productive start with a

retreat on Jan. 5. The agenda included an orientation to financial reports, an overview of council responsibilities, a review of last year's priorities and progress and planning for the coming year.

Among the early priorities are:

- ◆ bringing a recommendation regarding Damascus House to the congregation
- ◆ planning for a capital campaign
- ◆ engaging the congregation in the Planting Hope initiative. The council has had a couple of work sessions since then to advance this work.

We hope to bring information related to Damascus House on both Jan 27 and Feb 3 with a Feb 10 congregational meeting.

We elected officers: President, Linda Foreman; Vice President, Tina Bessias; Secretary, Tony Perrotte. We are grateful that Larry Jenkins and Jayne Baum have agreed to continue their service as Financial Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

Your congregational council is honored to serve and takes its stewardship responsibility seriously. Please communicate with us – share your ideas, opinions, concerns – in person, via phone, via email or leave a note in our boxes in the reception room.

Together we join hands to do God's work in this place.

Preschool Pitter Patter

by Amanda Stoen



It's our 8th annual Spaghetti Dinner and Bake Sale Fundraiser! Please join us on Wednesday, February 6 at 5:45 pm in Trinity Hall. Proceeds from the dinner

portion will benefit our financial scholarship fund, which assists families who need financial support to send their child to preschool. The Bake Sale proceeds will benefit our playground. We plan to add a music space to our playground. This is always a wonderful evening to join our preschool and church families together for a delicious dinner and fellowship.

On Thursday, February 21st, the preschool will partner with Durham Community Preschool to host a FREE webinar viewing about trauma by Dr. Becky Bailey, a founder of Conscious Discipline. The webinar called, *Understanding Trauma: Reaching and Teaching Children with Trauma*, disrupts the cycle of trauma by bringing new awareness to our current trauma epidemic and building healthy, healing relationships through self-regulation, connection and

resilience interventions that have the power to heal individuals, communities and generations of those who suffer. The webinar and discussion will begin at 9:15 am and run until 12:00 pm in Trinity Hall. Please see Amanda Stoen if you would like to attend.

Enrollment for the fall school year is underway! We offer classes for children ages 10 months - 4 years old. If you are interested or know of anyone who is, registration forms and tours are available. If you have any questions in the meantime, please let me know. We ask for your continued prayers throughout the school year.

Muslim Leadership Conference

Imam Abdul-Hafeez Waheed has extended an invitation to St. Paul's congregation to attend a Muslim Leadership conference at 1:30 pm on February 23 at the Millennium Hotel in Durham. (Imam Waheed spoke at St. Paul's last year.) If you would like to attend, contact Bee Ellertson.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church to Feed Thousands!

by Marilyn Bell-Hawley

More than 10,000 meals will be prepared here at church on Saturday, March 23, 2019 and you can help!

No, we won't use our kitchen. But we will use a hands on approach to impact world hunger. We will perform a **Rise Against Hunger Project**, which is a volunteer based initiative that coordinates the assembly of highly nutritious dehydrated meals comprised of rice, soy, vegetables, and 23 essential vitamins and minerals.

Rise Against Hunger is an international hunger relief organization that packages and distributes food to people in developing nations. Its mission is to end hunger by providing food, nourishing lives, and empowering communities.

If you have never participated in the project, you are in for a special treat, as you share with fellow members, community volunteers, students, and who knows, local celebrities have been known to make an appearance at this event!

More than 50 people, including children will perform various tasks in an assembly line fashion, scooping food in bags, placing bags in boxes, and loading them for actual shipping. Some may work as

teams in friendly competition, all under the direction and supervision of the **Rise Against Hunger** staff who helps with setting up and cleaning up.

Then after two hours we will have prepared more than 10,000 meals!

The project costs just pennies per meal and you can help by donating for meals, volunteering your time, and praying for the success of the project and for those who will receive these meals.

Please save the date and join us. Contact any member of the Continuing Conversations Group or me if you have questions.

Dear Friends at St. Paul's,

It's with great joy that I announce that I have been called by Coastside Lutheran Church in Half Moon Bay, California to serve as associate pastor alongside Pastor Dawn Teuthorn.

On **Friday, February 8 at 7 pm**, here in North Carolina, I will be ordained by Bishop Tim Smith at my home church, Christ the King Lutheran in Cary.

I will always be grateful for the support and encouragement I received from you all as I went through candidacy. I would love it if you would come and bless me with your presence on this special day. And please continue to hold me in your prayers as I answer this call of the Spirit.

In Christ's love,
Sue Holland

Additional info:

- ▶ Please RSVP to sue.b.holland@gmail.com so I can estimate how many bulletins we'll need. (but if you forget to email, come anyway!)
- ▶ Clergy is invited to vest and process. The color of the day is red.
- ▶ The address of Christ the King Lutheran is 600 Walnut Street, Cary. The parking lot is off of Tanglewood Drive.

In the mailbag...

Thank you so much to my St. Paul's community for all the support, love, and kindness (prayers, cards, visits, conversations, your presence, etc.) you've given to both my mother and me during her illness, and now, to me at her death. Words cannot adequately express the depth of my gratitude. The St. Paul's congregation and staff have always meant the world to me, like a family. Thank you...."

Mary Sturgeon

Seek a Stephen Minister to Listen and Offer Support



It's the season for New Year's resolutions! You may have already chosen your goals or intentions for the year, or you might still be thinking about how to make this year a little better than the last. Here's one resolution you might want to consider:

Seek a Stephen Minister to listen and offer support.

We all face challenging times – illness, grief, job loss, divorce, or some other life difficulty. Reaching out and requesting a caring person in these kinds of situations can make a positive difference.

A trained Stephen Minister will listen to you, support you, pray with you, and “be there” for you. A Stephen Minister will not solve your problem for you, or offer you advice. But often the caring presence of another person is comforting and helpful in these situations.

If you would like a Stephen Minister assigned to you, or if you know of another member who might benefit from a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Scott or Judy Kraska.

Memorials Received

We thank the following for their donations in memory of those designated.

In memory of Anita Johnson

Betty Hinshaw, Hillsborough

In memory of Rosa Barrett

Mary Sturgeon, Carrboro

In memory of John Yoder

Mary Sturgeon, Carrboro

In memory of Ruby Hoofst

Charles and Jannis Wichard, Greensboro

In memory of Addie Felkel

Mrs. John Felkel, Orangeburg SC

Audrey Gerlach, Orangeburg SC

Thomas and Judy Kraska, Chapel Hill

M. Lewis Fogle, Orangeburg SC

Diane and Gary Archer, Hillsborough

Virgil Holshouser, Durham

Timothy and Kimberly Hoke, Chapel Hill

Chris Chato, Wayne Niemann, Durham

Nancy Anderson, Durham

Charles and Jean Felkel, Lexington SC

Norman and Shirley McLean, Orangeburg SC

Renee and David Eubanks, Blythewood SC

John and Jane Schuler, Orangeburg SC

Susan Esposito, Durham

Beverly and Henry Mitchell, Longwood FL

Lawrence and Carole Ostrowski, Hurdle Mills
In memory of Marion Rhoads
 Betty Hinshaw, Hillsborough
 Joseph and Laura Howard, Emerald Isle NC
 William and Barbara Anderson, Durham
 Margot Staub, Zibby Shiver, and Elisa Ruggeri,
 New York, NY
 Karl and Ottili Freundt, Durham
 Brenda Brodie, Durham
 Felix and Mary Beth Markham, Durham
 Linda Wheeler, Durham
 Lawrence and Carole Ostrowski, Hurdle Mills

We welcomed by Holy Baptism

On Sunday, January 20, 2019, we welcomed by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Walter Sanford Burns, child of Kiersten and Charlie Burns. Walter was born on August 17, 2018. Sponsors are Rachel Kiel and Fred Thompson. Grandparents are Mark and Rebecca Petersen.

Our Prayers of peace and sympathy to the family of Jim Kundinger upon his death in Wisconsin. He is the uncle of Megan Hoewisch.

WCPE (89.7 FM) and theclassicalstation.org

For the past few years, FM station WCPE of Wake Forest, NC has mentioned, on the air on Sunday mornings, support given by our St. Paul's Lutheran Church together with three other Triangle Area churches. Such acknowledgment of support by our congregation will continue through June 2019. 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.

Starting in February 2019, an effort will be made to collect the necessary \$1,000 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.

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.

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

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Coming Soon...

"Marilyn's presentation on her Habitat mission trip to Vietnam!"

St. Paul's Readers

Please join the book group in the discussion of Educated, by Tara Westover, at 3:00 pm on Thursday, February 21, in the library.

The selection for March is Abraham, by Bruce Feiler.

Young In Spirit Wednesday, February 13 10:00 am

Trinity Hall at St. Paul's "St. Paul's Planning Tools"

Pastor Scott will present the program, "St. Paul's Planning Tools," a pre-plan for funeral services, and what we should be thinking about regarding right of survivorship. Discussion will be about order of a funeral service, bulletin samples, and columbarium service. Did you know St. Paul's has a place for safe keeping of all your written plan? Come join us for an informative program. We will order carry out lunch to be served after.

Katherine Circle

All women are invited to the Katherine Circle gathering on Tuesday, February 12 at 10:00 am in Trinity Hall. Nan Treul will present the devotion. Marilyn Hawley will present the program on her trip to Vietnam. Margaret Simis and Jennifer Bowling will bring snacks.

DRIVERS WANTED

St. Paul's has a van and a handicap accessible bus, and we have members who do not drive, or due to health reasons, cannot drive for a period of time. We are in need of volunteers who are willing to sign up for one time per month to transport people to church. You do not need a special driver's license to drive either one, but you will need information that is provided at church regarding the proper safety of wheelchair transportation in the bus. If you are willing to give one Sunday a month, please contact the Church office, speaking with Pastor Scott or Susan Esposito.



NEED A RIDE?

GET ON BOARD!

We presently have two people who are willing to drive people to church for the 11:00 am service.

Larry Hawley will transport on the first Sunday of the month – call him at 919-972-9344 the Saturday before to schedule a pick up.

Ron Brown will transport people on the second Sunday of the month – call him at 605-660-4100 to schedule a pick up.

Many thanks to Larry and Ron for their time!



**Wednesday,
February 20
at 6:00 pm**

Get Cooking!

Plan to participate in the Chili & Cornbread Cook-off! Chili can be brought in crock-pots, cornbread any way. No need to bring serving utensils. Condiments, salad, desserts, and beverages will be provided. Sign up on the poster – have food here by 5:30 pm. You will be labeling your chili as to main ingredients or style! Come and join in the fun!