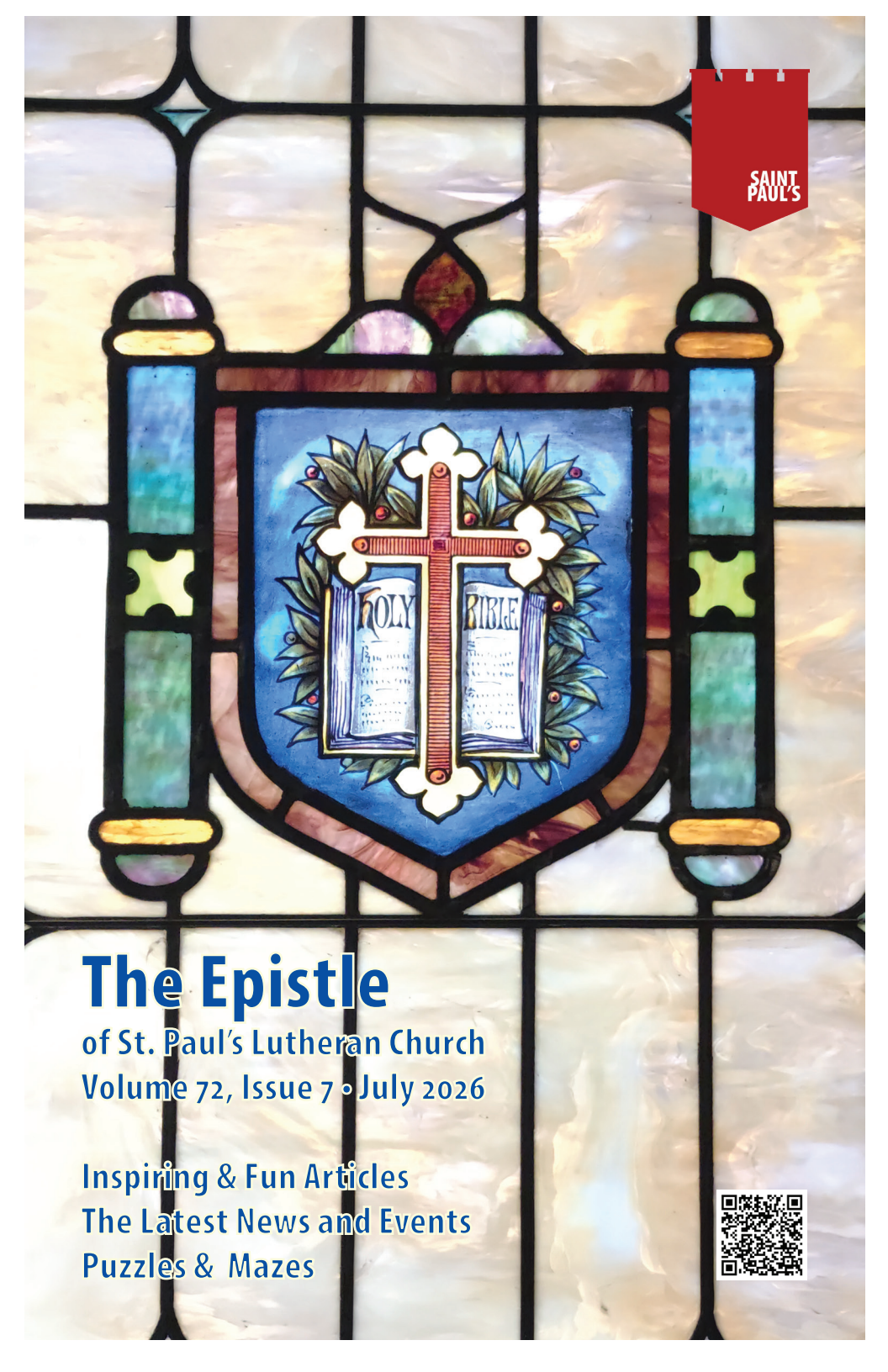




SAINT
PAUL'S

The Epistle

of St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Volume 72, Issue 7 • July 2026

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



“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” (Ephesians 5:1-2)

Growing up, I was my father’s constant shadow, always eager to mimic his every move. Whenever he started working, I was right behind him, likely hindering more than helping. I vividly remember him digging drainage trenches behind our childhood home; as he heaved large shovelfuls of earth, I diligently followed with my tiny hand trowel. While he endured the heavy labor, I simply enjoyed the rewards of his efforts.

These brief verses from Ephesians offer several deep reminders. To begin with, we as Christians are members of a much larger household; we are truly God’s beloved. Just like the moments at the Jordan River during Christ’s baptism and again at the Transfiguration when God declared, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” (Matt 3:17; 17:5), He identifies all who believe in His Son for salvation—His church—as His own beloved children.

Furthermore, Paul emphasizes that Christ’s love was shown through his ultimate sacrifice—giving himself up and dying so that we might be reconciled to God and find true life. Jesus took on the heavy work and paid the full penalty for the world’s sins on behalf of sinners. Through his work, we have become the beneficiaries of divine mercy and grace, invited to live as beloved children and walk in this extraordinary love.

Ultimately, imitation is based on a relationship. Just as I needed to stay close to my father to observe and imitate his work in the yard, Jesus invites us into a close relationship with himself, where we can understand all that he has done for us.

Christ calls you to be near him daily in prayer, in reading Scripture, and in being among other saints in Bible study—coming to the places where his word is proclaimed, and his mercy and forgiveness are offered—especially in his church on Sundays.

— continued on next page

During the summer months, we tend to get excited about plans, trips, and activities we want to enjoy, as they all offer chances to be with those we love most and to spend quality time with them. The youngest among us will imitate what we do, or do not do. Let us also be excited to take this time to imitate our Lord.

Let us prayerfully consider, in whatever we do over the summer season, how we might imitate God's love—spending quiet time in his word, sharing his promise with a neighbor, teaching it to those close to us, encouraging one another in faith during difficult and good times, serving each other, and walking boldly in Christian love.

Pastor Brian



New Member Classes

New member classes will be held by Pastor Lord on Sunday, July 12th, 19th, and 26th, following worship service. If you are interested in becoming a member of St. Paul's, please contact the church office to let us know.

Please plan to attend all three classes in the chapel beginning July 12th.

you're invited

Please JOIN US for
Sybil Athey's 90th Birthday Celebration
July 11th, 2026

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall
205 St Paul's Church Road
Salisbury, NC 28146
2 - 4 pm

It's Sybil Athey's 90th Birthday.

NO GIFTS PLEASE.

Drop by for some cake and visit for a while.

Any questions—call Cindy at 704-640-4386.

Calendar of Events for July

Sundays

- Sunday School at 9:30am each Sunday
- Worship service at 10:30am each Sunday
- Vespers each Sunday evening at 6pm in the parsonage
- Kathy Ketchie Circle, no meeting this month
- July 5 – Grace Ridenhour Circle, pulpit side transept, Noon
- July 5 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- July 5 – Youth and Family Committee, 2pm
- July 12 – New Member Class #1, Noon in the chapel
- July 12 – Christian Education Committee, 2pm
- July 12 – Worship & Music Committee, 3pm
- July 12 – Lutheran Women, quarterly meeting, 5pm
- July 19 – New Member Class #2, Noon in the chapel
- July 19 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- July 26 – New Member Class #3, Noon in the chapel

Monday–Friday

- 8:30am–Morning prayer in the counting room.
Look for “Daily Lectionary” under “Resources” on our website.

Mondays

- Hama Lingle Circle, no meeting this month
- Melissa Lura Circle, no meeting this month
- July 6 – Facility Accessibility committee meeting, 6:30pm
- July 13 – Finance Committee, 6:30pm
- July 20 – August newsletter articles due this week
- July 20 – Council meeting, S. Salisbury Fire Dept., 6:30pm
- July 27 – Lutheran Men, 6pm, meet at the church and go to Lexington for supper

Tuesdays

- Bible Study Classes, 10am and 6pm each Tuesday
- July 14 – Bonnie Bost Circle, 6pm, out to eat
- July 21 – Staff meeting, 5pm

Wednesdays

- Ellen Bumgarner Circle, no meeting this month
- Adult Choir practice, 6:30pm each Wednesday
- July 15 – Devotions at Trinity Oaks Rehab, 10:45am

Thursdays

- Rowan Smart Start, 10am–Noon, each week
- July 16 – Friendship Club, 11am, out to eat

Fridays

- July 3 – Church office is closed for July 4th holiday

Saturdays

- July 11 – Sybil Athey's birthday party, fellowship hall, 2pm–4pm



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 1976–1978

In 1976, a Literary Program, sponsored by the National Organization of the LCW (Lutheran Church Women) was begun at our church. The object of the program was to provide one-on-one teaching for illiterates in our area. Two of our members, Mrs. Catherine Safrit and Mrs. Shirley Canup (mother of Wilbur Canup), attended the first workshop and became leaders for numerous workshops that trained over 150 tutors. Mrs. Ruth Bernhardt (mother of Bonnie Bernhardt) also became a leader, and she and Catherine Safrit began taking students to District LCW meetings to present programs pertaining to the training and tutoring of students. The students gave testimony of what the program meant to them, especially, how it enabled them to learn to read and in turn be able to read their Bibles.

On a more recent note, our church is expanding its global outreach through The Small Catechism Project. Led by Pastor Ryman, this initiative involves translating, designing, and printing Martin Luther's Small Catechism into *Telugu*, a language spoken in India. Currently, the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) has three congregations in India. These communities have identified the Small Catechism in their native language as a critical tool for understanding the Bible.

To support this effort, St. Paul's is dedicating two of this year's children's offerings to help fund the printing costs.

This October, Pastor Ryman will attend the LCMC Annual Gathering. He will host the Global Mission Fellowship table, display printed samples of the Telugu Small Catechism, and invite other LCMC congregations to join this vital mission.

Back to 1976: During the year several ladies made drapes for all the windows on the second floor of the educational building. An Advent Wreath and a machine to fold bulletins were given in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Sam Goodman. A set of four-octave handbells was given in memory of Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Ritchie, by Mr. & Mrs. James Earnhardt, Sr., parents of Jimmy (Mary Lee)

Earnhardt, grandparents of Katie Funderburk and Jamie Drew, and parents of Mrs. Elma Shue, and Mr. Hubert Ritchie.

Mr. Howard Cline (son of Mrs. Bessie Cline) gave the church 20 shares of Food Lion stock. Also given was \$5,000 from the estate of Mrs. Pearle Julian Safrit which was used to set up a Cemetery Fund that still exists today. A much-needed copy machine was added to the office furnishings from funds donated by several individuals whose names were not listed.

In 1977, the Church Council created a new position—Property Manager, and Mr. Cecil Bernhardt (father of Bonnie Bernhardt) was the first to serve in that position. He was responsible for supervising several repairs that were needed around the church.

Main happenings in 1978 are as follows:

- The Sharing Friendship Visits team was formed, similar to our Care Team today;
- Pastor Bost attended four training sessions to be able to train volunteers for the Dial Help Program;
- A library was set up with books containing resources for SCS, programs, etc., and Christian books for general reading;
- Lutheran Women began staffing a church nursery during Sunday worship;
- Youth Groups held several meetings and invited speakers for topics of suicide, depression, and problems involved with marijuana and deadly drug use;
- The Social Ministry team provided transportation for shut-ins, provided volunteers for Meals-on-Wheels, workers for RCCM (Rowan Cooperative Christian Ministry) and made kits for Lutheran World Relief.



Council Highlights

Council

St. Paul's Council met June 15th at the South Salisbury Fire Dept. Again, I would like to say that South Salisbury has been kind enough to let us use their facility for the entire year of 2026 while we are under construction. Our next meeting will be July 20th.

There were no applicants for the Ministerial Scholarship or the Dave & Pearl Honbarger Scholarship. We will be sending this year's money to St. Paul Lutheran Seminary and they will use it as a scholarship for a deserving student.

July we will be looking for Time and Talent sheets. We need everyone to fill out a sheet. We want to know how you are interested in serving God's church. If you are not on a committee we have a place for you! If you are on a committee THANK YOU.

And there is more — Music programs, Sunday School (we need students and teachers), Ushers, Video and Sound Techs, and much more. **Look at the serving fun you are missing!**

Christian Education Committee

The committee will meet June 25th. This will also be the VBS volunteer meeting.

Worship & Music Committee

The committee met June 14th. We received prices on a few adjustable organist benches. We are still looking into some details but the cost is going to be in the \$5000.00 range. We are looking into additional robes for acolytes and crucifers, or to alter some of the existing robes. We will not meet in July. Next meeting is August 9th, at 3pm.

Property Committee

The committee received all the permits for a new well to be drilled at the parsonage. We are on the waiting list with B. M. Wright Well and Pump Service. Property Brothers are doing the clean up work to help keep cost as low as possible.

The church and parsonage insurance policy has been reviewed and recommended to the church council that we switch companies. Fisher/Greene Agency has given us more coverage

and a lower premium through Erie insurance company.

Weekly chores including recycling and water dispensers. Fixed a water valve at shelter that controls water to cemetery, returned cambros used at the cruise 'n to the shed, checked filters and greased bearing on air handling units, treated for fire ants, trimmed shrubs, new vibration pad added under one of the air handling units. January – May they have put in 596 hours.

Outreach Committee

The committee met June 8. They are scheduled to help with the Food For Thought program. The 2nd Thursday monthly at 10–11am; trying to get a group together on July 2nd, from 6:30pm –8:30 for *Pack-a-thon for America* in Greensboro, Contact Susan Bernhardt if interested. Other projects discussed and working on: shut-in cards, a church community garden, thinking of ideas for dedicating the new building addition when finished, walking group, Marathon, different kinds of VBS, Samaritans Purse shoe box project, how to help persons involved in the fire at The Grande on Julian Road.

Youth & Family Committee

The committee met June 7th. The youth did a great job on Youth Sunday. The following events were planned:

- June 19: water day 6–8pm
- July 10: pool party at LaVaughn Beaver's house
- August 14: Cannon Ballers game
- September 11: clean up at 6pm for homecoming Sunday
- October 30: Trunk or Treat 3–7pm
- November 13: camping under the stars at the church.
- December 11: Christmas play practice.

Also looking into starting a church garden. If you are not involved with the youth you are missing a lot of fun! Come check it out.

Finance Committee

The committee met June 8th. For the month of May expenses exceeded income by \$18,366.00 due to 3 pay periods this month. Year-to-date we have exceeded expenses over income by \$40,277.00.

—Council Highlights continued

St. Paul's Facility & Accessibility Improvement Committee (FAIC)

Construction continues with completion of the retaining walls and the beginning of the block work for the new corridor connection at the back of the church. New brick is being laid, carefully tying into the existing brickwork on the exterior of what was previously the conference room. This is completing the connection between the new corridor and the new front Lobby area.

The immediate goal is to get these areas dried in so that work will not be entirely weather dependent. The rough-in plumbing for the basement bathrooms is completed and we are moving forward with making these functioning. Once the basement bathrooms are functional, demo will begin on the kitchen and educational building bathrooms.

The changes to the basement Administrative offices will also begin as the basement bathrooms are made functional. We are working with the staff to ensure there is minimal disruption to their typical day as possible. Pam may be set up in a temporary work space that will be equipped with a temporary phone and internet line.

We are currently only about 17% through our budgetary spending on this project while around 50% through the contract time. This is primarily due to the limiting nature of working through completion in particular areas before moving to the next (ie, not competing all of the bathrooms at one time but rather dividing it up into 2 or 3 separate construction timelines). There have also been several complications with running into existing pipes and structure that could not have been foreseen but need to be addressed by the architect and engineer before moving forward in these areas.

Thank you again for your patience and prayers through this process. We remain excited and hopeful in bringing the church into a new era of accessibility that will benefit our current and future members for many years to come.

Josh Canup, FAIC Chairman

Capital Building Fund

As of May 31st, we have received \$2,395,199.72, which so far is \$504,800.28 short of our \$2.9 million goal.

In the month of May we as a congregation gave \$10,904.88 toward our goal. We earned \$13,032.40 in interest thanks to the work our Finance Committee is doing.

As said in every newsletter: **We still need to keep giving.** If you didn't catch the amount at the beginning of this paragraph we are still \$504,800.28 short of our goal.

Tech Committee

This is a new committee with Matt Holland, John Canup, Seth Holland, Lee Aldridge and Kolya Baker. They are looking into our office computer, phone and internet needs.



St. Paul's Men—Train Trip July 27th

St. Paul's Men heard a program last year detailing discovery of "The Hitching Post Southerner" miniature train that ran in the early 1950's at the Hitching Post Drive-in Theater, located where Faithful Friends animal shelter is today.

The drive-in's owner purchased the train for what would be in today's dollars \$173,000, do draw families to the drive-in movies. The train made its debut on Sunday, August 27th, 1950 but after only a few years was stored away in a shed, not be seen again for over 40 years.

Learning of the train in the 1990's, William & Judy Deal eventually succeeded in purchasing the train and embarked on what would become a 20-year restoration. They currently have it running at their home in Lexington and have invited our men to come see and ride the results of their incredible dedication and labor of love.

Those going should **meet at the church at 6:00pm on Monday July 27th.** We'll have dinner at Speedy's Barbecue in Lexington at 6:30pm, then travel to the Deal's home for what promises to be a unique experience. Men of all ages are invited and encouraged to join us!

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

Sun	Mon	Tue
5 Lisa Lord M/M Sandy and Tim Canup **Linda Behrendt	6 **Susan and Ben Bernhardt	7 Lydia Canup Steve Yost **Lori and Perry Bernhardt
12 Edna Chapman **Libby and Russell Bingham	13 Melissa Bernhardt Theodore Terrell **Brad and Melinda Boling, Cooper and Cannon	14 Cleo Anzur Jeff Moore **Dana and Crystal Bost
19 Chris Beaver Gina Wihlem Gracelyn Ziegler **Misty and Stephen Brady	20 M/M Bethany and Kenneth Whisnant **Gayle Brendle	21 Julia Canup **Lewis Brendle
26 **Donald Burton	27 Jaudon Cline Shirlene Potts M/M Bonnie and Wayne Hinson M/M Jane and Wayne Wilhelm **Donald Camerlin	28 Lottie Simpson Rebecca Socorro **Rachel and Jon Cannon, Lucas, Caleb, and Jacob

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks i

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Linda Shirley M/M Patricia and Tim Free **Brenda Bass and Alyssa McCraven	2 Cindy Alligood Lela Canup **Jerry Beaver	3 Becky Sebastian **Christopher Beaver	4 Garrett Powlas **Susan and Terry Beeker
8 Cheryl Casper Grace Walker **Melissa Bernhardt	9 Nancy Wilhelm **Amanda and Jason Bernhardt, and Brinley	10 Linda Behrendt April Lambert M/M Louise and Harold Eller **Bonnie Bernhardt	11 Sybil Athey Myra Jane Eller **Raynette Bernhardt
15 Darren Menius M/M Jamie and Butch Drew **Brady Bost	16 Karen Honbarger M/M Cindy and Frank Hinson **Elaine Bowles	17 Carolyn Canup Sophie Hoffner **Franklin Bowles	18 Susan Beeker Denise Raywood M/M Mark and Tonya Menius **Ashlee Bowles
22 Heather Canup Karen Deal Tony Heilig **Jessica and Kevin Brooks	23 Alice Davis Pastor Mark Ryman **Courtney and Zach Brown, Cassidy and Laiklyn	24 **Gina and Allen Burnett	25 Shirley Hoosier Teresa Linker **Kara and Jason Burnett, Hudson and Quinn
29 **Crystal and Paul Canup	30 Donald Camerlin Savannah Charles Jenny Earnhardt Collin Lewis **Sandy and Tim Canup	31 Patsy Everhart Terri Powlas **Wilbur Canup	

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

Thank you

Thank you to everyone at St. Paul's who sent cards, called, and prayed for me during my illness. Thank you to the pastors for your visits and prayers. I appreciate you all.

Nancy Wilhelm

Cruise 'n Barbecue Results

Final numbers are in, and as a result of your efforts for St. Paul's Cruise 'n Barbecue on April 25th, St. Paul's Helping Hands Fund received \$22,073.90, which will provide assistance to numerous individuals and families during the coming year!

This special day is only made possible through the volunteers who make it happen. Please mark your calendars for next year on April 24th, 2027. Thank you!

RHM Food for Thought Backpack Schedule

The Food for Thought Backpack program will resume August 13th at Rowan Helping Ministries. Our scheduled day will be the second Thursday of the month from 10:00am until 11:00am. We will have reminders on the church calendar. Those that signed up to help are Terri Powlas, Lisa Monroe, Alesia Lewis, Gina Barringer, Susan Bernhardt, Jeanne Shaver, Ashley Lombard, Angela Ziegler, Linda Shirley, Teresa Cress and David Chilson.

We could use a few more volunteers. If you are interested in signing up to help, please let Susan Bernhardt know and she will help you.

Missions

Thank you for your donation in May of \$363.10.

Thank you for the faithful partnership your congregation shares with Spiritual Orphans Network (SON) through prayer, generosity, and encouragement. Together, we are making Christ known and strengthening Christ's church around the world.

In His Service,
Pastor David Breidenbach

Missions

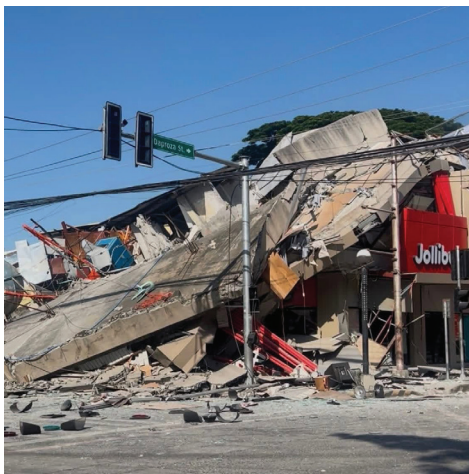
We'd like to thank you for your continued support each month to Naomi's Heart Mission. Your giving is what helps to run this mission and minister to children and families in need.

As you have probably already heard in the news we had a 7.8 earthquake here at the mission on June 8th—the biggest earthquake since 1976. We've had after shocks daily some registering 5.4 – 6.2. We were without electricity and water for several days. Our mission did well with no major damage. The academy only had a few cracks and passed inspection for us to start school Monday, June 22.

We were able as a mission to go out and help many in need with water, rice, and can goods from donations received from the U.S. Our prayers go to the families who lost loved ones, their homes, who are without food and water, and their jobs.

We were blessed by God's protection, grateful for all who have sent messages, and especially your prayers. Again, thank you for all you give to Naomi's Heart!

Kristie



Prayer Needs

- Shiela Barringer – cancer
- Larry Clark – upcoming surgery (July 16)
- W. A. Cline – health concerns (*brother of Wayne Cline*)
- Jean Deal – recovering at home
- Dan Dolan – recovering from surgery
- Mitch Drew – health concerns (*Jimmy Earnhardt's nephew*)
- James Earnhardt – health concerns (*Ruth Julian's nephew*)
- Rick Eller – recovering from surgery (*Terry Eller's brother*)
- Sonya Eller – health concerns
- Frank Giambastiani – health concerns (*Lisa Lord's father*)
- Windy Heilig – recovering from injury
- Doris Hilliard – health concerns
- Jerry Hilliard – health concerns
- Tiffany Holland – recovering from surgery
- Judi Honbarger – recovering from surgery
- Randy Johnson – recovering at home
- Alesia Lewis – recovering from surgery
- Alan Lyerly – recovering from surgery
- Dennis Martinez – health concerns (*friend of Lisa Lord*)
- Kay Moody – upcoming surgery (July 15)
- Craig Parks – 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*)
- Mary Stewart – cancer (*former member*)
- Robin Wastler – health concerns (*Gail & George Reese's daughter*)
- Scott Watson – health concerns (*son of Larry and Leilani Watson*)
- Kenny Willis – health concerns

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

Bermuda Commons: Edna Chapman • *Terra Bella*: Della Jenkins

Trinity Oaks: Lottie Simpson, Allen Burnett

Home: Susan Beeker, Barbara Deese, Sonya Eller, Shirley Hoosier, Ruth Julian, Susie Page, Melinda Redding, Becky Sebastian, Dottie Stancil, Jane Wilhelm; Nancy and Vaughn Wilhelm

Humble Yourself

Find the 28 bold words from Matthew 18:1-9 ESV.

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

At that time the **disciples** came to **Jesus**, saying, “Who is the **greatest** in the kingdom of **heaven**?” And calling to him a **child**, he put him in the midst of them and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and **become** like **children**, you will **never** enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever **humbles** himself like this child is the greatest in the **kingdom** of heaven. “**whoever** receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who **believe** in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great **millstone** fastened around his neck and to be **drowned** in the **depth** of the sea. “Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that **temptations** come, but **woe** to the one by whom the temptation comes! And if your **hand** or your **foot** causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life **crippled** or **lame** than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the **eternal** fire. And if your eye causes you to **sin**, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter **life** with one **eye** than with two eyes to be **thrown** into the **hell** of **fire**.



Vanity of Vanities!

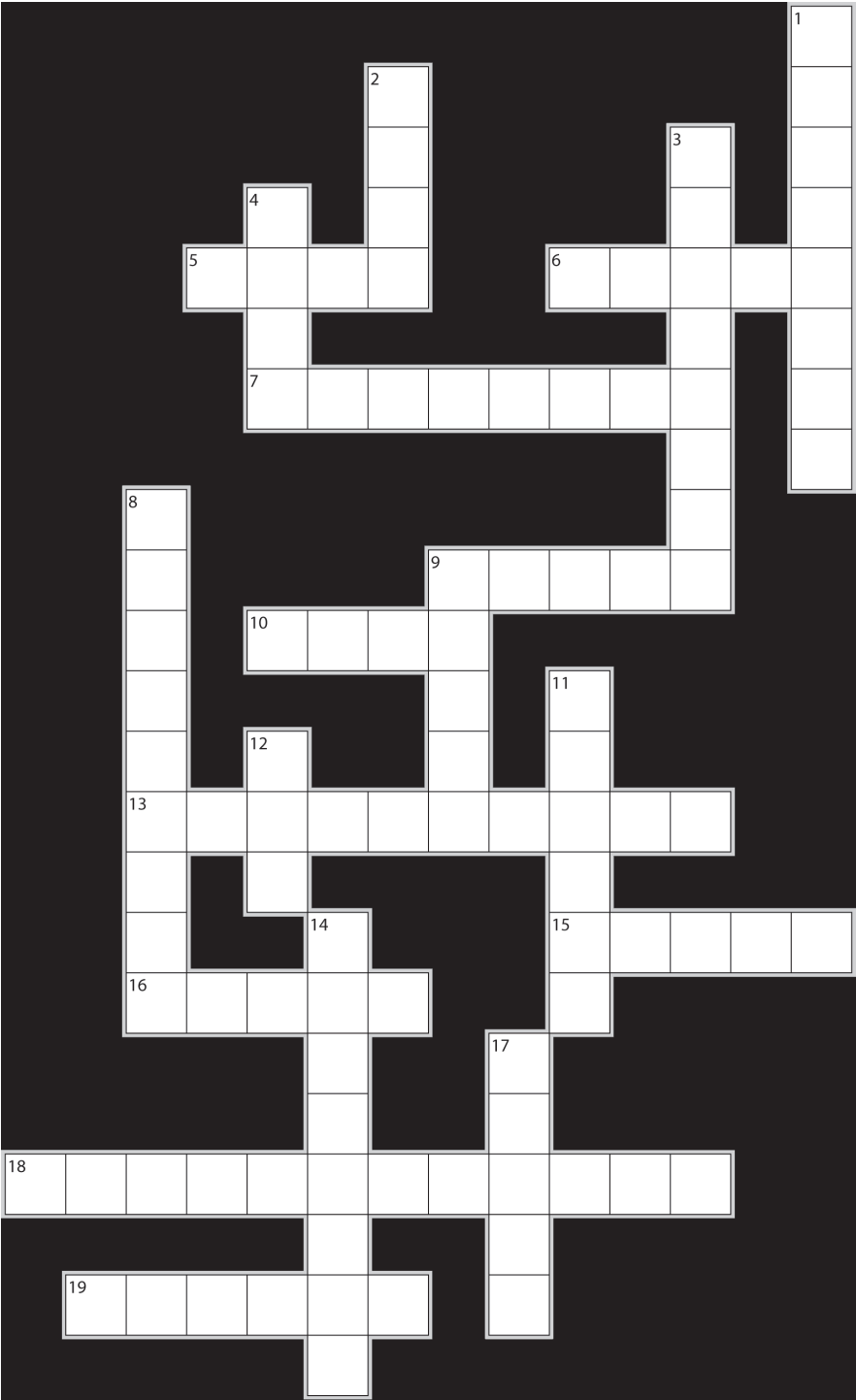
Solve this puzzle based on the book of Ecclesiastes (ESV).

ACROSS

5. In chapter four, the Preacher notes that a “threefold _____ is not quickly broken.”
6. Chapter eleven tells the young to “rejoice in your...”
7. What kind of worker experiences sleep that is sweet?
9. The “patient in spirit” is better than what kind of spirit?
10. Meaning “reputation,” what is “better than precious ointment”?
13. Dead flies cause the ointment of what to send forth a stinking savor?
15. The Preacher states that this “remains forever” while generations come and go?
16. According to chapter five, what should you “be not rash with” before God?
18. The book’s conclusion states that the “end of the matter” is to fear God and keep his what?
19. According to the opening thesis, all is what?

DOWN

1. Chapter seven states that “Sorrow is better than...”
2. Chasing after knowledge or accomplishments is described as a striving after what?
3. Who does chapter eleven say will reap if they do not sow their seed until the morning?
4. Chapter nine asks, “What advantage has the wise man over the...?”
8. The author identifies himself as “the Preacher, the son of David, king in...”
9. Chapter eight notes there is a time for war, and a time for what?
11. The famous chapter three states that “for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under...”
12. What is said to be “better than a dead lion”?
14. Chapter ten says, “If the iron is blunt, and one does not sharpen the edge, he must use more...”
17. Chapter nine advises us to cast what upon the waters?



*Steve Shuping, brother of Louise Eller, died June 15th.
Please keep his wife, Peggy, and all the family in prayer.*

Memorial Gifts

A gift was received in memory of **Ray Kubitz** for the Capital Building Fund from
Sheila Levezow

A gift was received in honor of the birth of **Grady Plummer** for the Capital Building Fund from
Lisa and Brian Lord

A gift was received in memory of **Linda Deal Beaver** for the Capital Building Fund from
Mary Lee and James Earnhardt

A gift was received in memory of **Grady Earnhardt** for the Capital Building Fund from
Mary Lee and James Earnhardt

A gift was received in memory of **Craig Honbarger** for the Capital Building Fund from
Mary Lee and James Earnhardt

A gift was received in memory of **Donald Austin** for the Capital Building Fund from
Mary Lee and James Earnhardt

A gift was received in memory of **Mary Holland** for the Capital Building Fund from
Mary Lee and James Earnhardt

A gift was received in memory of **Sharon McBride** for the Capital Building Fund from
Mary Lee and James Earnhardt

A gift was received in memory of **Dot Goodman** for the Capital Building Fund from
Mary Lee and James Earnhardt

A gift was received in memory of **Sandy Corley** for the Capital Building Fund from
Mary Lee and James Earnhardt

A gift was received in memory of **Jan McCanless** for the Capital Building Fund from
Mary Lee and James Earnhardt

A gift was received in memory of **Von Brown** for the Capital Building Fund from
Mary Lee and James Earnhardt

Gifts were received in memory of **Steve Shuping** for the Capital Building Fund from
Ben and Susan Bernhardt
Lori and Perry Bernhardt
Alice Davis
Jenny Earnhardt
Helen Gordon
Bonnie and Wayne Hinson
Betty Monroe
Kay Moody

A gift was received in honor of
Pastor Brian Lord's ordination
for the Capital Building Fund
from

Nancy Powell

A gift was received in honor of
Pastor Brian Lord for the Capital
Building Fund from

Mary Lee and James Earnhardt

A gift was received in honor of
Pastor Mark Ryman for the
Capital Building Fund from

Mary Lee and James Earnhardt

A gift was received in honor of
Helen Gordon's birthday for the
Capital Building Fund from

Nancy Powell

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

Susan and Mark Ryman

A gift was received in honor of
Jerry Heilig's birthday for the
Capital Building Fund from

Delores Stanley

A gift was received in honor of
Cooper Aldridge for the Youth
Fund from grandparents

Lori and Perry Bernhardt

A gift was received in honor of
Caroline Aldridge for the Youth
Fund from grandparents

Lori and Perry Bernhardt

Gifts were received in honor of
the **2026 high school and college
graduates** for the Capital Building
Fund from

Karen and Tim Deal

Lisa and Brian Lord

A gift was received in honor of
the birth of **Oona Powlas** for the
Capital Building Fund from

Lisa and Brian Lord

Gifts were received in honor of
the **50th wedding anniversary
of Lori and Perry Bernhardt**, for
the Capital Building fund from

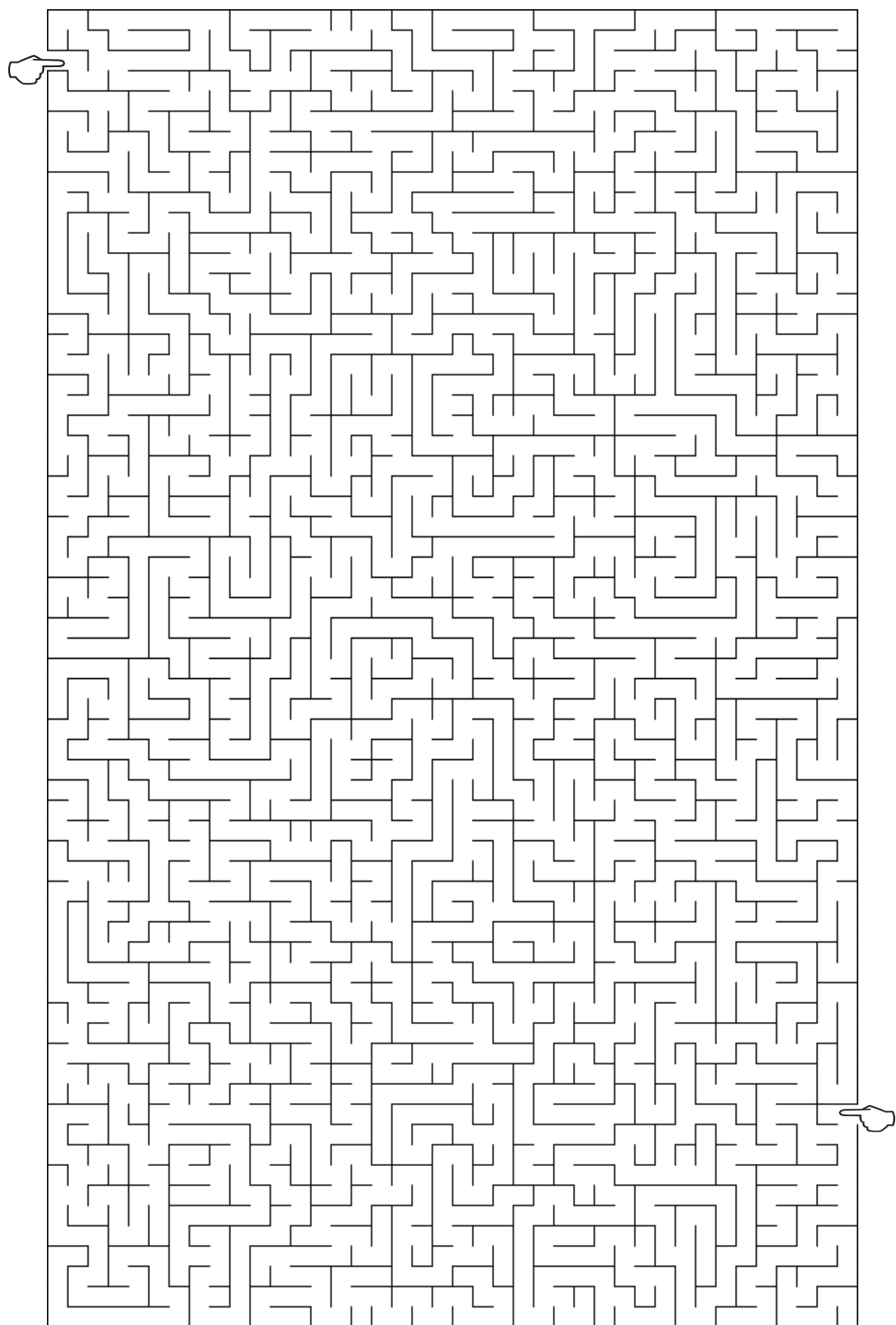
Ben and Susan Bernhardt

Bonnie and Wayne Hinson

Susan and Mark Ryman

"What shall I render unto him for all
his benefits?" I can only give my own
self—all I have, and all I am. I desire to
surrender myself wholly unto Thee,
O my God, to live more simply as
one separated unto thee, not finding
my joy and comfort in the earthly
blessings Thou so richly bestowest on
me, but, while thankful for the gracious
gifts, looking only to the Giver as the
source of my happiness and the object
of my life. I cannot shake off the habits
of thought and feeling which many
years have wrought in me; I can only
ask of Thee to have mercy on me, poor
and needy as I am, and subdue in me
all that is perverse and wayward in my
heart, and so fill me with Thy pure and
heavenly love, that all my narrowness
and selfishness may be done away in
the wideness of Thy love. Amen

Maria Hare (1798–1870)



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 May 31st, we have received \$2,395,199.72, which is \$504,800.28 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

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 May, 2026

Income for May	\$43,261.08
Expenditures for May	\$61,626.99
Net Income (income minus expenses)	\$-18,365.91
Income year to date	\$200,609.63
Expenditures year to date	\$240,887.03
Net Income YTD (Income minus expenses)	\$-40,277.40

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>



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.