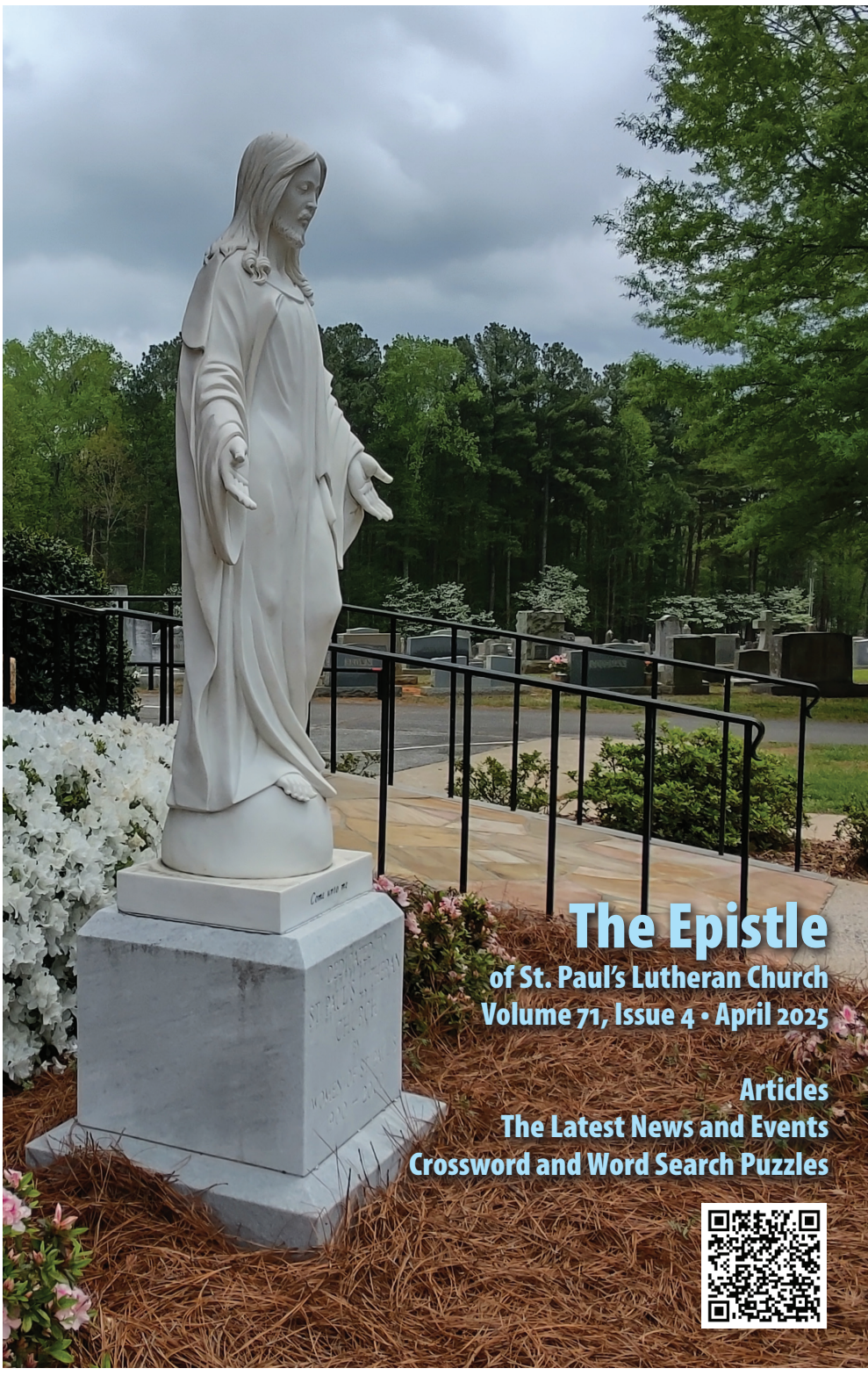




The Epistle

of St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Volume 71, Issue 4 • April 2025

Articles
The Latest News and Events
Crossword and Word Search Puzzles





Vespers

We sing Evening Prayer Sunday nights at 6:00 in the parsonage. Join us for food,



fellowship, and worship.

It's the best thing that you don't know you're missing!

Vespers is French for "evening song." It is a prayer setting found on page 142 of the LBW.





Morning Prayer

Each weekday morning at 8:30, we gather in the chapel for morning prayer. We read and discuss the Daily Lectionary, a reading plan on page 179 of the Lutheran Book of Worship.

We also share what's happening at St. Paul's, then pray for each other and for our church.

Currently, about 10 or 12 gather. We would welcome you any weekday morning from 8:30 to 9:00 in the chapel. It is a rich time that you will enjoy.



Serve with Your Gifts

Serve one another, each according to the gift he has received, as good stewards of the many forms of God's grace. If anyone speaks, let him do it as one speaking the messages of God. If anyone serves, let him do it as one serving with the strength God supplies so that God may be glorified in every way through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 4:10–11 EHV)

Everyone possesses unique gifts from God meant to serve others, and we are called to fulfill this purpose. This calling knows no age limits; God called Jeremiah in his youth and Moses later in life to lead, guide, and connect with his people. Christ has brought us together as a church where our diverse experiences may enrich the entire community.

During the season of Lent, we are reminded of Christ's forty days in the wilderness, fasting and praying, a time he spent preparing for his mission to come. Similarly, we follow our Lord through this time to Resurrection Sunday, completing his earthly mission.

As we follow our Lord during this Lenten season, let us all pray for God's guidance on how best to use the gifts he has given us to serve the church. Perhaps it involves attending your first Sunday school class, facilitating one, volunteering at events, or meeting new people. Whether you have been coming to St. Paul's for a long time, have just recently joined us, or have been away for a while and have returned, your presence and experiences will always be welcomed and utilized by God to further his kingdom.

During this Lent season, prayerfully ask our Lord to guide your hearts, hands, and feet throughout the year in service to one another.

Pastor Brian Lord

Tuesday Bible Studies and Wednesday Confirmation

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

Youth Confirmation classes will re-start after Easter as well.

Flowers for Easter

Order forms for Easter flowers are available in the narthex. Each plant will be **\$14.50**. The deadline to order is **April 6th**. We will order Geraniums and Impatiens. However, we do not know how many of each they will send us, so we cannot guarantee that anyone will receive a specific flower.

Also, we will have our large cross on the front porch Easter morning, decorated with some greenery and flowers. If you are able, **bring fresh flowers** to add to the cross when you come to church Easter morning.

Sunrise Service starts at 7am in the cemetery (weather permitting). **Beginning at 8am, breakfast** will be served in the fellowship hall, followed by **Sunday School at 9:30am**, if your class chooses to meet. You have the option to enjoy a time of fellowship after breakfast until about 10:15am. The **10:30 Easter Service will begin in the sanctuary**.

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.

Light refreshments will be served in the Sunday School room across from the kitchen after the event. Mark this on your calendars because we hope to see you then.

May Blood Drive

The next blood drive will be held **Monday, May 17th, from 1:30pm – 6:00pm** in the Fellowship Hall. We hope the turnout is as successful as the one in February when the church collected 44 units of blood—our best in five years. To avoid a long wait time, please sign up for an appointment at RedCrossBlood.org or contact Alice Davis at 704-855-4930 or pherford1@yahoo.com.

The background of the poster is a close-up photograph of an open, antique book. The pages are yellowed with age and feature dense, handwritten text in a cursive script. In the foreground, a wooden object, possibly a comb or a part of a book binding, is visible, showing a series of semi-circular notches. The overall lighting is dim, creating a scholarly and historical atmosphere.

2025
St. Paul
Lutheran
Seminary
Theological
Conference
May 12–14, 2025

Conference Presenters



Rev. Julie A. Smith is the Coordinator for Districts and Fellowships with Lutheran

Congregations in Mission for Christ. Her presentations will be about the difference between a career and a calling.



Rev. Dr. Mark Ryman is pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Salisbury,

North Carolina. His presentation is about reviving the Lutheran Confessions in our ministries.

Rev. Randy Freund is pastor of Vining Lutheran Church in Vining, Minnesota. His presentation is about



the harm that can be done when pastors do not properly discern law and gospel, the theologies of glory and the cross, and the left and right hand kingdoms.

Brian Lord is an MDiv student at St. Paul Lutheran Seminary and the Associate Pastor and Wingman



at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, North Carolina. He will lead a discussion that asks the group questions like, "What is a question you wish you had answered differently in a Call Committee interview?" and "What do you wish you had asked the Call Committee or Council in your interview process?" This discussion aims at helping seminarians with future call discernment.



Rev. Brad Hales is the pastor of Reformation Lutheran Church in Culpeper, Virginia. His

presentation will be about the importance of visitation.

Conference Schedule

Monday, May 12

- 1:00 Registration
- 1:30 Welcome, Seminary Update, Jon Jensen
- 1:45 Presentation, "Visitation," Rev. Brad Hales
- 2:45 Discussion/Q&A
- 3:30 Presentation 1, "Career or Calling," Rev. Julie Smith
- 4:30 Discussion/Q&A
- 5:00 Supper on your own

Tuesday, May 13

- 8:00 Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 Devotions (Fellowship Hall)
- 9:00 Presentation, "Lectio Concordia," Rev. Dr. Mark Ryman
- 10:00 Discussion/Q&A
- 10:30 Break
- 11:00 Presentation, "Do No Harm—A Hippocratic Oath for Pastors?" Rev. Randy Freund
- Noon Discussion/Q&A
- 12:30 NC BBQ Lunch (Fellowship Hall)
- 1:30 Presentation 2, "Career or Calling," Rev. Julie Smith
- 2:30 Discussion/Q&A
- 3:00 Break
- 3:30 "What I Wish I Knew Then about the Call Process,"
a discussion led by Seminarian Brian Lord
- 4:30 Supper on your own

Wednesday, May 14

- 8:00 Breakfast
 - 8:30 Panel Discussion/Q&A
 - 9:30 Break
 - 10:00 Worship and Conferral of Degrees
 - Noon Conference Adjourns
Box Lunch and discussion for
the LCMC Carolinas District
-

Conference Registration Fee

Seminarian Registration fee: \$25 (includes breakfasts and lunch)

Registration fee for non-seminarians is \$75 (includes breakfasts and lunch)

Accommodations

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Hampton Inn. Call 833-372-3017 to make your reservation. Mention the St. Paul Theological Conference in Salisbury, NC, to receive your reduced rate. A limited number of scholarships are available to seminarians in need of housing for the two nights. Please email pastor@StPaulsLutheran about your need; these will be handled on a first-come-first-served basis.

Food

Note the breakfasts and lunch on the schedule. The Hampton also has breakfast for those staying there. St. Paul's Lutheran Church is preparing these meals to be enjoyed together at the conference. A variety of evening dining options will be provided on a sheet in your registration packet.

Trails

There are three miles of wooded trails on 30 acres at the church. Feel free to roam while you're here.

Travel

If you are flying in to Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT) and would like a ride to the church (and back to the airport), please contact Pr. Ryman at: pastor@StPaulsLutheran. Church.

We will be happy to accommodate your transportation needs.

Conference Registration

NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

ST

ZIP

PHONE NUMBER

EMAIL

CHURCH NAME

Pay online at <https://stpaulslutheran.church/give#>. Choose the fund called 2025 St. Paul Theological Conference. Then email your name, address, phone #, and church name to pastor@StPaulsLutheran.Church. This will register you for the conference by letting us know you have paid through Tithely.

You may also mail your registration and check (payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church) to:

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
205 Saint Paul Church Rd.
Salisbury, NC 28146

To be included in the NC BBQ lunch, your registration needs to be postmarked by April 30, 2025.

No refunds. Thank you for your understanding, as we are trying to provide an affordable conference that enables assistance for those in need.

April 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
- April 6 – Breakfast before Sunday School, 8:30am
- April 6 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- April 6 – Youth & Family Committee, 2pm
- April 6 – Lutheran Women's Quarterly meeting, 5pm
- April 13 – Christian Education Committee, 2pm
- April 13 – Worship & Music Committee, 2:30pm
- April 13 – College Ministry meeting, 4pm
- April 13 – Kathy Ketchie circle, 4pm
- April 20 – Easter Sunrise Service in the Cemetery, 7am
- April 20 – Easter Breakfast, 8am
- April 20 – Sunday School, 9:30am
- April 20 – Easter Service, 10:30am
- April 20 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- April 27 – College Ministry meeting, 4pm

Mondays

- April 7 – Facility Accessibility Committee, 6:30pm
- April 7 – Hama Lingle Circle, 7pm
- April 14 – Melissa Lura Circle, 6pm
- April 14 – Finance Committee meeting, 6:30pm
- April 21 – Church office is closed for Easter Monday all day
- April 21 – Council meeting, 6:30pm
- April 28 – Lutheran Men's meeting, 6:30pm

Tuesdays

- No Bible Study classes until after Easter - Restart on April 22
- Girl Scouts meet each week at 6:30pm
- April 1 – Grace Ridenhour Circle, 6:30pm
- April 8 – Bonnie Bost Circle, 7pm
- April 15 – Staff meeting, 5pm
- April 22 – Weekly Bible Study Classes restart, 10am and 6pm

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, through April 16, at 6pm
- Lenten service each week during Lent, 7pm
- Youth Confirmation Class will not meet during Lent
- April 2 – Ellen Bumgarner Circle, 10am
- April 2 – Autumn Care chapel service, 2pm
- April 23 & 30 – Adult Choir practice, 6:30pm
- April 23 & 30 – Youth Confirmation Class, 7:30pm

Thursdays

- Rowan Smart Start meets each Thursday, 10am–12pm
- April 17 – Friendship Club, 10:30am
- April 17 – Maundy Thursday Service, 7pm

Fridays

- April 4 – Girl Scouts camp-out, 6:30pm
- April 18 – Good Friday Service, 7pm

Saturdays

- April 5 – Cemetery clean-up rain-date
- April 5 – Outreach Pack-a-thon, 8am–1pm
- April 19 – Youth set up for Easter breakfast, 10am
- April 19 – Easter Egg Hunt, (kids through grade 5), 1pm
- April 26 – Cruise'n Barbecue, 9am–3pm

Wednesday Lenten Meal Schedule April

April 2 – Soup and Sandwiches by St. Paul's Council

April 9 – Baked potato and Salad by Melissa Lura Circle

April 16 – Baked Potato and Salad by Hama Lingle Circle

Lutheran Women's Meetings in January

Bonnie Bost – April 8, 7pm

Ellen Bumgarner – April 2, 10:30am

Kathy Ketchie – April 13, 4pm

Hama Lingle – April 7, 7pm

Melissa Lura – April 14, 6pm

Grace Ridenhour – April 1, 7pm

Fun Bunch Ladies Group

The “Fun Bunch” is a group of ladies who meet for lunch each month. Contact Louise Eller if you would like to join them. Their plans coming up are:

March 26th–Romano’s Italian Cuisine, 1510 W Innes St, Salisbury

April 30th–Village Inn, 2138 Statesville Blvd, Salisbury

May 28th–Johnson’s Restaurant, 1760 N Main St, China Grove

June 25th–Hendricks BBQ, 1624 W Innes St, Salisbury

July 30th–Jimmie’s Restaurant, 814 US-29, China Grove

Friendship Club

St. Paul’s Friendship Club will meet Thursday, April 17, at 10:30am in the fellowship hall. David Freeze will be the guest speaker. Everyone is invited to come and visit with the friendship club and David as he brings us another interesting program about his travels and an account of last year’s accident.

A covered dish luncheon will be served after the presentation. Hope to see all of you on Maundy Thursday at 10:30am.

Collection for Valley Hope Church, Swannanoa

Supplies for Valley Hope Church storeroom in Swannanoa will be collected at the Cruise ‘n Barbecue on Saturday, April 26th. There will be a truck or trailer near the Outreach tent at the picnic shelter in which to put your donations. **Only** the following items will be accepted:

- White Rice • Black Beans • Masa • Juice,
• Shelf-safe Milk • Snacks • Cookies,
- Disinfectant Wipes • Small-size Laundry and Dish Soap,
• Trash Bags • Sponges • Mops • Brooms,
• Paper Towels • Cleaning Sprays
- New Socks and Underwear • Body Wash,
• Deodorant • Shampoo

If you have any questions about this collection, please contact Susan Bernhardt.

The Gospel of Peace

Find the 34 bold words from Romans 10:8–15 KJV.

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

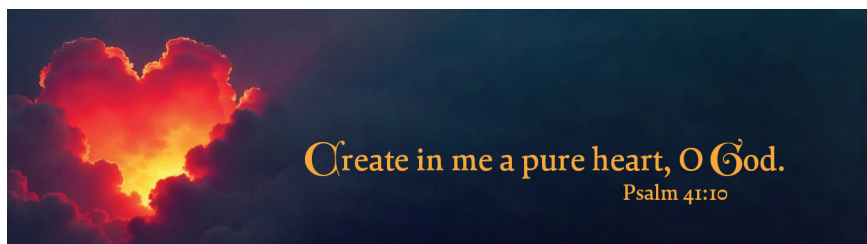
But what saith it? The **word** is **nigh** thee, even in thy **mouth**, and in thy **heart**: that is, the word of **faith**, which we **preach**; that if thou shalt **confess** with thy mouth the **Lord Jesus**, and shalt **believe** in thine heart that God hath **raised** him from the **dead**, thou shalt be **saved**. For with the heart man **believeth** unto **righteousness**; and with the mouth confession is made unto **salvation**. For the scripture saith, “Whosoever believeth on him shall **not** be **ashamed**.” For there is no difference between the **Jew** and the **Greek**: for the **same Lord** over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall **call** upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not **heard**? and how shall they hear without a **preacher**? And how shall they preach, except they be **sent**? As it is written, “How **beautiful** are the **feet** of them that preach the **gospel** of **peace**, and bring **glad tidings** of **good things**!”

The Sixth Commandment states that “You shall not commit adultery.” Martin Luther teaches in his Small Catechism that this means “We should fear and love God so that in matters of sex we are chaste and disciplined in our words and actions, and that husband and wife love and honor each other.

It has always been easy to have a polluted heart; indeed, we are born with such hearts, and are bent on folly. Consider David, who from a rooftop, looked upon Bathsheba with evil in his heart. He was a dirty, rotten, stinking sinner—whom the Lord loved. David loved the Lord too; but this did not keep him from running after a desirable woman. Nor did it keep him from covering up the sin, even when it meant taking the life of a woman’s husband, in an effort to keep his own infidelity secret.

Though God commands us to chastity, to faithfulness to one’s spouse, as he had commanded King David, our eyes wander, our lips are unclean. What are we to do? Try harder? Good luck with that effort. History is filled with Davids, who tried hard and came up empty, of those who tried to be righteous but discovered their nature is weak (Matthew 26:41). There is one thing, and one thing only, that makes the difference. “Watch and pray”; admit that you are a sinner, like David, who needs God to give you a clean heart, and make you righteous through his own pure righteousness. Throw yourself upon his mercy, begging him to give you a spirit so resolute that you run again to God, as David did, even in the face of what you imagine unforgivable. God is faithful and just to forgive you because of Christ—not because of your efforts, or even your momentary successes.

See you in church!
Pastor Ryman



April 2025—Birthdays—Anniversaries			
Sun	Mon	Tue	
		1 M/M Gina and George Barringer	2 Randall Faggart
		**Gayle Brendle	**Lewis Brendle
6 Rob Friel Freida Harper Steve Horinka Brenda Lay Roy Zimmermann	7 Mary Holland M/M Susan and Randall Faggart M/M Linda and Jeff Miller **Donald and Betty Camerlin, Matthew Yattaw and Daniel Tarbox	8 Judith Austin Nora Canup Wanda Kubitz Brian Potts Rachel Ziegler **Rachel and Jon Cannon, Lucas and Caleb	9 **Paul and Crystal
13 Evan Harkey **Josh and Danielle, Hila, Clara, Lela, Nora, Julia, and Lydia Canup	14 Cali Sebastian Richard Smith M/M Ashley and Johnny Lombard **Elijah and Hailey Canup	15 Connie Christman **Michael and Heather Canup, and Alexander	16 Fred Bowers Alan Powlas M/M Kristan and **Cheryl Casper
20 Linda Beaver Trevor Seropian **Will and Karen Charles	21 Mike Canup M/M Myralyn and Michael Goodman **Savannah Charles	22 Russell Bingham Tim Canup Callie Williams **Cori Charles and Jeffrey White	23 Caitlin Williams M/M Alesia and **David Chilson
27 M/M Nancy and Vaughn Wilhelm **Carly and Phillip Cook	28 **Sandy Corley	29 Jordan Gunter M/M Elaine and Randy Bowles **John Cornelison	30 Brent Monroe M/M/ Misty and S **Pamela Cotting

ersaries (M/M)—Daily Prayer (**)

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	3 Joshua Lord **Jessica and Kevin Brooks	4 Cannon Boling German Jaramillo Phillip Redding M/M Jenny and Grady Earnhardt **Gina and Allen Burnett	5 Elise Austin Caleb Orbison **Jason and Kara Burnett, Hudson and Quinn
al Canup	10 Julie Johnson **Sandy and Tim Canup	11 Sandy Corley Lauren Holland **Wilbur Canup	12 Sawyer Holland Stephanie Huffman Jax Lawson Alexandria Newsome M/M Rachel and Jon Cannon **Carolyn and John Canup
Robert Friel	17 Jerry Beaver Kelsey Culp Grace Funderburk **Tonya and Nathan Catledge	18 Kristan Friel **Lisa Cerda, and Amaya	19 Melissa Harkey Kaylee Patterson Nancy Poe M/M Heather and Jeff Moore **Edna Chapman
Butch Lewis	24 Kris Reeder **Connie Christman, Strider, Rayna, and Alivia	25 Colton Andrews **Larry and Tricia Clark	26 Sutton Fisher Brenda Julian Ann Poplin **Jaudon and Wayne Cline
Stephen Brady			
gham			

Did You Know?

History of St. Paul's 1910 –1916

In 1910, three main organizations were active at our church:

- The Church Worker's League—same as our present-day Property Brothers) who worked to beautify the church and church grounds
- The Little Worker's Missionary Society—children interested in the work of missions and helping support missionaries
- The Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society—working for the cause of Christ, both in the home and foreign fields

During the period of time from 1865–1907, nine sons of St. Paul's became ministers of the Gospel:

- Rev. J. H. Fesperman, ordained in 1865, NC Synod
- Rev. C. L. T. Fisher, ordained in 1884, NC Synod
- Rev. C. A. Brown, ordained 1889, NC Synod
- Rev. J. H. C. Fisher, ordained 1890, NC Synod
- Rev. W. W. J. Ritchie, ordained 1899, NC Synod
- Rev. Jeremiah S. M. Brown, ordained 1899, Episcopal minister
- Rev. H. S. T. Peeler, ordained 1903, Reform minister
- Rev. C. A. Richie, ordained 1905, New England Synod
- Rev. M. Luther Canup, ordained 1907, Virginia Synod



In 1915, the NC Synod met at St. Paul's Church for the third time. At this meeting, an individual communion set, given by Mr. T. D. Brown, was used for the first time.

During this year, a brass cross (pictured) was presented to the church as a memorial and remains on the altar in the Chapel.

A Young Peoples Missionary Society was organized in May, 1916. Through its efforts, the organization was able to raise more than \$400 for missions, a tremendous amount of money given the date and time.

It was during 1916 that the Council decided to build a parsonage, since previously all pastors lived in Franklin (township) in a house owned by St. Paul's and Bethel church. Council asked Bethel to sell St. Paul's interest in the parsonage which was accepted by Bethel.

By 1916, ten additional acres of land had been acquired by the church either by purchase or donation—land to build a driveway to the cemetery, land surrounding the church, and land for building a parsonage.

During 1916, a well was dug, the parsonage was built, and was ready for use by September of that same year. During that year, new Bibles for the pulpit and lectern were purchased by the W. P. Sloop Sunday School Class.



Honor Gifts for April

A gift was received in honor of
Cooper Aldridge for the Helping
Hands Fund from

Melissa Bernhardt

A gift was received in honor
of **Caroline Aldridge** for the
Helping Hands Fund from

Melissa Bernhardt

A gift was received in honor of
Eric Barringer for the Capital
Building fund from

Susan and Rev. Mark Ryman

A gift was received in honor of
D. W. Honbarger for the Capital
Building Fund from

Susan and Rev. Mark Ryman

A gift was received in honor of
Vicki Sanders for the Capital
Building Fund from

Susan and Rev. Mark Ryman

Memorial Gifts for April

Gifts were received in memory
of **Wesley Page** for the Capital
Building Fund from

Alice Davis

Karen and Tim Deal

Myra Jane and Terry Eller

Sarah Goodman

Helen Gordon

Frank and Cindy Hinson

Bonnie and Wayne Hinson

Judi and D. W. Honbarger

Susan and Mark Ryman

St. Paul's Lutheran Men

Sunday School class 4 & 6

A gift was received in memory
of **Wesley Page** for the General
Fund from

Crystal and Dana Bost

Gifts were received in memory of
Barbara Whisnant for the Capital
Building Fund from

Linda Behrendt

Ellen Bumgarner Circle

Myra Jane and Terry Eller

Patsy Everhart

Sarah Goodman

Reese and Kim Hoyt

Marilyn King

Donna and Alan Lyerly

Christine Maloney

Shirlene Potts

Brian Potts

Tony and Jeanne Shaver

Wayne and Johnsie Taylor

Sue Young

A gift was received in memory of
Betty Newsome for the Capital
Building Fund from

Karen and Tim Deal

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

Wayne and Bonnie Hinson

A gift was received in memory of
Andrea Lyerly for the Helping
Hands Fund from

Melissa Bernhardt

A gift was received in memory of
Andrea Lyerly for the General
Fund from

Betty Monroe

Gifts were received in memory of **Andrea Lyerly** for the Capital Building Fund from

Myra Jane and Terry Eller
Patsy Everhart
Sarah Goodman
Shirlene Potts
Brian Potts
Tony and Jeanne Shaver
Susan and Jeffrey Sollenberger
Wayne and Johnsie Taylor
Sunday School Classes 4 and 6
A & L Round Table —
*Randall Barger, Mike Shive,
Albert Guessford, Greg Peeler,
Dale Gardner, Dale Peeler,
Wendall Kluttz, Todd Peeler,
Jami Troutman, Chad Walker,
Duane Richardson, and
Zane Robertson*

A gift was received in memory of **William Schluter** for the General Fund from

Dana and Crystal Bost

A gift was received in memory of **William Schluter** for the Capital Building Fund from

Wayne and Bonnie Hinson
Susan and Rev. Mark Ryman
Karen and Tim Deal
Alice Davis
Frank and Cindy Hinson
Wayne and Johnsie Taylor

A gift was received in memory of **Grady Earnhardt** for the Helping Hands Fund from

Judy and Lindsay Lowman

A gift was received in memory of **Grady Earnhardt** for the Improvement Fund from

Bob and Jan McCanless

Gifts were received in memory of **Grady Earnhardt** for the Capital Building Fund from

Cindy and Travis Alligood
Ben and Susan Bernhardt
Perry and Lori Bernhardt
Crystal and Dana Bost
Susan Cruz
Alice Davis
Karen and Tim Deal
Jean and Jimmie Deal
Harold and Louise Eller
Myra Jane and Terry Eller
Sarah Goodman
Helen Gordon
Frank and Cindy Hinson
Bonnie and Wayne Hinson
Judi and D. W. Honbarger
Alan and Donna Lyerly
Christine Maloney
Betty Monroe
Kay Moody
Nancy Powell
Mita Powlas
Susan and Rev. Mark Ryman
Kenneth, Bethany, Lauren,
and Linsley Whisnant
Hugh and Kathy Wilhelm
Paul Wilhelm
Nancy and Vaughn Wilhelm
Wayne and Jane Wilhelm
Sue Young
St. Paul's Lutheran Men
Sunday School class 4 & 6

*We extend our love and sympathy to the family of
Wesley Page who passed away on Thursday, March 13, 2025.
Wesley's funeral service was held at St. Paul's on Thursday, March 20.
Please keep Susie and all the Page family in your prayers.*

*We extend our love and sympathy to the family of
Grady Earnhardt, who passed away Saturday, March 15, 2025.
Grady's funeral service and interment was held
on Saturday March 22, at St. Paul's.
Please keep Jenny and all the Earnhardt family in your prayers.*

Thank You

There are no words to express my gratitude to each of you who have been there for Grady and me before he passed away and for me after his passing. I am so grateful to all of you who visited, and/or provided a meal, a memorial, a flower arrangement, a card, an email, or a text. Thanks to all the men who helped me get Grady in and out of church when he became confined to a wheelchair, including Pastor Ryman, who pushed him out of church each Sunday. I especially thank you for all the hugs, thoughts, and prayers. And a special thanks to Grady's "Friend," Pastor Ryman, who brought love and laughter every time he visited with Grady at home, in the hospital, and in Glenn Kiser Hospice House, and for the special Homily, "I'll Never Forget..."

Also, thanks to Friend #2, Pastor Lord, for his visits. All of the above have helped sustain me during this difficult time. I am blessed that Grady converted me from a Presbyterian to a Lutheran. St. Paul's has such a loving and giving congregation.

Your Sister in Christ,
Jenny Earnhardt

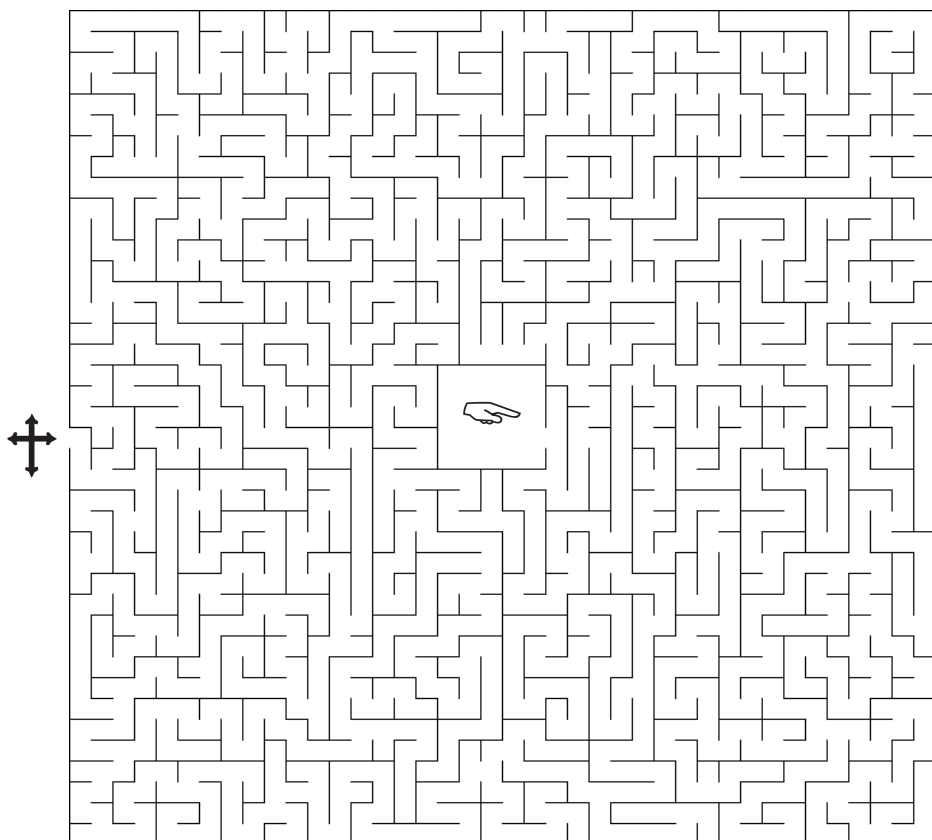
Thank you for all the cards, calls and prayers following my recent knee replacement surgery. It is wonderful to be part of such a caring congregation as we have at St. Paul's.

Tim Deal

It's Raffle Time Again

The raffles for the Cruise-In were a great success last year with 41 baskets. That is the most ever! We hope to continue our quality baskets again this year with the congregation's help. Our women's circles have been asked to donate a basket again this year. As in the past, some families get together to donate a basket. If you would like to donate a basket or some items for a basket (gift cards are always a hit), please contact Terri Powlas (powlastb@gmail.com, 704-637-6849) or Susan Bernhardt (srbernhardt@carolina.rr.com, 704-637-0155).

The Cruise-In is Saturday, April 26th. **Baskets need to be to the church fellowship hall by Thursday, April 24th.** The raffle tickets are \$1.00 each, or 30 tickets for \$20.00. Let's generate a lot of interest in buying those tickets to help Western North Carolina through Samaritan's Purse!



Missions

Your support has allowed us to reach thousands of people in former communist countries with the light and hope of Jesus Christ. In a world full of conflict and darkness, this message is more important than ever and we are committed to continuing, and God willing, expanding our ministries to bring the Gospel wherever we are called to do so. Thank you for helping us to connect spiritual orphans to the global family of Christ.

In His Service,
Pastor David Breidenbach
SON Executive Director

Thank you for your gift of \$305.72 on March 17th. Your gifts and prayers help make our ministry possible. Thank you and God bless you.

Sincerely,
Franklin Graham
President

Thank you so much for the gift given in October to Lutherans for Life. It is a blessing that you remember us and our mission to be gospel motivated voices for life. Your prayers and gifts enable us to be about God's mission of life.

Kevin Nessa
Assistant Development Director
Lutherans for Life

Your \$296.58 contribution to Focus on the Family means more to us than we can possibly express. Thank you for your confidence in our outreach. Thanks for being a part of God's plan for the provision of our needs. Grace and peace to you.

Sincerely,
Jim Daly
President

Missions

Thank you for the \$423.68 donation to the pantry at Organ Lutheran Church. Your donation shows that you truly care about our cause and the work we do.

Sincerely
Linda Austin, Director
Pantry / Outreach Program

Thank you for your generous donation of \$296.58. 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

On behalf of the staff and Board of Sola Publishing, thank you for your gift of \$477.93. 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 Steve King
Managing Editor



Offering for February 2025

General Fund income for the month: \$38,990

March General Fund report will be in the May 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.



General Fund Giving and Expenditure Report February 28, 2025

Income for February	\$38,990.07
Expenditures for February	\$46,324.66
Deficit (Income minus expenses)	-\$7,334.59
Income year to date	\$76,973.20
Expenditures year to date	\$92,970.79
Deficit (Income minus expenses)	-\$15,997.59
Budgeted Income year to date	\$105,109.74
Actual Income year to date	\$79,973.20
Budget deficit year to date	-\$28,136.54

This report is provided to you for information as you plan your giving to St. Paul's. It includes income and expenditures only for the General Fund, which is for the ongoing budgeted operations of the church. This does not include special gifts made to dedicated funds or the Capital Building Fund.

**Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the
one who died—more than that, who was
raised—who is at the right hand of God,
who indeed is interceding for us.**

Romans 8:34

Update on the Capital Improvement Project

March 18, 2025

The SPLC Facility Accessibility and Improvement Committee (FAIC) would like to update everyone on our capital improvement project. The project will include adding to the rear of the church building and remodeling portions inside the existing building.

Various improvements will include a covered drop-off, foyer, elevator to access many of the church's levels, a new enclosed hallway from the sanctuary basement to the fellowship hall, and enlarging the kitchen. The project does not include reworking the front of the church or the sanctuary.

The pace of the preliminary work is picking up. Planning and design continue with Fuller Architecture. Mechanical and electrical engineers have also been brought on board for their involvement with the plans. The construction drawings are expected to be completed in May, 2025. Construction is scheduled to begin in June, 2025. The construction is expected to last 12 to 14 months.

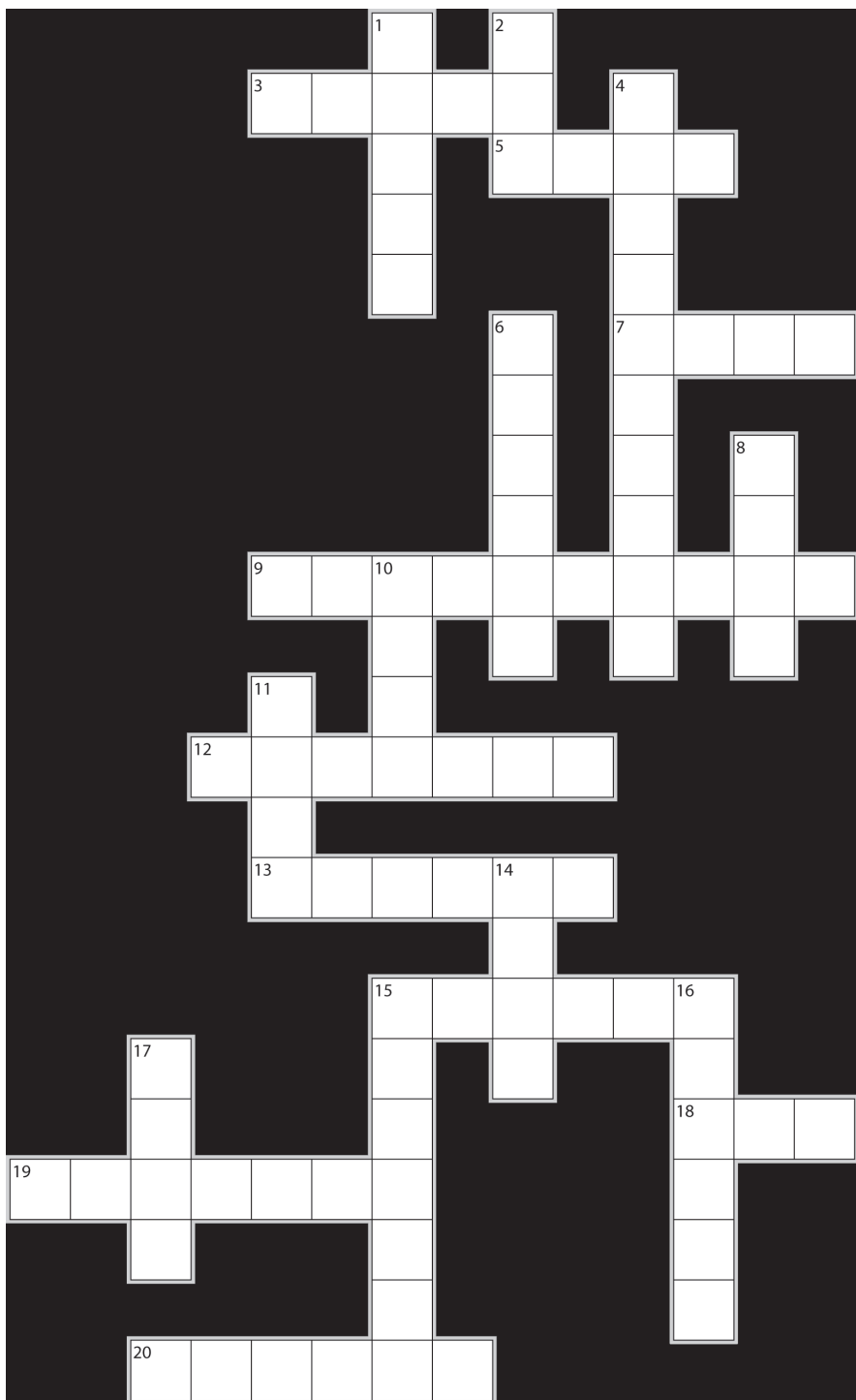
Central Piedmont Builders, Inc. has been selected as the General Contractor for the construction. They will also be involved in the final plan review. Mr. Chad Vriesema is President, and they are located in Salisbury.

The committee would like to express thanks to all the donors and volunteers that have brought this project to this point.

The Capital Building Fund Update

As of February 28, 2025, we had a total of \$1,677,850.73. As of March 3, 2025, an additional gift of \$354,241.96 was given, bringing the total to \$2,032,092.69. Thanks for all the support from a wonderful church family. Exciting things are going to start happening soon!





Lenten Terms

ACROSS

3. The symbol marked with ash on a person's forehead on Ash Wednesday
5. What is the week preceding Easter?
7. The Friday before Easter
9. The 40 days of Lent correspond to the days Jesus spent there.
12. What is a discipline some people engage in during Lent?
13. The Thursday before Easter
15. The liturgical color of Lent
18. Lent lasts roughly this many weeks.
19. What days are not counted in the 40 days of Lent?
20. "Lent: is a shortened form of the Old English word "lencten," meaning "_____ season."

DOWN

1. Moses and Elijah also went into the mountains for _____ days and nights to fast.
2. What is the name of the Wednesday that begins Lent?
4. This practice during Lent is often neglected in modern times.
6. This and spiritual reflection are observed during Lent.
8. You are _____ and to _____ you will return.
10. What is the church season just before Easter?
11. What is the last Sunday in Lent?
14. Holy Saturday is sometimes referred to as _____ Saturday.
15. What is Palm Sunday alternately called?
16. Lent is a time of preparation for this season.
17. Good Friday is not part of the season of Lent but is the day of Jesus' suffering and crucifixion. It is when we focus on Jesus' death for the forgiveness of _____. That's why it's called the Good Friday.

Recent Prayer Needs

- Gina Barringer – health concerns
- Shiela Barringer – health concerns
- Marvin Burnett, father of Allen Burnett – Hospice care
- Edna Chapman – Bermuda Commons Nursing/Rehab
- Sandy Corley – health concerns
- Michael Corley, Sandy's son – health concerns
- Nancy Crapster, friend of Sandy Corley – health concerns
- Barbara Deese – health concerns
- The family of Grady Earnhardt who died March 15th
- Mitch Drew, family of Jimmy and Mary Lee Earnhardt – health concerns
- Patti Horinka – recovering from surgery
- Randy Johnson – recovering from surgery
- Zack Lemmon, family of Jimmy and Mary Lee Earnhardt – health concerns
- Kay Moody – health concerns
- Michelle Orbison – health concerns
- The family of Wesley Page who died March 13th
- Stan Parnell, family of Jimmy and Mary Lee Earnhardt – health concerns
- Franda Raymer – health concerns
- Scott Watson, son of Larry & Leilani Watson – health concerns

Pray for Homebound and Long-Term Care:

Autumn Care: Walter Smith

Compass Healthcare: John Stutts, Jr.

Terra Bella: Helen Howe, Della Jenkins

Trinity Oaks: Ray Kubitz

Home: Allen Burnett, John Cornelison, Barbara Deese,
Sonya Eller, Linda Hess, Shirley Hoosier, James Lyerly,
Susie Page, Lottie Simpson, Dottie Stancil, Barbara Upright,
Robert Weed, Jane Wilhelm

Please let us know if any corrections to this list of concerns are needed. In an effort to keep the list current, we will try to update/remove prayer requests on a monthly basis, with the exception of known, prolonged issues of which we are made aware.



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.