



The Monthly Epistle

of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Volume 70, Issue 9 • September 2024



Homecoming 2024 is set for Sunday, September 8th. Brian Lord, our new Associate Pastor will be our preacher at the 10:30am service of worship.

Brian is a student at St. Paul Lutheran Seminary (semcl.org) and is working on his Master of Divinity degree. His wife, Lisa, and their children, Talia and Joshua, settled here in Salisbury a month ago. Lisa is a theater and culinary arts teacher at Faith Academy. The children attend school at Faith. But Brian has been in Kent, Washington, during that month waiting for their house to sell.

We are happy to announce that they just sold their house and Brian will be joining us for Homecoming, the Annual LCMC Gathering, and be with us at St. Paul's thereafter.

So Homecoming is a great opportunity for you to meet Brian and his family, if you have not yet done so.

Events of the Day

9:30am, Sunday School

10:30am, Worship

Noon, Covered Dish Lunch

6:00pm, Vespers in the parsonage

Binns-Counts Toy Collection

September is the month when the Women of the church, collect toys for the children (babies through teens) at Binns-Counts Community Center. The toys are for Christmas, and should be **new** and **unwrapped**. If you would like to donate a gift, there will be a bin in the narthex and one near the Conference room. Thank you for your support.

Youth & Family Night, Friday, September 6th

All Youth, please join us for some fun, fellowship and cleaning on Friday, September 6th, at 6:30pm. We are going to do some light cleaning of the pews and tidy up the cards/pencils for Homecoming. Please check our SPLC Youth Facebook page. You can respond to that event if you are able to come. Thanks!

Sunday, September 8, Homecoming Sunday

Brian Lord, our new Associate Pastor, will be our preacher for Homecoming. Please reach out to former members of St. Paul's and to members who haven't been here for a while to join us.

King's Kids

Seasonal Children's Music Program

Kindergarten–5th Grade

Sundays 9am–9:45am

September 15 to October 27, 2024

Twice a year, King's Kids will gather before Sunday School for 7–9 weeks to learn new songs, play with instruments and prepare to participate in worship.



Help Needed

It's that time of year again to prepare our church volunteer schedules for the coming year. Have you thought about sharing your time and talents with the church? If so, we could use your help with the **Altar Guild** and the **Ushers**. Our list of volunteers is slowly being depleted through attrition. Please prayerfully consider serving. If you have questions regarding the duties and scheduling of the Altar Guild please contact Bonnie Hinson at 704-232-3364. For information on Usher duties and scheduling contact John Canup at 336-978-2333.

Friendship Club Field Trip

Friendship Club will meet **September 19th, at 10:00am** in the parking lot at the church to carpool to the **Billy Graham Library in Charlotte**. Our reservation is at 11:30am. We will have lunch at the Graham Brother's Dairy Bar after the tour.

Entrance to the library is free but lunch is on your own. You might want to take a snack or a drink to be consumed before entering the library. No food or drink is allowed inside the library. The tour will last two to three hours. Highlights of this tour are:

- Journey of Faith, which retraces Billy Graham's dynamic journey throughout his lifetime
- The Graham Family Homeplace, where he lived from age nine until he left for college
- Billy Graham's Personal Book Collection of over 3,700 titles on display
- Ruth's Attic, the unique book store where you can purchase gifts, Bibles, and Christian classics
- The Memorial Prayer Garden, where Billy and Ruth Graham and the Crusade's staff are buried
- The Graham Brother's Dairy Bar

Please join us for a day full of inspiration and fellowship. Thank you for letting me know if you plan to go with the Friendship Club on September 19th. You may contact me, Helen Gordon, at 704-636-5002.

September Calendar of Events

Sundays

Sunday School, 9:30am; Worship, 10:30am

Men's Choir practices each week at 4pm (no practice 9/1)

Handbell Choir practices each week at 5pm (no practice 9/1)

Vespers at the Parsonage—fellowship at 6pm; prayer at 6:30pm

- Sept. 1 – Breakfast before Sunday School, 8:30am
- Sept. 1 – Grace Ridenhour Circle, Ladies' Parlor after worship
- Sept. 1 – Youth & Family Committee, 2pm
- Sept. 1 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- Sept. 8 – Homecoming Sunday, Brian Lord, preacher
- Sept. 8 – Potluck lunch, shelter and fellowship hall
- Sept. 8 – Christian Education Committee, 1:30pm
- Sept. 8 – Worship & Music Committee, conf. room, 2:30pm
- Sept. 8 – Kathy Ketchie circle, 4pm
- Sept. 29 – LCMC Convention, through October 2

Mondays

- Sept. 2 – Church office closed for Labor Day
- Sept. 9 – Melissa Lura Circle, 6pm
- Sept. 9 – Facility Accessibility committee, 6:30pm
- Sept. 9 – Finance Committee meeting, 6:30pm
- Sept. 9 – Hama Lingle Circle, 7pm
- Sept. 16 – Council meeting, 6:30pm
- Sept. 23 – Lutheran Men's meeting, 6:30pm

Tuesdays

Bible Study classes, at 10am and 6pm

Girl Scouts meet each week at 6:30pm

- Sept. 10 – Bonnie Bost Circle, 7pm
- Sept. 17 – Staff meeting, 5pm

Wednesdays

Classical Conversations homeschool group, each week, 8:30-3:30

Adult Choir practices each Wednesday at 6:30pm

Youth Confirmation Class, conference room each week, 7pm

- Sept. 4 – Ellen Bumgarner Circle, 10am

Thursdays

- Sept. 5 – Outreach Committee, pack flood buckets, 9am
- Sept. 19 – Friendship Club, 10:30am

Fridays

- Sept. 6 – Youth & Family Night, clean for homecoming, 6:30pm
- Sept. 13 – Girl Scout sleepover, begins 6:30pm;
ends 10am Saturday
- Sept. 27 – Preparations for Ladies Bazaar, beginning at 7:45am

Saturdays

- Sept. 7 – Melissa Lura circle meets in kitchen to cook, 8am
- Sept. 21 – Lutheran Men's fish fry, 6pm
- Sept. 28 – Ladies' Bazaar, all day beginning at 8am

St. Paul's Men's Annual Fish Fry

It's that time for another of our congregation's favorite annual events — St. Paul's Men's Fish Fry, which will be held on Saturday evening, **September 21st, at 6:00pm.**

Proceeds from this year's fish fry will benefit Binns–Counts Community Center. A minimum donation of \$12 for adults and \$6 for those under 12 is requested (under 3 are free). There will be no drive-thru pickup; however, takeout boxes will be available.

To make sure there's more than enough for you to enjoy, only a very limited number of tickets will be sold at the event. Thank you for your understanding.

Tickets will be available on the lawn after service on Sunday, September 8th and 15th.

We look forward to another great fish fry. Plan to come for great food, great fellowship, and best of all, showing God's love to benefit Binns–Counts. This is also another great opportunity for you to invite those friends and family to come and experience our St. Paul's church family!

Lutheran Women Meetings in August

Bonnie Bost – September 10, 7pm

Ellen Bumgarner – September 4, 10am

Kathy Ketchie – Sunday, September 8, 4pm

Hama Lingle – September 9, 7pm

Melissa Lura – September 9, 6pm

Grace Ridenhour – *Sunday*, September 1 (parlor after worship)

St. Paul Lutheran Seminary Students

A limited amount of scholarship funds have been made available for St. Paul Lutheran Seminary students through the generosity of our community of supporters. Funds are currently available for Military Chaplaincy, Dmin, MDiv and Parish Certification programs. We encourage prospective students to contact Student Affairs for additional details. We wish to thank all of our donors, volunteers, congregations, and partners for the time, talent, and treasure lifting up St. Paul Lutheran Seminary's students. Supporters interested in strengthening the scholarship program or endowing scholarship funds please call the administrative office (314) 497-2400.

St. Paul Lutheran Seminary Preaching Courses

On Thursday evenings, beginning October 24th, 2024 at 6pm CT, St. Paul Lutheran Seminary will again be offering short, online courses on preaching, taught by Rev. Julie Smith. Part 1 will be six online sessions (once per week) and is designed for people who may be interested in occasional pulpit supply, as well as those who may be sensing a call to ministry and want to explore a bit. Part 2 sessions will start in the new year with dates announced sometime in December. The cost is \$50 per person or \$100 per congregation for Part 1. To register contact Jon Jensen at jjensen@semlc.org.

**A wise man will hear and increase learning,
and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel...**

Proverbs 1:5

All Souls Are Mine

Find the 28 bold words from Ezekiel 18:1–4.

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

The **word** of the **LORD** came to me, saying, “What do you mean by **quoting** this **proverb** concerning the **land** of **Israel**, saying, ‘The **fathers** have **eaten sour grapes**, and the **children’s teeth** are **set** on **edge**’? As I **live**, says the Lord **God**, you shall not use this proverb again in Israel. **Behold**, **all souls are mine**—the soul of the **father** as well as the soul of the **son** are mine. The **soul who sins shall die**.”

Unscramble the verse:

Treepn dan urtn mfor lal royu antsnsoirgesrs,
setl itquiyni eb oryu niur.

We welcome our newest members in Baptism to St. Paul's—
Nora Grace Plummer and Cannon Wilson Boling.

*Nora Grace Plummer, daughter of Josh and Megan Plummer,
was baptized on August 4, 2024.*

*Cannon Wilson Boling, son of Brad and Melinda Boling,
was baptized on August 11, 2024.*

We also welcome

Patti and Steve Patti Horinka

Julie Johnson

Heather and Jeff Moore

Brian, Lisa, Talia, and Joshua Lord

Daniel Tarbox

who are joining our church family on September 8th.



In Honor of

A gift was received in honor of **Sharon McBride** for the *General* Fund from the Ellen Bumgarner Circle.

A gift was received in honor of **Ed Nieden's 90th birthday** on August 1st, for the *Carillon* Fund from Tim and Karen Deal.

A gift was received in honor of **Ed Nieden's 90th birthday** for the *Capital Building* Fund from Jean and Jimmie Deal.

A gift was received in honor of **Susan and Ben Bernhardt's 50th wedding anniversary** for the *Carillon* Fund from Tim and Karen Deal.

*We extend our love and sympathy to the family
of Iverson M. Brendle, who died Friday, August 9, 2024.
Rev. Brendle's funeral was held here Sunday, August 11, 2024.
Please keep the Brendle family in your prayers.*



Memorial Gifts

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

Frank and Cindy Hinson
Vaughn and Nancy Wilhelm

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

Frank and Cindy Hinson

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

Frank and Cindy Hinson
Tony and Jeanne Shaver

A gift was received in memory
of **Ruby Green**, mother of
Tammie Agner, for the *Capital
Building* Fund from

Dana and Crystal Bost

A gift was received in memory
of **Rev. Iverson Brendle** for the
General Fund from

Perry and Lori Bernhardt

A gift was received in memory
of **Rev. Iverson Brendle** for the
Improvement Fund from

Wilbur Canup

Gifts were received in memory
of **Rev. Iverson Brendle** for the
Capital Building Fund from

Susan and Ben Bernhardt
Buster Bledsoe

Dana and Crystal Bost

Kevin Brandt

John and Carolyn Canup

Paul and Crystal Canup

Cedar Grove

Lutheran Church

Alice Davis

Tim and Karen Deal

Grady and Jenny Earnhardt

Myra Jane and Terry Eller

Helen Gordon

Hama Lingle Circle

Wayne and Bonnie Hinson

Judi and D.W. Honbarger

Lyerly Family (Sue and Mike)

Betty Monroe

Mark and Susan Ryman

St. Paul's Lutheran Men

Johnsie and Wayne Taylor

Ken, Bethany, Lauren,

and Lindsey Whisnant

August 2024 Blood Drive

The August Blood Drive at our church yielded only 28 units of blood. Only 26 persons were scheduled to donate and 10 of them did not come. Only with the help of 12 walk-ins, and only four deferrals, was the church able to collect even 28 units. There were three donors willing to give “double rbc” but the machine to collect doubles was not working. That would have at least put our number above the 30–unit mark.

The first time that St. Paul’s had a blood drive was a single drive in 1994, and another one in 1995 sponsored by the youth groups. Since 1996, four blood drives a year have been sponsored by our church. That means that our church has hosted 114 blood drives. Using the low figure of 30 units/drink (35 is our normal goal) we have collected over 3,400 units of blood.

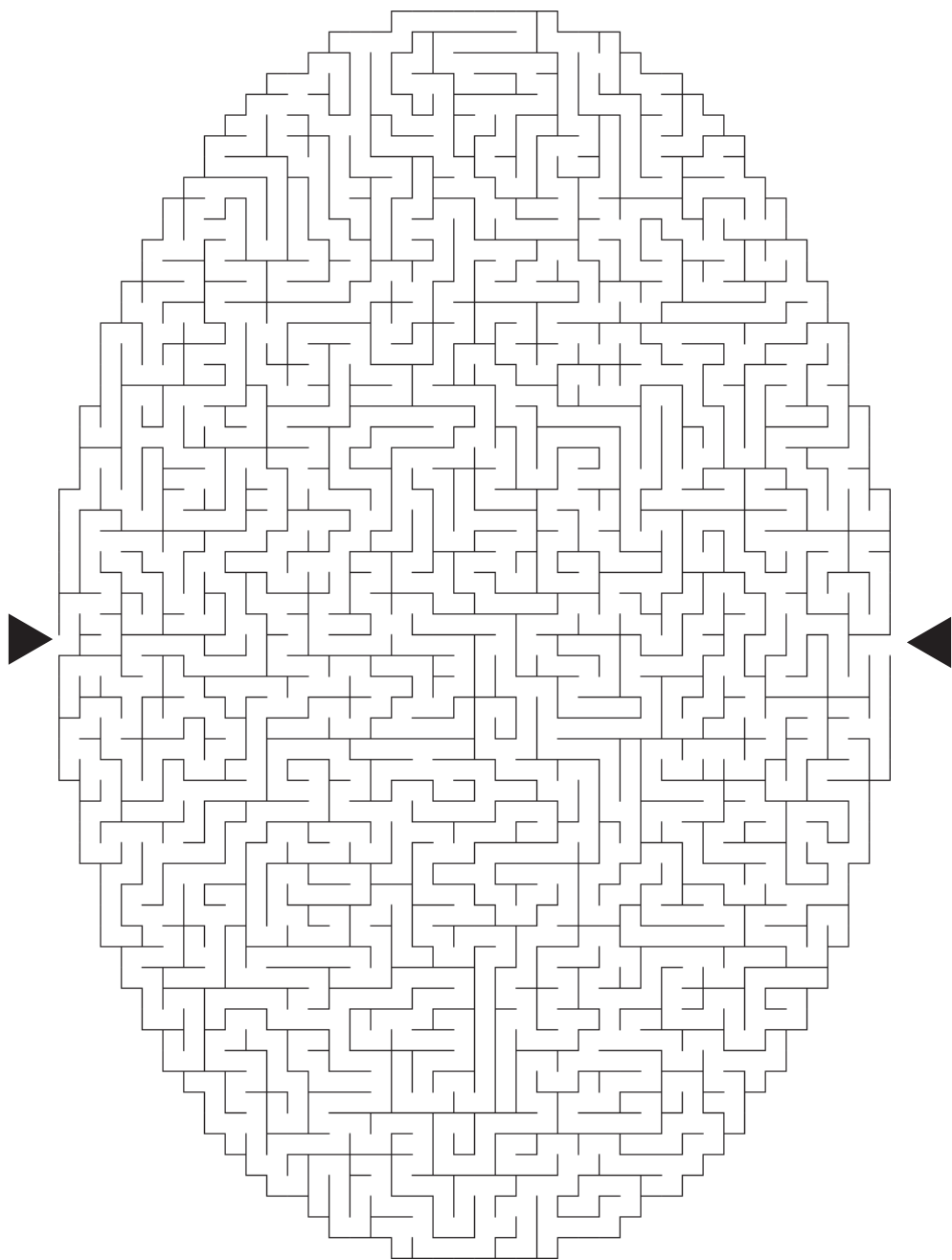
When blood drives began, over 80% of the donors were from our church. Now, only 15%–25% are church members. It is only with community support that our donation site has been so successful. Our most faithful donors are now unable to give because of medication and/or health reasons but are not being replaced by younger members of our congregation.

Special thanks go to those who volunteer to work canteen, help sign in donors, set up the Fellowship Hall after each drive, and the Property Brothers who set up the Fellowship Hall before each blood drive.

Our **last donation of 2024 is Monday, November 11th**, from 1:30pm–6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please consider giving for those in need.

**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 Feed the Hunger, I would like to thank you for packing food at the St. Paul Lutheran Church Packathon held on July 20, 2024, in Salisbury, NC. You helped pack 10,080 meals which will feed 42 children for an entire school year. That's awesome!

Education, healthy food, and sleeping peacefully at night are like a dream for these children and families. No parent wants their children to grow up unhealthy and unhappy. No children deserve an uncertain future. But with the blessing of Lord Jesus, they have received an opportunity to stay in Osmanpur Boys' Home. Now they can get proper education, safe shelter, nutritious food, health care, and clothes. Because you supported this initiative, vulnerable children in Haiti have benefitted from our feeding programs and will have hope for a better future.

Making a difference with you,

Mia Buck

Packathon Specialist, Carolinas



Thank you for your generous donation of \$298.61 in July, and \$253.38 in August. 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 \$423.76. 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

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 \$296.61 on July 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

Thank you for your gift of \$253.58 to the ministry of Samaritan's Purse. Your gifts and prayers help make it possible for us to respond to crises in over 110 nations in Jesus' name. Thank you for helping us show people that "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." God bless you.

Sincerely,
Franklin Graham
President

Missions

Many thanks for your gracious \$296.61 donation to Focus on the Family. Your partnership is greatly valued. Thanks for supporting our efforts to help families thrive in Christ. Your support means more to us than we can say. God bless you!

Sincerely,
Jim Daly, President

Your contribution has made such a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. Your donation shows that you truly care about our cause and the work we do. Thank you for the food donations, and the monetary donations of \$296.61, \$263.58, and \$253.58. We appreciate all that you do to support our ministry.

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

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.

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."



Offering for July 2024

General Fund Offering for the month: \$ 30,188

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.





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.