

# *The Monthly Epistle*

of St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Volume 67, Issue 12 • December 2021

---

Who was it on the hayride at Trunk or Treat? Was it Rebecca Lombard? I think so. Regardless, somebody came up with another title for me during that wagon ride through the woods behind the church. Sitting next to me on the wagon, a small voice referred to me as the Speaker. So, now I am both a Creature and a Speaker—for those of you keeping up with such matters. I hope that does not mean one girl thinks I am hideous, while the other thinks me long-winded. If the latter is the case, I am happy she did not fall off the wagon (see Acts Acts 20:7–12).

Nonetheless, there is much to be effusive about in this holy season. Each year, the celebration of the Christ's birth heralds anew the Lord's peace on earth—peace because of God's good will toward humanity. He means us well and sends glad tidings through angelic messengers. Those happy words have been recorded forever (Isaiah 40:8; Mark 13:31; 1 Peter 1:23, 25) in his Word, and they are settled in heaven (Psalm 119:89). "It is written" so that we may believe, then know the great mystery of God's peace.

Indeed, we know the nearness of his peace despite nearly two years of distancing from each other. Though St. Paul's was without a called pastor for about the same amount of time, we know that Jesus is our Good Shepherd through it all. No matter the trouble, we have good reason to be comforted and joyous in the peace of Christ (Philippians 4:7), for God extends his good will in his Son. Knowing this age-old mystery (Ephesians 3:9), as we do, what else can there be but joy and peace?

And what else should a Speaker do but proclaim? I will try not to be too long-winded. "Jesus Christ is born today! Up and sing the festal lay; up and with glad Cherubim, chant to God the Christmas Hymn. Hail the night, and hail the morn that beheld the Saviour born when in Bethlehem's wakeful fold, tidings good an angel told. Tidings full of joy and grace to each son of Adam's race. God in form of man arrayed; God for man a servant made."

Before I sign off, I want to add: Susan and I hope you will be at the parsonage Open House on the 11th, and that this Christmas we will...

See you in church,  
Pastor Ryman

The church website and domain  
are being updated and shifted to  
**StPaulsLutheran.Church.**  
Check it out — often!

### **Thank you.**

Thanks to those who have invited me into your home for a visit. I still want to visit everyone so please call the church office and ask Pam to schedule a visit with me in your home. Please take a moment before you read this newsletter any further and call the church office (704-633-0922).

*Pastor Ryman*

**Biscuits & Beverages** will be available in the fellowship hall at **8:30am on December 5th**. Be sure to stop in and enjoy breakfast before Sunday School.

The Lutheran Men's family night out will be held 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).

### **Turkey Cookers Needed**

Again this year, volunteers are providing a Christmas Meal for the Communities in Schools students and families on December 16th at First Presbyterian Church in Salisbury. We have been asked to cook ten turkeys. The frozen turkeys will be delivered to St. Paul's on Friday, December 10th and put in the picnic shelter refrigerator. After they are cooked and sliced, please return to the same refrigerator by 2:00pm Thursday, December 16th. If you can cook a turkey, please let Susan Bernhardt know (704-637-0155 or [srbernhardt@carolina.rr.com](mailto:srbernhardt@carolina.rr.com)).

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.

*John and Carolyn Canup*

## Events at a Glance

Dec. 4 – Christmas decorating, beginning at 9:00am  
Dec. 5 – Breakfast before Sunday School, 8:30am  
Dec. 11 – Parsonage Christmas open house, 4:00pm-8:00pm  
Dec. 12 – Christian Education Committee, Conference Room, 2:00pm  
Dec. 14 – Executive Committee, 7:00pm  
Dec. 19 – Outreach Committee, 3:00pm  
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 Eve Service, 7:00pm  
Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service, 10:30pm  
Dec. 31 – Office closed  
Handbell practice – Sundays, 4:00pm  
Men’s Choir practice – Sundays, 5:00pm  
Girl Scouts – Tuesdays, 6:45pm  
Adult Choir practice – Wednesdays at 6:30pm  
Confirmation Class – Wednesdays, 7:30pm (No class on Dec. 22)  
Bible Study/Prayer – Thursdays, 10:00am and 6:00pm, (No class on Dec. 23)  
Vespers at the Parsonage *each Sunday* – finger foods at 6pm, Vespers at 6:30pm

**Contact information** — If your address, phone number, or email has changed, please let the church office know. Please be sure the church also has your street address if you use a PO box for mailing. We will be planning our next yearbook and pictorial directory soon and need to have the information as accurate as possible. If you provide information to the church that you do not want publicized, let us know and we can keep that information private. Thank you.

**Sunday Worship Service** at 10:30am in the sanctuary continues to be mask-optional. If you listen from your vehicle in the parking lot, tune in to 104.5FM. Services are also available on the website and Facebook page (StPaulsLutheran.Church or facebook.com/StPaulsLCMC).

**2022 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.



*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!*

## Lutheran Women's News

- Bonnie Bost Circle is responsible for sending cards to shut-ins for December.
- Forms with group information (officers, hosts, leaders, meeting times, etc.) for the 2022 yearbook need to be returned to Sarah Goodman or Alice Davis after your December meetings.
- Thank you to all who donated Christmas gifts for Binns-Counts, and for all who donated quarters for the Bingo prizes at Trinity Oaks.

**Hama Lingle Circle** – Monday, December 6, at 7:00pm (Abby Walker, hostess)

**Grace Ridenhour Circle** – Tuesday, December 7, at 6:00pm, China Grove Family Restaurant for family Christmas dinner

**Ellen Bumgarner Circle** – Wed., December 1, at Faith Soda Shop, for lunch at 11:30am

**Melissa Lura Circle** – Monday, December 13, at 6:30pm in the fellowship hall

**Bonnie Bost Circle** – Monday, December 6, at 6:00pm in the fellowship hall for Christmas dinner and tree decorating (no meeting on the 14th)

## Decorating the Church for Advent and Christmas

Advent is fast approaching, and we need volunteers to assist in decorating for the season. The **tree and other decorations** will be placed on Saturday, December 4th, at 9:00am. Decorations will be removed on Saturday, January 8th, at 9:00am. Check your calendar for both dates and call Bonnie Hinson at 704-279-3126 or email her at lwaynehinson@yahoo.com to let her know how you are willing to help.

The **Youth and Family Committee** will be placing luminaries around the front lawn on Saturday, December 4th. You may sponsor a luminary in honor or memory of someone with a gift of any amount. All donations will go to the Youth Fund. Forms will be available in the narthex.

**Poinsettias** will be placed in the church the weekend before Christmas. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia, they will be \$10 each this year. Forms for luminaries and poinsettias are available in the narthex.

*We will not have gifts in lieu of poinsettias listed this year. If you wish to have a name listed in a booklet, please sponsor a luminary for the youth fund, or purchase a poinsettia.*

# *Memorial Gifts*

A gift was received in memory of Mark  
Watson for the General Fund from  
Gary Gaskey

A gift was received in memory of Helen  
Wagoner for the Choir Music Fund from  
Frank and Cindy Hinson

A gift was received in memory of Judy  
Fesperman for the Capital Building Fund  
from  
Helen Gordon

A gift was received in memory of German  
Rafael Jaramillo for the General Fund  
from

Andrew Baker  
Bonnie Bost Circle

A gift was received in memory of German  
Rafael Jaramillo for the Capital Building  
Fund from

Ben and Susan Bernhardt  
Frank and Cindy Hinson

A gift was received in memory of German  
Rafael Jaramillo for the Helping Hands  
Fund from

Dana and Crystal Bost

A gift was received in memory of Martha  
Hopkins for the General Fund from  
Wayne and Johnsie Taylor

A gift was received in memory of Rylie  
Burton for the General Fund from  
Wayne and Johnsie Taylor

Gifts were received in memory of Kathy  
Aldridge for the Capital Building Fund  
from

Dana and Crystal Bost  
Alice Davis  
Tim and Karen Deal  
Wayne and Bonnie Hinson

A gift was received in memory of Kathy  
Aldridge for the General Fund from  
Grady and Jenny Earnhardt

A gift was received in memory of Kathy  
Aldridge for the Helping Hands Fund  
from

Perry and Lori Bernhardt

A gift was received in memory of Kathy  
Aldridge for the Youth Fund from  
Ben and Susan Bernhardt

A gift was received in memory of Janet  
Young for the Capital Building Fund from  
Wayne and Bonnie Hinson

A gift was received in memory of Helen  
Misenheimer for the Capital Building  
Fund from

Wayne and Bonnie Hinson

A gift was received in memory of sisters of  
Karen Wilhelm, Janet Young and Helen  
Misenheimer, for the Helping Hands  
Fund from

Dana and Crystal Bost

A gift in memory of Nathan Raymer's  
birthday was received for the General  
Fund from

Frankie and Franda Raymer

A gift in honor of Bob and Jan McCanless was received for the Helping Hands Fund from

Dottie Stancil

A gift in honor of Jimmy and Mary Lee Earnhardt's 50th wedding anniversary was received for the Capital Building fund from

Ben and Susan Bernhardt

### ***With Sympathy***

Our sympathy is extended to Julie Jaramillo and family on the death of Julie's father, Mr. German Rafael Jaramillo. Mr. Jaramillo died November 3, 2021.



### ***Thanks***

Dear St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

After our house burned Friday, November 5th, we have truly been blessed with an outpouring of help and support from friends, family and people we don't know.

Our friends, co-workers, neighbors and church friends at St. Paul's have rushed to our aid with love, prayers, caring, supportive words, and generous financial assistance to the point where we feel almost overwhelmed.

Words can't express our gratitude to each and every one who has stepped forward. We are blessed to have so many people who care for us. Our hearts are full of love, respect, and thankfulness to all.

We certainly have a long road ahead, but it is so comforting to know that we are not alone. We are eternally grateful for everything the community has done for us. It may be a while before we get a chance to acknowledge friends, families, and first responders individually, but know that we have seen every text, listened to every voicemail, read each email, and treasured each of the beautiful cards that have been sent. We are truly humbled by it all.

We will never forget the incredible support you have all given us. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

The Bowles and Wiles families  
Randy, Elaine, Ashlee, and Franklin Bowles  
Pat Wiles

~ SPLC Presents ~  
**A Grown-Up Christmas Wish**  
**Written by Joyce Wilhelm**

Join our cast and crew of 75 bring to life the biblical nativity story.  
Pastor Ryman narrates this pageant heralding the birth of our  
Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, through Scripture and music.  
Tell others about the reason for the season and invite them  
to our Candlelight Nativity Pageant!

**Wednesday, December 22**

**Thursday, December 23**

**7:30pm**

St. Paul's Lutheran Church sanctuary



If you are participating in the Christmas pageant, please pick up a practice schedule from the narthex for detailed information, timings & assignments.

**Nativity Pageant Rehearsal Schedule:**

|                 |                                    |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Sunday, Nov 28  | Blocking Rehearsal (Cast only)     |
| Monday, Nov 29  | Set Construction, Lighting & Sound |
| Sunday, Dec 5   | Full Rehearsal (All cast & crew)   |
| Sunday, Dec 12  | Full Rehearsal (All cast & crew)   |
| Sunday, Dec 1   | Dress Rehearsal (All cast & crew)  |
| Tuesday, Dec 21 | Dress Rehearsal (All cast & crew)  |

## November Blood Drive

The last blood drive of the year at St. Paul's was held on November 8th. Although the church technically reached its goal and 36 units were credited to the drive, only 29 persons donated either blood or platelets. Thirty-five

persons registered to donate and six were deferred. Three persons gave "double rbc" and four persons donated platelets, leaving 22 persons donating whole blood. The numbers look great but whole blood donation is the most valuable because it can be divided to help three different individuals, whereas "double rbc" and platelet donations target a single individual.

The church needs more donors. We were fortunate to have six new donors to help meet our goal. Only 14 members of our church came to donate while 21 members of the community registered. Many of our regular donors that gave for years can no longer donate because of health or medication issues. Hopefully, more members will help make blood drives an important mission of our church.

St. Paul's has blood drives in February, May, August, and November. Please consider giving four hours of your time in 2022 to help save the life of others who can never repay that "gift of life."

Alice Davis



✪ ✪ ✪ ✪ ✪

**Rowan Helping Ministries** — Volunteers delivered 82 lbs. of items collected during October, as well as 42 lbs. of hotdog buns to RHM. Items needed in all areas of RHM are listed on their website [www.rowanhelpingministries.org](http://www.rowanhelpingministries.org).

### **Income and Expenses for October 2021**

Income: \$36,359 Expenses: \$27,883

Income over Expense for October: \$8,476

Income over Expense for the Year: \$19,707

**Capital Building Fund** as of October 31: \$189,347

November income/expenses will be in the January Newsletter.

# The Word Became Flesh

*Find the 41 **bold** words from John 1:6-14 (ESV)*

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

There was a man **sent** from God, whose name was **John**. He came as a witness, to **bear witness** about the light, that **all might believe through him**. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The **true light**, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the **world**. He was in the world, and the world was **made** through him, yet the world did not **know** him. He came to **his own**, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did **receive** him, who **believed** in his **name**, he gave the **right** to **become children** of God, who were **born**, not of **blood** nor of the **will** of the flesh nor of the will of **man**, but of **God**. And the **Word became flesh** and **dwelt** among us, and we have **seen** his **glory**, glory as of the **only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth**.

# The Lord God Laughs

Find the 46 **bold** words from Psalm 2:1-9 (ESV)

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

Why do the **nations rage** and the **peoples plot** in vain? The **kings** of the **earth** set themselves, and the **rulers** take **counsel together, against** the **LORD** and against his **Anointed**, saying, “Let us **burst** their **bonds apart** and **cast away** their **cords** from us.” He who **sits** in the **heavens laughs**; the Lord **holds** them in **derision**. Then he will **speak** to them in his **wrath**, and **terrify** them in his **fury**, saying, “As for me, I have set my **King** on **Zion**, my **holy hill**.” I will **tell** of the **decree**: The LORD said to me, “You are my **Son**; **today** I have **begotten** you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your **heritage**, and the ends of the earth your **possession**. You shall **break** them with a **rod** of **iron** and **dash** them in **pieces** like a **potter’s vessel**.”

# *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](mailto:splchurch@att.net)

Website: [www.stpaulslutheran.church](http://www.stpaulslutheran.church)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/StPaulsLCMC](http://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

Rev. Mark Ryman, Pastor

[revryman@gmail.com](mailto:revryman@gmail.com)

Pamela Cottingham, Secretary

[splchurch@att.net](mailto:splchurch@att.net)

George Barringer, Council President

[gsbarringer@carolina.rr.com](mailto:gsbarringer@carolina.rr.com)

Connie Burleson, Organist

[connieburleson@yahoo.com](mailto:connieburleson@yahoo.com)

John Brock, Music Director

[splcmusicalsisbury@gmail.com](mailto:splcmusicalsisbury@gmail.com)

Judy Lowman, Treasurer

[jlowman1@carolina.rr.com](mailto:jlowman1@carolina.rr.com)

Alison Moore, Girl Scouts Coordinator 704-467-9191

Alison and Aaron Moore, Boy Scout Coordinators, 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.splcweb.org](http://www.splcweb.org)). 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 church office or in the narthex. 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 email list, or to the mailing list, please contact the church office.