



**Whoever humbles himself  
like this child  
is the greatest in  
the kingdom of heaven.  
Matthew 18:4**

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 10, 2023 • 10:30AM

## **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

205 St. Paul's Church Road, Salisbury, NC

Website: [StPaulsLutheran.Church](http://StPaulsLutheran.Church)

Acolyte: Elin Wells • Crucifer: Sara Barringer  
Cantor: Lindsey Whisnant • Lector: Betty Niedens  
Communion Assistants: Bonnie Hinson,  
Wayne Taylor, Bethany Whisnant



## Welcome and Announcements

**Prelude:** “Voluntary on ‘Westminster Abbey’”

K. Lee Scott

## **The Ten Commandments** *Please stand.*

The Lord is God, our God, and has brought us out of bondage to sin and death, commanding us to observe our conduct before him and our neighbor.

**<sup>1</sup>You shall have no other gods before me.**

**<sup>2</sup>You shall not take the name  
of the Lord your God in vain;  
for the Lord will not hold guiltless  
those who take his name in vain.**

**<sup>3</sup>Remember the Sabbath day  
to keep it holy.**

**<sup>4</sup>Honor your father  
and your mother,  
that your days may be long  
in the land which the Lord  
your God is giving you.**

**<sup>5</sup>You shall not kill.**

**<sup>6</sup>You shall not commit adultery.**

**<sup>7</sup>You shall not steal.**

**<sup>8</sup>You shall not bear false witness  
against your neighbor.**

**<sup>9</sup>You shall not covet  
your neighbor’s house.**

**<sup>10</sup>You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife,  
his workers, his livestock,  
or anything that is your neighbor’s.**

## Confession and Absolution

**Hymn:** “Holy God, We Praise Your Name”

## Greeting and Kyrie Eleison

74

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.**



Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



Christ, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.



Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

## Gloria in Excelsis

75

*Leader:*

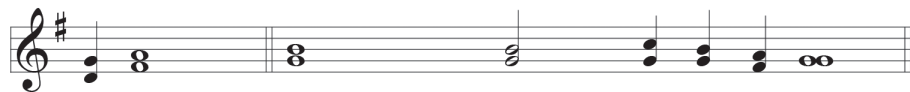


Glory be to God on high!

*Congregation:*



And on earth peace, good will toward all. We praise you, we bless you,



we worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory,



O Lord God, heaven - ly King, God the Father Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God,

Son of the Father: You take away the sin of the world, have mercy  
on us. You take away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.  
You sit at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy on us.  
For you are holy; you on - ly are the Lord; You only, O Christ, with the  
Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## Salutation and Prayer of the Day

77

*Leader:* The Lord be with you. *Congregation:* And with your spirit.

O Lord, always lead and follow us with your grace, that we may be still more intent on doing good. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*Please be seated.*

A - men.

## First Lesson: Ezekiel 33:7-9

<sup>7</sup>“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

The word of the Lord.

## Psalm 32:1-6

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,  
and whose sin is | put away!

<sup>2</sup>**Happy are they to whom the LORD im- | putes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there | is no guile!**

<sup>3</sup>While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,  
because of my groaning | all day long.

<sup>4</sup>**For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup>Then I acknowledged my | sin to you,  
and did not con- | ceal my guilt.

<sup>6</sup>**I said, “I will confess my transgressions | to the LORD.”  
Then you forgave me the guilt | of my sin.**

## Second Lesson: Romans 13:1-10

<sup>1</sup>Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. <sup>2</sup>Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. <sup>3</sup>For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, <sup>4</sup>for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an

avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.

<sup>5</sup>Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. <sup>6</sup>For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. <sup>7</sup>Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. <sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

<sup>9</sup>For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

The word of the Lord.

## Offering

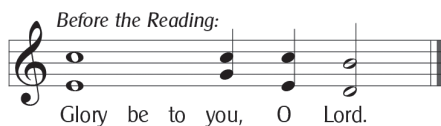
**Anthem:** "How Firm A Foundation"

**Gospel Acclamation** *Please stand for the Gospel.*

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The Holy Gospel is written in the 18th chapter of Matthew.



**Gospel:** Matthew 18:1-20

<sup>1</sup>At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" <sup>2</sup>And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them <sup>3</sup>and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>Whoever humbles himself like this child

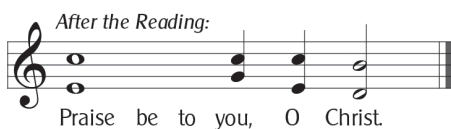
is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>5</sup>Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, <sup>6</sup>but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

<sup>7</sup>Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! <sup>8</sup>And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. <sup>9</sup>And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. <sup>10</sup>See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.

<sup>12</sup>What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? <sup>13</sup>And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. <sup>14</sup>So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. <sup>15</sup>If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. <sup>16</sup>But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

<sup>18</sup>Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.  
 We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
 eternally begotten of the Father,  
 God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
 begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.  
 Through him all things were made.  
 For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;  
 by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate  
 from the virgin Mary, and was made man.  
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
 he suffered death and was buried.  
 On the third day he rose again in accordance with the  
 Scriptures; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at  
 the right hand of the Father.  
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the  
 dead, and his kingdom will have no end.  
 We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
 With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
 He has spoken through the prophets.  
 We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.  
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
 and the life of the world to come. Amen

## Children's Chat

**Sermon:** "Foolish Child"

**Hymn:** "You Are My King (Amazing Love)"

# “You Are My King (Amazing Love)”

## *Verse*

I'm forgiven  
Because You were forsaken  
I'm accepted  
You were condemned  
I'm alive and well  
Your Spirit is within me  
Because You died  
And rose again

## *Chorus*

Amazing love  
How can it be  
That You my King  
Would die for me  
Amazing love  
I know it's true  
It's my joy to honor You  
In all I do I honor You

## *Ending*

You are my King  
You are my King  
Jesus You are my King  
Jesus You are my King

CCLI Song # 2456623

Billy J. Foote

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## Prayers of the Church

*Following each prayer: 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**

## Exhortation

### Preface and Sanctus

86-88

*Leader*                      *Congregation*



The Lord be with you. And with your spir - it

*Leader*



Lift up your hearts.

*Congregation*



We lift them to the Lord.

*Leader*



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*Congregation*



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God—through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, our Lord and Savior, who ascending above the heavens and sitting at your right hand, poured out the Holy Spirit upon the chosen disciples

as he had promised, causing the whole earth to rejoice.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you, and saying:

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly 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

## The Lord's Prayer

90

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

<sup>1</sup>hallowed be thy name,

<sup>2</sup>thy kingdom come,

<sup>3</sup>thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>4</sup>Give us this day our daily bread;

<sup>5</sup>and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

<sup>6</sup>and lead us not into temptation,

<sup>7</sup>but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen**

## Words of Institution

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

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying: Take, and drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

## Agnus Dei

91



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin  
of the world, have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world,  
grant us peace. A - - - - - men.

## Distribution of Communion

*Remain seated after the distribution.*

92

May the body and precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in true faith to everlasting life.

## Nunc Dimittis

92

Lord, now let your servant de- | part in | peace,  
ac- | cording to | your | word.  
For my eyes have | seen your sal- | vation,  
which you have prepared before the | face of | all | people:  
A light to | lighten the | Gentiles  
and the | glory of your | people | Israel.  
Glory | be to the | Father,  
and to the | Son, and to the | Holy | Spirit,  
As it | was in the be- | ginning,  
is now, and ever shall be, | world without | end. | A- | men

## Thanksgiving

We thank and praise you, almighty and loving Father, for feeding us with the body and blood of your beloved son, Jesus Christ. Having received this holy Sacrament with our mouths, may our faith in you apprehend and enjoy your grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ and his Church, and everlasting life. Send your Holy Spirit to remind us of these promises throughout the week, and keep us in the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

## Benedicamus

93

The musical notation for the Benedicamus is presented in two systems. Each system features a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first system is divided into two parts: 'Leader:' and 'Congregation:'. The Leader's part consists of a single note (F#) followed by a whole rest. The Congregation's part consists of three notes (F#, C, and F#) beamed together. The second system follows the same format. The Leader's part consists of a single note (F#) followed by a whole rest. The Congregation's part consists of three notes (F#, C, and F#) beamed together. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Leader:                      Congregation:

The Lord be with you.                      And with your spirit.

Leader:                      Congregation:

Bless the Lord.                      Thanks be to God.

## Postlude: "Lift High the Cross"

Janet Linker

*We remain seated, worshiping silently during the postlude,  
standing at the end of the postlude to face the processional cross,  
now at the rear of the sanctuary.*

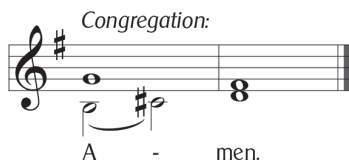
## Benediction

93

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you  
and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift his countenance upon you, and give you peace.



*The flowers are placed in honor of  
Susan Ryman for her September 7th birthday  
with love by her husband.*

## Recent prayer needs:

- Cindy Alligood – Atrium Health, Concord
- Jasper Eller (12-year-old grandson of Myra Jane and Terry Eller) – Cancer
- Lisa Phelps – Recovering at home
- Haynes Shirley – Health concerns
- Vaughn Wilhelm – Atrium Health Carolinas Rehabilitation

Please see the monthly Epistle for a complete list of prayer needs for members, homebound, family, and friends.

**Today is Homecoming Sunday at St. Paul's.** Everyone is invited for a potluck/covered-dish lunch and fellowship in the picnic shelter after worship.

**Sunday, September 10**

- Homecoming Sunday potluck in the picnic shelter, 12pm
- Worship and Music Committee, after lunch
- Men’s Choir practice, 4pm
- Hand bell Choir practice, 5pm
- Vespers at the Parsonage—fellowship at 6pm; prayer at 6:30pm

**Monday, September 11**

- After school program for Faith Academy, 1–3pm
- Hama Lingle Circle, 7pm

**Tuesday, September 12**

- Adult Confirmation Class, 6pm
- Girl Scouts, 6:45pm
- Bonnie Bost Circle, 7pm

**Wednesday, September 13**

- Adult Choir practice, 6:30pm

**Thursday, September 14**

- No Bible Study this week

**Sunday, September 17**

- Finance Committee, 9am
- Men’s Choir practice, 4pm
- Handbell Choir practice, 5pm
- Kathy Ketchie Circle, 5pm
- No Vespers tonight
- Chairpersons of the Standing Committees meet at 6pm  
(Standing committees are: Christian Education, Finance,  
Outreach, Property, Worship & Music, Youth & Family)

**Stewardship**

|                                                                |            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| General Fund Offering (9/03) .....                             | \$4,895    |
| Other Offering (9/03).....                                     | \$1,025    |
| Children’s Mission (3rd qtr. St. Paul Lutheran Seminary) ..... | \$1,627.50 |
| Sunday School Attendance (9/03).....                           | 80         |
| Worship Attendance (9/03).....                                 | 177        |

# I Am the LORD

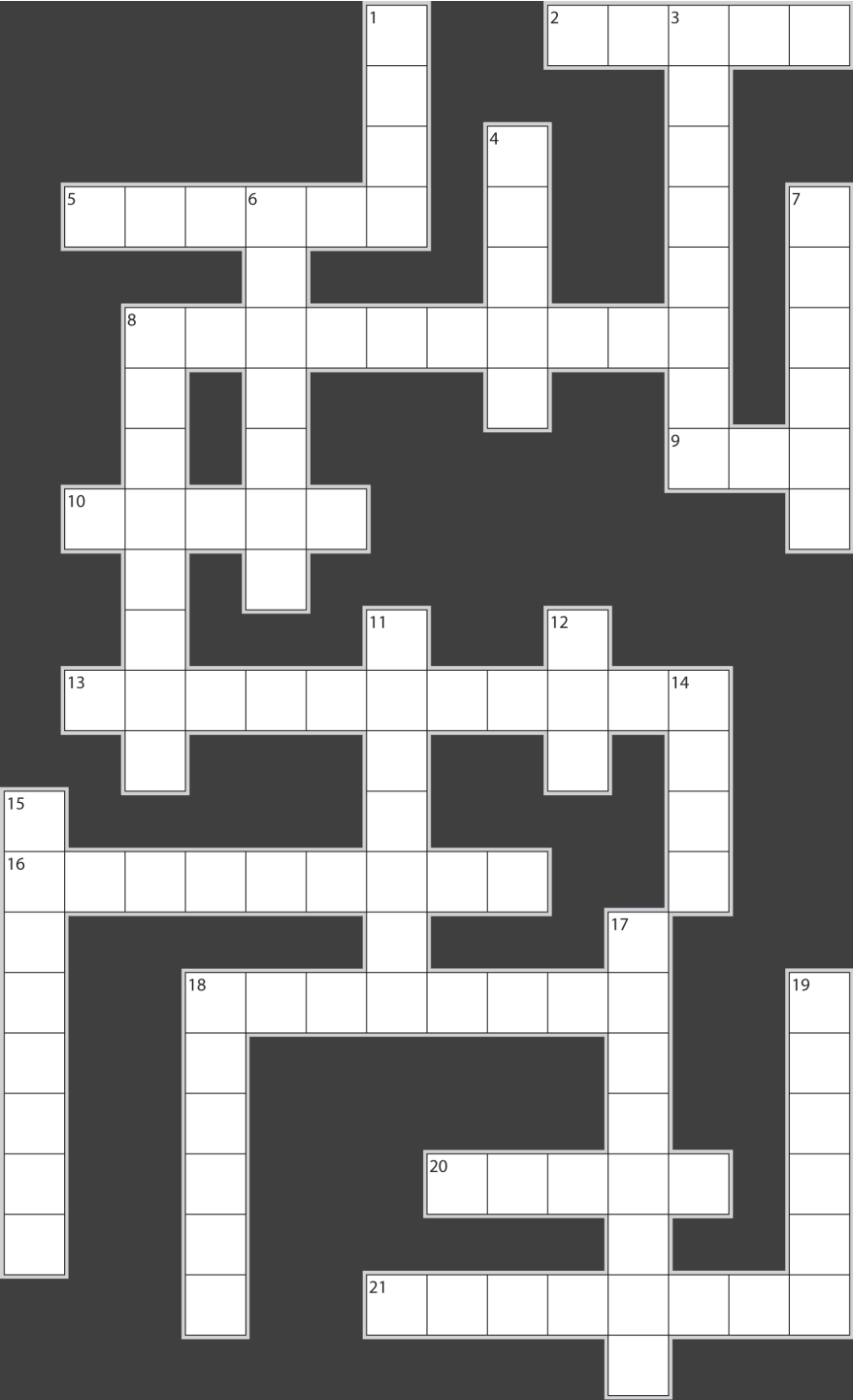
*Find the 27 bold words from Ezekiel 25:8–11.*

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

Thus **says** the **Lord God**: Because **Moab** and **Seir** say,  
“Behold, the house of **Judah** is like **all** the **nations**,” so  
**behold**, I will **lay open** the **flank** of Moab from the cities,  
from its cities on its **frontier**, the **glory** of the **country**,  
Beth-jeshimoth, Baal-meon, and Kiriathaim. I will **give** it  
for a **possession** to the children of the **East**, to go against the  
children of **Ammon**, that the children of Ammon may not be  
**remembered** among the nations. I will **execute judgments**  
on Moab. **Then they will know** that I am the LORD.

*Unscramble the verse:*

I lwli ydtoesr uyo. Enht oyu iwll wonk atht I ma eht odr.



# Pentecost 15A

*Find the answers in today's four Scripture lessons.*

*It may help with the Psalm if you use the English Standard Version instead of the old Psalter in the bulletin.*

## ACROSS

2. We must be in civil subjection in order to avoid God's...
5. Ezekiel was to warn the...
8. We are submissive to rulers for the sake of...
9. The Lord forgives the repentant's...
10. If Ezekiel failed to warn the wicked, this would be on his hand.
13. These are necessary.
16. This does not exist except it is from God.
18. Blessed is the one whose transgression is...
20. He is in the midst of two or three gathered in his name.
21. The disciples wanted to know who was the...

## DOWN

1. I said I will confess my transgressions to him.
3. Civil authorities are God's...
4. Give these to whom they are owed.
6. Whoever humbles himself like a child becomes the greatest in the...
7. The Lord is this kind of place for us.
8. Jesus said we must become like them.
11. Whenever God gave the word, Ezekiel was to give a...
12. Those who resist the governing authorities resist...
14. If Ezekiel warned the wicked, he would deliver his own...
15. Ezekiel was a guard or a...
17. God said the wicked would die in their...
18. It is not his will that the little ones perish.
19. Blessed is the man in whose spirit there is no...



# 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

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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

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Alison Moore, Girl Scout Coordinator, 704-467-9191

**Next Sunday's Lessons:** Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:1-12; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35