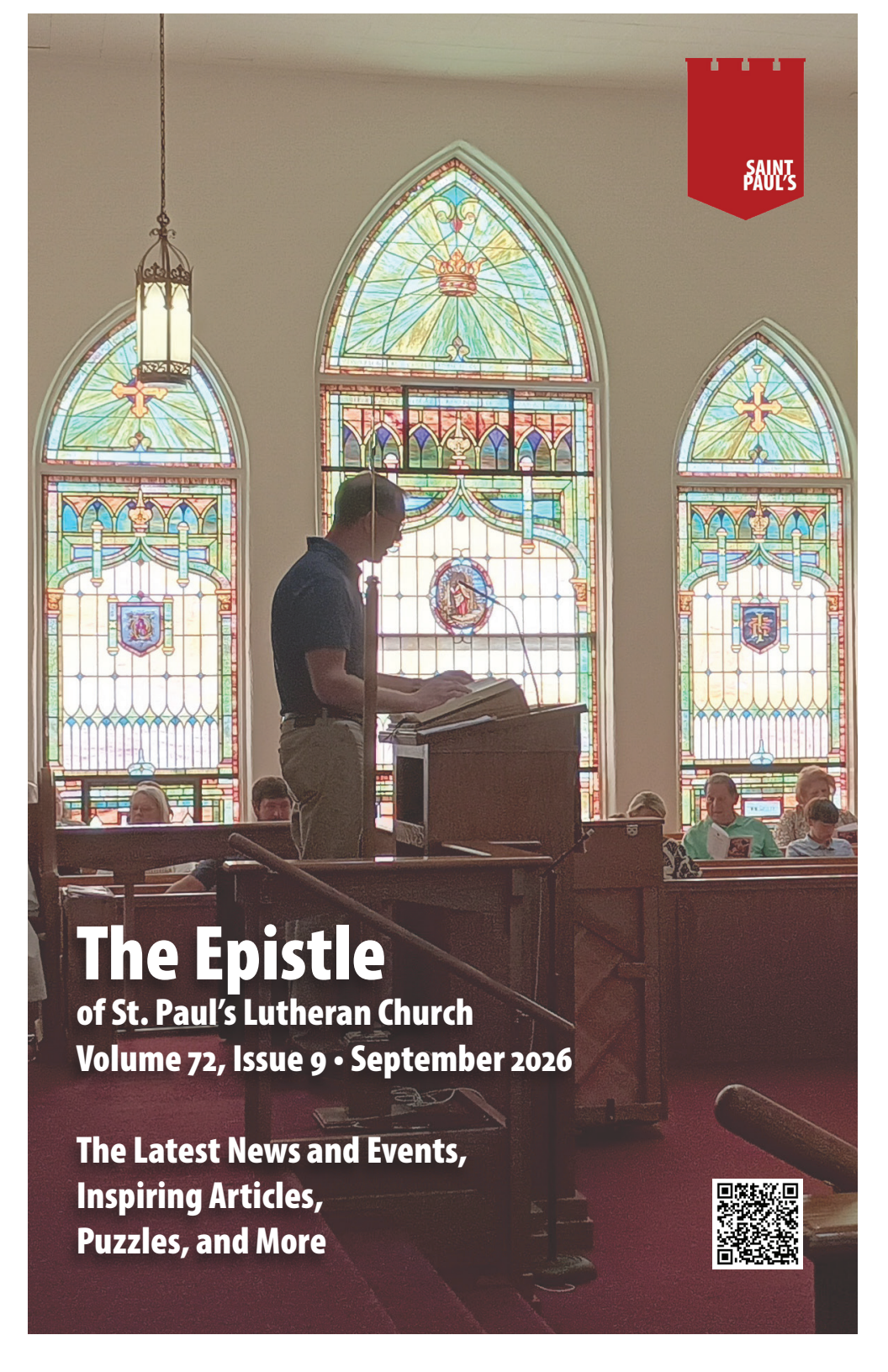




SAINT'S

The Epistle

of St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Volume 72, Issue 9 • September 2026

The Latest News and Events,
Inspiring Articles,
Puzzles, and More



Stewards of Grace: A Call to Service

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” (1 Peter 4:10)

As summer draws to a close, we see signs of transition all around us. For many families, the rhythm of daily life has shifted back to school schedules, filled with morning drop-offs and afternoon pickups. Our college students are also settling into their routines—some embracing new environments for the first time, while others move steadily toward long-held educational goals. These seasonal shifts remind us that life is constantly moving forward. We will also see many more changes, baptisms, first communions, and new bible studies and confirmation classes starting soon.

Amidst these personal transitions, our church home is also changing. The building project continues to make wonderful progress, with new areas of construction appearing regularly. These physical changes represent more than just brick and mortar; they are opportunities and gifts provided so that we might better serve God and our neighbors. Every update to our facilities is a tool meant to help us share our blessings abundantly, both now and for generations to come.

As we step into this new season together, I invite you to pray about how you might use your unique, God-given gifts and resources in service. Here at St. Paul’s, we are blessed with a wide variety of ways to get involved, ensuring there is a place for everyone to contribute.

If you wish to deepen your faith, consider joining one of our Bible studies. If you are moved by music, we welcome you to lift your voice in the choir or join our handbell ensemble. For those drawn to hands-on service, our outreach and volunteer teams are always eager for helping hands. Beyond formal ministry, you can find fellowship and support in our Women’s circles, Men’s group, or through the Friendship Club and The Fun Bunch.

Regardless of where you choose to start, or where the Holy Spirit leads you, these moments of connection allow us to live out the message of 1 Peter 4:10. By sharing our talents, we act as

faithful stewards of God's grace. Your involvement does more than just support our church; it honors the grace we have all so freely received.

If you feel called to serve but aren't sure where your time and talents fit, please reach out to me or pastor Mark. We would be delighted to pray with you and help you discern the special ways you can share your gifts with our church family.

Pastor Brian



Thank you

George, Robin, Kensley and I want to thank everyone for their prayers, concerns, and cards before and after their surgeries. A special thank you to Pastor Brian, Pastor Ryman, Alice Davis, and the Friendship Club.

Love,
Gail & George Reese and family



Bible Studies and Prayer

Tuesday Bible studies (10:00am and 6:00pm) are working through the Bible with Pastor Lord. They have begun the book of Deuteronomy. 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 Word 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>

Congratulations to Oona!
Oona Lyra Powlas was baptized
at St. Paul's on August 16, 2026.
Oona is the daughter of Lisa and Garrett Powlas.



Calendar of Events for September

Sundays

- Sunday School at 9:30am each Sunday
- Worship service at 10:30am each Sunday
- Contemporary Choir practice at 4pm each Sundays
- Vespers each Sunday evening at 6pm in the parsonage
- September 6 – Grace Ridenhour Circle, pulpit side transept, 12pm
- September 6 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- September 6 – Youth and Family Committee, 2pm
- September 13 – First communion class #2 after worship
- September 13 – Homecoming Sunday Potluck lunch, 12pm
- September 13 – Christian Education Committee, 2pm
- September 13 – Worship & Music Committee, 3pm
- September 20 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- September 20 – Kathy Ketchie Circle, pulpit side transept, 4pm

Monday–Friday

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

Mondays

- September 7 – Church office closed for Labor Day
- September 7 – Facility Accessibility committee meeting, 6:30pm
- September 7 – Hama Lingle Circle, 7pm at the church
- September 14 – Melissa Lura Circle, 6pm
- September 14 – Finance Committee, 6:30pm
- September 21 – October newsletter articles due this week
- September 21 – Council meeting, S. Salisbury Fire Dept., 6:30pm

Tuesdays

- Bible Study Classes, 10am and 6pm each Tuesday
- September 8 – Trinity Oaks Rehab birthday party, 2:30pm
- September 8 – Bonnie Bost Circle, 7pm

Wednesdays

- Adult Choir practice, 6:30pm each Wednesday
- Classical Conversations home school, 8:30am–3:00pm each week
- Youth Confirmation class, 7pm, each Wednesday
- September 9 – Ellen Bumgarner Circle, 10am
- September 30 – Fun Bunch Lunch, Sunshine Restaurant, 11:30am

Thursdays

- Rowan Smart Start, 10am–Noon, each week
- Home school dance class, 4pm each week
- September 10 – RHM Food for Thought, 10am
- September 17 – Friendship Club, 11am, Romano's Restaurant

Fridays

- September 11 – Youth & Family clean-up night, and pizza, 6pm

Saturdays

- September 5 – Care team breakfast, 8am at Sunshine Family Restaurant in Rockwell



Homecoming Worship and Potluck

St. Paul's Homecoming Sunday is **September 13th**. We hope you will invite former members who haven't been with us in a while, as well as friends and family who may not have a home church.

All are invited to the **potluck luncheon after worship** in the picnic shelter. Keep in mind, our kitchen has only one range right now, so **heating/cooking food here will be very limited**. Please plan your food accordingly.

Music Notes



Those who enjoy listening to contemporary Christian music are invited to join the contemporary choir and learn some new songs to sing during Sunday worship. **Rehearsals start on September 6th at 4:00pm in the fellowship hall.** We plan on rehearsing during September and October with the goal of singing in 2–3 worship services. If interested, contact the church office or John Brock at splcmusicalsisbury@gmail.com.

If you have wanted to try ringing handbells, then I have good news for you! I am willing to begin a brand-new **beginning handbell choir**. When I say beginning, I mean those with zero or limited experience. To make this possible, **I need a minimum of 8 people**. If interested, contact the church office or John at splcmusicalsisbury@gmail.com.



St. Paul's Men's Annual Fish Fry – Saturday, October 3rd

The time is fast approaching for another of our congregation's signature annual events. St. Paul's Men's Fish Fry will be held in the **picnic shelter on Saturday, October 3rd, at 6:00pm**. Proceeds from this year's fish fry will benefit St. Paul's Men's sponsorship of two students at Naomi's Heart Mission. There will be no drive-thru pickup, but takeout boxes will be available.

We will have tickets on the lawn after service on Sunday, September 6th and 13th. **A minimum donation of \$15 for adults, \$7 for those under 12** is requested (under 3—free).

To make sure there's more than enough for you to enjoy, please **purchase your tickets ahead of time**. Only a very limited number of tickets will be sold at the event. We appreciate your understanding. We look forward to another great fish fry—great food, great fellowship, and best of all, showing God's love and changing lives through Naomi's Heart Mission. This is also another great opportunity for you to invite those friends and family to come and experience our St. Paul's church family!

Men's Fish Fry Supports Two Students at Naomi's Heart Mission

St. Paul's Men are honored that proceeds from our annual fish fry on September 19th, will allow us to continue to support two students through Naomi's Heart Mission in the Philippines.

Sheena Dagamba is a second-year college student, studying accounting at General Santos City Foundation College. Sheena is 19 years old and lives with her family—four sisters and a brother. She is working toward a Bachelor's of Science degree, and looking forward to a career in accounting.

Nino Miguel Albinda is a 9th-grade student at Naomi's Heart Mission Christian Academy. He has six brothers and lives with his father. Nino's favorite subject is math, and is interested in one day being a seaman so he can see the world.

Our friend Kristie Ward, Naomi's Heart founder, points out that in a 3rd-world country, education is vitally important to life changing success. St. Paul's Men thank you for your support of our annual fish fry and are thankful for the opportunity to make education possible for these two students. If you have not yet personally sponsored a student through Naomi's Heart Mission (\$480/year for academy students, \$600/year for college), we encourage you to join us in doing so at www.naomisheartmission.org/sponsor-a-child/



Friendship Club

Mr. William Deal has invited the Friendship Club to his home to ride the train. His brother Tim has made all of the arrangements for this outing. THANK YOU, TIM. I am so grateful and appreciate you so much. On **September 17th**, we will meet in the church parking lot at 10:30am to carpool to Speedy's Bar-B-Que in Lexington for **lunch at 11:00am**. After lunch we will go to Mr. Deal's home for the train ride. **Please** call Helen Gordon to let her know you will join us for good food, fun and fellowship.

Helen, 704-636-5002

Did You Know?

History of St. Paul's 1981–1982

The year 1981 began with Lutheran Family Services presenting a program on Refugee resettlement. The Council authorized the Social Ministry Committee to solicit help and support from the congregation on behalf of a refugee family. Through a joint effort with Faith Lutheran Church, the two churches sponsored a Laotian family that had arrived in Rowan County.

With an increase in the number of members in the youth groups, the church saw the need for an activity bus. A 1968 Chevrolet school bus was purchased and refurbished for just over \$3,000.00.



In 1981, St. Paul's was selected to be one of 114 congregations to participate in the pre-publication testing of the *Lutheran Book of Worship*. The book was adopted by the congregation. Several copies of former worship books were donated to other Lutheran churches: the *Service Book and Hymnal* to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in West Columbia, SC, and copies of the *Common Service Book Hymnal* were donated to a newly formed church, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in China Grove, NC.

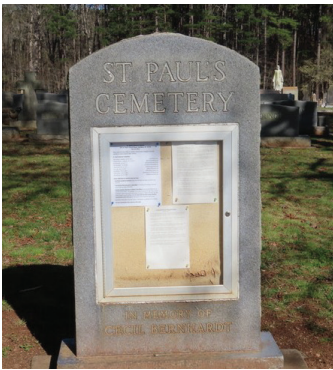
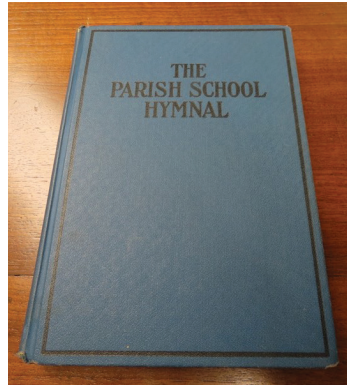
Lightening struck the bell tower of the church in September, 1981. The property committee requested \$120,000.00 to repair the extensive damage to the bell tower, replace the roof on the church and educational building, and add additional ventilators to the church.

In 1982, Mary Lee Earnhardt was hired as Secretary for the church.

The Social Ministry Committee reported an interest in forming a Lutheran Church Men's Group. The group held its first meeting in March, 1982.

There was need for a new book for the opening of Sunday Church School. The book being used, *The Parish School Hymnal* was replaced with 100 copies of *Hymns for the Family*.

During the year, the cemetery burial fee was increased to \$200.00 for former members, and \$500.00 for non-members. The Cecil Bernhardt family placed a bulletin board which is used to post cemetery rules and regulations



and other information, in the cemetery.

A Paschal Candle was given to the church by Loma Troutman in memory of her husband, Clarence Troutman, and first used in November, 1982. The Paschal Candle is a large white candle symbolizing the risen Christ. It is lighted during the Easter season through Ascension Day, for

funerals, and also for special occasions.

In July, 1982, Pastor Floyd Bost read his letter of resignation to the council, effective August 31, 1982. Pastor Edward Orinson was selected to serve as our Vice-Pastor following Pastor Bost's resignation. A letter of transfer for Pastor Bost and Bonnie to Zion Lutheran Church in Hickory was approved in October, 1982.

In 1980, life memberships could be made to Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary Auxiliary, Columbia, SC. The Lutheran Church Women made Mrs. Emma Porter the first member from St. Paul's to be a life member of the auxiliary in 1980. Miss Bessie Julian was made a life member in 1981, and Mrs. Bonnie Bost was made a life member in 1982.



Council Highlights

Council — Council met August 17 at the South Salisbury Fire Department. Our next meeting will be September 21. Council homework is to read, make corrections, or additions if necessary to our church policies. As part of our church insurance it is our duty to make sure we are aware of these policies— sexual misconduct awareness; sexual harassment awareness; Pastoral care; and how to report any misconduct. There is also an employee handbook that covers many areas that we need to read and make corrections and additions if necessary. Insurance requires some training.

Christian Education Committee — Met August 9; schedule for the remaining year: Rally Sunday 8/30; Confirmation begins 9/9; Christmas play 12/13 (dress rehearsal 12/12). Next meeting September 13.

Worship & Music Committee — met August 9. The new adjustable organist bench has been ordered from Lewtak Pipe Organ Builders in Mocksville. We should have the bench by the end of August. The plans are to have a plaque made for the bench in memory of Bob and Sharon McBride. The cost is going to be \$5,000.00 which includes delivery. Council approved last month to use the McBride fund \$3,545.35 and the balance of \$1,454.65 to be paid from Thrivent Choice Dollars.

The process continues with fitting of robes for worship assistants. The hope is to alter existing robes instead of buying new ones at a cost of \$185.00 each.

Music Director and Organist evaluations were filled out. The committee will cover these with John and Johnsie before the end of August. St. Paul's is very blessed to have two very dedicated people to lead our music program.

Property Committee — We are ready to start the parsonage well drilling. We are waiting for underground lines to be marked. Once that is completed we will get this scheduled with B. M. Wright Well and Pump Service.

The church and parsonage insurance policy has been finalized. We are now insured with Erie Insurance.

Weekly chores are continued every Monday. But with the construction moving forward, the property job has become more intense. Property brothers are doing everything they can to save us money. The list of things they do are too many to list in this article but the man hours listed below went up 144 hours in the month of July.

January through July they have put in 928 hours. I think it's more than 928 hours—you can see property brother's trucks at the church many days throughout the week.

Outreach Committee — met August 10. They are still gathering information about an LED church sign. This project is tabled for now.

Committee is continuing to participate in the Food for Thought book-bag program the 2nd Thursday monthly until May.

Nine people attended the Feed America Pack-a-thon in Greensboro on July 2.

Upcoming projects include: Outreach table at the Trunk or Treat event October 30; checking into the Shoebox program; contacting shut-ins.

Finance Committee — met August 10. For the month of July income **exceeded** expenses by \$15,039. We are closing the gap. Our expenses over income for the year is now \$37,193. It's great to be headed in the right direction, let's keep it going in a positive direction.

Facility & Accessibility Improvement Committee (FAIC)—

Construction is starting to move quicker. The music room, nursery, and chapel downstairs will be closed as they move to start on the new church offices. Some pipes had to be moved, so music director's office and history room will be closed for a short time. All areas that are off limits will be blocked with plastic. Please continue to be careful. We are trying our best to keep you updated, but we do forget some details. Please feel free to ask questions.

Youth & Family Committee — met August 2; see schedule below.

- July 10 – we had a wonderful time at Lavaughn Beaver’s pool, and we are actually invited back next year. Thanks Lavaughn!
- August 14 – Cannon Ballers game – we had a great time, I think we ate more than we watched. It was a very hot night.
- September 11 – Clean up for homecoming at 6pm
- October 30 – Trunk or Treat, 3 – 7pm
- Starting in November we will sell placards for luminaries after church.
- November 13 – Camping under the stars at the church
- November 29 – place luminaries after church
- December 12 – Christmas play practice 10:30am; lunch will be provided.
- December 13 – Christmas play at 4pm

Youth and Family is already starting plans for January. All youth, check out these dates and come have fun!

Tech Committee—Matt Holland, John Canup, Seth Holland, Lee Aldridge, Kolya Baker continue to look into our office computers, phones and internet needs. It’s hard to list everything they are doing but trust me this construction is also keeping them busy.

Capital Building Fund

As of July 31 we have received \$2,438,633.07, which so far is \$461,366.93 short of our \$2.9 million goal. In the month of July we as a congregation gave \$20,671.96 toward our goal. Thanks to the finance committee for being good stewards with our money. As said in every newsletter, **we still need to keep giving!**



Forgiven

Find the 27 bold words from Psalm 32:1–8 ESV.

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

Blessed is the one whose transgression is **forgiven**, whose sin is **covered**. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no **deceit**. For when I kept **silent**, my **bones wasted** away through my **groaning** all day long. For day and night your hand was **heavy** upon me; my **strength** was dried up as by the heat of **summer**. I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my **iniquity**; I said, "I will **confess** my transgressions to the Lord," and you **forgave** the iniquity of my sin. Therefore let everyone who is **godly** offer **prayer** to you at a time when you may be **found**; surely in the rush of great **waters**, they shall not reach him. You are a **hiding** place for me; you **preserve** me from **trouble**; you **surround** me with **shouts of deliverance**. I will **instruct** you and **teach** you in the way you should go; I will **counsel** you with my eye upon you.



The dead in Christ will rise first.

1 Thessalonians 4:16

“The Resurrection of the Body”

from Lessons in the Lutheran Confessions

by Rev. Dr. Mark Ryman

From the Word

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18)

From the Lutheran Confessions

We believe in....the resurrection of the body.... (from the third article of The Apostles Creed)

Pulling It Together

Put a Christian in the ground and she will rise again just as her Lord rose from the dead. She will rise because her Lord rose (Romans 6:5). It is not just the body, in terms of skin and bone and muscle and organ, but as Luther said, “the whole man through and through” that will rise (*Luther’s Works*, vol 30, page 118). A few centuries ago, we used to say that we “believe in the resurrection of the flesh.” That older language puts a finer point on our confession than to say that we believe in “the resurrection of the body,” as we say today.

Christ has redeemed everything we might consider corrupt, so the flesh, though it undergoes decay or is consumed by fire, will be raised by the power of God. Reason says that this cannot be. No matter; reason will be raised right along with the rest of our flesh. The whole person—body, soul, and spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:23)—will be reunited in the resurrection.

Resurrection is a Christian mystery. It is a truth while at the same time, difficult to comprehend how it will be or can be. Yet, we confess our belief that in the flash of an instant, we will be changed. We will be made otherwise, altered, glorified. Our perishable flesh will be clothed in the imperishable glory of God so that we may always be with the Lord. When we are clothed in the righteous immortality of our Lord, we will enjoy God’s eternal fellowship, since sickness and death will no longer affect us—nor will grief or pain or anything else that our flesh once endured. All of this is the victory that only Christ could obtain for us. It is ours by faith in God, whom we confess will raise us bodily from the dead.

Glory!

Prayer

Thank you, God, for giving us the victory through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

September 202

26—Birthdays—Anniversaries (M/M)—Daily Prayer (**)

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Larry Clark Jamie Drew Bethany Whisnant M/M Sandra and Jesse Watson **Myra Jane and Terry Eller	3 M/M Cindy and Travis Alligood **Sonya Eller	4 Windy Heilig **Patsy Everhart	5 Brayden Harper **Susan and Randall Faggart
9 James Lyerly **Meghan Free, Joshua, Charlotte, and Teddy Terrell	10 Brenda Leonard **Kristan, Rob, Ryan, and Carson Friel	11 Caroline Aldridge M/M Lisa and Brent Monroe **Katie and Dan Funderburk	12 M/M Laura and Trent Wilhelm **Grace and Loralei Funderburk
16 Jimmie Deal M/M Tiffany and Seth Holland **Maranda and Bradley Girdler	17 Luke Deal Jeffrey White **Sarah Goodman	18 Lori Bernhardt **Harold Goodman	19 **Myralyn and Michael Goodman
23 Reba Saine Patsy Wiles M/M Patti and Steve Horinka **Candice Goodman, Summer and Ryleigh	24 Kolya Baker Harmony Yon M/M Susan and Mark Ryman **Linda Goodman	25 **Helen Gordon	26 Perry Bernhardt **Carol Hall
30 Louise Eller Brian Lord **Windy Heilig, and Katie			

St. Paul's Women Events

The Lutheran Women circles will not be able to have a bazaar this year. In order to help raise some funds for projects, we have proposed several smaller events.

The women of the Melissa Lura Circle will again make **chicken pies in September**. We will be selling them ahead of time. Two sizes will be available. Prices are \$8.00 for a small pie and \$25.00 for a large pie. Sign-up sheets will be out for orders on September 6th, 13th, and 20th. Your pie orders will be available on October 4th.

The circles will put together some **raffle baskets** as we have done in the past for the bazaar. We will have them ready in October to sell tickets after church and during Trunk or Treat. The drawing will be November 7th, at the Old Timey Stew.

Start looking around your house to donate items to have a **yard sale (NO CLOTHING)**. We will incorporate a baked goods and canned goods sale. The tentative date is November 7th, which is the same day as the Old Timey Stew. **We do not have a place to store these items at the church**, so for now just start looking at what you can donate. Items will need to be brought in that morning. We will also have our raffle baskets out at the yard sale so tickets may be sold.

In December we will have **DIY Christmas Cookie Boxes** for sale. They will have Christmas cut-out cookies in the box along with icing and sprinkles to decorate. These would make nice Christmas presents. More on these projects in the coming months, so be sure to read your newsletters for more information each month!

Binns-Counts Community Center

September is the month, when the Women of the church collect **new toys** for the **Binns-Counts Christmas program**. Please place donations (ages newborn to 14) in the bins located in the narthex and near the conference room. It is very helpful to receive the gifts in September, but **donations will be accepted until November 22nd**. Thank you for your participation.

Chicken Pie Time

The Melissa Lura Circle will be making chicken pies again this year. **Pies will be pre-sold** in order to make sure those who want one will get one. A sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex on **September 6th, 13th and 20th**. The cost of each pie is \$8.00 for a small one and \$25.00 for a large pie. The frozen chicken pies can be picked up on **Sunday, October 4th, after church**. Checks should be made payable to the Women of St. Paul's. This makes a quick and easy supper, as the vegetables are cooked in the chicken pie. Thank you for your support.

Invitation to Join Our Circle

The **Kathy Ketchie Circle** would like to extend an invitation to all of the women of our church to join our circle.

We meet in one of the meeting rooms at the church on the **second Sunday of each month, at 4pm**. We would love to have you join us. Please contact Linda Behrendt at 704 213 9691.

Outreach Committee—Event Coming Soon

The Outreach Committee is going to purchase shoe boxes to fill for Samaritan's Purse **Operation Christmas Child**. We will make them available to the congregation to fill. The Outreach Committee will pay the \$10.00 for each box to ship. We will be purchasing 50 boxes. It is better to use these boxes because they all ship better being the same size. Dates to pick up your boxes and bring them back will be announced soon.

Missions

Greetings from the entire Focus on the Family staff, and thank you for your gracious \$270.08 gift to our ministry. You are helping us promote biblical values and culture of life in America.

Thanks again for standing with us for faith and freedom.
Grace and peace to you!

Sincerely,
Jim Daly, President

Missions

*More about all of our missionaries may be found at:
<https://stpaulslutheran.church/missionaries>*

We want to thank you for your generosity in sending \$385.82 for the month of July. We are still recovering from the earthquake but thankful the after shocks are down to about 2 a week (at the least the ones we can feel).

Our school is open and classes are on going. We were blessed with a great engineer who designed our school so well that we have had only minor cracks. Many schools are still not open. Our feeding programs are on-going at the academy and some of the public school we can enter.

One of our churches up in the mountains, Pao Pao Community Church, has become a refuge for many families who lost their homes and needed a place to go. They came to Pao Pao and have made make-shift tents for shelter. We have been going up there about once a week to take rice, canned goods, and water. Even in times of disaster God provides what is needed, and as we read in Psalms 30:5, "Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning".

We do appreciate your prayers and support to this ministry. Without your love for Naomi's Heart we could not do what we do.

Blessings,
Kristie Ward



Thank you for your \$429.77 gift to Samaritan's Purse. Since two devastating earthquakes struck in June, we have been working in Venezuela to bring physical relief and the eternal hope of the gospel to survivors. Please pray with us for those who are suffering and our teams as we share God's love with those we are helping. As scripture commands us, Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ". God bless you!

Sincerely,
Franklin Graham, President

Thank you for the donation of \$385.82 to Organ Lutheran Church Pantry Outreach Program. We had a record number of people last month for food boxes and school book bags. Your donation shows that you truly care about our cause and the work we do. Thank you for your continued support.

Linda Austin, Director

On behalf of the staff and Board of Sola Publishing, thank you for your gift of \$262.06. 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 Steven King, Managing
Editor

Thank you for your continued support of the South Rowan Public Schools Bible Teaching Association. Your generosity plays a vital role in helping us preserve and share Bible history within public schools, ensuring students have access to this important educational perspective. Because of supporters like you, our program continues to thrive and make a lasting impact.

With sincere thanks,
Bennett Hester, David Roberts,
Gene Clary, Lynn Furr
(*Bible Teaching Leadership Team*)

Missions

Every Summer students at our Spiritual Orphans Network (SON) camps ask our team the same question: “Are you being paid to be here?” It’s not really a question about money. What they are really asking is, “Why would you come all this way for us?” When they learn that each team member was sent by congregations who gave and prayed for them, the conversation changes. It becomes proof, to a student who has never met you, that they are loved because Christ first loved us.

A question we hear from churches too is, “Wouldn’t it be simpler just to send money instead of people?” But what we have learned over more than three decades is that this ministry has always been about relationships, sharing Christ one-on-one, heart to heart, in ways a check alone never could.

This summer, your congregation was part of that answer. Your prayers and generosity sent 56 team members to serve in Latvia, Albania, and Slovakia, leading eleven camps and mini-theological conferences in communities still finding their voice after generations where Christianity was forbidden. Thank you for making Christ known by connecting Spiritual Orphans to the global family of Christ.

We are already preparing for next summer, and we would be grateful for your continued prayers as these relationships grow and as we prepare for what’s ahead. Thank you for your donations in June and July totaling \$987.14, and thank you for being part of this story.

In His Service,
Pastor David Breidenbach
SON Director



*We extend our love and sympathy to the family of
Nancy Leonard Powell who died August 21, 2026.
Nancy’s graveside service was held at Rowan Memorial Park
on August 28. Please keep Nancy’s family in your prayers.*

Prayer Needs

- Bob Barringer – recovering from surgery
- Shiela Barringer – cancer
- Carolyn Canup – health concerns
- W. A. Cline – Hospice care at home (*brother of Wayne Cline*)
- Jean and Jimmie Deal – health concerns
- Michael Goodman – recovering from surgery
- Myralyn Goodman – health concerns
- Autumn Hill – health concerns
- Randy Johnson – recovering at home
- Tammy Leazer – recovering from surgery
- Alesia Lewis – health concerns
- Chloe Monroe – recovering from surgery
- Craig Parks – health concerns
- Stan Parnell – health concerns (nephew of Jimmy Earnhardt)
- Kensley Phipps – health concerns
- Will Poplin – health concerns (*Ann Poplin's son*)
- Carroll Reese – health concerns (*George Reese's brother*)
- George Saieg – acute health concern (*friend of St. Paul's members*)
- Linda Shirley – Autumn Care Rehab
- Kelly Smith – health concerns (*friend of Karen Charles*)
- Mary Stewart – cancer (*former member*)
- Wayne Taylor – health concerns
- Pedro Vincenty – health concerns
- Hugh and Kathy Wilhelm – health concerns
- Kenny Willis – health concerns (*brother of Gina Wilhelm*)

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: Allen Burnett, Lottie Simpson

Home: Terry and Susan Beeker, Barbara Deese, Sonya Eller,
Shirley Hoosier, Ruth Julian, Bob McCanless, Susie Page,
Melinda Redding, Dottie Stancil, Jane Wilhelm

Heavenly Homecoming

The English Standard Version is used to build this puzzle.

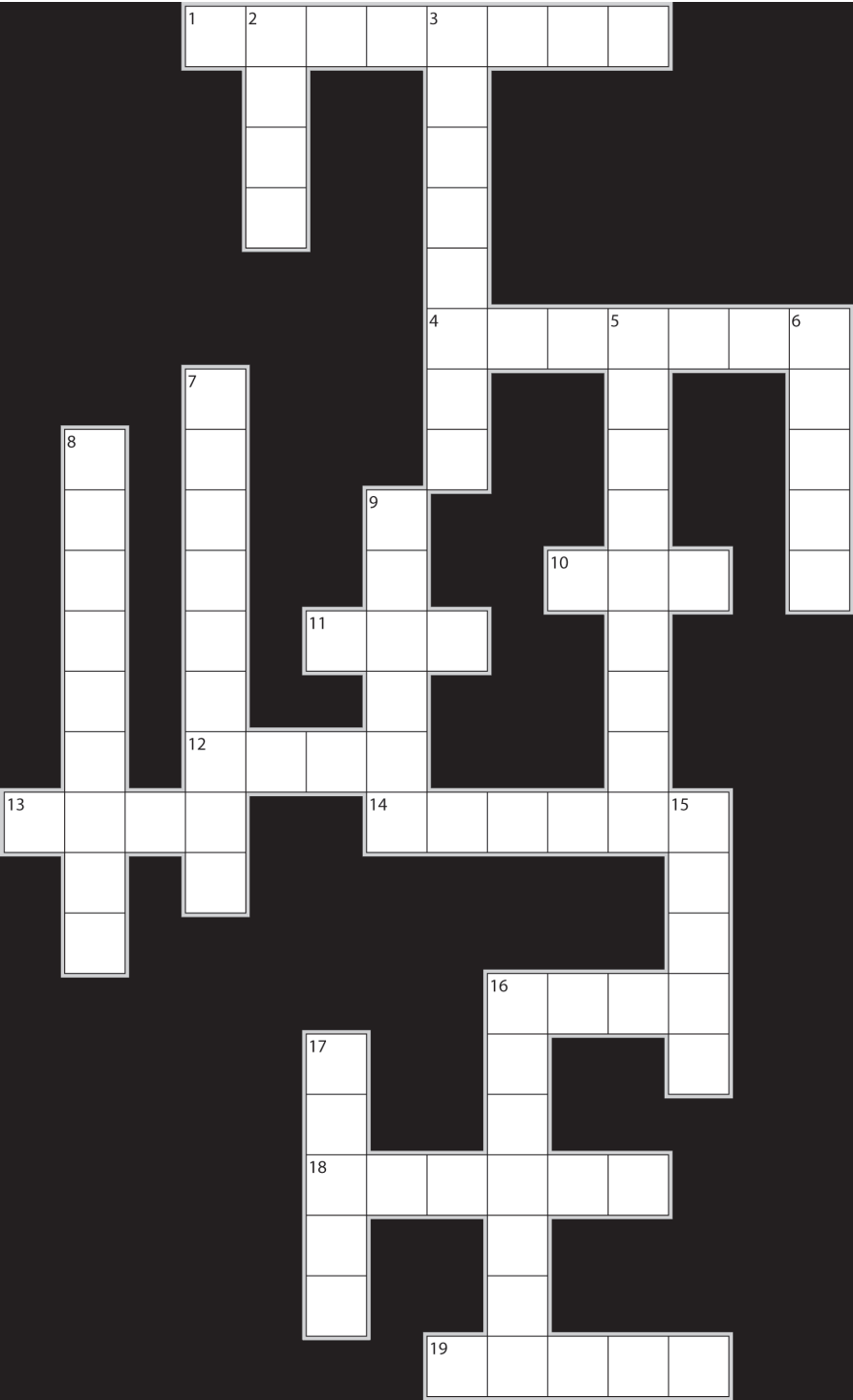


ACROSS

1. What will our transformed bodies look like? (Philippians 3:21)
4. What instrument will sound at his return? (1 Corinthians 15:52)
10. Where will the living elect meet Jesus? (1 Thessalonians 4:17)
11. What is the ultimate state of our homecoming? (Matthew 25:21)
12. Who will descend from heaven with a shout? (1 Thessalonians 4:16)
13. What happens to the dead in Christ first? (1 Thessalonians 4:16)
14. What is the grand feast with Jesus called? (Revelation 19:9)
16. What will we see when we look at Jesus? (Revelation 22:4)
18. Who will accompany Jesus when he returns for us in glory? (Matthew 25:31)
19. What will Jesus give to those who are faithful? (2 Timothy 4:8)

DOWN

2. What is the lamp of the heavenly city? (Revelation 21:23)
3. What kind of bodies will the elect receive? (1 Corinthians 15:53)
5. Who stands before the throne from every nation? (Revelation 7:9)
6. What will Jesus wipe away from every eye? (Revelation 21:4)
7. What is the name of the holy city? (Revelation 21:2)
8. How fast will the mortal body put on immortality? (1 Corinthians 15:52)
9. With what will every eye see Christ coming? (Revelation 1:7)
15. What are the faithful elect wearing? (Revelation 7:9)
16. How long will the elect reign with the Lord God? (Revelation 22:5)
17. What is last enemy to be destroyed? (1 Corinthians 15:26)



Memorial Gifts

A gift was received in memory of **Raymond Kubitz** for the Capital Building Fund, from
Wanda Kubitz

A gift was received in memory of **Joe Lynch**, father of Sherry Barringer, for the Capital Building Fund, from
Lori and Perry Bernhardt
Karen and Tim Deal
Judi and D.W. Honbarger
Johnsie and Wayne Taylor

A gift was received in memory of **George “Bud” Phelps**, father of Rex Phelps, for the Capital Building Fund, from
Lori and Perry Bernhardt
Wayne and Johnsie Taylor
Susan and Terry Beeker

A gift was received in memory of **Ada Agner** for the Capital Building Fund, from her son and daughter-in-law
Susan and Terry Beeker

A gift was received in memory of **Helen Miller** for the Capital Building Fund, from her daughter and son-in-law
Susan and Terry Beeker

A gift was received in memory of **Jan McCanless** for the Capital Building Fund, from
Bob McCanless

Gifts were received in memory of **Nancy Powell** for the Capital Building Fund from
Perry and Lori Bernhardt
Dana and Crystal Bost
Alice Davis
Tim and Karen Deal
Helen Gordon
Frank and Cindy Hinson
Wayne and Bonnie Hinson
Wayne and Johnsie Taylor
Sunday School class #6

Honor Gifts

A gift was received in honor new member **Cathy Stewart** for the Capital Building Fund
Alice Davis
Lisa, Brian, Talia and Josh Lord

A gift was received in honor new member **Dawn Peeler** for the Capital Building Fund
Alice Davis
Lisa, Brian, Talia and Josh Lord

A gift was received in honor of **Helen Gordon’s birthday** for the Capital Building Fund from
Lisa, Brian, Talia and Josh Lord

A gift was received in honor of **Sybil Athey’s birthday** for the Capital Building Fund from
Myra Jane and Terry Eller
Lisa, Brian, Talia and Josh Lord
Jeanne and Tony Shaver

Gifts were received in honor of
Pastor Mark Ryman's birthday
for the Capital Building Fund
from

Helen Gordon

Lisa, Brian, Talia and Josh Lord

Gifts were received in honor of
Alice Davis' birthday for the
Capital Building Fund from

Helen Gordon

Lisa, Brian, Talia and Josh Lord

A gift was received in honor of
Pamela Cottingham's birthday
for the Capital Building Fund,
from

Alice Davis

Karen and Tim Deal

Lisa, Brian, Talia, and Josh Lord

A gift was received in honor of
Nancy Powell's birthday for the
Capital Building Fund, from
Karen and Tim Deal

Gifts were received in honor of
Oona Lyra Powlas' baptism
for the Capital Building Fund
from

Jennifer and Lee Aldridge

Brenda Bass

Lisa, Brian, Talia and Josh Lord

Mita Powlas

A gift was received in honor of
John Brock for the Music Fund,
from

Frank and Cindy Hinson

A gift was received in honor of
Karen Charles for the Capital
Building Fund, from
Frank and Cindy Hinson

A gift was received in honor of
Vance Goodman for the Music
Fund from St. Paul's Adult Choir.

A gift was received in honor and
appreciation of **Hugh Wilhelm**
for the Capital Building Fund,
from adult Sunday School classes
#4/6. We are thankful for Hugh's
many years of dedication in
teaching.

**Love one another
with brotherly
affection.
Outdo
one another
in showing honor.
Do not be slothful
in zeal,
be fervent
in spirit,
serve the Lord.**

Romans 12:10—11

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 July, 2026

Income for July	\$54,337.25
Expenditures for July	\$39,298.18
Net Income (income minus expenses)	\$15,039.07
Income year to date	\$285,689.91
Expenditures year to date	\$322,882.86
Net Income YTD (Income minus expenses)	\$-37,192.95

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!

Honor the Lord with your wealth
and with the firstfruits
of all your produce;
then your barns
will be filled with plenty,
and your vats will be bursting with wine.

— Proverbs 3:9-10 —

General Fund

For the month of July, our income was greater than our expenses by \$15,039! Let's keep that momentum going. We are still over \$37,000 behind for the year, so please prayerfully consider ways to help our general fund.

Percentage Giving

Use this chart to help you decide what percentage of your annual income to give in offerings per week:

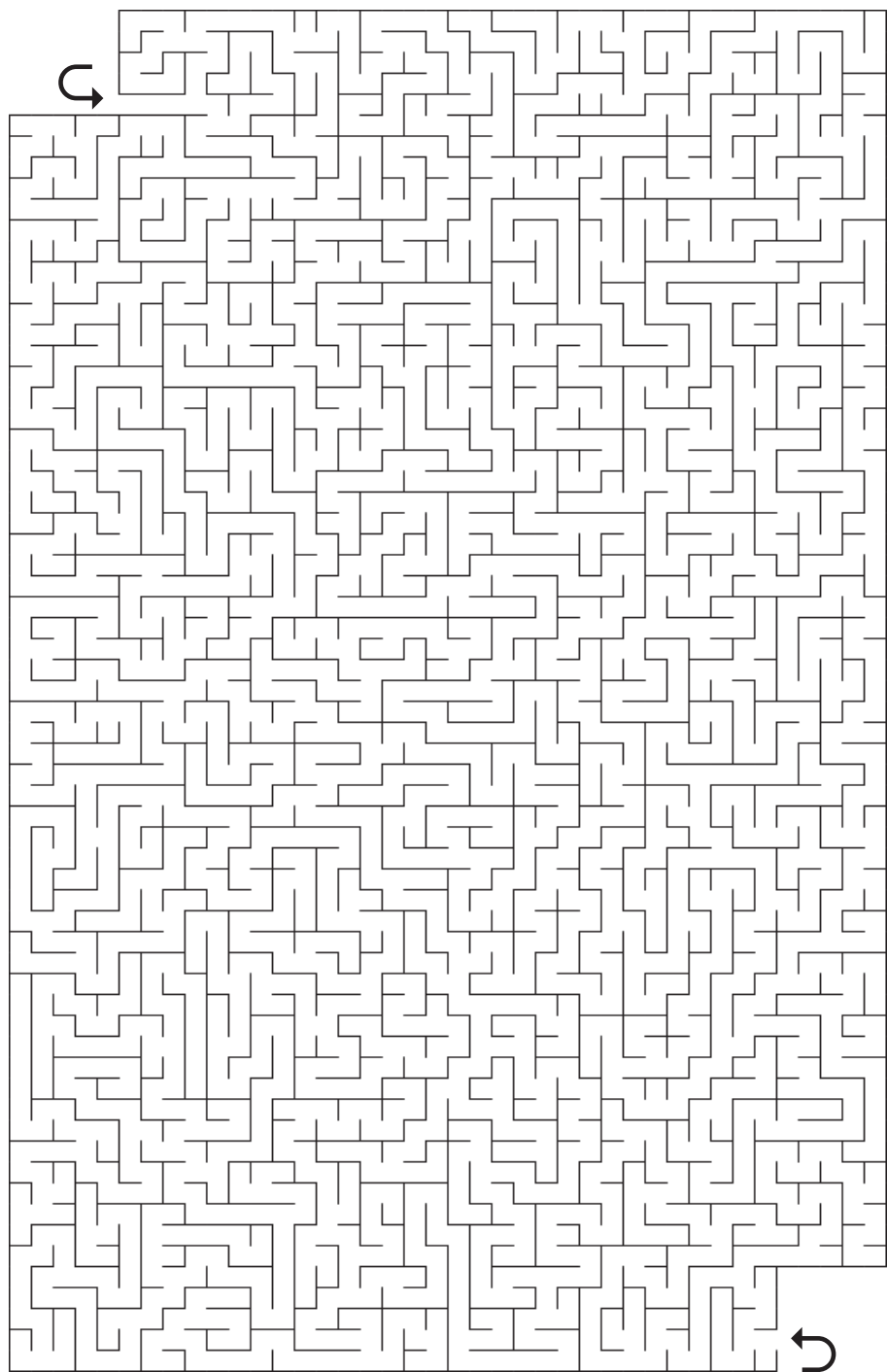
Annual Income	Weekly Giving (in Dollars)					
	12%	10%	8%	6%	4%	2%
\$5,200	12.00	10.00	8.00	6.00	4.00	2.00
\$6,500	15.00	12.50	10.00	7.50	5.00	2.50
\$7,800	18.00	15.00	12.00	9.00	6.00	3.00
\$9,100	21.00	17.50	14.00	10.50	7.00	3.50
\$10,400	24.00	20.00	16.00	12.00	8.00	4.00
\$11,700	27.00	22.50	18.00	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

Subject to Authority

Find the 27 bold words from Romans 13:1–8 ESV.

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

Let **every person** be **subject** to the governing authorities. For there is no **authority** except from God, and those that **exist** have been **instituted** by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities **resists** what God has **appointed**, and those who resist will incur **judgment**. For **rulers** are not a **terror** to good **conduct**, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his **approval**, for he is God's **servant** for your good. But if you do **wrong**, be **afraid**, for he does not bear the **sword** in **vain**. For he is the servant of God, an **avenger** who carries out God's wrath on the **wrongdoer**. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to **avoid** God's **wrath** but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are **ministers** of God, **attending** to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom **taxes** are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, **honor** to whom honor is **owed**.





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

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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.