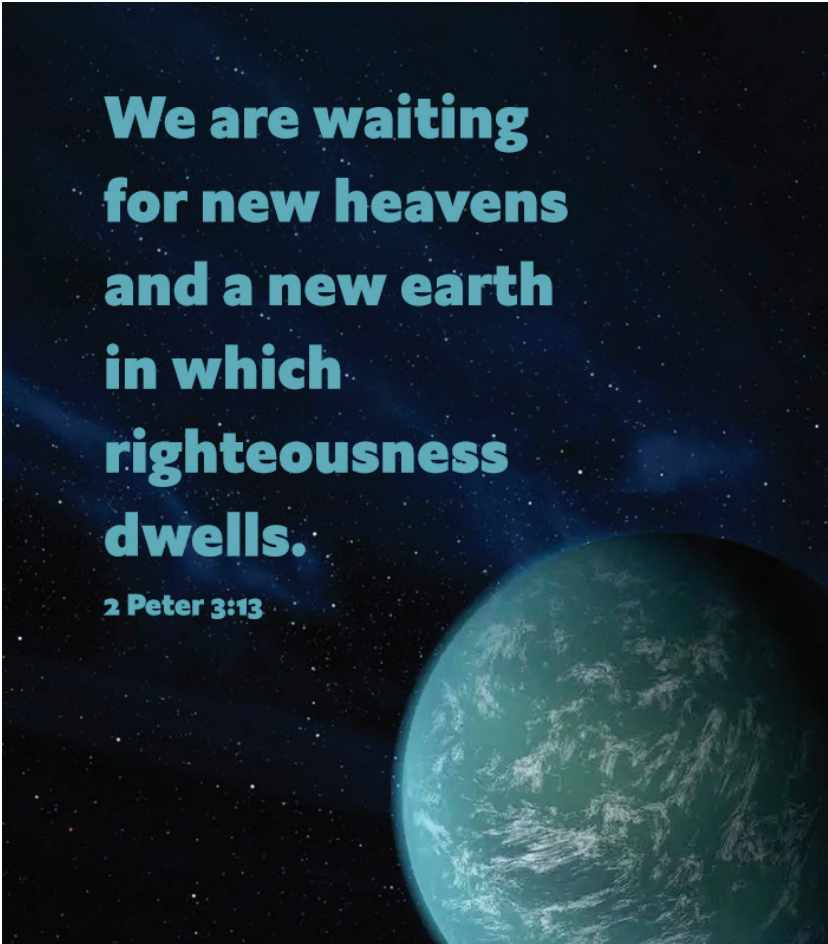




**We are waiting
for new heavens
and a new earth
in which
righteousness
dwells.**

2 Peter 3:13

Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2023 • 10:30AM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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

Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Acolyte: Reese Goodman • Crucifer: Lindsey Whisnant

Cantor: Laura Brock • Lector: Jeanne Shaver

Communion Assistants: Nicole Amos,

Bonnie Hinson, Sophie Hoffner

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “Savior of the Nations, Come”

J. S. Bach

Installation of 2024 Council

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.

¹You shall have no other gods before me.

**²You 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.**

**³Remember the Sabbath day
to keep it holy.**

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

⁵You shall not kill.

⁶You shall not commit adultery.

⁷You shall not steal.

**⁸You shall not bear false witness
against your neighbor.**

**⁹You shall not covet
your neighbor’s house.**

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

Confession and Absolution

73

Hymn: “On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry”

101

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

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.

Please be seated.

A - men.

First Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" ¹⁰Behold, the LORD God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

The word of the Lord.

Psalm 85

¹You have been gracious to your | land, O LORD,
you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.

**²You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people
and blotted out | all their sins.**

³You have withdrawn | all your fury
and turned yourself from your wrathful | indignation.

**⁴Restore us then, O | God our Savior;
let your anger de- | part from us.**

⁵Will you be displeased with | us forever?
will you prolong your anger from | age to age?

**⁶Will you not give us | life again,
that your people may re- | jice in you?**

⁷Show us your mer- | cy, O LORD,
and grant us | your salvation.

**⁸I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying,
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those
who turn their | hearts to him.**

⁹Truly, his salvation is very near to | those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell | in our land.

**¹⁰Mercy and truth have | met together;
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.**

¹¹Truth shall spring up | from the earth,
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.

**¹²The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,
and our land will | yield its increase.**

¹³Righteousness shall | go before him,
and peace shall be a pathway | for his feet.

Second Lesson: 2 Peter 3:8–14

⁸Do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

The word of the Lord.

Offering: Scan the QR code to the right to be taken directly to the giving page on your phone or tablet. Ushers will also pass the offering plates along each row.



Anthem: “The Advent of Our God”

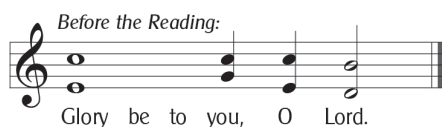
Adult Choir

Gospel Acclamation *Please stand for the Gospel.*

78



The Holy Gospel is written in the first chapter of Mark.



Gospel: Mark 1:1–8

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, ³the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” ⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



Apostles Creed

81

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

Children's Chat

Sermon: "The Great Day"

Hymn: "Comfort, Comfort, Now my People"

98

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

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,

¹**hallowed be thy name,**

²**thy kingdom come,**

³**thy will be done,**

on earth as it is in heaven.

⁴**Give us this day our daily bread;**

⁵**and forgive us our trespasses,**

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

⁶**and lead us not into temptation,**

⁷**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

92

Remain seated after the distribution.

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

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

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

Benedicamus

93

Leader: *Congregation:*

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.

Leader: *Congregation:*

Bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Postlude: “Comfort, Comfort, Now My People” Westenkuehler
*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.*

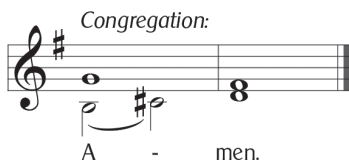
Benediction

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.



Recent Prayer Needs

- Cindy Alligood – Recovering from surgery at home
- Betty Camerlin – Health Concerns
- Donald Camerlin – Recovering from surgery at home
- Carolyn Cress – Novant/Rowan Hospital (room 274)
- Michael Goodman – Novant/Rowan Hospital (room 413)
- Johnny Jenkins (property brother) – Recovering at home
- Michelle Linker – Recovering from surgery at home
- Christine Maloney – Recovering from surgery at home
- April Simmons – Health concerns

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

Sunday, December 10

- Kid's Christmas practice during Sunday School, 9:30am
- Installation of 2024 Council members, 10:30am
- Concert rehearsals, in the sanctuary, 1pm–5pm
- Worship and Music Committee, 2pm
- Men's Choir practice, 4pm • Handbell Choir practice, 5pm
- Vespers at the Parsonage—fellowship at 6pm; prayer at 6:30pm

Monday, December 11

- Afterschool program for Faith Academy, 1pm

Tuesday, December 12

- Girl Scouts, 6:45pm

Wednesday, December 13

- Autumn Care worship, 2pm
- Adult Choir practice, 6:30pm
- Youth Confirmation class, 7:30pm

Sunday, December 17

- Kid's Christmas practice during Sunday School, 9:30am
- Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal, in the sanctuary, 1pm
- Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- Children's Christmas program, 4pm
- Vespers at the Parsonage—fellowship at 6pm; prayer at 6:30pm

The Children's Christmas program will be on Sunday, December 17th, at 4pm in the fellowship hall. Invite your friends and family to come with you to enjoy the program.

Christmas Eve Cookies and Candlelight Service will be at 7pm in the sanctuary. Invite family and friends to join us in celebration of the birth of Christ Jesus.

The Greatest

Find the 28 **bold** words from 1 Corinthians 13:4–8a, 9–13.

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

Love is **patient** and **kind**. Love is not **envious** or **boastful**. Love is not **proud** or **rude**. It is not self-serving, easily **provoked**, or **grudging**. It does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the **truth**. Love **bears** all things, **believes** all things, **hopes** all things, **endures** all things. Love never fails...but when the **perfect** comes, **imperfect** will pass away. When I was a **child**, I **spoke** like a child, I **thought** like a child, I **reasoned** like a child. Now that I have become a man, I have put away **childish** things. For now we **see** in a mirror **unclearly**, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will **know** fully even as I have been fully **known**. So, now abide these three: **faith**, **hope**, **love**. But the **greatest** of these is love.

Rehearsals for the Christmas Concert start at **1pm** in the sanctuary today, as scheduled below:

- 1:00–1:45 pm–A Cappella Group (Mary, Did You Know?)
- 1:45–2:15 pm–Trio (A Little Night Caroling)
- 2:15–3:15 pm–Solos/Duet (God with Us; Somewhere in Your Silent Night; Light of the World; Christmas Eve in Bethlehem)
- 3:15–4:00 pm–Mixed Ensemble (Make Room)
- 4:00–5:00 pm–Youth Group (Oh, What a Glorious Night)

Dress Rehearsal for the Christmas Concert will be **at 1pm** on **December 17th**. All participants, please be in the sanctuary by 1pm so we will have time to get through the dress rehearsal before the Children’s program which begins at 4pm.

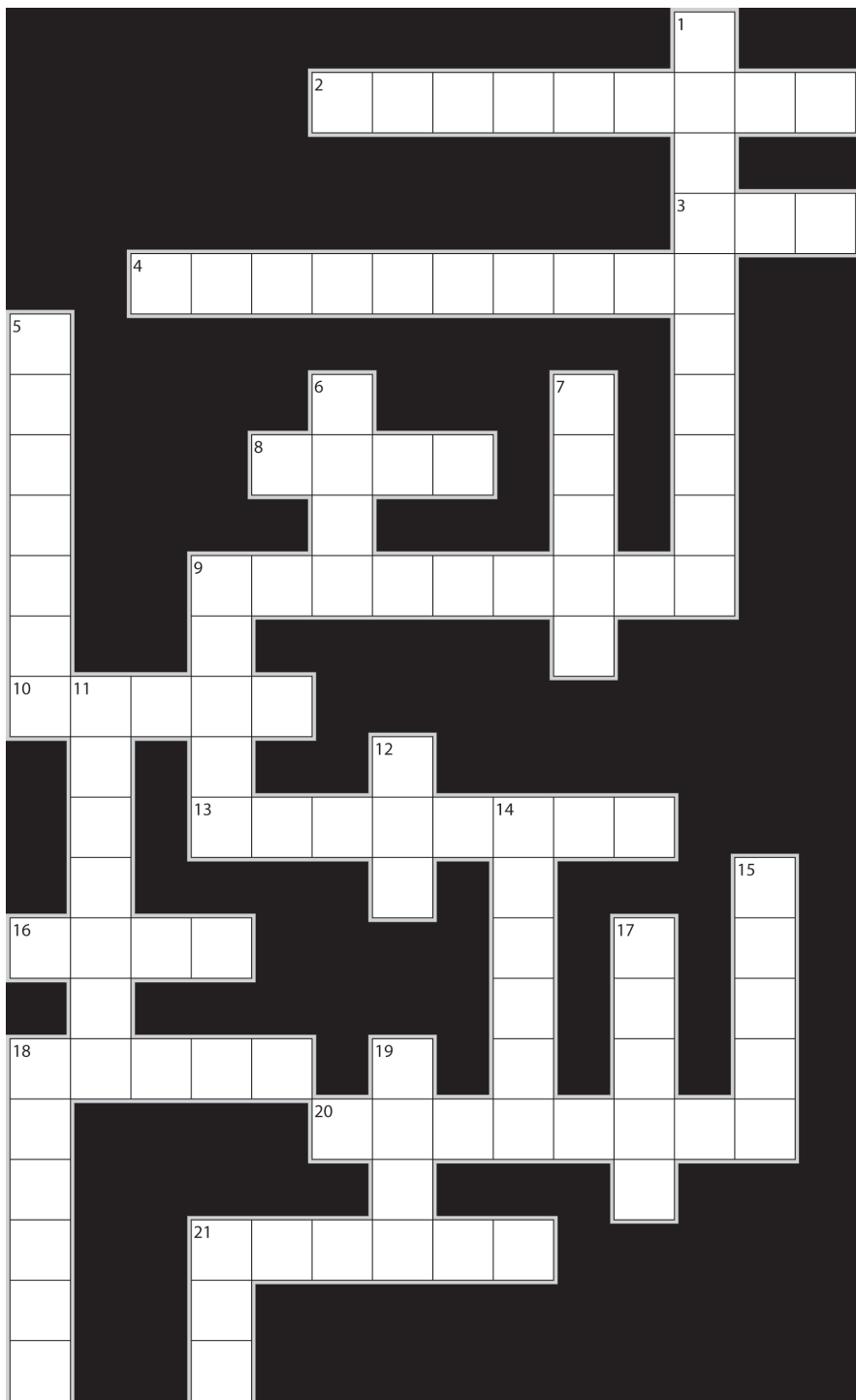


Stewardship

General Fund Offering (12/3)	\$5,787
Other Offering (12/3)	\$36,719
Sunday School Attendance (12/3)	57
Worship Attendance (12/3)	163
Children’s Mission (4th quarter–Lutheran Military Veterans)	
\$141.00 last Sunday; quarter so far: \$1,354.00	

*I have baptized you with water,
but he will baptize you
with the Holy Spirit.*

Mark 1:8



Second Sunday of Advent

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. It is near.
3. Wait for and hasten it.
4. God wishes no one to perish but to come to...
8. Everyone was going out to him.
9. We should live lives of holiness and...
10. Let me hear what God will...
13. Make the highway...
16. Righteousness and peace...
18. We should be found in this state of spirit.
20. Speak this way to Jerusalem.
21. The Coming One will baptize you with the...

DOWN

1. The messenger was crying out there.
5. We are waiting for new ones.
6. Prepare the way for him.
7. John was clothed in skins from this animal's hair.
9. It withers.
11. The Lord is not slow about this.
12. Prepare the Lord's...
14. Faithfulness springs up from there.
15. John ate locusts and...
17. It shall be revealed.
18. Comfort them.
19. Salvation is near to those who...
21. God covers this.



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: secretary@stpaulslutheran.church

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

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Mark Ryman, Pastor
pastor@stpaulslutheran.church

Pamela Cottingham, Secretary
secretary@stpaulslutheran.church

Perry Bernhardt, Council President
perryhbernhardt@gmail.com

John Brock, Music Director
splcmusicalisbury@gmail.com

Johnsie Taylor, Organist
jtaylor783@aol.com

Judy Lowman, Treasurer
jlowman1@carolina.rr.com

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

Next Sunday's Lessons: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sola Publishing ©2019 Online Worship Resource Site

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2016 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. CCLI License # 11395633