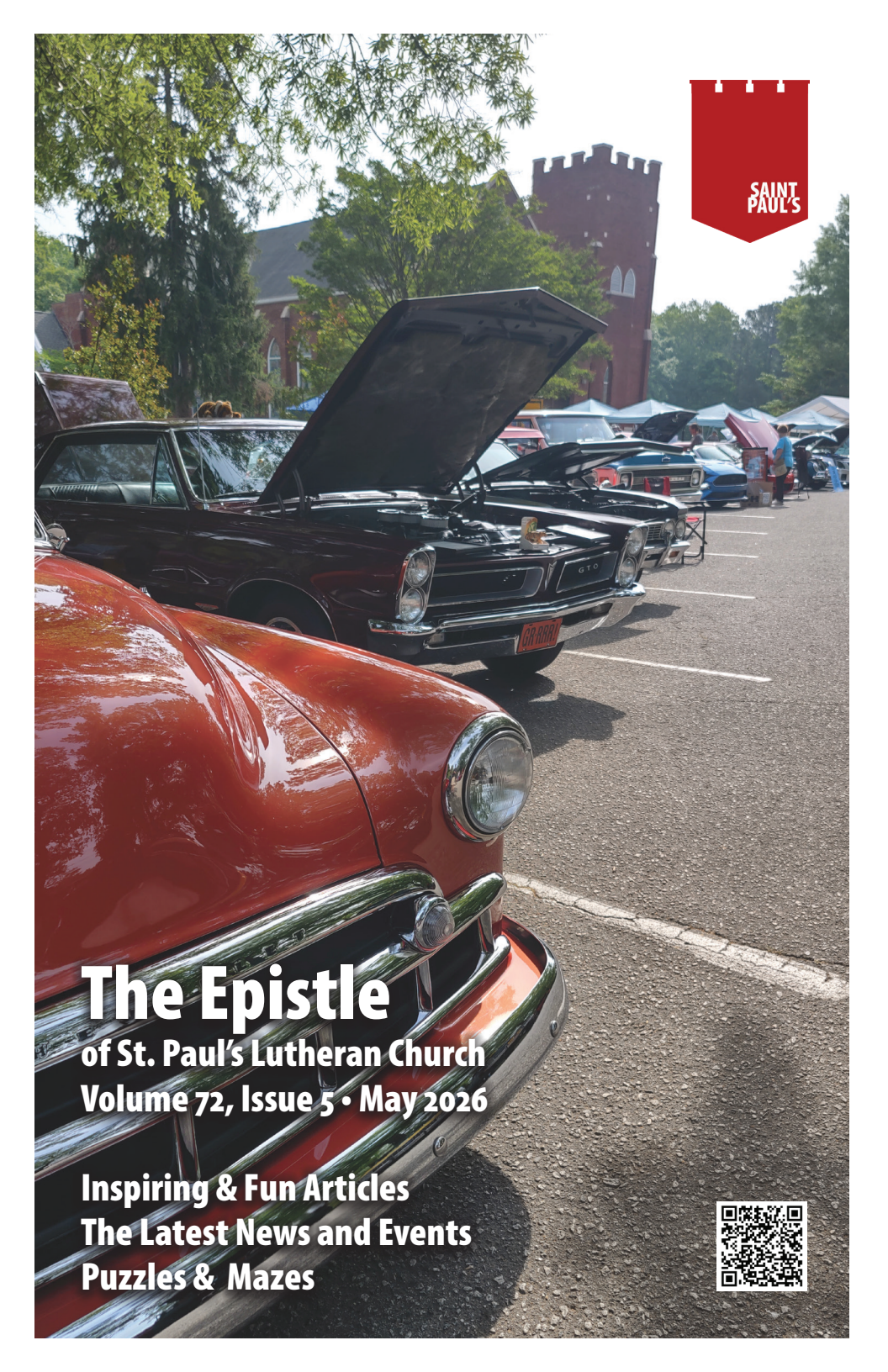




SAINT
PAUL'S

The Epistle

of St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Volume 72, Issue 5 • May 2026

Inspiring & Fun Articles
The Latest News and Events
Puzzles & Mazes



Capital Building Fund

As a congregation, we are doing well with our commitment to fund our building project. Hopefully, we can turn “doing well” into “doing excellently.”

As of March 31st we have received \$2,350,208.17 which is \$549,791.83 short of our \$2.9 million goal. We still need to keep giving!

Percentage Giving

Use this chart to help you decide what percentage of your annual income to give in offerings per week:

Annual Income	Weekly Giving (in Dollars)					
	12%	10%	8%	6%	4%	2%
\$5,200	12.00	10.00	8.00	6.00	4.00	2.00
\$6,500	15.00	12.50	10.00	7.50	5.00	2.50
\$7,800	18.00	15.00	12.00	9.00	6.00	3.00
\$9,100	21.00	17.50	14.00	10.50	7.00	3.50
\$10,400	24.00	20.00	16.00	12.00	8.00	4.00
\$11,700	27.00	22.50	18.00	13.50	9.00	4.50
\$13,000	30.00	25.00	20.00	15.00	10.00	5.00
\$14,300	33.00	27.50	22.00	16.50	11.00	5.50
\$15,600	36.00	30.00	24.00	18.00	12.00	6.00
\$18,200	42.00	35.00	28.00	21.00	14.00	7.00
\$20,800	48.00	40.00	32.00	24.00	16.00	8.00
\$23,400	54.00	45.00	36.00	27.00	18.00	9.00
\$26,000	60.00	50.00	40.00	30.00	20.00	10.00
\$28,600	66.00	55.00	44.00	33.00	22.00	11.00
\$31,200	72.00	60.00	48.00	36.00	24.00	12.00
\$36,400	84.00	70.00	56.00	42.00	28.00	14.00
\$41,600	96.00	80.00	64.00	48.00	32.00	16.00
\$46,800	108.00	90.00	72.00	54.00	36.00	18.00
\$52,000	120.00	100.00	80.00	60.00	40.00	20.00
\$65,000	150.00	125.00	100.00	75.00	50.00	25.00
\$78,000	180.00	150.00	120.00	90.00	60.00	30.00
\$91,000	210.00	175.00	140.00	105.00	70.00	35.00
\$104,000	240.00	200.00	160.00	120.00	80.00	40.00
\$117,000	270.00	225.00	180.00	135.00	90.00	45.00
\$130,000	300.00	250.00	200.00	150.00	100.00	50.00
\$150,000	346.00	288.00	231.00	173.00	115.00	58.00



From the Word: Job 19:25-26

From the Confessions: The Large Catechism,
The Ten Commandments

The Second Commandment

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

For this reason, it is also useful that we form the habit of daily entrusting ourselves to God—soul and body, spouse, children, employees, and all that we have—for every need that may occur. This is why the blessing and thanksgiving at meals, and other prayers, both morning and evening, have originated and remain in use.

Pulling It Together: Poor Job was tormented by his friends, shunned by his family, and was of the opinion that God was after him. Did he simply complain about his plight? Was he reduced to whining about his tribulations? He did complain, but he also confessed. He commended himself to God. He believed that in the end, when all else was dead and gone, it was God who would stand upon the earth. He also professed that this life is not the sum of existence, that after his death and subsequent decay he, in a resurrected body, would see God. So, even in the midst of the greatest difficulties of life, God's name should be in our mouths,

confessing what we know to be true, and entrusting ourselves to his care.

Prayer: I trust you, Father, to care for me and those whom I love, regardless of all that life throws at us. Amen.

A Note of Thanks

Ten of our St. Paul's members have died this year—five of them in the past few weeks. This faster than normal rate of transfer from our membership register to the heavenly roll has sharpened my focus on what happens around here. I give thanks for them here so that those who do these vital chores are appreciated but also, in hopes you too will extend your personal thanks to them.

Thank you, all who help with making funerals a blessing to the families of the deceased as well as to our members and visitors at funeral services.

Those who serve as acolytes, crucifers, ushers, pallbearers (when the family cannot provide them), and soundboard operators are so necessary to these special services of worship. You do it so well too. I am also grateful for your reverence in fulfilling these important ministries at St. Paul's.

The Lutheran Women provide meals for our mourning families, and they do so sometimes at the drop of a hat. Thank you for your service.

Our organist, Johnsie Taylor, always graciously makes room in her schedule to play for these services. Thank you, Johnsie.

Our groundskeepers, Jason and Ben Bernhardt, make sure the lawn and cemetery look great for these services. Thanks, guys.

Our Cemetery Committee makes sure graves are marked for digging, and sometimes dig a hole themselves for the burial of cremains. They also open and close the columbarium for committals. And recently, Perry trimmed the columbarium bushes, and he and Lindsay Lowman washed the columbarium before a service. Thank you.

Others make sure the church is looking tidy and that the family has what they need when they arrive the day of the funeral. Thank you, all.

—*Pastor Ryman*

Calendar of Events for May

Sundays

- Sunday School at 9:30am each Sunday
- Vespers each Sunday evening at 6pm in the parsonage
- May 3 – Congregational meeting, **10:20am**
- May 3 – Lutheran Military Veterans/Families visiting
- May 3 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- May 3 – Youth and Family Committee, 2pm
- May 3 – Handbell Ensemble practice, 5pm
- May 17 – Confirmation Sunday, 10:30am
- May 17 – Christian Education Committee, 1pm
- May 17 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- May 17 – Kathy Ketchie Circle, 4pm
- May 24 – Ordination and Installation of Brian Lord, 10:30am
- May 31 – Youth Sunday, 10:30am; Lazy 5 after church
- *Join us for Morning Prayer in the chapel at 8:30am Monday – Friday.*

Mondays

- Home School dance class, weekly in the fellowship hall, 10am
- May 4 – Facility Accessibility committee meeting, 6:30pm
- May 4 – Hama Lingle Circle, 7pm
- May 11 – Melissa Lura Circle, 6pm
- May 11 – Finance Committee, 6:30pm
- May 18 – May newsletter articles due this week
- May 18 – Council meeting, S. Salisbury Fire Dept., 6:30pm

Tuesdays

- Bible Study Classes, 10am and 6pm each Tuesday
- Girl Scouts, 6:30pm each Tuesday
- May 5 – Grace Ridenhour Circle, 6:30pm
- May 12 – Bonnie Bost Circle, 7pm
- May 19 – Staff meeting, 5pm

Wednesdays

- Adult Choir practice, 6:30pm each Wednesday (except May 6)
- Youth Confirmation class May 6 and 13
- May 13 – Ellen Bumgarner Circle, 10am

- May 27 – Fun Bunch Lunch, Lakeview Restaurant, 11:30am

Thursdays

- Rowan Smart Start, 10am–Noon, each week
- May 21 – Friendship Club (carpool to Concord for lunch), 10:30am

Fridays

- May 1 – Scholarship application deadline
- May 1 – Confirmation sleepover

Saturdays

- May 2 – Joshua overview for bus trip, 11am
- May 9 – Homeschool ballet program, 4pm–8pm

Friendship Club

St. Paul's Friendship Club will meet in the church parking lot at **10:30am, on May 21st, to carpool to Concord** Family House Restaurant for lunch. The restaurant is at 270 Copperfield Blvd. NE, Concord. **Please** let me know if you plan to go with us. I have to give the restaurant a head count. (Helen Gordon, 704-636-5002).

Bible Studies and Prayer

Tuesday Bible studies (10:00am and 6:00pm) are working through the Bible. They are currently studying the book of Numbers. Each student receives a commentary written by Pastor Ryman, as well as crossword and Word search puzzles that go with the readings. By the end of this Bible study, you will have a couple of notebooks filled with commentary, puzzles, and your notes. Pastor Ryman reviews a lot so you can join them anytime.

Morning Prayer (8:30–9:00am weekdays) is a time of reading and discussing the Daily Lectionary and praying through our church prayer needs and as God leads us in the Word. The daily readings may be found on each Sunday's worship page at <https://StPaulsLutheran.Church/worship-services>

Johan Glidden Concert Canceled

The concert by Johan Glidden for May 22, had to be canceled because of scheduling conflicts.



Lost Something?

If you lost one of the items above, please retrieve it from the shelf at the bottom of the tower steps.

Care Team

The Stephen Ministry program and the old Communion team have been merged into the St. Paul's Care Team. The Care Team team will operate in connection with the church office so

Mother's Day Luncheon Invitation

The church family of **Faith Lutheran Church** would like to invite each of you to our annual **Mother's Day Luncheon**, in the church **family life center at 12 noon** following worship on **Sunday, May 10th**. The meal will consist of Chicken Casserole, Rice and Gravy, Green beans, Slaw, Rolls and homemade desserts.

Please join us as we celebrate Moms of all kinds, especially individuals that long to be moms and those moms that have lost children. We will accept donations for the meal. All proceeds will go to the family of LeaAnn Buckwell for funeral expenses. LeaAnn passed to the Church Triumphant recently after a courageous battle with cancer. We look forward to having each of you join us!

Did You Know?

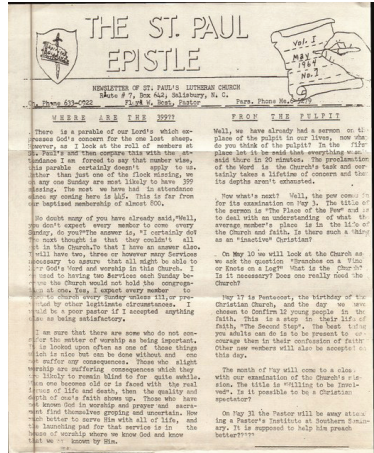
History of St. Paul's 1967-1969

No information could be found for the year 1967.

In 1968, the youth served an Easter Breakfast following the Sunrise Service for the first time. It was such a success that it has been served every year since that time. In the same year, different youth groups took on the responsibility of cleaning and painting the church kitchen and the church park. They also handled a paper drive for the community which served as a source of income for various projects. Other projects in which they were involved was visiting shut-ins, delivering Thanksgiving baskets, entertaining youth groups from other churches and having an overnight retreat.

Youth groups that existed at this time, in addition to the regular church youth groups, were Boy Scout and Cub Scout troops, Little League, Pony League, and Babe Ruth baseball teams for boys, and a girl's softball team.

In 1969, the first edition of *The Epistle*, the monthly newsletter of our church, was published and mailed to all families. It provided



an informative way of getting reports of the happenings at St. Paul's to its members. During the year, umbrella holders in the Narthex were given by the 4H Club in memory of Mr. Lee Webb, and a private communion set was given by the Webb family in memory of Miss Brenda Webb.

A proud moment for our church in 1969 was the ordination of Donald Ray Safrit, son of Earl and Alice Safrit. It had been nine years since a son of our congregation had been ordained. The service took place at St. Mark's in Charlotte, and his first charge was in Churchville, Virginia.

Many other improvements and gifts occurred during the year:

- The M.V. Turrentine family provided furnishings for the Conference-Library Room (conference table, upholstered chairs for 25 people, library shelves, and a heating and air conditioning unit for that room;
- Jack Gibson refinished the altar and other pieces from the old church building;
- a portrait of the A. A. Misenheimer Family was placed outside the conference room, given in appreciation of the \$5,000 gift donated to the church by the M.V. Turrentine family;
- the "Ladies' Parlor was redecorated and furnished by Mrs. Eva Haynes Sloop in memory of her parents, M/Ms. P.M. Haynes;
- a Sanctuary lamp was given in memory of M/Ms. John Cruse by their daughters, Mrs. W. A. Cline, Jr., and Mrs. M.G. Roseman, Sr.;
- a funeral pall was given by Vickie Heilig in honor of her parents, M/Ms. Marshall Heilig.



As you can see, 1969 proved to be one of the busiest ever!



Council Highlights

Council met April 20th at the South Salisbury Fire dept. Again I would like to say that South Salisbury has been kind enough to let us use their facility for the entire year of 2026 while we are under construction. Our next meeting will be May 18th.

We have prepared for the upcoming congregational meeting on 5/3/26, to vote on calling Brian Joseph Lord as Pastor and Rev. Dr. Mark Ryman as Associate Pastor.

Property Committee checked the parsonage well. Called a professional to check the pump and he suggested drilling a new well. Existing well is a 2" well, pump is old and will need replacing soon but will not solve the settlement issue that is clogging the filter in the house. Council voted this was an urgent circumstance (constitution chapter 12.05 d) and voted to look into drilling a new drill for the parsonage.

Christian Education Committee met April 12 at 2pm. Preparing for a reception on 5/17 to celebrate our Confirmands. Plans for VBS on 6/26 – 6/28 are underway. They still need help with some activities, please contact Kara Burnett or Lauren Holland. Next meeting 5/17 at 1pm following the reception.

Worship & Music Committee met April 12 at 3pm. As of April 12th Johnsie returned. It was wonderful to hear her play the organ. The committee sent thank you notes to all organist that help us during Johnsie's absence. Thank you Crystal Bost for handle this for the committee. John shared choir news, we have a new choir member that rejoined. John is working on getting pianos tuned. The committee thanks John for the great job he is doing. We are in the process of checking prices on an adjustable organist bench. We discovered with multiple people playing, the bench we have is not made for all organists. We had to use hymnals to raise the bench for some and then at it's lowest height it was still to high for some. More news on that later. Youth Sunday, the committee will present graduates with a hymnal with their names printed on the inside cover. No meeting in May; next meeting is 6/14 at 3pm.

Property Committee— I can't keep saying this each month. Oh,

yes I can! Keeping the church in operating condition is an on-going job and is not just a monthly chore but a daily chore. March man hours were 272 hours. Checked the well at the parsonage and it is not doing good as stated above. Getting us ready for the Cruise 'n is much appreciated. There are so many more items listed so I'll just say there are 18 items being worked on and another 5 items being planned.

Outreach Committee met April 9th. The following topics were discussed: Food for Thought 4/16, Cruise 'n 4/25, renovation signs, a walking group, 5k run, and shoe box project. Next meeting 6/8.

Youth & Family No updated minutes

Finance Committee met April 13th. For the month of March income exceeded expenses by \$6,174.01. As of March 31st, we have exceeded expenses over income for the year by \$25,698.52. There is a balance of \$125.05 currently listed under Stephen Ministry. Motion made to move this money to Altar Guild and remove Stephen Ministry as a line item, passed unanimously.

St. Paul's Facility & Accessibility Improvement Committee (FAIC) Happy to say construction still continues. Currently work includes: Demolition of the basement bathrooms, elevator exterior walls are up, grading and removing dirt from footings dug for the expansion. A lot going on, so please stop by and look, but be careful.

Cemetery Committee—Sons of the Confederate Veterans requested to use the church cemetery and picnic shelter. Church council denied this request this year due to too much going on in the back of the church at this time. They were told to ask again next year but we do not plan to have this as a yearly event. Cemetery committee received a \$50-thousand gift. Finance committee will invest this money into a moderately aggressive account. John Canup and Lindsey Lowman are co-chairs.

Capital Building Fund—As of March 31st we have received \$2,350,208.17, which so far is \$549,791.83 short of our \$2.9 million goal. We still need to keep giving!

Prayer Needs

- Jennifer Aldridge – physical therapy
- Shiela Barringer – cancer
- W. A. Cline – health concerns (*brother of Wayne Cline*)
- Jean Deal – health concerns
- Sonya Eller – recovering at home
- Kelly Gainey – health concerns
- Frank Giambastiani – health concerns (*Lisa Lord's father*)
- Sarah Goodman – recovering at home
- Autumn Hill – recovering from surgery
- Doris Hilliard – health concerns
- Jerry Hilliard – health concerns
- Tiffany Holland – upcoming surgery
- Randy Johnson – health concerns
- Alesia Lewis – health concerns
- Alan Lyerly – recovering from surgery
- Dennis Martinez – health concerns
- Will Poplin – health concerns (*Ann Poplin's son*)
- Mita Powlas – recovering from surgery
- Melinda Redding – health concerns
- Carol Reese – health concerns (*George Reese's brother*)
- Carey Stickford –health concerns (*friend of Susan Ryman*)
- Scott Watson – health concerns (*son of Larry and Leilani Watson*)
- Nancy Wilhelm – upcoming surgery

After a couple of months pass,
we remove names form this list.

They are only kept on the list if
you update conditions through the church office.

Pray for Our Homebound and Long-Term Care

Terra Bella: Della Jenkins

Trinity Oaks: Lottie Simpson

Bermuda Commons: Edna Chapman

Home: Allen Burnett, Wilbur Canup, Don Camerlin,
Barbara Deese, John Cornelison, Sonya Eller, Harold Goodman,
Shirley Hoosier, Ruth Julian, Betty and Ed Niedens,
Dottie Stancil, Jane Wilhelm

**Blessed be God,
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort.**

2 Corinthians 1:3



*We extend our love and sympathy to the family of
Donald Frank Austin, who died April 10, 2026.
Please keep Don's family in your prayers.*

*We extend our love and sympathy to the family of
Mary Holland, who died April 12, 2026.
Please keep Mary's family in your prayers.*

*We extend our love and sympathy to the family of
Raymond Kubitz, who died April 17, 2026.
Please keep Ray's family in your prayers.*

*We extend our love and sympathy to the family of
Walter Smith, who died April 20, 2026.
Please keep Walter's family in your prayers.*

*We extend our love and sympathy to the family of
Sharon McBride, who died April 21, 2026.
Please keep Sharon's family in your prayers.*

May 2026

Birthdays, Anniversaries (M/M) and Daily Prayer (**)

Sun	Mon	Tue
3 M/M Ashley and Jeremy Young	4 Frank Hinson Teresa Woods	5 M/M Donna and Alan Lyerly
**Kris, Emily, Kole, and Sarah Reeder	**George and Gail Reese	**Russ Restivo
10 Kathy Wilhelm	11 Jean Deal	12 Barbara Toye M/M Carolyn and John Canup M/M Courtney and Zachary Brown
**Becky and Chris Sebastian	**Stan Sebastian	**Jeanne and Tony Shaver
17 Jason Bernhardt M/M Tricia and Larry Clark	18 Katie Funderburk	19 Alexander Canup
**Hailey and Brandon Smith, Mason, Waker and Nolan	** Rebecca and Michael Socorro	** Dottie Stancil
24 Elaine Bowles Ceylah Cottingham Natalie Powlas ** Barbara Toye	25 Allen Burnett	26 Peyton Holland Leilani Watson M/M Ciji and Casey Fisher
31 Eliott Austin M/M Kathy and Hugh Wilhelm ** Jane Webb	** Pedro Vincenty	** Abby and Chad Walker, Grace and Graham

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Larry Watson M/M Donna and Randy Johnson M/M Trudy and John Rowland **Denise Raywood	2 Brad Boling Hudson Burnett Barbara Deese **Phillip and Melinda Redding
6 Cooper Boling M/M Amy and Keith Hoffner M/M Meghan Free and Joshua Terrell **Trudy Rowland	7 Jerry Hilliard **Susan and Mark Ryman	8 **Reba Saine	9 Abby Walker **Vicki Sanders
13 Luke Ziegler M/M Ruth and Dr. John Gagliardi **Linda Shirley	14 **Lottie Simpson	15 Reese Goodman Walker Smith M/M Rebecca and Michael Socorro **Wendy and Wallace Smith	16 **Dick Smith
20 ** Delores Stanley	21 Tiffany Holland Nora Plummer ** Wendy Stutts and Terry Pittman	22 Cassidy Brown ** Daniel Tarbox	23 Jennifer Aldridge Brian Austin Loralei Funderburk ** Johnsie and Wayne Taylor
27 Lauren Whisnant ** Sandra and Jesse Watson	28 Lylla Deal Paisley Tippens ** Larry and Leilani Watson	29 Emma Amos ** Brantley Watson	30 Brinley Bernhardt Brian Earnhardt Jeanne Shaver **Samantha, Justin, Zoe, and Elin Wells

Missions

Thank you for your generosity in your giving of \$520.23 in April to Naomi's Hear Mission in the Philippines. We are continually blessed by your monthly support to Naomi's Heart. As you know, it blesses us in many areas of ministry that helps in the mission work we do.

School is out for the summer and will restart June 8, 2026. Danny and I miss you all so much since we left in March. Your relationships with us are priceless. We will continue to travel until mid-May. I will return to the mission May 31st. We cherish your prayers and are grateful to all of you for praying and supporting Naomi's Heart Mission.

Kristie Ward
Founder

Thank you for the clothing, food, and toy donations. Your support throughout the year has helped this ministry to continue to grow. May God bless each of you as we strive to feed and clothe the less fortunate in our community.

Linda
Organ Lutheran Church
Food and Clothing Pantry

A warm greeting to you from your friends at Focus on the Family, and many thanks for your gracious \$309.75 contribution to our ongoing efforts on behalf of moms, dads, and children everywhere. Your support is enabling us to make a significant impact in the culture. Thanks again for everything you've done. Your friendship is a lifeline. Grace, peace, and the joy of the lord to your entire household.

Sincerely,
Jim Daly, President

Thank you for your gift to the ministry of Samaritan's Purse. We are grateful for your gifts and prayers as our teams proclaim the good news. Thank you for helping us share this eternal hope at home and abroad. God bless you.

Sincerely,
Franklin Graham, President

Thank you for the way your congregation continues to partner with SON through prayer, generosity, and encouragement. We are grateful to serve together as we share the gospel and strengthen Christ's church around the world.

Everything we do at SON begins with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We share the good news through relationships, walking alongside pastors, leaders, and students over time. We serve in countries where the church has endured persecution under communism or has been pushed to the margins by secularism, making ministry isolating and leaving Christians feeling alone. For this reason, we are beginning to explore relationships in Uruguay, where a highly secular society has left little visible Christian presence. At the heart of it all is our mission: connecting spiritual orphans to the global family of Christ.

Here in North America, your support continues to impact Ukrainian and Albanian students studying in safety and without restriction, surrounded by Christian community. They are excelling and are deeply grateful for the opportunity to grow in Christ.

This summer, 56 team members will serve in Latvia, Albania, and Slovakia alongside our ministry partners. In Slovakia, we will also be joined by a group of Ukrainians. These trips are about strengthening relationships, encouraging pastors, and sharing the hope of the gospel with students and their families.

As SON teams prepare to go, we invite you to stand with them as senders. Those who pray, encourage, and provide resources are just as important as those who travel. The work of the gospel moves forward because people choose to send.

In his service,
Pastor David Breidenbach

Missions

Grace and peace to you. Over this past year, one of the most significant changes in our lives has been a clear shift in calling—and with it, a physical move. After a meaningful season serving the church in St. Louis, we sensed the Lord leading us into something new. That step of faith included relocating to Indianapolis and entering a new season of ministry.

For Mark, that leading has taken shape in a full-time call to global missions through Spiritual Orphans Network. This is not simply a change in role—it is a reorientation of his daily work toward participating more directly in what God is doing among the nations. He now has the privilege of coming alongside local believers in places where the Gospel has not been passed down for generations, trusting that God is already at work and inviting us to join him.

Julia continues in her own meaningful work and calling stateside, while also stepping into this season alongside Mark—especially through our shared involvement in Latvia.

One of the clearest expressions of this mission is through English Language Bible Camps in Eastern Europe. This June, we will return to Latvia to help lead these camps—spaces where students gather to practice English while also encountering the Word of God, often for the very first time. These weeks create space for real relationships, honest questions, and the steady work of the gospel taking root.

What continues to shape us is this: We are not bringing the Lord into these places. Jesus is already there, calling, stirring, and building his church. We simply have the privilege of coming alongside local leaders as partners in that work.

This year, that calling is extending even further. At the conclusion of the Latvia camps, Julia will return home to the States. Mark will remain in Europe for several additional weeks, helping lead similar camps in Slovakia and then joining our team in Albania. Across each of these countries, the invitation is the same—to walk alongside local leaders as they share the hope of Christ within their own communities.

As Mark steps more fully into this global missions calling, we are increasingly aware that this is not something we are meant to carry alone. From the beginning, God has worked through his people as senders and goers, each playing a vital role in the same missions. Many of you have already been part of sending us in the past, and we are deeply grateful. This year, more than ever, we find ourselves in need of that partnership again.

Would you consider being a sender with us in this season? We would especially value your prayers:

- for the students attending these camps, that they would encounter the love and truth of Jesus
- for the local leaders, that they would be strengthened and encouraged in their calling
- for endurance, wisdom, and unity across each team and location
- and, if you feel led, supporting us with your financial support

Your generosity in all the ways above helps make it possible for us to step fully into this new calling and remain present in the places God is opening. This is not just our work—it is something we are invited into together. If you would like to partner with us again as a sender this year, we would be deeply grateful. We would love to share more of what God is doing in the weeks ahead. To financially give to the costs of the trip, you may give online at www.sonetwork.org. Click on the link for ‘2026 Team Member Support’ and find our names on the drop-down menu.

Thank you for the ways you have already walked with us in the past and for your continued support and partnership in global missions.

We leave for Latvia on June 2. We try to raise the first half of our funding before leaving, which also means it is more than okay for donations to come in after we leave. Any extra funds received go toward defraying other camp costs, providing scholarships for local kids who cannot pay the full cost, and assisting other team members who may come up a bit short on their fundraising.

With gratitude and hope,
Mark and Julia Wilhelm

The Good Shepherd

Find the 29 bold words from 1 Peter 2:19–25 KJV.

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

For this is **thankworthy**, if a man for **conscience** toward God **endure grief, suffering** wrongfully. For what **glory** is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your **faults**, ye shall take it **patiently**? but if, when ye do well, and **suffer** for it, ye take it patiently, this is **acceptable** with God. For even hereunto were ye **called**: because **Christ** also suffered for us, leaving us an **example**, that ye should follow his **steps**: who did no **sin**, neither was **guile** found in his **mouth**: who, when he was reviled, **reviled** not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that **judgeth** righteously: who his own self **bare** our sins in his own **body** on the tree, that we, being **dead** to sins, should **live** unto righteousness: by whose **stripes** ye were **healed**. For ye were as **sheep** going **astray**; but are now returned unto the **Shepherd** and Bishop of your **souls**.

Memorial Gifts

Gifts were received in memory of **Craig Honbarger** for the Capital Building Fund from

Lori and Perry Bernhardt
John and Carolyn Canup
Susan and Randall Faggart
Mike and Lottie Freeze
Angie and Mike Greene
Shirley Key
Brent and Lisa Monroe
Wayne and Elsie Roberson
Johnsie and Wayne Taylor

Gifts were received in memory of **Craig Honbarger** for the Altar Guild from

Nicole and Glen Amos

Gifts were received in memory of **Craig Honbarger** for the General Fund from

Judy and Lindsay Lowman

Gifts were received in memory of **Tommy Huffman** for the Capital Building Fund from

Lori and Perry Bernhardt
Susan and Randall Faggart
Mike and Lottie Freeze
Shirley Key
Elise and Wayne Roberson
Johnsie and Wayne Taylor

Gifts were received in memory of **Tommy Huffman** for the Altar Guild from

Nicole and Glen Amos

Gifts were received in memory of **Tommy Huffman** for the General Fund from

Angie and Mike Greene
Judy and Lindsay Lowman

A gift was received in memory of **Nancy Menius** for the Youth Program from

Betty and Edward Niedens

A gift was received in memory of **Sandy Corley** for the Capital Building Fund from

Brent and Lisa Monroe

Gifts were received in memory of **Betty Camerlin** for the Capital Building Fund from

Dana and Crystal Bost
Alice Davis
Karen and Tim Deal
Helen Gordon
Frank and Cindy Hinson
Bonnie and Wayne Hinson
D.W. and Judi Honbarger
Susan and Mark Ryman
Johnsie and Wayne Taylor

Gifts were received in memory of **Ray Kubitz** for the Capital Building Fund from

Alice Davis
Brian, Lisa, Talia,
and Josh Lord
Helen Gordon

Gifts were received in memory of **Mary Holland** for the Helping Hands Fund from
Atrium Health Cabarrus Rehab
Cindy and Travis Alligood
Ben and Susan Bernhardt
Karen and Tim Deal
Bonnie and Wayne Hinson
Frank and Cindy Hinson
Judy and D.W. Honbarger
Jean and Jimmie Deal
Judy and Lindsay Lowman
Kay Moody

Gifts were received in memory of **Mary Holland** for the Capital Building Fund from
Jennifer and Lee Aldridge
Perry and Lori Bernhardt
Crystal and Dana Bost
John and Carolyn Canup
Susan Cruz
Alice Davis
Jenny Earnhardt
Helen Gordon
Brian, Lisa, Talia,
and Josh Lord
Brent and Lisa Monroe
Wayne and Johnsie Taylor
Susan and Mark Ryman
Ken, Bethany, Lauren,
and Lindsey Whisnant

Gifts were received in memory of **Donald Austin** for the Helping Hands Fund from
Judy and Lindsay Lowman

Gifts were received in memory of **Donald Austin** for the Capital Building Fund from
Jennifer and Lee Aldridge
Cindy and Travis Alligood
Ben and Susan Bernhardt
Perry and Lori Bernhardt
Dana and Crystal Bost
John and Carolyn Canup
Alice Davis
Karen and Tim Deal
Jenny Earnhardt
Helen Gordon
Bonnie and Wayne Hinson
Cindy and Frank Hinson
Judy and DW Honbarger
Brian, Lisa, Talia,
and Josh Lord
Brent and Lisa Monroe
Kay Moody
Wayne and Johnsie Taylor
Susan and Mark Ryman
Ken, Bethany, Lauren,
and Lindsey Whisnant

Gifts were received in memory of **Von Brown** for the Capital Building Fund from
Dana and Crystal Bost
Karen and Tim Deal
Bonnie and Wayne Hinson

Gifts to Honor

A gift was received in honor of **Terri and Alan Powlas** for the Capital Building Fund from
Dana and Crystal Bost

Memorial Gift Notice

St. Paul's does not send memorial gifts to other places on your behalf. If you have a memorial for organizations such as hospice, St. Jude's, etc., you need to send your memorial gift directly to that organization. **Please do not send them through the church offering.**

Thank you

I want to thank everyone for their prayers and cards, and the donations to St. Paul's in memory of Betty.

Sincerely,
Don Camerlin

Thank you so much for the prayers, positive thoughts, cards, gifts and delicious food after my injury and surgery. I truly appreciate everyone's support during my recovery. I am doing well, I am back on both feet and hope to graduate from physical therapy soon!

Also a special thanks to Papaw and Lammy, Lee, Cooper and Caroline for stepping in and helping whenever I needed it. I could not have recovered without them!

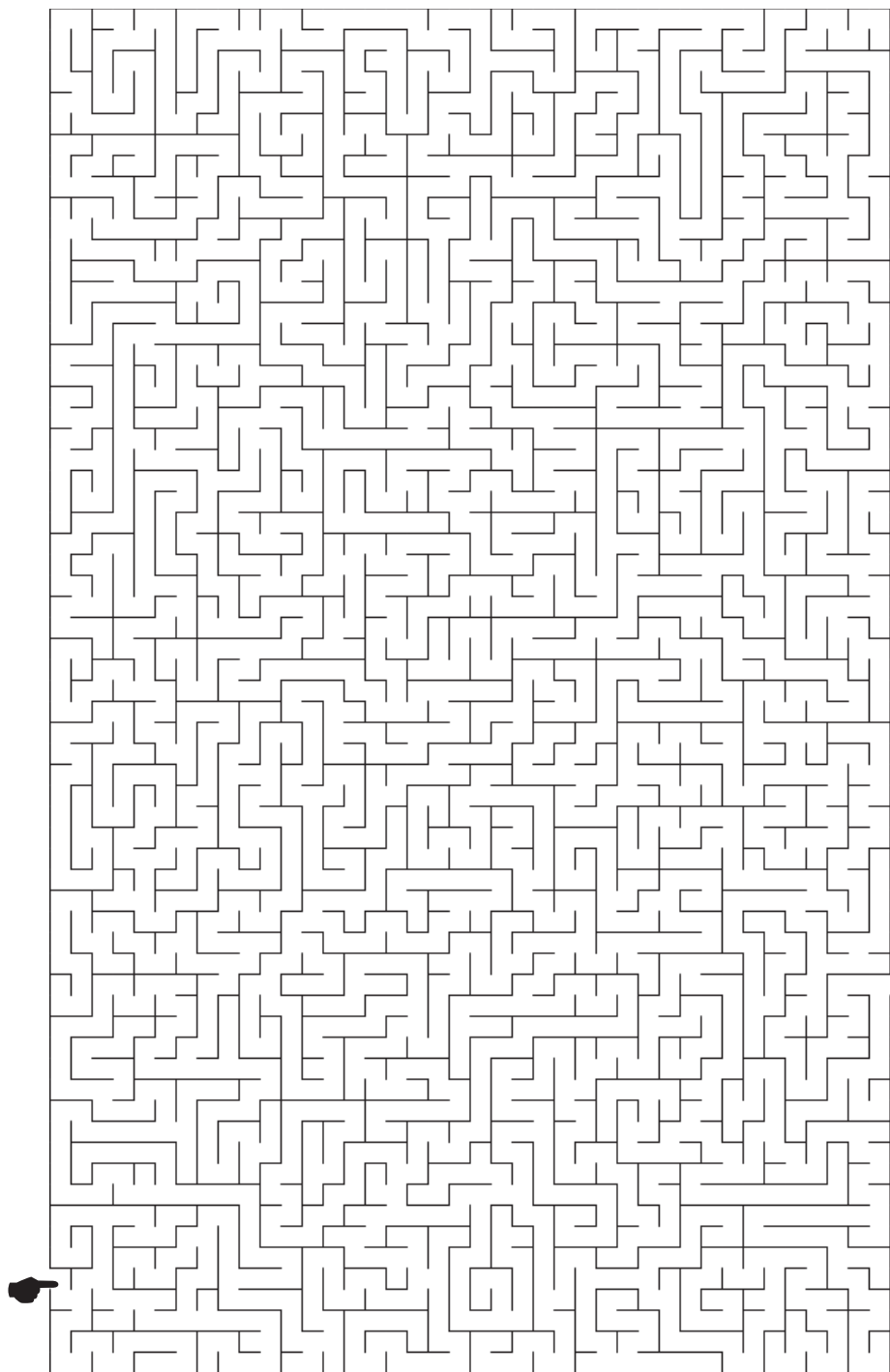
Thanks again!
Jennifer Aldridge

Thank you so much for the cards, flowers, visits, and prayers during my recovery from surgery. Your kindness and thoughtfulness were greatly appreciated. I am looking forward to playing the organ again.

Sincerely,
Johnsie Taylor

**Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,
give thanks in all circumstances; for this is
the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



Offering

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 March, 2026

Income for March	\$48,349.50
Expenditures for March	\$42,175.46
Net Income (income minus expenses)	\$6,174.04
Income year to date	\$111,443.81
Expenditures year to date	\$137,142.33
Net Income YTD (Income minus expenses)	\$-25,698.52

The report above is provided to you for information as you plan your giving to St. Paul's. It includes income and expenditures for the General Fund only, which is for the ongoing budgeted operations of the church. This does not include special gifts made to dedicated funds or to the Capital Building Fund. In addition to our benevolences, our children collect a weekly spare-change mission offering. So, please bring your spare change to worship!



More about all of our missionaries may be found at:
<https://stpaulslutheran.church/missionaries>

Happy Biblical Mothers Day

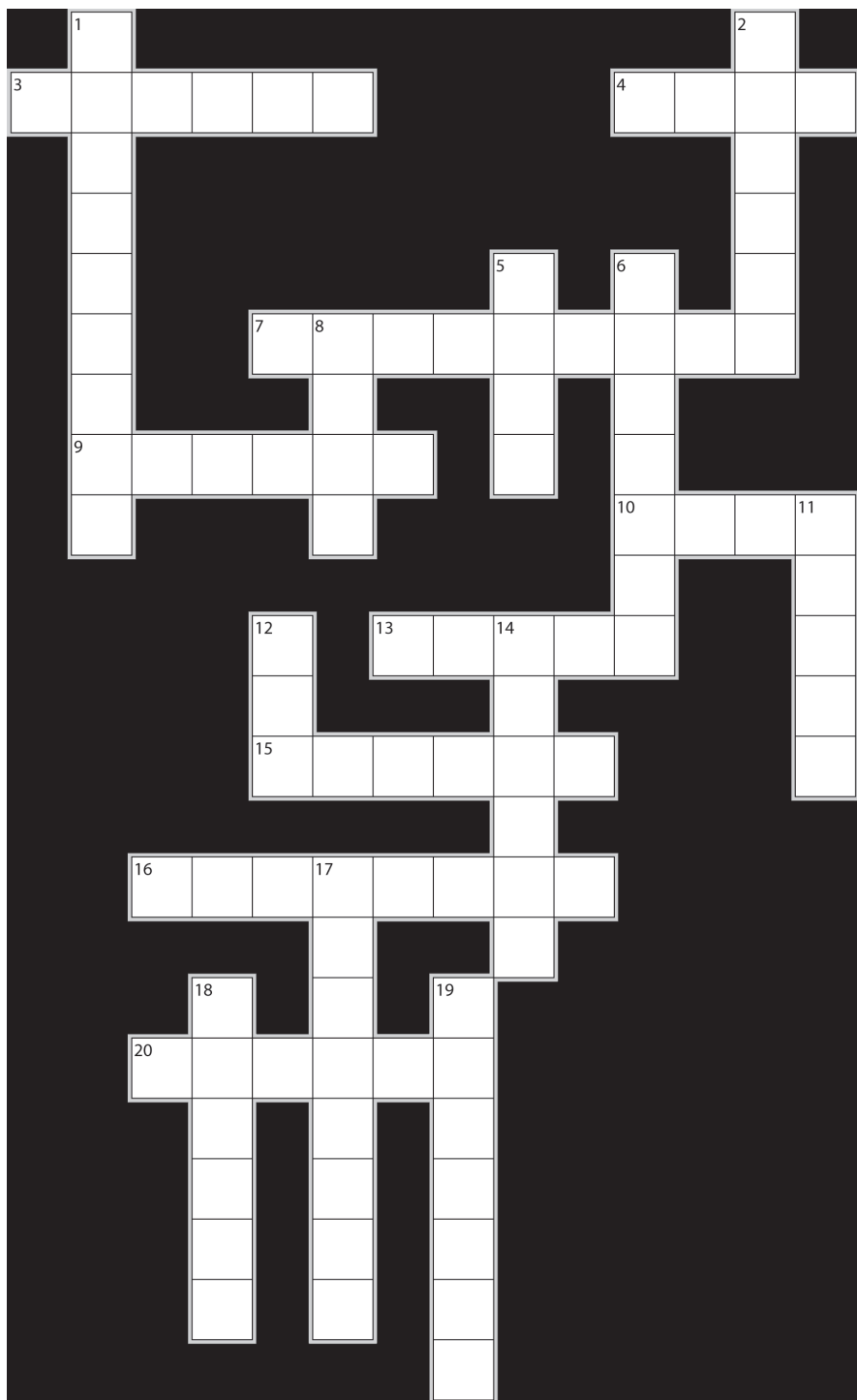
*Being a mom is like trying to solve a never-ending puzzle
while someone keeps adding more pieces to it.*

ACROSS

3. Whose wife was the mother of Samson?
4. Who was the grandmother of Timothy?
7. Who was the mother of John the Baptist?
9. Who was the mother of Dan and Naphtali?
10. Who was the mother of Obed (grandmother of David)?
13. Who gave birth to Isaac at the age of ninety?
15. Who is the mother of Paul's "true child in the faith"?
16. Who was the mother of Moses?
20. Who is the mother of James and John (the sons of Zebedee)?

DOWN

1. Who was the mother of King Solomon?
2. Who was the mother of Gad and Asher (Jacob's wife)?
5. Who was the mother of Jesus?
6. Who is the "Mother in Israel" mentioned in Judges?
8. Who was the mother of Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, and Dinah?
11. Who was the mother of Ishmael?
12. Who is known as the "mother of all living"?
14. Who was the mother of Joseph and Benjamin?
17. Which wicked mother prompted her daughter to ask for John the Baptist's head?
18. Who was the mother of the prophet Samuel?
19. Who was the mother of Jacob and Esau?





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

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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, or are shut-in. If you want to be added to our mailing or email list, please contact the church office.