

Cross Connections



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

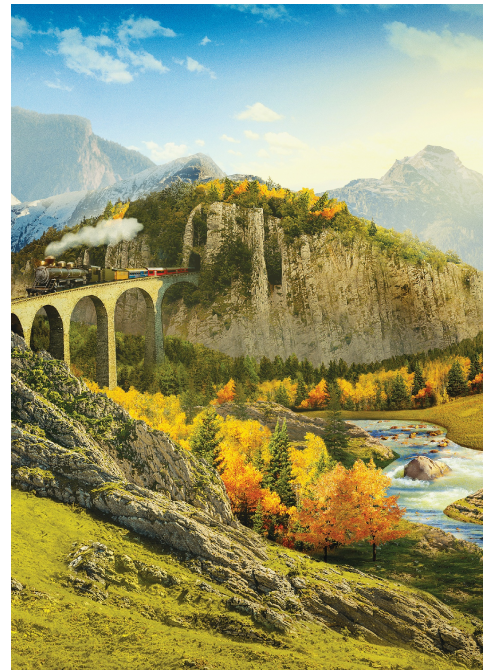
June 2022

Vacation Bible School 2022

**Rocky Railway: Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through
Saturday, July 23, from 9:00 am until noon
with a hot dog picnic at noon**

Just as we all have discovered in the past couple of years, life is rocky for everyone, especially kids – full of ups and downs and twists and turns. The theme for this year's Vacation Bible School Day is Rocky Railway, where kids will explore Jesus' power and how we can trust Jesus to pull us through when life feels like a valley or a mountaintop. Kids will deepen their friendship with Jesus and leave knowing they can trust him to do big things in their lives.

We will again be doing a Saturday morning VBS program this year on JULY 23, 2022 from 9:00 am until noon, ending with our traditional picnic. We will be needing children to register by **June 30**, ages 4 through grade 5.



Volunteers will be needed to shepherd children in small groups, lead a Bible Adventure storytime, and lead the KidVid Cinema. We will have a short snack time mid-morning to break up a schedule of activities, crafts, and science tasks.

Have friends? Invite them to join you at VBS this year. Pick up a registration form at church for each child. Adults can complete the same registration form or drop an email to Susan Esposito, at admin@stpaulsdurham.org to volunteer. Want to decorate? We will be doing that early July.

The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor

Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor

Ted Turner, Minister of Music

Mac Mullins, Vicar

Amanda Stoen, Preschool Director

Alan Rigsbee, Bookkeeper

The Rev. Amanda Highben, 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...

As I sat down to write this my mind is spinning because of how our world is spinning. It seems I can't open my news feed without another spate of death and mass destruction. African Americans killed for no reason in a grocery store, going about the business of ordinary life. Senseless rampant and I don't know what to do about it. And today as I write this, 21 people including 19 children in a classroom in Texas have their lives ended for no reason other than a crazy person decided they should not live. As Kerr the basketball coach said recently – It is not enough to have moments of silence, it is not enough. Praying is what I can do and that is powerful, prayer and lament is what God's people do for eons. God hears our prayer and I know God laments with us. It is up to us to change our culture, it is up to us to tell our elected officials that change must occur. Before you receive this newsletter, we will have had a Sunday time of reflection for the deaths in Buffalo and we will have had a service of lament for both the Buffalo and Texas tragedies. It is not enough. Both the Vicar and I have acknowledged we could preach about a tragedy weekly, we could inundate you with lament, but we also acknowledge that we need good news.

God is for us and God loves us. We are planning for God filled exciting events in the coming weeks and months. VBS is highlighted in this newsletter and I will be taking a couple of campers to confirmation camp. I just spent 2 days with our incoming vicar, Amanda Spangler, and I continue to rejoice at the joy Vicar Mac brings into our fellowship. Carol and Betty continue to offer some Sunday School for our children, the Grief Group will soon begin meeting and Wildflower will be moving in to their new space. All of this is good news.

But most of all, I would like us to remember and cling to the great good news of grace and salvation in our Lord Jesus Christ. Pray, call on God to save us, to redeem our broken world. Call on God to strengthen our leaders and stop the violence. Pray to God for peace and reconciliation. Most of all I would ask you to do something. There is an old saying that God's people should pray like everything depends on God and work like everything depends on us. It might just be time to live this way.

May the peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Amen.

Pastor Scott

From the Vicar...

As part of the internship, each vicar must complete a project during their year at St. Paul's. Previous vicars have done things such as block parties, sharing witness to faith, or even developing online worship at the beginning of the pandemic.

My own project was focused on developing a plan for the leadership of St. Paul's to continue and begin new ways of doing ministry related to creation care and stewardship of the earth. I asked a group of members to come together to brainstorm with me how we already are and how we might try something new in caring for the natural resources God has entrusted to St. Paul's. I'm happy to say that this past month the congregation council accepted and approved the plan created by the team.

We came up with two different documents; borrowing from Lutherans Restoring Creation, we agreed to a creation care covenant, where St. Paul's acknowledges the ways our new life in baptism calls us to shape our lives as stewards of God's creation. This will be the guiding document for St. Paul's in the future, as creation care is always an on-going ministry. The other document is a straightforward masterplan. Many projects and ministry ideas were presented, each with their own challenges and timelines. Emphasis was placed on both biblical stewardship and environmental education as well as continuing to make our building and grounds more eco-conscious.

The goal of this project wasn't to have a nice, finished product to present to the congregation, but rather to help St. Paul's include creation care in its definition of stewardship, beyond simply fundraising, as well as help our lay leadership to organize the work we are already doing as well as prioritize where we would like to go. For my own part, the whole process has been incredibly helpful in learning how to manage and lead our lay leaders as well as showing areas I still have to grow as a future pastor and Christian. Both the covenant and masterplan documents will be available on the website for anyone to see. If you're interested in learning more about creation care or becoming involved in it, please feel free to reach out to me and we can see how your gifts and passions can help care for God's beautiful world.

Peace,

Vr. Mac

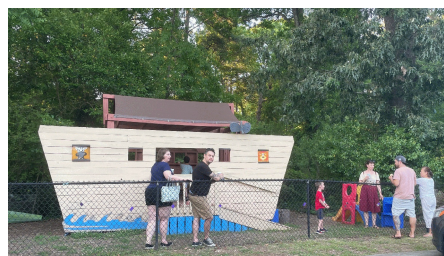


Caring for God's Creation

Preschool Pitter Patter

by Amanda Stoen

We did it! the preschool successfully completed another pandemic school year. The preschool celebrated all that we have accomplished with an end of year potluck in late May. We have not come together as a whole preschool to share a meal since the pandemic began, and it was wonderful to be together again! It took some time to remember how to host a potluck again and it came together



beautifully. Families ate inside and outside and parents were able to get to know each other better since the pandemic began. The children ran around the playground, enjoyed lots of water play and thoroughly exhausted themselves. It was a great way to wrap up this school year. (Enjoy a few photos here from our potluck.)

This year was more challenging than last year, in part because we, as caregivers, are exhausted. Educators are not always the best at taking care of ourselves. For more than two years, we have been caring for our preschoolers, their families as well as our own families, leaving very little for ourselves. A recent morning devotion reminded me to lean on God to take care of us. Proverbs 3:5 says "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." This summer the preschool staff will take time to rest our bodies, our minds and our hearts. We will all take some time to rest, be with our families and enjoy the slower pace of summer. Please keep the preschool staff in your prayers as we rest this summer

and make plans for our return in the fall.

Thank you to the preschool board, church staff and church members for the ongoing support through this very challenging year. We continued to focus on grace, flexibility and community as we shifted even more our preschool program outside. Things can change in a moment's notice and that required pivoting to change up our lesson plans. The teachers worked together to navigate the Covid protocols put in place to keep us as safe as possible.

Welcome by Baptism

On Sunday, May 22, we welcomed Jackson Stokes Forringer by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Jackson was born on February 16, 2022, child of Mary and Dan Forringer and grandchild of Dick Forringer.



Our Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of JoAnn Bowman, who died on Friday, May 20, 2022. Her funeral service was held at St. Paul's on Thursday, May 26 at 3:00 pm and interment was on Friday, May 27 at 1:00 pm at Oakwood Cemetery in Hickory, NC. Memorials may be made to St. Paul's Memorials Fund.

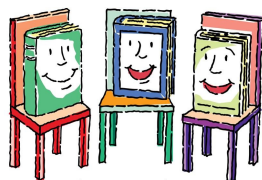


On Sunday, May 8, 2022, we honored the Rev. Dr. David Franzen in recognition of over 50 years in ordained ministry. Bishop Tim Smith, NC Synod, joined us for the service and presented David with a special award, the Christus in Mundo "Christ in the World," for exemplary service in specialized pastoral care. Congratulations David!

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St. Paul's Readers on Summer break



St. Paul's Readers

Although our book club meetings are paused for the months of June, July, and August, it is a great time to start reading our fall selections.

Our September book is *Stronger: Courage, Hope and Humor in My Life with John*

McCain by Cindy McCain. This memoir is a love letter to her late husband, their thirty-eight year marriage, and the trials and triumphs of a singular American life. The book also chronicles how John's humor and strength helped Cindy transform into the confident woman she has now become – one who believes in family, honor, and country – and is willing to stand up for all of them.

In October, we read the *Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate. This novel is based on letters written by former slaves; some are included in the book. The freed slaves published letters in newspapers, hoping to find family members who were sold to other owners. The book is the fictional story of one of these families.

The November selection is *Damien the Leper: A Life of Magnificent Courage, Devotion and Spirit* by John Farrow. This biography tells the extraordinary journey of Joseph De Veuster. He left his secure life in Belgium, thrust aside all thoughts of personal danger, and spent the rest of his days as Father Damien comforting the sick and the dying in a leper colony on Molokai, Hawaii. He was honored by a statue in the U.S. Capitol and was canonized in 2009.

We hope that you will consider joining our group this fall. Our next meeting is Thursday, September 15 at 3 pm in Trinity Hall. We welcome all readers. Please contact Katherine Trexler (katherine.m.trexler@gmail.com) with any questions. Happy Summer Reading!

Young In Spirit

Thank you to Tim and Kim Hoke for our



"Journey" thru Belgium and Amsterdam via their pictures and conversation at our May meeting. On Wednesday, June 15, we will meet at 11:30 am with a pizza lunch. Vicar Mac will be our speaker and he will talk about his faith journey. Please be thinking about ideas for our continued meetings.

Nurturing Committee

The Nurturing Committee has been active providing frozen meals to those who are not able to get out. THANK YOU to all who have prepared them! Also, the transportation committee has been active with helping transport people to medical appointments. THANK YOU to those drivers. If you are available to help with either, please contact Janet Seiz or Marcia Redman.

Summer Changes

♦ Sunday Morning Worship Time

On Sunday, June 12, we will return to one service at 10:00 am on Sunday mornings. We will meet in-person in the sanctuary for the 10 am service, as well as live-stream and record the service for later viewing on our Vimeo site. To access the live-stream, go to this link:

<https://vimeo.com/event/1478223> . To access any of our services which have been recorded, go to <https://vimeo.com/stpaulsdurham> - then choose the service date or event you wish to watch.

♦ *Sunday School will not meet this summer.* We will be back on Rally Day in September.

♦ *Thursday Bible Study* will take the summer off and return in September, continuing with Genesis, Chapter 9.