



First Sunday in Advent
December 1, 2024 • 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: John Brock • Lector: Susan Ryman
Communion Assistants: Nicole Amos,
Sarah Fesperman, Bonnie Hinson

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “Reprise”

Paul Manz

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness *Stand*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Reflection and self-examination

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.**

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

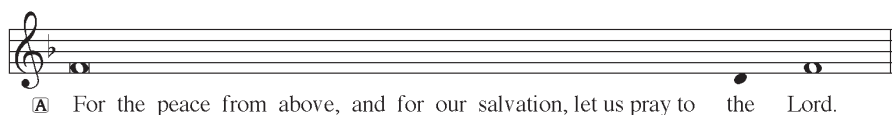
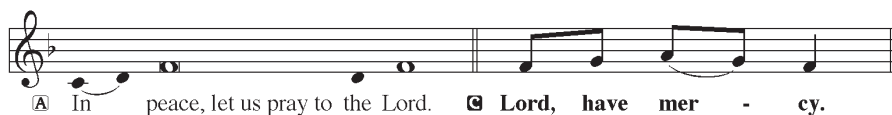
Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Hymn: "The Advent of Our God"

22

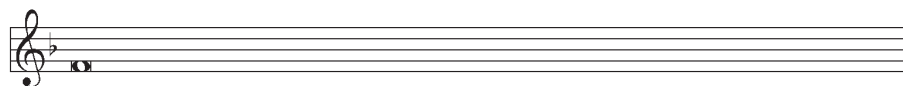
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

The Kyrie

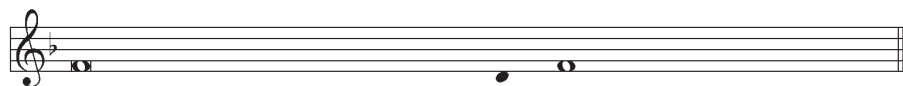




C Lord, have mer - cy.



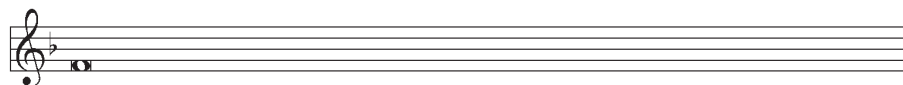
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



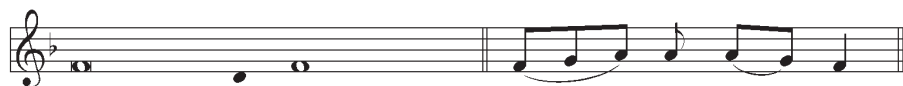
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

Hymn of Praise



C This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. **I** Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was



slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.





Prayer of the Day



Stir up your power, O Lord, and come, that by your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by your mighty deliverance—for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Please be seated.

First Lesson: Jeremiah 33:14–16

¹⁴“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

The word of the Lord.

Psalms 25:1–10

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God,
I put my | trust in you;

let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies
triumph | over me.

²**Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
let the treacherous be disappointed | in their schemes.**

³Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths.

**⁴Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have
I trusted all | the day long.**

**⁵Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

**⁶Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your love and for the
sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.**

**⁷Gracious and upright | is the LORD;
therefore he teaches sinners | in his way.**

**⁸He guides the humble in | doing right
and teaches his way | to the lowly.**

**⁹All the paths of the LORD are | love and faithfulness
to those who keep his covenant and his | testimonies.**

**¹⁰For your name's | sake, O LORD,
forgive my sin, for | it is great.**

Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹What thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, ¹⁰as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith? ¹¹Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, ¹²and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The word of the Lord.

Please stand for the Gospel.



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 21st chapter.



Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

²⁵[Jesus said,] “There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



Please be seated.

The Baptism of Cleo Maeve Anzur

Confession of Faith

Let us together profess our faith in God using
the words of the Apostles Creed.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**¹I believe in God the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

²I 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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**³I 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**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Brian, Lisa, Talia,
and Joshua Lord

Children's Chat

The Installation of Pastor Brian Lord

Sermon

The Prayers of the Church

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people, according to their needs.

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

Offering

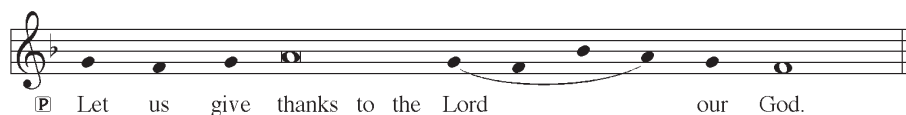
Anthem: "Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending"

Laura and John Brock



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: “Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

The Lord's Prayer

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

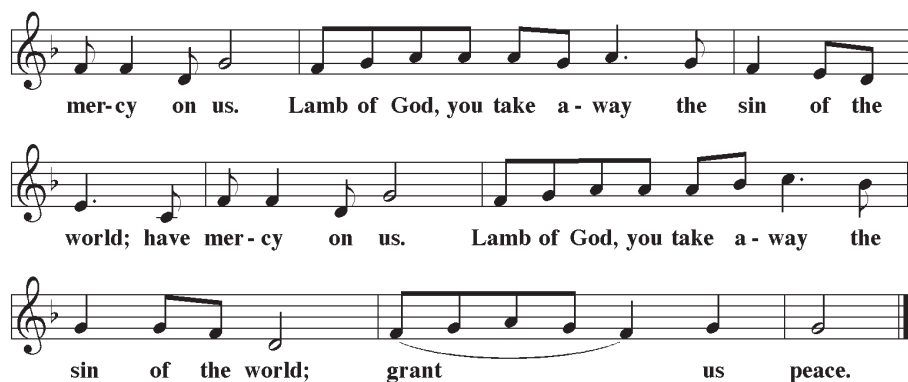
**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

Distribution of Holy Communion

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.





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

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**



Lord, now you let your ser-vant go in peace; your word has been ful- filled.
My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the
sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re-veal you to the
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Glo-ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,
as it was in the be-gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men

Let us pray. Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food—through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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

The Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you, and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen



*The altar flowers are given by Judi and D.W. Honbarger
in honor of their 61st wedding anniversary today,
and in honor of the baptism of their
great-granddaughter, Cleo Maeve Anzur.*

*Rail flowers are in honor of
Cleo Maeve Anzur's baptism by
grandparents Tom and Audrey Huffman.*

*Rail flowers are in honor of the 61st
wedding anniversary of Judi and D.W. Honbarger,
by Tom and Audrey Huffman, Aaron, Melanie, and Cleo Anzur.*

Mid-week Advent Supper and Service

On Wednesdays—December 4th, 11th, and 18th—we will have a mid-week supper and Advent service. Supper begins at **6pm**, followed by a short service in the sanctuary. In order to help us plan, please let us know if you will be attending the supper by putting “**A**” by your name in the friendship register.

Poinsettias

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia to be placed in the sanctuary for Christmas the cost is **\$14 each**. The **deadline** to order a poinsettia is **Sunday, December 8**. Order forms are on the table in the narthex. We ask that you take your poinsettias home with you after the Christmas Eve service, or within a few days following Christmas.

Sunday, December 1

- Breakfast before Sunday School
- Baptism of Cleo Maeve Anzur
- Installation of Pastor Brian Lord
- Outreach Committee lunch, Noon
- Caroling at Autumn Care, 1pm
- Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- Youth & Family Committee meeting, 2pm
- Men's Choir, 4pm
- Handbell Choir, 5pm
- Vespers, 6pm

Monday, December 2

- Bonnie Bost Circle, 6pm to decorate tree in fellowship hall
- Facility Accessibility Committee meeting, 6:30pm
- Hama Lingle Circle, 7pm

Tuesday, December 3

- Bible Study class, 10am and 6pm
- Grace Ridenhour Circle, 5pm at Cracker Barrel
- Girl Scouts, 6:30pm

Wednesday, December 4

- Ellen Bumgarner Circle, 11:30am for lunch
- Mid-week supper and Advent service, 6pm
- Adult Choir practice following the Advent service

Saturday, December 7

- Decorate for Christmas, 9am
- Stephen Ministry Christmas luncheon in China Grove at Noon
- Soup/cornbread supper, 4pm–6pm

Sunday, December 8

- Leslie Haines, guest speaker, accompanied by Patrick Dooley
Leslie is the Director of Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries. Funds from the supper on Saturday will go to the organization.
- Baptism of Brayden Eric Harper
- Christian Education Committee, 1:30pm
- Worship & Music Committee, 2:30pm
- Kathy Ketchie Circle meeting, 4pm
- Men’s Choir, 4pm
- Handbell Choir, 5pm
- Vespers, 6pm

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers will enjoy a **Christmas luncheon** on Saturday, **December 7th**. Ministers are asked to meet at China Grove Family House Restaurant in China Grove at **Noon**.

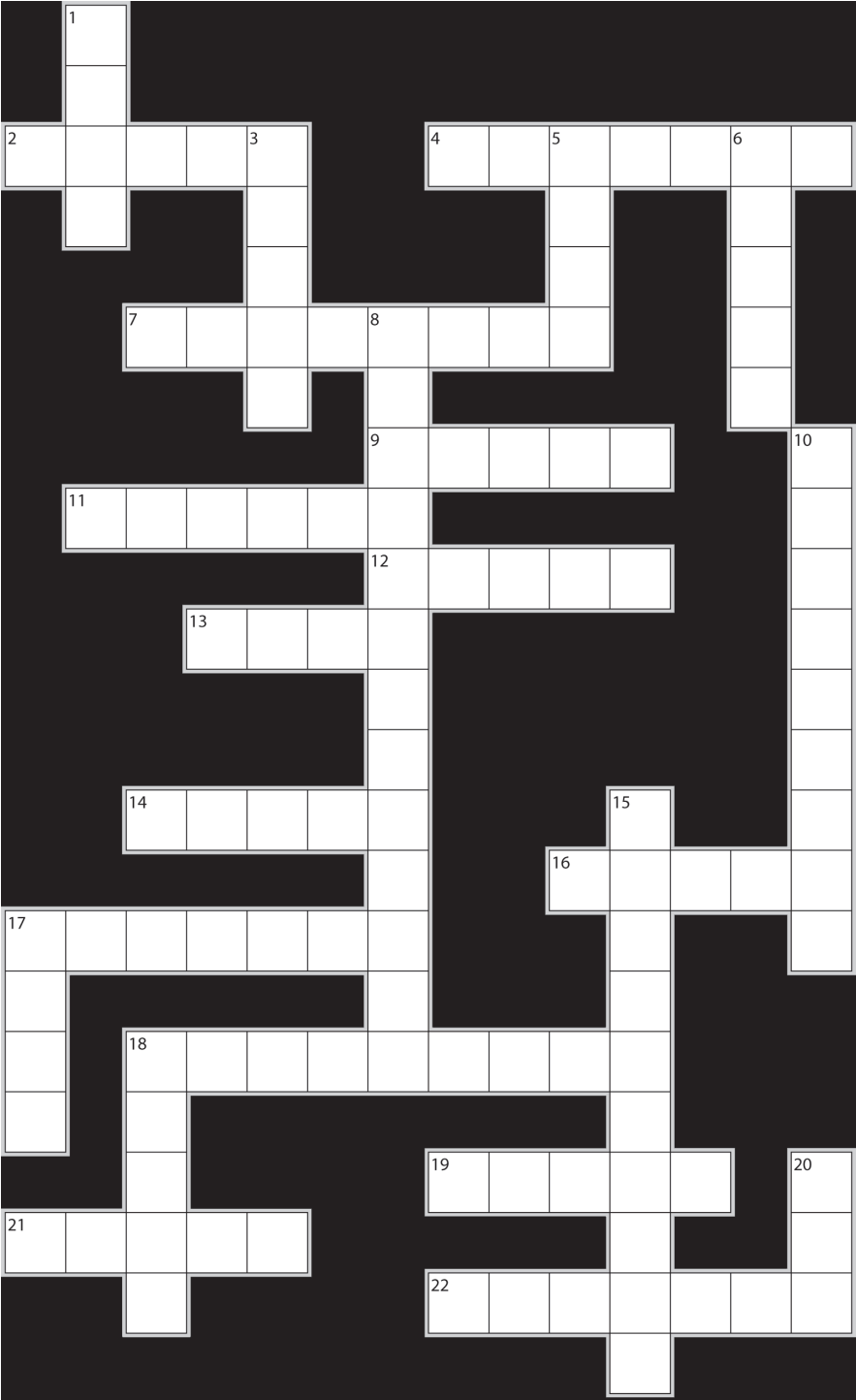


General Fund Offering (11/24)	\$6,859
Other Offering (11/24)	\$1,947
Sunday School Attendance (11/24)	62
Worship Attendance (11/24)	186

Total Last Sunday: \$157.50 Total so far: \$1,197

The children's change collections this quarter will benefit
Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries (LMVFM).

LMVFM representatives, including Patrick Dooley, will be with us on December 8th for worship.



Advent 1C

Find the answers in today's four Scripture lessons: Jeremiah 33:14-16;

Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; and Luke 21:25-36.

The puzzle, including the six questions from the Psalm, is built using the English Standard Version. It does not use the old Psalter in the bulletin.

ACROSS

2. David confessed it to be great.
4. God will excute it in the land.
7. At the coming of the Son of Man there will be this among nations.
9. The Son of Man will come in power and great...
11. It will spring up for David.
12. David wanted to be led in this.
13. Paul asked that the Thessalonians abound in this.
14. David asked the Lord to teach him these.
16. At the signs of the Son of Man's coming, lift this up.
17. The Lord will fulfill it for Israel and Judah.
18. In those days, she will dwell securely.
19. Paul desired to supply what was lacking in the Thessalonians'...
21. There will be signs in sun and moon and...
22. He reported back to Paul and Silvanus about the Thessalonian church.

DOWN

1. David lifted it to the Lord.
3. David placed this in the Lord.
5. David asked that they not be remembered.
6. They will see the Son of Man arriving in one of these.
8. The promise will be fulfilled by him who is called "The LORD is our..."
10. In holiness, Paul asked that the Thessalonians' hearts be...
15. At the signs of the Son of Man's coming, this is drawing near.
17. Paul and his companions did this night and day about seeing the Thessalonian church.
18. In those days, she will be saved.
20. Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy felt this for the Thessalonians.

Turkey Cookers Needed

Again this year volunteers are doing a Christmas Meal for the Communities in Schools students and families on December 12th at First Presbyterian Church in Salisbury. Since we help out Koontz Elementary School, **we have been asked to cook turkeys.** Frozen turkeys will be delivered to St. Paul's on Friday, December 6th. I will place them in the picnic shelter refrigerator and have aluminum pans for you to take. Use the pan to bring back the sliced turkey.

After you cook and slice the turkeys, please return them to the same refrigerator **by Thursday, December 12th at 1:00.** If you can cook a turkey, please let Susan Bernhardt know at 704-637-0155 or srbernhardt@carolina.rr.com Thanks so much for considering this event to help others.

Make a Joyful Noise for Christmas

The Outreach Committee is sponsoring a **Christmas Caroling** event **today, December 1st.**

We will leave the church by 1:00 to go to Autumn Care on Bringle Ferry Road to "Deck the Halls" before Pastor Ryman leads the worship service there. We hope to help residents get to the worship service too. Then, those who do not stay for the service can go to Piedmont Health and Rehab at 610 Fisher Street in Salisbury. We would **love to have families go** along. Children help put a smile on the resident's faces.

We also **need to have choir members involved** to help us sound better. Please consider this outreach ministry to make the day special for the residents. If you have questions, contact Susan Bernhardt—704-637-0155 or srbernhardt@carolina.rr.com.

Recent Prayer Needs

- Cassie Bass, daughter of Brenda Bass – health concerns
- Linda Behrendt – recovering from surgery
- Sandy Corley – health concerns
- Michael Corley, Sandy's son – health concerns
- Nancy Crapster, friend of Sandy Corley – health concerns
- Grady Earnhardt – health concerns
- Mary Lee Earnhardt – health concerns
- Sonya Eller – health concerns
- Wayne Hinson – health concerns
- Matt Holland – health concerns
- Andrea Lyerly – health concerns
- Bob McCanless – health concerns
- Stan McConnell – recovering from surgery
- Griffin Morneau, 13-year-old family friend of Amy Barringer – health concerns
- Michelle Orbison – recovering from surgery
- Franda Raymer – health concerns
- Gail Reese – recovering from surgery
- Ashton Smith, family member of Susan Ryman – health concerns
- Gail Spry, cousin of Mary Lee Earnhardt – health concerns
- Dottie Stancil – health concerns
- Barbara Upright – health concerns
- Robert Weed – Piedmont Health and Rehab, room 207
- Jane Wilhelm – health concerns

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with
all kinds of prayers and requests.

With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying
for all the Lord's people.

Your Redemption Draweth Nigh

Find the 32 bold words from Luke 21:25–31 KJV.

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

And there shall be **signs** in **sun** and **moon** and **stars**; and upon the **earth distress** of **nations**, in perplexity for the **roaring** of the **sea** and the **billows**; men **fainting** for **fear**, and for **expectation** of the things which are coming on the world: for the powers of the **heavens** shall be **shaken**. And then shall they see the **Son** of **man coming** in a **cloud** with **power** and **great glory**. But when these things begin to come to pass, **look** up, and **lift** up your heads; because your **redemption** draweth nigh. And he spake to them a parable: Behold the **fig tree**, and all the trees: when they now shoot forth, ye see it and know of your own selves that the **summer** is now nigh. Even so ye also, when ye see these things coming to pass, know ye that the **kingdom** of **God** is **nigh**.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

A family of faith sharing the gospel and love of Christ

Phone: 704-633-0922

Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Facebook: www.facebook.com/StPaulsLCMC

Wi-Fi: splcguest – pass: SavedbyGrace

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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Next weeks lessons: Malachi 3:1-7b; Psalm 66:1-12; Philippians 1:2-11; Luke 3:1-20

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