



The Monthly Epistle

of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Volume 71, Issue 1 • January 2025

Suggested News Year's Resolution

- Read through the Bible in 2025.
- Join a Sunday School class.
- Lock the church doors behind you.
- Introduce yourself to someone you don't know at church.
- Invite a friend or family member to church (at least one time every month).
- Join one of our choirs.
- Increase your tithe by 1%.
- Pick up that piece of litter in the church parking lot.
- Memorize a Bible verse every week (see each week's bulletin for a verse you can memorize with the whole church).
- Visit a homebound (or nursing home) member regularly.
- Join a Bible study.
- Use the prayer calendar in the Epistle to pray for members of St. Paul's.
- Send a birthday card to 10 people in the church you don't know (yet).
- Go fishin' with Harold Dean.
- Turn off the church lights as you leave.

See you in church!
Pastor Ryman

*We welcome Jeremy Harper
into membership at St. Paul's. Jeremy attended
St. Paul's as a child and has returned to our church family.*



2025 Yearbook

The **deadline for all information** for the **2025 yearbook** is **January 15, 2025**. This includes reports, lists of committee members, chairpersons, readers, acolytes, crucifers, etc. We will be publishing the yearbook on January 31, 2025. Information not turned in by the deadline, will not be in the yearbook.

Morning Prayer

Each weekday morning at 8:30, our secretary and pastors gather in the church office for morning prayer. Others also join us in praying the Daily Lectionary. This reading plan may be found on page 179 of the LBW. We are in Year One of the readings at present.

We read the lessons together, including a fourth reading from *For All the Saints*, a four-volume set of prayer books that some of us use at Vespers and Morning Prayer. We also discuss these readings, share what's happening at St. Paul's, then pray for each other and for our church.

We would welcome you any weekday morning from 8:30 to 9:00 in Pams' office. Join us for prayer; it is a rich time that you will enjoy. Our hope is that we quickly outgrow the confines of her office and move Morning Prayer to the chapel.

Winter Weather Policy

Monday through Friday, if schools are closed, activities at St. Paul's are cancelled. For Sundays, consult the church website, WBTV, WCCB, WCNC, or WSOC.

DID YOU KNOW?

HISTORY OF ST. PAUL'S 1830–1855

The History Committee of our church has taken on the task of providing a history lesson about St. Paul's Lutheran Church from its beginning in 1830. There will be an article in the monthly Epistle that may or may not interest you. Hopefully, you will learn more about the church and how organizations, finances, memorial gifts, etc. have changed over the years.

Our church was originally known as "Holshouser Church," so named because Mr. Andrew Holshouser gave five acres of land about one mile from our present site on which to build a church. The land was given with the understanding that any denomination be allowed to worship there.

The Lutherans, Reforms, and Presbyterians held services once a month with regular pastors, while the Methodists, and maybe Baptists, held services if a minister of their denomination was passing through or could be secured to hold a service. Our congregation, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, was organized on March 30th, 1830, by the Rev. John Lentz with seventeen members. Elders and deacons were elected and new officers elected only if an elected member resigned or died!

No history could be found for the years 1830-1835. In 1835, Rev. S. Rothrock. D.D., became pastor and served until 1843. It was during this time, in 1837, that our church was first mentioned in the minutes of the North Carolina Synod as a union church.

The next pastor was Rev. Benjamin Arey, who served from 1843–1845.

The next pastor was Rev. J. A. Linn, Sr. who served from 1845–1855. It was during this time that a gift of \$250 of Confederate money was given to be used altogether by the Lutherans for the rebuilding or repair of the church. Since there is no record of what the money was used for, it is possible that it went out of date before the congregation decided to use it.

Un—Decorating the Church for Advent

The Christmas tree and other decorations will be packed up and put away on **Saturday, January 11**, at 8am. Contact Bonnie Hinson if you would like to help— 704-279-3126 or lwaynehinson@yahoo.com

Friendship Club

The next meeting for the Friendship Club is January 16th, at 10:30am in the fellowship hall. We hope you will join us for fellowship and potluck lunch.

Sunday School Class #5

Class #5, which meets in the ladies parlor, is now accepting new members. The class has structured lessons based on both the Old and New Testaments. There is discussion and class participation.

Some people refer to our class as the people with “ambulatory problems” because it is easily accessible. Come up the ramp and through the front door of the church. Take a right when you get inside and turn left at the balcony stairs. Currently the class has just four members—Sybil Athey, Lousie Eller, Sarah Goodman, and Dottie Stancil. We have plenty of room for more. (Ambulatory problems are not a requirement.)

Invitation to Join Our Circle

The Kathy Ketchie Circle would like to extend an invitation to all women of the church to join our group. We meet in one of the meeting rooms at church on the second Sunday each month at 4pm. We would love to have you join us.

Kathy Ketchie Circle Members

Lutheran Men

The first 2025 meeting of St. Paul's Men will be on Monday, January 27th at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. The meeting will include a program by well-known cyclist and runner, David Freeze.

Rather than the always interesting programs about his cross-country bicycling trips, documented each year in the Salisbury Post, David will share about the serious farm accident he incurred in May of last year — one that threatened to end his bicycling and running careers.

We hope you'll join us as we kick off 2025 with this inspirational story of over coming adversity, and the need for being prepared for unexpected twists and turns that life brings us.



Thank You

Special thanks to those who cooked turkeys for the Community In Schools Christmas Dinner on December 12. Alice Davis, Helen Gordon, Terri Powlas, Susan Faggart, Donnie Austin, Alison Moore, and Lori Bernhardt helped me cook the 10 turkeys. I appreciate your help so much!

Susan Bernhardt

Thank you so much for another awesome Three Wide Christmas dinner and coat give-away. This was our largest in 7 years and it couldn't have been done without your help. We only had 4 turkeys left over so we took them to RHM and we were greeted by First Methodist as a 'Godsend'— they were on the verge of running out of food with still a long line to be served. So with you agreeing to cook turkeys again this year, you helped serve food insecure families from our school system *and* the homeless at RHM. Thank you. Have a Merry Christmas!

Love,
Donna and Steve Thomas

January Calendar of Events

Sundays

- Sunday School, 9:30am; Worship, 10:30am
- Men's Choir practices each week at 4pm
- Handbell practice each week at 5pm
- Vespers at the Parsonage—fellowship, 6pm; prayer, 6:30pm
- January 5 – Breakfast before Sunday School, 8:30am
- January 5 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- January 5 – Youth & Family Committee, 2pm
- January 5 – Lutheran Women's quarterly meeting, 5pm
- January 12 – Christian Education Committee, 1:30pm
- January 12 – Worship & Music Committee, 2:30pm
- January 12 – Kathy Ketchie circle, 4pm
- January 19 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm

Mondays

- Newsletter articles for February are **due before January 22**
- January 6 – Facility Accessibility Committee, 6:30pm
- January 13 – Hama Lingle & Grace Ridenhour Circles meet together for supper at Blue Bay, E. Innes St. at 6pm
- January 13 – Melissa Lura Circle, 6pm
- January 13 – Finance Committee meeting, 6:30pm
- January 20 – Council meeting, 6:30pm
- January 27 – Lutheran Men's meeting, 6:30pm

Tuesdays

- Bible Study classes, at 10am and 6pm
- Girl Scouts meet each week at 6:30pm
- January 14 – Bonnie Bost Circle, 7pm
- January 21 – Staff meeting, 5pm

Wednesdays

- Classical Conversations group, 8:30-3:30
- Adult Choir practice each Wednesday at 6:30pm
- Youth Confirmation Class, conference room each week, 7pm
- January 1 – Church office is closed; no choir practice, no confirmation class
- January 1 – Ellen Bumgarner Circle, 10am
- January 15 – **Deadline for 2025 Yearbook information**

Thursdays

- January 16 – Friendship Club, 10:30am

Saturdays

- January 11 – Christmas decorations will be removed, 8am
- January 25 – Girl Scouts cookie pick-up, fellowship hall, 3pm

Lutheran Women's Meetings in January

Bonnie Bost – January 14 , 7pm

Ellen Bumgarner – January 1, 10:30am

Kathy Ketchie – January 12, 4pm

Hama Lingle and Grace Ridenhour – January 13, 6pm

Melissa Lura – January 13, 6pm

Outreach—Beach/SOS Night

The Outreach Committee is planning a Beach/SOS night on February 15th. In order to get everyone's feet moving, Sandy and Tim Canup will offer Shag lessons before the event. We are planning to have lessons Thursday, February 6th, and 13th. The committee is still in the planning stage for this night...more information to come!

BLOOD DRIVES IN 2025

During 2025, our church will be working with the Red Cross for our blood drives. The four drives will be held the same months as in the past, except they **will be on the 3rd Monday** of the month instead of the 2nd Monday due to scheduling conflicts. The dates for 2025 will be Monday, February 17th, Monday, May 19th, Monday, August 18th, and Monday, November 17th. The time is the same—from 1:30pm – 6:00pm for each drive.

A main difference for donors is that each person who would like to donate must schedule an appointment themselves at RedCrossBlood.org since I do not have enough information to schedule an appointment for you. I hope that our church has enough donors to make our donation site worthwhile. I also hope that Red Cross can solve several of the issues that were encountered with One Blood as a collection agency.

It is estimated that 67% of the American population can donate blood, yet only 4% actually become donors. More information will be shared with donors who have previously given at our church. If you have not been a donor, please consider giving the “gift of life” to someone who needs a transfusion. For more information, please contact Alice Davis, 704-855-4930, or at pherford1@yahoo.com.



Memorial Gifts for January

A gift was received in memory of **Jim Young, Sr.**, for the Capital Building Fund from Sue Young, Shane Young, Jim Young, Jr., and families

Gifts were received in memory of **Herman Ritchie** for the General Fund from Kara and Jason Burnett
Gary Gaskey
Rachel Stone & family

Honor Gifts

A gift was received in honor of **Cleo Maeve Anzur's** baptism for the Carillon Fund from
Tim and Karen Deal

A gift was received in honor of **Susan and Mark Ryman** for the Capital Building Fund from
Jeanne and Tony Shaver

A gift was received in honor of **Brian, Lisa, Talia, and Josh Lord** for the Capital Building Fund from
Jeanne and Tony Shaver

A gift was received in honor of **Susan and Pastor Mark Ryman** for the Capital Building Fund from
Helen Gordon

A gift was received in honor of **Pastor Brian, Lisa, Talia, and Joshua Lord**, for the Capital Building Fund from
Helen Gordon

A gift was received in honor of **Susan and Pastor Mark Ryman** for the Capital Building Fund from
Alice Davis

A gift was received in honor of **Pastor Brian, Lisa, Talia, and Joshua Lord**, for the Capital Building Fund from
Alice Davis

A gift was received in honor of the **Property Brothers** for the Capital Building Fund from
Helen Gordon

A gift was received in honor of **Alice Davis** for the Capital Building Fund from
Helen Gordon

A gift was received in honor of **Pamela Cottingham** for the Capital Building Fund from
Helen Gordon

A gift was received in honor of **Helen Gordon** for the Capital Building Fund from
Alice Davis

A gift was received in honor of **Melissa Bernhardt** for the General Fund from
Lori and Perry Bernhardt

A gift was received in honor of **Lee, Jennifer, Cooper, and Caroline Aldridge** for the General Fund from
Lori and Perry Bernhardt

Missions

Thank you for your gift of \$15,687.90 to the ministry of Samaritan's Purse (specified for western NC relief.) As we celebrate Christ's birth, home looks very different this year for survivors of hurricane Helene and Milton. Samaritan's Purse continues to come alongside these families to bring relief and offer the eternal hope of the Gospel. Your gifts are a crucial part of our ministry. Thank you for your partnership. God bless you, and Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,
Franklin Graham
President

Thank you for your gift of \$227.21, and your continued support of Samaritan's Purse. This Christmas, as we celebrate the wonder of the god of the universe coming to earth as a baby, we remember the angel Gabriel's words to Mary, "For with God nothing will be impossible."

Sincerely,
Franklin Graham
President

Thank you for the doantion of \$273.04 for the pantry. Your contribution has made such a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Linda Austin, Director
Organ Lutheran Church
Pantry/Outreach Program

We have received your \$273.40 contribution to focus on the Family, and we want you to know how much we appreciate your support for our outreach to families. May God's richest blessings be yours in the days to come.

Sincerely,
Jim Daly, President

Missions

Through your generosity (your gift of \$273.04) you are helping to prepare the way for the Lord in places where his presence has been forgotten or never known. You are raising valleys and leveling rugged paths so that the hope and glory of God can reach spiritual orphans. May you be richly blessed as you continue to make a way for his glory to be revealed.

Sincerely Yours,
Pr. David Breidenbach
SON Executive Director

On behalf of the staff and Board of Sola Publishing, thank you for your gift of \$390.03. We are deeply thankful for your gracious gift.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Steven King
Managing Editor



Offering for November 2024

General Fund income for the month: \$30,269

November General Fund report will be in the January Epistle. Online Giving is accessible at StPaulsLutheran.Church/give. Scanning this QR code will take you directly to the giving page. There is a minimal fee for each transaction.





St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

A family of faith sharing the gospel and love of Christ

Phone: 704-633-0922

Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Facebook: www.facebook.com/StPaulsLCMC

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12 Noon

CHURCH STAFF

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St. Paul's newsletter, the "Monthly Epistle," is intended to keep everyone informed about happenings within the congregation that effect and contribute to our ministry together. In order to maximize reach and minimize cost, the preferred methods of distribution are by email, and posting on our St. Paul's website (www.StPaulsLutheran.Church). All members are encouraged to use the newsletter as a resource to help you consider how God is calling you to be involved in the life of his church. If you are unable to access the newsletter online, or would just like to have a printed copy to refer to, the most cost-effective way to receive it is to pick up a copy from the narthex or church office. We mail copies to those members whom we know don't have online access, are shut-in, or live out of town. If you want to be added to our mailing or email list, please contact the church office.