



The Epistle

**of St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Volume 71, Issue 2 • February 2025**

**Articles
The Latest News and Events
Crossword and Word Search Puzzles**



Young Adult Ministry Is Beginning

2025 promises to be another exciting year at St. Paul's Lutheran Church! Lisa, the kids, and I have made many new friends here and have been so pleased to participate in the church outreach programs.

This year, I aim to initiate a young adult ministry at St. Paul's, engaging our college-age and college-bound members. We held our inaugural meeting in January and intend to meet regularly in the coming months. Our objective for this year is to establish our mission as young Christians within and beyond the community and grow in Christian fellowship here at St. Paul's.

As our young adults prepare for that next step in life, many new ideas and life lessons will be encountered on this journey. My hope and prayer for our youth is that they face all things and their vocational endeavors with this verse always on their minds: "Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12).

We will pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us as we develop over the year and, with God's help, lead us further in the coming years.

If you are a young adult in or around college age and would like to meet with us, please reach out to Pastor Brian via email at wingman@stpaulslutheran.church or by phone at 206-832-6509.

Brian Lord
Associate Pastor



New Member's Class

We appreciate all of our visitors, especially those who keep on coming. It's time to become a member.

A new members class will be taught by Pastor Ryman in the chapel for three consecutive Sundays. Please call the church office to let us know you will be in attendance so that the correct number of handouts will be available.

Noon–12:45 pm
February 9th, 16th, and 23rd

2025 Cruise'n Barbecue Planning

Volunteer signups for St. Paul's Cruise 'n Barbecue have begun and will continue on Sunday, February 2nd and 9th. Your willingness to help is what makes this one of the areas most popular events. Thank you in advance for making April 26th a wonderful opportunity to show God's love!

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.

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. Sunday School starts at 9:30am.

Inclement Weather

Monday through Friday, if Rowan-Salisbury schools are closed, activities at St. Paul's are canceled. For Sundays, consult the church website, Facebook, WBTV, WCCB, WCNC, or WSOC. We will usually send an email as well.

Beach/SOS Night

In preparation for our Beach/SOS dinner on Saturday, February 15th, at 5:00, Gina Barringer is going to make a slide show with the high school photos you have given to her. After the meal we will have a guessing game with the photos. More information on the meal will be announced at church.

Also, Sandy and Tim Canup are offering Shag lessons on Thursday, February 6th and 13th, at 6pm. Come on out for some fun and fellowship, and get a few steps in.

Morning Prayer

Each weekday morning at 8:30, our secretary and pastors gather in the chapel 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 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 the chapel. Join us for prayer; it is a rich time that you will enjoy.

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.

Tuesday Bible Studies

Our Tuesday Bible studies (10am and 6pm) are taken from a daily devotions schedule that prepares us for the upcoming Sunday worship service, using Scripture paired with selections from the Lutheran Confessions. It's easy to join in at any time.

Are We Going to Church?

A boy asked his father a question early one Sunday morning as the man was flipping some pancakes on the stove. “Dad, have you decided if we’re going to church today?”

His father smiled and said, “Sit down, son, and eat your pancakes. And don’t forget to drink your orange juice.”



After breakfast, as the boy was getting up, he asked again, “Dad, have you decided if we’re going to church today?”

The man took a last sip from his cup of coffee and sat the cup on the kitchen counter. He said, “Go on now and get your teeth brushed. And while you’re in the bathroom, wash your face, and comb your hair.”

Minutes later, the boy emerged from the bathroom and asked his father yet again, “Dad, have you decided if we’re going to church today?”

He smiled at the lad again and replied, “Go get dressed. Your mother laid out some nice clothes for you to wear. Make sure you wear a good pair of shoes. Then head back into the bathroom and comb your hair again. We both know you’re going to mess it up when you pull on your sweater.”

A bit later the boy walked into the living room where his mother and father were waiting at the door with their coats on and smiles on their faces as they watched their son approach. He asked again, “Dad, have you decided if we’re going to church today?”

“Tuck your shirt in, son,” was all the man patiently said.

“Okay, okay,” said the boy with urgency, “But have you decided if we’re going to church today?”

“Son, I decided that years before you were born. Now come on, we’re going to be late for Sunday School.”

February 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
- February 2 – Breakfast before Sunday School, 8:30am
- February 2 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- February 2 – Youth & Family Committee, 2pm
- February 2 – No Vespers this Sunday
- February 9 – Scott Licht with Lutherans for Life guest preacher
- February 9 – Membership class, Noon
- February 9 – Christian Education Committee, 2pm
- February 9 – Worship & Music Committee, 2:30pm
- February 9 – Kathy Ketchie circle, 4pm
- February 16 – Membership class, Noon
- February 16 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- February 23 – Membership class, Noon

Mondays

- Newsletter articles for February are due before February 19
- February 3 – Facility Accessibility Committee, 6:30pm
- February 3 – Hama Lingle Circle, 7pm
- February 10 – Melissa Lura Circle, 6pm
- February 10 – Finance Committee meeting, 6:30pm
- February 10 – Cruise'n BBQ Steering Committee, 7pm
- February 17 – Red Cross Blood Drive, 1:30–6pm
- February 17 – Council meeting, 6:30pm
- February 24 – Lutheran Men's meeting, 6:30pm

Tuesdays

- Bible Study classes, at 10am and 6pm
- Girl Scouts meet each week at 6:30pm
- February 4 – Grace Ridenhour Circle, 6:30pm
- February 11 – Bonnie Bost Circle, 7pm
- February 18 – Staff meeting, 5pm

Wednesdays

- Classical Conversations group each week, 8:30-3:30
- Adult Choir practice each Wednesday at 6:30pm
- Youth Confirmation Class, conference room each week, 7pm
- February 5 – Ellen Bumgarner Circle, 10am

Thursdays

- February 6 and 13 – Shag lessons in the fellowship hall, 6pm
- February 20 – Friendship Club, 10:30am

Fridays

- February 21 – Family Game Night, fellowship hall—join us for pizza, snacks, and Mario Kart Competition, 6:30pm

Saturdays

- February 8 – Youth snow-tubing trip, more info to come
- February 15 – SOS/Beach Night with Supper

Lutheran Women's Meetings in January

Bonnie Bost – February 11, 7pm

Ellen Bumgarner – February 5, 10:30am

Kathy Ketchie – February 9, 4pm

Hama Lingle – February 3, 7pm

Melissa Lura – February 10, 6pm

Grace Ridenhour – February 4, 6:30pm

Battered Women's Shelter Collection

During the month of February the Lutheran Women will collect items for the Battered Women's Shelter. There will be bins in the narthex and the hallway outside the conference room. A full list of items needed will be on the bins, as well as in the ladies yearbooks. (ex: diapers, cleaning supplies, twin sheets, paper towels, Walmart and Dollar General gift cards).

Thank You

Thank you to everyone for their thoughts, prayers, cards and hugs during my December surgery and continued recovery. A special thanks to Pastor Mark and Pastor Brian for their visits with me at the VA Hospital. The love and continued support of our church family means so much to Bonnie and me. Hope to see you in church soon.”

Wayne Hinson

Thank you for the calls, visits, thoughts, and prayers. The members of our church and especially the Lutheran Women have been so kind.

Linda Hess



Red Cross Blood Drive—February 17

St. Paul's Lutheran Church will be hosting its first blood drive for 2025 on Monday, February 17, from 1:30pm – 6:00pm, in the Fellowship Hall. The church will be using the Red Cross instead of One Blood because of issues over the past two years. Donating blood costs nothing except about an hour of your time and is a “gift” that can never be repaid.

Hopefully, members of our church will support the Red Cross for the February blood drive. You can schedule an appointment by going to RedCrossBlood.org, put in the 28146 zip code, and scroll down to St. Paul's Blood Drive. An even easier way is to contact Alice Davis, 704-855-4930, 704-223-0661 or email pherford1@yahoo.com, and leave your name and appointment time desired (2:15pm is the earliest now available). Nine members of our church have already made appointments but many more are needed if the goal of 30 units is to be met. Walk-ins are always welcome!



Please give
blood.

American Red Cross

Blood Drive
St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall
205 St Paul Church Road
Salisbury, NC 28146

Monday, February 17, 2025
1:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: StPaul to schedule an appointment.

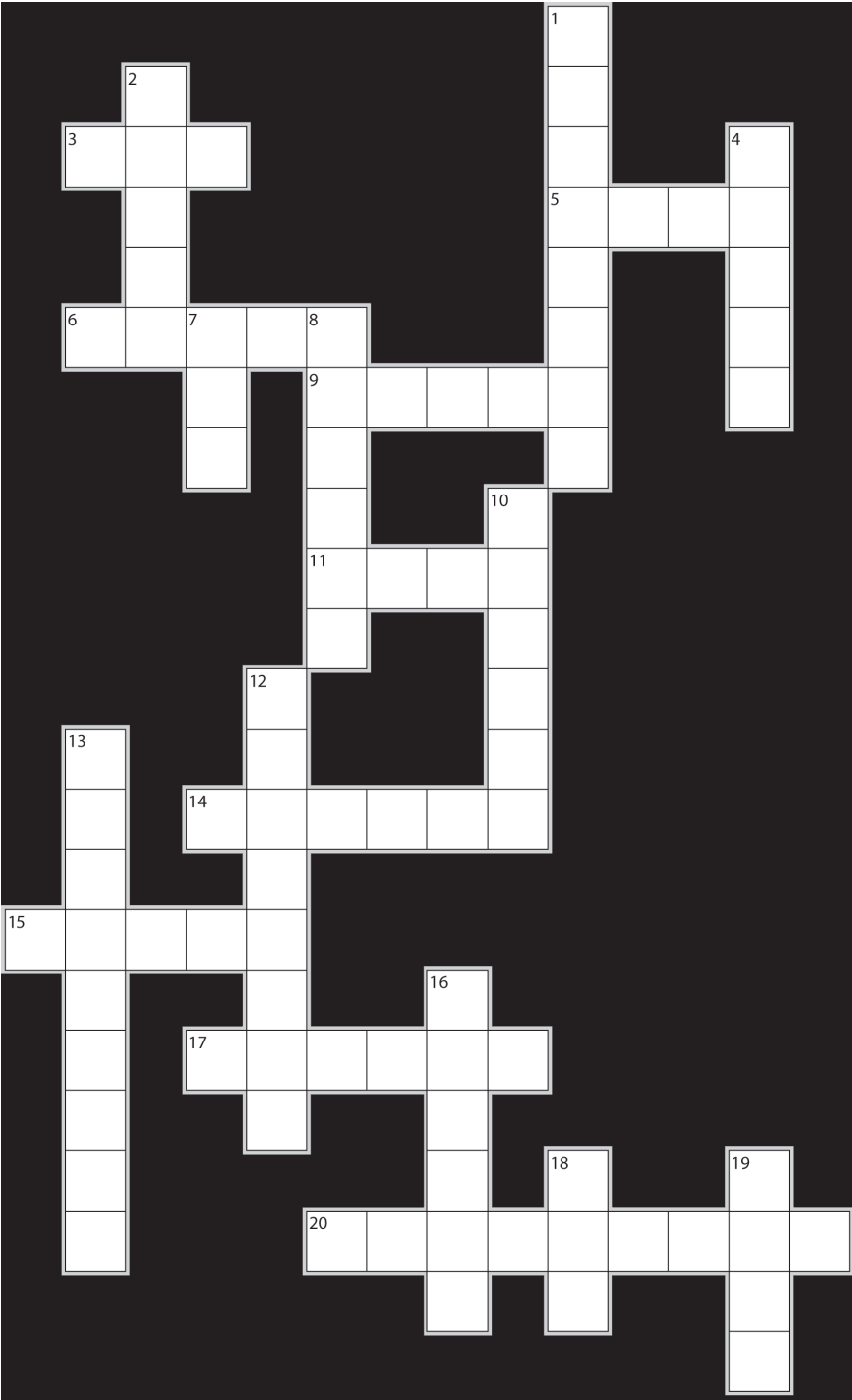
Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.
If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation.
Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Create a flurry of hope! Come give blood Jan. 27 to Feb.
28 for a \$15 e gift card rcblood.org/flurry



redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

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Crossword Puzzle on the Psalms

Across

3. "The _____ of the Lord is my strength." (Psalm 28:7)
5. "The _____ of the Lord is in the heavens." (Psalm 103:11)
6. "The Lord is _____, and greatly to be praised." (Psalm 48:1)
9. The cattle on a thousand of these are the Lord's. (Psalm 50:10)
11. "The _____ of the Lord is a strong tower." (Psalm 18:10)
14. "The Lord is in his holy _____." (Psalm 11:4)
15. "The _____ of the Lord endureth forever." (Psalm 117:2)
17. "The Lord is near to those who have a _____ heart."
(Psalm 34:18)
20. "The Lord is my light and my _____." (Psalm 27:1)

Down

1. "The earth is the Lord's and the _____." (Psalm 24:1)
2. "The _____ of the Lord is in the sanctuary." (Psalm 63:2)
4. "The _____ of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting."
(Psalm 103:17)
7. "The _____ of the Lord is upon them that fear him."
(Psalm 33:18)
8. "The Lord has established his _____ in the heavens."
10. "The Lord is our _____ and strength." (Psalm 46:1)
12. "The Lord is my _____." (Psalm 23:1)
13. The Lord is a refuge to them. (Psalm 9:9)
16. "The Lord will bless his _____." (Psalm 128:5)
18. "The _____ of the Lord is pure." (Psalm 19:8)
19. I will bless him at all times. (Psalm 34:1)

*We extend our love and sympathy to Laura Wilhelm
on the death of her father, Mr. Bill Staton.
Mr. Staton died Monday, December 23, 2024.
Please keep Laura and her family in your prayers.*

*We extend our love and sympathy to Linda Shirley
on the death of her brother, Jimmy Dean Rouse.
Mr. Rouse died Monday, December 23, 2024.
Please keep Linda and her family in your prayers.*

j

Honor Gifts

A gift was received in honor
of Caroline Aldridge for the
Capital Building Fund from
Lori and Perry Bernhardt

A gift was received in honor
of Cooper Aldridge for the
Capital Building Fund from
Lori and Perry Bernhardt

A gift was received in memory
of Bill Staton for the Capital
Building Fund from
Frank and Cindy Hinson
Judi and D.W. Honbarger

A gift was received in memory
of Henry Chilson for the
Improvement Fund from
Franda Raymer

Memorial Gifts for February

Gifts were received in memory
of Jimmy Rouse for the Capital
Building Fund from
Dana and Crystal Bost
Frank and Cindy Hinson
Judi and D.W. Honbarger
Susan and Mark Ryman
Jeanne and Tony Shaver

A gift was received in memory
of Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Smith for
the Capital Building Fund from
Susan Cruz

DID YOU KNOW? HISTORY OF ST. PAUL'S 1855-1884

From 1855–1859, St. Paul's and Lutheran Chapel in China Grove were served by Rev. B. C. Hall. The churches remained together until 1882. In 1857, a rock wall was built around the cemetery. In 1859, Rev. J. L. Smithdeal came as pastor, serving just one year because of trouble between him and the congregation.

From 1861–1876, Pastor Whitson Kimball served St. Paul's and Lutheran Chapel. He received \$125 for his first year's salary and \$200 for each of the remaining years. In 1862, the church collected \$27.50 for missions—the first account of such a collection.

In 1865, a decision was made to disband this union of congregations. The Presbyterians gave their property rights to the Lutherans, giving the Lutherans a two-thirds majority. The Reforms decided to build a church on Old Concord Road, now known as Mt. Hope Church. Therefore, the name of the union church was changed from Holshouser to St. Paul's, becoming wholly Lutheran in 1866. In 1868, the Lutherans decided to build a large brick structure on our present land given by Mr. and Mrs. Allen Heilig. The structure was completed in 1872 and dedicated on July 21st of that year.

The first record of a Sunday School was in 1873 with an enrollment of 250 members. The first organ was purchased in 1877. Rev. W. H. Cone came in 1877, and served until 1880. Rev. B. S. Brown

served from 1881–1882. In 1882, the NC Synod separated St. Paul's from Lutheran Chapel and placed St. Paul's and Bethel under the same pastor. Both churches wanted Rev. Brown alone and it was decided that Rev. Brown would serve Bethel, leaving St. Paul's without a pastor. St. Paul's hired Rev. V. R. Stickly in 1882 and he served two years.



m



Missions

We are deeply grateful for the gracious \$227.21 contribution you recently sent our way. Our work could not continue without faithful friends like you. Thanks for standing with us as we offer this life-giving message to a desperately needy world. May the joy of the Christmas season remain with you throughout the coming year.

Sincerely,
Jim Daly, President

We want to thank you for your continued support to Naomi's Heart Mission. We are very blessed by your generosity. You have helped to provide so much of what is needed in running this mission and we are very grateful. Many children are being fed, getting an education, and most of all coming to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior because you care. Thank you for having the heart and compassion to walk beside us as we serve a great and mighty God.

Blessings,
Kristie Ward
Founder of Naomi's Heart Mission

Thank you for your generous donation of \$227.21 in December. Through your support of Radical, we can see the nations reached for the glory of Jesus' name together.

We are grateful to God for you,
The Radical Team

Offering for December 2024

General Fund income for the month: \$60,112

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.



Missions

Through your generosity [\$227.21 and \$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. Your support enables us to proclaim his message of grace and salvation in spiritually barren regions of the world.

Because of your faithfulness, lives are being transformed, and the name of Jesus is being lifted high. We thank God for you and the incredible role you play in this ministry. 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 \$324.59. 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. We are deeply thankful for your gracious gift.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Steven King
Managing Editor

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul
and with all your strength
and with all your mind';
and, Love your neighbor as yourself.**

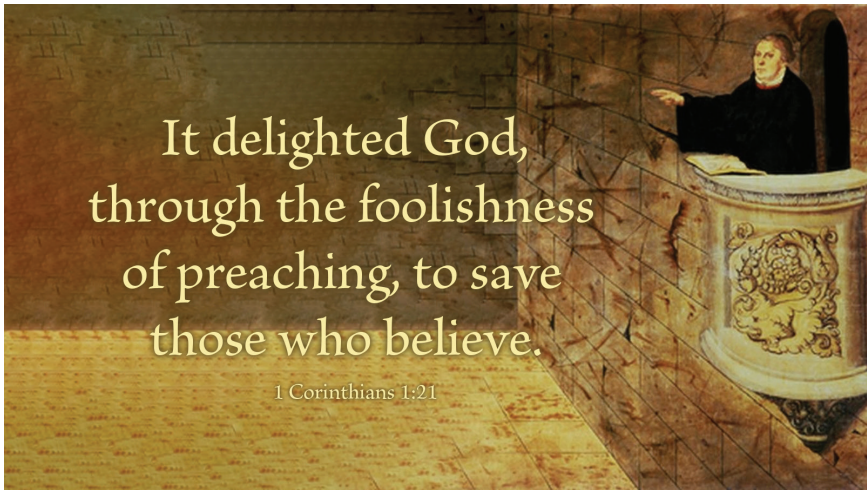
Luke 10:27

Word of Authority

Find the 24 bold words from Luke 4:31–36 ERV.

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

And he came down to **Capernaum**, a city of **Galilee**. And he was **teaching** them on the **sabbath** day: and they were astonished at his teaching; for his **word** was with **authority**. And in the **synagogue** there was a man, which had a **spirit** of an unclean devil; and he cried out with a loud voice, “Ah! what have we to do with thee, thou **Jesus** of **Nazareth**? Art thou come to destroy us? I **know** thee who thou art, the **Holy One** of **God**.” And Jesus **rebuked** him, saying, “**Hold** thy **peace**, and come out of him.” And when the **devil** had thrown him down in the midst, he came out of him, having done him no hurt. And amazement came upon all, and they spake together, one with another, saying, “What is this word? for with authority and **power** he **commandeth** the **unclean spirits**, and they **come out**.”



It delighted God,
through the foolishness
of preaching, to save
those who believe.

1 Corinthians 1:21

The Small Catechism

The Third Commandment: Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

What does this mean? Answer: We should fear and love God so that we do not despise his Word and the preaching of it, but acknowledge it as holy, and gladly hear and learn it.

God's Word is the treasure that makes everything holy. Through it, all the saints have been made holy. God's Word, at whatever time it is taught, preached, heard, read, or pondered, hallows there and then the person, the day, the work—not because of the external act but on account of the Word that makes us all saints" (*The Large Catechism*, The Third Commandment, Martin Luther).

It is the Word of God received in faith that makes one holy. The preaching of that Word is vital, whether it is a lector reading the Word aloud, a pastor proclaiming it from a pulpit, or the Holy Spirit speaking through a printed Bible or app. To be sure, the Spirit must be involved in the preaching. Inasmuch, we see that there are two things central to gospel preaching: God's Word and God's Spirit. Saving faith will not happen without both. You may read the Bible under the power of your own reason all day and gain nothing without the Spirit. You may listen to preaching

Sunday after Sunday, and hear nothing salvific without the work of the Holy Spirit.

This is why we are to honor the Word and its preaching: through that holy Word of God, God make's holy those who believe—whether on Saturday or Sunday or any other day of the week. When God's Spirit works through the Word to bring about faith in Christ, the Lord imputes holiness to our account. This does not happen because of our religious deeds or moral actions but because of faith in Christ and what he has accomplished for us.

This faith comes through the proclaimed word of Christ Jesus, the message of the gospel. It is good news because salvation comes by no other name (John 14:6). Jesus Christ is the way to the Father (Ephesians 2:18). We should remember the one day above all others each week when this good news may be heard, and pray that by our holy example, others will come and hear the gospel proclaimed by a preacher, hear it, believe, and be saved. In this example, we see that the day is observed, not only for ourselves, but for others. So, when you come worship at St. Paul's, let all your friends know where you are by checking in on Facebook—so that they will know where they might worship with you.

*Faith comes
from hearing,
and hearing
through the
word of Christ.*

Romans 10:17



Crossword Puzzle Answers

Across

3. "The **JOY** of the Lord is my strength." (Psalm 28:7)
5. "The **LOVE** of the Lord is in the heavens." (Psalm 103:11)
6. "The Lord is **GREAT**, and greatly to be praised." (Psalm 48:1)
9. The cattle on a thousand **HILLS** are the Lord's. (Psalm 50:10)
11. "The **NAME** of the Lord is a strong tower." (Psalm 18:10)
14. "The Lord is in his holy **TEMPLE**." (Psalm 11:4)
15. "The **TRUTH** of the Lord endures forever." (Psalm 117:2)
17. "The Lord is near to those who have a **BROKEN** heart."
(Psalm 34:18)
20. "The Lord is my light and my **SALVATION**." (Psalm 27:1)

Down

1. "The earth is the Lord's and the **FULLNESS**."
(Psalm 24:1)
2. "The **POWER** of the Lord is in the sanctuary."
(Psalm 63:2)
4. "The **MERCY** of the Lord is from everlasting to
everlasting." (Psalm 103:17)
7. "The **EYE** of the Lord is upon them that fear him."
(Psalm 33:18)
8. "The Lord has established his **THRONE** in the heavens."
10. "The Lord is our **REFUGE** and strength." (Psalm 46:1)
12. "The Lord is my **SHEPHERD**." (Psalm 23:1)
13. "The Lord is a refuge to the **OPPRESSED**." (Psalm 9:9)
16. "The Lord will bless his **PEOPLE**." (Psalm 128:5)
18. "The **LAW** of the Lord is pure." (Psalm 19:8)
19. I will bless the **LORD** at all times. (Psalm 34:1)



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

A family of faith sharing the gospel and love of Christ

Phone: 704-633-0922

Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Facebook: www.facebook.com/StPaulsLCMC

Wi-Fi: splcguest – pass: SavedbyGrace

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Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12 Noon

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Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

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.