



The Epistle

of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Volume 71, Issue 3 • March 2025

Equipped for every good work!

How important is it to stay rooted in the Word? As a church, we understand that it is essential for everything—growing in faith and developing as a congregation. St. Paul reminded Timothy in his second letter that all scripture is “breathed out by God and profitable.” One of the key responsibilities of the ministry is not only preaching but also teaching, and this is not just an exclusive call for pastors; it is for all of us! The Word of God, as Paul writes, is for “teaching, reproof, correction that we may be complete, and equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

As parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents, we are called to teach our children the scriptures and raise them in the faith. (Deuteronomy 6:6-8; Proverbs 22:6) Likewise, we must encourage and share with our neighbors (1 Peter 3:15), and we can only accomplish this by often going to the Word ourselves).

Making time is always a challenge, but you do not need to boil the ocean. Start small, just a few verses at a time, each day, and take a moment to reflect on what you heard. Let his words be a light to your feet and a lamp to your path (Psalm 119:105). Everything God says and reveals to us is in the book He gave to us, and like Paul said to Timothy, “that we may be complete and equipped for every good work.”

If you are in the church during office hours, come by and say hello, the door is always open, and I am ready to pray with you!

Pastor Lord

Did You Know? — History of St. Paul's 1884–1910

Rev. C.A. Rose came in 1884–1899, serving both St. Paul's and Bethel Lutheran churches. During his fifteen years, he had a great influence on both churches. He died while in service to the ministry July 2, 1899. Listed are some of the accomplishments while Rev. Rose was pastor at St. Paul's:

- In 1885, a Children's Missionary Society was organized. The purpose was to interest the children of the church and Sunday School in the work of foreign missions in India, and money was raised for that cause. This group was disbanded 16 years later.

- In 1891, the council consisted of only eight members. The number was changed to have twelve members, six elders and six deacons in that same year.

- In 1891, St. Paul's and Bethel built a parsonage for the pastor in township of Franklin.

- In 1893, the congregation decided to enlarge and remodel the church. The project began work in 1893 and was completed in 1894 at a cost of \$1,600. It was rededicated April 28, 1894, with a seating capacity of 450.

The next pastor to be called was Rev. V.Y. Boozer in April, 1900. His most outstanding accomplishment was the organization of the Women's Missionary Society (now known as St. Paul's Lutheran Women) to arouse interest in missions around the world. Pastor Boozer resigned seven years later.



In 1908, the church removed the old wall around the cemetery. The rocks were sold and the money was used for later projects. That year, an acre of land adjoining the property of St. Paul's was purchased from Mr. & Mrs. Allison Misenheimer, increasing the property size to eight acres. In the same year, a Children's Missionary Society was organized and known as the Little Workers Missionary Society to help interest children in church work. The church also purchased a new organ in 1908, using money from the sale of the old organ toward that purchase.

In 1910, the Baptismal Font that is still used by our church today was given by Mrs. Carolina Heilig in memory of her husband who had died in 1906.

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 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.



Community Concert

The Outreach Committee is going from Beach Music in February to Gospel in March. We have finally secured The Gospel Plowboys to sing on Friday, **March 21st, starting at 7:00pm** in the fellowship hall. Spread the word and invite friends and family members to this concert.

This group is made up of 6 men who stay very busy on the weekends singing to share the Gospel with others. Check out their website, gospelplowboys.com. They have a link where you can listen to their new single, "Preachin' Silas" that band member Michael Jenkins wrote. A freewill offering will be taken up. Checks may be made out to Gospel Plowboys Inc. Light refreshments will be served.

Packathon

The Outreach Committee will again sponsor a Packathon with the organization, Feed The Hunger, on **Saturday, April 5, starting at 10:00am**. There are openings for people from age 9 to 109! Most jobs require you to stand but a few jobs are available for those who need to sit. We will be packing 10,000 meals. During the Packathon, teams of volunteers will assemble ingredients into 6-serving meal packets that are weighed, sealed and boxed.

We need to have at least 50 volunteers for this event. A **sign-up sheet will be provided after church on March 23rd and 30th**. Light refreshments will be served in the Sunday School room across from the kitchen after the event. Mark this on your calendars and hope to see you then.

Clean Sweep Day for the Cemetery

Each year, in order to keep our cemetery clean and neat, St. Paul's Cemetery Committee cleans away **everything** from the cemetery. This includes **all** flowers, ornaments, etc. If you have a flower in the cemetery that you wish to keep, you should remove it **before March 29th, or it will be thrown away**. This includes flowers clamped to the top of headstones. You may return your flowers to the cemetery after the clean-up. Please spread the word.

Tuesday Bible Studies

Our **Tuesday Bible studies** (10:00am and 6:00pm) are **on hold** until after Easter. Classes will start again on April 22nd.

Wednesdays, starting on March 12th, during Lent we will have a light meal at 6:00pm. A short worship service will follow in the sanctuary at 7:00pm. Please join us.

Friendship Club

Friendship Club will meet **March 20th, at 10:30am**. Kristie and Danny Ward will be the guest speakers. They will present a program about their missionary work, **Naomi's Heart**. This is a school located one of the Philippine Islands.

A covered dish luncheon will be served after the presentation. The Grace Church Seniors will meet with us. Hope to see all of you on March 20th at 10:30am.

March Youth & Family Game Day

The Youth & Family Committee are having a youth outing event **March 22, 2025, at 12:30pm** at **Stars & Strikes in Concord**. Youth and their families are encouraged to join us for bowling and games. Please use the following URL link or QR code to sign up for the event. Deadline is March 12, 2025.
<https://forms.office.com/r/Nt4WKRmUCx>



Lutheran Women's Meetings in January

Bonnie Bost – March 11, 7pm
Ellen Bumgarner – March 5, 10:30am
Kathy Ketchie – March 9, 4pm
Hama Lingle – March 3, 7pm
Melissa Lura – March 10, 6pm
Grace Ridenhour – March 4, 7pm

March 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
- March 2 – Breakfast before Sunday School, 8:30am
- March 2 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- March 2 – Youth & Family Committee, 2pm
- March 9 – Naomi's Heart Mission Kristie Ward preaching
- March 9 – Christian Education Committee, 2pm
- March 9 – Worship & Music Committee, 2:30pm
- March 9 – Kathy Ketchie circle, 4pm
- March 16 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- March 16 – College Ministry meeting, 4pm
- March 30 – College Ministry meeting, 4pm

Mondays

- Newsletter articles for March are due before March 19
- March 3 – Facility Accessibility Committee, 6:30pm
- March 3 – Hama Lingle Circle, 7pm
- March 10 – Melissa Lura Circle, 6pm
- March 10 – Finance Committee meeting, 6:30pm
- March 10 – Outreach Committee meeting, 6:30pm
- March 17 – Council meeting, 6:30pm
- March 24 – Lutheran Men's meeting, 6:30pm

Tuesdays

- No Bible Study classes until after Easter
- Girl Scouts meet each week at 6:30pm
- March 4 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake & Sausage Supper, 6pm
- March 4 – Grace Ridenhour Circle, **7pm** (after supper)
- March 11 – Bonnie Bost Circle, 7pm
- March 18 – Staff meeting, 5pm

Wednesdays

- Classical Conversations group each week, 8:30-3:30
- Adult Choir practice each Wednesday after the Lenten Service

- Lenten meal in the fellowship hall each week during Lent, beginning on March 12, 6pm
- Lenten service each week during Lent, 7pm
- Youth Confirmation Class will not meet during Lent
- March 5 – Ellen Bumgarner Circle, 10am
- March 5 – Autumn Care chapel service, 2pm
- March 5 – Ash Wednesday service, (no meal), 7pm

Thursdays

- Rowan Smart Start meets each Thursday, 10am–12pm
- March 20 – Friendship Club, 10:30am

Fridays

- March 21 – Outreach Committee hosting Gospel Plowboys in the fellowship hall, 7pm
- March 22 – Youth & Family game day, Stars & Strikes, in Concord at, 12:30pm

Saturdays

- March 29 – Cemetery clean-up day (rain date, April 5)
- March 29 – Girl Scouts in the picnic shelter for the day

Wednesday Meal Schedule for Lent

March 12

Youth & Family Committee

Baked potato and salad

March 19

Ketchie/Ridenhour Circles

Soup and Salad

March 26

Bonnie Bost Circle

Baked potato and salad

April 2

St. Paul's Council

Soup and Sandwiches

April 9

Melissa Lura Circle

Baked potato and Salad

April 16

Hama Lingle Circle

Baked Potato and Salad

February Blood Drive

The first blood drive of 2025 was a tremendous success—the best collection in the past five years. Twenty church members



registered to donate, also the best in the past five years. Red Cross donors who have never given at our collection site and donors who have given at previous church blood drives helped St. Paul's end up with a total of 44 units collected!

The youngest member to donate (his first time) was Andrew Baker. That's him with his unit of blood in the picture!

Forty-five persons registered to donate and only two were deferred. Ten scheduled donors did not show, but eight walk-ins helped keep staff busy the whole time. The main problem was “wait time,” especially for walk-ins. Red Cross was very strict about taking scheduled appointments on time.

If you even think you would like to donate schedule an appointment as soon as possible by contacting 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 pherford1@yahoo.com and leave your name and appointment time desired. The next blood drive at our church is on Monday, May 19th, from 1:30pm–6:00pm. Thanks again for the wonderful support from our church members.

**Do not withhold good
from those to whom it is due.**

Proverbs 3:27

Thank You

Many thanks to the congregation for supporting the Binns–Counts Christmas program in 2024. St. Paul’s donated 393 gifts, and with other donations the total sent was 566. Those presents, plus others at the center, were sorted by 14 members of our church. As always, a joyous time was had by all. 579 children benefited from the program. Over the years, 45 members of St. Paul’s have visited Binns–Counts. Our continuing commitment is a great testimony of Christ’s love for all. Thank you for sharing that love with others.

Carolyn Canup

Pastors Ryman and Lord, thank you for the prayers and hospital visits, the day of and the day after my surgery. It was very comforting to me for you to sit, visit and pray with me. St. Paul’s Church Family, thank each of you who visited me at home, sent a card or brought a meal. I appreciate your prayers and your many acts of kindness during the recovery period. I am so blessed to belong to such a kind, caring group of christian people.

God’s Blessings to each of you,
Helen Gordon

The Outreach Committee would like to thank the congregation for their support with the Beach/SOS Dinner on February 16th. We sold 98 tickets—and your support for Western North Carolina was beyond WOW! We collected \$3,158 and a truck full of requested items. They were delivered to Valley Hope Church in Swannanoa on Tuesday, February 18th. Thanks to Ben Bernhardt, John and Carolyn Canup for the help with the delivery. They so appreciated our donations.

It is a small church, but doing God’s Work by helping residents with many projects. They have a store where residents can obtain certain supplies. And they feed about 225 church and community residents on Mondays. They also have volunteers to go out in the community to help with clean up or reconstruction. Check out their website for information—<https://valleyhope.church/helene>

Brown Butter Chocolate Chip Cookies

Ingredients:

- 1 cup unsalted butter
- 2 and 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 and 1/2 teaspoons cornstarch
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup (150g) packed light or dark brown sugar
- 1/2 cup (100g) granulated sugar
- 1 large egg + 1 egg yolk, at room temperature
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 1 and 1/4 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips

Directions:

1. Brown the butter: Have a heat-proof medium bowl ready. Slice the butter into pieces and place in a light-colored skillet. The light color helps you determine when the butter begins browning. Melt the butter over medium heat and stir or whisk constantly. Once melted, the butter will begin to foam. Keep stirring/whisking. After 5-7 minutes, the butter will begin browning and you'll notice lightly browned specks begin to form at the bottom of the pan. It will have a nutty aroma. Once browned, remove from heat immediately and pour into the heat-proof bowl. Let the butter cool.
2. Whisk the flour, baking soda, cornstarch, and salt together in a large bowl. Set aside.
3. In a medium bowl, whisk the melted butter, brown sugar, and granulated sugar together until no brown sugar lumps remain. Whisk in the egg and egg yolk. Finally, whisk in the vanilla extract. The mixture will be thin. Pour into dry ingredients and mix together with a large spoon or rubber spatula. The dough will be very soft, thick, and appear greasy. Fold in the chocolate chips. The chocolate chips may not stick to the dough because of the melted butter, but do your best to combine them.

4. Cover the dough tightly and chill in the refrigerator for at least 1 hour or up to 3 days.
5. Preheat oven to 325°F (163°C). Line large baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone baking mats. Set aside.
6. Take the dough out of the refrigerator and allow it to slightly soften at room temperature for 10 minutes.
7. Using a cookie scoop or Tablespoon measuring spoon, measure about 2 Tablespoons of dough for cookies. Roll into a ball, and place on the cookie sheet. Slightly press down, but don't lose the total roundness of the ball. Repeat with remaining dough.
8. Bake the cookies for 12–13 minutes or until the edges are very lightly browned. The centers will look very soft, but the cookies will continue to set as they cool. Cool on the baking sheet for 10 minutes. After 10 minutes of cooling on the baking sheets, transfer cookies to a wire rack to cool completely.
9. Cookies stay fresh covered at room temperature for up to 1 week.

**Blessed are those
who hunger and thirst
for righteousness,
for they will be filled.**

Matthew 5:6

*We extend our love and sympathy
to the family of Andrea Lyerly,
who died on Thursday, February 13, 2025.
Please keep her husband, James,
and all the Lyerly family in your prayers.*

*We extend our love and sympathy
to the family of Barbara Whisnant,
who died on Monday, February 17, 2025.
Please keep her son Kenneth, and all
the Whisnant family in your prayers.*

*We extend our love and sympathy to Christine Maloney
on the death of her brother, William Schluter.
Bill died February 13, 2025.
Please keep Christine and her family in prayer.*

j

Memorial Gifts for February

A gift was received in memory
of **Matt Cerda** for the Capital
Building Fund from
Alan and Terri Powlas

Gifts were received in memory
of **Betty Newsome** for the
Capital Building Fund from
Alice Davis
Frank and Cindy Hinson
Judi and D.W. Honbarger

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

A gift was received in memory
of **Jimmy Dean Rouse** for the
Capital Building Fund from
Bonnie and Wayne Hinson
Jan and Bob McCanless

A gift was received in memory
of **Bill Staton** for the Capital
Building Fund from
Bonnie and Wayne Hinson

Gift received in memory of
William Schluter for the
Capital Building Fund from
Christine Maloney (his sister)

Gifts were received in memory of **Barbara Whisnant** for the Capital Building fund from Travis and Cindy Alligood Ben and Susan Bernhardt Lori and Perry Bernhardt Dana and Crystal Bost John and Carolyn Canup Alice Davis Tim and Karen Deal Grady and Jenny Earnhardt Helen Gordon Frank and Cindy Hinson Wayne and Bonnie Hinson Judi and D. W. Honbarger Vaughn Lyerly Bob and Jan McCanless Betty Monroe Alan and Terri Powlas Mita Powlas Susan and Mark Ryman Vaughn and Nancy Wilhelm St. Paul's Sunday School classes 4 & 6

A gift was received in memory of **Herman Ritchie** for the General Fund from Judy and Lindsay Lowman

Gifts were received in memory of **Andrea Lyerly** for the Capital Building Fund from Travis and Cindy Alligood Ben and Susan Bernhardt Perry and Lori Bernhardt Dana and Crystal Bost Alice Davis Tim and Karen Deal Grady and Jenny Earnhardt Helen Gordon Wayne and Bonnie Hinson Frank and Cindy Hinson Judi and D.W. Honbarger Alan and Terri Powlas Mita Powlas Mark and Susan Ryman Wayne and Jane Wilhelm

Honor Gift

A gift was received in honor of **Dottie Stancil** for the Capital Building Fund from Sunday School Class #5

**But because of his great love for us,
God, who is rich in mercy,
made us alive with Christ
even when we were dead in transgressions.
It is by grace you have been saved.**

Ephesians 2:4-5

Property Brothers at Work



Cleaning, removing rust, and painting the flower cooler is one of many projects that the Property Brothers took on in January. Hugh Wilhelm and Vaughn Lyerly did a wonderful job under Wayne Wilhelm's supervision. Great Job Guys!



Susan Bernhardt and Property Brothers setting up tables and chairs for the big dance.



The Pillars of the Earth

Find the 32 **bold** words from 1 Samuel 2:2–8.

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

There is **none** **holy** like the **LORD** for there is none besides you. Nor is there any **rock** like our **God**. Talk no more so exceedingly **proudly**. Let not **arrogance** come from your mouth. For the LORD is a God of **knowledge**, and by him **actions** are **weighed**. The **bows** of the **mighty** are **broken** but the **unsteady** are **girded** with **strength**. The full have hired out themselves for **bread**, and the **hungry** have **ceased** to **hunger**. The **barren** has **borne seven** while she who has many children languishes. The LORD kills and makes alive; he brings down to **Sheol** and brings up. The LORD makes **poor** and he makes **rich**; he brings low and he **exalts**. He raises up the poor from the dust. He lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with princes and **inherit** a seat of **honor**. For the **pillars** of the **earth** are the LORD's, and he has set the world upon them.

Missions

Thank you for your gift to the ministry of Samaritan's Purse. Your gifts and prayers help us to bring the Word to those in need. Our prayer is that many will put their faith and trust in the Lord. May God bless you.

Sincerely,
Franklin Graham, President

Lutherans for Life rejoices to recognize you within our 2024 Abundant Life Giving Society. This designation honors your generosity in giving more than \$1,000 annually. You number among the ministry's most substantial supporters, and your investment is not only making possible considerable education and care, it is also making immediate and eternal differences in changing hearts and saving lives.

You have our admiration as well as the gratitude of Lutherans for Life gone before and yet to come. More than this, you have the celebration of saints and angels in the heavenly host and the favor of Almighty God, because it is his mission in which you are participating. May he continue to bless your Gospel-motivated voice for life.

In truth and love,
Pastor Michael Salemink
Executive Director,
Lutherans for Life

Thank you for the \$682.76 donation. Your contribution has made such a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Sincerely,
Linda Austin, Director
Organ Lutheran Church
Pantry Outreach Program

Missions

We are very grateful for your support you give to us each month. We are very blessed by your generosity! But, most of all for your love and desire to continue to walk beside us and believe in the work we are doing at Naomi's Heart Mission. You have helped to provide so much of what is needed in running this ministry. 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 as we serve a great and mighty God together.

Blessings,
Kristie Ward
Founder of Naomi's Heart Mission

Missions

We are thankful for the many ways that your congregation has supported SON ministries. Thank you for your recent gift and for partnering with us to connect spiritual orphans to the global family of Christ.

In His Service,
Pr. David Breidenbach
SON Executive Director



Offering for January 2025

General Fund income for the month: \$37,983

February General Fund report will be in the April 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.

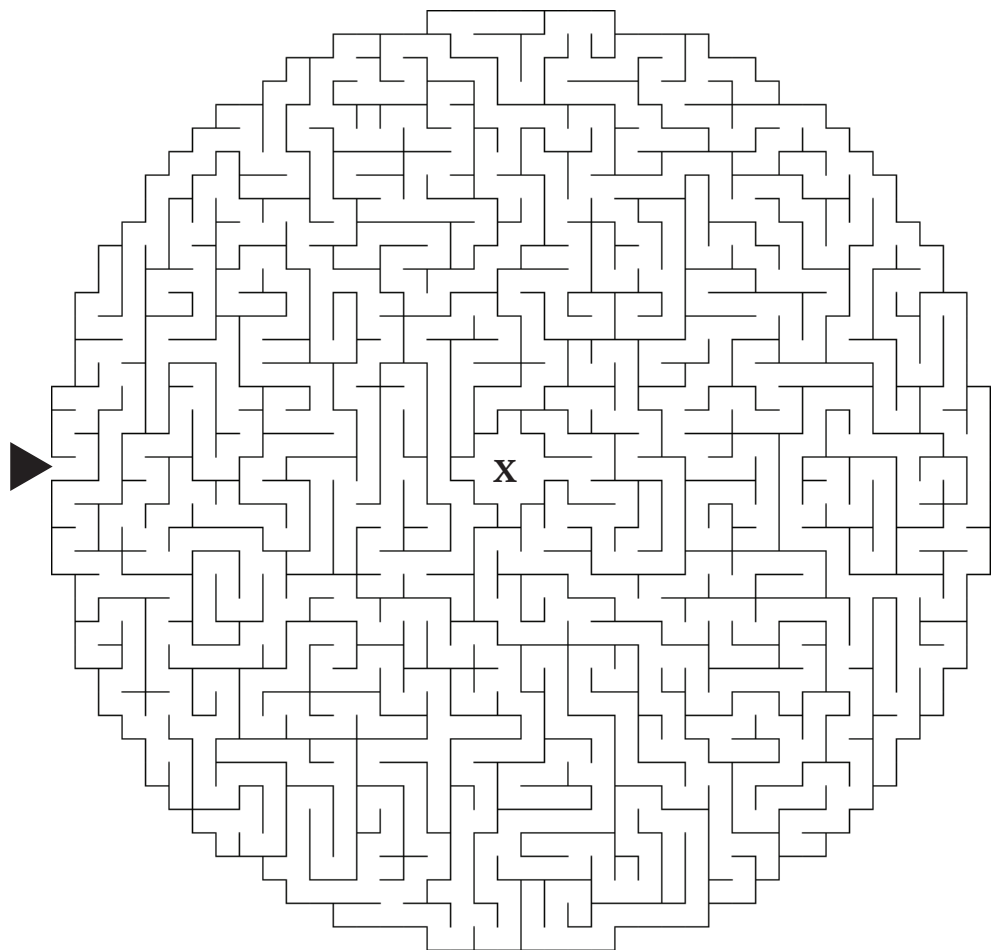


Do Not Turn Aside

*Find the 32 **bold** words from 1 Samuel 12:20–25.*

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

Samuel said to the people, “Do not **fear**; you have indeed **done** **all** this **evil**, yet do not **turn aside** from **following** the LORD. But **serve** the **LORD** with all **your heart**, and do not turn aside. And do not turn aside after **worthless** things that cannot **profit** or **deliver**, for they are **vain**. For the LORD will not **forsake** his people for his **great name’s sake**, because it has **pleased** the LORD to make you a people for himself. As for me, far be it from me that I should **sin** against the LORD by **ceasing** to **pray** for you. I will **instruct** you in the **good** and the **right way**. Only fear the LORD, and serve him faithfully with all your **heart**. For consider what great things he has done for you. Yet, if you still act wickedly, you shall be **swept away**, both you and your **king**.





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

OFFICE HOURS

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

Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12 Noon

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Mark Ryman, Pastor
pastor@stpaulslutheran.church

Brian Lord, Associate Pastor
wingman@stpaulslutheran.church

Pamela Cottingham, Secretary
secretary@stpaulslutheran.church

Eric Barringer, Council President
ebarringer@bellsouth.net

John Brock, Music Director
splcmusicalisbury@gmail.com

Johnsie Taylor, Organist
jtaylor783@aol.com

Judy Lowman, Treasurer
splcjwl63@gmail.com

Amy Barringer, Girl Scout Coordinator, abarringer@bellsouth.net

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.