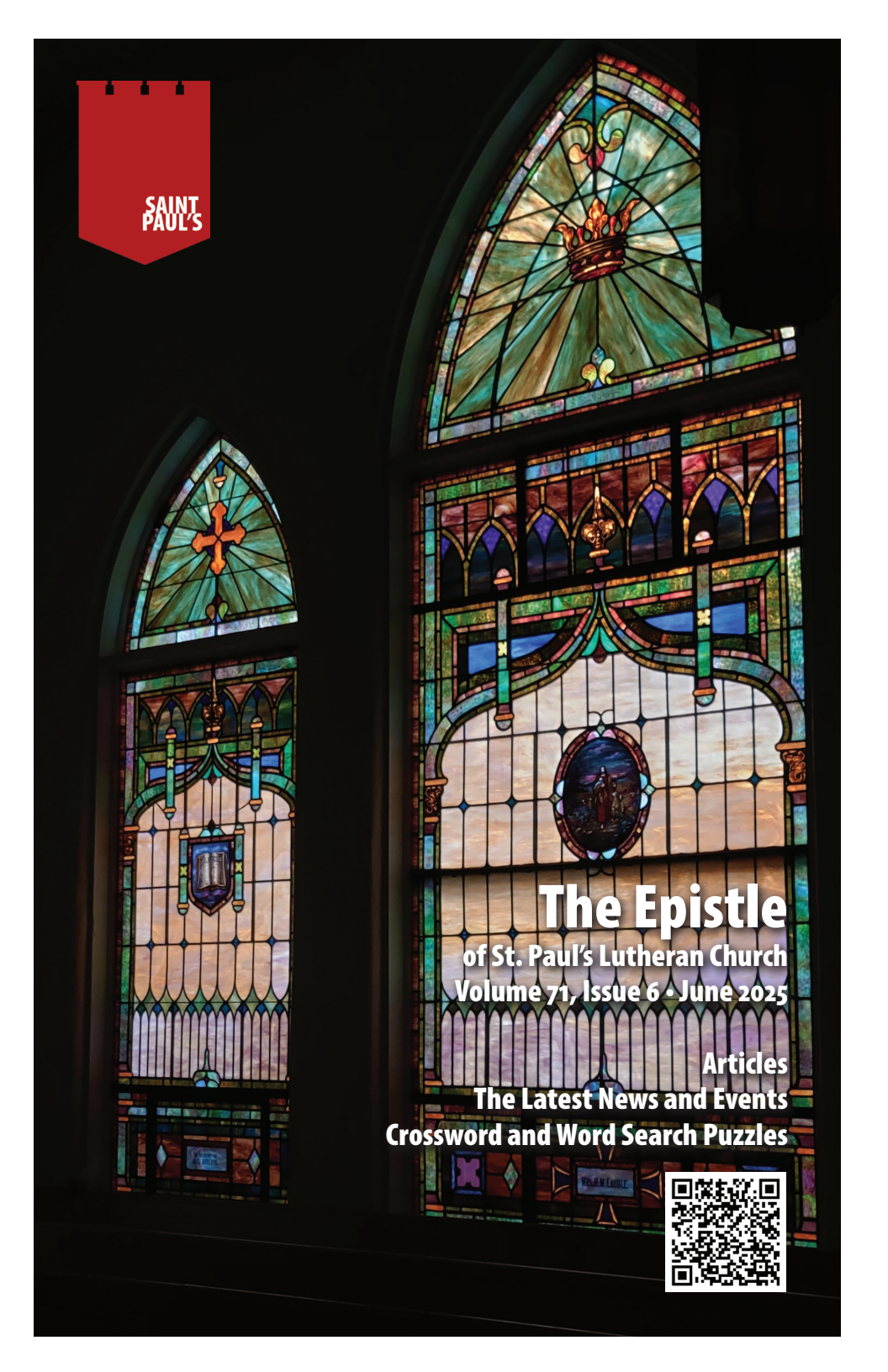




SAINT
PAUL'S



The Epistle

of St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Volume 71, Issue 6 • June 2025

Articles
The Latest News and Events
Crossword and Word Search Puzzles



*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching
and the fellowship, to the breaking
of bread and the prayers.*

Acts 2:42

Since the start of the new year, St. Paul's college-age and college-bound students have been coming together every two weeks. We study the Bible, share experiences, and even share a few laughs as we continue to grow in the Word of God.



Thanks to your support and generous giving, we were able to enjoy a night of Bible study over dinner at Go Burrito on a beautiful evening just after the Cruise in BBQ. We continued our deep dive into Paul's letter to the Romans and covered the spectrum of law/gospel and justification by faith.

With our group in college and some preparing for college, they understand the importance of meeting regularly to dedicate themselves to studying the scriptures and fellowshiping with one another. Keep your St. Paul's students in your prayers as they continue learning and growing in Christ Jesus.

*Lindsey Whisnant has graduated
from East Rowan High School,
as Salutatorian, Honor Graduate & Summa Cum Laude.
Lindsey will be attending NC State University in the fall
to pursue a degree in Aerospace Engineering.
Congratulations Lindsey!*



*Reese Goodman and Grace Walker
will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2025.
Please join us for a reception in honor
of Reese and Grace in the
fellowship hall following worship.*



*New members received on Easter Sunday, April 20th:
Russ Restivo,
Zachary Brown, Courtney Brown,
Cassidy Brown and Laiklyn Brown
We are glad to have you all as part of our church family.*



Bible Studies and Prayer

Tuesday Bible studies (10:00am and 6:00pm) are working through the Bible, starting with Genesis. Each student receives a booklet of commentary 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.

Morning Prayer (8:30–9:00am weekdays) is a time of reading and discussing the Daily Lectionary and praying together 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>

We Need Your Help!

Attic “Clean Out” Day—Saturday, June 7th, 8am – Until...

We are actively getting things ready for our building project to begin. Everyone's help is needed. Please mark your calendars to help clean out the attic space in preparation for the Capital Improvement project. Lunch will be provided for those helping.

If you have anything stored in the attic, please be in attendance at 8am on June 7th, so that these items will be kept and stored properly. We will have a dumpster on-site Saturday morning to dispose of all items in the attic that are no longer needed. There will be wooden tables and chairs available on this day *only for congregational members*. All remaining tables and chairs will be donated to ReStore/Habitat for Humanity.

Please contact Bethany Whisnant at 704-640-2402, or bethanywhisnant@gmail.com before June 7th, if you have any questions (or know of any items that need to be kept, but are unable to attend this “Clean Out” day).

Friendship Club

Friendship Club will **meet June 19, at 10:30am in the fellowship hall**. There is a short program or discussion, then we all enjoy fellowship while sharing a covered-dish lunch. Hope to see you then. Everyone is welcome to join us.

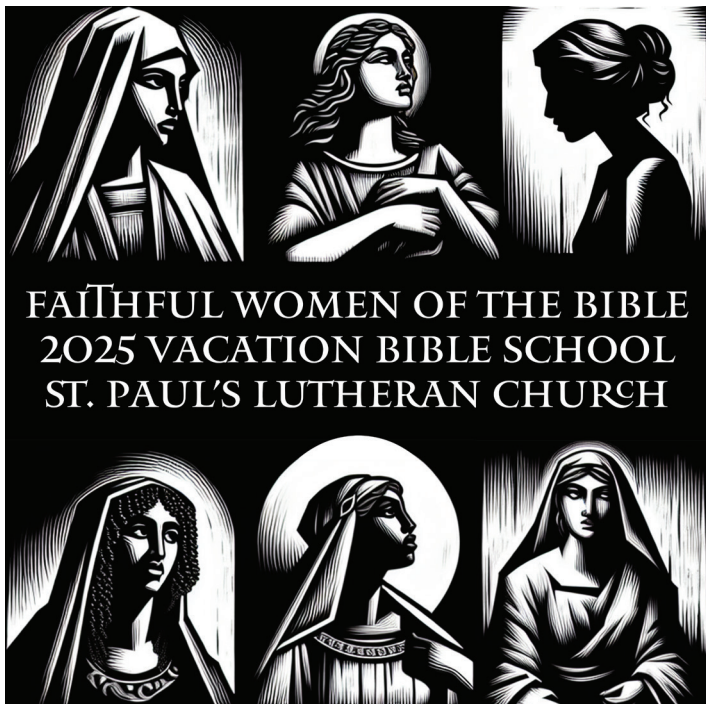
Fun Bunch Ladies Group

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

- June 25th—Hendricks BBQ, 1624 W Innes St, Salisbury
- July 30th—Jimmie's Restaurant, 814 US-29, China Grove

Stephen Ministry

Jan McCanless is planning to start another class to train new Stephen Ministers. For information, contact Jan: 704-857-6923 or janmccanless@aol.com.



2025 VBS—Classes for Preschool (age 3)–Eighth Grade

Friday, June 20—Registration, 5:30–6pm
Music, classes, activities, 6pm–8pm

Saturday, June 21—Registration, 9:30am–10am
Music, classes, activities, 10am–3pm

Sunday, June 22—9:30am, Sunday School
Practice in the Music Room at 10:15am
Worship Service, 10:30–11:45am
Lunch and activities, Noon–3pm
VBS ice cream social, 3–4pm

Please have your registration forms turned in no later than Sunday, June 8, so that Kara and Lauren have enough time to prepare and ensure there are enough supplies for everyone. If you are able to volunteer, please contact either of them:

Kara Burnett: 704–239–7614; Karaelizabeth629@gmail.com

Lauren Holland: 980–234–2907; Laurenelio9@gmail.com

Calendar of Events for June

Sundays

- Sunday School at 9:30am each Sunday
 - Vespers each Sunday evening at 6pm
(No Vespers June 1)
 - June 1 – Breakfast before Sunday School, 8:30am
 - June 1 – Autumn Care worship service, 2 pm
 - June 1 – Youth and Family Committee, 2pm
 - June 8 – Pentecost, Confirmation Sunday, 10:30am
 - June 8 – Christian Education Committee, 2pm
 - June 8 – Worship & Music Committee, 2:30pm
 - June 8 – College Ministry with Pastor Brian, 4pm
 - June 8 – Kathy Ketchie Circle, 4pm
 - June 15 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
 - June 22 – Last day of VBS, 10:15am–3pm
 - June 22 – VBS ice cream social, 3pm
 - June 22 – College Ministry with Pastor Brian, 4pm
- *Devotion & prayer time is held in the chapel Monday–Friday mornings at 8:30am, for 30–45 minutes. You are welcome to join us.*

Mondays

- June 2 – Facility Accessibility committee meeting, 6:30pm
- June 2 – Hama Lingle Circle, 6pm
- June 9 – Melissa Lura Circle, 6pm
- June 9 – Finance Commttee, 6:30pm
- June 16 – Council meeting, 6:30pm
- June 23 – Lutheran Men's meeting, 6:30pm

Tuesdays

- Bible Study Classes Tuesdays, 10am and 6pm
(No classes on June 3rd)
- June 3 – Grace Ridenhour Circle, 6:30pm
- June 10 – Bonnie Bost Circle, 7pm
- June 17 – Staff meeting, 5pm

Wednesdays

- Adult Choir practice, each Wednesday at 6:30pm
- June 4 – Ellen Bumgarner Circle, 10am
- June 11 – Autumn Care chapel service, 2pm
- June 18 – Staff meeting, 5pm

Thursdays

- Rowan Smart Start, 10am–Noon, each Thursday morning
- June 19 – Friendship Club, 10:30am

Fridays

- Dance class each Friday, 2pm
- June 20 – First day of VBS, 5:30–8:00pm
- June 27 – Youth & Family pool party

Saturdays

- June 7 – Attic Clean–Out Day, 8am until
- June 21 – Second day of VBS, 9:30am–3pm

Local Vacation Bible Schools

- June 8–12, Organ Lutheran Church, Salisbury: True North–Trusting Jesus in a Wild World. Meal at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall; VBS from 6–8pm starting in the sanctuary
- June 20–22, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Salisbury: Mary, Martha, and Many Faithful Women. Friday, 5:30–8; Saturday, 9:30am–3pm with lunch; Sunday, 10:30am–3pm with lunch; ice cream social from 3–4
- June 24–26, 9–11:30am, Salem Lutheran Church, Salisbury: “Road Trip” on the road with God
- July 13–17, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Troutman: Supper @ 5:30pm, VBS 6–8:30pm
- June 9–12, 6–8:30pm: Union Lutheran Church, Salisbury, “Rise Up” (intergenerational, lite dinner included)
- July 20–24, 5:30–8:30pm: Concordia Lutheran Church, “Road Trip”—adult classes too
- July 20–24, 5:30–8: Faith Lutheran Church, Faith: True North–Trusting Jesus in a Wild World. Meal served at 5:30pm.
- July 23–25th: Christiana Lutheran Church, Salisbury, “YEE HAW: Celebrating God’s Greatest Gift”

Wilhelms On Mission

We hope this letter finds you enjoying your walk with Christ in 2025. We are excited to be a part of the 20th year of English Language Bible Camps in Latvia this summer. As team leaders, we will be partnering with Spiritual Orphans Network (SON, www.sonetwork.org) to lead two short-term English Language Bible Camps.

SON has been conducting remarkable missions in Latvia for twenty years now! This summer we have the privilege of leading the 20th camp at Striki School outside of Saldus, Latvia. We are also leading the second year of camp at an entirely new location in a rural community called Sabile. Our past experiences have shown us the profound impact these trips have on both the students and us personally.

As we prepare for this trip, we know that we cannot accomplish anything worthwhile without the partnership of other people. So, we ask for your prayers as we begin to train our team this Spring, and for your prayers for the safety, effective communication, and mission impact as we serve overseas in June.

In addition to your prayers, we are seeking financial support to cover travel expenses, materials, and local outreach programs. Every contribution, no matter the size, brings us closer to our goal of \$6,500 and significantly impacts our mission.

You may use the blue offering envelopes at St. Paul's by labeling the envelope "SON Wilhelm." Checks should be made out to "SON." Alternatively, you may visit <https://sonetwork.org/> and click the button labeled "2025 Team Member Support!" This will direct you to a secure DonorPerfect webpage where you can select TMLC FUND – Wilhelm, M&J from the drop-down menu.

We will maintain a blog on the SONetwork website so that all our prayer and financial partners can follow our journey and stay updated on our progress. We look forward to your support and guidance.

In Christ,
Mark & Julia Wilhelm

Blood Drive Results—May 2025

Thanks to all who came to donate at the St. Paul's May Blood Drive. The church was able to reach its goal of 35 units which can be used to help as many as 105 persons in need of a transfusion.

The drive was successful with 40 donors registering, 15 who are members of our church. Community support has always been the key to reaching our goal. The drive was not without problems, however. Because of a shortage of workers from the Red Cross, many donors waited over an hour to be processed and ended up spending over two hours from check-in to completion of donation. Five potential donors left because of the time element.

So, thank you to those who did donate, and thanks to volunteers who helped get the Fellowship Hall set up for the drive, and those helping get it back in order. Ben and Susan Bernhardt handled signs at the end of St. Paul's Church Road. Pastor Lord handled signage on the church marquee. Jaudon Cline and Christine Maloney handled canteen, and Helen Gordon endured five hours of working with me at check-in.

Please mark your calendar for our **next blood drive** on **Monday, August 18th**. Hopefully, some of the problems associated with the Red Cross can be resolved by that time.



Word Scramble

Eth odlr si my itlhg dna ym vaionlsta

ohmw halsl i raef?

Het odrl si hte nthosogrdl fo ym ilef

fo ohwm asllh i eb fadair?

Ehwn orevidles iaasls em

ot tea pu ym fhsl

ym srrasvaeied nda esof

ti si hety how lbsutem dan alfl.



From the Word: And a ruler asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.’” And he said, “All these I have kept from my youth.” When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” (Luke 18:18–22 ESV)

From *The Small Catechism* of Martin Luther, “The Third Article”

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,* the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

What does this mean? I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him; but the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith. In the same way, he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and preserves it in unity with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church, he daily forgives abundantly all my sins and the sins of all believers; and at the last day, he will raise me and all the dead and will grant everlasting life to me and to all who believe in Christ. This is most

certainly true!

*or “holy Christian Church” (“catholic” here refers to the fellowship of all believing Christians)

From Pastor Ryman: Jesus still calls. He beckons us to come to him from out of the darkness. Jesus calls us from the darkness of dependence upon anything but himself. Such is the case with the ruler in today’s reading. He would gain eternal life on his own. “What must I do?” he inquired, as if thinking that the keeping of the commandments or some other moralistic housekeeping was the trick. So Jesus gave him a very hard thing to do, hoping to show him that he could not perform it, and that he must depend upon a greater goodness than himself.

The ruler does not seem to comprehend Jesus’ real teaching, nor do the others who heard, imagining heaven an impossibility if one must sell everything and give it to the poor. Let us be clear: Jesus did not assign a good work to be performed in order to snatch eternity from the grasp of God. The point Jesus made to the ruler—and is making to you and me—is that no one can depend on their goodness or deeds in order to obtain eternal life. But we may depend upon Jesus.

Therefore, we should follow him, not a trail of our own actions. For we are preserved in unity with Jesus Christ by following him, which is tantamount to being in the one true faith. When instead, our steps correspond to our deeds, we are out of step with Jesus.

Prayer: Give me the courage to follow you, Jesus, even if it means I give up all else. Amen.



No one can depend
on their goodness or deeds
in order to obtain eternal life.
But we may depend upon Jesus.

Come, Follow Me

Find the 27 bold words from Luke 18:18–22 KJV.

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

And a certain **ruler** asked him, saying, “**Good Master**, what shall I do to **inherit eternal life**?” And **Jesus** said unto him, “Why callest thou me good? None is good, save one, that is, **God**. Thou knowest the **commandments**, do not commit **adultery**, do not **kill**, do not **steal**, do not **bear false witness**, **honour** thy **father** and thy **mother**.” And he said, “All these have I **kept** from my youth up.” Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, “Yet **lackest** thou one thing: **sell** all that thou hast, and **distribute** unto the **poor**, and thou shalt have **treasure** in **heaven**: and **come, follow** me.”

Unscramble the verse:

Od dogo, eb irch ni odgo krsow, nrsogeeu and ayerd ot asehr.

Don't fall for it! People come up with more convincing-sounding ways to trick you out of your money every day. Don't let them do it no matter how "right" it sounds.

They prey on your fear and your decency. Put the two together and you are ripe for the pickin'.

If someone calls, texts, or emails with a threat that scares you, do not fall for it. Fear will make you do things you regret later, like emptying your bank account.

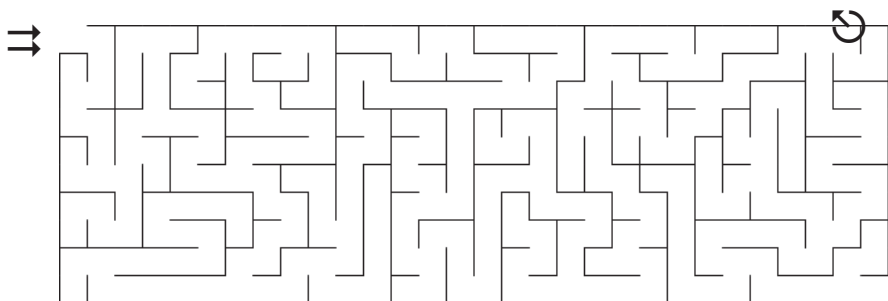
If someone calls, texts, or emails with an appeal to your decency, just remember the following. They will not be helping someone with cancer (or whatever their lie is this time); they will be helping themselves to your cash.

The Post Office (and other carriers) are completely capable of delivering the package that you don't remember ordering. You don't have to click a link to pay an additional fee to get it delivered. They will take everything in your account if you do.

Your pastors are never (Never. Never. Never.) going to text you for gift cards to help someone. We have Helping Hands for that; you know this is the way it works. So, stop wondering whether this week's appeal is a scam or not. It is. It is a scam. Don't fall for it.

Delete it. Report it. But above all, don't worry about it.

For more on scams, please refer to this article from the NC Attorney General's Office addressing senior scams: <https://ncdoj.gov/protecting-consumers/senior-citizens/seniorscams/>



		June 2025—Birthdays—Anniv		
Sun		Mon	Tue	W
1 Susan Bernhardt M/M Wendy and Terry Pittman **Tim and Patricia Free	2 **Meghan Free and Joshua Terrell, and Charlotte	3 Don Austin Dan Dolan Sarah Reeder **Rob, Kristan, Ryan, and Carson Friel	4 M/M Heather a Canup M/M Gail and C **Dan and Kati	
8 Pedro Vincenty **Gary Gaskey	9 Terry Eller Randy Johnson **Karen Girdler	10 Dana Bost Josh Eller M/M Judith and Don Austin **Bradley and Maranda Girdler	11 **Sarah Goodm	
15 Tim Deal Rebecca Lombard **Tim and Patricia, Bishop and Xander Goodman	16 Dan Funderburk Ray Kubitz **Brian, Julie, Reese, and Reagan Goodman	17 Tonya Catledge Sonya Eller Cindy Newsome **Candice Goodman, Summer Waller and Ryleigh Mull	18 Vicki Sanders **Linda Goodm	
22 Danielle Canup **Shelton and Freida Harper	23 M/M Julie and Brian Goodman **Jeremy and Brayden Harper	24 D.W. Honbarger **Tony Heilig	25 **Windy Heilig Katie Story	
29 M/M Kara and Jason Burnett M/M Leilani and Larry Watson **Frank and Cindy Hinson	30 Seth Culp Mary Lee Earnhardt **Wayne and Bonnie Hinson			

Sundays (M/M)—Daily Prayer (**)			
Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
and Michael George Reese	5 Sara Barringer Vance Goodman Allyson Harkey	6 Sharon McBride Nancy Menius M/M Crystal and Paul Canup M/M Wendy and Wallace Smith	7
e Funderburk	**Grace and Lorelei Funderburk	**Jillian Funderburk and Reese Gunter	**John and Ruth Gagliardi
an	12 Wayne Wilhelm	13 Kay Moody M/M Lori and Perry Bernhardt M/M Michelle and Cory Orbison	14 Ashley Lombard Bob McCanless Tony Shaver Jeremy Young
	**Harold and Dot Goodman	**Myralyn and Michael Goodman	**Vance Goodman
an	19 Brenda Bass	20 Misty Brady Lisa Phelps Summer Waller	21
	**Helen Gordon	**Carol Hall	**Todd, Melissa, Evan and Allyson Harkey
and	26 Gayle Brendle Helen Gordon Elin Wells	27 M/M Laura and John Brock	28 Autumn Hill
	**Linda Hess	**Autumn Hill	**Jerry and Doris Hilliard

Did You Know?

History of St. Paul's, 1922-1926

The year was 1922, and a major decision had to be made. Because of the large membership of the church, a building program was first discussed during that year. A planning committee was appointed, and in July of 1923 presented the following options to the congregation: 1. *Remodel the old church at a cost of approximately \$10,000, or 2. Build a new church for approximately \$25,000.* The committee's recommendation was not to remodel the old church, feeling that money would be better spent by building a new one. After all reports were read and considered, the congregation voted to build a new church. The membership also voted to place the matter entirely in the hands of the Council for action.



A building committee was appointed and consisted of the Council and twelve other members of the church. Cost of the building itself was limited to around \$25,000 and did not include memorial windows, furniture, pews, heating plant, or equipment for Sunday School rooms. The lowest bid for the project was

\$25,400.00, and came from Contractor P.C. Wood, in Salisbury, NC. Work began in May of 1924, and a cornerstone laying service took place in September of that year. Chapters 1 & 2 of the church history, a Bible and other records and documents were placed in a sealed copper box in the cornerstone. Also in May of 1924, electricity became available through the purchase of an interest in an electrical line, so that both the church and parsonage would have electric lights for the first time.

The building project was not completed until 1926. Other essentials needed by the church, still had to be obtained before the church could be used. Many of the needed items were given as memorials by church members—new furniture for the upper level was purchased by the building committee, furniture from the old church was used to equip the basement Sunday School classes, and other items were purchased by various organizations within the church. In June, 1926, the formal opening of the church was held. Total value of the church was over \$43,000.00.

Missions

Thank you for your generous donation of \$364.66. Through your support of Radical, we can see the nations reached for the glory of Jesus' name together. We are grateful to God for you.

The Radical Team

Thank you for your recent \$364.66 contribution to the work of Focus on the Family. We have special reason to be grateful for your partnership at this deeply significant time of the year. Thanks again for all you've done to come alongside us. We appreciate you more than words can say. Grace and peace to you.

Sincerely,

Jim Daly, President

Thank you for the donation of \$520.94. We were able to provide 36 Easter meals. Also, thank you for the donation of \$463.56. We appreciate all you do to support our ministry.

Linda Austin, Director

Organ Lutheran/Pantry Outreach

Missions

We praise the Lord for your \$1,996.44 gift this month, with year-to-date total of \$3,966.24 to Feed the Hunger.

From our partner: “We sincerely thank you for your continued support and encouragement, and we appeal for your thoughts and prayers that the Lord will meet our needs, enabling us to assist the poor among us, as instructed by Jesus Christ.”

Serving with you,
Joseph Williams, CEO

On behalf of the staff and Board of Sola Publishing, thank you for your March gift of \$305.72 and the April gift of \$364.66. 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.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Steven King,
Managing Editor

We at Valley Hope Church are deeply grateful for your generous donations and financial gift. We are still in the process of restoring homes and stability for our neighbors who are facing extra ordinary challenges. Still! We are so blessed to serve. Thank you for joining us on this long journey. God is being lifted up in ways we could never have imagined. Thank you.

Serving him,
The Relief and Recovery Team
Valley Hope Church

Thank you for your gift of \$317.49 to the ministry of Samaritan's Purse. We recently deployed an emergency field hospital to Myanmar to help survivors of the earthquake while also providing emergency shelter and clean water in Jesus' name. We also continue to rebuild homes and replace mobile homes that were damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Helene. Your gifts and prayers support ministry at home and abroad. May God bless you.

Sincerely,
Franklin Graham, President

Missions

What a joy it is to share with your church family how God is meeting needs and restoring hope through your partnership with Samaritan's Purse as we responded to the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene.

During the past months, we have witnessed the Church being the hands and feet of Jesus in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee as they helped to deliver life sustaining emergency relief supplies, to cut-up and clear away storm debris, and mud-out flooded homes. We have watched ministry happen as teams took time to hear the stories of homeowners and gather to pray. We also saw God direct our teams to individuals and families who were struggling with the weight of loss and showed us how to help them in practical ways.

As we directed those we served to the One who could give them peace and hope, hearts were transformed and many put their faith and trust in Jesus! Thank you again for all that your church has done to help make this possible.

In Christ,
Michelle Lundgren
Regional Assistant Director,
Church Engagement

Hello from your friends at Focus on the Family, and many thanks for your generous \$317.49 donation in May to our family oriented outreach. Your partnership means more to us than we can put into words.

You are helping us impact hurting families around the world with the message of God's love in Jesus Christ. Thanks again, and God belss you!

Sincerely,
Jim Daly, President
Focus on the Family

Opened Understanding

Find the 26 bold words from Luke 24:44-47.

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

And he said unto them, “These are the **words** which I **spake** unto you, while I was yet with you, that **all things** must be **fulfilled**, which were **written** in the **law** of **Moses**, and in the **prophets**, and in the **psalms**, concerning me.” Then **opened** he their **understanding**, that they might understand the **scriptures**, And said unto them, “Thus it is written, and thus it **behoved** **Christ** to **suffer**, and to **rise** from the **dead** the **third day**: And that **repentance** and **remission** of **sins** should be **preached** in his **name** among all **nations**, beginning at Jerusalem.”

Unscramble the verse:

Ouy liwl ecevire erwpo hewn eht yhlo iirtps ahs ecmo npuo oyü.

Recent Prayer Needs

- Gina Barringer – health concerns
- Shiela Barringer – health concerns
- Michael Brown, father of Zack Brown – health concerns
- Marvin Burnett, father of Allen Burnett – Hospice care
- Betty Camerlin – Liberty Commons
- Sandy Corley – health concerns
- Michael Corley, Sandy's son – health concerns
- Nancy Crapster, friend of Sandy Corley – health concerns
- Jan Dolan – recovering from surgery; health concerns
- Mitch Drew, family of Jimmy and Mary Lee Earnhardt – health concerns
- Sonya Eller – health concerns
- Terry Eller – recovering from surgery
- D.W. Honbarger – health concerns
- Shirley Hoosier – Liberty Commons
- Tommy Huffman – health concerns
- Randy Johnson – recovering from surgery
- Zack Lemmon, family of Jimmy and Mary Lee Earnhardt – health concerns
- Barbara Miller, mother of Amy Hoffner – health concerns
- Betty Niedens – recovering from surgery
- Michelle Orbison – health concerns
- Stan Parnell, family of Jimmy and Mary Lee Earnhardt – health concerns
- Rex Phelps – health concerns
- Franda Raymer – health concerns
- Melinda Redding – recovering from surgery
- George Reese – recovering from surgery
- Russ Restivo – recovering from surgery
- Scott Watson, son of Larry & Leilani Watson – health concerns
- Jane Wilhelm – Trinity Oaks, room C-9

Pray for Homebound and Long-Term Care:

Autumn Care: Walter Smith • *Bermuda Commons:* Edna Chapman
Compass Healthcare: John Stutts, Jr. • *Trinity Oaks:* Ray Kubitz
Terra Bella: Helen Howe, Della Jenkins • *Home:* John Cornelison,
Barbara Deese, Sonya Eller, Linda Hess, Ruth Julian, James Lyerly,
Lottie Simpson, Dottie Stancil, Barbara Upright, Robert Weed

Awakening Lives to World Missions

Awakening Lives to World Missions (alwm.org) exists to call, and purposefully and fruitfully respond to God's call to go and make disciples of all the nations (Matt. 28:19). ALWM International works in nine countries on three continents, with one primary calling: making disciples of all the nations, especially the least reached and unreached, in Bangladesh, Belarus, Cambodia, Kenya, Laos, Myanmar, Tanzania, Thailand, and Vietnam.

ALWM began equipping congregations in 2008, founded by Pastor Bill Moberly in 2008 as a ministry of East European Mission Network (EEMN – now SONetwork) while he served as director. In 2015, ALWM expanded as a ministry, incorporated as a separate 501-c-3, and is a recognized ministry partner of the LCMC and NALC.

ALWM International is doing work once done by denominational global mission departments. The gradual but real decline in global mission support and activity over the last 20–30 years by the LCMS and ELCA has left evangelical and confessional Lutherans in many parts of the world with no viable path for partnership with Lutherans in the U.S. This is a key reason behind many of our international partnerships in the nine countries noted above, as each has said, “Can you come and help us?” For example:

- In Cambodia, we are now focused on plans for a youth and ministry center to train leaders for Cambodia and the 50 underground churches in Vietnam. I will be there to train leaders and host the third ALWM Cambodia youth conference this October.
- In Kenya, Rev. Dagaga Gemachu and his team have seen nearly 500 people come to Christ in their Borana people outreach in northern Kenya. In April they again had more than 160 adults come to faith.
- We work with Swapon Sarker and the Bangladesh Evangelical Lutheran Church in leadership training, ministry tools, water projects, and much more. Bangladesh is less than .2% Christian. They are seeing converts from Hinduism and Islam in a

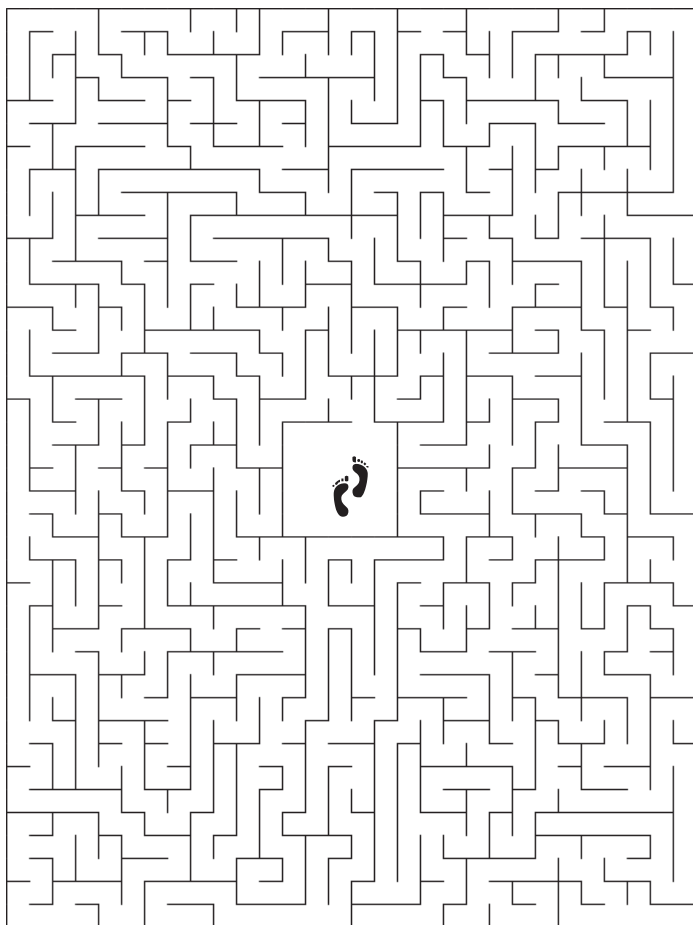
challenging place to do ministry!

You can find out about these global workers, ministry partners, projects and more at alwm.org/ourwork. We provide the opportunity for congregations and individuals to have fruitful partnership with gifted leaders and their teams as they labor among the least reached and unreached.

For more information about partnership with ALWM, our resources for congregations, mission teams, and more, please visit alwm.org or write missionhelp@alwm.org. To God be the glory.

Pastor Bill Moberly

Founder & Director of ALWM



Spiritual Orphans Network

In just a couple of weeks, our first SON Teams will be heading to Latvia to lead English Bible Camps. In one city, we will be celebrating 20 years of Gospel ministry in a country that was once a vibrant center of Christianity and is now one of the most secular nations in the world. In another, we will mark two years of new and growing partnership. In both places, our teams are preparing for powerful opportunities to share the love, grace, and mercy of Jesus Christ. Please join us in praying that hearts will be open and ready to receive the good news!

Meanwhile, more teams are preparing to serve in Albania—a land where the Christian faith was suppressed under both Ottoman and Socialist regimes. For seven years now, SON has been committed to walking alongside the people of Albania, helping them find hope and freedom in Christ. We are beginning to see the fruit of that work, as more young people ask deep questions and begin to explore a life-changing relationship with Jesus.

Our final teams of the summer will be heading to Slovakia to host two English Bible Camps and a Life & Adventure Teen Camp where they will join youth and leaders from Austria, Estonia, Germany, and Ukraine. These camps are both exhausting and deeply rewarding, and the relationships formed often become lifelong connections grounded in faith.

None of this would be possible without you. Your partnership, prayers, and support are the reason we can continue connecting spiritual orphans to the global family of Christ. Thank you for walking with us in our mission.

Thank you for your gift of \$317.49 in May to Spiritual Orphans Network. Also, thank you for your continued and unwavering commitment to bring the light of the Gospel into nations where Christianity was buried under regimes of darkness and fear. In a world of increasing uncertainty, thank you for helping us to share the one thing that is certain—the love of Jesus Christ our Lord.

In His Service,
Pr. David R. Breidenbach
SON Executive Director

Offering for March and April 2025

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.

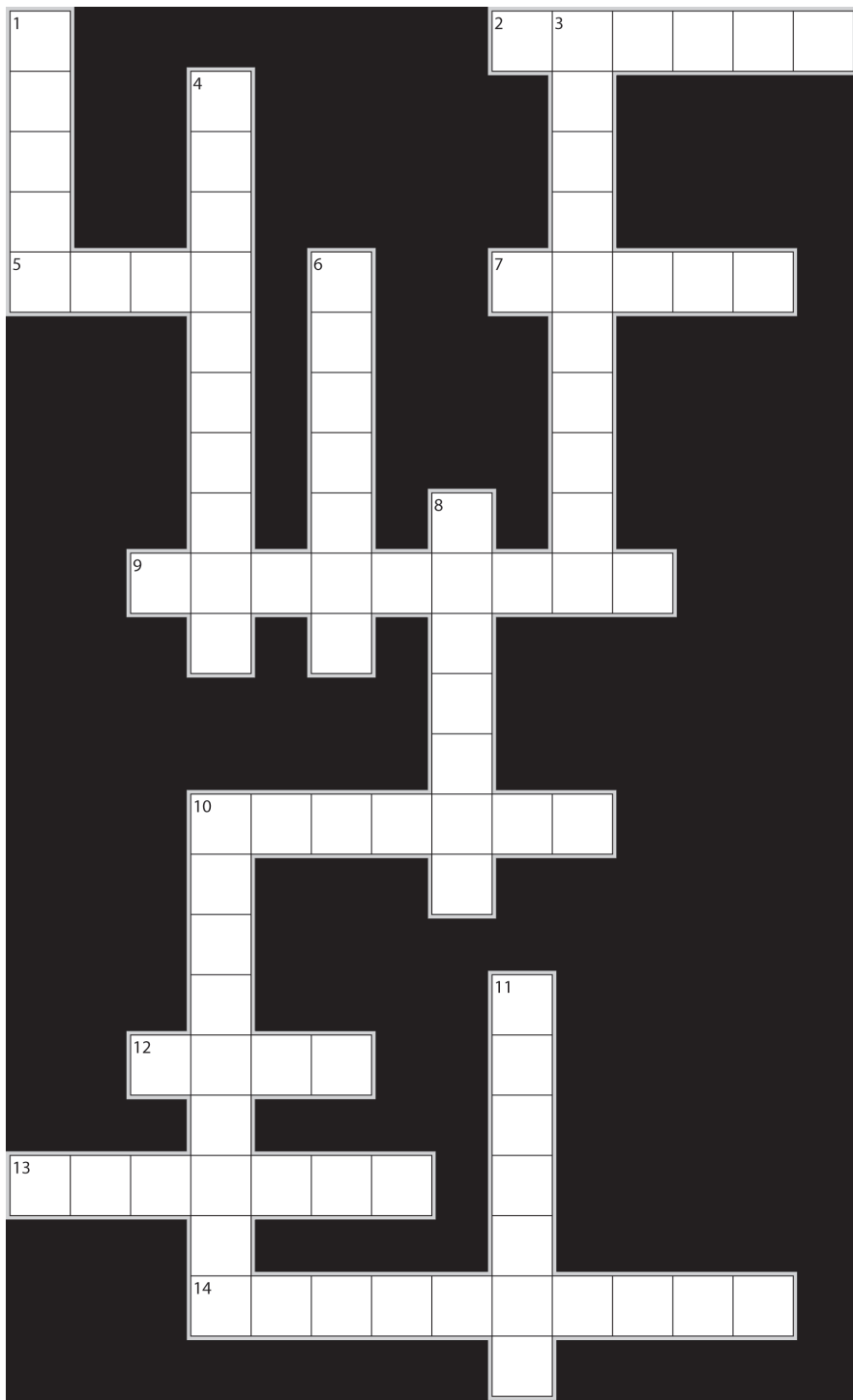


General Fund Giving and Expenditure Report March and April, 2025

Income for March	\$121,151.62
Expenditures for March	\$48,449.29
Net Income (Income minus expenses)	\$72,702.33
Income for April	\$46,643.30
Expenditures for April	\$44,581.30
Net Income (Income minus expenses)	\$2,062.00
Income year to date	\$244,768.12
Expenditures year to date	\$186,001.38
Net Income YTD (Income minus expenses)	\$58,766.74
Budgeted Income year to date	\$210,219.48
Actual Income year to date	\$244,768.12
Net Budgeted Income YTD	\$34,548.64

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







It's Summer!

*Solve the crossword puzzle
by answering the following questions
about rest and vacations.*

ACROSS

2. A floating vacation
5. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it...
7. Martin Luther taught about the third commandment: We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and his Word, but hold it sacred, and gladly hear and _____ it.
9. A higher spot where many North Carolinians vacation
10. The day on which God rested in the creation
12. What did Jesus encourage his disciples to do from time to time?
13. The modern word for Holy Day
14. A long leave of absence, often for research or personal development.

DOWN

1. Where many North Carolinians vacation
3. As if to be created all over again
4. A vacation spent at home
6. What could Jesus be found doing in a boat?
8. A getaway to a forest, lake, or park
10. What people bring back from vacations
11. The day for rest



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, 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.