



The Monthly Epistle

of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Volume 70, Issue 10 • October 2024

With the call of Brian Lord to be our Associate Pastor and in-residence Seminarian, we have entered a new season for St. Paul's. Having sold their house in Washington, Brian is now reunited with his wife, Lisa, and children, Talia (11) and Joshua (9). They live here in Salisbury.

Brian is a student at St. Paul Lutheran Seminary and is essentially in his internship year with us at St. Paul's. While doing the job of a pastor, he will be studying and being mentored by me. Preaching, teaching, visiting, and other pastoral duties are being doled out as his internship list dictates.

One of the things I am most excited about is a new program of visitor follow-up that Pam, Brian, and I will begin implementing in October. Over the past three-plus years, we have received 60 new members. We trust God has many more visitors to send us and we will be ready to move them toward Christian discipleship and membership here at St. Paul's.

See you in church!

Pastor Ryman



Morning Prayer

Each weekday morning at 8:30, our secretary and pastors gather in the church office for morning prayer. Others also join us in praying the Daily Lectionary. This reading plan may be found on page 179 of the LBW, though we are in Year Two of the readings at present. Pentecost 20, which we are reading at the time of publication, is on page 191.

We read the lessons together, including a fourth reading from *For All the Saints*, a four-volume set of prayer books that some of us use at Vespers and Morning Prayer. We also discuss these readings, share what's happening at St. Paul's, then pray for each other and for our church.

We would welcome you any weekday morning from 8:30 to 9 in Pams' office. Join us for prayer; it is a rich time that you will enjoy. Our hope is that we quickly outgrow the confines of her office and move Morning Prayer to the chapel.

Binns-Counts Toy Collection

The Christmas toy collection for the children (babies through teens) at Binns-Counts Community Center will continue until November 24th. A group of youth and parents will accompany John and Carolyn Canup the weekend after Thanksgiving to deliver the toys to the center.

The **toys should be new and unwrapped** since they are Christmas gifts. Cash donations are also accepted if you don't want to shop for toys. Boxes for collecting the toys will be in the narthex and by the conference room. Thank you for your support.

Binns-Counts Clothing and Household Items

Gently used household items and clothing will be collected in October for Binns-Counts. This collection is separate from the toy collection, and will be taken to the center the first weekend in November to assist the people in the area. Collection boxes will be in the narthex and by the conference room.

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.

Handbell Practice

Because of the busy schedule in October, there will be no handbell practice until November. Please plan to resume practice on November 3rd at 5pm.



Save the date:
Saturday
October 26th
6:30–8pm

If you will attend as a guest, or as a volunteer, please visit the link and submit: **<https://forms.office.com/r/tvYZANK185>**

Oktoberfest

Saturday, October 12th • 5:00pm

Enjoy traditional German fare, including Bratwurst, sauerkraut, red cabbage, German and American potato salads, apple dumplings, apple cake, tea and German coffee, all in St. Paul's Fellowship Hall.

In order for us to prepare, **please RSVP on the pew pads** (write O-fest by your name) or by calling the church office **no later than October 6th.**

Friendship Club

Friendship Club will meet **October 17th, at 10:30am**, in the Fellowship Hall. Perry and Lori Bernhardt will present a program about the things they learned and the experiences they had at the LCMC Convocation in Iowa. A covered dish meal will be enjoyed after the presentation. Everyone is invited. Hope to see you then.

History of Your Church

Did you know that we almost had a steeple on top of the bell tower? Did you know that we almost had balconies over both transepts in the Sanctuary? These items were in the initial plans of the last major building improvement project of 1966-1967. However, these ideas were dismissed due to cost restraints.

As our membership embarks on the possibility of a new building project, the History Committee invites you to visit the History Room. Among the artifacts is a notebook detailing projected floor plans, committee reports, receipts, and final costs of that last remodel.

Included were the front porch and ramp, the choir loft, new roof, moving and reconfiguration of some stained glass windows, new altar, pews, and our specially built Zimmer pipe organ. Complete renovations of the nave, chancel, and basement in 1967 cost just over \$125,000. Please take a peek in the History Room. You just might learn something!

History Committee

Stewardship

The Apostle Paul tells us that “God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7–9). However, giving can be less than cheerful when it becomes a legalistic burden. We can sometimes place upon ourselves unrealistic expectations, especially when it comes to our offerings to God.

When Susan and I were first married, we were part of a congregation that had a Faith Promise program. The church asked every member to pledge what they would give for the next year so that a budget could be prepared. Susan and I were excited to be a part of supporting our growing congregation. At the same time, were a little apprehensive because tithing was our expectation and I earned precious little income for our little family.

We prayerfully decided we would not give ten percent of our income that first year back in the late 70s. We would instead, give four percent and try to increase a percent or so each year afterwards until we had worked our way up to a tithe.

In fact, by God’s providence, we were able to tithe within a couple years. However, we tithed our net (after taxes) income, not the gross. Eventually, we were blessed to give a tithe of our gross income, then by God’s hand, were able to give special offerings beyond our tithe.

I am telling you this personal information because I want you to be a cheerful giver. Cheerful giving usually doesn’t occur because of enthusiasm of the moment. We are in just such a moment at St. Paul’s where you too may be excited to give. Be prayerful; ask God what you should give. It may be the widow’s mite (Mark 12:41–44, Luke 21:1–4): everything you have. Or it may be four percent, like the Rymans all those years ago. Whatever it is, you should give what you have decided in your heart, not with reluctance or under compulsion.

Because God desires you to be a cheerful giver, he will make all grace abound to you, so that you have sufficiency to abound in every good work—including your offering.

On the next page is a chart that may be useful as you prayerfully consider your offerings.

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

Old Timey Stew

Join us for the Old Timey Stew on Saturday, **November 2nd**, at 6pm, at the shelter for some delicious stews cooked over open fires. We will be serving chili beans, vegetable beef, chicken noodle, and gumbo with all the condiments. Feel free to bring a dessert.

“Old Timey” activities include trying your hand at using an old cross-cut saw or riding in a fully restored 1800s buck-board wagon. Most importantly, this is an opportunity to bring a friend who’s looking for a loving church family. We’d love to have them.

King’s Kids

Seasonal Children’s Music Program

Kindergarten–5th Grade

Sundays 9am–9:45am

September 15 to October 27, 2024

Meets twice a year, for 7–9 weeks before Sunday School to learn new songs, play with instruments and prepare to participate in worship



**Praise him with trumpet sound;
praise him with lute and harp!
Praise him with tambourine and dance;
praise him with strings and pipe!
Praise him with sounding cymbals;
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!**

Psalm 150:3–5

October Calendar of Events

Sundays

- Sunday School, 9:30am; Worship, 10:30am
- Men's Choir practices each week at 4pm
- Vespers at the Parsonage—fellowship, 6pm; prayer, 6:30pm
- King's Kids, K–5th grade, music at 9am each Sunday
- October 6 – Breakfast before Sunday School, 8:30am
- October 6 – Lutheran Women's Sunday
- October 6 – Youth & Family Committee, 2pm
- October 6 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- October 6 – Worship & Music Committee, 2:30pm
- October 6 – Ritchie Reunion, 4pm
- October 6 – Lutheran Women's quarterly meeting, 5pm
- October 6 – Council meeting, 6:30 to finalize 2025 budget
- October 13 – Called Congregational meeting, 10:30am
- October 13 – Christian Education Committee, 1:30pm
- October 13 – Kathy Ketchie circle, 4pm
- October 20 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- October 27 – Cemetery Committee meeting, 5pm

Mondays

- Newsletter articles for November are due **by October 21st**
- October 7 – Facility Accessibility committee, 6:30pm
- October 7 – Hama Lingle Circle, 7pm
- October 14 – Melissa Lura Circle, 6pm
- October 14 – Finance Committee meeting, 6:30pm
- October 21 – Council meeting, 6:30pm
- October 28 – Lutheran Men's meeting, 6:30pm

Tuesdays

Bible Study classes, at 10am and 6pm

Girl Scouts meet each week at 6:30pm

- October 1 – Grace Ridenhour Circle, 6:30pm
- October 8 – Bonnie Bost Circle, 7pm
- October 15 – 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
- October 2 – Ellen Bumgarner Circle, 10am

Thursdays

- October 17 – Friendship Club, 10:30am

Saturdays

- October 12 – Oktoberfest, 5pm
- October 19 – Girl Scouts, fellowship hall 7am – 7pm
- October 26 – Trunk or Treat, 6:30pm

Lutheran Women Meetings in October

Bonnie Bost – October 8, 7pm

Ellen Bumgarner – October 2, 10am

Kathy Ketchie – Sunday, October 13, 4pm

Hama Lingle – October 7, 7pm *at the church*

Melissa Lura – October 14, 6pm

Grace Ridenhour – October 1, 6:30

Show us, O God, as much of your purpose—because we have it—as shall steady us. We do not ask that our way be made smooth, or even that you would bestow upon us now the strength which you have promised. We ask only for the grace to use what you have already provided us in Christ Jesus. Amen

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

We extend our love and sympathy to the family of Herman Ritchie, who passed away Tuesday, September 24, 2024. Herman's funeral service was held at St. Paul's on Saturday, September 28, 2024. Please keep Herman's family in prayer.



We extend our love and sympathy to Autumn Hill on the death of her brother, Dave Dodson. Mr. Dodson, a resident of Sacramento, CA, died Thursday, September 19, 2024. Please keep Autumn in your prayers.



Memorial Gifts

Gifts were received in memory of **Rev. Iverson Brendle** for the Capital Building Fund from
Loretta Beam
Desi and David Neal
Paul and Stephanie Pollinger
Tony and Jeanne Shaver
Caryl B. Stribling
Vaughn and Nancy Wilhelm

A gift was received in memory of **Dave Dodson** for the Capital Building Fund from
Susan and Mark Ryman

In Honor of

A gift was received in honor of **Crystal Bost's 60th** birthday on September 1st for the Carillon Fund from
Tim and Karen Deal.

A gift was received in honor of **Crystal Bost's 60th** birthday on September 1st for the Capital Building Fund from
Susan and Ben Bernhardt

A gift was received in honor of **Luke Deal's 10th** birthday for the Carillon Fund from
Tim and Karen Deal

A gift was received in honor of **Susan and Mark Ryman's 47th** wedding anniversary on September 24th, from
Tim and Karen Deal

Thank You

Thank you all for the prayers for a peaceful passing for my brother, Dave Dodson. Prayers were answered Thursday, the 19th, when he passed in his sleep. I appreciate more than I can express your prayers for both of us, the expressions of sympathy, and the many hugs. Love my church family!

Autumn Hill

Thank you for the love and care shown to our family during the loss of my dad, Iverson Brendle. (The food was great.) The donations in memory of “*Pooh*” are very much appreciated.

Sincerely,
Caryl Stribling



Missions

Thank you for the food donation. Thank you also for the donation of \$294.04. With the holidays coming up, we can certainly use it! We appreciate your continued support.

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

Thank you for your \$294.04 gift to the ministry of Samaritan's Purse. Your gifts and prayers make it possible for us to work in 110 nations around the globe as we aid victims of war, poverty, disasters, disease, and famine. Thank you and God bless you!

Sincerely,
Franklin Graham
President

Missions

Hello from your friends at Focus on the Family, and thanks for your recent \$253.58 contribution to our outreach. It is encouraging to know that you're standing with us. Your support means more to us than we can say. God bless you!

Sincerely,
Jim Daly, President

**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

Dear Men's Bible Study Group of St. Paul's Lutheran Church:

I'd like to take the time to "Thank You" all for your sponsorship of Sophia Jovannah Planos since 2022 to attend high school through Naomi's Heart Mission. Sophia graduated from high school the end of May. She is seeking to go to college and pursue a degree in Bachelor of Science in Hotel Management. *[On the following page] is a letter from Sophia.*

Please excuse the lateness of this letter as we have been working to sponsor 63 college students.

According to our records Sophia is paid up through December 2024 from tuition given in January 2024. We are willing to have you start her college sponsorship starting January 1, 2025. The tuition is \$50 a month or \$600 a year.

Thank you all so much for giving Sophia the opportunity to graduate from high school and for considering sponsoring her for college.

Blessings,
Kristie L. Ward
Founder of Naomi's Heart Mission

Dear Men's Group St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. I wanted to take this moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for everything you have done for me. Your unwavering support has been a beacon of hope and strength in my life. Thank you for everything and for your unwavering support. I will treasure every kindness that you have given me. I know that God will bless you more because of your faithful heart. I love you and thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I want to express my gratitude for your unwavering support, which enabled me to graduate high school with honors on May 30, 2024. Through this journey, I discovered my passion for socializing and cooking, which led me to realize that my favorite subjects are Entrepreneurship and Creative Writing. As I transition to college, I hope you will continue to support me in my studies. My goal is to complete my degree and achieve a better income so that I can help those in need.

I will be attending the South East Asian Institute of Technology, a technical school that boosts students' confidence, especially in technology. I am pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Hotel Management (BSHM). I promise to dedicate myself to my studies and excel in every subject. Additionally, I will actively participate in Naomi's Heart Mission College Bible Study Group, as I feel called by God to do so, believing that Jesus is the Messiah and the path to eternal life.

I would be very grateful for any assistance Naomi's Heart can provide. Thank you once again, and God bless.

With Love and Thanks
Sophia Jovannah Z. Planos



Offering for August 2024

General Fund income for the month: \$37,595

September General Fund report will be in the November 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.



Missions

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 \$253.58 on September 11th, 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.

Through your support and prayers, you have demonstrated the love of Jesus Christ to countless Spiritual Orphans left after three generations of communist imposed scientific atheism. Each month the staff and board of Spiritual Orphans Network pray for those who have connected spiritual orphans to the global family of Christ. This month, we will be lifting you up by name, and will pray for his light where there is darkness, his love where there is loneliness, his peace where there is anger, and his healing where there is sickness.

In His Service,
Pr. David R. Breidenbach
SON Executive Director

On behalf of the staff and Board of Sola Publishing, thank you for your gifts of \$362.26, and \$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 Steven King, Managing
Editor

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."

Terrified Disciples

Find the 29 bold words from Mark 4:35–41.

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

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go over to the **other side**.” And **leaving** the **multitude**, they took him with them in the **boat**, just as he was. And other boats were with him. And a great **windstorm** **arose** and the **waves** were **breaking over** the boat, so that the **boat** was now **filling**. But he was **asleep** on the cushion in the stern. And they **woke** him and said to him, “**Teacher**, do you not **care** that we are **dying**?” And he awoke and **rebuked** the **wind**, and said to the **sea**, “**Peace**. be **still**.” And the wind **ceased**, and there was a great **calm**. And he said to them, “Why are you **cowering**? Do you still have no **faith**?” They were **terrified**, they said to one another, “**Who** is this that even the wind and the sea **obey** him?”



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

A family of faith sharing the gospel and love of Christ

Phone: 704-633-0922

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.