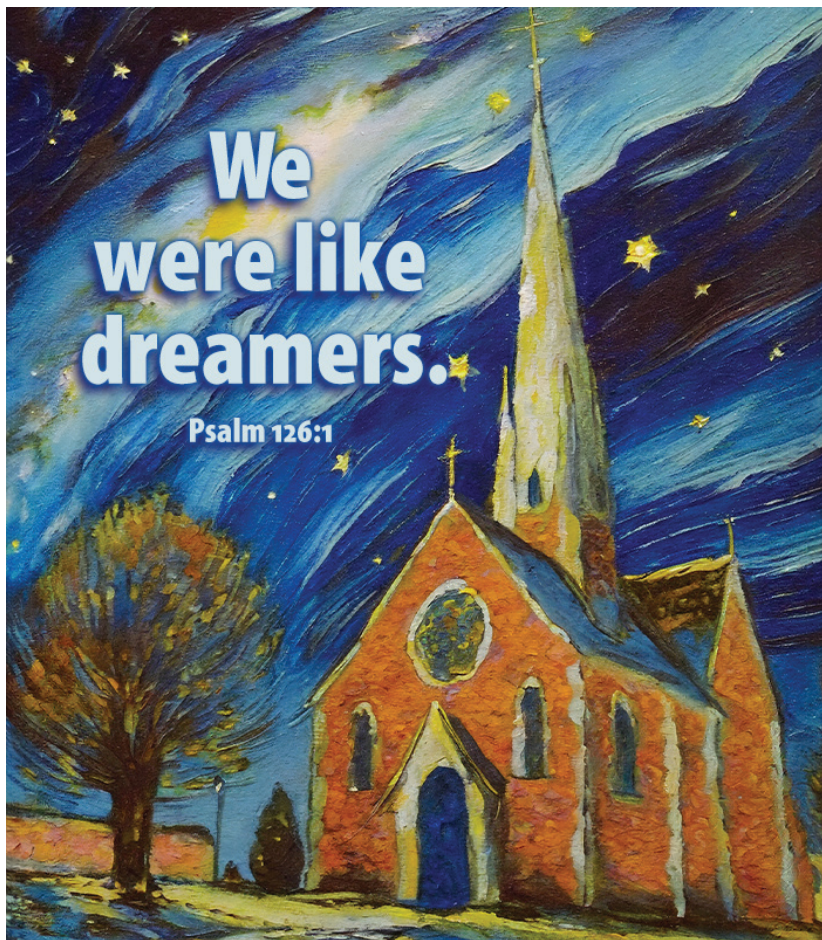




Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2023 • 10:30AM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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

Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Acolyte: Clara Canup • Crucifer: Sophie Hoffner

Cantor: Hila Canup • Lector: German Jaramillo

Communion Assistants: Nicole Amos,

Sarah Fesperman, Bonnie Hinson

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Hal Hopson

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: "Hark, the Glad Sound"

92

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

Lord Jesus Christ, give ear to our prayers, and lighten the darkness of our hearts by your gracious visitation—for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Please be seated.

A - men.

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

¹“The Spirit of the LORD God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to grant to those who mourn in Zion — to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸“For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the LORD God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.”

The word of the Lord.

Psalm 126

¹When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,
then were we like | those who dream.

²**Then was our mouth | filled with laughter,**
and our tongue with | shouts of joy.

³Then they said a- | mong the nations,
“The LORD has done great | things for them.”

**⁴The LORD has done great | things for us,
and we are | glad indeed.**

⁵Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses | of the Negev.

**⁶Those who | sowed with tears
will reap with | songs of joy.**

⁷Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.

Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil. ²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

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: “Joy to the World”

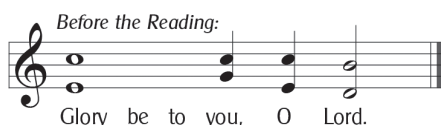
Children of St. Paul’s

Gospel Acclamation *Please stand for the Gospel.*

78



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



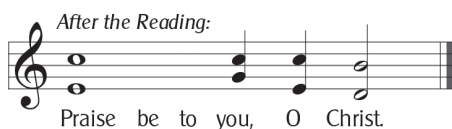
Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

¹⁹And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²²So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

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: "Dreamers"

Hymn: "Prepare the Royal Highway"

102

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

85

Preface and Sanctus

86-88

Leader: The Lord be with you.
 Congregation: And with your spir - it



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:





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 Dimittus

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

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 half note (G4). The Congregation's part consists of a half note (G4) followed by a whole note (G4). The second system also has two parts: 'Leader:' and 'Congregation:'. The Leader's part consists of a half note (G4) followed by a half note (A4). The Congregation's part consists of a half note (G4) followed by a whole note (G4). 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: "People, Look East"

Jerry 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.

The musical notation for the Benediction is presented in a single system. It features a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation consists of a half note (G4) followed by a half note (A4) with a sharp sign (#) above it, and then a whole note (G4). The lyrics 'A - men.' are written below the notes.

Congregation:

A - men.

Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal is today at 1pm.

All participants, please be in the sanctuary by 1pm.

The Children’s Christmas program is today at 4pm, in the fellowship hall. **The Christmas Concert** will be **Saturday, at 4pm,** in the sanctuary. Invite your friends and family to both!

The Friendship Club will meet Tuesday, December 19, at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Norris and *The Y Wonders* will present a program of Christmas music. There will be a covered dish luncheon after the presentation. Since we will be serving around 20 guests, please add a bit more to your dish. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy good music, food and fellowship. We hope to see you Tuesday.

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.

Stewardship

General Fund Offering (12/10).....	\$9,504
Other Offering (12/10)	\$1,075
Sunday School Attendance (12/10)	81
Worship Attendance (12/10)	157
Children’s Mission (4th quarter–Lutheran Military Veterans)	
\$148.50 last Sunday; quarter so far: \$1,502.50	

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

Monday, December 18

- Newsletter articles are due this week (by Thursday morning)
- Council meeting, 6:30pm

Tuesday, December 19

- Friendship Club, 10:30am
- Staff meeting, 5pm

Wednesday, December 20

- Adult Choir practice, 6:30pm
- Youth Confirmation class, 7:30pm

Saturday, December 23

- Christmas Concert, in the sanctuary, 4pm

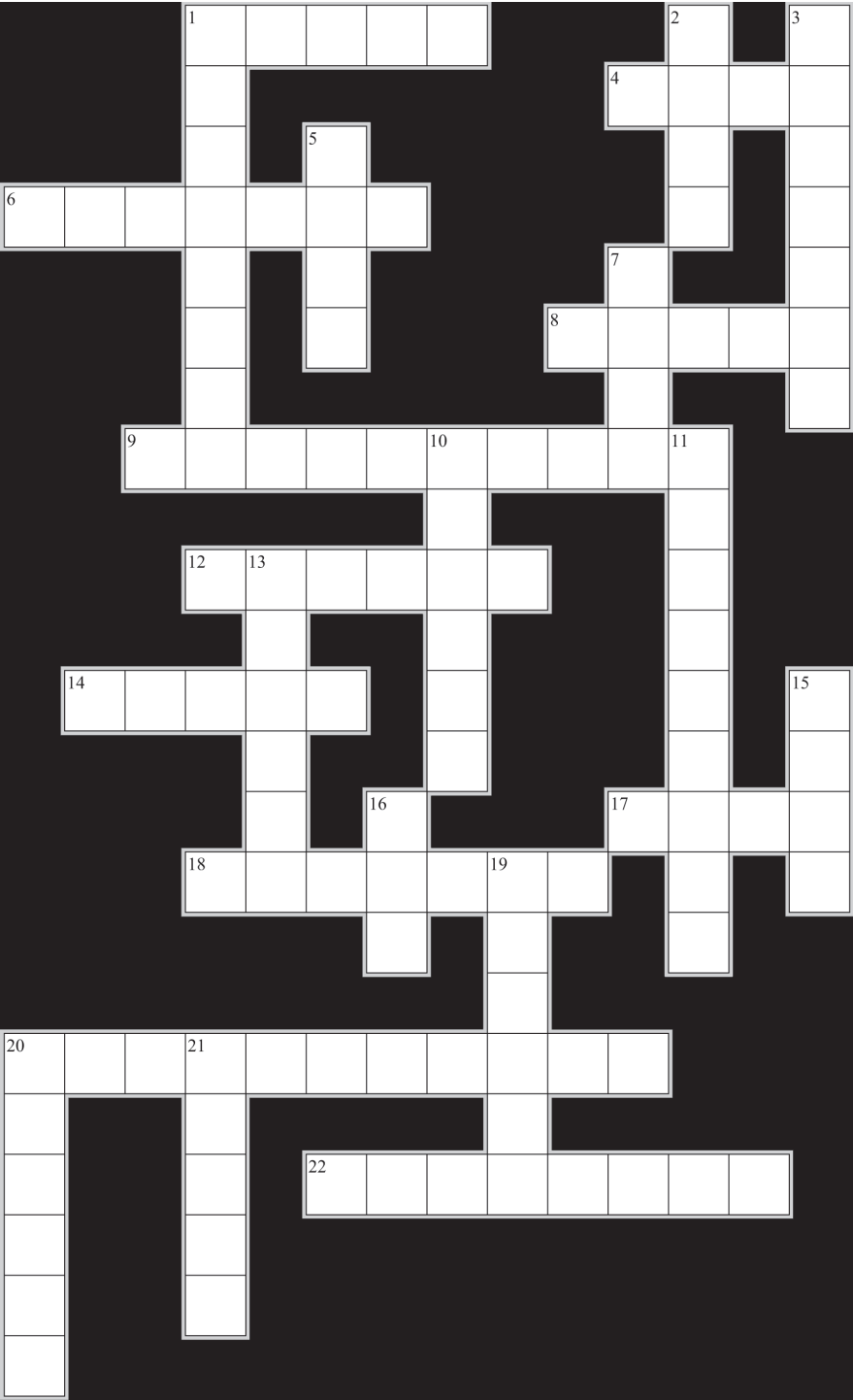
Sunday, December 24

- Sunday School, 9:30am
- Worship Service, 10:30am
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7pm

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.

*Behold, the Lamb of God,
who takes away the sin of the world!*

John 1:29



Third 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

1. John came to bear witness to this.
4. The Anointed will bring good news to them.
6. Found elsewhere... Isaiah's "poor" are given this in Jesus' Beatitudes.
8. John said he was this in the wilderness.
9. Do not despise them.
12. Do not quench him.
14. They were like those who...
17. The Lord restored their fortunes.
18. Do this always.
20. Think! 1 Thessalonians 5:23 suggests we are this kind of being.
22. He who calls you is...

DOWN

1. Their mouth was filled with it.
2. The man sent from God
3. John said he was not this proclaimer who was thought would be a new Moses.
5. The psalmist says that he has done great things for them.
7. Isaiah's Anointed is wrapped in righteousness like a...
10. John said he was not this prophet.
11. Isaiah's Anointed is also clothed in this garment.
13. Isaiah's Anointed is clothed in this garment.
15. The Anointed will do this for the brokenhearted.
16. Those who sow in tears will shout with...
19. John said that he was not this anointed one.
20. Give this in all circumstances.
21. They wanted their fortunes restored like streams in this desert.

The Sufficient Grace of Christ

*Find the 27 **bold** words from 2 Corinthians 12:5b–10.*

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

I will not **boast** of myself, except of my **weaknesses**. Though if I should desire to boast, I would not be a **fool**, for I would be speaking the truth. Yet I **refrain** so that no one would consider me more than what he **sees** in me or **hears** from me. To keep me from becoming **conceited** because of the extraordinary greatness of the **revelations**, I was given a **thorn** in the **flesh**—a messenger of Satan to **afflict** me—so that I would not be **vain**. I **begged** the **Lord three times** about this, that it might leave me. But he said to me, “My **grace** is **sufficient** for you, for my power is **perfected** in weakness.” Therefore, I will more happily boast in my weaknesses so that the **power** of Christ may rest on me. I **delight** in weaknesses, in **offenses**, in **hardships**, in persecutions, in oppressions—for **Christ’s sake**. For when I am **weak**, then am I **strong**.



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
splcjlw63@gmail.com

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

Next Sunday's Lessons: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Psalm 89:1-5 [19-29]; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

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