



The Epistle

of St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Volume 71, Issue 11 • November 2025

Inspiring & Fun Articles
The Latest News and Events
Crossword, Word Search Puzzles, Mazes



A Message from Our New Service Coordinator

From time to time, I have a Sunday with nothing on my schedule. It is not a common occurrence, but it happens once in a while. Usually on those days, I go to my home church and sit in the pew because going to church on Sunday is what I have done my entire life.

But sometimes, if it has been a rough travel week or if the Warriors game went too late on Saturday night, I find myself hitting the snooze on my alarm until it is too late to make it to worship. Then I might have a leisurely breakfast/brunch and read the paper and just have a quiet morning.

Those days worry me. I love going to church. I love singing hymns and hearing a good sermon and talking to the Sunday School kids and everything else that goes with gathering with other believers around Word and Sacrament. I've always loved it. My entire week is oriented to Sunday, which means that when I miss worship, I am disoriented for the rest of the week—sometimes quite literally not being sure what day it is because my week started wrong.

And still, there is something so easy about that snooze button. There is something so lovely about a quiet Sunday morning with a cup of coffee and the Sunday crossword. This, of course, is how temptation works. We aren't usually tempted by unpleasant things. We are drawn to things that are satisfying in some way, forgetting whatever they might be drawing us away from.

I think there are few things that capture the human condition quite as jarringly as the third commandment. Gathering around the Word of the Lord, with our family of faith, is a gift and joy. It is life-giving, life-sustaining. But we need a commandment to get us there. When the alarm goes off on Sunday morning I can't discern whether it is joy in the Gospel or a sense of obligation that moves me to get up. But it doesn't really matter.

What matters is that something gets me to the place (most of the time) where God's promises are delivered to me. What a strange thing it is to have to be commanded to go receive a gift. But that's what the third commandment does. It commands us to go where the Word can be found.

Churches tie themselves up in knots trying to figure out ways to entice people to come. We look for ways to be more appealing. We adjust worship times. We change the music. We exchange wooden pews for soft chairs. I understand all of that. People have all kinds of options on Sunday morning. We want our place to draw a crowd. There's all kinds of left-hand work we can do that serves an important purpose. (When I say "left-hand work" please do not misinterpret that as "unimportant" or "irrelevant." Music and furnishings and schedules do, in fact, make a difference.)

But the very best thing we can do, the most faithful thing we must be attentive to, is that the gift of the promises of God be given away to anyone who walks through those doors or tunes into our live-stream. If the Gospel is not given away, if the promises of Christ are not proclaimed, you can have an extremely successful, meaningful, powerful event...that is not the church and has nothing to do with remembering the sabbath.

So...preachers...deliver the goods every week. And if you don't happen to be a preacher, or if you're a preacher who isn't preaching...don't decide each week what you're going to do on Sunday morning. Just get up and go to where Christ has promised to be present in his Word. You won't regret it. Don't let soccer or volleyball or a hangover or international NFL games or the NYT crossword puzzle or the cabin or lack of what you imagine is the proper wardrobe or hard feelings or boredom or the snooze button or anything else tempt you away from the one who has come to set you free.

*Julie Smith
is the new Service Coordinator
for Lutheran Congregations
in Mission for Christ (LCMC).*





Thanksgiving Service & Dinner

Our annual Thanksgiving Service, will be held Wednesday, November 26, 7pm, in the sanctuary. Bring your family. Bring your neighbor.

Our Thanksgiving Dinner will be celebrated Thursday, November 27, at 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite dish or two to share. Turkey will be provided. Please note that this event may need to be canceled due to construction. We doubt it will need to be canceled but we will let you know by email as soon as possible if it has to be.

Please call the church office **by November 20th** to let us know if you will be in attendance for the meal.

New Sunday School Class

A new Sunday School class will be offered beginning January 2026. The class will be taught by Pastor Ryman and the subject matter will be Martin Luther's *Large Catechism*. The catechism will be used along with a commentary on Luther's larger catechism written by Pastor Ryman.

There are two audiences for the class. **One:** those who would like a refresher course on the smaller catechism. It is understandable that one may not have learned as much as desired when being a confirmand all those years ago. Such was the case for Pastor Ryman, as he has confessed in many sermons. **Two:** parents of children in upper elementary school. Being in this Sunday School class will prepare those parents to better raise their children in the Christian faith, especially when those children have reached seventh grade and will be in Confirmation class. Stay tuned for where the class will meet. That will be largely dependent on building construction at that time.

Of further note on the topic: presently, our website splash screen is a link to daily devotions on *The Large Catechism*. If you would like to go back to the beginning of *The Large Catechism* on our website, here is that link: <https://stpaulslutheran.church/confessions/title/a3127>

November 2—All Saints Sunday

*We remember our loved ones
who have gone before us to the
Church Triumphant since last All Saints Sunday.*

Andrea Kimble Lyerly

2/13/2025

Barbara Boggs Whisnant

2/17/2025

Roy Wesley Page, Jr.

3/13/2025

Grady Odell Earnhardt

3/15/2025

Helen Anderson Howe

6/24/2025

Linda Deal Beaver

7/11/2025

Barbara Fesperman Upright

9/29/2025

Robert Russell Weed

10/20/2025

Family of church members

Bill Staton
Father of Laura Wilhelm

Jimmy Dean Rouse
Brother of Linda Shirley

Betty Newsome
Grandmother of Spencer Newsome

Matt Cerda
Father of Amaya Cerda

William Schluter
Brother of Christine Maloney

Donna Lee Petrea
Niece of Sybil Athey

Michael Brown
Father of Zach Brown

Mark Lowery
Brother of Jane Webb

Marvin Allen Burnett, Sr.
Father of Allen Burnett

Barbara Dennis Miller
Mother of Amy Hoffner

Don McKnight
Father of Julie Johnson

Riley 'Buddy' Lowery
Brother of Jane Webb

Ruth Kluttz
Sister-in-law of Susie Page

Binns-Counts Christmas Gifts

The Women of St. Paul's will continue to collect Christmas toys/gifts through November 23. These are being collected for the children who are served by the Binns-Counts Community Center in McClure, Virginia.

New, unwrapped gifts (for babies through teens) may be left in boxes located in the narthex and near the conference room. Cash donations will also be accepted if you don't want to shop.

On November 28th, a group of our youth and their parents, will join John and Carolyn Canup to deliver, unload and sort the gifts. It is very helpful when toys are donated earlier, but we **will accept them until November 23rd**. Thank you for your support.

Bible Studies and Prayer

Tuesday Bible studies (10:00am and 6:00pm) are working through the Bible. We are currently studying Exodus. Each student receives a booklet of commentary by Pastor Ryman, as well as crossword and Word search puzzles that go with the readings. By the end of this Bible study, you will have a couple of notebooks filled with commentary, puzzles, and your notes.

Morning Prayer (8:30–9:00am weekdays) is a time of reading and discussing the Daily Lectionary and praying together as God leads us in the Word. The daily readings may be found on each Sunday's worship page at <https://StPaulsLutheran.Church/worship-services>

Kitchen Supplies

As we look to the beginning of the kitchen remodel, storage space will be at a premium. Kitchen paper supplies will be ordered on an as-needed basis for immediate upcoming events. Any opened sleeves will need to be stored in plastic containers. These containers are located in the adult Sunday school classroom. All items are labeled for easy access. If you have a small group event (Circles, Lutheran Men, etc.), **please ensure ahead of time that there are enough supplies on hand** to accommodate your event. If you provide your own supplies, please **take the excess home**. Contact Dana or Crystal Bost with any questions or requests.

Calendar of Events for November

Sundays

- Sunday School at 9:30am each Sunday
- Vespers each Sunday evening at 6pm
- November 2 – First Communion class #1, chapel, Noon
- November 2 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- November 2 – Youth and Family Committee, 2pm
- November 2 – Men's Choir rehearsal, 4pm
- November 2 – Annual Altar Guild meeting, 4pm
- November 9 – First Communion class #2, chapel, Noon
- November 9 – Christian Education Committee, 2pm
- November 9 – Worship & Music Committee, 3pm
- November 9 – Kathy Ketchie Circle, 4pm
- November 16 – Annual Congregational Meeting, 10:30am
- November 16 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- November 16 – No Vespers
- November 23 – First Communion class#3, chapel, Noon
- *We meet for Morning Prayer in the chapel Monday through Friday mornings at 8:30, for 30–45 minutes. Please join us.*

Mondays

- Homeschool dance class, weekly in the fellowship hall, 10am
- November 3 – Facility Accessibility committee meeting, 6:30pm
- November 3 – Hama Lingle Circle, 7pm
- November 10 – Melissa Lura Circle, 6pm
- November 10 – Finance Committee, 6:30pm
- November 17 – December newsletter articles due this week
- November 17 – Council meeting, 6:30pm
- November 24 – Lutheran Men's meeting, 6:30pm

Tuesdays

- Bible Study Classes, 10am and 6pm each Tuesday
- Girl Scouts, 6:30pm each Tuesday
- November 4 – Grace Ridenhour Circle, 6:30pm
- November 11 – Bonnie Bost, 7pm
- November 18 – Staff meeting, 5pm

Wednesdays

- Classical Conversations Homeschool group, 8:30am–3:30pm
- Adult Choir practice, each week at 6:30pm (except on the 26th)
- Youth Confirmation Class, each week at 7pm
- November 5 – Ellen Bumgarner Circle, 10am
- November 26 – No choir practice
- November 26 – Thanksgiving Eve service, 7pm

Thursdays

- Rowan Smart Start, 10am–Noon, each week
- November 20 – Friendship Club, 10:30am
- November 27 – Thanksgiving dinner, 1pm–2:30pm
- November 27 – Thanksgiving Day—Church office closed

Fridays

- November 14 – Girl Scouts, fellowship hall, 6:30pm
- November 28 – Church office closed

Saturdays

- November 1 – Old Timey Stew, picnic shelter, 6pm
- November 28 – St. Paul's members take gifts to Binns–Counts

Friendship Club

Friendship Club will meet November 20th at 10:30am at the church. Stephanie Bias, state representative for SHIPP will present a program on Medicare changes for the year 2026. After the program we will go to the China Grove Family House Restaurant for lunch. Please let me know if you plan to have lunch with us. I will need a head count for the restaurant.

Helen Gordon (704)636-5002

Christian Tours Trip Update

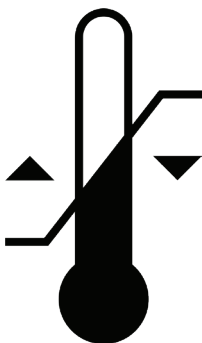
We have 22 signed up for the trip to the Amish Country which includes the play “Joshua”, a visit to the Museum of the Bible and the Museum of the Army in Washington, D.C. That is a great start. We still need about eight more to sign up before Christian Tours will begin making reservations for our trip. We sent out letters to eight area churches and are waiting for their replies. Please check with your family and friends to see if they

are interested in this trip. The **dates are May 6–9, 2026**, or as close to those dates as we can get once they start trying to secure rooms and tickets. A flyer about the trip is on the table in the Narthex near the sign-up sheet.

It would be nice to have our own Christian Tours Bus pick us up at the church. Let's see if we can make this happen!

(Susan Bernhardt, 704-637-0155, srbernhardt@carolina.rr.com)

Education Building Heating and Air Conditioning



The heating and cooling of the church's Education Building is accomplished with a hot water boiler (for winter heating) and water chillers (for summer cooling). Last year the heating and cooling units in the Education Building were replaced—all 32 of them. The new units have individually-controlled thermostats which allow for turning the unit on and off, and temperature setting.

However, the individual thermostats do not control the overall system setting of winter hot water or summer chilled water. **The heat and air cannot be run simultaneously in the building.** Every fall the water chillers are turned off and the boiler is cranked up for circulating hot water.

Every spring the boiler is turned off and the chillers are started for circulating cold water. The individual unit thermostats do have both AC and heat settings and are plumbed to do both jobs. But since they are all plumbed together, they can only run the water that is being supplied by the building—therefore, either hot water or cold water throughout the building, but not at the same time.

Recently, nighttime temperatures have been in the 50s so the boiler was started and the individual wall units were set at 70 degrees. The individual unit temperatures can be adjusted as needed. However, **please do not change the setting of the heat/AC control**, which makes the unit run continuously in the opposite mode. For issues or questions, please contact someone on the Property Committee (listed in your yearbook). Thank you.

Barringer Mission Trip

We pray this letter finds you in good health and filled with the peace of Christ. We want to share with you an incredible opportunity God has opened for us. In January 2026, we will be traveling with North Hills Christian School on a mission trip to San Pedro De Poas, Costa Rica.

Together with other classmates, parents, and teachers, we will be serving alongside 'Rice and Beans Ministries', a Christ-centered organization dedicated to meeting both the physical and spiritual needs of families through food, shelter, education, and the hope of the Gospel.

This journey is more than just a trip—it is a calling to live out the words of Jesus in Matthew 28:19, to “go and make disciples of all nations.” We will have the privilege of putting our faith into action, not only by helping to provide meals and resources, but also by sharing Christ’s love with those who desperately need to be reminded that they are seen and cared for by their Creator.

The cost of this mission is approximately \$2,000 per person. This includes food bags to take with us, travel, housing, and the resources needed to serve effectively. We cannot do this alone, which is why we are reaching out to you.

Would you prayerfully consider partnering with us, whether through financial support or by covering us in prayer, as we prepare for this life-changing experience? Your generosity will not only help make this mission possible, but it will also allow us to be the hands and feet of Jesus in Costa Rica. Together, we can make an eternal impact in the lives of those we serve and also in the hearts of the students who will be forever changed by answering this call to serve.

Thank you for considering how God might use you to be part of this mission. We would be deeply grateful for your support and prayers as we step out in faith.

In Christ's love and service,
Amy and Sara Barringer
North Hills Christian School

(If you are able to help financially, checks may be made payable to Amy Barringer before January 1, 2026.)

Rejoice!

Find the 24 bold words from Philippians 4:4–9 KJV.

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

Rejoice in the Lord **alway**: and **again** I say, **rejoice**. Let your **moderation** be known unto all men. The **Lord** is at hand.

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by **prayer** and **supplication** with **thanksgiving** let your **requests** be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which **passeth** all **understanding**, shall keep your **hearts** and **minds** through **Christ Jesus**. Finally, **brethren**, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are **honest**, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are **pure**, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any **virtue**, and if there be any **praise**, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both **learned**, and **received**, and **heard**, and seen in me, do: and the God of **peace** shall be with you.



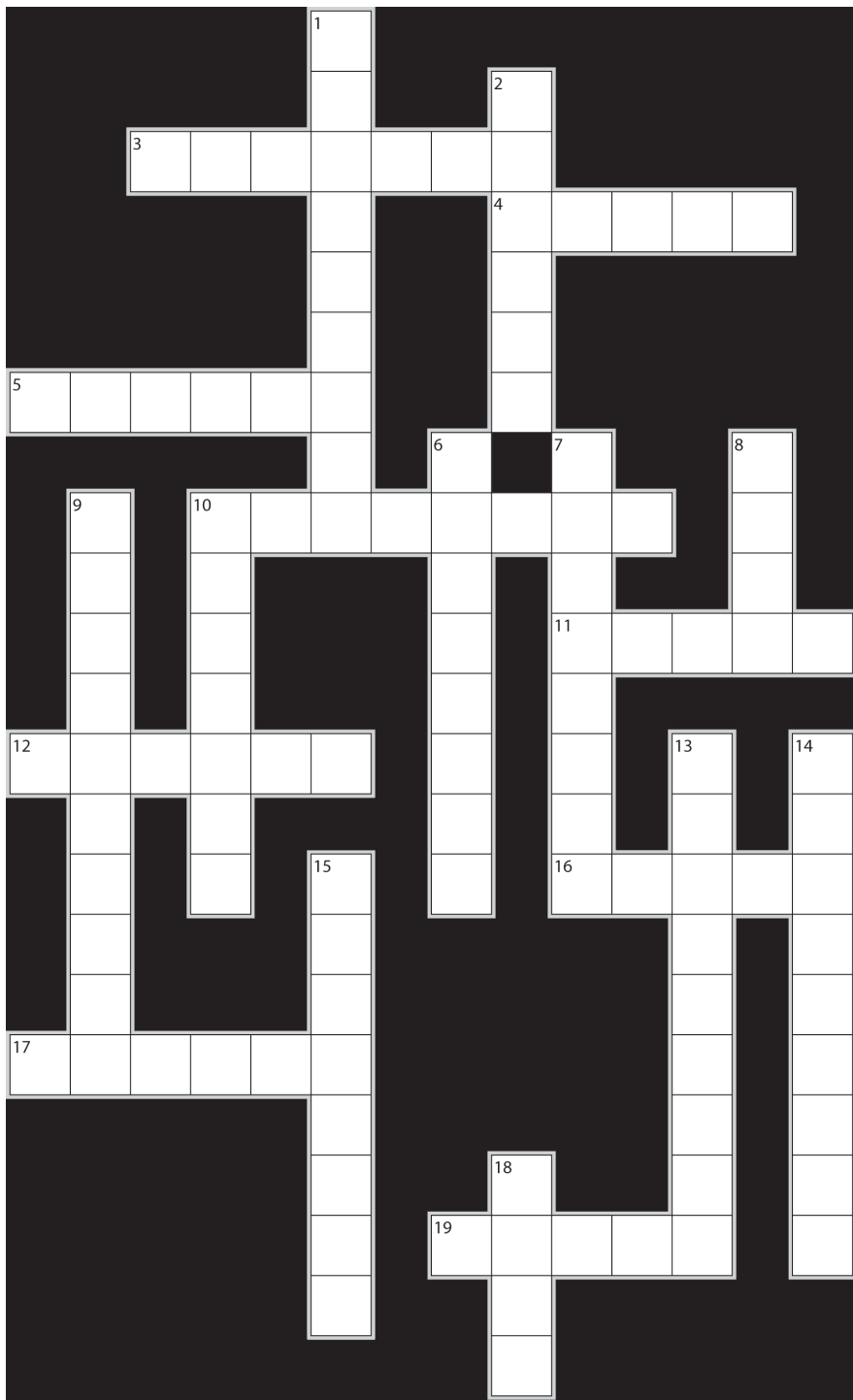
Thanksgiving Crossword

Across

- 3. The Native American who helped the Pilgrims
- 4. A green vegetable often prepared in a casserole
- 5. A traditional, religious pre-meal custom
- 10. The Pilgrims' settlement in Massachusetts
- 11. A large, festive meal
- 12. The main course of most Thanksgiving dinners
- 16. A rich, brown sauce served over mashed potatoes and stuffing
- 17. The annual Thanksgiving spectacle in New York City
- 19. What you do with a large turkey to get slices

Down

- 1. A side dish made of sweetened red berries
- 2. The sound a turkey makes
- 6. A traditional game to watch or play on Thanksgiving day
- 7. A dish made of bread, onions, and seasonings, often cooked inside the bird
- 8. A type of potato often served mashed or candied
- 9. A large, basket-like decoration representing abundance
- 10. A popular, orange-colored pie served for dessert
- 13. It's what Thanksgiving is all about.
- 14. The boat that carried the Pilgrims to America
- 15. The month in which Thanksgiving is celebrated in the US
- 18. The season in which Thanksgiving occurs



November 2025—Birthdays—Ann

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
2 Charles Wilhelm **Ashley, Jeremy Young, and Christian Turner	3 Rylee Deal Chad Walker **Angela, Luke, Gracelyn, Lauren & Rachel Ziegler	4 Franklin Bowles Delores Stanley **Jennifer, Lee, Cooper, & Caroline Aldridge	5 Melody Yon **Cindy and Travis
9 Mark Menius **Judith and Don Austin	10 Luke Barringer **Brian, Sophie, Elise and Elliott Austin	11 Ruth Julian M/M Susan and Terry Beeker **Elizabeth, Kolya, and Andrew Baker	12 Theodore Powlas M/M Lisa and Re **Gina, George, H and Luke Barring
16 M/M Gina and Greg Wilhelm **Jerry Beaver	17 Jane Wilhelm **Christopher Beaver	18 Patricia Free Julie Goodman Cindy Hinson Jeff Leonard Charlotte Terrell M/M Jessica and Kevin Brooks **Susan and Terry Beeker	19 Jesse Watson **Linda Behrendt
23 Lucas Cannon Jan McCanless Hailey Smith Katie Story **Amanda, Jason, and Brinley Bernhardt	24 Matthew Yattaw **Bonnie Bernhardt	25 **Raynette Bernhardt	26 Alyssa McCraven **Libby and Russ
30 **Elaine Bowles, and Franklin Bowles			

Anniversaries (M/M)—Daily Prayer (**)

	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 **Sue Young
is Alligood	6 **Nicole, Glen, Harley & Emma Amos	7 David Chilson M/M Hailey and Brandon Smith **Cleo Anzur, Melanie and Aaron Anzur	8 M/M Summer and Keith Deal **Sybil Athey
s x Phelps	13	14	15
Hannah, er	**Amy, Eric, Henry, and Sara Barringer	**Shiela and Bob Barringer	**Brenda Bass and Alyssa McCraven
	20 M/M Jan and Bob McCanless **Susan and Ben Bernhardt	21 **Lori and Perry Bernhardt	22 M/M Tonya and Nathan Catledge **Melissa Bernhardt
ell Bingham	27 **Brad, Melinda, Cooper and Cannon Boling	28 Laura Brock M/M Mary Lee and James Earnhardt **Dana and Crystal Bost	29 Chloe Monroe **Brady Bost

Did You Know? History of St. Paul's 1948–1952

If you have been following the history of our church in the monthly Epistle, you will notice more full names being used. Up until 1940, only initials were found with names in our history. Now, since over 100 members of our congregation are over 70, many current members will recognize the names of many individuals listed in these articles.



In 1948, the gift of brass offering plates and a receiving basin were given



by Mrs. Ralph Ritchie and son Jerry in memory of her husband and his father who had given his life for our country in World War

II. The same year, a Connsonata Electric Organ was given by the Sunday School in memory and honor of all who served in WWII.

The next year, 1949, Southern Railway presented a large bell to the Boy Scouts to be placed on their Scout Hut. The bell is now located in the History Room.

That year, twins, Christine and Barbara Fesperman (Barbara Upright, whose death occurred just last month) were born, and a bowl for the baptismal font was given by their grandmother, Mrs. W. P. Sloop, in honor of their baptisms.
(pictures, top of next page)



Many activities were put on hold because of the Korean War that began in 1950. In 1951, a member



of the congregation, Pfc. Clyde Casper, son of M/M Bowers Casper, was killed in action during that war.

It was during 1952 that the Women of the Church assumed responsibility for beginning the work of developing a recreational facility for the use of the congregation behind the church—a project that been discussed for a long time. (Most of you realize how long projects take around our church!) The 20' x 70' building was constructed with one end containing a kitchen and storage space and on the other end a large brick chimney with an open fireplace and two furnaces. Remains of that structure can still be seen behind the church. During this year, the church was without a pastor. Pastor L.C. Barringer resigned in January, but in August, Pastor L.C. Bumgarner accepted the call, began his duties in September, and was installed in October of 1952.

During 1952, Mrs. Carl Canup, acted as part-time secretary, *free gratis*. The church had no mimeograph machine, so she traveled to Calvary Lutheran Church in Spencer, and printed the bulletins. However, before Pastor Bumgarner came, the council did purchase a new typewriter and a mimeograph machine.

The year was certainly a busy one. The Women of the Church purchased 50 additional Common Service Books, and the Sunday School purchased 25 Children's Hymnals. A project to redecorate the sanctuary by installing a new ceiling and lighting system was proposed to begin in 1953, at the expense of \$4,500. Money was raised through a church repair fund that had begun many years earlier.

In, 1952, Church enrollment was 550, Sunday School enrollment 486, Women of the Church enrollment 110, Brotherhood enrollment 35, Luther League enrollment 37, and Children of the Church enrollment of 59.

Prayer Needs

- Betty Camerlin – Piedmont Rehab
- Wilbur Canup – health concerns
- Tricia Clark – health concerns
- Larry Clark – health concerns
- Sandy Corley – health concerns
- Michael Corley, Sandy's son – health concerns
- Nancy Crapster, friend of Sandy Corley – health concerns
- Tiffany Holland – health concerns
- Randy Johnson – health concerns
- Sally Kruchkow, Tiffany Holland's grandmother – health concerns
- Jan McCanless – health concerns
- Tommy McKnight, Julie Johnson's brother – health concerns
- Betty Niedens – health concerns
- Ed Niedens – health concerns
- Susan Page (Susie's daughter-in-law) – health concerns
- Linda Robbins, step-mother of Heather Canup – health concerns
- Bobby Shelton, Dani Cottingham's father – health concerns
- Hurley Stanley, boyfriend of Julie Johnson – health concerns
- Kelly Warfield, friend of Heather Canup – health concerns

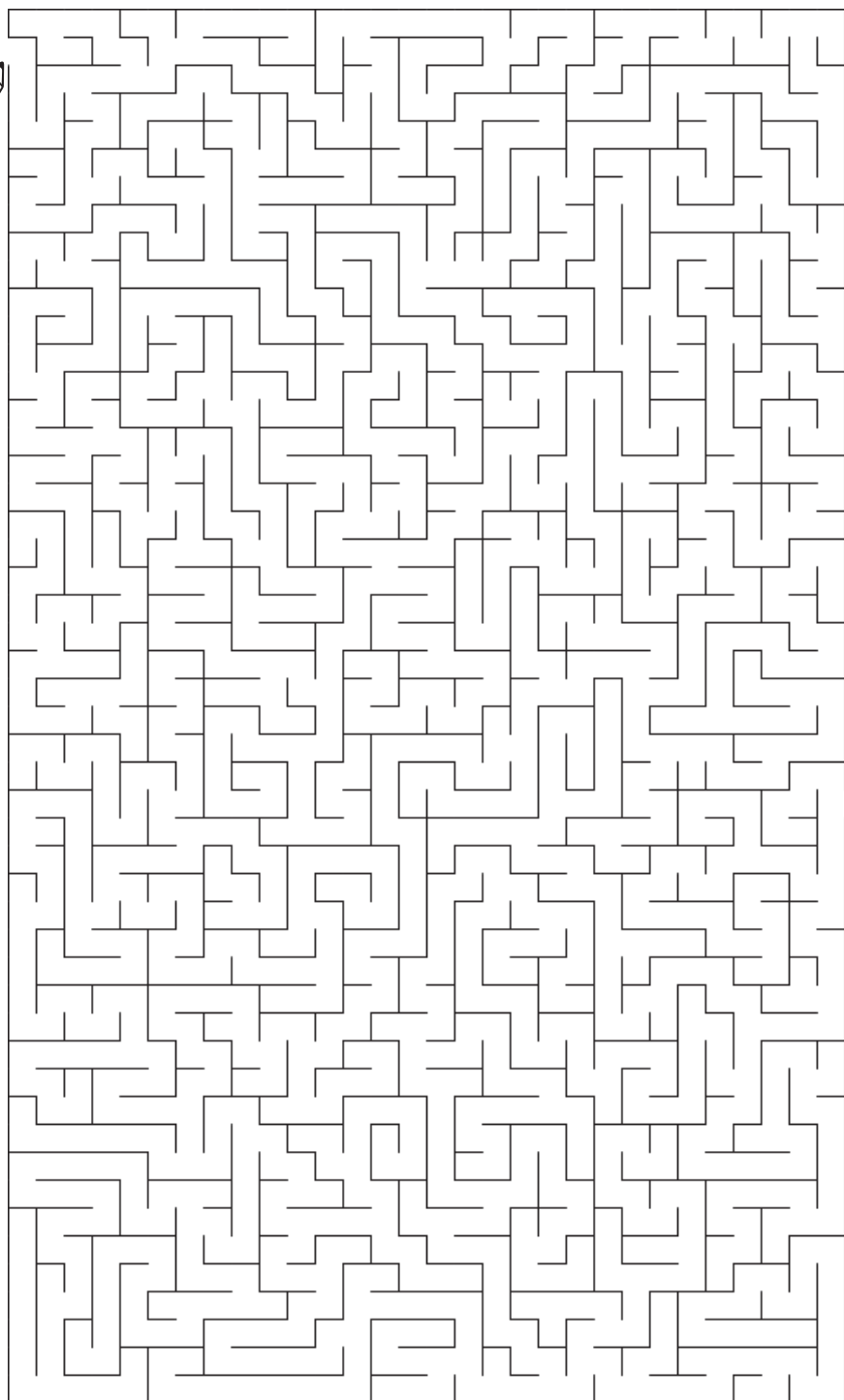
Pray for Homebound and Long-Term Care:

Autumn Care: Walter Smith • *Terra Bella:* Della Jenkins

Bermuda Commons: Edna Chapman • *Trinity Oaks:* Ray Kubitz

Compass Healthcare: John Stutts, Jr.

Home: Don and Betty Camerlin, Barbara Deese, John Cornelison, Sonya Eller, Harold and Dot Goodman, Linda Hess, Shirley Hoosier, Ruth Julian, James Lyerly, Lottie Simpson, Dottie Stancil, Jane Wilhelm



Memorial Gifts

Gifts were received in memory of **Barbara Upright** for the

Capital Building Fund from

Lori and Perry Bernhardt

Susan and Ben Bernhardt

Crystal and Dana Bost

Alice Davis

Karen and Tim Deal

Myra Jane and Terry Eller

Helen Gordon

Bonnie and Wayne Hinson

Judi and David Honbarger

Shirlene Potts

Brian Potts

Sunday School Classes #4/6

Susan and Mark Ryman

Johnsie and Wayne Taylor

Gifts were received in memory of **Barbara Upright** for the

Cemetery Fund from

Cindy and Travis Alligood

Luann Rufty Bridle

Carolyn and John Canup

Cindy and Frank Hinson

Kathy Ketchie Circle

Salcoa Contracting, Inc.

Ken and Bethany Whisnant,

Lauren Whisnant

Lindsey Whisnant

A gift was received in memory of **Barbara Upright** for the

General Fund from

Jean and Jimmie Deal

Gifts were received in memory of **Don McKnight** for the

Capital Building Fund from

Crystal and Dana Bost

Judi and David Honbarger

Jeanne and Tony Shaver

Johnsie and Wayne Taylor

Gifts were received in memory of **Marvin Burnett** for the

Capital Building Fund from

Crystal and Dana Bost

Johnsie and Wayne Taylor

Gifts were received in memory of **Barbara Miller** for the

Capital Building Fund from

Crystal and Dana Bost

Jeanne and Tony Shaver

Johnsie and Wayne Taylor

A gift was received in memory of **Linda Beaver** for the Capital Building Fund from

Donna and Alan Lyerly

Gifts were received in memory of **Buddy Lowery** for the

Capital Building Fund from

Ben and Susan Bernhardt

Perry and Lori Bernhardt

Dana and Crystal Bost

Alice Davis

Tim and Karen Deal

Terry and Myra Jane Eller

Helen Gordon

Susan and Mark Ryman

*We extend our love and sympathy to
the family of Barbara Fesperman Upright
who died Monday, September 29, 2025.
Please keep Barbara's family in your prayers.*

*We extend our love and sympathy to
the family of Robert Russell Weed
who died Monday, October 20, 2025.
Please keep Robert's family in your prayers.*

*Our love, prayers and sympathy go to Susie Page and family
on the death of Susie's sister-in-law, Ruth Kluttz.
Ruth died Friday, October 17, 2025.*

*Our love, prayers and sympathy go to Jane Webb and family
on the death of her brother, Riley "Buddy" Lowery.
Buddy died Sunday, October 12, 2025.*



Gifts To Honor

A gift was received in honor of Pastor Brian Lord's birthday for the Capital Building Fund from Alice Davis.

A gift was received in honor of Lisa and Brian Lord's wedding anniversary for the Capital Building Fund from Alice Davis.

A gift was received in honor of Susan and Mark Ryman's wedding anniversary for the Capital Building Fund from Alice Davis.

Missions

Friends! Thank you so much for your generosity. All the many ways you support The Table—your gifts were used to purchase portable AC units. Our building does not have air. Our hearts are warm, but we are now cool. Thank you! We are so grateful to be lifted up by St. Paul's. Your support makes a huge difference.

Pastor Erica

Thank you for your gifts totaling \$741.46 received in August, September, and October, and for your continued partnership in connecting spiritual orphans to the global family of Christ. We are grateful for your support and partnership in this work. We are excited to announce that SON has expanded to Ethiopia and is working on new relationships in South America. Your ongoing partnership is what makes it possible for people around the world to find their identity as children of God.

Pastor David Breidenbach
SON Executive Director

Thank you for your September 30th contribution of \$322.74 and the October gift of \$298.72 to Focus on the Family's ongoing efforts on behalf of families across the country and around the world. We couldn't do what we do without you. Thanks for all you do to help us keep families informed.

Sincerely,
Jim Daly, President

Thank you for your gift of \$322.74 on September 18th, to the ministry of Samaritan's Purse. In Ukraine, people who would otherwise go hungry are now harvesting potatoes and other produce because we provided them with seeds and tools. In Gaza, we are distributing emergency food packets to give critical nourishment to women and children. In Israel, we are helping to build ambulance stations and community centers with bomb shelters. Your gifts and prayers also equip us to serve in the U. S. when disaster strikes. God bless you.

Sincerely,
Franklin Graham, President

On behalf of the staff and Board of Sola Publishing, thank you for your gifts of \$298.72 and \$322.74. You have blessed our hearts with your support of our ministry to provide solid, biblical resources for use in preaching and teaching God's word. We are deeply thankful for your gracious gift.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Steve King, Managing Editor

What a blessing the past 5 months have meant to me personally and to Naomi's Heart Mission. The most exciting is finishing the first of (2) two story buildings with 8 classrooms for our Junior High Students (grades 7-10), and connecting with three public schools to teach Bible classes with approximately 120 students in each school and serve a hot meal. Also, adding more street feedings for very impoverished children.

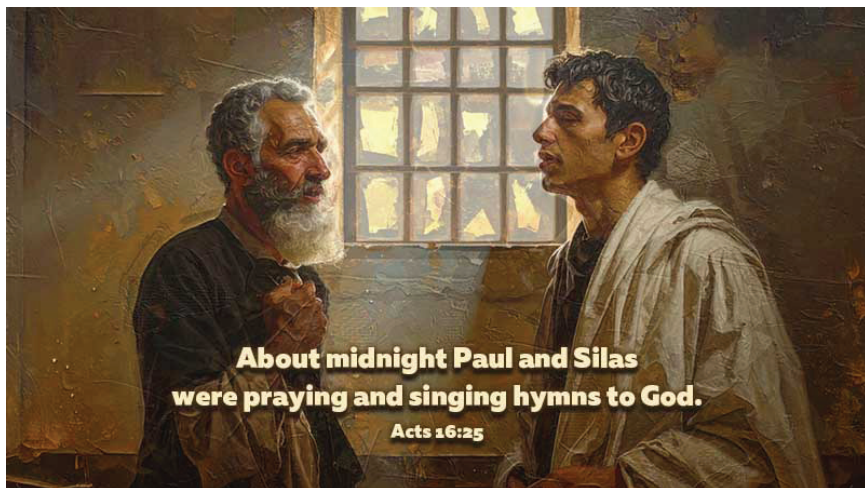


Our livelihood program is growing in raising over 200 chickens for eggs and to butcher; plus opening a water refilling station, all to help in a small way the mission and families to become a little more self-sustaining. We had over four teams visit us (20 people) and join in the ministry while experiencing life on the mission field.

Thank you again, St. Paul's, for all you do for Naomi's Hearts Mission. We could not begin to do what we do without you. We are grateful for your generous hearts of compassion as we serve a great and mighty God together.

Blessings,

Kristie Ward, Founder



From the Word: About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God... (Acts 16:25)

From the Lutheran Confessions: The Large Catechism, the Third Commandment — But this is not so constrained to a certain time, I say, as with the Jews, that it had to be observed on this or that exact day. In itself, one day is no better than another. To be sure, we should worship daily. However, since the people cannot be in attendance daily, there should be at least one day a week set apart. Since from olden days Sunday has been appointed for this purpose, we also should continue doing so, in order that everything is done in harmonious order, and no one creates disorder by unnecessary innovation.

Pulling It Together: Christians worship, not only when commanded, but when there is need. Are you a sinner in need of forgiveness? Worship. Are you thankful? Worship. Would you hear God's will, or just need to hear from him? Worship. Is there a special situation in your life that requires God's help? Worship. Do not wait until the next Sunday. Worship. If there is no opportunity at your church today, spend some additional time with God in prayer. I do not mean simply talking to him. Listen as well, not just sitting there with all of the day's concerns flooding heart and mind. Open his Word and listen. Perhaps even sing a hymn or Scripture song. Make some glad melody in your heart (Ephesians 5:19). Worship. Today.

National Wreaths Across America Day — December 13, 2025

Girl Scout Troop 743 will be helping to place wreaths on graves at the Salisbury National Cemetery Annex again this year. If you would like to sponsor a wreath to be placed on a Veteran's grave, mark your envelope with your name and the word **'wreaths'** with **\$17 per wreath** enclosed.

So that there is time to order the wreaths, the **deadline is November 30th**. To make a donation online, visit the website at www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/NC0277.



Decorating the Church for Advent

The Christmas tree and other decorations will be placed on **Saturday, December 6**, at 9am. We need volunteers to assist in decorating for the Advent Season.

Decorations will be removed on Saturday, January 10, 2025, at 8am. Check your calendar for both dates and call Bonnie Hinson at 704-279-3126, or email her at lwaynehinson@yahoo.com if you would like to help.

Poinsettias

Poinsettias will be placed in the church December 20. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia, they will be 14 each. The **deadline** to order a poinsettia is **Sunday, December 14**.

Forms for poinsettias will be in the narthex beginning in November 23rd. A booklet of poinsettia memorials/honorariums will be available on Christmas Eve.

Please take your poinsettias after the Christmas Eve Service. Any poinsettias left after worship on December 28th will be discarded.

Firstfruits

Find the 24 bold words from Deuteronomy 26:7-11 KJV.

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

And when we cried unto the LORD God of our **fathers**, the LORD **heard** our **voice**, and looked on our **affliction**, and our **labour**, and our **oppression**: and the LORD brought us **forth** out of **Egypt** with a **mighty** hand, and with an **outstretched** arm, and with great **terribleness**, and with **signs**, and with **wonders**: and he hath brought us into this place, and hath given us this land, even a land that **floweth** with **milk** and **honey**. And now, **behold**, I have brought the **firstfruits** of the land, which thou, O LORD, hast **given** me. And thou shalt set it before the LORD thy God, and **worship** before the LORD thy God: and thou shalt **rejoice** in every good thing which the LORD thy God hath given unto thee, and unto **thine** house, thou, and the **Levite**, and the **stranger** that is among you.

Thank You

I don't know where to begin to let you know how grateful I am that I am part of a great church family. My mom truly loved her church and her church family. We are so grateful that you were there for her. Mom loved all the visits, calls, cards, and flowers. She especially loved Pastor Lord's visits and support in her final days. Thank you to all that helped with the mom's meal after her service. The food was absolutely delicious. Thank you again.

Your sister in Christ,
Nicole Amos

Our sincere appreciation to all St. Paul's members for their thoughts, prayers, cards, and calls Ed and I have received in the last few months. It's been a very trying time and you should know prayers were answered. Recuperation and therapy are going well. We appreciated the pastor's visits at the hospital and rehab facilities. Thanks for everything. God bless you all.

Love,
Ed and Betty Niedens

Thank you to everyone for your prayers, cards, texts, and calls after my fall. Prayers were answered and I am healing every day!

Bonnie Hinson

Thank you to the people of St. Paul's for all the prayers, cards, and visits to my father, Robert Weed during his illness and final days. Thank you for your kindness to our family.

Karen and Gary Herndon

Offering 2025

Online Giving is accessible at StPaulsLutheran.Church/give. Scanning this QR code will take you directly to the giving page. There is a minimal fee for each transaction.



General Fund Giving and Expenditure Report September, 2025

Income for September	\$36,475.97
Expenditures for September	\$38,709.35
Net Income (Income minus expenses)	-\$2,233.38
Income year to date	\$446,267.98
Expenditures year to date	\$442,921.29
Net Income YTD (Income minus expenses)	\$3,346.69
Budgeted Income year to date	\$472,993.83
Actual Income year to date	\$446,267.98
Income less than Budgeted YTD	-\$26,725.85

The report above is provided to you for information as you plan your giving to St. Paul's. It includes income and expenditures for the General Fund only, which is for the ongoing budgeted operations of the church. This does not include special gifts made to dedicated funds or to the Capital Building Fund.

In addition to our annual benevolences, our children collect a weekly spare-change mission offering. In the last two+ years, they have collected almost \$22,000 for missions. So, please bring your spare change to worship!

- Lutherans for Life – \$1,951
- The Table Ministry – \$2,022
- Friends of Madagascar Mission – \$2,248.50
- Lutheran Military Veterans & Family Ministries –

More about all of our missionaries may be found at:
<https://stpaulslutheran.church/missionaries>

Capital Building Fund as of October 19

\$2,150,944

Some fees have already been paid.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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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pastor@stpaulslutheran.church

Brian Lord, Associate Pastor

wingman@stpaulslutheran.church

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Judy Lowman, Treasurer

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Amy Barringer, Girl Scout Coordinator, abarringer@bellsouth.net

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

St. Paul's newsletter, the "Monthly Epistle," is intended to keep everyone informed about happenings within the congregation that effect and contribute to our ministry together. In order to maximize reach and minimize cost, the preferred methods of distribution are by email, and posting on our St. Paul's website (www.StPaulsLutheran.Church). All members are encouraged to use the newsletter as a resource to help you consider how God is calling you to be involved in the life of his church. If you are unable to access the newsletter online, or would just like to have a printed copy to refer to, the most cost-effective way to receive it is to pick up a copy from the narthex or church office. We mail copies to those members whom we know don't have online access, or are shut-in. If you want to be added to our mailing or email list, please contact the church office.