



The Monthly Epistle

of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Volume 70, Issue 4 • April 2024

Our Bible study on “The Spiritual Realms” has been well-attended. 51 people ordered the study books. The classes have been videoed and placed on our website at:

<https://stpaulslutheran.church/studies>

If you missed any classes or you would like to watch them from home, well, there they are. The church office even has a few more copies of the workbook. Just call and Pam will get you a workbook.

Our next class will be “The Seven Letters of Revelation.” There is no charge for a workbook for the class, as I will create my own and give you a copy. However, you will need to call the church office and let Pam know that you plan to take the class. That way, we will know how many workbooks to print. Please let her know by Monday, April 15th that you plan to be in one of the studies on Tuesdays at 10am or 6pm, beginning April 23rd and ending June 11th. These eight classes will also be recorded and the videos placed online.

Following the “Seven Letters” Bible study will be a study of Jesus’ Beatitudes. What would you like to study after these three studies? Put your bid in now so I can start working on it for us all.

See you in church!

Pr. Ryman

Associate Pastor Candidate

The Associate Pastor candidate will be visiting with us April 27th through May 5th. Brian Lord and family—wife Lisa, daughter Talia, and son Joshua—will attend the Cruise ‘n BBQ Saturday, April 27th, and worship with us on Sunday, April 28th. Brian will be spending time with Pastor Ryman and staff during the following week, April 29–May 3. Brian will be preaching on Sunday, May 5th, which is Youth Sunday. Also on May 5th, there will be a Meet-and-Greet in the fellowship hall from 3:30–5:30 for the congregation to meet the Lord family. We hope everyone will take this opportunity to make them feel welcome.

Friendship Club

The Friendship Club will meet on Thursday, April 18th, at 10:30am in the fellowship hall. A covered dish meal will be served. Everyone is welcome to join us for fellowship and good food. Hope to see you March 21st.

Lutheran Women Circle Meetings

Bonnie Bost–Tuesday, April 9, at the parsonage, 7pm

Ellen Bumgarner–Wednesday, April 3, 10am

Kathy Ketchie–Sunday, April 14, 4pm

Hama Lingle–Monday, April 1, 7pm

Melissa Lura–Monday, April 8, 6pm

Grace Ridenhour–Tuesday, April 2, 6:30pm

Bible Study Webpage

A new section has been added to our website called “Bible Studies.” There you may find videos of our Tuesday Bible Study, “The Spiritual Realms.” All nine sessions will eventually be posted. Links to additional resources and for the participant’s workbook are also listed on the page. Find resources in the navigational line at the top of any of our webpages, then click Bible Studies.

<https://stpaulslutheran.church/studies>

Change of Plans for Mother's Day

Because of several conflicts with other events on Mother's Day weekend, the Mother's Day Banquet has been cancelled. However, a **Ladies' Banquet is being planned for Saturday, May 4th**, at 12:00pm in the fellowship hall. This event will be in honor of all ladies, young and old, and any friends and/or family who would like to attend. More details will be available later in the month.

Youth & Family Game Night

Join us for Youth and Family Game Night on **Friday, April 19th at 6:30pm**. We will have food, games, and fellowship for the youth and families. All are welcome. Bring your favorite board game to share. Look forward to seeing you all there in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please call Amy Hoffner at 704-640-7165.

History Room

Have you visited the St. Paul's History Room lately? Ever? If you don't know, it's located across the hall from the pastor's office. Over the last year, the History Committee has been busy. The room itself had become a gathering place for items that no one knew what to do with. But it has now been cleaned and organized for your viewing pleasure. While there is much work left to do (History is an ongoing process, after all.), we are proud of the progress that we've made. We have added a new cabinet dedicated to the projects of the Lutheran Women. That alone is worth checking out. Please set aside a few minutes one day to drop by for a look. Who knows, you just might learn something.

Sincerely,
The History Committee

Cruise 'n Barbecue, April 27th

Planning is well underway for the 12th annual “St. Paul’s Cruise ‘n Barbecue.” Thank you to all those who have signed up to help make this special day possible.

We are honored and humbled to dedicate this year’s event to the memory of Jeff Powlas following his unexpected passing earlier this year. Our T-shirts are extra special, featuring three collector cars that Jeff and Mita have enjoyed over the years, and the front pocket sentiment “In memory of our friend and brother...”

St. Paul’s Helping Hands Fund continues as the recipient of the proceeds, so that many people may benefit from our efforts throughout the year.

As we strive to make each year’s Cruise ‘n Barbecue better and better, we have expanded the number of trophy categories to seven, and Cruiser’s Choice awards have been increased from 20 to 30. One somewhat unique features of our car show is that the participants (those with vehicles registered) vote to determine all awards. Another is that our seven category trophies are hand-crafted by our own George Reese. Word is out among the car hobby enthusiasts that St. Paul’s trophies are special. Be sure to check them out at the volunteer’s meeting, and as they are on display the day of the event, prior to awarding at 3:00pm.

Speaking of the **volunteer’s meeting**—mark your calendar for **Thursday, April 25th at 7:00pm**. At that time T-Shirts will be issued, we will review plans for Saturday, and answer any questions while we enjoy refreshments and celebrate in advance the opportunity to show God’s love as a congregation to the community.

Like and Share St. Paul's Cruise 'n Barbecue

The Cruise 'n Barbecue Facebook page (www.Facebook.com/stpaulscruisenbarbecue) will be updated regularly as the day of the Cruise 'n Barbecue approaches. You can help spread the word and generate excitement by sharing the posts to your page, and with all your Facebook friends. Social media has become a very effective way to promote the event. In addition to event information and updates, let your Facebook friends know that trivia questions posted and answered leading up to April 27th will once again be used to award door prizes throughout the day. In addition, **printed flyers are available for you to pick up** in the narthex. Help yourself to them to pass along to others, or distribute at other car shows and cruise-ins you may attend.

It's the People

Comments have frequently been heard over the years about what a consistently great event St. Paul's Cruise 'n Barbecue is. While there are plenty of incredible vehicles in the car show, the raffle prizes are awesome, and many people come just for the Port-a-Pit chicken or to enjoy the music, the most heartening comments are that it's the friendly people of St. Paul's who make the day so enjoyable. Rare are opportunities to show God's love for others and each other to so many people! Thank you to all those who work in so many ways to make that possible. If you haven't yet signed up to help, it's not too late. Contact Tim Deal. There's a place for you!

April 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
- April 7 – Breakfast before Sunday School, 8:30am
- April 7 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- April 7 – Youth & Family Committee, 2pm
- April 7 – Staff Support Committee, 3pm
- April 7 – Lutheran Women's quarterly meeting, 5pm
- April 14 – Christian Education Committee, conf. room, 1:30pm
- April 14 – Worship & Music Committee, 2:30pm
- April 14 – Kathy Ketchie Circle, 4pm
- April 21 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm

Mondays

- Faith Academy after-school program, 1–3pm
(no program on April 15)
- April 1 – Church office closed for Easter holiday
- April 1 – Hama Lingle Circle, 7pm
- April 8 – Finance Committee, 6pm
- April 8 – Melissa Lura Circle, 6pm
- April 8 – Outreach Committee, 6:30pm
- April 15 – Council meeting, 6:30pm
- April 15 – Newsletter articles for May due this week
- April 22 – Lutheran Men's meeting, 6:30pm
- April 29 – Call Committee, 6pm

Tuesdays

- Bible Study classes, at 10am and 6pm
- Girl Scouts meet each week at 6:45pm
- April 2 – Extension Club, 1pm

- April 2 – Grace Ridenhour Circle, 6:30pm
- April 9 – Bonnie Bost Circle, 7pm
- April 16 – Staff meeting, 5pm

Wednesdays

- Homeschool group, 8:30–3:30
- April 3 – Ellen Bumgarner Circle, 10am
- Adult Choir practice – 10th, 17th, and 24th, 6:30pm
- Youth Confirmation class each week, 7:30pm

Thursdays

- April 18 – Friendship Club, 10:30am

Fridays

- April 19 – Youth & Family Game Night, 6:30pm
- April 26 – Brian Lord and family arrive to visit with St. Paul's through May 5

Saturdays

- April 27 – Cruise 'n Barbecue, 9am–4pm

Scholarships

Members who plan to attend college this fall may pick up scholarship applications from the narthex. They are also available to print from the website, stpaulslutheran.church/scholarships.

The deadline to turn in applications is May 1st.

Offering for February 2024

General Fund Offering for the month: \$37,935 • Year-to-Date as of February 29: \$77,519

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.



Thank You

Thank you, my St. Paul's family, for graciously supporting me during the past two months. The prayers, phone calls, inquiries and beautiful cards have been such a comfort and very uplifting. What a blessing you are to me! May God bless you all.

Yours in Christ,
Carolyn Canup

Missions

Thank you for your generous donation of \$2,451 to the Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries, Inc. (LMVFM.) Your faithful support helps us to carry out our mission to provide our veterans and their families with free care and counseling from LMVFM to address the invisible wounds of war. We truly enjoyed visiting with you all while we were at St. Paul's. Your partnership to this ministry and to those we serve is greatly appreciated.

Together in his service,
Chaplain, Leslie Haines
Executive Director, LMVFM

On behalf of the staff and board of Sola Publishing, thank you for your gifts of \$548.88 and \$439.70. 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. We are deeply thankful for your gracious gift.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Steve King, Managing Editor

Thank you for your recent donation to Sola Publishing. Your support helped us to be able to put a new roof on our building last week (February)—and we didn't have to take out a loan to do so. It's great to have neighbors like you.

Pastor Steve King
Managing Editor

Missions

Thank you so much for your ongoing fellowship and support. Your commitment and generosity serve as an example to our culture and as an inspiration to our *For Life* community. The entire Lutherans For Life organizational ministry celebrates your witness by awarding you with the **2023 Abundant Life Giving Society** honor. This premier distinction recognizes that your offerings surpassed \$1,000 in 2023, and identifies you as one of our leading contributors.

Your courage and compassion continue to reflect nothing less than the heart of God himself. Those who we serve together behold the image of God as you make it possible for us to speak God's truth, show Christ's love, and share abundant and everlasting life. Whatever their size, skills, or circumstances, you are bringing every neighbor the joy and hope of the Gospel that lives in you. The Lord our God creates them special, redeems them precious, and calls them priceless from fertilization to forever, the same as he does for you. He receives each one as his own, "*Just as...I Am.*" And even in surprise pregnancy or terminal diagnosis, they are hearing and learning from you to rejoice that "we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works" (Ephesians 2:10.)

Your enthusiasm energizes our labors across the country and around the clock. Please rest assured that you remain in our prayers and our praises to the heavenly Father.

Congratulations, well done, thanks be to God, and may he bless your gospel-motivated voice *For Life*.

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

Missions

We thank God for your partnership. Because of you, we can continue to reach spiritual orphans in former communist countries with the hope of the gospel. Your gift of \$307.79 on February 15, 2024, is a great blessing to those who do not yet know that they have a father in heaven who loves them, or that they have brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world who want to see them adopted into the family of Christ. SON engages people in the word of God, helping them to reclaim their identity as children of God, and walks alongside them as they are transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thank you also for your donation of \$384.22 on January 31. Your prayers and support continue to bring hope to thousands of people in countries where relationships with God were forbidden for as many as four generations.

Sincerely yours,
Pr. David R. Breidenbach
SON Executive Director

Hello from your friends at Focus on the Family, and many thanks for your generous \$307.79 donation to our ministry. We are keenly aware that a large part of the credit for the success of our ministry goes to folks like you. Thanks again for coming alongside us in our work. Grace, peace, and blessings to you.

Sincerely,
Jim Daly, President

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers. I am at the mission now, and to be here and do the work God has called me to do is such a blessing. Thank you, St. Paul's, for making this ministry possible by your continued support. We are grateful 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

The Greatest

Find the 28 **bold** words from 1 Corinthians 13:4–8a, 9–13.

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

Love is **patient** and **kind**. Love is not **envious** or **boastful**. Love is not **proud** or **rude**. It is not self-serving, easily **provoked**, or **grudging**. It does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the **truth**. Love **bears** all things, **believes** all things, **hopes** all things, **endures** all things. Love never fails...but when the **perfect** comes, **imperfect** will pass away. When I was a **child**, I **spoke** like a child, I **thought** like a child, I **reasoned** like a child. Now that I have become a man, I have put away **childish** things. For now we **see** in a mirror **unclearly**, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will **know** fully even as I have been fully **known**. So, now abide these three: **faith**, **hope**, **love**. But the **greatest** of these is love.

Memorial Gifts

A gift was received in memory of **Lynn Price** for the *Carillon* Fund from

Karen and Tim Deal

A gift was received in memory of **Lynn Price** for the *Capital Building* Fund from

Johnsie and Wayne Taylor

Gifts were received in memory of **Virginia Swindell** for the *Capital Building* Fund from

Carolyn and John Canup
Myra Jane and Terry Eller
Helen Gordon

Johnsie and Wayne Taylor
Bethany, Kenneth, Lauren,
and Lindsey Whisnant

A gift was received in memory of **Virginia Swindell** for the *Carillon Fund* from

Karen and Tim Deal

A gift was received in memory of **Jim Bass** for the *Capital Building* Fund from

Susan and Mark Ryman

A gift was received in memory of **Carolyn Cress** for the *Carillon* Fund from

Karen and Tim Deal

A gift was received in memory of **Carolyn Cress** for the *Altar Guild* from

Nicole and Glen Amos

Gifts were received in memory of **Carolyn Cress** for the *Capital Building* Fund from

Susan and Ben Bernhardt

Lori and Perry Bernhardt

Crystal and Dana Bost

Susan Cruz

Jenny and Grady Earnhardt

Myra Jane and Terry Eller

Patsy Everhart

Sarah Goodman

Bonnie and Wayne Hinson

Frank and Cindy Hinson

Judi and D.W. Honbarger

Jan and Bob McCanless

Betty Monroe

Susan and Mark Ryman

Jeanne and Tony Shaver

Johnsie and Wayne Taylor

Bethany and Kenneth

Whisnant, and daughters

Lauren and Lindsey

Whisnant

Jane and Wayne Wilhelm

Sue Young

Granite Quarry High School

Class of 1954

A gift was received in memory of **Carolyn Cress** for the *General* Fund from

The Ellen Bumgarner Circle

A gift was received in memory of **Jeff Powlas** for the *Helping Hands* Fund from

Melissa Bernhardt

Gifts were received in memory of **Jeff Powlas** for the *Capital Building* Fund from

Rick and LouAnn Adams
Keven and Kerensa Davis
Johnsie and Wayne Taylor

Gifts were received in memory of **Monica Willis Eaton** for the *Capital Building* Fund from

Crystal and Dana Bost
Cindy and Frank Hinson
Myra Jane and Terry Eller
Susan and Mark Ryman
Johnsie and Wayne Taylor
Kathy and Hugh Wilhelm

A gift was received in memory of **Monica Willis Eaton** for the *Carillon* Fund from

Karen and Tim Deal

A gift was received in memory of **Monica Willis Eaton** for the *Helping Hands* Fund from

Nancy and Vaughn Wilhelm

Gifts were received in memory of **Donald Eidson** for the *Capital Building* Fund from

Myra Jane and Terry Eller
Cindy and Frank Hinson
Susan and Mark Ryman

A gift was received in memory of **Donald Eidson** for the *Carillon* Fund from

Karen and Tim Deal

A gift was received in memory of **Carolyn Faggart** for the *Capital Building* Fund from

Johnsie and Wayne Taylor

Gifts were received in memory of **Jerry Alligood** for the *Capital Building* Fund from

Johnsie and Wayne Taylor
Vaughn and Nancy Wilhelm

Gifts were received in memory of **Cheryl Cress Palmer** for the *Capital Building* Fund from

Myra Jane and Terry Eller
Susan and Mark Ryman

To Honor

A gift was given in honor of **Becky Lyerly** for the *General* Fund from

Ellen Bumgarner Circle

A gift was given in honor of **Shiela Barringer** for the *General* Fund from

Ellen Bumgarner Circle

A gift was given in honor of **Caroline and Cooper Aldridge** for the *Helping Hands* Fund from

Melissa Bernhardt

A gift was given in honor of **Caroline and Cooper Aldridge** for the *Capital Building* Fund from

Lori and Perry Bernhardt

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.

Please do not bring clothing donations to St. Paul's—carry those 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.

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 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'n Barbecue 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."

St. Paul's Congregation Council

Serving through 2024:

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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

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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.