



Abide in me.

John 15:4

Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024 • 10:30AM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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

Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Acolyte: Grace Walker • Crucifer: Lindsey Whisnant

Cantor: Hila Canup • Lector: Amaya Cerda

Communion Assistants: Gina Barringer,
Grace Funderburk, Terri Powlas

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Handbell Choir

“Your Grace Is Enough”
and “Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone”

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

Hymn: “Lord, as Incense Rises before Thee”

Verse 1

Lord, as incense rises before Thee,
so my voice in prayer shall ascend.
Hear me when I cry: come Thou quickly;
graciously to me descend.
Lift my hands to give
the sacrifice of praise.
Look with mercy on my ways.

Verse 2

Set as sentinel Thy Spirit
at my lips and mouth and heart.
Guard and guide me; by Thy merit
cause all evil to depart.
From my words and thoughts,
my actions and my life,
purify and save me from strife.

Verse 3

Turn my heart to Thee, holy Father,
turn my eyes to Thy holy Son.
Turn my life, by Thy Holy Spirit
to the victory Christ has won:
To the refuge sure, which
given by his grace,
keeps me ever in Thy embrace.

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Sung to the tune of “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Picardy (87 87 87)

Greeting and Kyrie Eleison

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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

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

O God, you make the minds of the faithful to be of one will. Grant that your people would love what you command and desire what you promise, that, among the manifold changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joys are to be found: 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: Acts 8:26-40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. ²⁷And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to

Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³²Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." ³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The word of the Lord.

Psalm 150

¹Hallelujah! Praise God in his | holy temple;
praise him in the firmament | of his power.

²**Praise him for his | mighty acts;**
praise him for his ex- | cellent greatness.

³Praise him with the blast | of the ram's horn;
praise him with | lyre and harp.

⁴**Praise him with tim- | brel and dance;**
praise him with | strings and pipe.

⁵Praise him with re- | sounding cymbals;
praise him with loud | clanging cymbals.

**⁶Let everything | that has breath
praise the LORD. | Hallelujah!**

Second Lesson: 1 John 4:1-21

¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore, they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so, also

are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

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: “Till You Know Jesus”

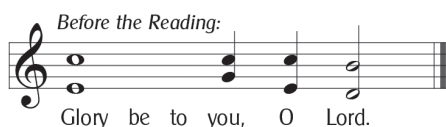
John Brock, Pianist

Gospel Acclamation *Please stand for the Gospel.*

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The Holy Gospel is written in the 15th chapter of John.

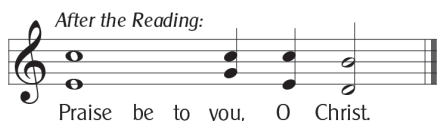


Gospel: John 15:1-8

¹[Jesus said,] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can

you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed

We profess our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed.

**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: "Young Botanists"

Hymn: "When Peace Like A River"

224

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 *Congregation*

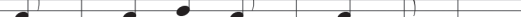
The Lord be with you. And with your spir - it.

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 prais.e.

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, but chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. For he is the very Paschal Lamb, who was offered for us, and has taken away the sin of the world—who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again, has restored to us everlasting life.

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



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

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If you need a gluten-free wafer or juice, please hold up your index finger in front of you as the server approaches you at the rail.

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

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Leader: Congregation:

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.

Leader: Congregation:

Bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Postlude: "Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain" Mary McDonald

*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

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.

Congregation:

A - men.

*The altar flowers are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Jim Webb by
Jane Webb, Josh Webb, Jancie Lawrence, and their families.*



*We extend our love, sympathy, and prayers to Susie Page
and family on the death of Susie's sister, Ethel Roseman.
Mrs. Roseman died Tuesday, April 16, 2024.*

Scholarship Applications

Scholarship applications are due **this Wednesday, May 1st**. Applications are in the narthex and on our website.

Ladies' Banquet

The last day to get your tickets for the Ladies' Banquet is today. Tickets will be available on the front lawn after worship. **No tickets will be available at the door.** The banquet is on **Saturday, May 4th**, at Noon. Tickets are \$10 for ages 12 and older, \$5 for ages 5-11, and free for children aged 4 and under.

SON Summer Mission Trip

Mark and Julia Wilhelm are planning another mission trip this summer with the Spiritual Orphans Network. If you would like to help cover the expenses involved with their trip, please mark SON on your envelope.

Blood Drive

The next blood drive at our church will be **Monday, May 13, 1:30-6:00pm**. If you have questions or would like to schedule an appointment to give, please call Alice Davis at 704-855-4930, or email pherfordr@yahoo.com.

Friendship Club

The Friendship Club is planning a **trip to the Narrowway Christian Theater in Fort Mill, South Carolina, on May 18th.** This is a Saturday matinee show. The title of the production is **“Samson—The Last Judge.”** This is a Broadway style dinner show. The cost of the show, dinner, and bus fare is \$65.00 per person. We will use Cross Roads Bus Company for the trip. The bus will leave St. Paul’s at 10:30am. Lunch will be served at 12:00noon, and the production will begin at 1:30pm.

Find more information online at narrowway.net. If you would like to go, please let me know soon so that I may reserve tickets. They sell out very quickly. Hope to see you on the bus. Contact Helen Gordon at 704-636-5002.

Recent Prayer Needs

- Linda Beaver – Hospice care
- Iverson Brendle – health concerns
- Sandy Corley – health concerns
- Jean Deal – health concerns
- Terry Eller – recovering from surgery
- Michael Goodman – recovering from surgery
- Doris Hilliard – recovering from surgery
- Emerson Holder – health concerns
- Mark Hunger, Pastor Ryman’s brother-in-law – surgery
- Ray Kubitz – Trinity Oaks, room 206 A
- Rosemary Massey, friend of Sandy Corley – health concerns
- Mike Morris – health concerns
- Tommy Rabon – recovering from surgery
- Robin Smith, Mary Lee Earnhardt’s cousin – surgery
- Barbara Whisnant – health concerns
- Ashley Young – health concerns

Please see
the monthly Epistle
for a complete list
of prayer needs.

General Fund Offering (4/21)	\$6,705
Other Offering (4/21)	\$3,857
Sunday School Attendance (4/21)	41
Worship Attendance (4/21)	174

This quarter, the children’s change collections will go to St. Paul Lutheran Seminary.

Last Sunday: \$152.50 Total so far: \$406.00

Sunday, April 28

- Men's Choir, 4pm
- Evaluation meeting for Cruise 'n volunteers, 5pm
Please come and share your thoughts and suggestions.
- Vespers, 6pm

Monday, April 29

- Faith Academy afterschool program, 1–3pm
- Call Committee dinner and meeting, beginning at 6pm

Tuesday, April 30

- Bible study class, 10am and 6pm
- Girl Scouts, 6:45pm

Wednesday, May 1

- Classical Conversations homeschool field day, 8:30–3:30
- Ellen Bumgarner circle, 10am
- Autumn Care chapel service, 2pm
- Adult Choir practice, 6:30pm
- Youth Confirmation class, 7:30pm

Thursday, May 2

- Council and Call Committee meeting, 6:30pm

Friday, May 3

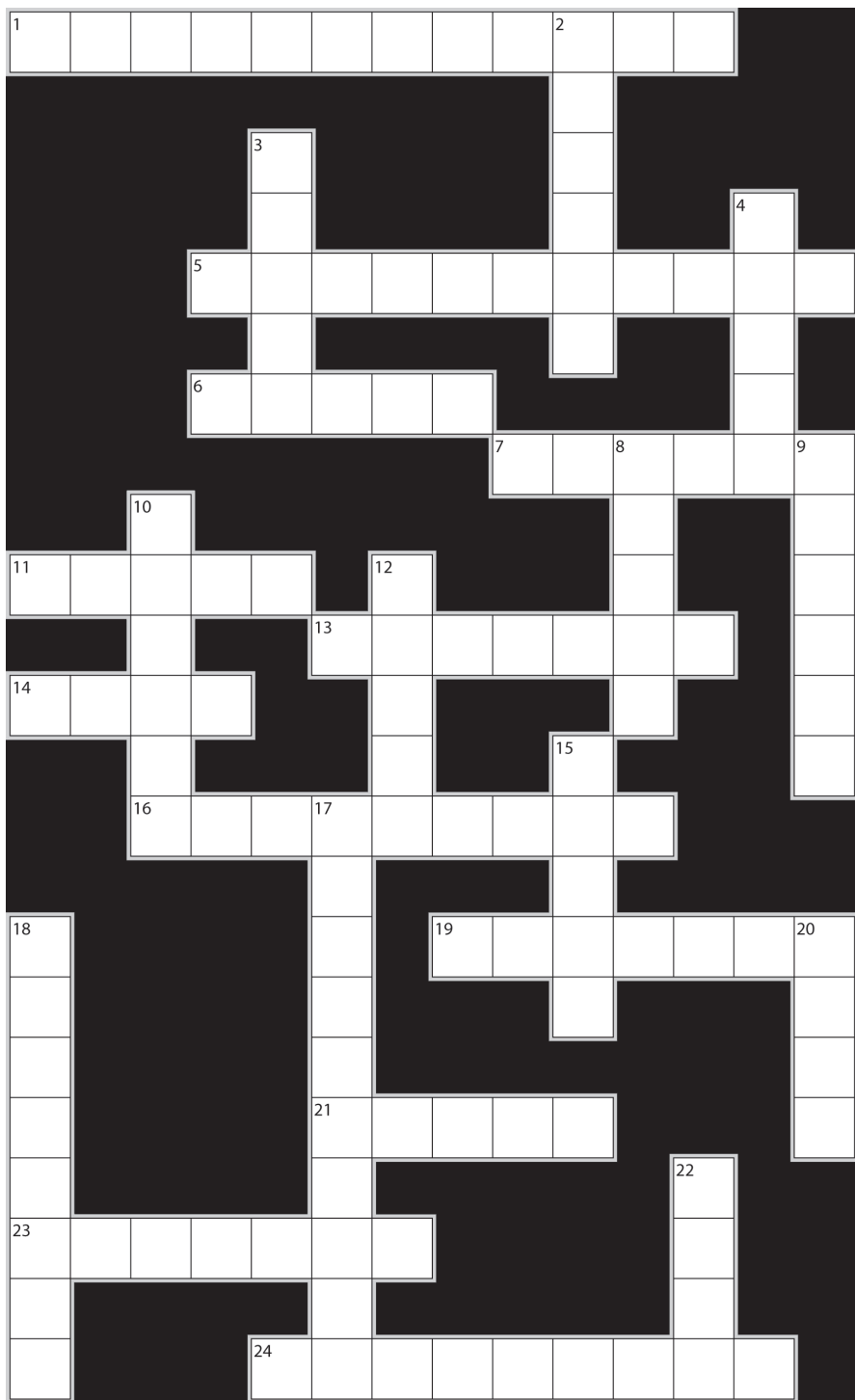
- Classical Conversations end of year celebration, 4–8pm

Saturday, May 4

- Ladies Banquet, Noon (*Advance tickets only.*)

Sunday, May 5

- Breakfast before Sunday school, 8:30am
- Youth Sunday
- Brian Lord, guest preacher
- Autumn Care chapel service, 2pm
- Youth & Family Committee, 2pm
- Meet & Greet with the Lord family, 3:30–5:30pm
- Men's Choir, 4pm
- Vespers, 6pm



Fifth Sunday of Easter

*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. God sent his Son to be this satisfaction for our sins.
5. Think! Every spirit is from God if he confesses this doctrine.
6. Philip proclaimed the good news of this man to the Ethiopian.
7. Everything with breath should do this.
11. He who is in us is greater than he who is in the...
13. Praise God with the sound of this horn.
14. Jesus is the true...
16. Praise God there.
19. Apart from the vine, you can do this.
21. Praise God for his...
23. Praise God in his mighty...
24. Where was the Ethiopian headed?

DOWN

2. What book was the court official reading?
3. Praise him with tambourine and...
4. You abide in Jesus if his what abide in you?
8. Who spoke to Philip?
9. Who did Philip meet on the road down from Jerusalem?
10. Jesus does this to every branch that does not bear fruit.
12. The Father is glorified when we bear much of this.
15. When someone listens to the teaching of Christ we recognize in them this spirit instead of the evil spirit of error.
17. God's love is perfected among us so that we may have this on judgment day.
18. Jesus is the vine but what are we?
20. Where was Philip told to go toward in the south?
22. Let us do this with one another.



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

splcmusicsalisbury@gmail.com

Johnsie Taylor, Organist

jtaylor783@aol.com

Judy Lowman, Treasurer

splcjwl63@gmail.com

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

Next weeks lessons: Acts 10:34-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-8; John 15:9-17