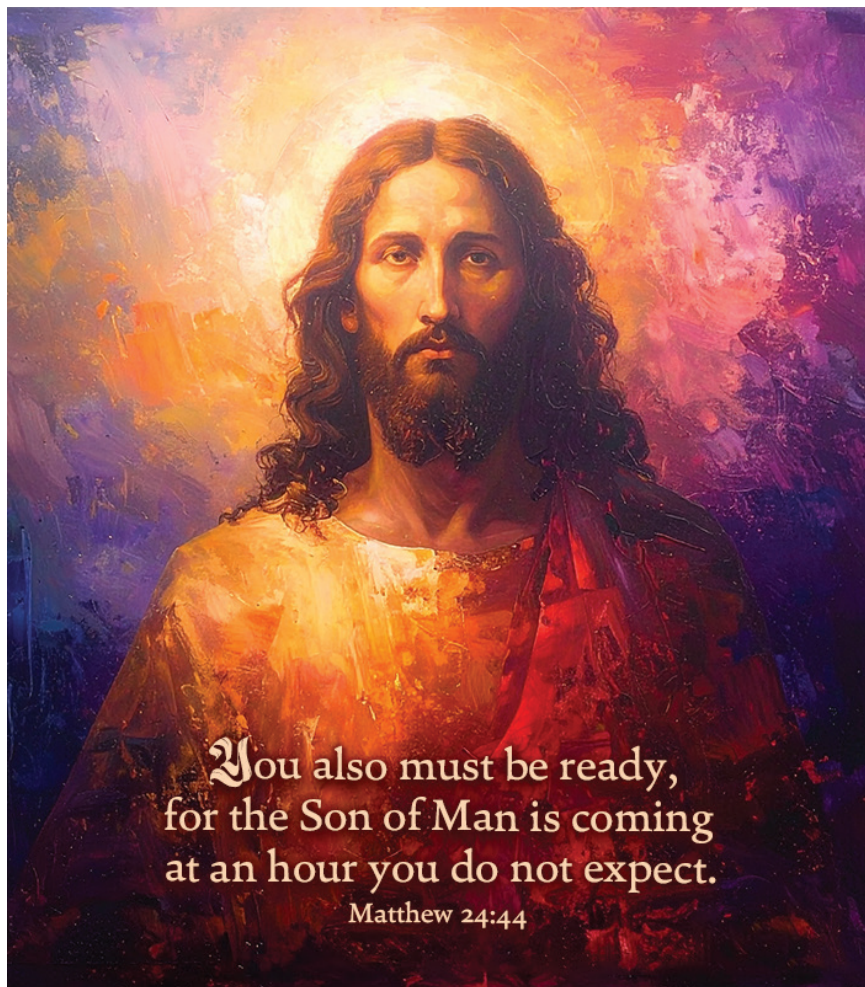




First Sunday in Advent
November 30, 2025 • 10:30AM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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

Acolyte: Elin Wells • Crucifer: Zoe Wells
Cantor: Lindsey Whisnant • Lector: Jeanne Shaver
Communion Assistants: Nicole Amos & Sarah Fesperman

This Week's Memory Verse

Love does no wrong
to a neighbor;
therefore love is
the fulfilling
of the law.
Romans 13:10



Memory Verse Aid

LDNW
TAN
TLI
TF
OTL.
RI3IO

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “Comfort, Comfort, Now My People” Westenkuehler

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness *Stand*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Reflection and self-examination

¹You shall have no other gods before me.

**²You shall not take the name
of the Lord your God in vain;
for the Lord will not hold guiltless
those who take his name in vain.**

**³Remember the Sabbath day
to keep it holy.**

**⁴Honor your father
and your mother,
that your days may be long
in the land which the Lord
your God is giving you.**

⁵You shall not kill.

⁶You shall not commit adultery.

⁷You shall not steal.

**⁸You shall not bear false witness
against your neighbor.**

**⁹You shall not covet
your neighbor's house.**

**¹⁰You shall not covet your neighbor's wife,
his workers, his livestock,
or anything that is your neighbor's.**

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

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

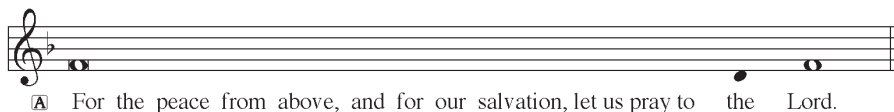
Hymn: “The Advent of Our God”

22

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

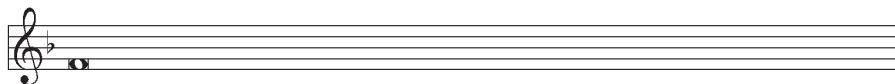
And also with you.

The Kyrie

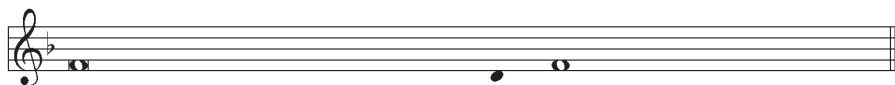




C Lord, have mer - cy.



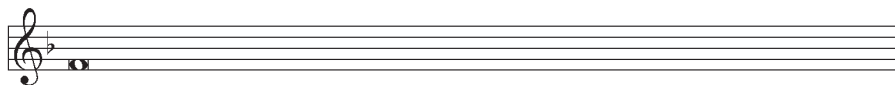
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



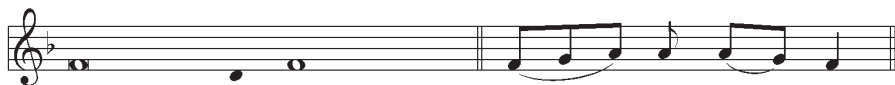
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.



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

Hymn of Praise



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



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



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



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



Prayer of the Day



☐ The Lord be with you.

☑ And al - so with you.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come, that by your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by your mighty deliverance—for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, forever one God.

Amen

Please be seated.

First Lesson: Isaiah 2:1–5

¹The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ²It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, ³and many peoples shall come, and say: “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

Psalms 122

¹I was glad when they | said to me,*

“Let us go to the house | of the LORD.”

²**Now our | feet are standing***

within your gates, | O Jerusalem.

³Jerusalem is built | as a city*

that is at unity | with itself;

**⁴To which the tribes go up, the tribes | of the LORD,*
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name | of the LORD.**

**⁵For there are the | thrones of judgment,*
the thrones of the | house of David.**

**⁶Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem:*
“May they pros- | per who love you.**

**⁷Peace be with- | in your walls*
and quietness with- | in your towers.**

**⁸For my brethren and com- | panions’ sake,*
I pray for | your prosperity.**

**⁹Because of the house of the | LORD our God,*
I will seek to | do you good.”**

Second Lesson: Romans 13:8–14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord.

Please stand for the Gospel.





The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 24th chapter.



Gospel: Matthew 24:36–44

³⁶[Jesus said,] “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ³⁷For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. ⁴²Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The Gospel of our Lord.



Please be seated.

Confession of Faith

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

**I 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

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Chad, Abby,
Grace, and Graham Walker

Children's Chat

Sermon: "Clothed in the Light of the World"

Hymn: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

30

The Prayers of the Church

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people, according to their needs.

Following each prayer: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

Offering

Anthem: "Let the Christ Child In"

Men's Choir

Offertory



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
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

The Great Thanksgiving



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 indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

The Lord's Prayer

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

Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
 and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Holy Communion

*Receiving Holy Communion for the first time today are
 Caroline Aldridge, Hudson Burnett, and Graham Walker.*

Distribution

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.

☐ 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

Let us pray. 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: “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” David Lasky

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

The Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you, and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Mid-week Advent Supper and Service

On Wednesdays, **December 3rd, 10th, and 17th**, we will have a mid-week supper and Advent service. Supper begins at **6pm**, followed by a service in the sanctuary. In order to help us plan, please let us know if you will be attending the supper by putting “**A**” and the number of people in your party by your name in the friendship register.

Poinsettias and Luminaries

Order forms are on the table in the narthex if you would like to purchase a poinsettia to be placed in the sanctuary for Christmas. The cost is **\$14 each**. The **deadline** to order a poinsettia is **Sunday, December 14**. We ask that you take your poinsettias home with you after the Christmas Eve service. Any remaining after the next Sunday service will be thrown away.

Forms are also available to **sponsor luminaries**. A donation of **\$10 per luminary sponsored is requested**. Donations will go to the Youth Fund. The Youth & Family Committee will be placing the luminaries around the front lawn of the church, with a small plaque at each luminary sponsored. The name of the sponsor will be on the plaque, along with the name of the person being honored or remembered. The deadline for sponsoring luminaries is also December 14th.

Contact Information

If your mailing address, email address, or phone number has changed, please contact the church office right away. We will be putting together the 2026 yearbook soon. We ask just a few moments of your time to keep the church records up-to-date.

Barringer's Mission Trip

Sara and Amy Barringer will be traveling with North Hills Christian School on a mission trip to San Pedro de Poas, Costa Rica. The cost is about \$2,000 per person. They are asking you to prayerfully consider partnering with them financially or by prayer as they prepare for this experience. Checks may be made payable to Amy Barringer before January 1, 2026.

Sunday, November 30

- Children's play rehearsal, fellowship hall, **9:15am**
- Children's song rehearsal, choir room, 9:30am
- First Communion for Caroline Aldridge, Hudson Burnett, and Graham Walker, during the 10:30am worship service
- Contemporary Choir practice, 4pm
- Handbell Ensemble practice, 5pm
- Vespers, 6pm

Monday, December 1

- Bonnie Bost Circle, **6pm** to decorate tree in fellowship hall
- Facility Accessibility Committee meeting, 6:30pm
- Hama Lingle Circle, 7pm

Tuesday, December 2

- Bible Study class, 10am and 6pm
- Grace Ridenhour Circle, **5pm** at Cracker Barrel
- Girl Scouts, 6:30pm

Wednesday, December 3

- Home School meets 8:30–3pm
- Ellen Bumgarner Circle, **11:30am** for lunch
- Mid-week supper, 6pm
- Mid-week Advent service, 7pm
- Adult Choir practice following the Advent service

Thursday, December 4

- Rowan Smart Start, 10am–12pm

Friday, December 5

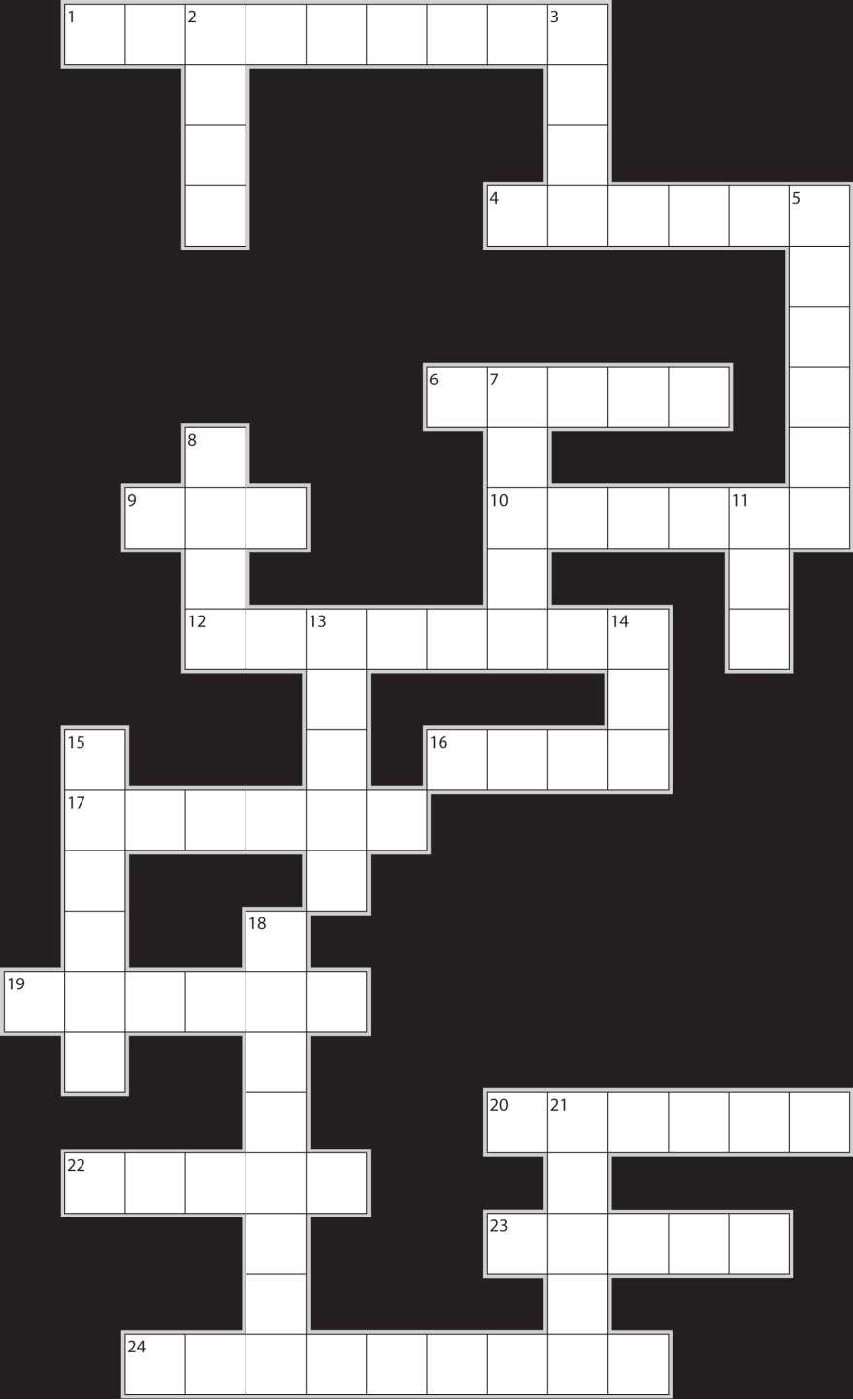
- Home School ballet class, 1–2:15pm

Saturday, December 6

- Decorate for Christmas, 9am

Sunday, December 7

- Children's play rehearsal, **9am in the sanctuary**
- Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- Youth & Family Committee, 2pm
- Contemporary Choir practice, 4pm
- Handbell Ensemble practice, 5pm
- Vespers, 6pm



Advent 1A

*Find the answers in today's lectionary readings from
Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 24:36-44
The English Standard Version is used to build this puzzle .*

ACROSS

1. It is nearer now than when you first believed.
4. Put on him.
6. Thrones of judgment were set in his house.
9. Let us go up to his house.
10. Not even these beings know the day and hour.
12. Cast off these works.
16. The law shall go out from there.
17. Beat them into plowshares.
19. Only he knows the day and hour.
20. Beat them into pruning hooks.
22. Let us walk in it.
23. Peace be within your...
24. Their feet had been standing in its gates.

DOWN

2. Owe nothing to each other but this.
3. When the Son of Man comes, it will be like his day.
5. Security be within your...
7. Because you do not know when the Lord is returning, you must stay...
8. Let us go to the house of the...
11. If you love one another, you have fulfilled this.
13. You must be prepared or...
14. He is coming at an hour you do not expect.
15. The son of Amoz
18. You shall love her like yourself.
21. Pray this for Jerusalem.

Recent Prayer Needs

Please notify the church office when a prayer request should be removed from this list or updated.

- Don Camerlin – recovering from surgery
- Wilbur Canup – health concerns
- Helen Gordon – recovering from surgery
- Mary Holland – health concerns
- Randy Johnson – health concerns
- Sally Kruchkow, Tiffany Holland's grandmother – health concerns
- Ed Niedens – home; health concerns
- Melinda Redding – upcoming surgery
- Linda Robbins, step-mother of Heather Canup – health concerns
- Lottie Simpson – health concerns
- Kelly Warfield, friend of Heather Canup – health concerns
- Hollis Wilhelm – health concerns; recovering at home

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.

**And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with
all kinds of prayers and requests.
With this in mind, be alert
and always keep on praying
for all the Lord's people.**

Ephesians 6:18

Love Fulfills the Law

Find the 26 bold words from Romans 13:8–13 KJV.

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

Owe no man any thing, but to **love** one **another**: for he that loveth another hath **fulfilled** the law. For this, Thou shalt not **commit adultery**, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear **false witness**, Thou shalt not **covet**; and if there be any other **commandment**, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy **neighbour** as **thyself**. Love **worketh** no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. And that, **knowing** the time, that now it is high time to **awake** out of **sleep**: for now is our **salvation nearer** than when we **believed**. The **night** is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of **darkness**, and let us put on the **armour** of **light**. Let us walk **honestly**, as in the day; not in **rioting** and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in **strife** and **envying**.

Stats

General Fund offering 11/16.....	\$10,628
Other offering 11/16	\$7,211
Worship attendance 11/16	187
Sunday School attendance reported 11/16.....	78

Children's Change Collection

Last Sunday: \$185.00 Total so far: \$1,507.50
Collections for this quarter of 2025 will go to
Lutheran Military Veterans and Families.

In the last two+ years, the children have collected
\$22,817.12 for missions.

The total collected for Friends of Madagascar Mission
during the third quarter of 2025 was \$2,248.50.

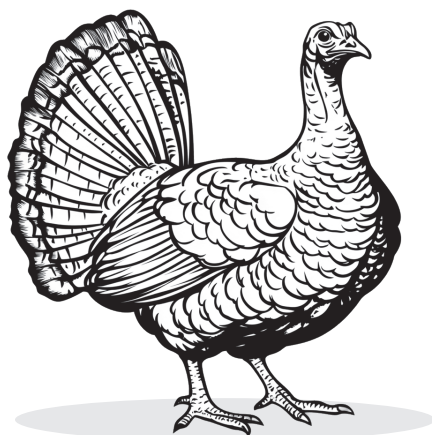
The total collected for The Table Ministry
during the second quarter of 2025 was \$2,022.

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

More information
about St. Paul's Missions
may be found at
StPaulsLutheran.Church/Missionaries



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. You may email, call, or bring information. **Also, please be sure your and your family member's names are written in the friendship register each Sunday.**



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



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

A family of faith sharing the gospel and love of Christ

Phone: 704-633-0922

Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Facebook: www.facebook.com/StPaulsLCMC

Wi-Fi: splcguest – pass: SavedbyGrace

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12 Noon

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Mark Ryman, Senior Pastor
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wingman@stpaulslutheran.church

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jtaylor783@aol.com

Judy Lowman, Treasurer
splcjwl63@gmail.com

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

Next weeks lessons: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

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