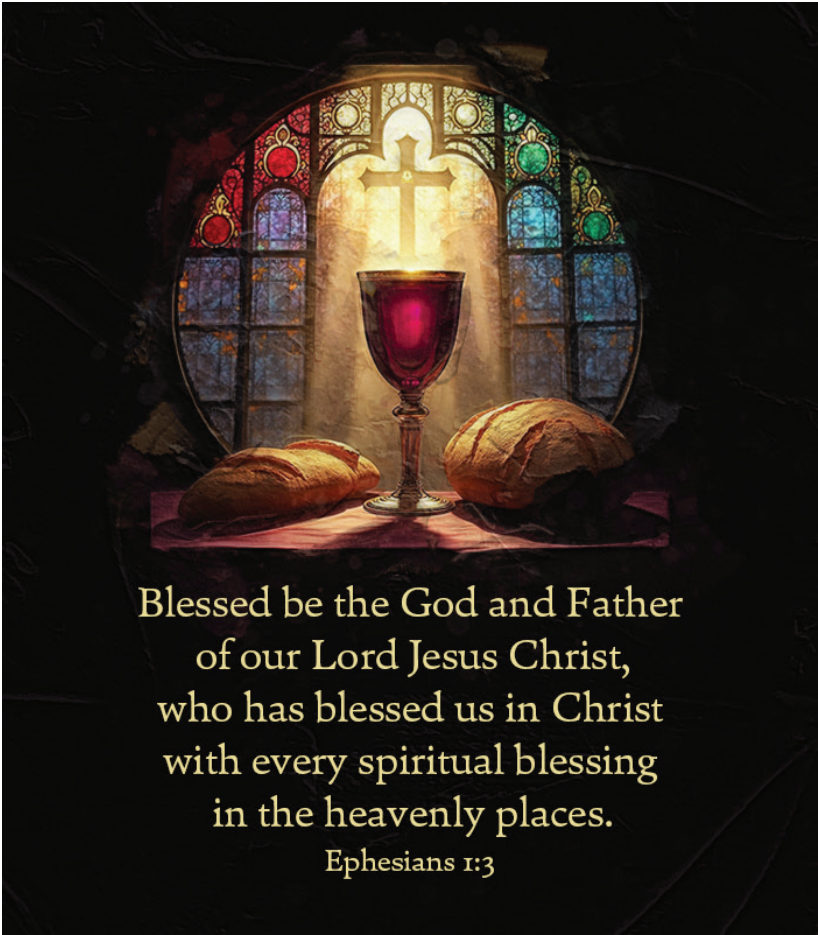




Blessed be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ
with every spiritual blessing
in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 1:3

Second Sunday of Christmas
January 5, 2025 • 10:30AM

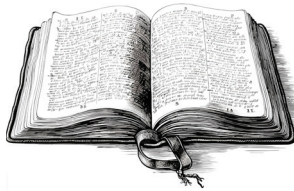
St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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

Acolyte: Rebecca Lombard • Crucifer: Hila Canup
Cantor: Stan McConnell • Lector: Jennifer Aldridge
Communion Assistants: Travis Allgood & Autumn Hill

This Week's Memory Verse:

You did not choose me,
but I chose you
and appointed you
that you should go and bear fruit
and that your fruit should abide,
so that whatever you ask the Father
in my name,
he may give it to you.
(John 15:16)



Memory Verse Aid:

YDN CM,
BIC Y
AA Y
TYS GAB F
AT YFS A,
STW YAT F
IM N,
HMG IT Y.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “Joy to the World”

Michael Burkhardt

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness *Stand*

56

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. By Christ's authority alone, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Hymn: "The First Noel"

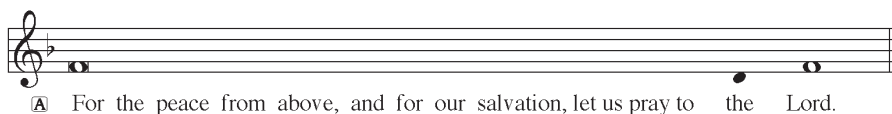
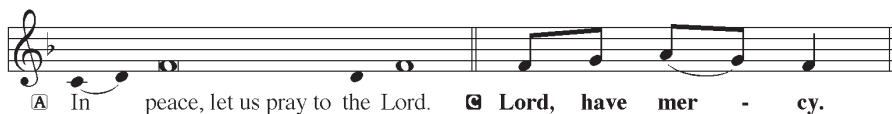
56

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.

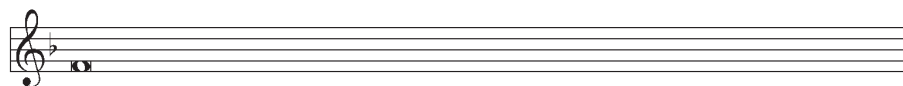
The Kyrie

57

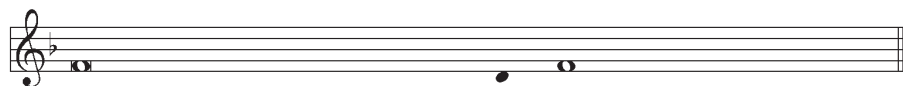




☐ Lord, have mer - cy.



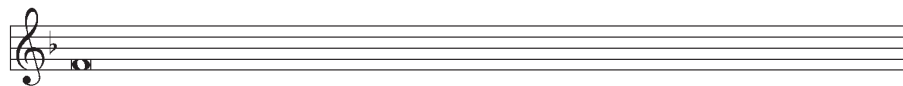
☐ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



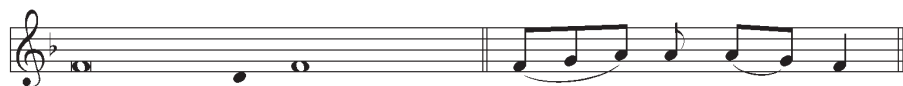
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



☐ Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord.

☐ Lord, have mer - cy.



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

Hymn of Praise

58



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



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



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





Prayer of the Day



Almighty and everlasting God, direct our actions according to your good pleasure, that in the name of your beloved Son, we might be made to abound in good works. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Please be seated.

First Lesson: 1 Kings 3:4–15

⁴The king [Solomon] went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.”

⁶And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?” ¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this.

¹¹And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your

enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”

¹⁵And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

The word of the Lord.

Psalms 119:97–104

⁹⁷Oh, how I | love your law!

all the day long it is | in my mind.

⁹⁸**Your commandment has made me wiser | than my enemies,
and it is | always with me.**

⁹⁹I have more understanding than | all my teachers,
for your decrees | are my study.

¹⁰⁰**I am wiser | than the elders,
because I observe | your commandments.**

¹⁰¹I restrain my feet from every | evil way,
that I may | keep your word.

¹⁰²**I do not shrink | from your judgments,
because you your- | self have taught me.**

¹⁰³How sweet are your words | to my taste!
they are sweeter than honey | to my mouth.

¹⁰⁴**Through your commandments I gain | understanding;
therefore I hate every | lying way.**

Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:3–14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the

heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord.

Please stand for the Gospel.

62



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

63



Gospel: Luke 2:40–52

⁴⁰The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. ⁴¹Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him.

⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them.

⁵¹And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Please be seated.

Children's Chat

Sermon: "Spiritual Blessings"

Hymn: "O Word of God Incarnate"

Confession of Faith

65

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

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

²I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,
died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

³I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

The Prayers of the Church

65

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

66

Anthem: “Child of Peace”

Laura Brock



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

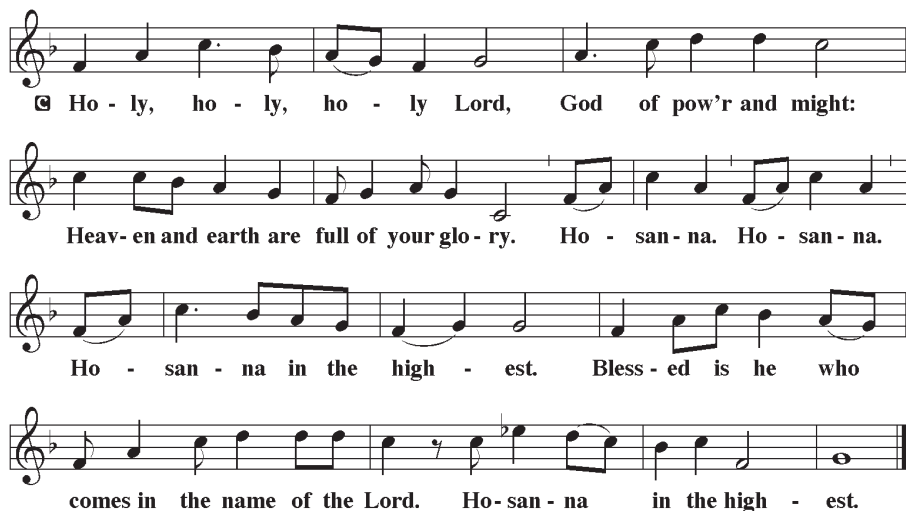
Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Thanksgiving

68

☐ The Lord be with you. ☑ And al - so with you.
☐ Lift up your hearts. ☑ We lift them to the Lord.
☐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
☑ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory—that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
 Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

71

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

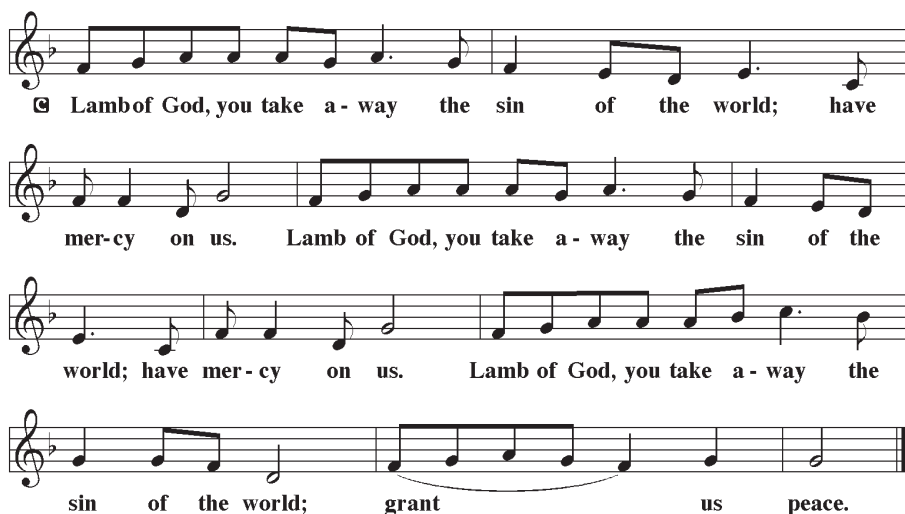
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,**

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

71

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.



☐ 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**



☐ Lord, now you let your ser - vant go in peace; your word has been ful - filled.

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

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: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Mary McDonald

We remain seated, worshiping silently during the postlude, standing at the end of the postlude to face the processional cross, now at the rear of the sanctuary.

The Benediction

74

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

Sunday, January 5

- Breakfast before Sunday School, 8:30pm
- Autumn Care worship, 2pm
- Youth & Family Committee, 2pm
- Lutheran Women's quarterly meeting, 5pm
- Vespers, 6pm

Monday, January 6

- Facility Accessibility Committee, 6:30pm
- Outreach Committee, 6:30pm

Tuesday, January 7

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

Wednesday, January 8

- Adult Choir practice, 6:30pm
- Youth Confirmation, 7pm

Saturday, January 11

- Removal of Christmas decorations, 8am

Sunday, January 12

- Christian Education Committee, 1:30pm
- Worship & Music Committee, 2:30pm
- Kathy Ketchie Circle, 4pm
- Men's Choir, 4pm
- Handbell Choir, 5pm
- Vespers, 6pm

Recent Prayer Needs

- Betty Camerlin – hospitalized
- Nancy Crapster, friend of Sandy Corley – health concerns
- Terry Eller – recovering from surgery
- Helen Gordon – recovering from surgery
- Wayne Hinson – recovering from surgery
- Matt Holland – health concerns
- Tom Huffman – health concerns
- Tammy Leazer – recovering from surgery
- Alan Lyerly – recovering from surgery
- Andrea Lyerly – health concerns
- Phyllis Lynch, mother of Sherry Barringer – health concerns
- Michelle Orbison – health concerns
- Barbara Upright – Liberty Commons Rehab
- Scott Watson, son of Larry & Leilani Watson – health concerns
- Rick Walker – health concerns

For a longer list of prayer needs, please consult The Monthly Epistle. This page in the bulletin is to make you aware of the most recent prayer needs. Typically, after one month on this list the name and request will have migrated to The Monthly Epistle.



*We extend our love and sympathy to Laura Wilhelm
on the death of her father, Mr. Bill Staton.*

Mr. Staton died Monday, December 23, 2024.

Please keep Laura and her family in your prayers.

*We extend our love and sympathy to Linda Shirley
on the death of her brother, Jimmy Dean Rouse.*

Mr. Rouse died Monday, December 23, 2024.

Please keep Linda and her family in your prayers.

Winter Weather Policy

Monday through Friday, if schools are closed, activities at St. Paul’s are cancelled. For Sundays, consult the church website, WBTV, WCCB, WCNC, or WSOC.

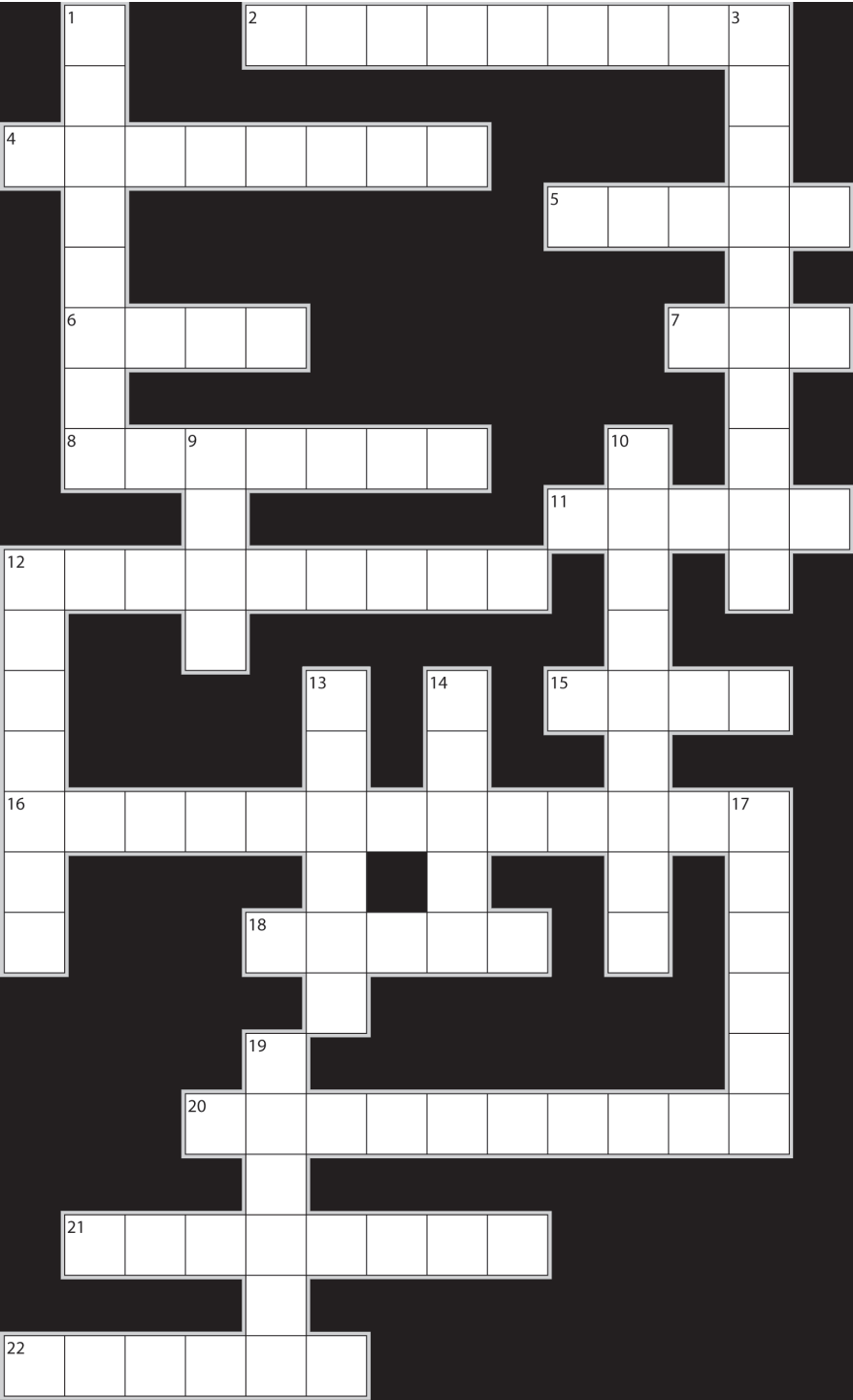


General Fund Offering (12/29)	\$13,659
Other Offering (12/29)	\$23,641
Sunday School Attendance (12/29)	48
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Attendance (12/24).....	215
Worship Attendance (12/29)	133

Total Last Sunday: \$87.12

The total of the children’s change collections to go to
Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries (LMVFM)
is \$1,900.12.

Collections during the first quarter of 2025 will benefit



Second Sunday after Christmas, Year C

Find the answers in today's lectionary readings from

1 Kings 3:4-15; Psalm 119:97-104; Ephesians 1:3-14; Luke 2:40-52.

The English Standard Version is used to build this puzzle.

ACROSS

2. Where Jesus' parents went every year
4. Jesus' parents kept this feast.
5. Solomon's father
6. The psalmist held back his feet from this.
7. The psalmist loved this
8. He used to offer 1,000 burnt offerings on the altar at Gibeon.
11. Jesus increased in this with God and man.
12. God has blessed us with every one of these kinds of blessings.
15. God has made known this mystery.
16. Solomon's prayer request
18. God's words were sweeter than this to the psalmist.
20. We have this through the blood of Jesus Christ.
21. God has predestined us for this.
22. Jesus told his parents that they might have known he was in his house.

DOWN

1. The psalmist had more understanding than them.
3. Every day, the psalmist did this with the law.
9. He appeared to Solomon in a dream
10. The ruler went to Gibeon to do what?
12. Jesus increased in wisdom and...
13. What the Lord gave Solomon
14. God has lavished this upon us.
17. Where the king in the OT lesson went
19. Where Mary and Joe found Jesus when they feared he was lost

Earnest of Salvation

Find the 26 **bold** words from Ephesians 1:11–14 ERV.

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

In him, I say, in whom also we were made a **heritage**, having been **foreordained** according to the **purpose** of him who **worketh all things** after the **counsel** of his **will**; to the end that we should be unto the **praise** of his **glory**, we who had before **hoped** in **Christ**: in whom ye also, having **heard** the **word** of the **truth**, the **gospel** of your **salvation**—in whom, having also **believed**, ye were **sealed** with the **Holy Spirit** of **promise**, which is an **earnest** of our **inheritance**, unto the redemption of **God's own** possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Unscramble the verse:

Eh edpnstedi su rof oiopdatn ot ismfleh sa noss.



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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wingman@stpaulslutheran.church

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splcjwl63@gmail.com

Amy Barringer, Girl Scout Coordinator, 704-633-6368

Next weeks lessons: Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Romans 6:1-11; Luke 3:15-22

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)