

Cross Connections



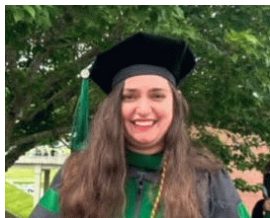
St. Paul's Lutheran Church

June 2024

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!



Barry Wilson graduated with a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the UNC Adams School of Dentistry. He and his new wife, Becky, will practice dentistry in Charlotte.



Hannah Marie Shoaf

Hannah received her Doctorate in Osteopathic Medicine from Lincoln Memorial University. She will begin her residency in Internal Medicine/Pediatrics at ECU Health in Greenville NC on July 1, 2024.



Tiffany Nicole Grovenstein graduated on Friday, May 3, 2024 from North Carolina State University with her Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Lifespan Development Psychology. She will continue to be on the faculty of Wake Technical Community College and will be teaching various Psychology courses.

- Dean and Marcia Redman announce their granddaughter, Lydia Redman is graduating from High School in HoChi Minh City, Vietnam.
- Susan and Jerry Esposito announce their grandson, Carter Brawley, son of John and Christina Brawley, is graduating in June and will be attending George Mason University in Virginia.

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...

I want to begin by thanking all the members that have answered the call to serve in the office. It has been great to have you in the building and the staff greatly appreciates your assistance. We are working on a list of things that can be accomplished while people are sitting at the front desk, so you won't be so bored. But know that your presence is really important and meaningful for us.

June means the start of summer and the schedule in the office will be a little flexible as staff takes vacation and Sunday School takes a break.

We plan to switch settings in July and August. We will be using Now the Feast and Celebration during that time. We will stay in setting one for June. We will continue with two services during the summer months at 8:30 am and 11:00 am.

We continue to livestream the 11 am service, but we need more people to learn how to run the equipment. With summer vacations, our committed technicians are stretched thin. If you'd like to help with this effort, reach out to me (Pastor Scott) or Tim Hoke.

I want to lift up George Seiz and the crew that works with him to maintain our property. I would list them here, but I don't want to miss anyone, so next time you see George, ask him to tell you who helps and then join them on Saturday work crews. George and the Saturday morning workers, plant, trim, weed, prune, and manage our plant life. George helped us realize that the large red oak near the Cornwallis Drive was dying and we were able to remove it before it fell on the sanctuary. More than that action, the group keeps bushes trimmed and generally keeps our exterior property looking exceptional. Thank you good and faithful servants.

Pastor Scott

Dear St. Paul's family,

We may have been rained out from worshipping in Duke Gardens as we always do for our last Sunday Evening Prayer service of the year, but we still had a spirit-filled gathering.

We blessed our graduates and wished them Godspeed, while also wrapping them in colorful quilts to remind them of God's everlasting embrace and our sheltering friendship.

We also thanked God for our brilliant field education student (and pastor-to-be) Max Miller, our student leader dream team, and our dedicated Duke Lutherans Committee...all of whom are servant-leaders

at heart. Of course, we also sang Holden Evening Prayer, prayed the Prayer of Good Courage, cried tears of sadness and joy, came to the Lord's Table of grace and peace, and praised God for blessing our beloved community throughout this year.

It was a very full night. And indeed it was very good.

As we now head into the summer, I am grateful as ever for the myriad ways you support our students. And thank you for making it possible for Lutheran Campus Ministry at Duke to shine the light of Christ in Durham and beyond. We are blessed to share in life together with you!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Amanda

Celebrating Our Duke Lutherans Graduates!



Anya Varanko

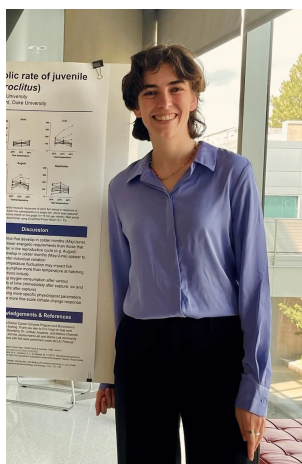
Congratulations to beloved Duke Lutherans **Anya Varanko**, now Dr. Varanko, who successfully defended her dissertation on May 7 in Biomedical Engineering, titled: **“Avidity as a Tool for Cancer Drug Delivery Systems.”** We are so proud of Anya and so thankful for all researchers and scientists who persevere in bringing health and healing to the world.



Christina Sigler

Senior **Christina Sigler** joined the Duke Lutherans her freshman year, but had to do so from the laptop of her dorm room because it was the fall of 2020. The faith, resilience, and courage she demonstrated then are even stronger now, and we have been blessed to know and love her. **Majoring in Economics (Finance) with a History minor**, Christina is moving to New York City where she will work as a Fixed Income Research analyst at Morgan Stanley.

On April 12, senior Catalina Lopez (who became an active member of the Duke Lutherans this year!) presented her thesis titled “Temporal Variation in the



Catalina Lopez

Standard Metabolic Rate of Juvenile Atlantic Killifish.” Graduating with a BS in Marine Science and Conservation and Biology, Catalina also received the **Maggie Schneider Award in Marine Biology**. This award is given each year by the Marine Lab faculty (where Catalina spent many hours!) to the biology major who demonstrates the love of learning and service in marine and conservation

biology. We are so proud of Catalina and her dedication to caring for the earth and all God’s creatures great and small!



Max Miller and Avery Johnson

Lutheran students aren’t in the majority of students at Duke Divinity School, so it made a great difference to **Max Miller** and **Avery Johnson** (center in photo) when they found one another to befriend and support as fellow candidates for

ordination in the ELCA. They have been buddies since the beginning (not to mention, head graduate student ushers for the Blue Devils!) and we’re so excited to see the good things God has in mind for them as pastors-to-be! Max will next complete his Lutheran year of study at **United Lutheran Seminary** and Avery will complete hers at **Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary**. A special thank you to Max as well for serving alongside Pastor Amanda as our dedicated field education student this year.

Congratulations to **Andrew Kelbley** (Juris



service, and thoughtful leadership in the Duke

Doctorate, Environmental Law) who received the **Duke Symphony Orchestra Conductor’s Award!** This award recognizes the graduating senior who has consistently displayed the highest level of musical excellence, exemplary



Symphony Orchestra. Andrew is moving to New York City where he will join a law firm to work on renewable energy projects. Andrew’s compassion, musical talents, and love for God’s earth have been gifts to our Duke Lutherans community!

Congratulations to all the Duke Lutheran Graduates of 2024!

Preschool Pitter Patter

by Amanda Stoen



Thank you all for your continued support and prayers for the preschool over these many years. I have been a part of this



preschool since its inception and am incredibly proud of the program that we have built over the past 15 years. I have loved coming to work every day and watching the

preschool children grow. I have had the privilege of working with so many amazing teachers throughout the years and I have learned so much from them.

I am so grateful for the opportunity I have had to work at St. Paul’s Preschool & PMO and to be a part of this church and preschool community. Working with the preschool children has changed my life for the better – they are incredibly capable children who amaze me each day with their curiosity and creativity. I will always keep my memories of them close to my heart and look back fondly upon the time we’ve shared together.

Please help me welcome Candace King as the new Director of the Preschool. Candace is a familiar face to the preschool and has served as Assistant Director since 2019. She began as a Preschool parent in 2016, and has supported the Preschool in various roles including assistant teacher and board member. Prior to

joining the St. Paul's Preschool & PMO family, Candace held positions as Communications Manager for Kidzu Children's Museum and Operations Director for the Children's Museum of Alamance County. She will continue to build upon her professional experience in team management, fiscal oversight and program leadership as she guides the preschool forward.

Thank you for your support, love and friendship. I will forever carry St. Paul's in my heart.

Warmly, Amanda Stoen

Youth Corner

The youth group is excited as all youth are in their final month of the 2023-2024 school year and that also means that confirmation for this school year is also over. Over this last year we talked about the different major events in the church calendar and had the chance to look at certain times of the year with a different mindset. Also, May brought those of us going to the Youth Gathering in less than two months to a countdown. By the time you get this Cross Connections, we will be less than 50 days from leaving Durham and heading to the Big Easy for a time of fun and fellowship with 14,000 youth and adult leaders.



As you walk through the atrium, take time to check out some of our personalized St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Durham, NC t-shirts that we will be wearing each day while in New Orleans. If you don't have the chance to stop and look at them in the atrium, you will get to see them all together during the July 7th, 11 am service that will also be livestreamed and on Facebook as our sending service before we leave.

With the amazing help of our St. Paul's family, we were able to raise all funds we needed including the last minute extra amount which we can't say "THANK YOU" enough for and to show off the gifts that you gave us, every day we will have updates about our time on the church Facebook account so if you don't follow St. Paul's Lutheran Church already, we highly recommend it as a way to see us in action.

Thank you again St. Paul's family for supporting our group and the amazing experience that we get to have, and not just in New Orleans, but throughout our time at St. Paul's. Be on the lookout over the next 50 days to see more updates about our nitty gritty preparation and all the ways we are looking forward to show New Orleans and all the other youth and adult leaders at the Gathering how blessed we are as part of the St. Paul's Lutheran Church Durham family.

St. Paul's Readers

by Katherine Trexler

St. Paul's Readers is on summer hiatus until September. This break most certainly does not mean that we are no longer reading, but rather using our long, slower summer days to savor our books even more. Recent books in my collection have moved me profoundly – prompted shifts in my thinking, made me less strident, taught me something new, or offered points of view that I had never considered. Fictional characters gave me insight into situations that I never encountered, enlightening me as to why people might make certain choices or take actions outside the norm.



St. Paul's Readers

The book club encourages each of you to pick out books now to read over the next few months. If you are interested in what we are reading this fall, here are our selections:

- ▶ September 19 – *The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey* by Candice Millard, 2005. (World History, Expeditions and Discoveries)
- ▶ October 17 – *Humankind: A Hopeful History* by Rutger Bregman, translated by Erica Moore and Elizabeth Manton, 2020. (Cultural Anthropology, Ancient Early Civilization History, Sociology of Social Theory)
- ▶ November 16 – *The Engineer's Wife* by Tracey Enerson Wood, 2020 (Historical Fiction)

We hope to complete our book list for 2025 by the end of October and welcome suggestions at any time. Please consider joining us for any or all our meetings. We always welcome new faces and suggestions.

Contact Katherine Trexler

(katherine.m.trexler@gmail.com) with any questions.

June marks the start of summer in the Northern Hemisphere and contains the summer solstice, the day with the most daylight hours:

◆ **Just one small thought in the morning can change your whole day.**

Dalai Lama

◆ **You've got to get up every morning with determination if you're going to go to bed with satisfaction.**

George Lorimir, American Journalist 1899-1936

From the Nurturing Committee Ministry

June Tips to care for Creation

This month we are reviewing a few local recycling directions.

- Put curbside recyclables in the bin LOOSE, not in plastic bags. The bag will jam the machine so they remove the bag and put it in the trash/landfill.
- You may put caps back on plastic containers. IT IS BEST TO CRUSH BOTTLES FIRST.

Recyclables include:

- plastic bottles and trays. Accepted #1, #2, #5 plastics
- paper, cards, cardboard (flattened)
- metal tin cans, aerosols, trays, kitchen foil (clean)
- glass bottles and jars

Not sure if an item goes in the bin? Google Durham Recycle Guidelines. The Waste Wizard will give more detailed information.



Growing thru Grief

We continue to offer grief support to those grieving the loss of a loved one. Here is our schedule for the month of June:

- ▶ June 4 – “Forgotten Memories – What Mourners Are Left Behind,” with Rabbi Greber
- ▶ June 11 – “Sharing Thoughts about Your Loved One,” with Cora Harrison
- ▶ June 18 – Part 1: “Making Friends with Grief,” with Margaret Albert
- ▶ June 25 – Part 2: “Using Humor to Adapt to Loss,” with Margaret Albert

We meet at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, 1200 W. Cornwallis, from 4 to 6 pm. All are welcome.



Do you have a Favorite Hymn?

Ted is inviting you to submit up to three hymn titles from any of these hymnals: ELW (Evangelical Lutheran Worship), LBW (Lutheran Book of Worship), WOV (With One Voice), ACS (All Creation Sings), and TFBF (This Far by Faith). You are welcome to drop a note in the offering to Ted, put in Ted Turner's mailbox, or email him at music@stpaulsdurham.org.



Our sympathy to the family and friends of Barbara Joanne Hadden, who died on May 13, 2024. Her funeral was held on Sunday, May 19, 2024 at 3:00 pm at St. Paul’s with a reception afterwards.

Memorials may be made to St. Paul’s Lutheran Church for the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund.

Our sympathy to the family of Bill Elkin’s brother, Rob, who died suddenly in Cincinnati. Please keep the Elkins family in your prayers.

Our sympathy to James Wagner and his family upon the death of his mother.

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 **June 15, 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. **In September**, we change our commitment to the fourth Saturday of each month, still at 11:30 am - 1:30 pm.



The Dropped Stitch Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on the fourth Friday of the month at 1:00 pm in the sofa area of the atrium. This group creates prayer shawls by knitting or crochet.



The Tongue and Thimble group creates small quilts which are distributed to nurseries at local hospitals for their critical patients. They meet downstairs in the Fiber Arts/Music room off of the Genesis Hall on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am-12:00 noon.

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



Keep it coming!
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.

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/10c0944a4a72fa5f8-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

Altar Flowers

If you would like to make a recognition through a request for Altar Flowers, please stop by the credenza under the TV monitor in the atrium. Sign up for the day(s) you would like to request, pick up an envelope and form in the lower box and turn in your request form(s) which should indicate your announcement for the bulletin, and payment (\$40) at least one week in advance. If you have any questions, speak with a staff person.



Thursday Morning Bible Study

The topic for Thursday's Bible Study is the Gospel according to Mark. The group will meet on the first Thursday in June and then will take a break for the summer. We will start back up the second week of September.



This summer we will stay with two worship services, at 8:30 and 11:00 am. During the month of June we will continue using Setting One of the ELW.

During July and August, we will be using the Now the Feast and Celebration Setting booklets. The 8:30 worship will be in-person only, the 11:00 service will be in-person, live-streamed, and recorded.



The Social Ministry Committee will meet on **Tuesday, June 11 at 7:00 pm** in Whitesell Hall. Our primary meeting focus will be on planning for Voter Registration and Education – all interested persons are welcome to attend. More information will be forthcoming.

DIAPERS!

We are in need of size 3, 4, and 5 diapers for the Afghan Refugee families supported by St. Paul's. If you can help, please place the diapers in the bin outside the sanctuary. Thank you for your generous support for these families!

