



Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 14, 2025 • 10:30AM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

205 St. Paul's Church Road, Salisbury, NC

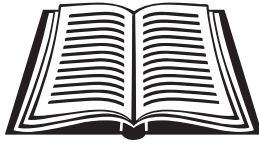
Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Acolyte: Cooper Aldridge • Crucifer: Hila Canup
Cantor: Andrew Baker • Lector: Lauren Holland
Communion Assistants: Andrew Baker & Terri Powlas

This Week's Memory Verse

I long for
your salvation, O LORD,
and your law
is my delight.

Psalm 119:174



Memory Verse Aid

ILF
YS, OL,
AYL
IMD.

PII9I74

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “When, in Our Music God Is Glorified”

A. L. Page

Stand and face the processional cross at the rear of the sanctuary.

The Ten Commandments

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.

Confession and Absolution

73

Hymn: “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

227

Greeting and Kyrie Eleison

74

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.



Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Christ, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.

Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

75



Leader:
Glory be to God on high!

Congregation:
And on earth peace, good will toward all. We praise you, we bless you,
we worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory,
O Lord God, heaven - ly King, God the Father Al - mighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God,

Son of the Father: You take away the sin of the world, have mercy
on us. You take away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.
You sit at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy on us.
For you are holy; you on - ly are the Lord; You only, O Christ, with the
Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

77

Leader: The Lord be with you. *Congregation:* And with your spirit

O Lord, help your people to avoid the infection of the evil one, and with pure hearts to follow you, our only Lord. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Please be seated.

A - men.

First Lesson: Ezekiel 34:11-24

¹¹“For thus says the LORD God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹²As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so

will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel.

¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the LORD God. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

¹⁷As for you, my flock, thus says the LORD God: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats. ¹⁸Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet? ¹⁹And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet?

²⁰Therefore, thus says the LORD God to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, ²²I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.”

The word of the Lord.

Psalm 119:169–176

¹⁶⁹Let my cry come before | you, O LORD;
give me understanding, according | to your word.

¹⁷⁰**Let my supplication | come before you;
deliver me, according | to your promise.**

¹⁷¹My lips shall pour | forth your praise,
when you teach | me your statutes.

¹⁷²**My tongue shall sing | of your promise,
for all your command- | ments are righteous.**

¹⁷³Let your hand be rea- | dy to help me,
for I have chosen | your commandments.

¹⁷⁴**I long for your salva- | tion, O LORD,
and your law is | my delight.**

¹⁷⁵Let me live, and | I will praise you,
and let your | judgments help me.

¹⁷⁶**I have gone astray like a sheep | that is lost;
search for your servant, for I do not forget | your
commandments.**

Second Lesson: 1 Timothy 1:5–17

⁵The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ⁶Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, ⁷desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.

⁸Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, ⁹understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, ¹¹in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

¹²I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, ¹³though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Offering: Scan the QR code to the right to be taken directly to the giving page on your phone or tablet. Ushers will also pass the offering plates along each row.



Anthem: “Amazing Grace”

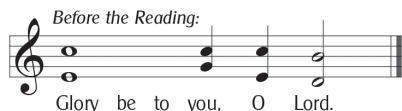
Heather Canup

Gospel Acclamation *Please stand for the Gospel.*

78



The Holy Gospel according to the fourteenth chapter of Luke.

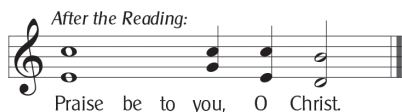


Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

¹The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” ³So he told them this parable: ⁴“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine

righteous persons who need no repentance. ⁸Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

The Gospel of our Lord.



Confession of Faith

Let us together profess our faith in God with the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven;

by the power of the Holy Spirit

**he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living
 and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
 With the Father and the Son
 he is worshiped and glorified.
 He has spoken through the prophets.
 We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
 We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection from the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen

Children's Chat

Sermon: "Rescue for Sinners"

Hymn: "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

205

Prayers of the Church

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

Exhortation

85

Preface and Sanctus

86-88

Leader *Congregation*

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit - it

Leader

Lift up your hearts.

Congregation



We lift them to the Lord.

Leader



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right, and good for us that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God—through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, our Lord and Savior, who ascending above the heavens and sitting at your right hand, poured out the Holy Spirit as he had promised upon the chosen disciples, causing the whole earth to rejoice.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you, and saying:



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na



in the high - est Bless - ed is he who comes in the



The Lord's Prayer

90

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

Our Father, who art in heaven,

¹**hallowed be thy name,**

²**thy kingdom come,**

³**thy will be done,**

on earth as it is in heaven.

⁴**Give us this day our daily bread;**

⁵**and forgive us our trespasses,**

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

⁶**and lead us not into temptation,**

⁷**but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus, on the night in which he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you; do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying: Take, and drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Agnus Dei

91





Distribution of Communion

92

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 altar rail. A pastor will bring communion to the pews for those who are unable to come to the rail. Please raise your hand so he doesn't miss you.

May the body and precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in true faith to everlasting life.

Thanksgiving

We thank and praise you, almighty and loving Father, for feeding us with the body and blood of your beloved son, Jesus Christ. Having received this holy Sacrament with our mouths, may our faith in you apprehend and enjoy your grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ and his Church, and everlasting life. Send your Holy Spirit to remind us of these promises throughout the week, and keep us in the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Nunc Dimittis

92

**Lord, now let your servant depart | in | peace,
 ac- | cording | to | your | word.**

For my eyes have seen | your sal- | vation,
 which you have prepared before the | face | of | all | people:
 A light to lighten | the | Gentiles
 and the | glory | of your | people | Israel.
 Glory be | to the | Father,
 and to the | Son, and | to the | Holy | Spirit,
 As it was in | the be- | ginning,
 is now, and ever shall be, | world with- | out | end. A- | men

Benedicamus

93

Leader: Congregation:

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.

Leader: Congregation:

Bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Postlude: “The Church’s One Foundation”

Phil Lehenbauer

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

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face to shine upon you
 and be gracious unto you.
 The Lord lift his countenance upon you, and give you peace.
 In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Congregation:

A - men.

*We extend our love and sympathy to Allen, Gina, Jason
and Kara Burnett on the death of Allen's father, Marvin Burnett.
Mr. Burnett passed away Friday, September 5, 2025.
Please keep their family in your prayers.*

*We extend our love and sympathy to Amy, Keith, and Sophie Hoffner
on the death of Amy's mother, Barbara Miller.
Barbara passed away Sunday, September 7, 2025.
Please keep their family in your prayers.*



Homecoming Today

Today is Homecoming. We invite everyone (whether you brought food or not) to stay for lunch in the picnic shelter. We hope that our visitors today will return to worship soon.

St. Paul's Men's Annual Fish Fry—Saturday, September 20th

St. Paul's Men's Fish Fry, another of our congregation's favorite annual events, will be held on **Saturday evening, September 20th, at 6:00pm. Tickets** are available on the lawn **after service today**. A minimum donation of **\$12 for adults, \$6 for those under 12** is requested (under 3, free). Proceeds from this year's fish fry will benefit Binns–Counts Community Center.

Takeout boxes will be available. Only a very limited number of tickets will be sold at the event, so please get your tickets ahead of time. Thank you.

Cookbooks for Disaster Relief

The Outreach Committee is **collecting cookbooks** for kitchen kits **September 7–21**. They do not need to be new—gently used will do—and please, **no larger than 6x9 inches** so they fit into a 2–gallon bag. Contact Susan Bernhardt with any questions.

A handwritten Bible verse or encouraging words may be added to the inside to personalize the book if you'd like. The committee will assemble the kits on September 27th.

The Calendar this Week

Sunday, September 14—Homecoming

- Sunday School, 9:30am
- Covered-dish luncheon in the shelter, Noon
- Contemporary Choir, 2pm
- Worship & Music Committee, 2:30pm
- Kathy Ketchie Circle, 4pm
- Vespers, 6pm

Monday–Friday, anyone is welcome to meet with us for morning prayer at 8:30am in the chapel.

Monday, September 15

- Council meeting, 6:30pm

Tuesday, September 16

- Bible Study, 10am and 6pm
- Staff meeting, 5pm

Wednesday, September 17

- Classical Conversations, 8:30am–3pm
- Adult Choir practice, 6:30pm
- Youth Confirmation class, 7pm

Thursday, September 18

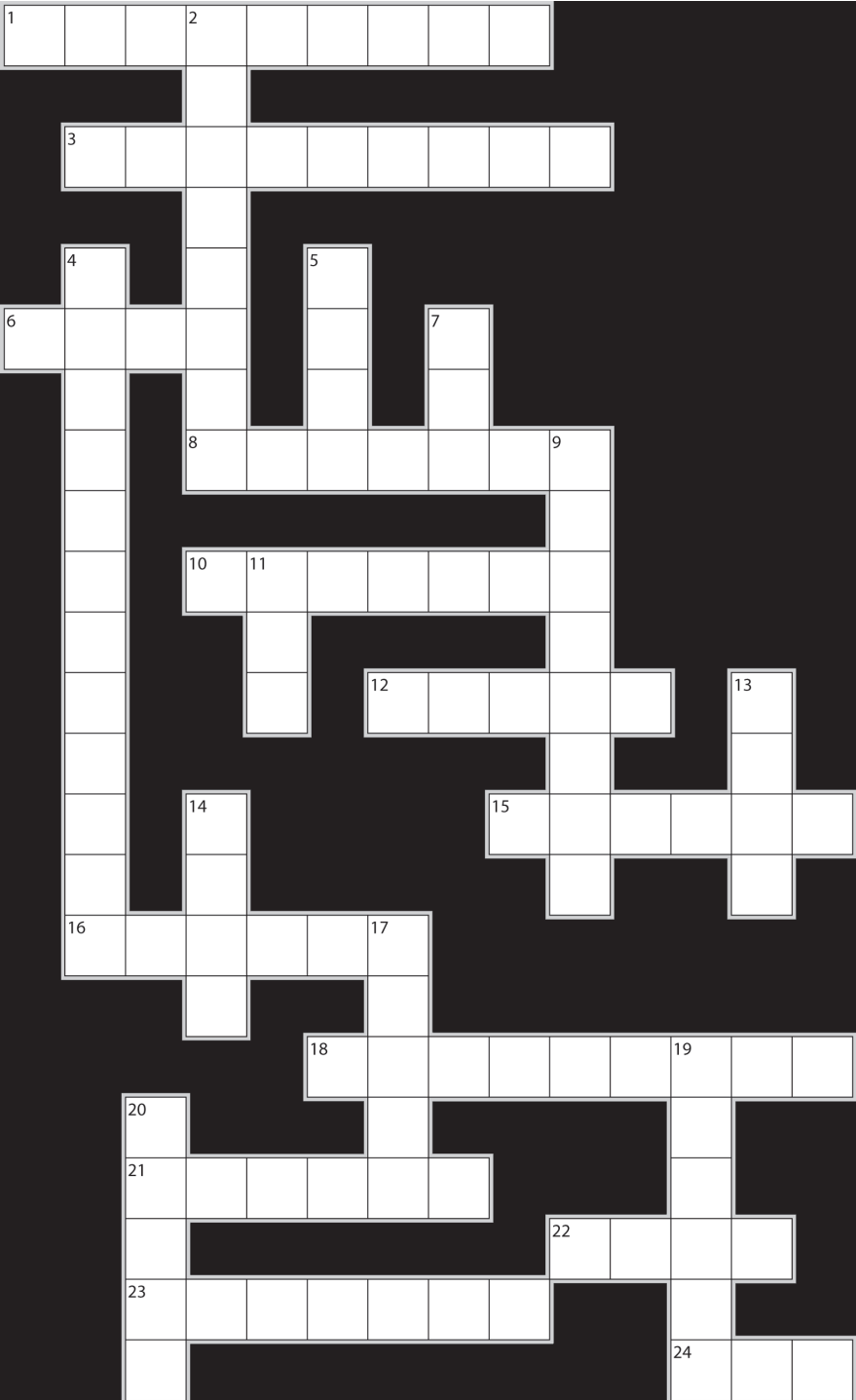
- Rowan Smart Start, 10am–Noon
- Friendship Club, 10:30am

Saturday, September 20

- College Ministry, 3pm
- Men's Fish Fry, 6pm

Sunday, September 21

- Sunday School, 9:30am
- Contemporary Choir, 2pm
- Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- Vespers, 6pm



Pentecost 14C

*Find the answers in today's lectionary readings from
Ezekiel 34:11-24; Psalm 119:169-176; 1 Timothy 1:5-17; Luke 15:1-10.
The English Standard Version is used to build this puzzle.*

ACROSS

1. The Lord God will seek his flock because they had been...
3. Who did not like the tax collectors and sinners drawing near to Jesus?
6. The aim of the apostle's charge
8. Christ came to save them.
10. What the man does after finding his lost sheep
12. All of God's commandments are...
15. My lips will pour forth...
16. The Lord God will destroy them.
18. The psalmist longs for this.
21. There will be great joy there when a sinner repents.
22. The Lord God will strengthen them.
23. Jesus displayed his patience in Paul as an example to those who were to believe in him for this kind of life
24. The psalmist delights in this.

DOWN

2. Some have desired to fill this role though they have no understanding.
4. The psalmist does not forget them.
5. Some have wandered into this sort of discussion.
7. The number of lost sheep required before you start searching
9. The Lord God will seek them like one of these.
11. What Jesus did with sinners
13. Rejoice with me for I have found my sheep that was...
14. Give me understanding according to this.
17. It overflowed for Paul.
19. The lost sheep will feed on these mountains.
20. The Lord God will search for them.

Recent Prayer Needs

- Betty Camerlin – health concerns
- Kelly Gainey – health concerns
- Myralyn Goodman – health concerns
- Autumn Hill – recovering from surgery
- Shirley Hoosier – health concerns
- Randy Johnson – health concerns
- Sally Kruchkow, Tiffany Holland's grandmother – health concerns
- Don McKnight, Julie Johnson's father – Hospice, VA Hospital
- Tommy McKnight, Julie Johnson's brother – health concerns
- Ed Niedens – home; health concerns
- Lexi Norris – health concerns
- Eddie Peeler – 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
- Barbara Upright – health concerns
- Kelly Warfield, friend of Heather Canup – 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.

Fear not, for I am with you;
be not dismayed, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my
righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

He Seeks His Sheep

Find the 27 bold words from Ezekiel 34:11-16 KJV.

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

For thus saith the **Lord** GOD; **Behold**, I, even I, will both **search** my **sheep**, and **seek** them out. As a **shepherd** seeketh out his **flock** in the day that he is among his sheep that are **scattered**; so will I seek out my sheep, and will **deliver** them out of all places where they have been scattered in the **cloudy** and **dark** day. And I will bring them out from the **people**, and **gather** them from the countries, and will **bring** them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the **rivers**, and in all the **inhabited** places of the **country**. I will feed them in a good **pasture**, and upon the high mountains of **Israel** shall their fold be: there shall they lie in a good fold, and in a fat pasture shall they feed upon the **mountains** of Israel. I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord **God**. I will seek that which was **lost**, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was **broken**, and will strengthen that which was sick: but I will **destroy** the **fat** and the **strong**; I will feed them with **judgment**.

Stats

General Fund Offering (9/7)	\$8,265
Other Offering (9/7)	\$3,934
Sunday School Attendance reported (9/7).....	87
Worship Attendance (9/7)	175

Children's Change Collection

During the third quarter of 2025, the children's change collections will benefit Friends of Madagascar Mission.

Last Sunday: \$187.50 Total so far: \$1,732.50

In the last two+ years, they have collected
\$21,156.12 for missions.

The total collected for The Table Ministry
during the second quarter of 2025 was \$2,022.

The total collected for Lutherans for Life
during the first quarter of 2025 was \$1,951.00.

In 2024, our children collected for the following:

- Dept. of Lutheran Studies, Gordon-Conwell – \$1,929.50
 - Lutherans for Life – \$1,976.00
 - St. Paul Lutheran Seminary – \$1,869.50
- Lutheran Military Veterans & Family Ministries – \$1,945.12

In 2023, they collected for the following missions and ministries:

- Lutherans for Life – \$1,855
- Spiritual Orphans Network – \$1,981
- St. Paul Lutheran Seminary – \$2,019
- Lutheran Military Veterans & Family Ministries – \$1,901



Reminder: Information for weekly bulletins should be turned in to the church office by Wednesday morning before Noon. Information for monthly newsletters needs to be in during the 3rd week of each month or earlier. Please email, call, or bring information. **Also, please be sure you and your family have your names the friendship register.** This helps us know who communes, and how many are worshipping.



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

Rev. Dr. Mark Ryman, Pastor

pastor@stpaulslutheran.church

Brian Lord, Associate Pastor

wingman@stpaulslutheran.church

Pamela Cottingham, Secretary

secretary@stpaulslutheran.church

Eric Barringer, Council President

ebarringer@bellsouth.net

John Brock, Music Director

splcmusicalisbury@gmail.com

Johnsie Taylor, Organist

jtaylor783@aol.com

Judy Lowman, Treasurer

splcjwl63@gmail.com

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

Next weeks lessons: Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2:1-15; Luke 16:1-15

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2016 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. CCLI License # 11395633
St. Paul's is a member congregation of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC.NET)