



# The Monthly Epistle

of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Volume 68, Issue 12 • December 2022

## Children, Children Everywhere!

We are blessed at St. Paul's to have so many children, and such talented children too. We have enjoyed them as acolytes, crucifers, lectors, and soloists. We have also laughed and marveled at their antics and comments in Sunday School and during Children's Chats each Sunday morning. At the conclusion of this year, we will be blessed by them again.

Our children and youth Sunday Schoolers will perform a Christmas program, Sunday, December 18th, at 4:00PM. A play written by Ann Maki of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in St. Mary's, OH, entitled "In One Word," will be presented on the stage in the fellowship hall. The play tells the story of the nativity in the fictionalized format of a first century, television game show. It promises to be a lot of fun so bring your family, friends, and neighbors. Refreshments will be served following the play.

It is no secret that Martin Luther loved Christmas. This Christmas Eve at 7:00PM, our youth and children will be front and center again as children of a 16th Century Wittenberg parish, telling the story of Jesus' nativity through the Word of sacred Scripture. They will help Pastor Luther tell the Christmas Story in a program titled, "Silent Night: A Christmas Eve with Martin Luther," written by Pastor Craig Nehring.

I hope you will make every effort to be present and to bring guests to each of these events. These are perfect opportunities to introduce or reintroduce folks to St. Paul's. Furthermore, these are occasions to give thanks to God. He has sent our congregation many fine sons and daughters and has thereby given us a hope for the future of our church in the next generation. Yet more importantly, the Father has sent us his own, only begotten Son, giving us confident hope in an eternal future.

Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year!  
Pastor Ryman

**Biscuits and beverages** will be available in the fellowship hall **December 4**, at **8:30am**. Be sure to stop in and enjoy breakfast and fellowship before Sunday School.

### **Sundays in December**

- Men's Choir practice each Sunday, 3pm (no practice Christmas day)
- Handbell practice each Sunday, 4pm (no practice Christmas day)
- Vespers each Sunday—finger foods at 6pm; Vespers at 6:30pm are also live-streamed on our Facebook page.
- Dec. 4 – Breakfast before Sunday school, 8:30am
- Dec. 4 – Children's play practice during Sunday school, 9:30am
- Dec. 4 – Youth and Family Committee, 2pm
- Dec. 4 – Kathy Ketchie circle, 5pm (out to eat for Christmas meal)
- Dec. 11 – Children's play practice during Sunday school, 9:30am
- Dec. 11 – All-youth Bible study, 2:30pm
- Dec. 18 – Children's play practice during Sunday school, 9:30am
- Dec. 18 – Children's Christmas play, 4pm
- Dec. 25 – Christmas Day – no Sunday school today; worship service, 10:30am

### **Mondays**

- Dec. 5 – Faith Academy after-school program
- Dec. 5 – Bonnie Bost Circle, 6pm (Christmas decorating and meal)
- Dec. 5 – Hama Lingle Circle, 7pm (Abby Walker, hostess)
- Dec. 12 – Faith Academy after-school program
- Dec. 12 – Melissa Lura Circle, 6:30pm (Christmas gathering)
- Dec. 19 – Council, 6:30pm (*Newly elected Council members attend this meeting.*)
- Dec. 19 – Newsletter articles due for December newsletter this week
- Dec. 26 – Church office closed for Christmas holiday
- Dec. 26 – Lutheran Men, 6:30pm

### **Tuesdays**

- Adult Confirmation Class, each Tuesday, 10am and 6pm
- Girl Scouts, each Tuesday, 7pm
- Dec. 6 – Grace Ridenhour Circle, 6pm (Christmas gathering)
- Dec. 13 – Executive Committee, 7pm
- Dec. 20 – Staff meeting, 5pm
- Dec. 27 – Church office closed for Christmas holiday

## **Wednesdays**

- Classical Conversations homeschool group does not meet in December.
- Call Committee, each Wednesday, 6pm
- Adult Choir practice each Wednesday, 6:30pm
- Youth Confirmation Class each Wednesday, 7:30pm
- Dec. 14 – Bumgarner Circle, out to lunch, 11:30am (11am at church to carpool)

## **Thursdays**

- Bible Study, each Thursday in the fellowship hall, 10am and 6pm

## **Saturdays**

- Dec. 3 – Christmas decorating, 9am
- Dec. 3 – Luminary placement, 10:30am
- Dec. 3 – Stephen Ministry Christmas party, 11am
- Dec. 17 – Girl Scouts place wreaths at Salisbury National Cemetery
- Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve worship service, 7pm

**Wreaths Across America**—Girl Scout Troop 743 will help place wreaths on the graves at the Salisbury National Cemetery on December 17. Thank you to everyone who helped to purchase the wreaths to honor our military at Christmas.

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## **Meetings of the Lutheran Women**

**Kathy Ketchie Circle** – Sunday, December 4, 5pm; meeting out for supper

**Bonnie Bost Circle** – Monday, December 5, 6pm; circle will meet on a special night and time in December in the fellowship hall to decorate the Christmas tree and have their Christmas meal together.

**Hama Lingle Circle** – Monday, December 5, 7pm; Susan Bernhardt, hostess

**Grace Ridenhour Circle** – Tuesday, December 6, at 6pm; circle will meet at China Grove Family Restaurant for Christmas gathering

**Ellen Bumgarner Circle** – Wednesday, December 14, 11:30am; circle will have their Christmas luncheon at Johnson's restaurant; meet at the church at 11am to carpool.

**Melissa Lura Circle** – Monday, December 12, Christmas gathering, 6:30pm

*Be sure to check your Circle's day and time for December. Most Circles have adjusted their normal meeting time to allow for a special holiday meeting.*

**Decorating the Church for Advent—Volunteers are needed** to assist in decorating for the season. The tree and other decorations will be placed on **Saturday, December 3rd, at 9am**. Decorations will be removed on Saturday, January 7th. Check your calendar for both dates and call Bonnie Hinson at 704-279-3126 or email lwaynehinson@yahoo.com to let her know how you are willing to help.

Poinsettias are \$13 each and will be placed in the church the weekend before Christmas. **The deadline for orders is December 4th.** Order forms are in the narthex. *(You may take your poinsettias home after service Christmas Day, or pick them up sometime during the week following, before January 1st.)*

### **Turkey Cookers Needed**

Again this year, volunteers are cooking a Christmas meal for the *Communities in Schools* students and families on December 15th, at First Presbyterian Church in Salisbury. Since we help out Koontz Elementary School, we have been asked to cook 10 turkeys. Frozen turkeys will be delivered to St. Paul's on Friday, December 9th. I will place them in the picnic shelter refrigerator and have an aluminum pan for you to take to bring them back in.

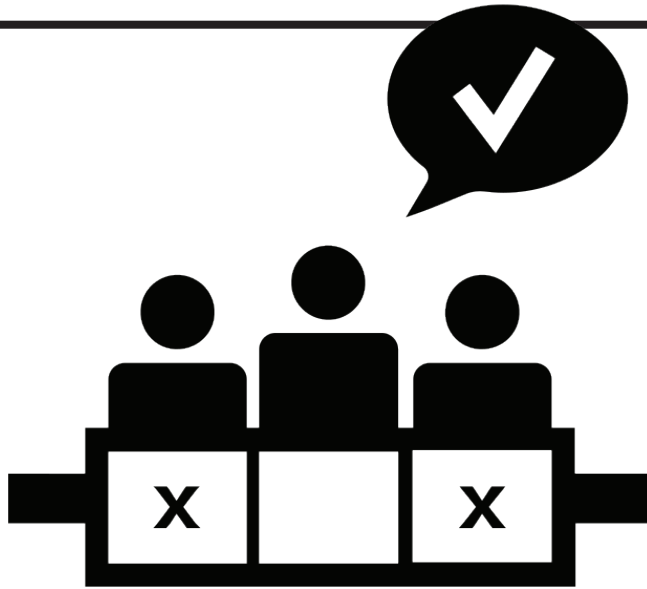
When you cook and slice them up, please return to the same refrigerator by Thursday, December 15 at 1:00. If you would cook a turkey, please let Susan Bernhardt know at 704-637-0155 or srbernhardt@carolina.rr.com.

**Friendship Club**—We're back! St. Paul's Friendship Club will meet in the fellowship hall Tuesday, December 20th at 10:30 am. The *Y Wonders*, a choral group from the YMCA, will perform for us a program of Christmas music. After the performance, we will enjoy a covered dish meal. Please note that fried chicken, baked ham, bread, and tea will be provided. Just bring your favorite side or dessert for the meal. Remember we will be serving the choral group as well. Hope to see all of you there.

### **Rowan Helping Ministries**

St. Paul's youth distributed bags for "Trick or Treat so Others May Eat" at the end of October. The bags were picked up the next week and delivered to RHM. They collected a total of 2,100 lbs. of food. 1,360 of that total came from our St. Paul's church family. Thank you St. Paul's.

On November 14th, volunteers delivered another 63 pounds of food to RHM. You may check the RHM website to see their needs: <https://rowanhelpingministries.org>.



## **“In One Word”**

is a Christmas play that tells the story of the nativity in the fictionalized format of a first century game show, and will be performed by the children and youth of St. Paul's Sunday School, and led by their teachers.

**Sunday, December 18th**  
**4:00PM on-stage**  
**in the Fellowship Hall**

Bring your family, friends, and neighbors.  
Refreshments will be served following the play.

## **New Council Members**

We appreciate all those who agreed to be nominated for our church council. Those elected were Travis Alligood, Eric Barringer, Michael Canup, Larry Clark, Randall Faggart, and Amy Hoffner.

These new council members will serve a three-year term, 2023–2025. Council members for the upcoming year are Travis Alligood, Eric Barringer, Jason Bernhardt, Perry Bernhardt, Crystal Bost, Heather Canup, Michael Canup, John Canup, Paul Canup, Larry Clark, Louise Eller, Randall Faggart, Amy Hoffner, Christine Maloney, Brent Monroe, Spencer Newsome, Terri Powlas, and Greg Wilhelm.

## **November Blood Drive Results**

The last blood drive of 2022, on November 14th, produced the least number of units since St. Paul's became a donation site. Thirty-four persons registered to donate, five were deferred, twenty-six gave whole blood, and three gave "double red blood cells." The downside is that since scheduling was in place two weeks ago, there were six cancellations and sixteen who were still scheduled were "no-shows." Only fifteen members of our church registered to donate.

Thanks to seven walk-ins and to the three who gave "doubles," our church was credited with thirty-two units collected. Our total donation for the year was 117 units of whole blood and 24 double units. This means that over 300 people can be helped by what our church was able to collect. The numbers still make St. Paul's one of the leading donation sites in Rowan County for OneBlood.

In addition to our donors, volunteers helped tremendously to make our blood drive a success. Thanks goes to Ben Bernhardt and Wayne Taylor, who handled signage advertising the drive, the property brothers for setting up the fellowship hall, Perry Bernhardt, Stan McConnell, and Tim Canup, who put the fellowship hall back in order, Helen Gordon, who helped with check-in, and Betty Monroe and Chris Maloney who worked the canteen for the November blood drive.

St. Paul's sponsors four blood drives a year on the second Monday in February, May, August, and November. If you are not on the church donor list, please consider registering to donate in 2023. Contact Alice Davis, [pherford1@yahoo.com](mailto:pherford1@yahoo.com) or call 704-855-4930.



# A Christmas Eve with Martin Luther

Our children will will help Pastor Luther tell the Christmas Story  
through sacred Scripture, carols, and candle lighting.

**Saturday, December 24, 7:00PM in the sanctuary**

# Christmas Day

We will worship at St. Paul's on Christmas Day.

Holy Communion will be served. Please take note  
that Communion will not be served at our Christmas Eve service  
as it will be administered on Christmas morning.

There is no Sunday School on Christmas Day.

**Sunday, December 25, 10:30PM in the sanctuary**

# Do You See What I See?

*Find the 24 **bold** words from Luke 2:15–20.*

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

And it came to pass, when the **angels** went away from them into **heaven**, the **shepherds** said one to another, “Let us now go to **Bethlehem** and see this thing that has come to pass, that the **Lord** has made **known** to us.” And they went with **haste** and **found** both **Mary** and **Joseph** and the **babe lying** in the **manger**. And when they saw it, they made known the **saying** which was told to them about this **child**. And all who heard it **wondered** at the things which were spoken to them by the shepherds. But Mary **kept** all these sayings, **pondering** them in her **heart**. And the shepherds returned, **glorifying** and **praising God** for all the things that they had **heard** and **seen**, just as it had been told to them.



## *Thanks*

Dear People of St. Paul's,

Thank you for your donation to Sola Publishing and for your support of our ministry. We appreciate your partnership in the gospel, and your faithfulness to the Word of God. May God bless the people of your congregation.

In Christ,

Pastor Steve King, and the staff of Sola

St. Pauls Family,

Thank you all for the cards, calls and expressions of support during the loss of our precious father, Lloyd Casper. Please continue to pray for our family as we move forward.

God bless you,

Family of Lloyd Casper

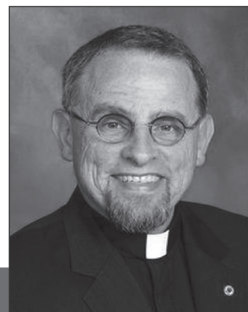
Thank you for thinking of me by placing your appreciation piece in the Salisbury Post during Pastor Appreciation Month. For those of you who may not have seen it, the newspaper spot is printed below.

Susan and I also thank you for your prayers, comments, sympathy cards, and memorial gifts during my sister's struggle and eventual death. Leslie meant the world to us, and your thoughtfulness made this difficult time more bearable, not only for us, but for Leslie too.

Susan and Pastor Mark Ryman

### *Pastor Mark Ryman*

THANK YOU for being faithful to your calling, for preaching the Gospel, and for your teaching, wise counsel, and encouraging words. May God continue to bless your ministry, as you and Susan help us to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

### ***Gifts to Honor***

Gifts were received in honor of  
Karen and Tim Deal for the  
Capital Building Fund, in celebration  
of their 50th wedding anniversary on  
October 14 from

Lori and Perry Bernhardt  
Wanda and Dennis Thomas

A gift was received in honor of Cindy  
Hinson for her November 18th birthday  
for the General Fund from  
Andrew Baker

### ***Memorial Gifts***

Gifts were received in memory of  
Leslie Ryman for the Capital Building  
Fund from

Sunday School Class #5  
Susan and Ben Bernhardt  
Lori and Perry Bernhardt  
Crystal and Dana Bost  
Alice Davis  
Karen and Tim Deal  
Jenny and Grady Earnhardt  
Myra Jane and Terry Eller  
Helen Gordon  
Bonnie and Wayne Hinson  
Terri and Alan Powlas  
Jeanne and Tony Shaver

Gifts were received in memory of  
Leslie Ryman for the Improvement  
Fund from

Wilbur Canup  
Wanda and Ray Kubitz

Leslie Ryman for the Helping Hands  
Fund from  
Dot and Harold Goodman

Mary Ritchie Sherrill for the General  
Fund from

Patsy and Charles Martell  
Sue Kirby  
Joyce Cline  
Kay Jones  
Jaudon Cline  
Deanie Jones  
Jody Kepley  
Connie Holshouser

Gifts were received in memory of  
Mary Ritchie Sherrill for the Helping  
Hands Fund from

Jerry and Linda Beaver  
Wayne and Jane Wilhelm

Gifts were received in memory of  
Mary Ritchie Sherrill for the Capital  
Building Fund from

Cindy and Travis Alligood  
Susan and Ben Bernhardt  
Lori and Perry Bernhardt  
Crystal and Dana Bost  
Alice Davis  
Karen and Tim Deal  
Myra Jane and Terry Eller  
Helen Gordon  
Bonnie and Wayne Hinson  
Nancy and Vaughn Wilhelm

A gift was received in memory of  
Charlie White for the General Fund from  
Cindy and Travis Alligood

Gifts were received in memory of  
Charlie White for the Capital Building  
Fund from

Crystal and Dana Bost  
Myra Jane and Terry Eller  
Cindy and Frank Hinson

Gifts were received in memory of  
Michael Bernhardt for the Capital  
Building Fund from

Linda and Jerry Beaver  
Susan and Ben Bernhardt  
Mary Lee and James Earnhardt  
Myra Jane and Terry Eller  
Kay Moody

Gifts were received in memory of  
Paula Ritchie Kadel for the Capital  
Building Fund from

Mary Lee and James Earnhardt  
Kay Moody

Gifts were received in memory of  
Lloyd Casper for the Capital Building  
Fund from

Lori and Perry Bernhardt  
Harriet Rose Lyerly

A gift was received in memory of  
Lloyd Casper for the Capital Building  
Fund from

Myra Jane and Terry Eller

A gift was received in memory of  
Shirley Johnson for the Capital Building  
Fund from

Lori and Perry Bernhardt

A gift was received for the General Fund  
from Susan and Ben Bernhardt in memory  
of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy  
Bernhardt, and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Reissner.

A gift was received for the Helping  
Hands Fund from the Hubert A. Ritchie  
Foundation. Thank you to Mr. Donald  
Menius, Mr. Tim Ervin, Mr. Mark Menius,  
and Ms. Nicole Plummer, trustees of the  
foundation.

We extend our love, sympathy, and  
prayers to Judy Lowman on the death of  
her half-brother, Charlie White.  
Mr. White died October 20, 2022.

We extend our love, prayers, and  
sympathy to the family of  
Mary Ritchie Sherrill. Mary died on  
October 27, 2022.

We extend our love and sympathy to  
the Ryman family on the death of Pastor  
Rymans sister, Leslie. Leslie died October  
30, 2022. Our prayers are with the  
Rymans.

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### **Income and Expenses for October 2022**

Income: \$40,987 • Expenses: \$29,516

Income > Expense for October: \$11,471

Income > Expense YTD: \$46,759

Capital Building Fund,

October 30: \$229,667

*October income/expenses will be  
in the January Newsletter.*



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

Website: [StPaulsLutheran.Church](http://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. Dr. Mark Ryman, Pastor  
[pastor@stpaulslutheran.church](mailto:pastor@stpaulslutheran.church)

Pamela Cottingham, Secretary  
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John Brock, Music Director  
[splcmusicalsisbury@gmail.com](mailto:splcmusicalsisbury@gmail.com)

Johnsie Taylor, Organist  
[jtaylor783@aol.com](mailto:jtaylor783@aol.com)

Judy Lowman, Treasurer  
[jlowman1@carolina.rr.com](mailto:jlowman1@carolina.rr.com)

George Barringer, Council President  
[gsbarringer@carolina.rr.com](mailto:gsbarringer@carolina.rr.com)

Alison Moore, Girl Scout 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.StPaulsLutheran.Church](http://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 email list, or to the mailing list, please contact the church office.