



The Monthly Epistle

of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Volume 70, Issue 6 • June 2024

Our Call Committee and Council have unanimously recommended Brian Lord to be the Associate Pastor of St. Paul's. A congregational meeting to vote on this is scheduled for June 16th during worship at 10:30am.

"The Adventures of Paul," our 2024 Vacation Bible School, is scheduled for June 21–23. There will be activities for Pre-K (3–4 year-olds), Kindergarten, Elementary, Middle School, and adult (this includes High Schoolers) on the life of the Apostle Paul, with lessons from the Book of Acts. The Bible tells the story of a serious man named Saul, who worked to silence Christianity—until the risen Jesus appeared to him on the road to Damascus and changed his life. With his new name, Paul, this one who had persecuted the Church went on to become one of the greatest apostles.

Crafts, games, music, lunches, snacks, and lessons means we're going to see the light! Adults will also have instruction in calligraphy.

Find more under the "About" tab on the website or get a registration form from the office or in the narthex.

See you in church!

Pr. Ryman



June Calendar of Events

Sundays

- Sunday School, each week at 9:30am
- Worship service, each week at 10:30am
- Vespers at the Parsonage—fellowship at 6pm; prayer at 6:30pm
- June 2 – Breakfast before Sunday School, 8:30am
- June 2 – Youth & Family Committee, 2pm
- June 2 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- June 9 – Christian Education Committee, conf. room, 1:30pm
- June 9 – Worship & Music Committee, conf. room, 2:30pm
- June 9 – Kathy Ketchie Circle, 4pm
- June 16 – Father's Day
- June 16 – Called Congregational meeting, 10:30am
- June 16 – Autumn Care worship, 2pm
- June 23 – Final Day of VBS, 10:30am–3pm
- June 23 – Ice Cream Social, 3pm
- June 30 – Guest preacher, Julie Smith, from St. Paul Lutheran Seminary
- June 30 – Guest organist, Gene Brittain

Mondays

- June 3 – Facility Accessibility Committee meeting, 6:30pm
- June 3 – Hama Lingle Circle, 6pm hostess, Libby Bingham
- June 10 – Outreach Committee, 6:30pm
- June 17 – Newsletter articles for July are due this week.
- June 17 – Council meeting, 6:30pm
- June 24 – Lutheran Men's meeting, 6:30pm

Tuesdays

- Bible Study classes, at 10am and 6pm
- June 4 – Grace Ridenhour Circle, 6:30pm
- June 11 – Bonnie Bost Circle, 7pm
- June 18 – Staff meeting, 5pm

Wednesdays

- June 5 – Ellen Bumgarner Circle, 10am
- June 5 – Autumn Care chapel service, 2pm
- Adult Choir practice, 6:30pm each week

Thursdays

- June 20 – Friendship Club, **11am**, meet at the China Grove Family House Restaurant
- June 27 – Social at Trinity Living Center, 1:30pm

Fridays

- June 21 – Vacation Bible School registration, 5:30pm
- June 21 – Day 1 of Vacation Bible School, 6pm

Saturdays

- June 22 – Day 2 of Vacation Bible School, 9:30am–3pm

Friendship Club in June

The Friendship Club will meet at the China Grove Family House Restaurant, 216 S. Main St., China Grove, on Thursday, June 20th. **Please meet there at 11am.** Reservations have been made. Everyone is invited. Join us for good food and fellowship.

Lutheran Women Circle Meetings

Bonnie Bost–Tuesday, June 11, 7pm
Ellen Bumgarner–Wednesday, June 5, 10am
Kathy Ketchie–Sunday, June 9, 4pm
Hama Lingle–Monday, June 3, **6pm**
Melissa Lura–No meeting in June
Grace Ridenhour–Tuesday, June 4, 6:30pm

Feed the Hunger Packathon

Want to go on a mission trip but not leave home? Here is your opportunity.

Feed the Hunger Packathon will be held on Saturday, July 20, 10am–noon in the fellowship hall.

We will be packing 10,000 meals in 2 hours! We need 50 volunteers, age 9 to 109, to accomplish this.

During the Packathon, teams of volunteers will assemble ingredients into meal packets that are weighed, sealed and boxed. These meals will be shipped and freely distributed to hungry children throughout the world, who are living in extreme poverty. Bibles will be distributed along with these meals in order to not only address physical hunger, but spiritual hunger as well.

The Packathon begins with a brief video and instructional period, and ends with a short time of celebration over how many lives will be impacted. This is a wonderful opportunity to share the love of Christ with others.

Feed the Hunger is a Christian Non-Profit ministry established in 1968 in Burlington, NC. It has international church partners in 28 countries, and also distributes food to some of the poorest areas in the United States.

Mark your calendar now. Sign-up sheets will be available in the narthex later this month.

Call Us

If you or a family member are headed to the hospital or a nursing home, having surgery, or a medial procedure, please call the church office (704-633-0922) to let us know. Pam will let the pastor know and put it on his calendar and task list. It is fine to tell the pastor preceding or following worship or another church activity, but he is likely to forget because his mind is on the worship service, Bible study, etc. He wants to briefly visit with you and pray for you in your time of need, and would appreciate your quick phone call to the church office.

We extend our love and sympathy to Karen Deal, Dana Bost, Wanda Thomas, and their families on the death of their aunt Myra Bost. Mrs. Bost, wife of Rev. Gene Bost, died Monday, April 29, 2024. Her funeral service was held Thursday, May 2, 2024, at Grace Lutheran Church.

We extend our love and sympathy to Betty and Don Camerlin on the death of Betty's sister, Jane Mullins, of Virginia Beach.

Mrs. Mullins died Sunday, May 5, 2024.

Please keep her family in your prayers.



Memorial Gifts

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

Helen Gordon

Susan and Mark Ryman

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

Cindy and Travis Alligood

Kim and Randy Echerd

Ellen Bumgarner Circle

Patsy Everhart

Brenda Julian

Tammy Leazer

Shirlene Potts and son Brian

Susan and Mark Ryman

Sue Young

Gifts were received in memory of **Jeff Powlas** for the Helping Hands Fund from

Nu-Core, Inc.

Deidre and Allen Williams

Gifts were received in memory of **Myra Bost** for the Capital Building Fund from

Alice Davis

Helen Gordon

Bonnie and Wayne Hinson

Susan and Mark Ryman

Gifts were received in memory of **Jane Mullins** (sister of Betty Camerlin) for the Capital Building Fund from

Bonnie and Wayne Hinson

Susan and Mark Ryman

A gift was received in memory of **Jane Mullins** for the Carillon Fund from

Karen and Tim Deal

Congratulations Graduates

Bishop Goodman graduated with honors on May 25, from Jesse C. Carson High School. He is enrolled in fall classes at RCCC for Automotive Technology and welding.

Summer Waller graduated from Jesse C. Carson High School May 25. She is enrolled in fall classes at RCCC for the Nursing program.

Emma Grace Amos had her pinning ceremony May 14th, and graduated May 17th, with a nursing degree from RCCC. She will be working for her BSN, and eventually her Masters degree.

Hannah Barringer graduated May 11th, with a BS in Business Administration from Liberty University. Hannah is now job searching while she is currently employed at Smoke Pit.

Savannah Charles graduated from UNC Greensboro May 3rd, with a BS in Elementary Education. She will be teaching fifth grade at China Grove Elementary this fall.

German Jaramillo has graduated from Visionary Academy, and will continue his education this fall at RCCC.

Drake Johnson graduated May 11th, from UNC Chapel Hill with a PhD in Chemistry. He will be moving to Blacksburg, Virginia, where he will be working for Luna Labs.

Natalie Powlas graduated May 8th, with an MBA from Georgia Southern University. Natalie, her husband, and their children live in Covington, GA, where they own a bed & breakfast.

Congratulations Confirmands

Zoe Wells, Amaya Cerda, and Brady Bost completed two years of catechism classes at St. Paul's. The Rite of Confirmation was held for them on Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024.

We congratulate our Graduates and Confirmands for working hard to accomplish these goals. We pray that you will be led by the Holy Spirit to use what you have learned for God's glory.

Congratulations to Hailey and Brandon Smith on the birth of their son, Walker Jefferson Smith. Walker was born Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at Atrium Health Medical Center in Concord.

Congratulations to Megan and Josh Plummer on the birth of their daughter, Nora Grace Plummer. Nora was born Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at Atrium Health Medical Center in Concord.



Thank You

Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, texts, and acts of kindness after my recent surgery. It is a blessing to have a church that cares so much. We are thankful and honored to be a part of St. Paul's.

Perry and Lori Bernhardt

Thank you for allowing our Classical Conversations co-op to meet here. This is a blessing to us, and we appreciate it so much.

The Calvert Family

Thank you for supporting our [Classical Conversations] homeschooling. You are a huge blessing. May God multiply your work and bless you!

The Saieg Family

Thank you for hosting our Classical Conversations Community for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Families of CC Salisbury

Offering for April 2024

General Fund Offering for the month: \$38,302

May General Fund report will be in the July Epistle.

Online Giving is accessible at StPaulsLutheran.Church/give.

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

There is a minimal fee for each transaction.



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,” a nine week study on the seven churches of Revelation, 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>

History Room

Over the last year, the History Committee has been very busy cleaning and organizing the History Room, which is located across the hall from the pastor’s office. While there is much work left to do, we are proud of the progress that we’ve made. A new cabinet has been added, dedicated to the projects of the Lutheran Women. That alone is worth checking out. We invite you to set aside a few minutes one day to drop by for a look. Who knows, you just might learn something about your church.

Cruise ’n Barbecue

Our 12th St. Paul’s Cruise ’n Barbecue is in the books — and what a great day it was! All glory to God for the perfect weather and the blessings of having this opportunity to show what a loving, caring, and cooperative congregation we have, as we dedicated this year’s event to the memory of our friend, Jeff Powlas. Thank you to everyone who volunteered, contributed to the record number of raffle prizes, or attended what most will agree was our best cruise-in yet. Many people will benefit from the \$25,000 that was raised for the Helping Hands Fund. And the follow-up meeting generated some outstanding suggestions as to how we can make next year’s event even better for our attendees and volunteers. Mark your calendars now — always the last Saturday in April. Thanks again!

Wisdom

*Find the 30 **bold** words from Job 28:20–28.*

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

From where, then, does **wisdom** come? And where is the place of understanding? It is **hidden** from the sight of all living, and unknowable to the birds of the air. **Abaddon** and **Death** say, “We have heard a **rumor** of it with our ears.” **God understands** the **way** of it, and he **knows** its place. For he looks to the **ends** of the **earth**, and **sees** everything under the **heavens**. When he gave the **wind** its **force**, and **apportioned** the **waters** by **measure**, when he made a **rule** for the **rain**, and a **way** for the **lightning** of the **thunder**, then he saw it, and made it known. He **established** and **examined** it. Then he said to man, “Behold, the **fear** of the **Lord**, that is wisdom. And to **turn away** from **evil** is understanding.”

Missions

On behalf of the staff and Board of *Sola Publishing*, thank you for your gift of \$513.88, and your gift of \$408.32. 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,
Pastor Steve King, Managing Editor

Thank you for your generous donation of \$249.98. 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

A warm greeting to you, and thanks for your recent \$359.72 donation to *Focus on the Family*. We are encouraged to know that you are partnering with us in this important work. One thing is for certain—we couldn't do what we do without the help of faithful friends like you. Thanks again for everything. May God's grace and peace be yours in the days to come.

Sincerely,
Jim Daly, President
Focus on the Family

Your contribution [\$359.72] has made such a meaningful difference in the lives of those we (*Organ Lutheran Food Pantry*) serve. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. Your donation shows that you truly care about our cause and the work we do. Thank you for continued support. Words cannot express how much your donation means.

Sincerely,
Linda Austin, Director
Organ Lutheran Church
Pantry/Outreach Program

Missions

On behalf of *Department of Lutheran Studies* at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and *Friends of Rowan* ("FOR") please accept our sincere thanks for your generous gift of \$1,929.50 on March 31, 2024. Your gift is being matched by FOR and is being forwarded to Department of Lutheran Studies at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

Respectfully,
Felicia Eagle, Friends of Rowan

May God bless you abundantly for all that you have given to *Naomi's Heart Mission*. We are grateful to you for helping us to make this ministry possible with your continued support.

Just recently, we were allowed to enter the women's jail after four years due to covid. They opened their doors to have us come back in and conduct a worship service and take much needed toiletry items to the women. Again, thank you for your love and compassion for Naomi's Heart.

Blessings,
Kristie Ward
Founder of Naomi's Heart Mission

Thank you for your gift of \$249.98 to *Samaritan's Purse*. Your gifts and prayers help make this ministry possible and strengthen our relief efforts in more than 110 nations. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Franklin Graham, President

**Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil;
hold fast to what is good.
Love one another with brotherly affection.
Outdo one another in showing honor.**

Romans 12:9-10

Missions

This summer, 68 team members from all over the United States will be hosting 9 camps in 3 countries for students from Latvia, Albania, Slovakia, Estonia, Germany, and Ukraine. We are looking forward to what God is doing in, around, and through us as we prepare to serve his people from these former communist countries.

Thank you for your continued support [gift of \$359.73] of SON ministries and how God continues to connect spiritual orphans to the global family of Christ. Please pray for our teams this summer. Blog updates may be found on our website: www.SONetwork.org/stories.

In His Service,
Pastor David Breidenbach
SON Executive Director

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 \$359.73 on April 24, is a great blessing to those who do not yet know that they have a Father in heaven who loves them, or that they have brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world who want to see them adopted into the family of Christ. SON engages people in the Word of God helping them to reclaim their identity as children of God, and walks alongside them as they are transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. Thank you 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 Breidenbach
SON Executive Director

May Blood Drive

Thanks to all who came to donate at our May blood drive. What looked like another drive where the church would collect a low number of units turned out to be very successful! Having only 26 donors scheduled, and six who did not show, the drive was saved by 11 donors who came as “walk-ins” and three donors who gave “double red blood cells.” There were no deferrals but one donor “sprung a leak” (a unit not counted) so the church received credit for collecting 36 units. Out of the 31 donors who registered, 14 were members of our church. A special thanks to them. Over 20 members of our church who were faithful donors in the past can no longer give because of medical reasons.

The 36 units collected can be used to help over 100 persons needing a transfusion. Please consider that one of those persons could be your family member or close friend. Our blood drive needs more support from our church members. It takes approximately one hour, four times a year, to give the “gift of life” that can never be repaid.

Thanks to the Property Brothers who set up the fellowship hall for the drive; Lindsey Lowman, Brent Monroe, and George Barringer, who put the fellowship hall back in order; Jaudon Cline and Chris Maloney who handled canteen; Wayne Taylor and Ben Bernhardt who handled signage; and of course, my faithful sidekick, Helen Gordon, who handled check in. Our next blood drive is Monday, August 12th. Please mark your calendar and reserve that date to donate.

Alice Davis

**By this we know love, that he laid down
his life for us, and we ought to lay
down our lives for the brethren.**

1 John 3:16

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. 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."

New Heavens and New Earth

Find the 27 bold words from Isaiah 65:17–21.

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

For, behold, I **create new heavens** and a new **earth**, and the **former** things shall not be remembered, nor **come** to **mind**. But be **glad** and **rejoice forever** in that which I create. For behold, I create **Jerusalem** to be a **jubilation**, and her people a **joy**. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and take joy in my people. And the sound of **weeping** and **crying** will be heard in her no more. No more will there be an **infant** who **lives** just **days**, nor an old man who has not lived out his days; for the one-hundred-year-old will be a **child**, and the one who falls short of one hundred shall be **accursed**. And they shall **build houses** and **inhabit** them; and they shall **plant vineyards** and **eat** their **fruit**.

Unscramble the verse:

Lal uro urstgiohe eddes aer ekil a optlelud etmagn.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

OUR MISSION

A family of faith sharing the gospel and love of Christ

Phone: 704-633-0922

Email: secretary@stpaulslutheran.church

Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Facebook: www.facebook.com/StPaulsLCMC

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12 Noon

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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.