



The Epistle

of St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Volume 71, Issue 7 • July 2025

Articles

The Latest News and Events

Crossword and Word Search Puzzles



Disaster Relief—Book Bags

The Lutheran Women will be collecting **book bags** for our disaster relief project in July. I would like to challenge each family to bring in a **book bag for an elementary student** to fill our need of 100 book bags for disaster school kits. Any questions **contact me, Terri Powlas, at 704-202-8666.**

Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to our scholarship recipients. St. Paul's awarded scholarships to the following for the upcoming year:

Henry Barringer, RCCC

Blanche and Hubert Ritchie Scholarship

Lauren Whisnant, attending UNC Charlotte

Brown–Heilig Scholarship

Lindsey Whisnant, NC State

Sadie & Hollie Ritchie Scholarship

Pastor Brian Lord, St. Paul Lutheran Seminary

Dave & Pearl Honbarger Ministerial Scholarship.

Counters

Thank you to those who count the children's mission offering every week. They've been doing this for more than two years.



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>

Cruise 'n BBQ Results

After a damp start, God blessed us with a beautiful day for this year's St. Paul's Cruise 'n Barbecue on April 26th. Numerous visitors commented that the Cruise 'n Barbecue is one of the best events of its kind. Thank you to each of you who volunteer and make it happen. As a result of your work, the amount cleared by this year's event was \$24,874.93. St. Paul's Men added to that, including disaster relief money appropriated to them by the council, to round up the amount sent to Samaritan's Purse to \$26,000, which they received on June 4th.

Our prayer now is that God will multiply its reach to help our wester North Carolina neighbors who suffered the devastation of hurricane Helene. Thank you again to everyone, and most of all, we thank God for the opportunity to show his love to so many people. Planning is already underway for next year's Cruise 'n Barbecue. As always, one of the keys to success will be availability of volunteers. So please mark your calendars and **set aside April 25, 2026**—always the last Saturday in April. Thank you.

Friendship Club at Cracker Barrel

The Friendship Club will meet July 17th, at 9:30am, for breakfast at Cracker Barrel. Please let me know if you plan to attend so I can give the restaurant a count. Hope to see you all on July 17th. (Helen Gordon, 704-636-5002)

Calendar of Events for July

Sundays

- Sunday School at 9:30am each Sunday
- Vespers each Sunday evening at 6pm
- July 6 – Breakfast before Sunday School, 8:30am
- July 6 – Grace Ridenhour Circle, ladies parlor, 11:45am
- July 6 – Autumn Care worship service, 2 pm
- July 6 – Youth and Family Committee, 2pm
- July 6 – Lutheran Women's Quarterly meeting, 5pm
- July 13 – Christian Education Committee, 2pm
- July 13 – Worship & Music Committee, 2:30pm
- July 13 – Kathy Ketchie Circle, 4pm
- July 20 – Youth & Family pool day, 1pm at Blue Waters Pool; Join us July 20th at 1pm to cool off at Blue Waters Pool. *Please check your Sunday bulletins in July for additional details.*
- July 20 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- July 20 – 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

- July 7 – Facility Accessibility committee meeting, 6:30pm
- July 7 – Hama Lingle Circle, 7pm
- July 14 – Melissa Lura Circle, 6pm
- July 14 – Finance Commttee, 6:30pm
- July 14 – Outreach Commttee, 6:30pm
- July 21 – Council meeting, 6:30pm
- July 28 – Lutheran Men's meeting, 6:30pm

Tuesdays

- Bible Study Classes Tuesdays, 10am and 6pm
- July 8 – Bonnie Bost Circle, 7pm
- July 15 – Staff meeting, 5pm

Wednesdays

- Adult Choir practice, each Wednesday at 6:30pm
- July 2 – Ellen Bumgarner Circle, 10am
- July 23 – Autumn Care chapel service, 2pm

Thursdays

- Rowan Smart Start, 10am–Noon, each Thursday morning
- July 17 – Friendship Club, meet at Cracker Barrel, 9:30am

Fridays

- Homeschool dance class Fridays, 2pm; last class, July 18th
- July 4 – Church office closed for Independence Day

Saturdays

- July 5 – Church Cookout, 4 – 7pm

Church Cookout—Saturday, July 5, 4–7pm

Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided in the picnic shelter. Please bring your favorite side dish (or two) to share with others. Memories will be shared about previous building programs, so bring your favorite story.

First Communion Classes

Classes for those wishing to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be held in the chapel right after worship for **three Sundays, July 6, 13, and 20**. Classes last about 30 minutes and are open to those **nine years of age and older**. All three classes must be attended with at least one parent per child present as well.

Birthday Party—Saturday, July 19 at the Parsonage, 4–7pm

NC BBQ will be served at 5pm; ice cream and cake at 6pm. This party celebrates the birthdays of the twins, Alice Davis and Pastor Ryman, both born on the 23rd. It's Pastor Ryman's 70th. No gifts, please; just come for the fellowship.

Events in the Coming Months

- **Ice Cream Social**, Sunday, August 31, 4pm, shelter
- **Fish Fry**, Saturday, September 20, 6pm, shelter
- **Old Timey Stew**, Saturday, November 1, 4pm, shelter

Local Vacation Bible Schools

- July 20–24, 5:30–5:30pm: 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”

Did You Know? — History of St. Paul’s, 1926 – 1929

Because of focus on building the new church, not a lot took place between the years of 1926–1930. In April of 1926, a formal opening of the new church was held. Focus was placed on how to pay off the debt of \$16,000 that had to be borrowed to complete the building and furnishings needed to have a church ready for service. In 1927, the Building Committee turned over the indebtedness to Church Council and asked the Council to provide ways and means for liquidating the debt. In 1928, the Brotherhood Organization provided all the work to put down cement walks in front and around the church.

In 1929, since electricity was now available, the windmill at the parsonage was sold and an electric pump was installed to supply water to the parsonage and church. The Constitution and Bylaws were reviewed and updated. For the first time, two offerings were taken to support the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Columbia, SC.

At this point in time—the end of 1929—the church still had a debt of \$10,250.00. This would have to be paid off before any money could be spent to finish the interior work in the basement, estimated to cost several thousands of dollars. In December, 1929, the following membership and organizations in place were as follows:

- Baptized membership—558 members, with 416 confirmed members, and 280 active members
- The Light brigade—68 members divided into three divisions composed of younger children of the congregation
- The Luther League—59 members for older children
- The Women’s Missionary Society—173 members

- The Brotherhood Organization (similar to our Property Brothers)—membership varied from 12–50 at times, depending on the needs of the church
- St. Paul's Sunday School—classed as one the leading Sunday Schools of rural communities, having departments and grades from Cradle Roll to the Home Department. Total enrollment was 505 members with an average attendance of 346. It's sad to think that our Sunday School attendance today averages only 60–75.
- Vacation Bible School was held for the first time, led by the pastor. This offered young people a program in catechetical work and training that could be used in future service of the church.

Since the 100th anniversary of St. Paul's was coming up in 1930, the Council decided to hold a Centennial Celebration in August of 1930. Special committees were appointed and everyone looked forward to the event.



Pastor's Postscript: In case you did not do the math, that means our bicentennial celebration is just five years away. We celebrate 200 years of St. Paul's in 2030. Put Sunday, September 8, 2030, on your calendar now. That is Homecoming in our 200th year.

Facility Accessibility and Improvement Committee Update

The Facility Accessibility and Improvement Committee would like to provide an update to the St. Paul's congregation regarding the design and construction of our building project. Our architect, John Fuller, continues his firm's work on the Design Development and Construction Drawings while continuing to vet ideas through various committees. Now that they are getting into the finer details of the plans, many final decisions have to be made to further refine the individual spaces.

A new committee has been formed to help assist the FAC and the architect in making decisions regarding spatial organization, appliances, fixtures, finishes, etc. specific to our needs. This new subcommittee is made up of Susan Ryman, Gina Barringer, Sandy Canup, Libby Bingham, Bonnie Hinson, Donna Lyerly, and Terri Powlas. Others are also consulted by this subcommittee based on their various experience in particular areas of the church. They are doing a fantastic job filling in the gaps and working out the details of the kitchen, bathrooms, Sacristy, etc.

The FAC is also working with the architect on code compliance questions that come up with Rowan County Building Inspections, the State, and other regulating authorities. **Our goal is to keep this project as simple as possible, as cost efficient as possible, and as effective as possible in completing our goal of an accessible church. All this, while respecting the historical nature of our building.** We continue our work knowing that we have the trust of the congregation and are expected to be good stewards of our financial resources.

In regards to timing, we received word from the architect that, due to the complexity of the addition, the schedule for submitting completed drawings is behind roughly 5-6 weeks. The original date has moved from June to July. **This puts breaking ground roughly into August.** Most scheduled church activities through mid-August should be unaffected by any construction.

Many parishioners have expressed concerns regarding not knowing how the construction will affect our activities. We expect to have a rough schedule of construction milestones and affected areas of the church by the end of July.

This will be shared with the congregation through multiple means such as The Weekly Blast emails, the bulletin, announcements prior to service, etc. This calendar will be updated regularly as we plan to keep you as informed as possible.

Please remember that this is construction. Things ebb and flow, but with the end goal of being completed within 14 months. Keep that end goal in mind. These are all **temporary inconveniences** for the ultimate purpose of creating less inconveniences for those who suffer from mobility issues within and outside of our congregation. We continue to ask for your prayers for wisdom and guidance upon the various committees, the architect, the contractor, and all who are involved in this endeavor. Thank you.

Josh Canup

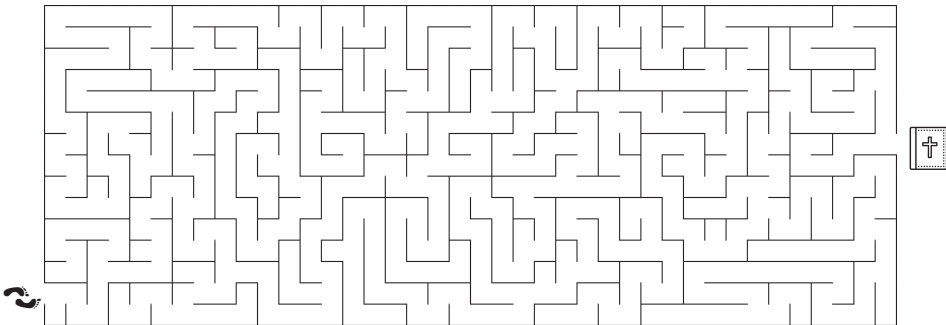
Capital Building Fund Report

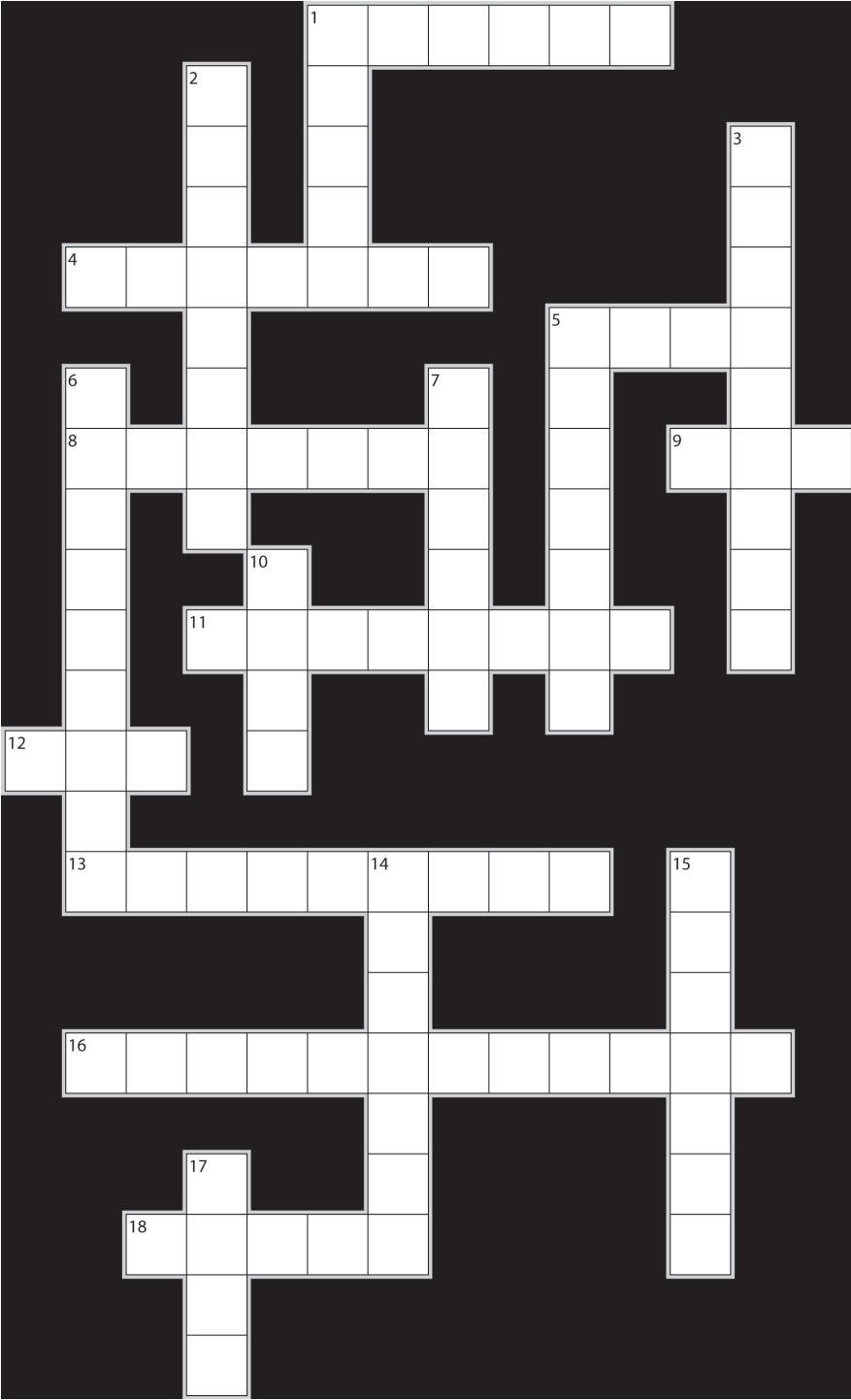
The Capital Building Fund is an exciting item to see on St. Paul's balance sheet. At the close of April 30, 2025, it was reported to the congregation that the fund total was \$2,075,244.62.

During the month of May we received contributions of \$9,570.00 with some expenses paid totaling \$13,525.00. As of May 31, 2025, the ending balance of this fund was \$2,071,289.62.

June contributions so far have been very encouraging. Sunday, June 1, we received \$1,275.00. Sunday, June 8, we received \$930.00. Sunday, June 15, we received \$58,122.00. With these three Sundays in June added to the May 31st total, we now have a total of **\$2,131,616.62**. Keep up the great work. Thank you!

Dana Bost







Independence Day Crossword

ACROSS

1. It was star-spangled.
4. Lots of these will be eaten on the Fourth.
5. Red, white, and...
8. God bless it.
9. One nation under...
11. These fathers actually voted for independence on July 2nd.
12. He wrote "The Star Spangled Banner."
13. Fireworks for little ones
16. What do we celebrate being declared on the Fourth?
18. The American flag is sometimes called Old...

DOWN

1. America is their home.
2. The Declaration of Independence declared this many colonies to be independent of Great Britain.
3. Explosions in the sky
5. It is hung on houses on the Fourth.
6. Life, liberty, and the pursuit of...
7. It marches down the streets of many American towns.
10. Sewer of the flag
14. This statue is often associated with our freedom.
15. His signature is writ large on the Declaration.
17. What do many Americans fly on the Fourth of July?

St. Paul Lutheran Seminary Theological Conference

The annual theological conference of St. Paul's Lutheran Seminary was held on our campus this year. 35 persons from eleven states met May 12–14 around the theme of “The Office of the Ministry.”

The purpose of the event is to give students for this online seminary the chance to meet in person a few days each year. Several local pastors attended the event too.

Among the lecturers were Pr. Randy Freund, Pr. Brad Hales (pictured below), your own pastors, and the new Service Coordinator for Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC), Rev. Dr. Julie Smith. That said, the solid highlight exclaimed by all who attended the conference was the hospitality shown them by our congregation, led by that dynamic duo in the kitchen, Helen Gordon and Alice Davis.



The 2026 theological conference will again be held on our campus, the dates being May 18–20. The theme is “On Being Theologians of the Cross.”

Congratulations to Our 2025 Confirmands

After two years of study with Pastors Lord and Ryman, Reese Goodman and Grace Walker were confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2025. Your pastors and your church are proud of you and look forward to seeing you continue to grow in the Christian Faith.

If you have not picked up the Confirmation yearbook titled “Learning with Luther,” copies are still available where you pick up newsletters.



New classes begin Wednesday, September 3. Classes are held from 7:00 – 8:00pm. Those in 7th grade or older are welcome.

	July 2025 – Birthdays – (M/M)		
Sun	Mon	Tue	We
		1 Linda Shirley M/M Patricia and Tim Free **Keith, Amy, and Sophie Hoffner	2 Cindy Alligood Lela Canup **Hannah Hol Emerson
6 **Karen and Charles Honbarger	7 Lydia Canup Colin Williams Steve Yost **David and Judi Honbarger	8 Cheryl Casper Grace Walker **Shirley Hoosier	9 Nancy Wilhelm **Patti and St
13 Melissa Bernhardt Dot Goodman M/M Lori and Bill Allerton **Jessica, Ethan, Elliott, and Emmitt Isaman	14 Cleo Anzur Jeff Moore **Julie and German Jaramillo	15 Melissa Day Darren Menius M/M Jamie and Butch Drew **Della Jenkins	16 Max Agner Karen Honbar M/M Cindy and Frank Hir **Donna and Johnson, and
20 M/M Bethany and Kenneth Whisnant **Brenda Julian	21 Julia Canup Erica Vedeikis **Alex Julian	22 Heather Canup Karen Deal Tony Heilig **Wanda and Ray Kubitz	23 Alice Davis Rev. Dr. Mark **Jennifer Lai
27 Jaudon Cline Shirlene Potts M/M Bonnie and Wayne Hinson M/M Jane and Wayne Wilhelm **Brenda and Jeff Leonard	28 Lottie Simpson Rebecca Socorro **Alesia and Butch Lewis	29 Walter Smith **Sydney Lewis	30 Donald Came Savannah Ch Jenny Earnha Collin Lewis Cameron Wils

M) Anniversaries – (**) Prayers

	Thu	Fri	Sat
d der, Jax and	3 Becky Sebastian M/M Teresa and William Woods **Mary Holland	4 Garrett Powlas **Matt, Lauren, Carson and Sawyer Holland	5 Lisa Lord M/M Sandy and Tim Canup **Seth, Tiffany, and Peyton Holland
m eve Horinka	10 Linda Behrendt April Lambert M/M Louise and Harold Eller **Helen Howe	11 Sybil Athey Myra Jane Eller **Audrey and Tommy Huffman	12 Edna Chapman **Stephanie Huffman
rger son Randy Drake	17 Carolyn Canup Sophie Hoffner **Julie Johnson	18 Susan Beeker Denise Raywood M/M Tonia and Mark Menius **Kristen Johnson	19 Christopher Beaver Gina Wilhelm Gracelyn Ziegler **Ruth Julian
Ryman	24 Todd Harkey **Brenda Lay	25 Shirley Hoosier Teresa Linker **Tammy Leazer	26 **Sue and Don Lentz
rlin Charles ardt son 	31 Patsy Everhart Terri Powlas **Jean Lilley		

JOY...a feeling of great pleasure and happiness.

A few weeks ago I was asked to write an article for one of our supporting churches on joy.

So, I thought I would share with you what I wrote. Being the founder and missionary for almost 20 years of **Naomi's Heart Mission** has truly been a feeling of great pleasure and happiness! John 15:11 (NLT) says, "I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!"

Serving as a missionary in the Philippines, in General Santos City, on the island of Mindanao, in a poverty-stricken area, is where I experience joy. Working alongside my Filipino brothers and sisters, interacting with children, and giving my time and energy to whatever task needs to be completed causes such an explosion of satisfaction and happiness, resulting in my JOY!

Looking into the eyes of a child who is hungry, handing him a cup of "Lugaw" (a rice porridge) to help fill his tummy is JOY. Crossing a river on foot carrying roolb. bags of rice to a village with families in need is JOY. Running a school and giving children the opportunity of a free Christian education is JOY. Teaching Bible lessons to children in the public school who do not know Jesus is JOY. Praying over the sick in a government hospital that lacks good medical care is JOY. Visiting men and women in jail who have no hope of getting out is JOY.

Kristie, Founder of Naomi's Heart



Progress of New Academy at Naomi's Heart Mission

The building really beginning to look like a school with two floors, 4 classes on the bottom level and 4 classrooms on top. We praise God for the progress and for providing the finances to make this school possible!



Zhekie is 6 years old, born December 29, 2018. He is in Grade 1 at the mission, having attended kindergarten in the public school this past year.

He has a mother, father, one older brother and one younger sister who are sponsored by the mission. We did not accept Zhekie into our sponsorship program for kindergarten as he already had two other siblings attending the academy. We try to make our program fair to all families and base it according to income.

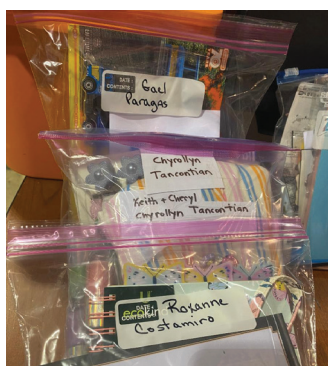
As you can see in this picture he is cross-eyed. The mission helped him get an eye exam and glasses. While at the public school he was teased and made

fun of which happens frequently like in the US when a child is different from their peers. His mother came to us in tears asking if her son could please attend our academy due to his situation.

This is what Naomi's Heart Mission is all about, helping those like Zhekie to be in better circumstances and to be loved by teachers, staff, and accepted by peers. Won't you consider sponsoring Zhekie?

We all experience joy in many ways. To me JOY is passion. God has a plan for each and everyone of us. Some find their joy in a job, home, family, sports, church, teaching, hobbies, education, travel and many more things I could mention, but as author, John Piper, explains, “desire that your life count for something great! Long for your life to have eternal significance. He goes on to say, “you don’t have to have a high IQ, good looks or riches or come from a fine family or a fine school.” And, he says, “long for your life to have eternal significance. Do not coast through life without a passion.”

So, my question to you today is, “what is your passion in life?” When you find it, then, you will know—JOY!



Thank you to all who gave, sent, and delivered Christmas gifts to Fellowship for your sponsored child(ren). The gifts were packed in two huge boxes ready for pick-up on Friday, May 30.

If you were not able to send or deliver a gift to Fellowship for your sponsored child(ren), you can send a gift of money before November. (Please do not send more than \$20). Send to: Naomi’s Heart

Mission, 2071 N. Bechtle Ave. #116, Springfield, OH 45504. Mark clearly on your check or if giving online “Christmas gift for sponsored child”, and, if possible, write the child’s name. Our staff will go shopping for your child.

Praises

- For the blessing in serving the Lord and experiencing such great joy
- For the progress of our new academy
- For Kristie's health and God's blessing to return to the mission again this year
- For all the summer activities that have been provided for children, whether they attend the academy or not: Learning Camp, Youth Camp, and DVBS
- For the pastors, teachers, and staff who help to prepare the events

Prayer Requests

- Safety in travels for all visitors coming to the mission this summer and also while at the mission.
- For the four teams coming this June – September.
- That the first building of our new academy would be completed soon.
- Preparation for school beginning in June, including the sewing of uniforms, the purchasing of school supplies and cleaning of classrooms and grounds

Please visit the campaign page of our website to see how you can help us fulfill our vision. <https://www.naomisheartmission.org/imagine-the-possibilities/>

Missions

Thank you for your gifts totaling \$26,000 (for Helene disaster relief), \$10, and 325.40, to the ministry to Samaritan's Purse. Your gifts and prayers help bring relief in Jesus' name all around the world, and we are deeply grateful. We praise God for each opportunity to proclaim the life-saving message of the Gospel as we work. God bless you.

Sincerely,
Franklin Graham, President

Thank you for your generous donation of \$317.49. 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

Missions

On behalf of the staff and Board of Sola Publishing, thank you for your gift of \$317.49. 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 the donation of \$10 to the Outreach Program at Organ Lutheran Church. Your contributions have made such a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Sincerely,
Linda Austin, Director
Organ Pantry/Outreach Program

Thank you for your recent gift to Lutherans for Life and for your continued support. You are a blessing to us and to all of Christ's church. We are so thankful for you, and we pray that the Lord raise up more faithful servants like you. May he bless and keep you now and ever.

In Christ,
Rev. Dr. Arie Fenske
Executive Director
Lutherans for Life

Support for the Wilhelms

If you plan to support **Mark and Julia Wilhelm's mission trip** with Spiritual Orphans Network, you may donate through the church offering. **Make checks payable to St. Paul's.** We will send one check to SON from the church.

You may also donate online to <https://sonetwork.org> and click "2025 Team Member Support".

Jesus' Authority Challenged

Find the 23 bold words from Luke 20:1-8 KJV.

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

One day, as **Jesus** was **teaching** the people in the **temple** and **preaching** the **gospel**, the **chief priests** and the **scribes** with the **elders** came up and said to him, "Tell us by what authority you do these things, or who it is that gave you this **authority**." He answered them, "I also will ask you a **question**. Now tell me, was the **baptism** of **John** from heaven or from man?" And they **discussed** it with one another, saying, "If we say, 'From **heaven**,' he will say, 'Why did you not **believe** him?' But if we say, 'From man,' all the **people** will **stone** us to **death**, for they are **convinced** that John was a **prophet**." So they **answered** that they did not know where it came from. And Jesus said to them, "**Neither** will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

Memorial Gifts

Gifts were received in memory of **Grady Earnhardt** for the Capital Building Fund from
Lynne Fogner
Virginia Long
Linda Shirley

Gifts were received in memory of **Donna Petrea** for the Capital Building Fund from
Alice Davis
Helen Gordon
Bonnie and Wayne Hinson

A gift was received in memory of **Nathan Raymer** for the General Fund from
Franda Raymer

Gifts were received in memory of **Michael Brown** for the Capital Building Fund from
Dana and Crystal Bost
Helen Gordon
Bonnie and Wayne Hinson
Susan and Mark Ryman

Gifts to Honor

Classical Conversations presented a love offering to St. Paul's in appreciation for allowing them to use our facilities each week during the school year for their homeschool students.

A gift was received in honor of **Alan Powlas** for the Capital Building Fund from
Bonnie and Wayne Hinson

A gift was received in honor of **Perry Bernhardt** for the Lutheran Men's Fund from
Jean Lilley

A gift was received for the Helping Hands Fund in **honor of the men** who installed a ramp from
Dot and Harold Goodman

Gracelyn Ziegler received a Legacy Award at MBES. A gift was received in her honor for the Capital Building Fund from
Jeanne and Tony Shaver

Rebecca Lombard received a Legacy Award at MBES. A gift was received in her honor for the Capital Building Fund from
Jeanne and Tony Shaver

A gift was received in honor of the **birthday of Alice Davis and Pastor Mark Ryman** (in July) for the Capital Building Fund from
Nancy Powell

A gift was received in honor of **Helen Gordon's Birthday** for the Capital Building Fund from
Alice Davis

Recent Prayer Needs

- Cindy Alligood – recovering from surgery; home
- Gina Barringer – health concerns
- Shiela Barringer – health concerns
- Family of Zack Brown on the death of his father Michael Brown
- Marvin Burnett, father of Allen Burnett – Hospice care
- Betty Camerlin – health concerns; home
- Sandy Corley – health concerns
- Michael Corley, Sandy's son – health concerns
- Nancy Crapster, friend of Sandy Corley – health concerns
- Karen Deal – recovering from surgery; home
- Jan Dolan – health concerns
- Sonya Eller – health concerns
- Terry Eller – health concerns
- D.W. Honbarger – health concerns
- Shirley Hoosier – health concerns
- Tommy Huffman – health concerns
- Randy Johnson – health concerns
- Alan Lyerly – recovering from surgery; home
- Barbara Miller, mother of Amy Hoffner – health concerns
- Betty Niedens – recovering at home
- Cory Orbison – health concerns
- Michelle Orbison – health concerns
- Susie Page – health concerns
- Susan Page (Susie's daughter-in-law) – health concerns
- Dawn Peeler, daughter of Bonnie Bernhardt – health concerns
- Rex Phelps –health concerns
- Franda Raymer – health concerns
- Melinda Redding – health concerns
- George Reese – recovering from surgery
- Scott Watson, son of Larry & Leilani Watson – health concerns

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, Linda Hess, Ruth Julian, James Lyerly,
Lottie Simpson, Dottie Stancil, Barbara Upright, Robert Weed,
Jane Wilhelm



YOU HAVE NOT
WITHHELD
YOUR SON,
YOUR ONLY SON,
FROM ME.

GENESIS 22:12

From the series: Lessons in the Lutheran Confessions

Background Scripture: Genesis 22:12

In Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*, under the section on "The Sacrament of Holy Baptism," he teaches us that there is promise in Christian Baptism. To help us understand, he asks a question: "What gifts or benefits does Baptism bring?" He then provides the answer: "It brings about forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and gives everlasting salvation to all who believe, as the Word and promise of God declare."

He challenges us further, asking, "What is this Word and promise of God?" Of course, he answers this question for us too. "It is the Word of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded in the last chapter of Mark: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned (Mark 16:16)."

You may see similarities foreshadowed in the story of the Patriarch Abraham. Obedient to God's command, Abraham took his son up the mountain to sacrifice him to the Lord. But God spared the child's life, and his parents untold grief. There was another son led up a hill to be sacrificed. Yet this time, God did not stop the slaying. He spared Abraham's son but did not spare his own Son. This sacrifice was not a witness to the love of a man for God, but the love of God for a world. And all those

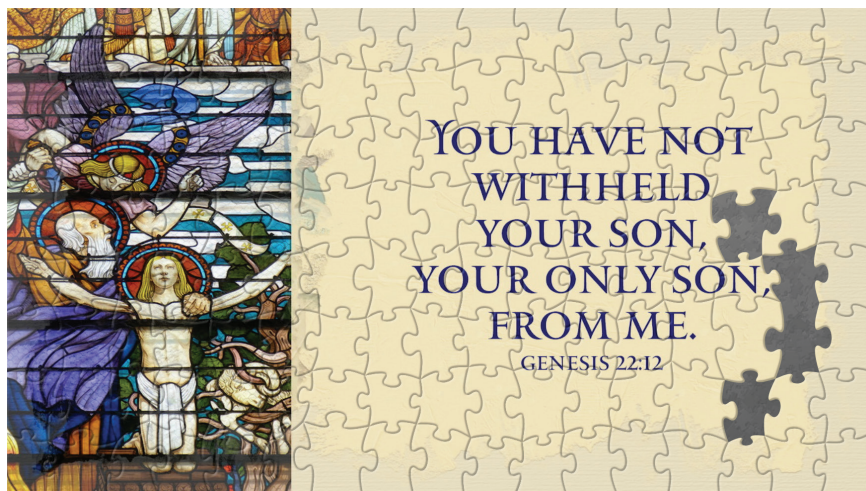
who have the faith of Abraham, a loving trust in God, and are baptized into the death of God's Son receive forgiveness of sins, and are delivered from death and the devil. Faith in his death has provided undying salvation for all who believe. This is the word of God—a promise for you and all people.

Prayer: Thank you, Father, for your great love of sinners. Amen.

This series on *The Small Catechism* may be read in its entirety on your church website at <https://tinyurl.com/Small-Catechism>. At the bottom of each lesson is a red link to “Next Small Catechism Lesson.”

There are a few hundred lessons but it will give you good material for home discussion, Sunday School classes, or personal spiritual development.

Bonus: there is an online jigsaw puzzle for every lesson. Just click the link and *voila*.



Besides the jigsaw puzzles in this series from *The Small Catechism* there are thousands more at:

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/revryman/scripture-puzzles>

Have fun!

Offering 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
May, 2025

Income for May	\$45,843
Expenditures for May	\$83,809
Net Income (Income minus expenses)	\$-37,967
Income year to date	\$290,611
Expenditures year to date	\$269,811
Net Income YTD (Income minus expenses)	\$20,800
Budgeted Income year to date	\$262,774
Actual Income year to date	\$290,611
Income more than Budgeted YTD	\$27,837

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.





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.