



December 5, 2021
Second Sunday in Advent

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

205 St. Paul's Church Road • Salisbury, NC 28146
splcweb.org

Acolyte: Lylla Deal • Crucifer: Lindsey Whisnant
Lector: Jan McCanless
Communion Assistants: Bonnie Hinson,
D.W. Honbarger, Wayne Taylor

Prelude: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

H. Hopson

Welcome and Announcements

The Bethlehem Candle

Kenneth, Bethany,
Lauren, and Lindsey Whisnant

O, little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

You are invited to stand.

Hymn: “Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel”

34

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

*After prayer and pastoral statement there will be
silence for reflection and self-examination, then...*

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

The Kyrie



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



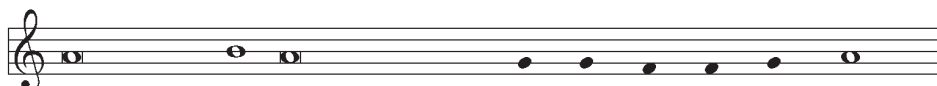
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

The Hymn of Praise



Ⓐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Ⓑ Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



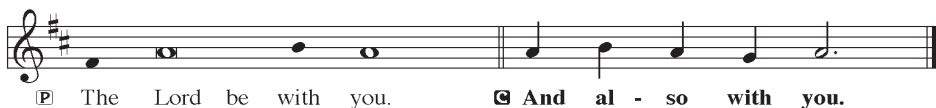
might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.



Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of your only-begotten Son, that by his coming we may be enabled to serve you with pure minds; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Please be seated.

First Lesson: Malachi 3:1-7

³“Behold, I am sending My messenger, and he will clear a way before Me. And the Lord, whom you are seeking, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,” says the LORD of armies. ²“But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire, and like launderer’s soap. ³And He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the LORD offerings in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old, and as in former years.

⁵“Then I will come near to you for judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, those who oppress the wage earner in his wages or the widow or the orphan, and those who turn away the stranger from justice and do not fear Me,” says the LORD of armies. ⁶“For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, the sons of Jacob, have not come to an end.

⁷“From the days of your fathers you have turned away from My statutes and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD of armies.

Here ends the lesson.

Psalm 66:1-12

¹Be joyful in God, | all you lands;
sing the glory of his name; sing the glory | of his praise.

²**Say to God, “How awesome | are your deeds!**
because of your great strength your enemies | cringe
before you.

³All the earth bows | down before you,
sings to you, sings | out your name.”

⁴**Come now and see the | works of God,**
how wonderful he is in his doing | toward all people.

⁵He turned the sea into dry land, so that they went through
the wa- | ter on foot,
and there we re- | joiced in him.

⁶**In his might he rules forever; his eyes keep watch**
ov- | er the nations;
let no rebel rise | up against him.

⁷Bless our | God, you peoples;
make the voice of his praise | to be heard;

⁸**Who holds our | souls in life,**
and will not allow our | feet to slip.

⁹For you, O | God, have proved us;
you have tried us just as sil- | ver is tried.

¹⁰**You brought us in- | to the snare;**
you laid heavy burdens up- | on our backs.

¹¹You let enemies ride over our heads; we went
through | fire and water;
but you brought us out into a place | of refreshment.

¹²**I will enter your house with burnt offerings and will**
pay | you my vows,
which I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth
when I | was in trouble.

Second Lesson: Philippians 1:2-11

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ.

³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always
offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, ⁵in view of

your participation in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work among you will complete it by the day of Christ Jesus.

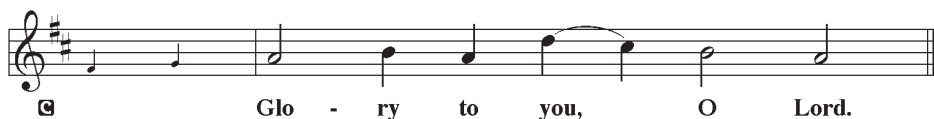
⁷For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this I pray, that your love may overflow still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may discover the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and blameless for the day of Christ; ¹¹having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, for the glory and praise of God.

Here ends the lesson.

Please stand for the Gospel.



The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the third chapter.



Gospel: Luke 3:1-20

³Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee and his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, ²in the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to

John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. ³And he came into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins; ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“THE VOICE OF ONE CALLING OUT IN THE WILDERNESS,
‘PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD,
MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT!’

⁵ EVERY RAVINE WILL BE FILLED,
AND EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL WILL BE LOWERED;
THE CROOKED WILL BECOME STRAIGHT,
AND THE ROUGH ROADS SMOOTH;

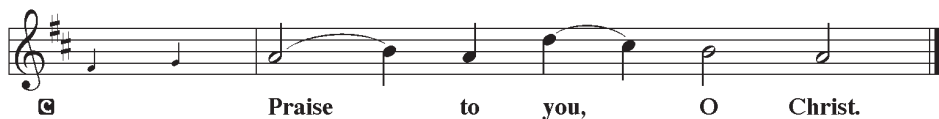
⁶ AND ALL FLESH WILL SEE THE SALVATION OF GOD!”

⁷So he was saying to the crowds who were going out to be baptized by him, “You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Therefore produce fruits that are consistent with repentance, and do not start saying to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹But indeed the axe is already being laid at the root of the trees; so every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” ¹⁰And the crowds were questioning him, saying, “Then what are we to do?” ¹¹And he would answer and say to them, “The one who has two tunics is to share with the one who has none; and the one who has food is to do likewise.” ¹²Now even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they said to him, “Teacher, what are we to do?” ¹³And he said to them, “Collect no more than what you have been ordered to.” ¹⁴And soldiers also were questioning him, saying, “What are we to do, we as well?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone, nor harass anyone, and be content with your wages.”

¹⁵Now while the people were in a state of expectation and they all were thinking carefully in their hearts about John, whether he himself perhaps was the Christ, ¹⁶John responded to them all, saying, “As for me, I baptize you with water; but He is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the straps of His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in His hand to thoroughly clear His threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into His barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸So with many other exhortations he preached the gospel to the people. ¹⁹But when Herod the tetrarch was reprimanded by him regarding Herodias, his brother's wife, and regarding all the evil things which Herod had done, ²⁰Herod also added this to them all: he locked John up in prison.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Children's Chat

Sermon: "The Day of the Lord"

Please stand as you are able

The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

The Prayers of the Church

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people, according to their needs.

Following each of 4 prayers:

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

Please be seated.

Offering and Offertory

Please stand as you are able.

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us — ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
 Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
 Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray,

Our Father, who art in heaven,

**hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

Please be seated.

Distribution of Holy Communion



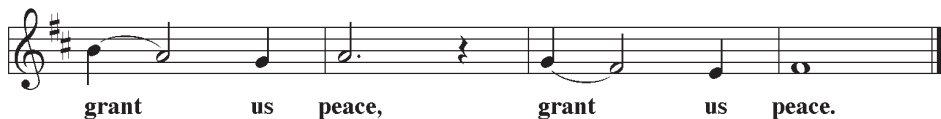
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



After the distribution, please stand.

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**



We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Hymn: "Sent Forth by God's Blessings"

221

The Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you, and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Postlude: "Go Out With Joy"

M. McDonald

Announcements

The altar flowers are given James and Mary Lee Earnhardt to the glory of God in honor of James' birthday today.

The Lutheran Men will have their family night out at China Grove Family House Restaurant on Monday, December 13th at 6:30pm. All men and their families are invited and encouraged to attend (dutch treat).

The Bonnie Bost Circle will meet on Monday, December 6, from 6:00pm - 9:00pm in the fellowship hall to decorate the tree. They will not meet on December 14th.

Volunteers are providing a Christmas Meal for the Communities in Schools students and families on Dec. 16th at First Presbyterian Church in Salisbury. The turkeys will be delivered to St. Paul's on Friday, Dec. 10th, and put in the picnic shelter refrigerator. After they are cooked and sliced, please return to the same refrigerator by 2:00pm, Thursday, Dec. 16th. *If you can cook a turkey, please call Susan Bernhardt at 704-637-0155 or email srbernhardt@carolina.rr.com.*

2022 Preparations

For those who use offering envelopes — if you wish to change the frequency of your giving (weekly to monthly or vice versa), or if you no longer wish to receive a book of envelopes, please contact the church office right away so we can make the change for next year.

Also, if you have a new address, phone number, or email since our last yearbook, please get that information to the church office as soon as possible.

Stewardship

General Fund Offering (11/28).....	\$5,327
Other Offering (11/28)	\$1,654
Worship Attendance (11/28)	162
General Fund YTD Receipts as of 11/28	\$350,584
General Fund YTD Budget as of 11/28	\$357,962

Upcoming Events

Dec. 11 – Parsonage Christmas open house, 4:00pm-8:00pm
Dec. 12 – Christian Education Committee, Conf. Rm., 2:00pm
Dec. 14 – Executive Committee, 7:00pm
Dec. 20 – Council meeting, 6:30pm
Dec. 22 & 23 – “A Grown-up Christmas Wish”, 7:30pm
Dec. 23 – Office closed
Dec. 24 – Office closed
Dec. 24 – Children’s Christmas Service, 7:00pm
Dec. 24 – Christmas Candlelight Service, 10:30pm
Dec. 31 – Office closed
No Men’s Choir practice during December
Handbell practice – Sundays, 4:00pm
Girl Scouts – Tuesdays, 6:45pm
Adult Choir practice – Wednesdays at 6:30pm
Confirmation Class – Wednesdays, 7:30pm
Vespers at the Parsonage *each Sunday* – finger foods at 6pm,
Vespers at 6:30pm

As creatures of habit, we Lutherans often sit in the same pews each Sunday. We appreciate you sharing the pews for the next few weeks so the stages could be set up for our Nativity pageant.

Thank you to the Property Committee and other volunteers who showed up on Monday with their sleeves rolled up. We worked for hours to build the sets and, yet, it didn’t feel like work. So many members in our church family continue to generously offer their time, ideas, talents, to this year’s pageant. We are blessed!

You are invited to join us for a **“Celebration of Lights”** on Saturday evening, December 18th, at the Canup homeplace, 1708 Old Concord Road. Drive through any time between 5:00pm and 9:00pm to enjoy the light balls. If you wish, you may sit by the fire pit and enjoy hot chocolate, cider, and cookies. Or come inside and rock by the Christmas tree. Come share the season in Christian fellowship with us.

Please RSVP 336-924-4853 or 336-971-0479.



You are invited to a

**Christmas
Open House
at the parsonage**

**Saturday,
December 11th
4:00 to 8:00PM**

*Please join Susan & Mark
for food, fellowship,
and loads of Christmas spirit!*

Special Prayers for members of St. Paul's:

Franklin and Ashley Bowles - loss of home

Grady Earnhardt - Health concerns

Sonya Eller - Health concerns

Terry Eller - Recovering at home

Bishop Goodman - Aplastic anemia

Peyton Holland - Blood disorder

Emerson Holder - Health concerns

Shirley Hoosier - Health concerns

Alan Lysterly - Recovering at home

James Lysterly - Recovering at home

Mike Morris - Health concerns

Teresa Peeler - Health concerns

Linda Shirley - Healing, leg injury

Jane Wilhelm - Health concerns

Please let us know if any corrections to this list of concerns are needed. In an effort to keep the list current, we will try to update/remove prayer requests on a monthly basis, with the exception of known, prolonged issues.

Homebound and Long-Term Care:

Autumn Care: Walter Smith

Citadel: Mary Sherrill

Elmcroft: Helen Howe

Trinity Oaks: Barbara Whisnant

Home: Judy Bernhardt, Iverson and Gayle Brendle, John and

Louise Cornelison, Barbara Deese, Ruby Heilig, Chuck and

Linda Hess, Shirley Hoosier, Susan Lysterly, Carrie Reavis, Dottie

Stancil, Barbara Upright, Polly Webb

Friends of St. Paul's:

Catie Critchfield - Great-granddaughter of Ed and Betty Niedens, health concerns

Ashley Fink - granddaughter of Larry and Leilani Watson, health concerns

Lindsey Grace Hoosier - granddaughter of Shirley Hoosier, covid

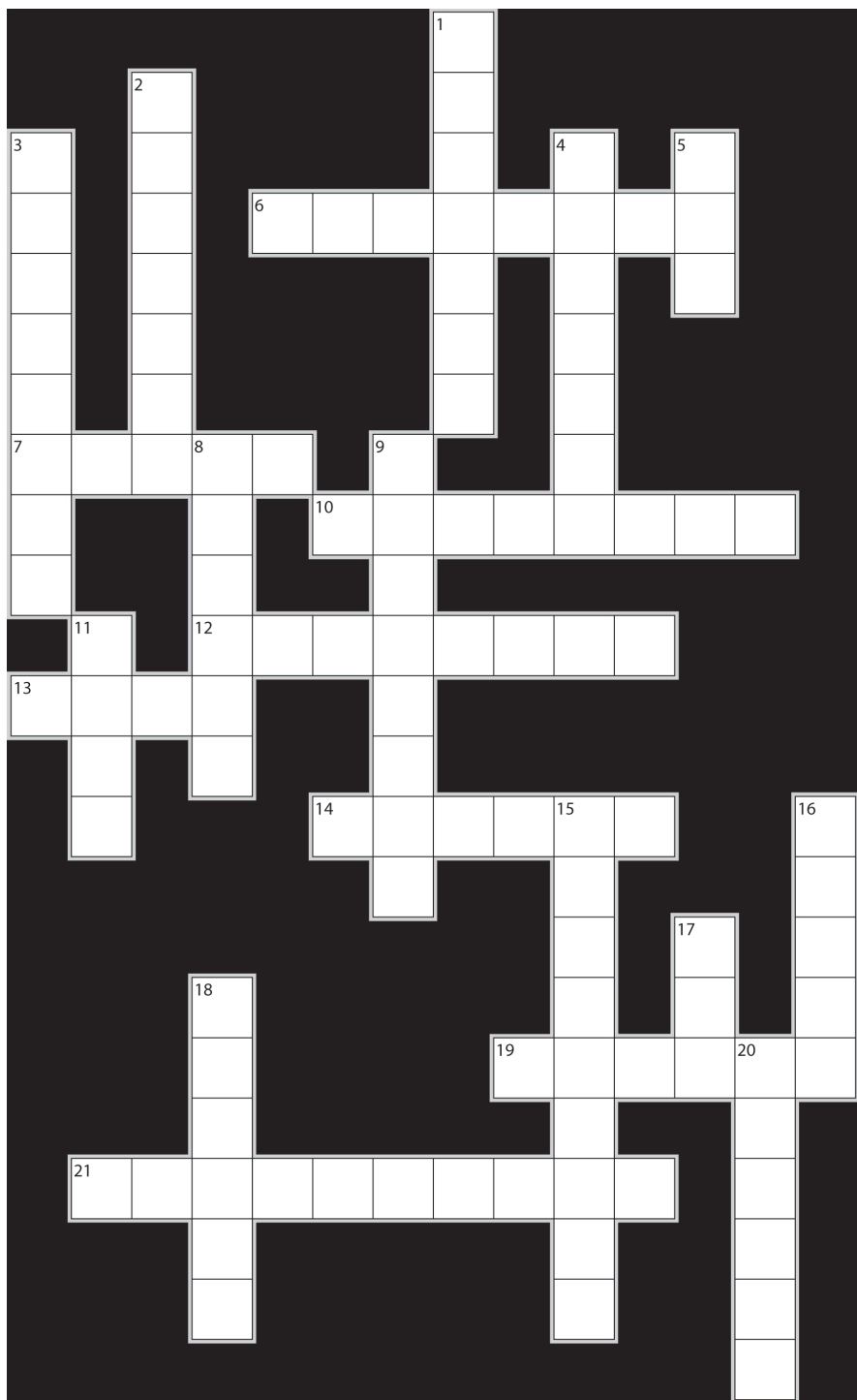
Linda Jaramillo - Mother of Julie Jaramillo, health concerns

Chad, Terri, Maddy and Ella McConnell - Son, daughter-in-law, grandchildren of Stan McConnell, health concerns

Donna Petrea - cousin of Vicki Sanders, surgery/broken hip

Elizabeth Tancordo - Niece of Bill and Linda Behrendt, health concerns

Leslie Ryman - Sister of Pastor Ryman, cancer



Two Year Daily Lectionary

Advent 2, Year B

Sunday – Amos 6:1–14; 2 Thessalonians 1:5–12; Luke 1:57–68

Monday – Amos 7:1–9; Revelation 1:1–8; Matthew 22:23–33

Tuesday – Amos 7:10–17; Revelation 1:9–16; Matthew 22:34–46

Wednesday – Amos 8:1–14; Revelation 1:17–2:7; Matthew 23:1–12

Thursday – Amos 9:1–10; Revelation 2:8–17; Matthew 23:13–26

Friday – Haggai 1:1–15; Revelation 2:18–29; Matthew 23:27–39

Saturday – Haggai 2:1–19; Revelation 3:1–6; Matthew 24:1–14

ACROSS

6. This passage is written to what church? (Revelation 2:18–29)
7. The Lord God is Alpha and... (Revelation 1:1–8)
10. Before he was a prophet, Amos was a... (Amos 7:10–17)
12. The scribes and Pharisees preach but don't... (Matthew 23:1–12)
13. What kind of crown will you receive if you are faithful until you die? (Revelation 2:8–17)
14. Jesus compared the scribes and Pharisees to... (Matthew 23:27–39)
19. This passage is written to the church in this city? (Revelation 3:1–6)
21. The scribes and Pharisees were... (Matthew 23:13–26)

DOWN

1. Best to not feel secure if you live in the mountain here. (Amos 6:1–14)
2. In order to build, what did the builders need to take? (Haggai 2:1–19)
3. This northern kingdom would be invaded with sword. (Amos 7:1–9)
4. Who will die by the sword? (Amos 9:1–10)
5. If you have this, listen. (Revelation 1:17–2:7)
8. The end will come when this is proclaimed everywhere. (Matthew 24:1–14)
9. The crowd was astonished by Jesus'... (Matthew 22:23–33)
11. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and... (Matthew 22:34–46)
15. It's time for her to give birth. (Luke 1:57–68)
16. John was in the Spirit on what day? (Revelation 1:9–16)
17. We do works of faith by whose power? (2 Thessalonians 1:5–12)
18. What did God want rebuilt? (Haggai 1:1–15)
20. God would not forget whose deeds? (Amos 8:1–14)



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 ~ Fax: 704-636-1300

Email: splchurch@att.net

Website: www.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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