



The Monthly Epistle

of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Volume 70, Issue 8 • August 2024

A recent stroll in the church burial grounds led me past a grave with a couple of pennies on top of the tombstone. Wondering if this might be a token of something, I took a moment to do a quick search on the Internet. Indeed! Pennies on a headstone are significant.

If you notice a penny on a gravestone, it means that a person has visited the deceased's grave. Coins have typically been left on military graves as a sign that living soldiers have visited the burial site to pay their respects. But the practice has broadened in recent years. Today, people leave pennies on a headstone as a sign of enduring respect for non-military too. They demonstrate that the departed are appreciated and respected long after their passing.

Next time you're at St. Paul's Cemetery and you notice pennies on a grave, you'll know why.

See you in church!

Pr. Ryman



August 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
- August 4 – Breakfast before Sunday School, 8:30am
- August 4 – Baptism of Nora Grace Plummer, 10:30am
- August 4 – Grace Ridenhour Circle, Ladies' Parlor after worship
- August 4 – Bernhardt Reunion at noon in the fellowship hall
- August 4 – Youth & Family Committee, 2pm
- August 4 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- August 11 – Baptism of Cannon Boling, 10:30am
- August 11 – Christian Education Committee, 1:30pm
- August 11 – Worship & Music Committee, conf. room, 2:30pm
- August 18 – Autumn Care worship, 2pm
- August 18 – Men's Choir practice, 4pm
- August 25 – Breakfast for Rally Day, 8:30am
- August 25 – Special music by Sunday School kids, 9:15am
- August 25 – New Sunday School year begins, 9:30am
- August 25 – Rev. Scott Licht, guest preacher
- August 25 – Men's Choir practice, 4pm
- August 25 – Congregational Ice Cream Social, 5:30pm

Mondays

- August 5 – Facility Accessibility Committee meeting, 6:30pm
- August 5 – Hama Lingle Circle, 7pm (Gina Barringer's home)
- August 12 – Blood Drive, 1:30–6:00pm
- August 12 – Melissa Lura Circle, 6pm
- August 12 – Outreach Committee, 6:30pm
- August 19 – Council meeting, 6:30pm
- August 26 – Lutheran Men's meeting, 6:30pm

Tuesdays

- Bible Study classes, at 10am and 6pm
- August 13 – Bonnie Bost Circle, 7pm
- August 20 – Staff meeting, 5pm

Wednesdays

Adult Choir practices each Wednesday at 6:30pm

- August 7 – Ellen Bumgarner Circle, 10am
- August 14 – Autumn Care chapel service, 2pm

Thursdays

- August 1 – Capital fundraising meeting, 6pm
- August 15 – Friendship Club, 10:30am

Fridays

- August 16 – Youth & Family Game Night, 6:30pm

Fun Bunch

The *Fun Bunch* is a group of ladies that meets once a month for lunch. We will go to **Casa Grande on Wednesday, July 31st**. If you would like to join us, call Louise Eller at 704-870-9176.

Blood Drive

The next blood drive at our church will be **Monday, August 12th, from 1:30pm – 6:00pm** in the Fellowship Hall. We need as many donors as possible to reach our goal of 35 units.

If you donated in May, you will be receiving a scheduled appointment the last week of July. New donors are always needed since many of our regular donors are no longer able to give because of health or medication reasons. Please consider helping to reach our goal. One unit of blood can help up to three persons in need of a transfusion. Contact Alice Davis, 704-855-4930 or ppherford1@yahoo.com if you want to be added to the donor list.

Friendship Club

St. Paul's Friendship Club will meet **August 15th, at 10:30am** in the Fellowship Hall. Stephanie Bias, a North Carolina SHIPP representative, will present a program on the upcoming changes in Medicare for the year 2025. There will be a covered dish luncheon after the program. Please bring your favorite dish and join us for an informative program, good food and fellowship.

Rally Sunday at St. Paul's

Please join us for **Rally Sunday**, an annual event to kick off the new Sunday School year. On **August 25th, at 8:30am**, the Christian Education Committee will sponsor **breakfast** in the Fellowship Hall. At 9:15am, our **children of St. Paul's will sing** and will be presented **new Bibles**. At 9:30am, everyone will go to explore their Sunday School classes.

Our children will visit their classrooms which include a preschool/pre-K class, K-2 class, grades 3-5 class, middle school class and a high school class. The Sunday School teachers are excited to welcome you to their classes and are looking forward to a great day. There are 4 Adult classes, including a Young Adult class next to the upstairs nursery so parents will be nearby for their preschool/kindergarten children.

Wrapping up the day, we will cool off with a Congregational **Ice Cream Supper at 5:30pm** in the Picnic Shelter. Please join us as we kick off a new year of learning and fellowship with Rally Day on August 25th!

Ice Cream Social

On **August 25th, at 5:30pm**, we will finish Rally Day with ice cream at the picnic shelter. Everyone is asked to bring your favorite homemade ice cream to share. If you do not have an ice cream freezer, we will take store-bought too—it's all good! We encourage you to bring a friend to enjoy this end-of-summer fellowship with us.

Rev. Scott Licht

Rev. Scott Licht will be joining us on August 25th, as our guest preacher. Rev. Licht was ordained in the LCMC in 2014, serves as CFO/COO at Lutherans for Life, and is pastor of Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church in Huxley, Iowa. Lutherans for Life is the organization we are supporting this quarter with the children's change collection. We hope you will come on Rally Day to welcome Rev. Licht. More about Lutherans for Life may be found at lutheransforlife.org.

JOIN US FOR *Rally Sunday*

TO FIND YOUR
SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS!

Events:

- * BREAKFAST - 8:30AM
- * MUSIC BY CHILDREN - 9:15AM
- * EXPLORE NEW CLASS - 9:30AM
- * ICE CREAM SOCIAL - 5:30PM

AUGUST 25TH
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Offering for June 2024

General Fund Offering for the month: \$35,311
July General Fund report will be in the September 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.



*Congratulations to Danielle and Joshua Canup
on the birth of a daughter, Lydia Ruby Canup.
Lydia was born Sunday, July 7, 2024.*



Thank You

Thank you for all the thoughts, prayers, cards and calls. Also, thank you for the gifts to the church in memory of Mike. I appreciate everyone so much for your kindness during this very difficult time.

Joyce Morris

Thank you so much for all the thoughts, prayers, cards, calls, memorial gifts, and any other act of kindness during the long illness and death of my brother, Glenn Lyerly. I appreciate everything so very much.

Sincerely,
Betty Monroe

I want to thank my church family for all the words of comfort, cards, and memorials after the loss of my brother, Andy Myers. St. Paul's has a loving congregation that is full of compassion. May God bless each of you and reward you for your kindness.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank all of the church members who help me each Sunday get Grady in and out of church. Pastor Ryman loves to tease Grady that he will either turn him loose on the ramp or take him down the steps in his wheelchair! Makes Grady's day!

Jenny Earnhardt

Scholarship Recipients

Scholarships this year are being awarded to Henry Barringer, who receives the Sadie and Hollie Ritchie Scholarship, Chloe Lombard, who receives the Brown–Heilig Scholarship, and Lauren Whisnant, who receives the Blanche and Hubert Ritchie Scholarship. God’s blessings to our college students, and congratulations on your awards.

Our two ministerial scholarships—the Dave and Pearl Honbarger Ministerial Fund, and the St. Paul’s Ministerial Fund— have both been earmarked for continuing theological education during the coming year for Associate Pastor Brian Lord and Pastor Ryman.

Please Call Us

If you or a family member are headed to the hospital or a nursing home, having surgery, or a medical procedure, please call the church office (704-633-0922) to let us know. Pam will let the pastor know and will 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 to make sure this happens.

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>

Memorial Gifts

A gift was received in memory of **Buddy Heilig** for the *Capital Building Fund* from

Johnsie and Wayne Taylor

Gifts were received in memory of **Mike Morris** for the *Capital Building Fund* from

Ben and Susan Bernhardt

Perry and Lori Bernhardt

Dana and Crystal Bost

Alice Davis

Helen Gordon

Bonnie and Wayne Hinson

Judi and DW Honbarger

Susan and Mark Ryman

Jeanne and Tony Shaver

Johnsie and Wayne Taylor

A gift was received in memory of **Mike Morris** for the *Carillon Fund* from

Karen and Tim Deal

Gifts were received in memory of **Mike Morris** for the *General Fund* from

Grady and Jenny Earnhardt

Kay Moody

A gift was received in memory of **Mike Morris** for the *Helping Hands Fund* from

Myra Jane and Terry Eller

A gift was received in memory of **Glenn Lyerly** for the *Carillon Fund* from

Karen and Tim Deal

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

Ben and Susan Bernhardt

Dana and Crystal Bost

Jenny and Grady Earnhardt

Alice Davis

Hama Lingle Circle

Bonnie and Wayne Hinson

Susan and Mark Ryman

Johnsie and Wayne Taylor

Sue Young

Gifts were received in memory of **Andy Myers** for the *Capital Building Fund* from

Ben and Susan Bernhardt

Crystal and Dana Bost

Susan Cruz

Alice Davis

Bonnie and Wayne Hinson

Betty Monroe

Kay Moody

Susan and Mark Ryman

Jeanne and Tony Shaver

Johnsie and Wayne Taylor

Sue Young

A gift was received in memory of **Andy Myers** for the *Carillon Fund* from

Karen and Tim Deal

A gift was received in memory of **Andy Myers** for the *Helping Hands Fund* from

Myra Jane and Terry Eller

A gift was received in memory of **Myra Bost** for the *Capital Building Fund* from

Johnsie and Wayne Taylor

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

Johnsie and Wayne Taylor

A gift was received in **memory of Mitchell Heilig's birthday** for the *General Fund* from

Delores Stanley

A gift was received in **memory of Frankie Raymer** for the *Helping Hands Fund* from

Franda Raymer

In Honor of

A gift was received in **honor of Wilbur Canup** for the *Helping Hands Fund*.

A gift was received in **honor of Tony Heilig's birthday** (July 22nd) for the *General Fund* from his sister, Delores Stanley.

A gift was received in **honor of Tim and Karen Deal** for the *Carillon Fund* from Nancy Powell.

A gift was received in honor of the "**Bobbsey twins, Alice Davis and Pastor Mark**," (who both celebrated their birthday on July 23rd), for the *Capital Building Fund* from Helen Gordon.



Lutheran Women Meetings in August

Bonnie Bost – August 13, 7pm

Ellen Bumgarner– August 7, 10am

Kathy Ketchie – No meeting in August

Hama Lingle – August 5, 7pm (at Gina Barringer's house)

Melissa Lura – August 12, 6pm

Grace Ridenhour–Sunday, August 4, Ladies' Parlor after worship

Roses Are Red...But Now They Are White

For years the Lutheran Women have placed a red rose on the altar when a baby is born to a member of St. Paul's. Sometimes, no family members are at church the following Sunday to pick up the rose. Therefore, the Women of St. Paul's have voted to make a change. Going forward, a rose will be placed on the altar when the baby is baptized. Beginning in August, instead of a red rose for the birth of a baby, we will place a white rose in honor of the baby's baptism.

Please remember to call the church office when a baby is born to a member of St. Paul's so we may include a birth announcement in the bulletin. We love to see our church family grow!

July Pack-a-thon Update

St. Paul's first *Meal Pack-a-thon* was a great success. We had 60 volunteers for the **Feed the Hunger** event, and 8 volunteers served a hotdog lunch afterwards. We packed 10,080 meals in about 90 minutes. Bibles will also be shared with those who get the meals. The cost of the pack-a-thon was \$3,939.60. This was taken out of the Thrivent Dollars Fund.

John Brock's name was drawn for the Martin Luther bobble head. But Larry Clark was also a winner of a bobble head, which had been shipped previously with a few cracks in it. Some may see some humor in this gift!

The Outreach Committee is thankful to all those who volunteered and made this a great outreach project.

**Truly, I say to you,
as you did it to one of the
least of these my brethren,
you did it to me.**

Matthew 25:40

Missions

On behalf of the staff and Board of *Sola Publishing*, thank you for your gift of \$331.66. You have blessed our hearts with your support of our ministry to provide solid, biblical resources for use in preaching and teaching God's Word. 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

May the Lord bless you all even more for generous blessings to us. I am back at the mission now, and what a blessing to be here and do the work God has called me to do with three of my grandchildren. Thank you, St. Paul's, for making this ministry possible by your continued support. We are grateful to you for having the heart and compassion to walk beside us as we serve a great and mighty God.

Blessings,
Kristie Ward
Founder of *Naomi's Heart Mission*

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 \$232.16 on June 30, 2024, 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 part of the generation of faith helping to connect spiritual orphans to the global family of Christ.

Pr. David R. Breidenbach
SON Executive Director

Missions

Your contribution has made such a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. Your \$232.16 donation shows that you truly care about our cause and the work we do. Thank you for your continued support. It is deeply appreciated. Words cannot express how much your donation means to us.

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

Hello from your friends at *Focus on the Family*, and many thanks for your gracious \$232.16 donation. We appreciate you.

Here at Focus we are so grateful for opportunities the Lord gives us to uphold truth through events like SeeLife 24, happening this month, as well as to come alongside hurting families through outreaches like our counseling ministry. Thanks again for supporting our efforts to help families thrive in Christ. We hope you will stay in touch as you are able. Grace and Peace.

Sincerely,
Jim Daly, President

As I write this, I am thinking about the meaningful impact you're having in America and around the world [with donations of \$1,969.80 on July 9 for Bible outreach and food packathon for *Feed the Hunger*]. Thank you for carrying the pressure with us to meet so many needs for God's glory!

Serving with you,
Joseph Williams, CEO

Thank you for your gift to the ministry of *Samaritan's Purse*. Your prayers and gifts make our relief efforts in over 110 nations possible. God Bless you.

Sincerely,
Franklin Graham, President

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."

Shelter Donations

Organ Lutheran Church is 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.

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 etmagrn.

Find Your Way





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.