



The Monthly Epistle

of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Volume 69, Issue 7 • July 2023

Our children have been busy, and not just with a fun, wet VBS. And by the way, thank you to all who volunteered to make VBS wonderful. No, our children have been busy raising money for missions.

In the first quarter of the year, they came to you each Sunday morning to collect your spare change. From January through March, they collected \$2,180 for Spiritual Orphans Network (SON). Please note the thank you letter from SON in this Epistle. Pastor David Breidenbach and his wife, Angela, were with us in worship April 16th to tell us more about the mission. You may learn still more about SON here: <https://sonetwork.org/>

In the second quarter of the year, just concluded last Sunday, our children collected \$2,081 in change for Lutherans for Life. Pastor Scott Licht was with us in worship on June 11th to tell us more about this ministry partner. You may learn even more about Lutherans for Life here: <https://lutheransforlife.org/>

During July, August, and September, our children will continue to make their way to Children's Chat by way of your pew. Please make our joy full by filling their hands with your spare change. Our focus in this third quarter will be St. Paul Lutheran Seminary (SPLS). I hope to get a representative from SPLS to be with us to educate us about the seminary.

The fourth quarter will be focused on Lutheran Military Veterans and Families. You will want to be here to meet my dog's dad and to learn how these dogs are used in their ministry.

See you in church!

Pastor Mark

Sunday, July 2, breakfast will be available in the fellowship hall at 8:30am. Please come and enjoy breakfast and fellowship before Sunday School, which begins at 9:30am.

The church office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th.

Sundays in July

- Sunday School each week at 9:30am
- Worship Service each week at 10:30am
- Vespers at the parsonage—July 2, July 23, and July 30—finger foods at 6pm; Vespers at 6:30pm are also live-streamed on our Facebook page.
- July 2 – Breakfast before Sunday School, 8:30am
- July 9 – Carl Haynes, guest preacher
- July 9 – Grace Ridenhour, Ladies parlor, following worship
- July 9 – Christian Education Committee, 2pm
- July 9 – Worship & Music Committee, 3pm
- July 9 – Lutheran Women's quarterly meeting, 5pm
- July 16 – Carl Haynes, guest preacher

Mondays

- July 10 – Outreach Committee, 6:30pm
- July 17 – Council meets, 6:30pm
- July 17 – Newsletter articles due this week
- July 24 – Lutheran Men, 6:30pm

Tuesdays

- Adult confirmation class is on break for the summer months.
- July 11 – Bonnie Bost Circle, eat out
- July 11 – Executive Committee, 7pm
- July 18 – Friendship Club, 10:30am

Wednesdays

- Adult Choir practice each week, 6:30pm; watch for weekly updates during the summer months.

Thursdays

- Bible Study, July 6th and July 27th, 6pm



RALLY SUNDAY

AUGUST 6TH

Breakfast at 8:30am

Bring a friend for breakfast
in the fellowship hall.

We're serving biscuits,
ham biscuits, sausage biscuits,
Krispy Kreme donuts,
coffee, and orange juice.

Sunday School at 9:30am

Stay where you are
in the fellowship hall
for music from our Sunday School kids,
as well as awards and
advancement to new classes.

Lutheran Women Circle Meetings

Grace Ridenhour – *Sunday, July 9, following worship*

Bonnie Bost – Tuesday, July 11, eat out

Kathy Ketchie – No meeting in July

Hama Lingle – No meeting in July

Ellen Bumgarner – No meeting in July

Melissa Lura – No meeting in July

St. Paul's Lutheran **Women are collecting school supplies** in July to distribute first to members of our congregation who are teachers, and then to two local schools. Collection boxes are in the narthex and Fellowship Hall.

All Sunday School teachers are invited to attend the next Christian Education Committee meeting at **2pm on Sunday, July 9**. We will discuss options for Sunday School material and would like your input on your preference. We will also discuss options for the format for Rally Sunday. We need and value your input.

The St. Paul's **Friendship Club will meet July 18, at 11am at Cracker Barrel**. Everyone is invited. Please let Helen Gordon know if you plan to be there so she will have a count for seating.

Friendship Club is planning a **bus trip to Tamarac Center in Beckley, West Virginia**, on August 15th. Cost per person is \$50.00. Lunch is on your own. Another bus trip is planned **to The Orchard at Alta Pass** on September 19th. The cost for this trip is \$35.00 per person with lunch on your own.

If you haven't already registered and would like to join us, please let Helen Gordon know (704-636-5002) by July 9th. At that time she will open these trips to another church. We need to have a full bus. Hope to see you at the bus stop.

Refuge and Strength

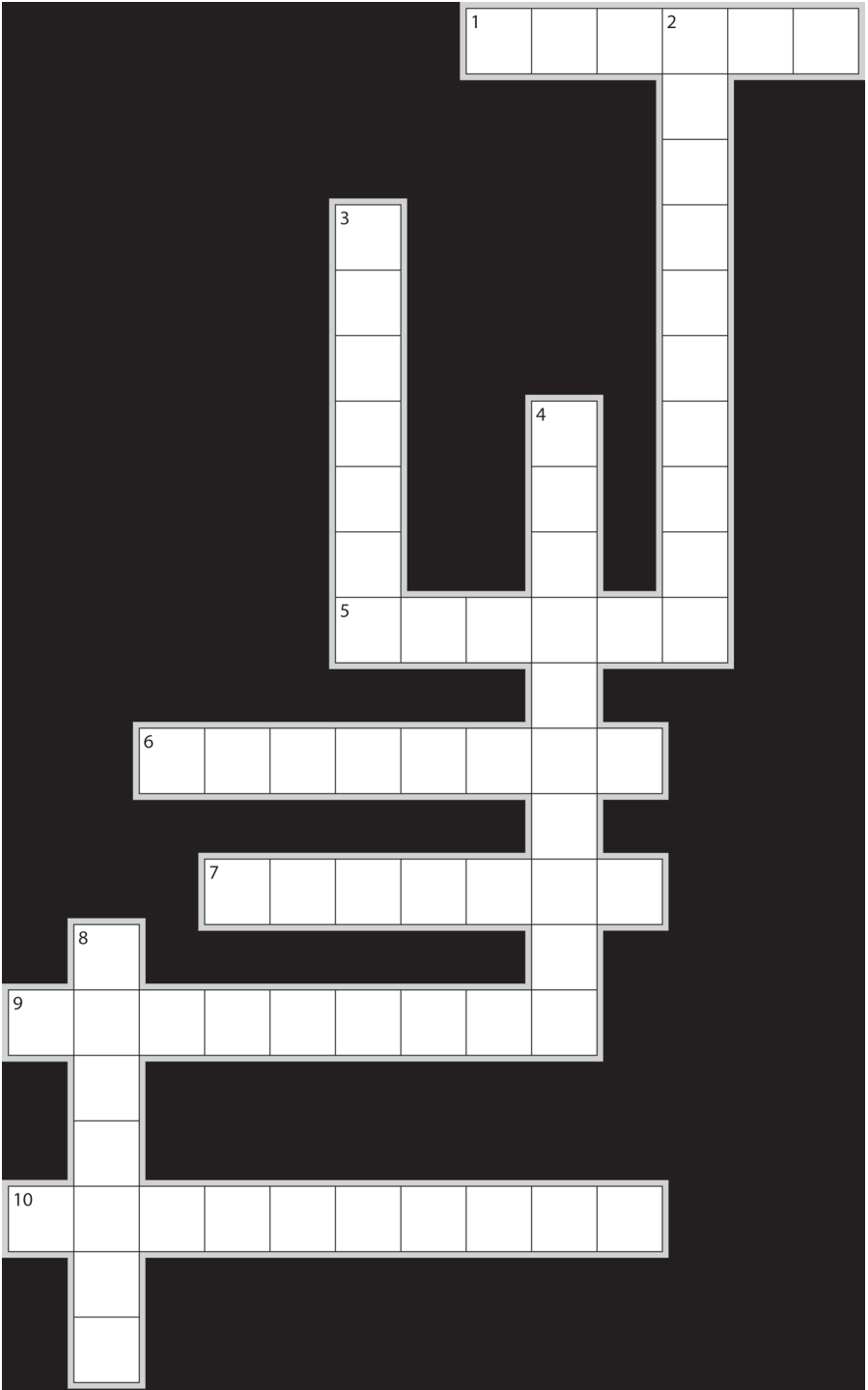
Find the 29 bold words from Psalm 46:1–7.

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

God is our **refuge** and **strength**, a very **present help** in **trouble**. Therefore, we will **not fear**, though the **earth changes**, though the **mountains totter** into the heart of the **seas**, though its waters crash and **lather**, though the mountains **tremble** at its **heaving**. *Selah* There is a **river** whose streams make the **city** of God **glad**, the **holy dwelling** of the **Most High**. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved. God will help her when morning turns. The nations **raged**, the kingdoms **tottered**. He utters his voice; the earth **melts**. The LORD of hosts is with us. The God of Jacob is our **stronghold**. *Selah*

Unscramble the verse:

Eht odrl of soths si hitw su hte dgo of ocabj is uro sseofrrt.



“It’s in There.”

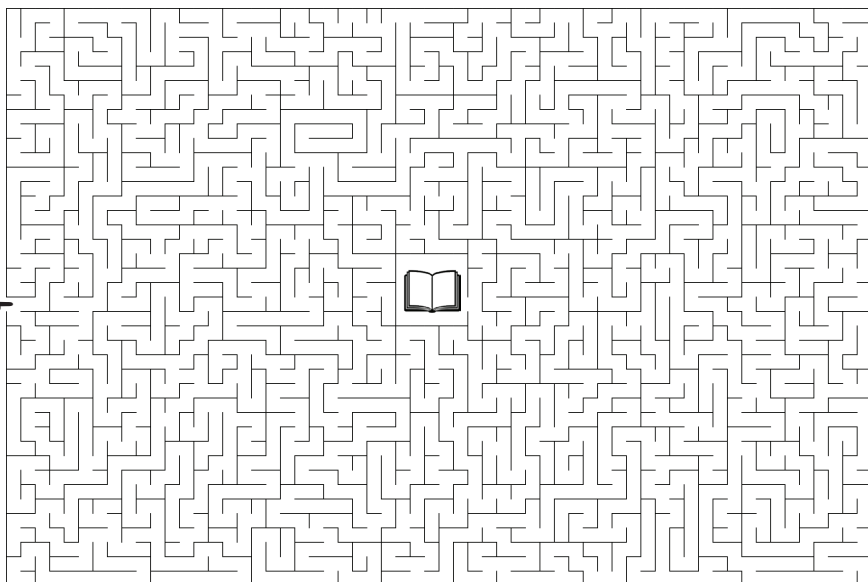
*All the answers to the questions below
may be found throughout this Epistle.*

ACROSS

1. Who keeps Grady and Jenny entertained?
5. What have our children been collecting all year?
6. What are the Lutheran Women collecting for schools?
7. What we should not use to cover up evil
9. What is served in the fellowship hall at 8:30am on the first Sunday of each month?
10. Who is preaching July 9th and 16th?

DOWN

2. The number of memorial gifts noted in this Epistle
3. Where is the Friendship Club going in August?
4. What Circle is dining out on July 11th?
8. Where is the Friendship Club going in September?



Hello from your friends at Focus on the Family, and thanks for your \$271.85 donation to our outreach. Your friendship and support mean more to us than we can put into words. God's richest blessings to you.

Sincerely,
Jim Daly, President

Thank you for your generous donation of \$381. 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

I want to thank you for the kind letter you sent to me regarding the performance of our Deputies at your event on April 29th. It is an honor for the Rowan County Sheriff's Office to assist St. Paul's with your events. St. Paul's is a valuable member of our Rowan County community, and it is a pleasure to assist you in any way we can.

Letters of support and accommodation are always a welcome sight. It is important to recognize our Deputies for the good things they do in our community. We look forward to helping you for many years to come. If I, as Sheriff, can ever be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kindest regards,
Sheriff Travis Allen

On behalf of the staff and Board of Sola Publishing, thank you for your gift of \$142.73. 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. We are deeply thankful for your gracious gift.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Steve King, Managing Editor

The 2023 SON Short Term Teams have been trained and are ready to serve. In the countries where we serve, Christianity was outlawed for as many as four generations. So even though communism fell over 30 years ago, there is still no generation of faith—no grandmas or grandpas, moms or dads, to share their faith with the current generation.

Please pray for our teams as we share the good news of the gospel in these nations, that the seeds of faith would begin to take hold so that future generations will know Jesus Christ.

We thank you for your recent gift (\$190) that allows us to connect Spiritual Orphans to the global family of Christ.

In his service,
Pastor David Breidebach
SON Executive Director

Rowan Helping Ministries

St. Paul's volunteers delivered 92 pounds of food items to RHM on June 12th, and 4 more boxes of items were delivered on June 19th. Thank you to all who support this ministry. You will find more information on the ministry needs and volunteer opportunities at www.rowanhelpingministries.org.

Income and Expenses for May, 2023

Income: \$31,338 • Expenses: \$47,844

Income < Expense for May: -\$16,506

YTD May 31: Income > Expenses: +\$13,098

Capital Building Fund, May 31, 2023: \$250,018

June income/expense report will be in the August Newsletter.

Online Giving is accessible at StPaulsLutheran.Church/give. There is a minimal fee for each transaction—about 2.9% for using cards, or about 1.3% for bank draft (routing/account number.)

Memorial Gifts

A gift was received in memory of Catherine and Robert Safrit for the General Fund from their daughter and her husband
Glenna and Dan Sears.

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

Gifts were received in memory of Harriet Gordon Goad for the Capital Building Fund from

Brenda Bass
Susan and Ben Bernhardt
Crystal and Dana Bost
Wilbur Canup
Alice Davis
Karen and Tim Deal
Jenny and Grady Earnhardt
Myra Jane and Terry Eller
Bonnie and Wayne Hinson
Cindy and Frank Hinson
Judi and D. W. Honbarger
Tammy Leazer
Barbara and James McGee
Kay Moody
Nancy Powell
Susan and Mark Ryman
Jeanne and Tony Shaver
Johnny and Ruth Webb
Sue Young
St. Paul's Friendship Club

A gift was received in memory of Harriet Gordon Goad for the Helping Hands Fund from
Sunday School classes 4 & 6

A gift was received in memory of Peggy Deal Hall (sister to Jimmie Deal and Linda Beaver) for the Capital Building fund from

Alice Davis

A gift was received in memory of Linda Lyerly for the Capital Building Fund from
Irene Miller



Gifts to Honor

A gift was received in honor of Wilbur Canup for the Helping Hands Fund from
Stan Sebastian

A gift was received in honor of Helen Gordon's June 26 birthday, for the Capital Building fund from
Alice Davis

*We extend our love, prayers, and sympathy to the families
of Jimmie Deal and Linda Beaver on the death of their sister,
Peggy Deal Hall. Ms. Hall died Monday, June 19, 2023,
at her home in Hendersonville, NC.*

*We extend our love and sympathy to the family
of Linda Lyerly, who passed away
Monday, June 26, 2023.
Please keep Linda's family in your prayers.*



Dear Pastor Ryman and St. Paul's Church Family,

Thank you for the prayers, visits, cards and phone calls at the time of my daughter Harriet's death. Stephen and I thank you for the many generous donations to the Capital Building Fund and Helping Hands Fund, in memory of Harriet. Your many acts of kindness are helping us get through a very difficult time. May God bless each of you.

In Christian Love,
Helen Gordon and Stephen Goad

Grady is now home from rehab at Autumn Care and continuing recovery from a broken hip. We both wish to thank all of our church family who has remembered Grady with your thoughts, prayers, cards, calls, visits, and food. We're so grateful to Pastor Ryman for his visits and for keeping us entertained! God bless all of you.

Grady and Jenny Earnhardt



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

CHURCH STAFF

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Alison Moore, Girl Scout Coordinator, 704-467-9191

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.