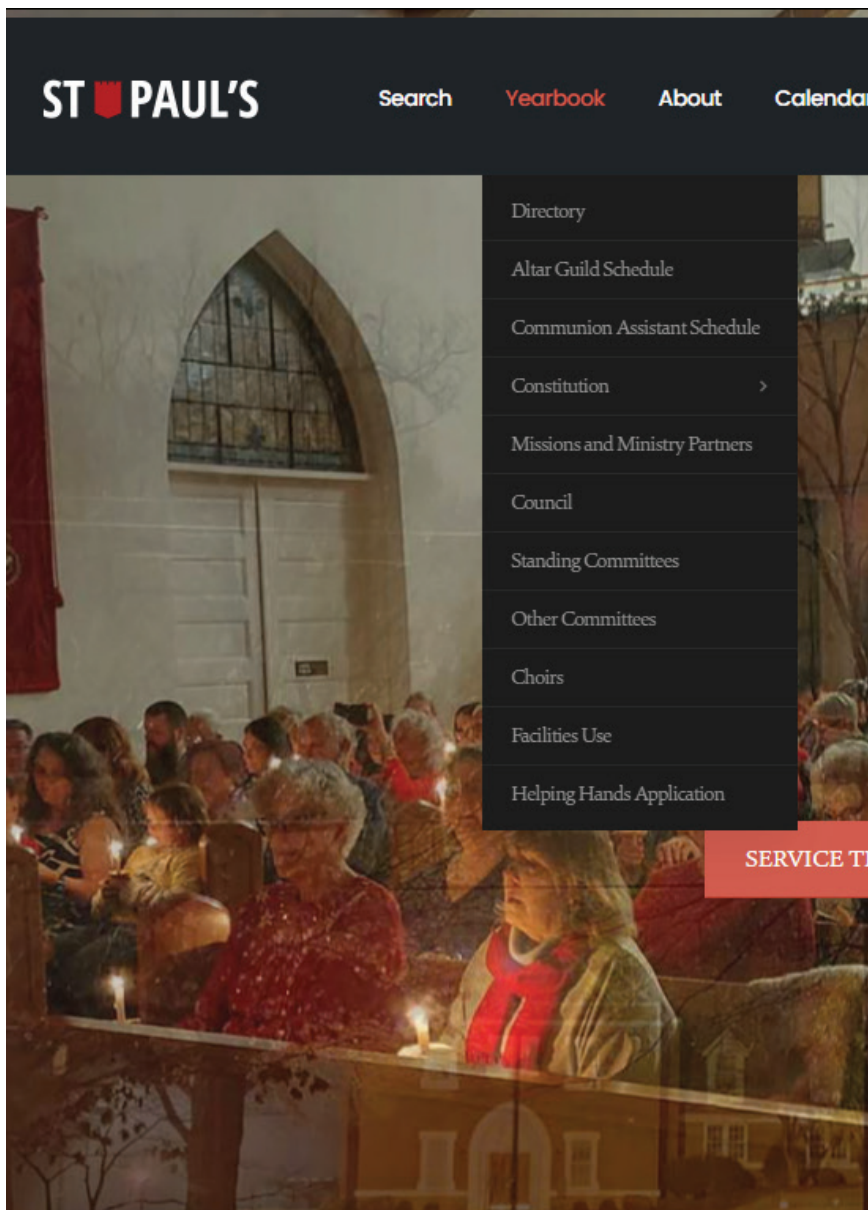




The Monthly Epistle

of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Volume 70, Issue 2 • February 2024



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2024 Yearbook

We are awaiting some reports to place in the Yearbook so that we may print it for you. Meanwhile, many of the documents in the Yearbook, including the directory, are on the church website. Any pages, like the directory, that include contact information have been password protected.

If you would like access, you will need to call the church office for the password. We do not send the password by email as it is too easily forwarded to others. We desire that this access is only available to church members. Please do not give the password to non-members. This respects the privacy of our membership.

Most of the the Yearbook documents are accessible by computer, tablet, and phone. I think, based on folks' preliminary responses, that you will be pleased with the Yearbook online.

I apologize to you all for my failure to produce a 2023 Yearbook. This was not Pam's fault; it was wholly mine. I wanted to make it easier for her to create future yearbooks, and started working on it. But things got in the way and I did not finish it.

Other than some reports we are still awaiting, it is ready to print as I type this. In the meantime, check out the Yearbook online (it's mostly there). It is accessible by clicking Yearbook in the navigational area at the top of any page of our website. See the first page on this Epistle for an example. Just hover over "Yearbook" and the various documents will drop down.

See you in church!
Pr. Ryman

Open House at Organ Lutheran Church Community Food and Clothing Shelter

You are invited to an open house (drop-in) at **Organ Lutheran Church on February 4th, 3pm–5pm**, to tour the Outreach Ministry's Food and Clothing Shelter and CATS—Christmas/Christian Angel Toy Store. After the tour, stop by the fellowship hall for refreshments, where volunteers will be available to answer your questions. Come see how we can serve our Lord by working together to help those in need in our community.

Shelter Donations

Many needy people in East Rowan have a difficult time getting down to Rowan Helping Ministries, so Organ Lutheran is now meeting the needs of more than 100 families. St. Paul's will help them meet the needs of even more of our neighbors.

If you wish to donate to the shelter, you may bring non-perishable food items to the church and place them in the same plastic receptacles we have been using. Our property brothers will make sure it gets over to Organ Lutheran Church where they are meeting the needs of folks who live on this side of the county.

If you have clothing to donate, **please do not bring it to St. Paul's**, but carry it straight to the shelter at Organ. It would be wise to call ahead to let them know you will be coming over. The church office number is 704-279-3096.

Friendship Club

The Friendship Club will meet on Thursday, February 15th, at 10:30am in the fellowship hall. David Freeze will give a presentation on his latest bicycle tour. A covered dish meal will be served after the program. Everyone is welcome to join us for fellowship and good food. Hope to see you in February.

Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, and Lenten Services

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake and Sausage dinner will be February 13th, at 6:00pm. Come to the fellowship hall for good food and some fun fellowship.

Ash Wednesday service will be February 14th, at 7:00pm in the sanctuary. There will be no meal that Wednesday, as it is a traditional day of fasting.

Lenten Suppers are on Wednesdays beginning February 21st and go through March 27th. The suppers are at 6:00pm in the fellowship hall. Lenten services are at 7:00pm in the sanctuary and will last about 30 minutes. Maundy Thursday service is at 7:00pm, March 28th. Good Friday service is the next day at 7:00pm, with no meals on Thursday or Friday—services only.

Historically and traditionally Ash Wednesday and Good Friday have been days of fasting for all Christians. Because of the latter, many have practiced fasting on each Friday in Lent.

Outreach Committee Valentine's Dinner

It's time to put your "Name That Tune" talent to work. The Outreach Committee will sponsor a Valentine Dinner and game night on **Saturday, February 17th at 6:00**. Debbie Suggs will cater a meal of country style steak, grilled chicken, creamed potatoes, green beans, creamed corn, and her special tossed salad, rolls, and dessert. The committee will supply tea. Tickets may be purchased after church in the Ladies Parlor on January 28th, February 4th, and February 11th. **Tickets** are \$12.00 for adults, \$6.00 for ages 4–12, and free for those 3 years and younger. See "What's Love Got to Do With It" on February 17th, at 6:00!

The Spiritual Realms Bible Study

“We believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.” (Nicene Creed)

A new Bible study begins on Tuesdays at 10am and 6pm, February 20th, through mid-April. “The Spiritual Realms” is a nine-session series on Heaven and Hell and places beyond this world. The study looks at the many “place names” that are found throughout Scripture that are spiritual realms of existence underlying the universe God created. This study explores realities of existence beyond what we know and experience everyday.

If you plan to be a part of this study, the workbook costs \$15. Please call the church office so we can order one for you.

Session 1 – Seen and Unseen: What God has Revealed in Christ

Session 2 – Heaven: God’s Throne Room Above

Session 3 – Earth: The Occupied Territory of the Devil

Session 4 – Sheol (Hades): The Place of the Dead

Session 5 – Paradise: Resting in Peace with Christ

Session 6 – Tartarus: The Gloomy Dungeon Prison

Session 7 – Gehenna: The Hell of Fire

Session 8 – New Jerusalem: God’s Dwelling With Us

Session 9 – Off-Center: Purgatory, Limbo, and Popular Culture

**An intelligent mind
acquires knowledge,
and the ear of the wise
seeks knowledge.**

Proverbs 18:15

Blood Drive

The first blood drive of 2024 at St. Paul's will be on Monday, February 12, from 1:30–6pm. If you would like to make an appointment, contact Alice Davis at pherford1@yahoo.com or call her at 704-855-4930.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Monday, February 12th 1:30–6:00pm

All donors receive*:

- **\$20 eGift Card**
- **OneBlood Long Sleeved Tshirt**
- **Wellness Checkup:
blood pressure, pulse,
temperature, iron count,
and cholesterol screening**

Appointments are encouraged.

Visit **oneblood.org/donate-now**
and user sponsor code **55685**.

ID Required

*One offer per donor. No cash value. Not transferable. Gifts may vary.

Congratulations to Garrett and Lisa Powlas on the birth of a son, Theodore Ronin Powlas. Theodore was born November 12, 2023.

Congratulations to Rachel and Jon Cannon on the birth of a son, Caleb Jace Cannon, who was born January 1, 2024.

To Honor

A gift was received in honor of Caleb Jace Cannon for the Carillon Fund from Karen and Tim Deal.

Memorial Gifts

A gift was received in memory of Judy Bernhardt for the Capital Building Fund from Susan and Mark Ryman.

A gift was received in memory of Lola Floss for the Capital Building Fund from Susan and Mark Ryman.

A gift was received in memory of Chuck Hess for the Capital Building Fund from Susan and Mark Ryman.

A gift was received in memory of Carrie Reavis for the Capital Building Fund from Susan and Mark Ryman.

A gift was received in memory of Jerry Alligood for the Capital Building Fund from Bonnie and Wayne Hinson.

A gift was received in memory of Jerry Alligood for the Carillon Fund from Karen and Tim Deal.

*We extend our prayers, love, and sympathy to
Travis Alligood and family on the death of Travis' father,
Jerry Alligood, who died January 16, 2024.*



*We extend our love and sympathy to the family of Jeff Powlas,
who passed away Tuesday, January 23, 2024.
Please keep Mita, and all the Powlas family in your prayers.*



*We extend our prayers, love, and sympathy to Randall Faggart and
family on the death of Randall's mother, Carolyn Faggart. Mrs.
Faggart passed away on Friday, January 26, 2024.*

**For if we live, we live to the Lord,
and if we die, we die to the Lord.
So then, whether we live
or whether we die, we are the Lord's.**

Romans 14:8

February Calendar of Events

Sundays

- Sunday School, each week at 9:30am
- Worship Service, each week at 10:30am
- Men's Choir practice, each week at 4pm
- Hand Bell practice, each week at 5pm
- Vespers at the Parsonage—fellowship at 6pm; prayer at 6:30pm
- February 4 – Breakfast before Sunday School, 8:30am
- February 4 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- February 11 – Worship & Music Committee, conf. room, 2pm
- February 11 – Christian Education Committee, 2pm
- February 11 – Kathy Ketchie Circle, 4pm

Mondays

- Faith Academy after-school program, 1–3pm
(no program on February 19)
- February 5 – Hama Lingle Circle, 7pm
- February 12 – Blood Drive, 1:30 - 6pm
- February 12 – Melissa Lura Circle, 6pm
- February 19 – Council meeting, 6:30pm
- February 19 – March newsletter articles due this week
- February 26 – Lutheran Men's meeting, 6:30pm

Tuesdays

- Bible Study classes, at 10am and 6pm, on the 20th and 27th;
no classes on the 6th or 13th
- Girl Scouts meet each week at 6:45pm
- February 6 – Extension Club, 1pm
- February 6 – Grace Ridenhour Circle, 6:30pm
- February 13 – Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, 6pm
- February 13 – Bonnie Bost Circle, 7pm
- February 20 – Staff meeting, 5pm

Wednesdays

- Homeschool group meets Wednesdays, 8:30–3:30
- Adult Choir practice, each week, 6:30pm; 7:30 during Lent
- No Confirmation class during Lent; restarts April 3rd
- February 7 – Ellen Bumgarner Circle, 10am
- February 14 – Ash Wednesday service, 7pm
- February 21 – Lenten meal, fellowship hall, 6pm
- February 21 – Lenten service, sanctuary, 7pm
- February 28 – Lenten meal, fellowship hall, 6pm
- February 28 – Lenten service, sanctuary, 7pm

Thursdays

- February 1 – Alligood visitation/funeral, 1pm (First Baptist)
- February 15 – Friendship Club, 10:30am
(Note the change of day; meetings will now be the third *Thursday* of each month.)

Saturdays

- February 17 – Valentine's dinner, 6pm
-

Lutheran Women Circle Meetings

Bonnie Bost–Tues., February 13, 7pm (Teresa Linker)
Ellen Bumgarner–Wed., February 7, 10am (Sarah Goodman)
Kathy Ketchie–Sun., February 11, 4pm (Ashley Lombard)
Hama Lingle–Mon., February 5, 7pm (Susan Bernhardt)
Melissa Lura–Mon., February 12, 6pm
Grace Ridenhour–Mon., February 6, 6:30pm (Jeanne Shaver)

Missions

Thank you for your gift of \$261.07 to the ministry of Samaritan's Purse. You are helping us tell the hurting in numerous locations around our nation and world, "Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you." (Isaiah 60:1)

Thank and God bless you,
Franklin Graham, President

On behalf of the staff and board of Sola Publishing, thank you for your gifts of \$128.55 and \$94.27. You have blessed our hearts with your support of our ministry to provide solid, biblical resources for use in preaching and teaching God's Word. Because of your gifts, we are able to keep the cost of our materials low for those churches struggling to keep their ministries viable.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Steve King, Managing Editor

Thank you for the clothing donations that several of your members have provided for the less fortunate in our community. Thank you for the generous monetary contributions and canned foods that you have provided. We are so glad that you have joined us in our efforts to feed and clothe the needy in our community, and to make the children's Christmas a little brighter!

May God bless you for your generosity and kindness.

Linda Austin
Director, Food and Clothing Pantry

We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you. We are truly blessed by your continued support each month to Naomi's Heart Mission. In giving, you help in our ministry in reaching many children and families to know Jesus.

Thank you for having the heart and compassion to walk beside us as we serve a great and mighty God.

Kristie Ward, Founder
Naomi's Heart Mission

Thank You

Thank you for supporting Meals on Wheels Rowan in 2023. Your donation provides traditional home-delivered meals, medically tailored meals, and groceries for homebound seniors in Rowan County.

We are grateful for our donors who are willing to invest in the health of Rowan County seniors by supporting Meals on Wheels Rowan. Your generous contribution makes a difference in the lives of seniors and makes our work possible.

Sincerely,
Alexandra Fisher
Development / Marketing Director

Members and Board Members of South Salisbury Fire Department, Inc. would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$500 on November 27, 2023. Your financial gift will go towards equipment and medical supplies to serve those in our community. Again, thank you for your financial support of the services we provide. You make a difference!

With sincere gratitude,
Michelle Orbison
Treasurer

**Let all that you do
be done in love.**

1 Corinthians 16:14

Fire on the Mountain

Find the 24 **bold** words from Exodus 24:15–18.

S W X U D E V O U R I N G I M
U I E C N A R A E P P A L V C
S I D E R E T N E U R U O U A
F N Q F L C X S E Y D R R B L
T L B V W Z X M E U T M Y I L
O E N L M S G C O V E R E D E
P A O I S E K L Y U E D O T D
V R D N Y S C M F L N N L F Y
D S D R A O R T P I Y T T L U
T I S M D M C U N S R D A H A
A Y O N N I O D T U Z E N I M
D A Y S R A B H K H O D N S N
T L E W D N G Q I W G M A R V
Y L T K B I D C J B L I P O M
I E O L N S Z D L C E G S L A

Then **Moses** went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the **mountain**. And the **glory** of the **LORD dwelt** on **Mount Sinai**, and the cloud covered it **six days**. Now, the **seventh** day he **called** to Moses out of the **midst** of the cloud. And the **appearance** of the glory of the LORD in the **sight** of the children of **Israel** was like a **devouring fire** on the **top** of the mountain. And Moses **entered** into the midst of the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain **forty days** and forty **nights**.

Unscamble the verse:

Dan oesms twore onw lal hte rowds fo het rold.

Helping Hands

Helping Hands is a ministry of St. Paul's that operates with discretion and privacy. It exists to help our church members when unexpected financial needs arise. The committee also considers needs of non-members who have been referred to the committee by a member of St. Paul's.

Anyone who finds themselves in need should not contact the pastor. He does not make these decisions. All decisions are made by the committee.

The church secretary keeps application forms in the office. Come by to fill out your application and it will be forwarded to the committee for consideration.

The Helping Hands Committee is anonymous but you should know that they act on applications quickly, usually in just a few days. That said, sometimes it can take a week or more for everyone's schedules to allow a meeting.

Our annual Cruise'nBarbecue is the major funding for Helping Hands. However, many members also make special offerings for this ministry throughout the year. If you would like to contribute, make sure your check memo line or the blue offering envelope notes: "Helping Hands."

Cruise 'n Barbecue – April 27th

Planning for St. Paul's Cruise'n Barbecue, one of our congregation's signature events, will begin soon. This is one of the days and one of the ways we show the love of God to a great many people. Volunteer sign-up sheets will give everyone an opportunity to indicate how you can help. Thank you in advance for helping to make this special day possible.

Offering for December 2023

General Fund Offering for the month: \$39,802 • Year-to-Date as of December 31: \$527,815

January General Fund report will be in the March 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 Congregation Council

Serving through 2024:

Jason Bernhardt bernhardt98@yahoo.com
Perry Bernhardt perryhbernhardt@gmail.com
Paul Canup paulscanup@yahoo.com
Louise Eller leller6@gmail.com
Brent Monroe bmonroe2009@live.com
Greg Wilhelm wilhelmgrego2@gmail.com

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Amy Hoffner amy.hoffner13@gmail.com

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Tim Canup tcanup@carolina.rr.com
Lisa Monroe lmonroe2013@live.com

Officers:

President: Perry Bernhardt
Vice-President: Dana Bost
Secretary: Gina Barringer



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

OUR MISSION

A family of faith sharing the gospel and love of Christ

Phone: 704-633-0922

Email: secretary@stpaulslutheran.church

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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pastor@stpaulslutheran.church

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Alison Moore, Girl Scout Coordinator, 704-467-9191

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.