



SAINT
PAUL'S

The Epistle

of St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Volume 72, Issue 6 • June 2026

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



Let's Get Stirred up

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

(Hebrews 10:24–25)

It has been nearly two years since Lisa, Talia, Josh, and I arrived here at Saint Paul's. A lot has happened in that short amount of time in our lives and in the life of the church. The church has broken ground on the building project, and work is accelerating quickly, with each day bringing more and more progress.

Our children have adapted to their new environment and made new friends at school and church. As our faith has grown stronger and our family bond has become closer, we have developed a deeper faith with all of you who have become our church family. You all have welcomed us into the ministry here at Saint Paul's with open hearts and have helped us grow together with you over the past couple of years, and we give thanks to God always for leading us here.

I think about this Scripture verse from Hebrews a lot these days. Getting “stirred up” usually has a negative connotation because we often see it as a jolt, as in “stir someone up to the point of anger or frustration.” My children sometimes do this to each other when one feels the need to pick on the other—yes, it happens at our house too.

But the writer of Hebrews is throwing us a curve-ball, suggesting that we should think about how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together and encourage each other.

I reflect on this Scripture as I think about my time here, serving my internship and as your associate pastor. My greatest joys outside of our Sunday service have come when we gather and encourage one another in love and good works. These moments have been especially meaningful during Tuesday Bible studies, where this happens—not only during the study but also in the lunch that follows.

The verse reminds me of the college ministry meeting together, as they stir up one another in the Word of God and share experiences and perspectives. They make time to meet often, despite their demanding school and work schedules, because they know the importance of encouraging and being encouraged by each other.

It reminds me of the men's group and the women's circles which regularly gather, opening God's Word at each meeting with a devotion, stirring the heart and mind toward God before any church business begins.

I reflect on these few verses from Hebrews when I think about Pastor Ryman inviting me into everything he does to shepherd here at Saint Paul's. How he teaches, listens, shares, and preaches has stirred my heart to love, and good works, in ways I did not know I could be stirred.

I remember fondly the times he and I would meet every morning for Lectio Concordia, and I value the gift of our time together with all who come to morning chapel, where we open God's word and pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Being in God's Word every day with his people stirs up all of our hearts to want to share God's grace and love with err'body.

With God's grace, the coming years will bring new opportunities to build upon what we currently do here at Saint Paul's. May God grant us the ability to stir up our children, our friends, and neighbors with his Word, that we would have Christ's peace, strength, and encouragement while we await the Day that is drawing near.

Pastor Brian Lord

*Oona Lyra Powlas was born Thursday, May 7, 2026.
Congratulations to her parents, Lisa and Garrett,
and brother, Theo Powlas.*



*Grady Alan Plummer was born May 21, 2026.
Congratulations to his parents, Megan and Josh,
and sister Nora Plummer.*



VBS 2026

**2026 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

VBS 2026 dates are set—**June 26th–28th** (Friday night–Sunday). The theme is *David: Hero of God*. There will be classes for 3-years old through Middle school. Registration will be done electronically this year through this QR code and link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScuRfRWHKe-JUuCW4BTAT34KhfN9BDzSRI5cDfJ3Diq6bqEChw/viewform>

For more information, contact Lauren Holland, 980-234-2907, or Kara Burnett, 704-239-7614.



Video Techs Needed

We are looking for two tech savvy people to operate the video live stream on a rotating basis, approximately one Sunday per month. If you would like to learn the process to deliver our services to members who can't attend in person, and others around the world, please contact the church office, or Matt Holland. Training will be provided.

Calendar of Events for June

Sundays

- Sunday School at 9:30am each Sunday
- Vespers each Sunday evening at 6pm in the parsonage
- June 7 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- June 7 – Youth and Family Committee, 2pm
- June 14 – Christian Education Committee, 2pm
- June 14 – Worship & Music Committee, 3pm
- June 17 – Kathy Ketchie Circle, 4pm
- June 21 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- June 28 – Last day of VBS with afternoon cookout for VBS students and families, 9:30am–4pm
- *Join us for Morning Prayer in the counting room at 8:30am every weekday morning.*

Mondays

- Home School dance class, weekly in the fellowship hall, 10am
- June 1 – Facility Accessibility committee meeting, 6:30pm
- June 1 – Hama Lingle Circle, 7pm
- June 8 – Melissa Lura Circle, 6pm
- June 8 – Finance Committee, 6:30pm
- June 8 – Outreach Committee, 6:30pm
- June 15 – July newsletter articles due this week
- June 15 – Council meeting, S. Salisbury Fire Dept., 6:30pm

Tuesdays

- Bible Study Classes, 10am and 6pm each Tuesday
- June 2 – Grace Ridenhour Circle, 6:30pm
- June 9 – Bonnie Bost Circle, 7pm
- June 16 – Staff meeting, 5pm

Wednesdays

- Adult Choir practice, 6:30pm each Wednesday
- June 3 – Ellen Bumgarner Circle, 10am
- June 24 – Fun Bunch lunch, 11:30am at Breakfast Time

Thursdays

- Rowan Smart Start, 10am–Noon, each week
- June 18 – Friendship Club cookout, 10:30am
- Trinity Living Center birthday party, 2pm
- VBS volunteers and Christian Education Committee meet, 6pm

Fridays

- June 26 – VBS, first day, 5:30–8pm

Saturdays

- June 27 – VBS, second day, 9:30am–3pm

Friendship Club

Tim and Karen Deal have invited the Friendship Club to their house, on Thursday, **June 18th**, for a cookout. Friendship Club will furnish the meat, hot dogs, meat for chili, buns and condiments. Sweet and unsweetened tea will be provided. Tim, the master at grilling, will grill for us. Please bring your favorite side or dessert and join us for an exciting and enjoyable outing. Thank you Tim and Karen for your generosity and kindness.

Bible Studies and Prayer

Tuesday Bible studies (10:00am and 6:00pm) are working through the Bible with Pastor Lord. 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.

If you come for the morning class, your belly will also get filled. A group of 10–12 go out to eat afterwards—usually at Jobangles (as Helen Gordon says).

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>

Did You Know?

History of St. Paul's 1970–1975

No information was provided in the Church History book for the years, 1970 -1972.

In 1973, the Social Ministry Committee, with permission of the Church Council, established an emergency food pantry to meet the needs of people in financial stress or any type of disaster. Food was stored in the former pastor's study in the Fellowship Hall and distributed to local community first, and/or referral cases from Rowan County Corporation Mission, and/or local Welfare Department.

The Baptismal Candle was used for the first time in 1973 for the baptism of Catherine Sears, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Don Sears and granddaughter of Mr. & Mrs. Robert G. Safrit. The family in turn gave the church two bronze candle holders and a supply of candles for future baptisms.

In 1974, the church council approved Bob Cress permission to fence in 4–5 acres of trees filled with undergrowth to be used for pasture at a rent charge of \$10.00/year.

A major renovation had occurred in 1966 with the installation of a balcony for the new organ and choirs, the addition of a free-standing Altar and Cross added, and the stained glass window of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane was removed from the area above the former altar against the wall and placed over the main entrance of the church. The renovation of over \$150,000 was fully paid off by the end of 1975. That same year the Sunday School sponsored Pastor and Mrs. Floyd Bost to a two-week training course on the Bethel Bible Series. Pastor Bost in turn spent two years of training for ten tutors that held weekly classes of 25–30 members. A total of 130 members completed the class.

In 1975, there were nine active women's circles, and except for two, were named after the wives of our pastors—Edna Barringer,



Boozer (named after Pastor Boozer and had begun as the Women's Missionary Society), Ellen Bumgarner, Hama Lingle, Virginia Morgan, Addie Ridenhour, Grace Ridenhour, and the Willing Workers Group (a group that formed as needed but became a group that began to meet monthly). Other happenings in 1975 were as follows:

- A nursery for the Cradle Roll Department was set up in the Education Building for children from one month to 2–3 years of age. Different circles were assigned be responsible for keeping the nursery on a rotating basis;
- The congregation, for the first time, **held worship service the first Sunday of July at Dan Nicholas Park** (no service at church). Sunday Church School and Worship were combined to meet at the park at 11:00 a.m., with a covered dish luncheon following the service;
- The 9th grade Sunday School Class began making inspirational banners each year as part of their catechetical training under the direction of Mrs. James Lyerly;
- Mrs. Delma Bernhardt gave a gift of the Processional Cross, and stoles for the Cross Bearer and Acolyte in memory of



her husband
Mr. Sidney
Bernhardt;

- Mr. Harley Canup made the staff and stand for the Processional Cross;

- Mr. J. T.

(Tazz) Webb and Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Ketner made major donations and other members gave enough money to provide cushions for all pews of the church.



Council Highlights

Council met May 18th at the South Salisbury Fire department. 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 June 15th.

We voted on higher education scholarships. We received four applications. The follow scholarships were awarded:

- The Brown-Heilig \$1,500 scholarship is awarded to Andrew Baker, who will be attending UNCG.
- The Sadie and Hollie Ritchie \$1,500 scholarship is awarded to Sara Barringer who will be attending RCCC.
- The Blanche and Hubert Ritchie scholarship will be awarded to Matt Cottingham and Lindsey Whisnant. The amount to be split will be determined at a later date by the foundation trustees. Matt is taking online courses from Liberty University. Lindsey will be attending her 2nd year at NC State.

Pastor Lord announced that he finished school, and yes, of course he passed. Congratulations to Pastor Lord. We look forward to what God has planned for you and St. Paul's.

Property Committee received all the permits for a new well to be drilled at the parsonage. Council voted in April to have this completed as soon as possible as an urgent circumstance (constitution chapter 12.05 d). We will be using B. M. Wright Well and Pump Service as soon as they can start. Currently we are on a waiting list. The current quote is \$8,500–\$9,500. Property Brothers are doing some prep work and clean-up work to help keep cost as low as possible.

Christian Education Committee met May 17th, at 1pm. They provided refreshments for a reception for the confirmands. Congrats to Talia Lord, Elin Wells, and Cooper Aldridge. Plans for VBS on June 26 – June 28 are finalized. Next meeting will be Thursday June 25 at the VBS volunteer meeting at 6pm.

Outreach Committee did not meet in May. Next meeting June 8.

Youth & Family met May 3rd. They finalized the Youth Sunday schedule for May 31st. Planning a field trip to the Lazy 5 Ranch. Reported that the Easter breakfast made \$498.00. The cost of the Ark Trip totaled \$5,200. This was paid for from the designated mission trip fund and youth fund. Other discussion:

- June: pools party at LaVaughn Beaver's house.
- July: Water sports at church
- August: Cannon Ballers game
- September: Clean up for homecoming
- October: Trunk or Treat

Next meeting will be June 7th.

Finance Committee met May 11th. For the month of April income exceeded expenses by \$3,615.04. As of April 30th, we have exceeded expenses over income for the year by \$22,083.48.

St. Paul's Facility & Accessibility Improvement Committee (FAIC)—happy to say construction still continues. A lot going on so please stop by and look but be careful.

Worship & Music Committee did not meet in May. Just as a reminder from the last meeting, 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 too high for some. More news on that later. Youth Sunday, May 31, the committee will present graduates with a hymnal with their names printed on the inside cover.

Capital Building Fund—as of April 30th, we have received \$2,385,953.07 which so far is \$514,046.93 short of our \$2.9 million goal. We still need to keep giving!

Prayer Needs

- Shiela Barringer – cancer
- W. A. Cline – health concerns (*brother of Wayne Cline*)
- Jean Deal – health concerns
- Dan Dolan – recovering from surgery
- Rick Eller – recovering from surgery (*Terry Eller's brother*)
- Sonya Eller – recovering at home
- Windy Heilig – recovering from injury
- Kelly Gainey – health concerns
- Frank Giambastiani – health concerns (*Lisa Lord's father*)
- Autumn Hill – recovering from surgery
- Doris Hilliard – health concerns
- Jerry Hilliard – health concerns
- Tiffany Holland – health concerns
- Judi Honbarger – upcoming surgery
- Randy Johnson – health concerns
- Alesia Lewis – recovering from surgery
- Alan Lyerly – recovering from surgery
- Dennis Martinez – health concerns (*friend of Lisa Lord*)
- Craig Parks – health concerns
- Grady Plummer – newborn 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*)
- Steve Shuping – cancer (*Louise Eller's brother*)
- Lottie Simpson – Trinity Oaks Rehab
- Mary Stewart – cancer (*former member*)
- Scott Watson – health concerns (*son of Larry and Leilani Watson*)
- Nancy Wilhelm – upcoming surgery

After a couple of months pass, we remove names from 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, Barbara Deese, Sonya Eller, Shirley Hoosier,
Ruth Julian, Dottie Stancil, Jane Wilhelm

Glorify God

Find the 26 bold words from 1 Peter 4:12–19 KJV.

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

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery **trial** which is to try you, as though some **strange** thing happened unto you: but **rejoice**, inasmuch as ye are **partakers** of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be **revealed**, ye may be glad also with **exceeding** joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, **happy** are ye; for the spirit of **glory** and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil **spoken** of, but on your part he is **glorified**. But let none of you suffer as a **murderer**, or as a **thief**, or as an **evildoer**, or as a **busybody** in other men's matters. Yet if any man suffer as a **Christian**, let him not be **ashamed**; but let him glorify God on this behalf. For the time is come that **judgment** must begin at the **house** of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that **obey** not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the **ungodly** and the **sinner** appear? Wherefore let them that **suffer** according to the will of God **commit** the keeping of their **souls** to him in well doing, as unto a faithful **Creator**.

Missions

Thank you for your gifts to the ministry of Samaritans Purse. We recently airlifted tons of relief supplies aboard our 767 cargo plane to Saipan and Tinian, in the wake of Typhoon Sinlaku. We praise God that these supplies are helping meet the urgent needs of thousands of people on these remote Pacific islands. Your gifts help make it possible for us to work here at home and around the world. We appreciate your partnership in the gospel.

Sincerely,
Franklin Graham, President

Thank you for the donation of \$520.23. Your contribution has made such a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. Thank you for your continued support. Words cannot express how much your donation means to us.

Linda Austin, Director
Organ Lutheran Pantry/Outreach

Thank you

Thank you for your show of love after my stroke. Your prayers and acts of kindness were a blessing that helped me through a dark time. Thank you again for your prayers and kindness.

Love in Christ,
Irene H. Miller

Our family would like to sincerely thank you for the kindness and support you showed during our Mom/mawmaw's funeral service. Your church and congregation meant so much to her throughout her life, and brought us comfort to celebrate her life in a place that she loved dearly. We are grateful for your prayers, compassion and all the thoughtful ways you helped make the service so meaningful. The are shown by everyone will always be appreciated by our family. Thank you again for honoring our Mom's memory and surrounding us with kindness.

Sharon McBride's family

Missions

Thank you for the way your congregation continues to partner with Spiritual Orphans Network (SON) through prayer, generosity, and encouragement. Over the years we have seen God build meaningful relationships with believers in former communist and culturally Muslim countries where Christians can often feel isolated or forgotten. Thank you for standing with us. Together, we are helping strengthen Christ's Church around the world.

In His Service,
Pastor David Breidenbach

Thank you! Focus on the Family has received your generous \$363.10 donation, and the previous \$364.16 contribution to our Christ-centered family-oriented outreach. We are deeply grateful for your partnership in this work. Thank you for standing with us in such a substantial way. May the Lord's abundant blessings rest upon you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,
Jim Daly, President

On behalf of the staff and Board of Sola Publishing, thank you for your gifts of \$309.75 and \$364.16. 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,
Steve King, Managing Editor

June 2026 Birthdays, Anniversaries (M/M) and Daily Prayer (**)

Sun	Mon	Tue
	1 Susan Bernhardt M/M Wendy Stutts and Terry Pittman **Samantha, Justin, Zoe, and Elin Wells	2 **Bethany, Kenneth, Lauren, and Lindsey Whisnant
7 **Gina and Greg Wilhelm	8 Pedro Vincenty **Hollis Wilhelm	9 Terry Eller Randy Johnson **Kathy and Hugh Wilhelm
14 Ashley Lombard Bob McCanless Tony Shaver Jeremy Young **Jane and Wayne Wilhelm	15 Tim Deal Rebecca Lombard **Teresa Woods	16 Daniel Funderburk **Lauren, Melody, and Harmony Yon
21 **Jennifer, Lee, Cooper, and Caroline Aldridge	22 Danielle Canup **Cindy and Travis Alligood	23 M/M Julie and Brian Goodman **Nicole, Glen, and Emma Amos
28 Autumn Hill **Gina, George, Hanna and Luke Barringer	29 M/M Kara and Jason Burnett M/M Leilani and Larry Watson **Amy, Eric, Henry, and Sara Barringer	30 Mary Lee Earnhardt **Shiela and Bob Barringer

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in
 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Daniel Dolan Sarah Reeder **Jeffrey White	4 M/M Heather and Michael Canup M/M Gail and George Reese **Patsy Wiles	5 Sara Barringer Vance Goodman **Charles Wilhelm	6 M/M Crystal and Paul Canup M/M Wendy and Wallace Smith **Coy Wilhelm
10 Dana Bost **Paul Wilhelm	11 **Kim Wilhelm and Abigail Wilhelm	12 Wayne Wilhelm **Laura and Trent Wilhelm	13 Kay Moody M/M Lori and Perry Bernhardt M/M Michelle and Cory Orbison **Nancy and Vaughn Wilhelm
17 Tonya Catledge Sonya Eller Cindy Newsome **Steven Yost	18 Vicki Sanders **Sue Young	19 Brenda Bass **Ashley and Jeremy Young and Christian Turner	20 Misty Brady Summer Waller **Angela, Luke, Gracelyn, Lauren, and Rachel Ziegler
24 David Honbarger **Cleo Anzur	25 **Sybil Athey	26 Gayle Brendle Helen Gordon Elin Wells **Judith Austin	27 M/M Laura and John Brock **Elizabeth, Kolya, and Andrew Baker

all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Thank you

Thank you to Pastor Ryman, Pastor Brian, Johnsie, Pam, Women of the Church, and all church members that helped me honor Don's wishes. Your generosity and care never went unnoticed. The last eleven months have been a challenge to say the least. Don was a very private man and never wanted to be treated any differently because of his illness. He opted not to be added to the prayer list in hopes to keep his life as normal as possible. During his illness we had the chance to look back over our 53 years of marriage and were at peace with our life, and the promise of eternal life with our heavenly Father.

I appreciate your kindness, your laughter, and the way you made even the hardest days better. Love you.

Judith Austin and family

Many thanks for the cards, visits, and donations made to the church in memory of Ray.

Wanda Kubitz

Thank you for the prayers and get well wishes from all of those have thought of me as I'm recovering from a shoulder replacement. I have the best church family, love you all!

Autumn Hill

Thank you for the many cards, prayers, hugs, and words of comfort during our loss of Craig and Tommy. We are deeply grateful for your kindness and support.

D. W. and Judi Honbarger

Audrey Huffman

Thank you so much for your generosity and hospitality in hosting our Classical Conversations home school group. You play a vital part in our mission to know God and make him known. (A love offering was given from the group to St. Paul's as a token of their gratitude.)

Allison Fambro, Director

Thank you

On behalf of the home school ballet class, we would like to thank St. Paul's for hosting our 3rd dance season. It has been a unique opportunity for this group of girls to be introduced to the performing arts in a wholesome church environment. We are extremely privileged to have the class lead by their instructor, Jessica Jaynes, who holds a degree in child development and pediatric health with a certification in art therapy. She has been generous with her time as she juggles completing her graduate degree in faith based counseling, working in rehabilitation therapy and caring for her aging mother. Jessica has a long resume of dance experience ranging from the NC School of the Arts to Broadway. Both her talent and personality inspire this group of dancers on weekly basis.

The spring season closed with a study of the impressionists and the girls were able to incorporate this extension of art appreciation into their final showcase. Hila had the opportunity to serve as stage manager and displayed some of her charcoal pieces. Clara, Lela, and Nora all performed and also shared pastel art creations. All involved emanated grace and confidence during the performance. It was a lovely celebration of what that they had learned. We are so grateful for St. Paul's continued hospitality. It has allowed our girls many priceless experiences.

In Him,
Danielle Canup and girls



Thank you

Words can not express our gratitude for the prayers and support of our church family. Thank you to those who gave memorials. A special thanks to those that helped with the service.

The family of Dot Goodman

Memorial Gifts

A gift was received in memory of **Shelia Hilliard** for the Capital Building Fund from
Doris and Jerry Hilliard

A gift was received in memory of **Grady Earnhardt** for the Capital Building Fund from
Doris and Jerry Hilliard

Gifts were received in memory of **Craig Honbarger** for the Capital Building Fund from
Linda Behrendt
Sarah Goodman
Doris and Jerry Hilliard

Gifts were received in memory of **Tommy Huffman** for the Capital Building Fund from
Linda Behrendt
Doris and Jerry Hilliard

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

A gift was received in memory of **Ray Kubitz** for the Altar Guild from
Nicole and Glen Amos

Gifts were received in memory of **Raymond Kubitz** for the Capital Building Fund from
Ernest and Pat Austin
Linda Behrendt
Ben and Susan Bernhardt
Lori and Perry Bernhardt
Crystal and Dana Bost
Alice Davis
Karen and Tim Deal
Myra Jane and Terry Eller
Sarah Goodman
Helen Gordon
Bonnie and Wayne Hinson
Cindy and Frank Hinson
Madeline Horner
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Jeske
Marjorie Kelly
Kathy Ketchie Circle
Robert Loeblein
Lisa and Brian Lord family
Lutheran Men's Group
Susan and Mark Ryman
Beth Shafer
Jeanne and Tony Shaver
Johnsie and Wayne Taylor
tops/Rufty-Holmes St. Center

A gift was received in memory of **Donald Austin** for the General Fund from
Betty Monroe

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

Myra Jane and Terry Eller
Sarah Goodman
Vaughn Lyerly
Lutheran Men's Group
Terri and Alan Powlas
Mita Powlas

Gifts were received in memory
of **Mary Holland** for the Capital
Building Fund from

Sarah Goodman
Terri and Alan Powlas

Gifts were received in memory
of **Mary Holland** for the
Helping Hands Fund from

Atrium Health Rehab
Belinda and Johnny Cozart
Jamie Deutsch
Myra Jane and Terry Eller
Patsy Everhart
James River Equipment
Betty Monroe
Sandra and Michael Motley
Mita Powlas
Gayle and Don Weddington

A gift was received in memory
of **Sharon McBride** for the Altar
Guild from

Nicole and Glen Amos

A gift was received in memory
of **Sharon McBride** for the
Helping Hands Fund from
Malory and Jerry Fischer

Gifts were received in memory
of **Sharon McBride** for the
Capital Building Fund from

Ben and Susan Bernhardt
Lori and Perry Bernhardt
Crystal and Dana Bost
Carolyn and John Canup
Alice Davis

Karen and Tim Deal

Jenny Earnhardt

Ellen Bumgarner Circle

Myra Jane and Terry Eller

Patsy Everhart

Sarah Goodman

Helen Gordon

Doris Hilton

Joey and Annie Hilton

Wayne Hilton, Jr.

David and Diana Sullivan

Bonnie and Wayne Hinson

Cindy and Frank Hinson

Judy and D.W. Honbarger

Lisa and Brian Lord family

James McBride

Sharon McBride's family

Irene Miller

Morning Bible Study Class

Mita Powlas

Susan and Mark Ryman

Johnsie and Wayne Taylor

Bethany and Ken Whisnant

Carol Williams

A gift was received in memory
of **Dot Goodman** for the Capital
Building Fund from

Sarah Goodman

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

Gifts were received in memory of **Walter Smith** for the Capital Building Fund from

Ben and Susan Bernhardt

Perry and Lori Bernhardt

Dana and Crystal Bost

Carolyn and John Canup

Alice Davis

Karen and Tim Deal

Jenny Earnhardt

Myra Jane and Terry Eller

Sarah Goodman

Helen Gordon

Frank and Cindy Hinson

Bonnie and Wayne Hinson

Judi and D. W. Honbarger

Lisa and Brian Lord family

Lutheran Men's Group

Susan and Mark Ryman

Johnsie and Wayne Taylor

Bethany and Ken Whisnant family

A gift was received in memory of **Walter Smith** for the Helping Hands Fund from
Vance Goodman

A gift was received in memory of **Carey Stickford**, friend of Susan Ryman, for the Capital Building fund from

Helen Gordon

Memorial Gift Notice

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

In Honor

A gift was received in honor of **Naomi's Heart Mission** for the Capital Building Fund from
Susan and Mark Ryman

A gift was received in honor of **Lisa Monroe** for the Capital Building Fund from
Susan and Mark Ryman

A gift was received in honor of **Gina and George Barringer** for the Capital Building Fund from
Susan and Mark Ryman

A gift was received in honor of **Emily Cruse's birthday** for the Capital Building Fund from her mother
Delores Stanley

A gift was received in honor of **Pastor Ryman** for his leadership for the Capital Building Fund from
Jenny Earnhardt

A gift was received in honor of **Pastor Mark Ryman and Pastor Brian Lord** for all the time, efforts, and support for Cooper during confirmation classes from Lee and Jennifer Aldridge.

Gifts were received in honor of **Cooper Aldridge's confirmation** on May 17th, for the Youth Fund from
Jennifer and Lee Aldridge
Travis and Cindy Alligood
Melissa Bernhardt
Perry and Lori Bernhardt
Karen and Tim Deal
Brian and Lisa Lord

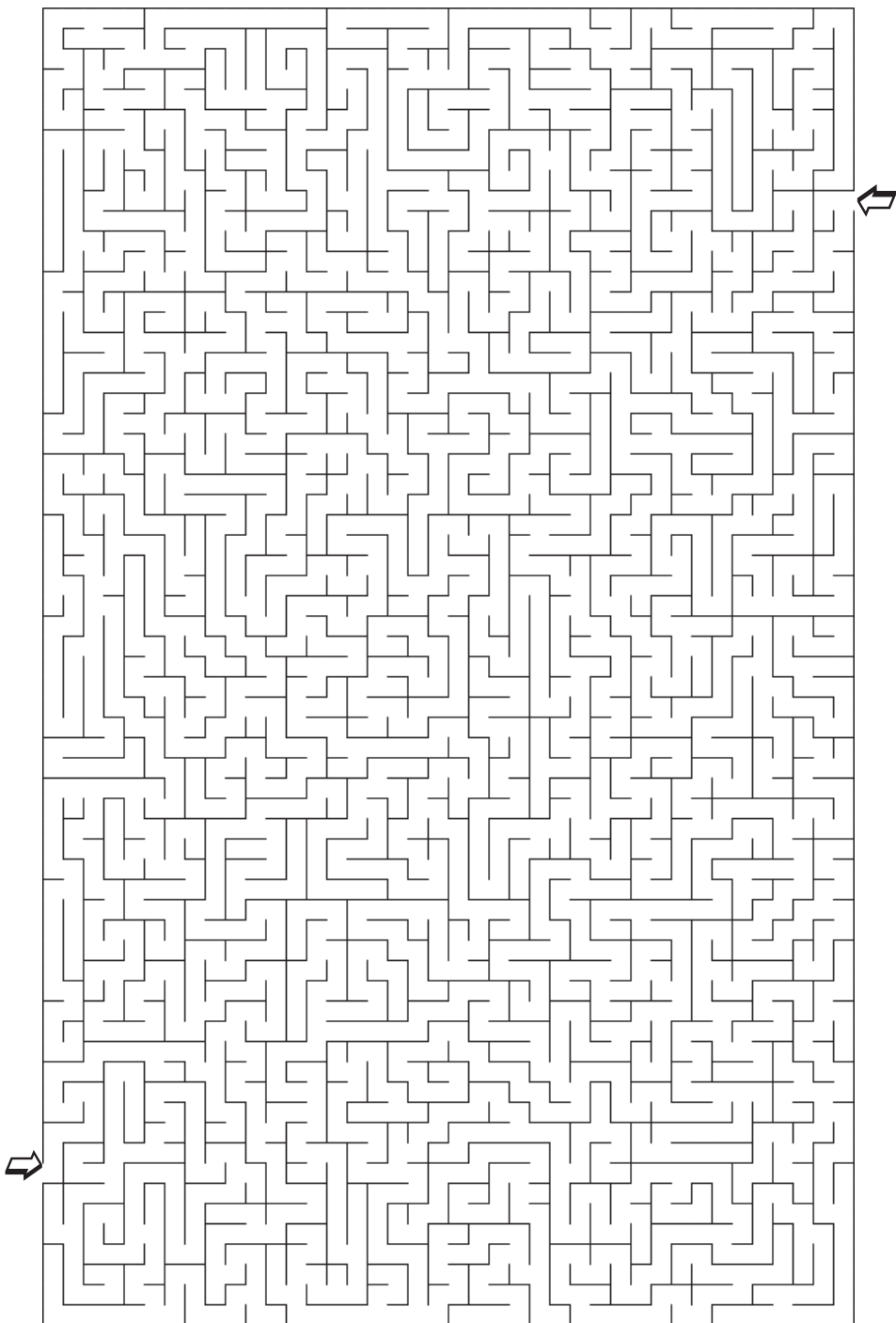
Gifts were received in honor of **Elin Well's confirmation** on May 17th, for the Youth Fund from
Jennifer and Lee Aldridge
Travis and Cindy Alligood
Perry and Lori Bernhardt
Karen and Tim Deal
Brian and Lisa Lord

Gifts were received in honor of **Talia Lord's confirmation** on May 17th, for the Youth Fund from
Jennifer and Lee Aldridge
Travis and Cindy Alligood
Perry and Lori Bernhardt
Karen and Tim Deal
Brian and Lisa Lord

Gifts were received in honor of **Pastor Lord's ordination** for the Capital Building Fund from
Sybil Athey
Lori and Perry Bernhardt
Susan and Ben Bernhardt
Alice Davis
Karen and Tim Deal
Jenny Earnhardt
Sarah Goodman
Helen Gordon
Bonnie and Wayne Hinson
Alexis and Dylan Ksobiech
Lisa, Talia, and Josh Lord
Mita Powlas



**My soul clings to the dust;
give me life according to
your word!
When I told of my ways, you
answered me;
teach me your statutes!
Make me understand the way
of your precepts,
and I will meditate on your
wondrous works.
My soul melts away for sorrow;
strengthen me according to
your word!
Put false ways far from me and
graciously teach me your law!
I have chosen the way
of faithfulness;
I set your rules before me.
I cling to your testimonies, O Lord;
let me not be put to shame!
I will run in the way of your
commandments
for you set my heart free!**



Volunteers?

By the fifth day, God had created all the creatures of the land, sea, and air calling them good.

So, he went before the assembly of all his creations and asked for one. “What for?” asked the elephant. God answered, “I will change their appearance completely. Everything about them will be transformed.”

“Not I,” said the horse, “for I am magnificent the way I am.” “Not I,” said the lion, “for I am the king of the jungle.” “Not I,” said the tiger. “My stripes are too beautiful to change.” And so it went, no volunteer.

“Okay,” God said. “What about a bird? Any fine feathered friend want to volunteer?”

“Not I,” said the eagle. “I am destined for glory.” And the cardinal wouldn’t give up his fine red feathers. Once again, no volunteer.

Next, God asked the wee creatures for a volunteer. The mouse was too timid and the squirrel, too spastic.

God sighed. For he only had one group of creatures left—the creepy crawlies. He wasn’t very hopeful. Of course, the spider said his legs were too perfect to change and even the ungainly bumble bee said no, because he like the way he flew.

Just as God was turning to go back to heaven, he heard a small voice, “I’ll do it. I will let you transform me.” God and all the creatures gasped in amazement. “Who volunteered?” they asked.

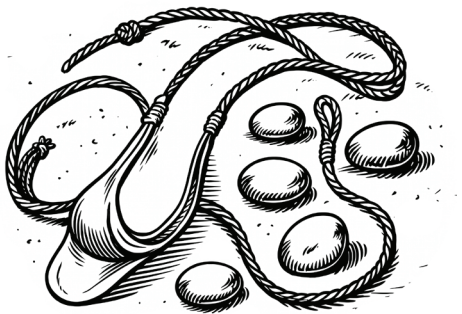
Lo, and behold, it was the lowly, slow-moving caterpillar. God said, “this is good” and he took the caterpillar in his hands and breathed on it. All the animals watched in amazement as the caterpillar was first turned into a hard chrysalis and then it emerged as a beautiful butterfly.

All the creatures of the world bowed in reverence of God and the butterfly.

The moral of the story: if God can transform a lowly caterpillar into a beautiful butterfly, just imagine, what change can he do in you?

Written and submitted by Sarah Fesperman

David: Hero of God



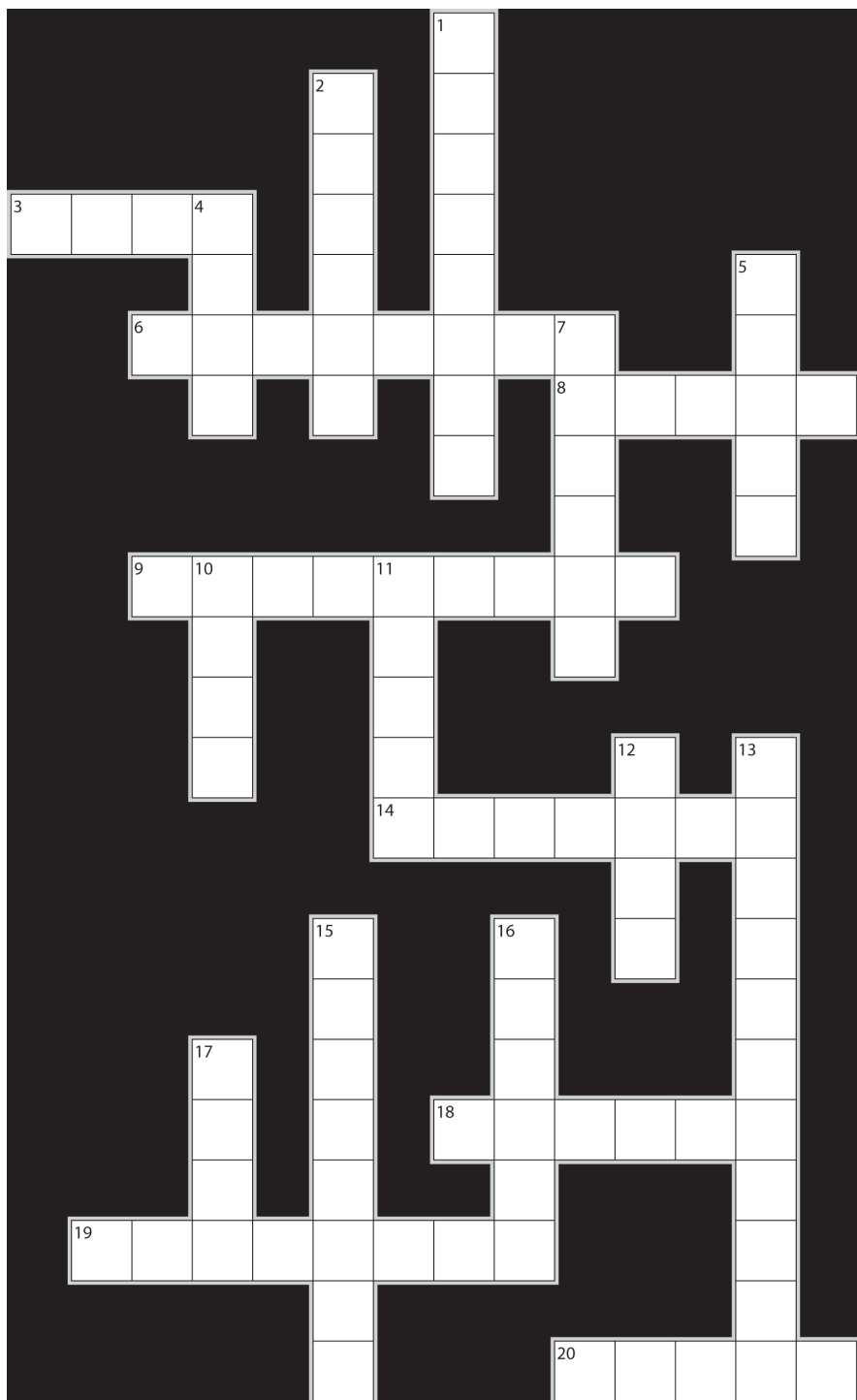
*Most of the answers may be found in 1 Samuel 17
but there are a few extras thrown in from around the battle story.*

ACROSS

3. Which king was highly jealous of David?
6. Who jeered David about fighting Goliath?
8. What did David refuse to wear before the battle?
9. To which city did David take Goliath's head?
14. What was the name of the Philistine giant?
18. What physical attribute did Goliath use to intimidate the Israelites?
19. What was David's primary occupation as a young man?
20. What was the name of David's father?

DOWN

1. What part of Goliath's body did the stone strike?
2. What was Goliath's height roughly measured in?
4. The battle was his.
5. What did David use to cut off Goliath's head?
7. Who anointed David as the future king?
10. Where did the battle between David and Goliath take place?
11. What weapon did David use to kill the giant?
12. What did David use to soothe King Saul's troubled spirit?
13. Which nation was the enemy of the Israelites?
15. Who was David's best friend?
16. What item was Goliath carrying in addition to his spear?
17. How many stones did David gather from the brook?





He loved him as he loved his own soul.

1 Samuel 20:17

Scripture Text: 1 Samuel 18:1–20:42
from *Read the Bible in a Year* by Rev. Mark Ryman

After David slayed Goliath, King Saul was either simply impressed with the lad's bravery and skill, or he was weighing the possibility of a future without himself as king. Would the slaying of a giant whom the rest of Israel's army, including the king, would not meet on the field of battle be the beginning of Saul's removal from the throne? If so, poor Saul does not understand the gravity of his situation. Samuel had informed him quite bluntly that the Lord had rejected him from being king over Israel (1 Samuel 15:26). This may be understandable on a few levels, notably that the king cannot recall who David is, though it was David who played the lyre so skillfully that it brought some peace to Saul. Also, note that "Saul loved him greatly" (1 Samuel 16:21) and made him his armor bearer yet he does not seem to know who David is after his defeat of Goliath. Perhaps the weight of his failing kingship has begun to confuse his thinking.

In the midst of this troubling story, Saul's son, Jonathan, himself a great warrior, becomes fast friends with David. A demonstration of the depth of that friendship is Jonathan stripping himself of a prince's robe, his armor, and his weapons and giving them to David. This was tantamount to saying David is the rightful heir apparent to the throne instead of Jonathan, son of the sitting king. Whether or not Saul understood the undoing

of his father's reign, Saul's son is not denying the bald facts.

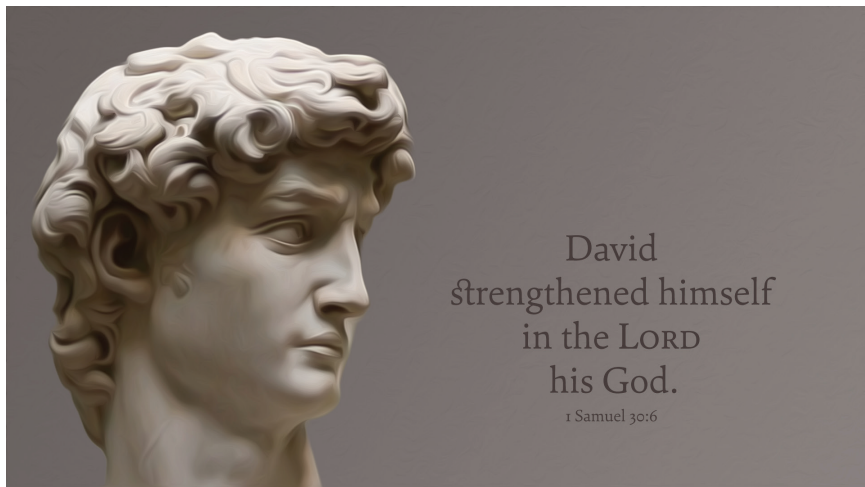
Further evidence of Saul's declining state of mind is his increasing enmity toward David. David has soothed him, won a decisive battle for him, and is best friends with his son, but Saul is progressively more hostile toward David, as though doing in David will reverse the Lord's decision.

No matter his determination, David will be king, though Saul only suspects the possibility. The king's ire may have been enough to frighten away ordinary men, but David remains faithful to the Lord's anointing. Indeed, Saul makes him Israel's military commander, perhaps as a way of getting rid of David in battle. However, the Lord gives David success, and the people sing of his triumph, which Saul, of course, takes offense though the people did not likely intend any slight of him.

So how does the king counter? Saul promises his daughter to David, possibly knowing what a problem she might become to him. Then Saul sets out to kill David himself but Jonathan warns David, which angers the king so much toward his own son that he attempts to kill him too.

The Lord's will always prevails over crazy. Strengthen yourself in the Lord and trust in him. He will see it through.

More Bible resources may be found on our website at
<https://www.stpaulslutheran.church/devotions>.



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 April, 2026

Income for April	\$45,904.74
Expenditures for April	\$42,289.70
Net Income (income minus expenses)	\$3,615.04
Income year to date	\$157,348.55
Expenditures year to date	\$179,432.03
Net Income YTD (Income minus expenses)	\$-22,083.48

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!

Go into all the world
and proclaim the gospel
to the whole creation.

— Mark 16:15 —

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

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 April 30th, we have received \$2,385,953.07 which is \$514,046.93 shy of reaching of our \$2.9 million goal.

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



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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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.