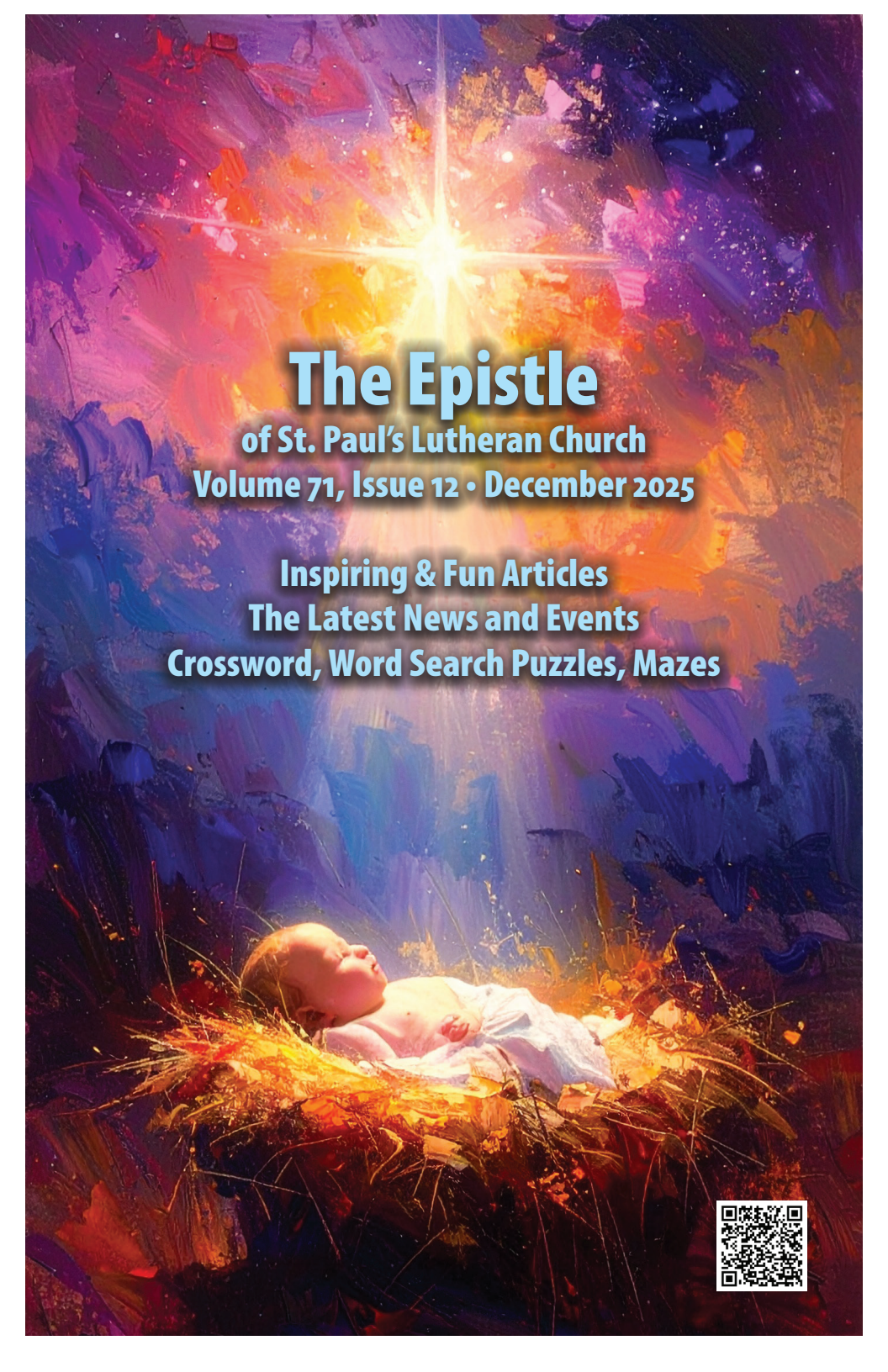




# **The Epistle**

**of St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

**Volume 71, Issue 12 • December 2025**

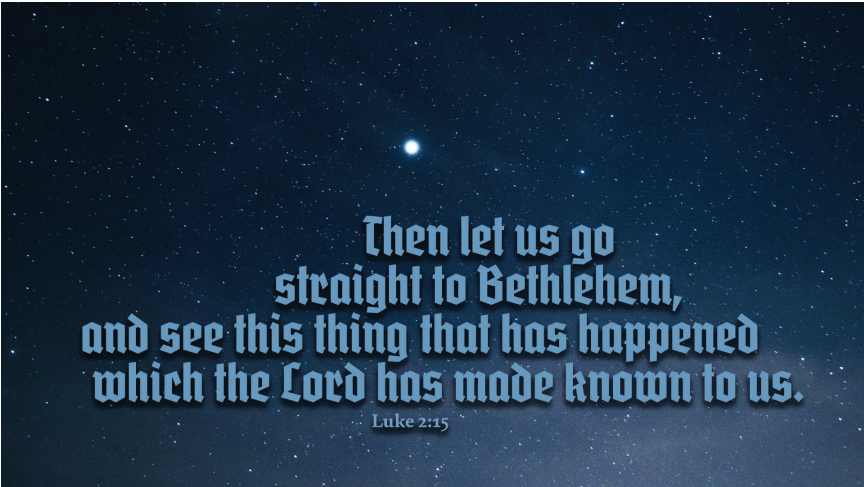
**Inspiring & Fun Articles**

**The Latest News and Events**

**Crossword, Word Search Puzzles, Mazes**







Then let us go  
straight to Bethlehem,  
and see this thing that has happened  
which the Lord has made known to us.

Luke 2:15

## The Faith of Shepherds

*Scripture and a reading from Luther's sermons and devotional writings*

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. (Luke 2:15–20, RSV)

**H**ad not these shepherds believed the angel they would never have gone to Bethlehem, they would have done none of those things related of them in this gospel. One might say, I would gladly believe if an angel from heaven were to preach to me. But whoever does not receive the Word for its own sake will never receive it for the sake of the preacher, even if all the angels preached it to him. He who receives it because of the preacher does not believe in the Word, neither in God through the Word, but he believes the preacher and in the preacher. Hence the faith of such persons does not last long. But whoever believes the

Word, does not care who the person is that speaks the Word, and neither will he honor the Word for the sake of the person; but on the contrary, he honors the person because of the Word, and always subordinates the person to the Word. If the preacher perishes, or even falls from the faith and preaches differently, he will forsake the person of the preacher rather than the Word of God.

All who believed Christ because of his person and his miracles fell from their faith when he was crucified. So it is in our

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The Word itself...  
must be enough  
for the heart.

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day and so it has always been. The Word itself, without any regard to persons, must be enough for the heart; it must lay hold of man as if taken captive, so that he feels how true and right it is, even if the world, all the

angels, all the princes of hell said differently, even if God himself spake otherwise; as he at times tempts his own elect and appears as if different from what he had before declared. So it was with Abraham when commanded to offer his son Isaac; with Jacob, while wrestling with the angel; with David, when persecuted by his son Absalom. This faith triumphs in life and death, and nothing is able to overthrow it; because it rests upon nothing but the Word without any regard whatever to persons. Such faith these shepherds possess; they cleave to the Word so strongly that they forget the angels who declared it to them. They do not say, Let us go and see what the angels made known to us, but what the Lord hath made known to us.

Martin Luther and John Sander, *Devotional Readings from Luther's Works for Every Day of the Year* (Rock Island, IL: Augustana Book Concern, 1915), 456–457.

## Midweek Advent Suppers and Services

A light supper with holiday desserts will be served Wednesdays, December 3, 10, and 17, at 6:00PM in the fellowship hall. A freewill offering will be received. The proceeds will go to the Capital Building fund.

A worship service based on the LBW Vespers will follow at 7:00PM in the sanctuary on each of those nights.

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Our traditional carols and candlelight service will be held on Christmas Eve, December 24, at 7:00PM. Before we light our individual candles and sing "Silent Night," we will enjoy mulled cider and ginger cookies. A big thanks to Lisa Lord and her Culinary Arts class from Faith Academy who help the ladies of our kitchen prepare the cookies. The cider will be served in handmade mugs by Connie Christman. The hand-turned mug is yours to take home and keep. Merry Christmas!

## 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.

## 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.

## New Sunday School Class

Please call the church office if you plan to be part of Pastor Ryman's new Sunday School class about 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>

## Bible Studies and Prayer

**Tuesday Bible studies** (10:00am and 6:00pm) are working through the Bible. 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>

## Turkey Help

We have been asked again to cook turkeys for the non-profit organization called *Three Wide*. This is the organization that provides family Christmas meals for those who are recognized in the school system as being in need. They are trying to reach out to 17 schools this year. They will use the facilities at First Presbyterian Church for prep and assembly of the meals on December 11th.

We normally cook 10–12 turkeys. This year I committed to 6 turkeys so no one will have to cook two. But if I get more volunteers, I will ask for more turkeys to cook. I will get the turkeys **Saturday, December 6th**, and place them in the picnic shelter refrigerators. There will be an aluminum pan for you to return the turkey in, cooked and carved. Please have the turkey back in the **shelter refrigerator by 1:00 on Thursday, December 11th**. Let me know soon if you can cook a turkey.

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



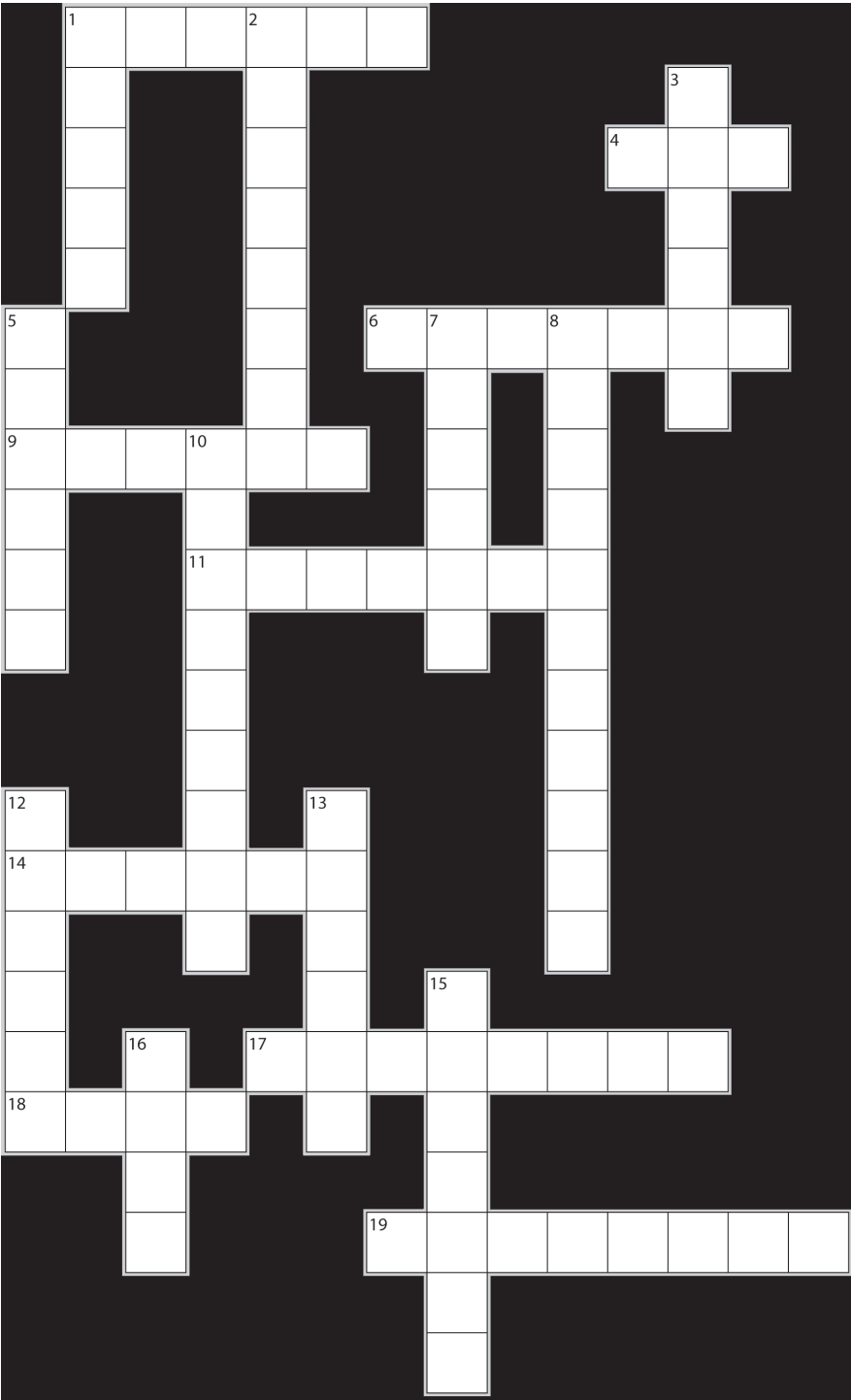
## National Wreaths Across America Day — December 13, 2025

Girl Scout Troop 743 will be helping to place wreaths on graves at the Salisbury National Cemetery Annex again this year.

To make a donation, use the QR code, or visit

the website: [www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/NC0277](http://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/NC0277).







# Christmas Crossword

## Across

1. The type of bed Jesus was laid in
4. The emotion that the Christmas story brings
6. Shepherds did this with their flocks by night.
9. The structure where Jesus was born, often housing animals
11. Good news shared by the angels
14. Heavenly beings who announced the birth to the shepherds
17. The scene depicting Jesus' birth
18. A bright one led the wise men.
19. Means "God with us"

## Down

1. The wisemen brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and this.
2. The feeling of peace among men that the angels sang about
3. The genre of book in the Bible where the birth story is found
5. Adoptive father of Jesus
7. The time of preparation for Jesus' birth
8. Another name for the baby Jesus (two words)
10. The city where Jesus was born
12. A traditional church service of readings and songs
13. The virgin birth of the Messiah is found in this Old Testament book.
15. Visitors from the East guided by a star
16. Mother of Jesus

# Calendar of Events for December

## Sundays

- Sunday School at 9:30am each Sunday
- Vespers each Sunday evening at 6pm
- December 7 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- December 7 – Youth and Family Committee, 2pm
- December 14 – Men's Choir rehearsal, 4pm
- December 14 – Christian Education Committee, 2pm
- December 14 – Children's Christmas Play, 4pm
- December 14 – Kathy Ketchie Circle, 4pm
- December 14 – Deadline to order poinsettias
- December 21 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- *We meet for Morning Prayer in the chapel Monday through Friday mornings at 8:30, for 30–45 minutes. Please join us.*

## Mondays

- Home School dance class, weekly in the fellowship hall, 10am
- December 1 – Facility Accessibility committee meeting, 6:30pm
- December 1 – Hama Lingle Circle, 7pm
- December 8 – Melissa Lura Circle, 6pm
- December 8 – Finance Committee, 6:30pm
- December 15 – January newsletter articles due this week
- December 15 – Council meeting, 6:30pm
- December 22 – Lutheran Men's meeting, 6:30pm

## Tuesdays

- Bible Study Classes, 10am and 6pm each Tuesday
- Girl Scouts, 6:30pm each Tuesday
- December 2 – Grace Ridenhour Circle at Cracker Barrel, 5pm
- December 9 – Bonnie Bost, 7pm
- December 16 – Staff meeting, 5pm

## **Wednesdays**

- Classical Conversations Home School group, 8:30am–3:30pm
- Adult Choir practice, each week at 6:30pm (except on the 26th)
- Youth Confirmation Class, each week at 7pm
- December 3 – Ellen Bumgarner Circle, 10am
- December 10 – Autumn Care chapel service, 2pm
- December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7pm

## **Thursdays**

- Rowan Smart Start, 10am–Noon, each week
- December 18 – Friendship Club, 10:30am
- December 25 – Office closed for Christmas
- December 26 – Office closed for Christmas

## **Saturdays**

- December 6 – Decorate for Christmas, 9am
- December 6 – Home School ballet, fellowship hall, 6:30pm
- December 13 – Children's Play Dress R
- December 13 – Girl Scouts place wreaths in VA cemetery, Noon

## **Friendship Club**

December 18th, the Friendship Club will meet in the church parking lot at 10:30am, to carpool to the Classic Restaurant in Denton. Everyone is invited to join us for our Christmas luncheon. If you plan to attend please let me know, as I will need a head count for the restaurant. Hope to see you all on the 18th. (Helen Gordon 704-636-5002 )



## **Thank you**

Our family wants to again express our sincere gratitude for all you did to help us honor the memory of my dad. He would have appreciated the service very much. Thank you for all the gifts to the church in his memory.

The stories of the many ways you included him in your church family were very meaningful to us. Again, thank you.

Gary and Karen Herndon & family

## **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.)

## **Joshua/Museum of the Bible Trip Update**

We have a list of 30 people that have signed up for this Christian Tour trip for May 6-9, 2026. If you find out you're able to go and have not signed up on the list in the narthex, you may still make a call to get your name on the list.

Call Christian Tours at 828-465-3900. Give them the name of the trip (Joshua) and tell them it's the trip for St. Paul's Lutheran Church on May 6, 2026. They will need a \$200.00 deposit mailed to Christian Tours, P.O. Box 890, Newton, N.C. 28658. The balance will need to be paid by January 31st.

A **preview night** will be held on January 29th, at 5:00pm at Blue Bay Seafood on Statesville Blvd. You may attend this night and pay the balance. You will need to pay for your meal, but they will discount your trip another \$20.00 per person by attending this night. Other discounts include 2% off for paying in cash/check for the *deposit*, and 3% off for paying the *balance* in cash/check. The trip may be paid for with a credit card, just without discounts. If you have any questions about the trip, you may call Susan Bernhardt, 704-637-0155 or email [srbernhadt@carolina.rr.com](mailto:srbernhadt@carolina.rr.com).

**For unto us a child is born,  
unto us a son is given:  
And the government shall  
be upon his shoulder:  
And his name shall be called  
Wonderful, Counsellor,  
The mighty God,  
The everlasting Father,  
The Prince of Peace.**

Isaiah 9:6 KJV

## December 2025 — Birthdays — Ann

| Sun                                                                     | Mon                                                                                                           | Tue                                                                                                    | We                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                         | 1<br>M/M Judith and<br>David Honbarger<br><br>**Ashlee Bowles                                                 | 2<br><br><br>**Misty and Stephen Brady                                                                 | 3<br>Stephen Brady<br><br>M/M Alex and<br><br>**Gayle Brendl                                         |
| 7<br><br><br>**Allen and Gina Burnett                                   | 8<br>Stan Sebastian<br><br>M/M Judy and<br>Lindsay Lowman<br><br>** Jason, Kara, Hudson, and<br>Quinn Burnett | 9<br>Jonathan Cannon<br>Joshua Canup<br>Sarah Hicks<br><br>**Donald Burton                             | 10<br>Paul Wilhelm<br><br>M/M Matthew and<br>Dani Cottingham<br><br>**Betty and Don<br>and Matthew Y |
| 14<br>Rex Phelps<br><br><br>**Wilbur Canup                              | 15<br>Cooper Aldridge<br><br><br>** John and Carolyn Canup                                                    | 16<br>Reese Gunter<br><br><br>** Josh, Danielle, Hila, Clara,<br>Lela, Nora, Julia, and<br>Lydia Canup | 17<br>Jeff Deal<br>Kenneth Whisn                                                                     |
| 21<br>Amaya Cerda<br>Carol Hall<br><br>**Lisa Cerda, and<br>Amaya Cerda | 22<br><br><br>**Edna Chapman                                                                                  | 23<br><br><br>**Karen and Will Charles                                                                 | 24<br>Ciji Fisher<br><br>**Savannah Cl                                                               |
| 28<br>Heather Moody<br><br><br>**Tricia and Larry Clark                 | 29<br>Lee Aldridge<br>Lewis Brendle<br><br>**Jaudon and Wayne Cline                                           | 30<br>Michelle Orbison<br><br>M/M Angela and<br>Luke Ziegler<br><br>**Sandy Corley                     | 31<br>Charles Honba<br>Brantley Watson<br><br>M/M Karen and<br>Charles Honba<br><br>**John Corneli   |

# Anniversaries (M/M) — Daily Prayer (\*\*)

| Wed                                               | Thu                                                                                                | Fri                                                                      | Sat                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>by</p> <p>Nicole Free</p>                      | <p>4</p> <p>**Lewis Brendle</p>                                                                    | <p>5</p> <p>James Earnhardt</p> <p>**Jessica and Kevin Brooks</p>        | <p>6</p> <p>Harold Eller</p> <p>**Zach, Courtney, Cassidy and Laiklyn Brown</p>                                                   |
| <p>and<br/>am</p> <p>on Camerlin,<br/>Pattaw</p>  | <p>11</p> <p>Susan Cruz<br/>Jean Lilley</p> <p>**Rachel, Jonathan, Lucas,<br/>and Caleb Cannon</p> | <p>12</p> <p>Raynette Bernhardt</p> <p>**Paul and Crystal Canup</p>      | <p>13</p> <p>Dani Cottingham<br/>Heather Moore</p> <p>**Tim and Sandy Canup</p>                                                   |
| <p>ant</p> <p>aily Canup</p>                      | <p>18</p> <p>Chloe Lombard<br/>Hugh Wilhelm</p> <p>**Heather, Mike, and<br/>Alexander Canup</p>    | <p>19</p> <p>Hannah Barringer<br/>Craig Parks</p> <p>**Cheryl Casper</p> | <p>20</p> <p>Stan McConnell<br/>Johnsie Taylor</p> <p>M/M Johnsie and<br/>Wayne Taylor</p> <p>**Tonya and Nathan<br/>Catledge</p> |
| <p>Charles</p>                                    | <p>25</p> <p>**Cori Charles</p>                                                                    | <p>26</p> <p>**David Chilson</p>                                         | <p>27</p> <p>Wendy Beaver–Smith</p> <p>**Connie Christman</p>                                                                     |
| <p>arger<br/>on</p> <p>d<br/>arger</p> <p>son</p> |                                                                                                    |                                                                          |                                                                                                                                   |

## Missions



# FRIENDS of MADAGASCAR MISSION

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Friends of Madagascar Mission, I wish to express our thanks for your gift of \$2,248.50 to support the mission and ministry of Friends of Madagascar Mission. One-hundred percent of your gift will go to support the mission and nothing is taken out for our administrative budget!

The sad news coming from Madagascar is that there has been extensive rioting across the country, mostly in the larger cities by the “Gen Z movement”. The reason for their rioting is very different than issues we would see in the United States of America. These young people are protesting because of the lack of electricity and clean water. The protest began at the end of September and as of this writing it continues. Unfortunately at this time it is reported that about 24 students have been killed in the protests.

As you may or may not know, Friends of Madagascar has been working in the more rural areas of southwest Madagascar to dig water wells to provide clean water. We have spent in 2024–2025 to date around \$100,000.00 to dig wells, providing water stations (a fenced-in area with a hand pump for the public to come and fill their water jugs with water). In two different communities we have built a water tower that is filled by a solar energy pump and distributed to a series of church related institutions that also include bathrooms and shower rooms. The city officials inquired, “Where did you receive the money to dig these wells and build the water system, bathrooms and showers?” They replied by telling them about Friends of Madagascar Mission. The water is available to all people.

Currently Friends of Madagascar Mission has begun a “Thanks a Million!” program to raise funds for drilling more water wells and distribution systems. We have been responding

to one of the issues that these students are protesting about. Our program is not a sprint, but a marathon to raise funds over several years' time. Please go to our FOMM Development webpage to become involved. All gifts are welcome. The website is: [www.MadagascarDevelopment.org](http://www.MadagascarDevelopment.org)

The process on how to give and invite other friends and family members to participate are shared. Also, inform your congregation to join in this great opportunity to make a major change in the arid southwest of Madagascar. You may give via our website or by check to FOMM and send to the address at the bottom of this letter. Any way you choose to give, is greatly appreciated and will provide water to the people.

4) A "Thanks a Million!" packet is available to help you plan a program in your congregation to support clean/safe water. For more information please contact FOMM at: 847-445-8177 or at our email: [FriendsOfMadagascarmission@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfMadagascarmission@gmail.com).

Thanks so very much for the generous gift. Your support is very meaningful to us. Blessings upon your congregation's mission and ministry.

Peace in Christ!

Rev. David P. Lerseth

Thank you for the donation of \$381.53. We have had a lot of new clients this month. Your contribution has made such a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. This shows that you truly care about our cause and the work we do. Words cannot express how much your donation means to us.

Linda Austin, Director  
Organ Lutheran Church  
Pantry/Outreach Program

I am deeply grateful for your gift of \$267.07 to the ministry of Samaritan's Purse. Your gifts and prayers makes our work possible. Thank you for partnering with us in the gospel. God bless you.

Franklin Graham, President

## Missions

Greetings from Focus on the Family, and many thanks for your \$267.07 contribution to our outreach. Your donation is a welcome reminder of God's sovereign provision for the needs of this ministry.

Again, your partnership is deeply appreciated. Thanks for standing with us in such a significant way. Grace and peace to you.

Sincerely,  
Jim Daly, President

We are continually blessed by your love and support to Naomi's Heart Mission. It has been a busy summer this year with 16 visitors so far and four more visitors coming in September. But I love every minute of having visitors and seeing them join in our ministry.

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

Blessings,  
Kristie Ward, Founder

Through your faithful prayers and support, hope is moving into places where the Church has been persecuted, and where generations have lived without access to the Gospel. Your commitment helps extend the love of Christ into some of the most spiritually isolated regions in the world.

Thank you for being part of the SON family and for reflecting Christ's love to people in Albania, Estonia, Ethiopia, Latvia, Russia, Slovakia, Ukraine, and beyond.

In His Service,  
Pr. David & Angela Breidenbach

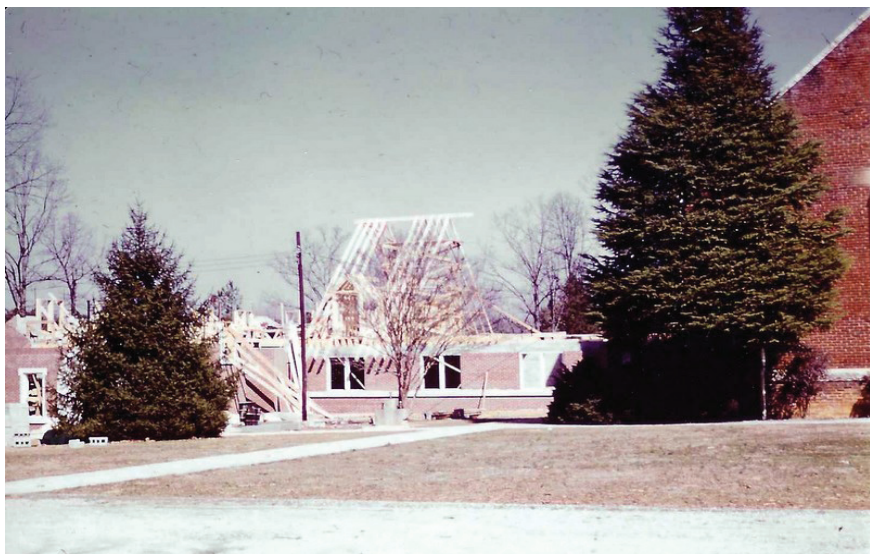
## **Did You Know? History of St. Paul's, 1953–1956**

In spring of 1953, the work of improving the church sanctuary was discussed. The whole interior of the church had new light fixtures installed and floors installed, adding much to the beauty of the sanctuary. Not only was the interior of the church improved but work was started on the recreational ground. The Women of the Church purchased two gas stoves, a gas water heater, and other equipment such as cabinets to upgrade the kitchen in the shelter. The surrounding grounds were cleaned up and put in shape for the picnics, suppers, and family reunions held in the park during the summer months.

In February, 1954, a discussion began about a major building program in the form of an Education Building. A committee was formed to investigate the approximate cost and get preliminary plans for such a building. The committee reported to the congregation and a vote taken and approved to proceed with the building project. A building committee was formed to hire an architect to draw up plans, a finance committee was appointed to begin raising funds needed, and another congregational meeting was called to approve calling for bids.



The bid on the building was \$80,076.65. On December 5th, a ground-breaking service was held, and actual construction began in January of 1955. The two-story building with a connecting passageway to the sanctuary was completed in September of the same year. Open house was held on Sunday, September 25th, and the opening and blessing of the building was held Sunday, October 2nd, at 9:45am.



All rooms of the Education Building were furnished with memorials and labeled with brass plates with the donor's names. The Women of the Church donated most of the kitchen equipment and 5 pianos were donated to various departments by members of the church, or organizations within the church. Office furniture was given for the pastor's office. The area outside the Education Building was landscaped, the lawn seeded, shrubberies were set out in the front of the building, and concrete walks were put down.



Now that the Education Building was completed and furnished, in 1956, the congregation turned back to making additions to the main church. Two pieces of silver were added to the Communion set, a Paten and Ciborium.

The Sloop/Fesperman family gave beautiful purple Altar paraments. The Sloop family also donated a chancel rail which added to the beauty of the church and made it more worshipful in appearance. Between 1954 and 1956, a tremendous amount of work was done to enlarge space available for church use and to make improvements within the church. Members were certainly proud of what had been accomplished in those two short years!

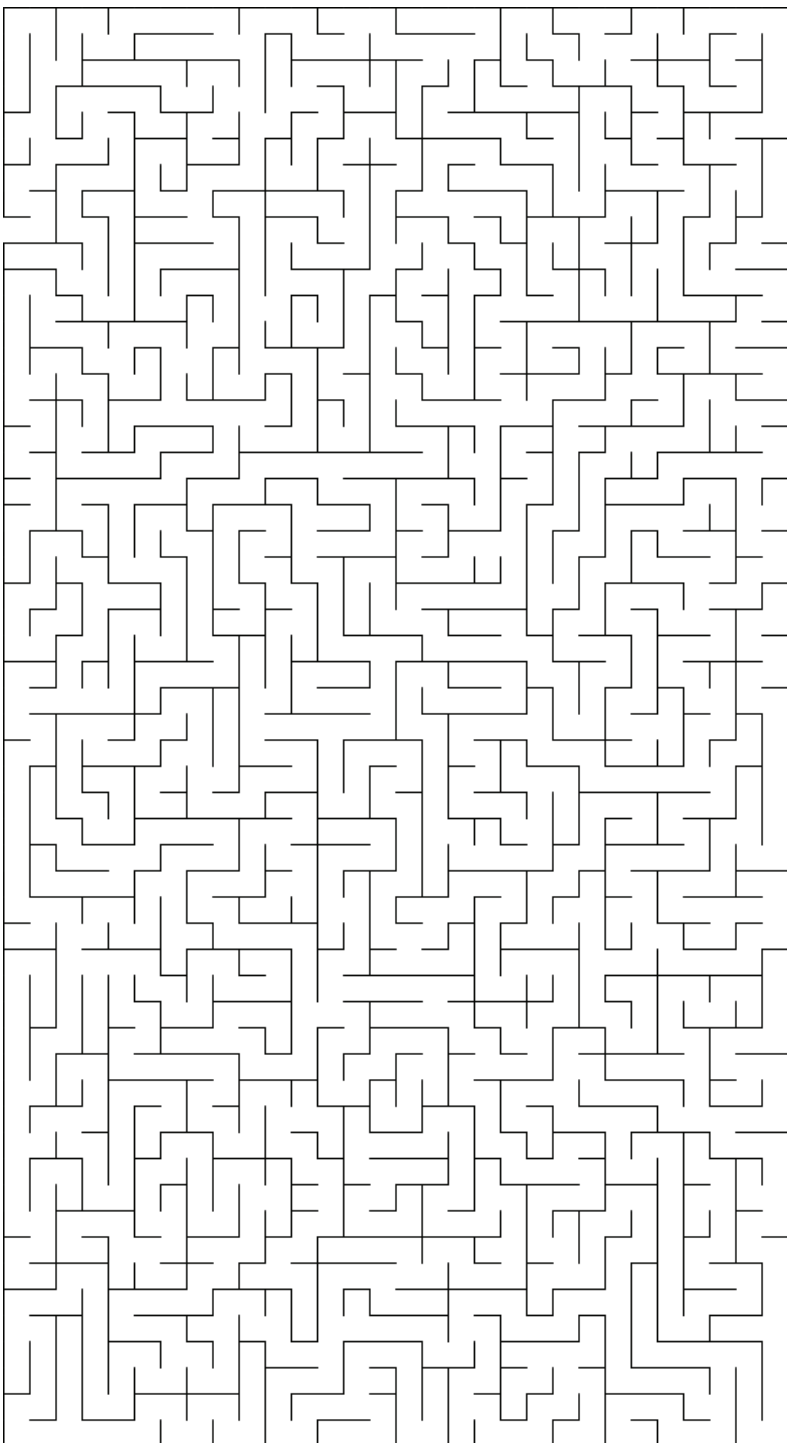


## **Alison Moore**

Many of our members remember Alison Moore, a former, very active member of our church who moved to Raleigh to be near her family. In October, Catawba College bestowed a prestigious honor on her, awarding her the Catawba Alumni Outstanding Service Award.



For those of you who are new to our church, Alison took part in so many activities. Even though she had a busy work schedule as principal of Cox Elementary School in Concord, and Faith Charter School in Faith (where many of our young members attend school), Alison always found time to be a very active church member. She attended worship service, taught Sunday School, was a council member, served as speaker for Women's Sunday, served as president and as a circle chairperson for the St. Paul's Lutheran Women, and helped with projects and activities of our church. Alison also took part in many community activities, especially as leader of the Girl Scout troop that meets at our church every Tuesday night. She was also a faithful donor at the blood drives held at our church. Even though she is no longer a member of our congregation, we congratulate and recognize Alison for her service to God and to her community.



## **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
- Tommy McKnight, Julie Johnson's brother – 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

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

## Memorial Gifts

Gifts were received in memory of **Barbara Upright** for the Capital Building Fund from

Tony and Brenda Gray  
Melinda and Phillip Redding  
Jeanne and Tony Shaver

A gift was received in memory of **Barbara Upright** for the Cemetery Fund from  
Cecelia Adams

A gift was received in memory of **Buddy Lowery** for the Capital Building Fund from

Cindy and Frank Hinson  
Judi and David Honbarger

A gift was received in memory of **Ruth Kluttz** for the Capital Building Fund from  
Cindy and Frank Hinson

Gifts were received in memory of **Ruby Kluttz** for the Capital Building Fund from

Myra Jane and Terry Eller  
Alice Davis

Gifts were received in memory of **John Stutts, Jr.** for the Capital Building Fund from

Lori and Perry Bernhardt  
Dana and Crystal Bost  
Alice Davis  
Karen and Tim Deal  
Helen Gordon  
Bonnie and Wayne Hinson  
Judi and David Honbarger  
Susan and Mark Ryman  
St. Paul's Lutheran Men

Gifts were received in memory of **Robert Weed** for the Capital Building Fund from

Lori and Perry Bernhardt  
Helen Gordon  
Karen and Gary Herndon  
Judi and David Honbarger  
Susan and Mark Ryman

A gift was received in memory of **Jan McCanless** for the Capital Building Fund from

Lori and Perry Bernhardt  
Susan and Ben Bernhardt  
Karen and Tim Deal  
Alice Davis  
Jenny Earnhardt  
Myra Jane and Terry Eller  
Sarah Goodman  
Helen Gordon  
Bonnie and Wayne Hinson  
Susan and Mark Ryman

Gifts were received in memory of **Linda Hess** for the Capital Building Fund from  
Susan and Ben Bernhardt  
Alice Davis

Karen and Tim Deal  
Jenny Earnhardt  
Helen Gordon  
Bonnie and Wayne Hinson  
Susan and Mark Ryman



*We extend our love and sympathy to Wendy Stutts–Pittman  
and family on the death of Wendy's father,  
John Paul Stutts, Jr. John died October 30, 2025.  
Please keep John's family in your prayers.*

*We extend our love and sympathy to Bob McCanless  
and family on the death of his wife, Jan McCanless.  
Jan died Saturday, November 8, 2025.  
Please keep Jan's family in your prayers.*

*We extend our love and sympathy to the family of Linda Hess.  
Linda died on Saturday, November 8, 2025.  
Please keep Linda's family in your prayers.*

*We extend our love and sympathy to Susie Page on the death of her  
sister Ruby Kluttz. Ruby died on Monday, November 10, 2025.  
Please keep Susie and her family in your prayers.*

*We extend our love and sympathy to the family of Doris Roof.  
Doris died November 12, 2025. Doris was the wife of our  
former Pastor, Rev. Lester Roof, who is also deceased.  
Please keep their daughters, Carol and Becky, in your prayers.*

## **Honor Gifts**

A gift was received in honor  
of **Alice Davis** for the Capital  
Building Fund from an  
anonymous donor.

A gift was received in honor of  
**George Kluttz** (Alice Davis'  
brother) from an anonymous  
donor.

Gifts were received in honor of  
**Pastor Ryman** for the Capital  
Building Fund from  
Bonnie and Wayne Hinson  
Sunday School Classes 4 & 6

Gifts were received in honor  
of **Pastor Lord** for the Capital  
Building Fund from  
Bonnie and Wayne Hinson  
Sunday School Classes 4 & 6

In lieu of Christmas cards, Susan  
and Ben Bernhardt have given  
a special gift to St. Paul's for the  
Capital Building Fund in honor of  
their **family and friends at St.  
Paul's.**

# To Dwell with the Lamb

*Find the 27 bold words from Revelation 7:11-17 KJV.*

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

And all the **angels** stood round about the throne, and about the **elders** and the four **beasts**, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: **blessing**, and **glory**, and **wisdom**, and thanksgiving, and honour, and **power**, and **might**, be unto our God for ever and ever. **Amen**. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are **arrayed** in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great **tribulation**, and have **washed** their robes, and made them **white** in the **blood** of the **Lamb**. Therefore are they before the **throne** of God, and **serve** him day and night in his **temple**: and he that sitteth on the throne shall **dwell** among them. They shall **hunger** no more, neither **thirst** any more; neither shall the sun **light** on them, nor any **heat**. For the Lamb which is in the **midst** of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living **fountains** of **waters**: and God shall wipe away all **tears** from their eyes.

# 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 October, 2025

|                                        |              |
|----------------------------------------|--------------|
| Income for October                     | \$32,052.79  |
| Expenditures for October               | \$55,401.49  |
| Net Income (Income minus expenses)     | \$-23,348.70 |
| Income year to date                    | \$478,320.77 |
| Expenditures year to date              | \$498,322.78 |
| Net Income YTD (Income minus expenses) | \$-20,002.01 |
| Budgeted Income year to date           | \$525,548.70 |
| Actual Income year to date             | \$478,320.77 |
| Income less than Budgeted YTD          | \$-47,227.93 |

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 more than \$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 November 23

**\$2,161,740**

*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](http://StPaulsLutheran.Church)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/StPaulsLCMC](http://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

Rev. Dr. Mark Ryman, Senior Pastor

[pastor@stpaulslutheran.church](mailto:pastor@stpaulslutheran.church)

Brian Lord, Associate Pastor

[wingman@stpaulslutheran.church](mailto:wingman@stpaulslutheran.church)

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Judy Lowman, Treasurer

[splcjlw63@gmail.com](mailto:splcjlw63@gmail.com)

Amy Barringer, Girl Scout Coordinator, [abarringer@bellsouth.net](mailto: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](http://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.