

ANNOUNCEMENTS *for the good of the church*

December 22nd & December 29th, 2024

Altar Flowers are Presented to the Glory of God

Alter Flowers are presented to the Glory of God on December 22nd.

Altar Flowers are presented to the Glory of God from Mary Sturgeon on December 29th.

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

St. Paul's Staff will be on vacation/out of the office from December 25th through January 1st.

We will return to our normal schedules on January 2nd.

12/22- Regular Service

12/24- 4:00pm, 7:00pm, and 10:00pm Christmas Eve Services

12/29- Service with Lorrel Strom-Jensen

01/05- Return to Regular Service

There will be no Children's Sunday School on December 22 and 29. We will resume on January 5.

Children's Sunday school is meeting each Sunday from 9:45 to 10:45 AM, downstairs in the Genesis room (near the downstairs kitchen). All children are welcome and encouraged to join us for a time of Bible stories, crafts, cooking, and fun! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Carole Ostrowski or Betty Hinshaw.

Adult Sunday School is on winter break after this Sunday December 22nd and we will be back on Sunday January 5th, 2025 where we will have a 7 week long session on Creation Care and God's written Word. We hope you can come join us during the Sunday School hour (9:45am to 10:30am) in Trinity Hall for these thought and action producing sessions. The remainder of the spring schedule to be coming out soon. If you have any questions or would like to lead one of social ministry based sessions this spring please reach out to Megan Cunningham at mcunni16@gmail.com.

Growing Through Grief - Tuesdays 4PM - 6PM

December 24 NO MEETING due to the Christmas Holiday

December 31 "Where Are You Today?" with Bill Dahl

Volunteer Needed for shift at Urban Ministries' Community Café. The shift is on Saturday December 28th from 11:30am -1:30 pm. Please visit the link below for more information and to sign up as a volunteer.

Thank you! https://bit.ly/UMD_Signup

Preschool registration opens for members of St. Paul's for the 2025/2026 school year on January 7th, 2025. Classes are offered for children 10-months-old to 4-years-old. Class offerings and registration information can be found at <https://stpaulspreschooldurham.weebly.com/enrollment.html>. Feel free to email Candace King at preschool@stpaulsdurham.org if you have any questions.

Join the Coffee Hour on Mondays on Zoom from 10-11.

Topic: Coffee Hour, Time: 10:00-11:00 am on Mondays

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/91351103753?pwd=WVVCRLgrSUhhLzJWN3pPYnlyL25LZz09>

Meeting ID: 913 5110 3753 – Password: 292680

Thursday Morning Bible Study

We are continuing in 1 Thessalonians. We meet Thursday mornings at 10:30 in the conference room and via Zoom. Notes and Zoom link are emailed early in the week. All are welcome to join!

Spring Adult Sunday School Leader Request:

I am starting to put together the spring semester adult Sunday school schedule and am in need of discussion leaders. We will be taking a look at the bible and our ELCA understanding within different aspects of social ministry. All sessions are from the ELCA so no preparation or creation will be needed, just a calling to lead the discussions. If you have a calling to lead a session or 2 please reach out directly to Megan Cunningham at mcunni16@gmail.com. The schedule is going to be released in the coming weeks so please be on the lookout.

Our Afghan family support team is so grateful for your generosity in providing diapers for the past several months. Our Afghan families need of **size 1 and 2 infant diapers** and wipes. In addition, if anyone can donate a **sewing machine**, that would be greatly appreciated. These mothers make all of their families clothes by hand, so a sewing machine will go a long way. We are looking for a few more women drivers to help with getting families to their medical appointments. The families we support live just a few blocks from St. Paul's. If you are interested in helping, please contact Sally Hart, sallyshart1@gmail.com (or by phone, see church directory).

St. Paul's Readers: We welcome all readers to join us at our next book club meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2024, at 3 pm. Vicar Ashley Bowman will lead our discussion of *Hidden Mercy: AIDS, Catholics, and the Untold Stories of Compassion in the Face of Fear* by Michael J. O'Loughlin, 2021. Description: The 1980s and 1990s, the height of the AIDS crisis in the United States, was decades ago now, and many of the stories from this time remain hidden. This is one journalist's--gay and Catholic himself--compelling picture of those quiet heroes who responded to human suffering when so much of society--and so much of the church--told them to look away. These pure acts of compassion and mercy offer us hope and inspiration as we continue to confront existential questions about what it means to be Americans, Christians, and human beings responding to those most in need. We are an informal group who loves to discuss books and their effect upon us. For questions, please contact Katherine Trexler (katherine.m.trexler@gmail.com).

The Working Adult Group will be teeing off in January by playing a round or 2 of miniature golf at ParTee Shack in Raleigh on Friday January 17th, 2025 at 7pm. If you would like to come please RSVP to Megan Cunningham at mcunni16@gmail.com by January 10th, 2025. Cost is \$16 per person for unlimited rounds. And of course all are welcome and encouraged. See you at the course.

Zebulon Highben Explains How He Composes Christmas Music

As Christmas approaches, Duke Chapel Music Director Zebulon Highben is one of the few people who will not only be singing and listening to favorite Christmas carols but also conducting and composing them. In addition to overseeing the Chapel's music program, Dr. Highben is an associate professor of the practice of church music at Duke Divinity School and editor of the Music from Duke Chapel series published by MorningStar Music. He has composed two original Christmas carols in the last three years and is currently working on another one. In the newest episode of the Chapel's Sounds of the Faith podcast, he describes his process for composing Christmas music.



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Durham, NC is seeking an experienced Ministry Assistant to coordinate the administrative functions of the pastor's office. The person in this role will work with church staff, leaders and members to achieve the church's mission objectives. The person will be extending the ministry of Grace Lutheran Church to our members and the surrounding community. In addition, this role will help coordinate and design church communications including social media, church website, newsletters and texts.

The successful candidate will be self-motivated with a professional demeanor and presence, positive attitude, strong work ethic, the ability to maintain a high level of confidentiality, and excellent communication and interpersonal skills. He/she must possess strong organizational skills, proficiency with Google Workspace, Microsoft Office Suite and desktop publishing. Web page skills and social media knowledge is a plus. This person must be able to multitask, be flexible and relate well to other church staff, congregants, and visitors. This is a part time hourly position of approximately 27 hours per week. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter outlining their interest in the position and the gifts and skills they possess along with a resume and salary requirements. No phone calls. Applications will be accepted by e-mail only and will be reviewed as received. Please send cover letter and resume to: hr@gracelutheranchurch.net.

Please consider contributing to our morning devotions. Send devotions to assistant@stpaulsdurham.org

Sign-up Genius Links

Please consider volunteering to assist in worship. Click the link to sign-up.

Sunday Worship: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-sunday1#/#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-sunday1#/)

Available Opportunities: lector, worship assistant, altar guild, communion assistant, and usher.

Dropped Stich:

Meetings on the last Friday of each month at 1 pm in the church atrium where the sofas reside.

Join a musical ensemble at St. Paul's!

Interested participating in worship or learn more about music? You should join a musical ensemble at St. Paul's! Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings, handbells from 6:30-7:15 and choir from 7:15-8:30. Ensembles normally perform at the 11:00 service but occasionally at the 8:30 service. Ability to read music not required. If interested, contact Ted Turner, director of music at music@stpaulsdurham.org

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

Donate boxes of dry pasta to the bin beneath the bulletin board in the Atrium. These boxes are given to hungry families at the Parktown area by the Food Hub. The Women's Connection Group is leading this initiative and it is accomplished through your generosity.

Parktown Food Hub is hiring!

The Parktown Food Hub's founder and director has decided it is time to say goodbye. The Board of Directors is looking to hire two passionate individuals, a Program Director and an Officer Manager, who want to continue the Hub's great work while bringing their own ideas, energy, knowledge, and skills. Both positions are part-time but salaried and do not include benefits. We hope to attract serious applicants who respect, value and understand the importance of this work. For more information, go to the following link:

<https://soduco.org/job-descriptions>

PRAYER REQUEST EDITS

To streamline the process and help reduce errors, please visit the following link to add/remove people on the prayer list. <https://forms.gle/28wAjDpzQhEufuXu8>

PRAYER LIST

Prayers of the Church (Members)

Greg Hudgins, Jan Franzen, Janet Ravert, Joyce Veazy, Phyllis and Larry Jenkins, Bob and Ellie DeVries, Mary Bader, John Friedrich, Pat Casper, Anna Snyder, Pat Cashwell, Susan Esposito, Rev. Wendy Waugh, and Charlie Bock.

Prayers of the Church (Friends)

The family of Pat Casper, whose aunt Ruth passed away last week; Kay Matthews and Robert Meissner (Tony Perotte's Mother and Uncle), Diane Johnson (Penni Perotte's friend), Tim and Sue Williams (Friends of the Foremans), Sara Russell (Sister of Anna Snyder), Sayge Lindsay (Grandson of Alta Lindsay), MJ Chevalier (Sister of Marcy Brown), Roketta Hudgins (Mother of Greg Hudgins), Gay Reed (Friend of Robin Winfree), Jacki Stevens and daughter (Friends of Joan Pepper), Armenia and Artsakh (Friends of Judy Schlegel), William and Barbara Wilson (Parents of Bill Wilson), Linda Leslie (Mother of Sean Slane), Paul DeVries (Brother of Bob DeVries), Gini Rinkus (Friend of the Dominicks), Paul (Son-in-Law of Jan Huntley), Richard Dominick (Brother of Ted Dominick), Burr Hasselbeck, Holly Cashwell (Pat Cashwell), Patrick Howell (Friend of Waughs), John and Connie Heinz, Gregory and Colleen Davidson, Jack Taylor (Cousin of Dean and Marcia Redman), Debra Jetton (Sister of Bill Wilson), Penny Wagner (Niece of Marcia Wilson), Cole Cashwell (Grandson of Pat Cashwell), Scott Duncan (Stepfather of Bill Elkin), Dave and Missy Pepper (Brother and Family of Joan Pepper), Chuck Johnson and Family (Husband and Family of Leslie Johnson), Vernice Knudsen (Mother of Ken Knudsen), Olga Niktin (By Patrick Chappel), Joan Mayfield (Aunt of Pat Casper), Wini Robison (Aunt of Megan Cunningham), Sarah Jolly (sister of Marlene Coulter), Jeff Redman (Son of Dean and Marcia Redman), Emily Baumann (niece of Dean and Marcia Redman), family and friends of Otti Freundt, Robin Brooks (Niece of Marlene Coulter), Pastor Fred and Gail Eichner (friends of the Foremans), and Cori Otto Lindsey (daughter-in-law of Alta Lindsey).