



# The Monthly Epistle

of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Volume 70, Issue 5 • May 2024

As you receive this newsletter, our candidate for St. Paul's Associate Pastor position will have arrived, God willing. Brian Lord, his wife Lisa, and their children, Talia (10) and Joshua (8), will be with us from the Cruise 'n BBQ through Sunday, May 5th, when Brian will preach. During the week, they will be with us for worship, Sunday School, Bible studies, Confirmation class, the Ladies' Banquet, meetings with the Call Committee and Council, and of course, the Cruise 'n. They will also have time to explore the area.

Please come meet the Lords at one or more of these events. But especially, be in worship on the 5th. Feel free to give the Call Committee and Council your impressions. The Call Committee is very excited about this candidate for a minister of the Gospel at St. Paul's. They have done a lot of work since October of 2022 to be able to bring you this leading candidate, Brian Lord.

See you in church!

Pr. Ryman

ps: The Call Committee are Abby Walker, Eric Barringer, Gina Barringer, Johnny Lombard, Paul Canup, Susan Bernhardt, and the guy who wrote this letter.

## Scholarships

**The deadline to turn in applications is May 1st.** Applications are available in the narthex and on our website.

## Brian Lord, Guest Preacher on May 5th.

Brian Lord and his family will be in Salisbury April 26 through May 5 to meet our congregation, and get acquainted with the Salisbury area. There will be a Meet & Greet with the Lord family in the fellowship hall on May 5th, 3:30–6:30pm. Be sure to take the opportunity to stop in and say hello.

## Ladies' Banquet

The **Ladies' Banquet is Saturday, May 4th**, at 12:00pm in the fellowship hall. No tickets will be available at the door, so be sure to get your tickets April 28, after worship. This event will be in honor of all ladies, young and old.

## 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 have been posted. Links to additional resources and for the participant's workbook are also listed on the page. Our new study, "Hope for the Church of Christ," is also posted. Find resources in the navigational line at the top of any of our webpages, then click Bible Studies.

<https://stpaulslutheran.church/studies>

## Vacation Bible School Adventures of Paul

VBS is scheduled for Friday, June 21 – Sunday, June 23. The program this year is *Adventures of Paul*. There will be classes for everyone 3-years old and over. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Jennifer Aldridge at [jaldridge81@gmail.com](mailto:jaldridge81@gmail.com).

## Friendship Club

The Friendship Club is planning a **trip to the Narrowway Christian Theater in Fort Mill, South Carolina, on May 18th.** This is a Saturday matinee show. The title of the production is **“Samson—The Last Judge.”** This is a Broadway style dinner show. The cost of the show, dinner, and bus fare is \$65.00 per person. We will use Cross Roads Bus Company for the trip. The bus will leave St. Paul’s at 10:30am. Lunch will be served at 12:00noon, and the production will begin at 1:30pm.

Find more information online at [narrowway.net](http://narrowway.net). There are many great reviews posted. If you would like to go, please let me know soon so that I may reserve tickets. They sell out very quickly. We hope you will consider going with us for a fun-filled day of entertainment and fellowship. Hope to see you on the bus. Contact Helen Gordon at 704-636-5002.

## 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

## Offering for March 2024

General Fund Offering for the month: \$45,908

April General Fund report will be in the June Epistle.

Online Giving is accessible at [StPaulsLutheran.Church/give](http://StPaulsLutheran.Church/give).

Scanning this QR code will take you directly to the giving page.

There is a minimal fee for each transaction.



## **Lutheran Women Circle Meetings**

Bonnie Bost–Tuesday, May 14, 7pm

Ellen Bumgarner–Wednesday, May 1, 10am

Kathy Ketchie–Sunday, May 12, 4pm

Hama Lingle–Monday, May 6, 7pm

Melissa Lura–Monday, May 13, 6pm

Grace Ridenhour–Tuesday, May 7, 6:30pm

## **May 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 (John will advise of summer break)
- Vespers at the Parsonage—fellowship at 6pm; prayer at 6:30pm
- May 5 – Breakfast before Sunday School, 8:30am
- May 5 – Brian Lord, guest preacher
- May 5 – Youth & Family Committee, 2pm
- May 5 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- May 5 – Meet & Greet the Lord family, 3:30pm–5:30pm
- May 12 – Mother's Day
- May 12 – Christian Education Committee, conf. room, 1:30pm
- May 12 – Kathy Ketchie Circle, 4pm
- May 19 – Pentecost — Confirmation and Youth Sunday
- May 19 – Reception for Confirmands and Youth, 12–1pm
- May 19 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm

### **Mondays**

- May 6 –Faith Academy after-school program, 1–3pm
- May 6 – Facility Accessibility Committee meeting, 6:30pm
- May 6 – Hama Lingle Circle, 7pm
- May 13 – Blood Drive, 1:30pm
- May 13 – Melissa Lura Circle, 6pm
- May 13 – Outreach Committee, 6:30pm

- May 20 – Council meeting, 6:30pm
- May 27 – Lutheran Men's meeting, 6:30pm

### **Tuesdays**

- Bible Study classes, at 10am and 6pm
- Girl Scouts meet each week, 6:45pm (last for summer, May 21)
- May 7 – Extension Club, 1pm
- May 7 – Grace Ridenhour Circle, 6:30pm
- May 14 – Bonnie Bost Circle, 7pm
- May 21 – Staff meeting, 5pm

### **Wednesdays**

- May 1 – Deadline for scholarship applications
- May 1 – Homeschool group, 8:30–3:30
- May 1 – Ellen Bumgarner Circle, 10am
- May 1 – Autumn Care chapel service, 2pm
- Adult Choir practice, 6:30pm each week
- Youth Confirmation class each week, 7:30pm

### **Thursdays**

- May 2 – Council and Call Committee meeting, 6:30pm
- May 16 – Friendship Club, 10:30am

### **Fridays**

- May 2 – Homeschool group, end of year party, 4–8pm

### **Saturdays**

- May 4 – Ladies banquet, 12pm, advance tickets only
- May 18 – Friendship Club trip to Narrowway Christian Theater for lunch and show (contact Helen Gordon)

## Memorial Gifts

A gift was received in memory of **Frankie Raymer's birthday** (April 6th) for the *Helping Hands Fund* from

Franda Raymer

Gifts were received in memory of **Patricia Darby** for the *Capital Building Fund* from

Alice Davis

Grady and Jenny Earnhardt

Judi and D.W. Honbarger

A gift was received in memory of **Patricia Darby** for the *Carillon Fund* from

Karen and Tim Deal

A gift was received in memory of **Ethel Roseman**, sister of Susie Page, for the *Helping Hands Fund* from

Myra Jane and Terry Eller

Gifts were received in memory of **Becky Lyerly** for the *Improvement Fund* from

Wilbur Canup

Doug Lyerly

Gifts were received in memory of **Becky Lyerly** for the *Helping Hands Fund* from

Myra Jane and Terry Eller

Dot and Harold Goodman

A gift was received in memory of **Becky Lyerly** for the *Carillon Fund* from

Karen and Tim Deal

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

Lori and Perry Bernhardt

Susan and Ben Bernhardt

Crystal and Dana Bost

Susan Cruz

Alice Davis

Jenny and Grady Earnhardt

Mary Lee and

James Earnhardt

Sheri and Russell Foster

Sarah Goodman

Helen Gordon

Bonnie and Wayne Hinson

Cindy and Frank Hinson

Judi and D.W. Honbarger

Jan and Bob McCanless

Kay Moody

Nancy Powell

Mita Powlas

Jeanne and Tony Shaver

Kimberly and Charles Starnes

Johnsie and Wayne Taylor

Bethany, Kenneth, Lauren,

and Lindsey Whisnant

Jane and Wayne Wilhelm

Rowan County Extension

Association

Sunday School class #5

St. Paul's Friendship Club

St. Paul's Lutheran Women

*We extend our love and sympathy to the family  
of Becky Lyerly, who passed into paradise April 9, 2024.  
Please keep Becky's family in your prayers.*

*We extend our love, sympathy, and prayers to Misty Brady  
and family on the death of Misty's mother, Patricia Darby.  
Patty, who was from Gastonia, died Thursday, April 11, 2024.*

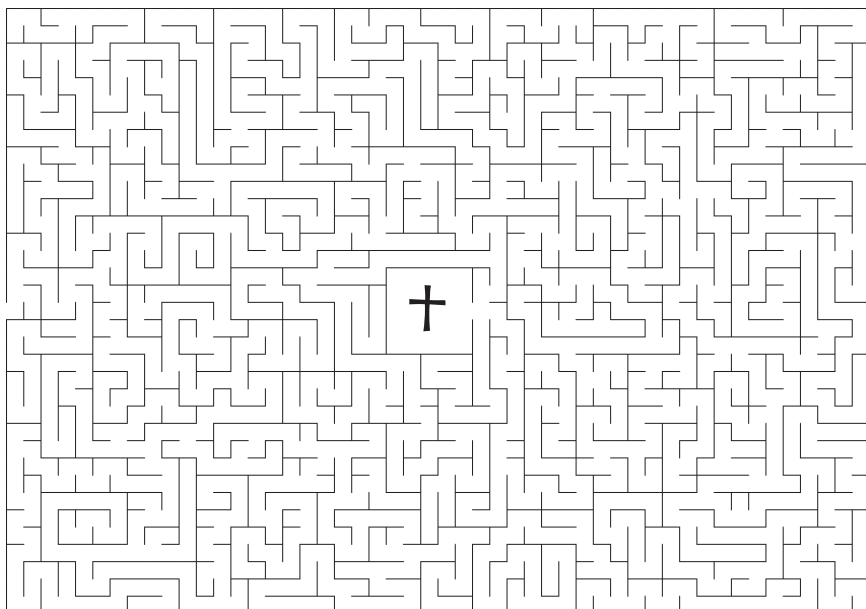
*We extend our love, sympathy, and prayers to Susie Page  
and family on the death of Susie's sister, Ethel Roseman.  
Mrs. Roseman died Tuesday, April 16, 2024.*



## **Thank You**

Thank you to everyone for memorial gifts and cards for the loss of my mother, Patricia Darby. Your concern is very much appreciated.

Misty Brady



## 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 \$285.83 on March 27, 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.

Thank you for your support and being a part of the generation of faith helping to connect spiritual orphans to the global family of Christ.

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

He is risen! These words are at the very crux of our lives as Christians. Three simple words that mean everything and yet, for many millions of people living in spiritual darkness, they hold no meaning at all. As we remember the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we are grateful for your continued support as the connection through which we can bring hope to spiritual orphans in east and central Europe, the Baltics, the Balkans, and beyond.

Please pray for our summer mission teams as they begin their training and fundraising. We are blessed to have many new team members this summer and are excited to see how God works through them and in them.

In His Service,  
Pastor David Breidenbach  
SON Executive Director

**Mark and Julia Wilhelm** are planning another **mission trip** to Eastern Europe with **Spiritual Orphans Network** this summer. If you would like to help them with expenses mark **SON** on your offering envelope.

## Missions

Thank you for your gift (\$285.83) to the ministry of Samaritan's Purse. Through your gifts and prayers, we are working to bring the hope of the resurrection to people in 110 nations. Samaritan's Purse is providing relief in the Middle East and Ukraine, equipping mission hospitals globally with staff and supplies, and serving homeowners who have suffered from storms here in the U.S. We are grateful for your partnership with us in all this and so much more. God bless you.

Sincerely,  
Franklin Graham, President

Thank you for your gift of \$359.72 to the ministry of Samaritan's Purse. Our World Medical Mission Specialty Teams recently wrapped up a trip to Malawi where they performed much-needed orthopedic procedures.

Your gifts and prayers also help us provide clean water, repair homes, train people in livelihoods, and much more around the world. With each new relief project, our goal is to introduce people to the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, so that "believing [they] may have life in his name" (John 20:31.) God bless you.

Sincerely,  
Franklin Graham, President

Thank you for your recent \$285.83 contribution to Focus on the Family's efforts, on behalf of families across the country and around the world. We deeply appreciate your partnership. By the power of God's spirit, and with the help of faithful friends like you, Focus is making a marked and measurable difference. Through your support, you're helping to impact countless people around the globe who are finding new life in Jesus. Thanks again for standing with us. God bless you.

Sincerely,  
Jim Daly, President

## Shelter Donations

Organ Lutheran is now meeting the needs of more than 100 families in East Rowan who have a difficult time getting down to Rowan Helping Ministries. St. Paul's and other local Lutheran churches are helping them meet the needs of these 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."

# Tested Faith

Find the 23 **bold** words from Genesis 22:4–8.

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

On the **third day**, **Abraham** **lifted** up his **eyes**, and saw the place far off. And Abraham said to his **servants**, “Stay here with the **donkey**, and I and the **boy** will go over there and **worship**, and come again to you.” And Abraham took the **wood** for the **burnt offering**, and **laid** it on **Isaac** his **son**. And he took in his hand the **fire** and the **knife**. As they went **together**, Isaac said to Abraham his father, “My father.” And he said, “Here am I, my son.” And he said, “Behold, the fire and the wood but where is the **lamb** for a burnt offering?” And Abraham said, “**God** will **provide himself** the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them **together**.



# 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](mailto:secretary@stpaulslutheran.church)

Website: [StPaulsLutheran.Church](http://StPaulsLutheran.Church)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/StPaulsLCMC](http://www.facebook.com/StPaulsLCMC)

## 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](mailto:pastor@stpaulslutheran.church)

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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](http://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.