



**Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.**

Second Sunday in Advent
December 8, 2024 • 10:30AM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

205 St. Paul's Church Road, Salisbury, NC
Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Acolyte: Cooper Aldridge • Crucifer: Sara Barringer
Cantor: Hila Canup • Lector: Grace Walker
Communion Assistants: Nicole Amos,
Sarah Fesperman, Bonnie Hinson

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “2 Advent Carols”

St. Paul’s Bell Choir

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness *Please 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**

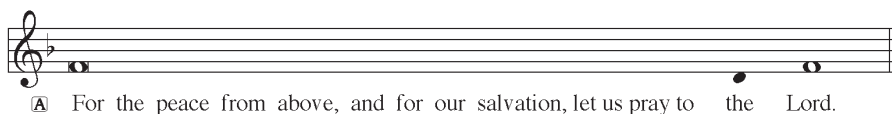
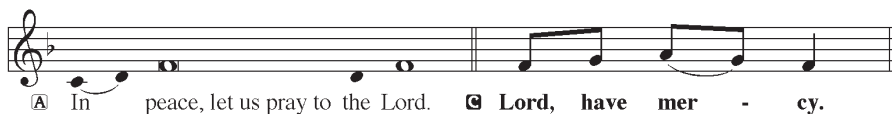
Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and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

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

36

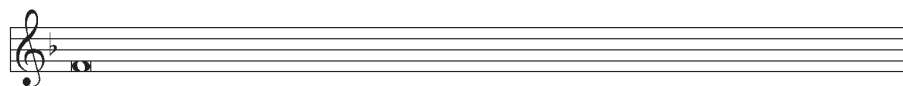
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

The Kyrie

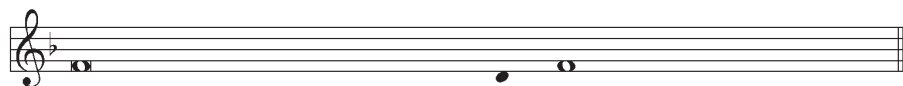




C Lord, have mer - cy.



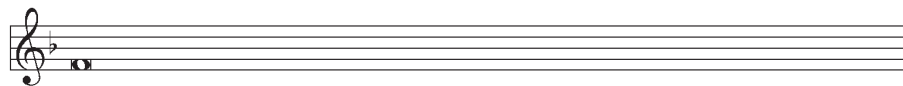
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



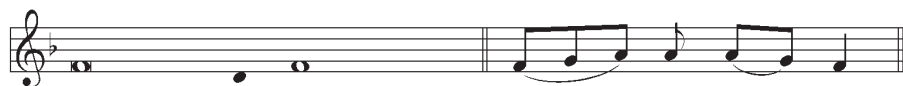
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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 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. **Amen**

Please be seated.

First Lesson: Malachi 3:1–7b

¹“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the LORD whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

⁶For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts.”

The word of the Lord.

Psalm 66:1-12

¹Be joyful in God, | all you lands;
sing the glory of his name; sing the glory | of his praise.

²**Say to God, “How awesome | are your deeds!**
because of your great strength your
enemies | cringe before you.

³All the earth bows | down before you,
sings to you, sings | out your name.”

⁴**Come now and see the | works of God,**
how wonderful he is in his doing | toward all people.

⁵He turned the sea into dry land, so that they went
through the wa- | ter on foot,
and there we re- | joiced in him.

⁶**In his might he rules forever; his eyes keep**
watch ov- | er the nations;
let no rebel rise | up against him.

⁷Bless our | God, you peoples;
make the voice of his praise | to be heard;

⁸**Who holds our | souls in life,**
and will not allow our | feet to slip.

⁹For you, O | God, have proved us;
you have tried us just as sil- | ver is tried.

¹⁰**You brought us in- | to the snare;**
you laid heavy burdens up- | on our backs.

¹¹You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through | fire and water;
but you brought us out into a place | of refreshment.

¹²**I will enter your house with burnt offerings and**
will pay | you my vows,
which I promised with my lips and spoke with my
mouth when I | was in trouble.

Second Lesson: Philippians 1:2-11

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ. ³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,
⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with
joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day

until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

Please stand for the Gospel.



The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.



Gospel: Luke 3:I-20

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

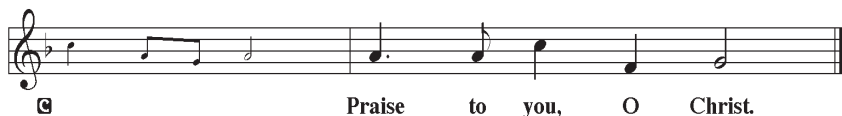
⁷He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” ¹¹And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.”

¹²Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” ¹³And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

¹⁵As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. ¹⁹But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Please be seated.

Affirmation of Baptism of Jeremy Charles Harper

198

Order for Holy Baptism

121

A hymnal in honor of Brayden's baptism will be placed in the sanctuary.

The Baptism of Brayden Eric Harper

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?

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

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

2 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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**3 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**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Matt, Lauren, Carson,
and Sawyer Holland

Children's Chat

Patrick Dooly

Sermon

Rev. Leslie Haines

We welcome Rev. Haines, Jody Ford, and Patrick Dooly. Rev. Haines is the Executive Director of Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries. Jody is one of LMVFM's directors.

Hymn: "Sent Forth by God's Blessings"

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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

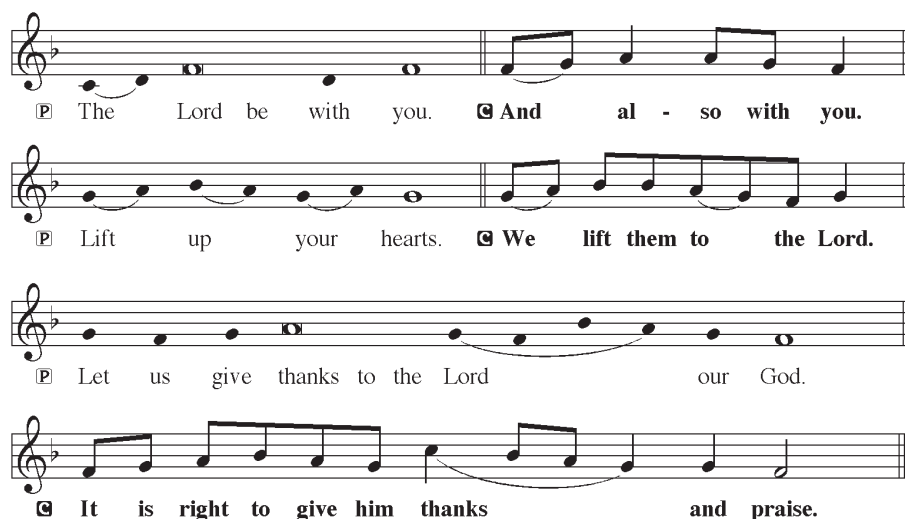
Anthem: "Advent Echo Carol"

Alexander Canup, percussion

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

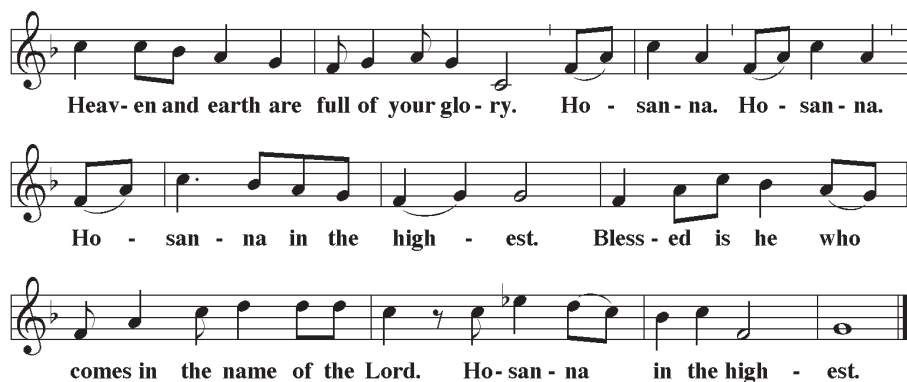


Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



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,

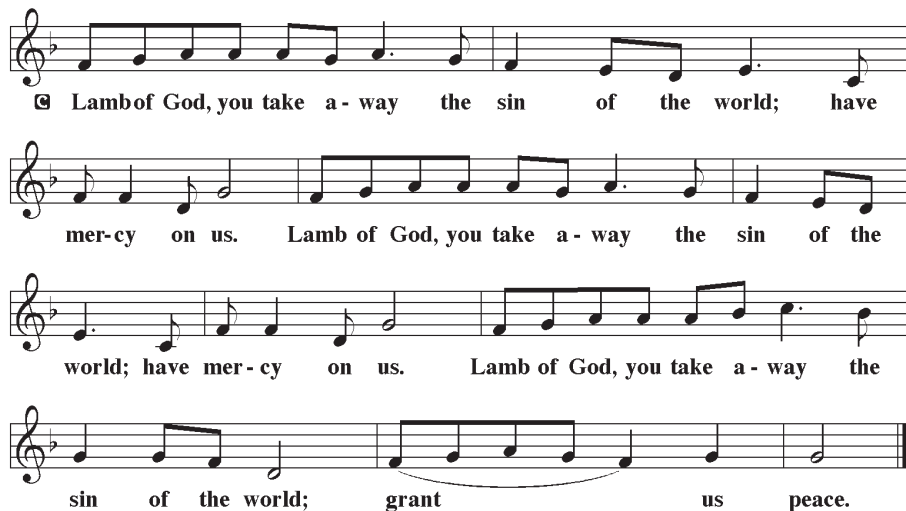
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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**

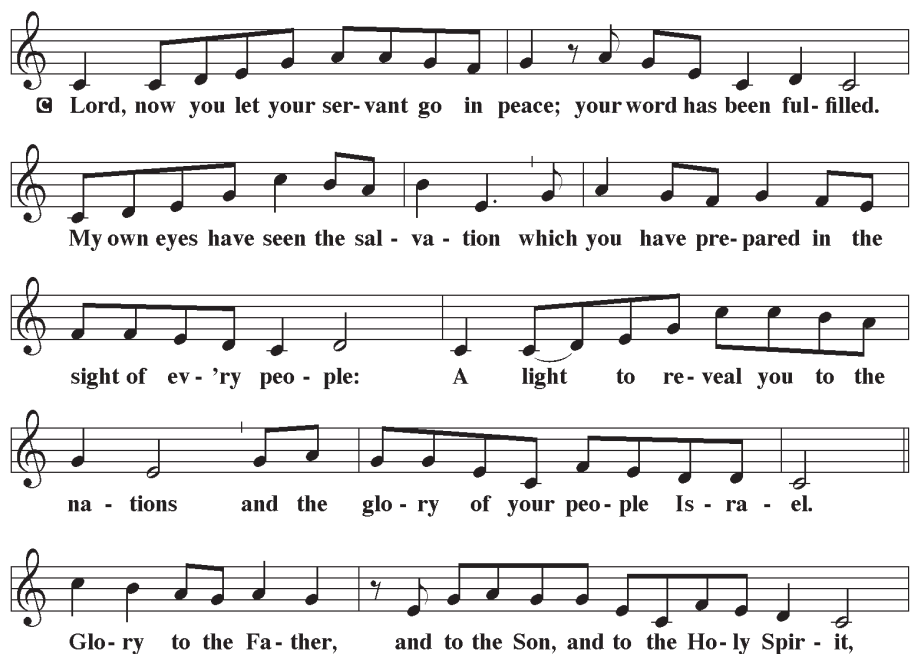
Distribution of Holy Communion

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.



C 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; 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**



C 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,



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: “People, Look East”

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



Poinsettias

Today is the last day to order poinsettias. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia to be placed in the sanctuary for Christmas, the cost is **\$14 each**. Order forms are on the table in the narthex. Please write “poinsettias” along with your name on the envelope with your payment enclosed.

Mid-week Advent Supper and Service

Mid-week Advent supper and service will be Wednesday, December 11th. Supper is at **6pm** in the fellowship hall, followed by a short service in the sanctuary. In order to help us plan, please let us know if you will be attending by putting “**A**” by your name in the friendship register.



Chaplain Leslie Haines (Maj) Ret., is the Executive Director of Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries “LMVFM”.

Established in 2008, LMVFM is a Christian non-profit (501c3) independent, faith based, Lutheran ministry. LMVFM is dedicated to serving military veterans, military contractors, and their families in need of care and assistance, regardless of their faith or religious affiliation. They offer resources, assistance, and training to congregations and other care providers to assist veterans, military contractors, and their family members. In order to keep Christ at the center of this mission, LMVFM does not solicit or accept government funding.

Winter Weather

As winter approaches please keep in mind that since Pastor Ryman lives just across the street, he will always be at church as scheduled. Please use your own judgement concerning your safety when walking out your door and driving to get here.

Turkey Cookers Needed

Turkeys are in the freezer in the picnic shelter. Contact Susan Bernhardt (704-637-0155) if you are able to help cook. After they are cooked and sliced, they are to be returned to the same refrigerator **by 1:00 on Thursday, December 12th**. The meal for Community in Schools students and families will be that afternoon at First Presbyterian Church.

Wreaths Across America Placement in Salisbury

Girl Scout Troop 743 will help with placing wreaths on graves at the Salisbury National Cemetery on December 14th. If you wish to attend the event you should be at the cemetery behind the VA Medical Center by 11:30 that day. Thank you to everyone who purchased a wreath.

Sunday, December 8

- Children's play practice, 9am
- CH Leslie Haines (Maj) Ret., Executive Director of Lutheran Military Veterans & Families, accompanied by Patrick Dooly, is our guest speaker today.
- Baptism of Brayden Eric Harper during the 10:30 service
- Reception of new member, Jeremy Harper
- Christian Education Committee meeting, 1:30pm
- Worship & Music Committee meeting, 2:30pm
- Kathy Ketchie Circle meeting at Chef Santos, Fisher St., 5:45pm
- Men's Choir, 4pm
- Handbell Choir, 4:30pm
- Vespers, 6pm

Monday, December 9

- Melissa Lura Circle, 6pm
- Finance Committee meeting, 6:30pm

Tuesday, December 10

- Bible Study class, 10am and 6pm
- Girl Scouts, 6:30pm

Wednesday, December 11

- Autumn Care chapel service, 2pm
- Mid-week supper and Advent service, 6pm
- Adult Choir practice following the Advent service

Friday, December 13

- Dress rehearsal for Children’s play, 6pm

Sunday, December 15

- Children’s play practice, 9am
- Installation of 2025 Council
- Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- Children’s Christmas play, 4pm
- Vespers, 6pm



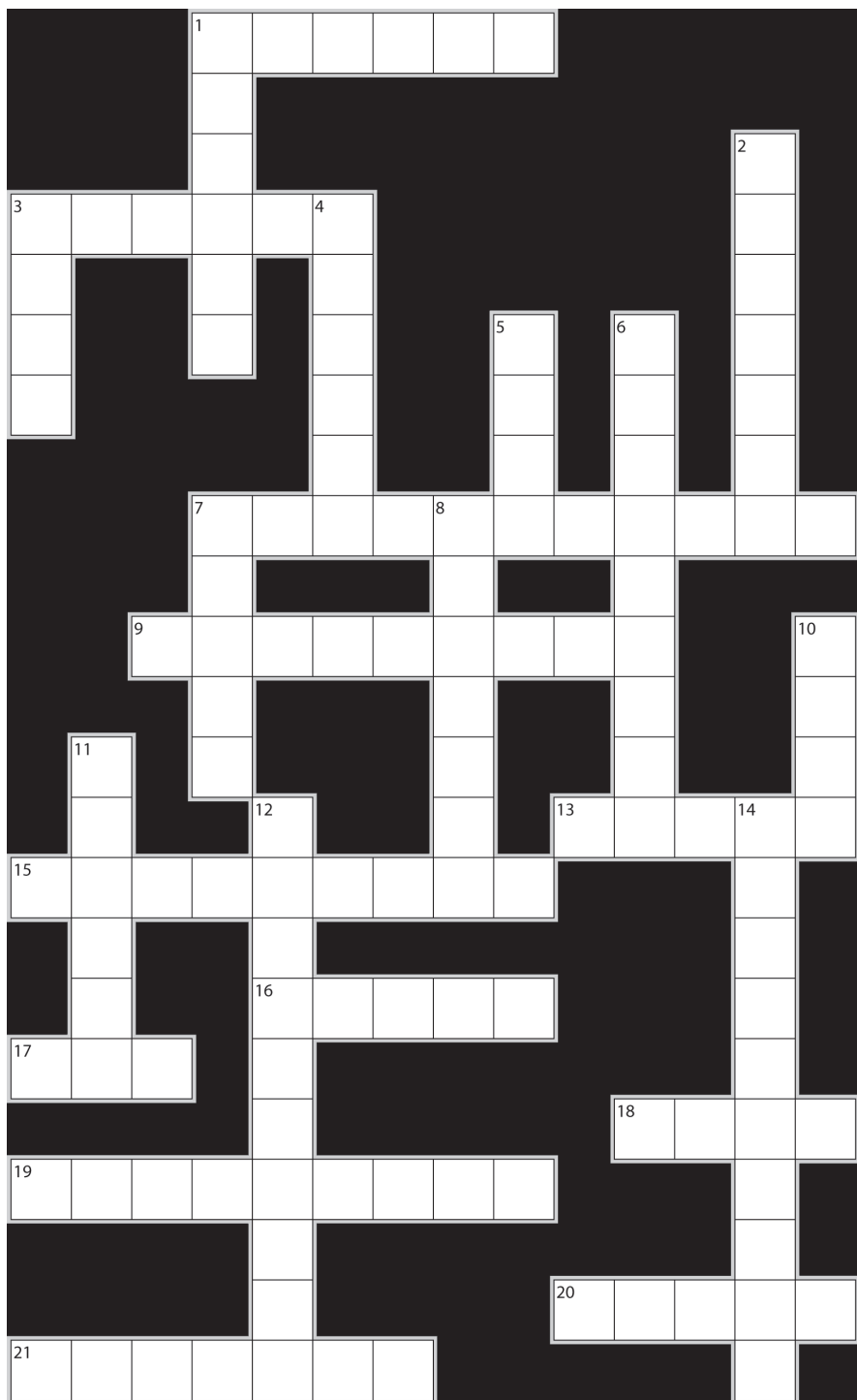
General Fund Offering (12/01).....	\$12,479
Other Offering (12/01)	\$2,442
Sunday School Attendance (12/01)	57
Worship Attendance (12/01)	203

Total Last Sunday: \$169.50 Total so far: \$1,366.50

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.



Second Sunday of Advent, Year C

*Find the answers in today's lectionary readings from
Malachi 3:1-7b; Psalm 66:1-12; Philippians 1:2-11; Luke 3:1-20.
The English Standard Version is used to build this puzzle.*

ACROSS

1. Who can endure the day of the Lord's...?
3. God is able to raise up sons of Abraham from these.
7. Paul thanked God for the Philippians'...
9. All flesh shall see this.
13. The Philippians were partakers of this.
15. Paul prayed the Philippians would approve what is excellent,
and so be pure and...
16. All of it worships God.
17. God turned this into dry land.
18. God has not let them slip.
19. John the Baptist was his son.
20. He was tetrarch of Galilee.
21. The Lord is like this soap.

DOWN

1. The Lord does not do this.
2. "Messenger" in the first verse of the First Lesson is a pun. Can you
guess the Hebrew word for "messenger"?
3. God has kept this among the living.
4. God has tried his people like this element.
5. Paul prayed this would abound more and more.
6. Malachi prophesied that God will send him.
7. Grace to you and...
8. God's eyes keep watch on them.
10. The Lord is like a refiner's...
11. He was governor in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius.
12. John proclaimed this baptism.
14. On the day of Jesus Christ, the good work God began in the
Philippian church, he would bring to...

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
- Jean Deal – upcoming surgery
- Grady Earnhardt – health concerns
- Mary Lee Earnhardt – health concerns
- Sonya Eller – health concerns
- Wayne Hinson – health concerns
- Matt Holland – health concerns
- Alan Lyerly – upcoming surgery
- Andrea Lyerly – health concerns
- Phyllis Lynch, mother of Sherry Barringer – health concerns
- Bob McCanless – health concerns
- Stan McConnell – health concerns
- 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.

Ephesians 6:18



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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Judy Lowman, Treasurer
splcjwl63@gmail.com

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

Next weeks lessons: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Psalm 85; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 7:18-35

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