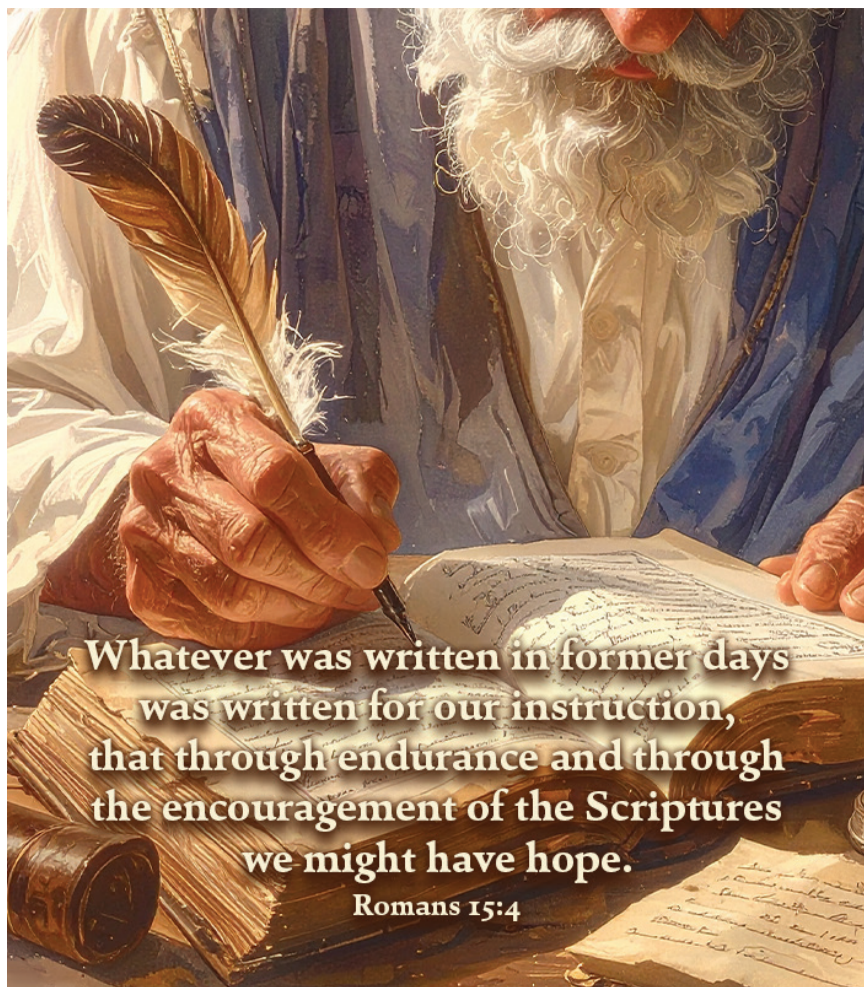




Second Sunday in Advent
December 7, 2025 • 10:30AM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

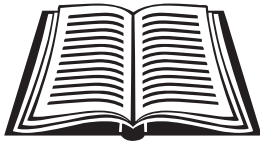
205 St. Paul's Church Road, Salisbury, NC

Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Acolyte: Grace Walker • Crucifer: Sophie Hoffner
Cantor: Laura Brock • Lector: Jennifer Aldridge
Communion Assistants: Travis Alligood & Bonnie Hinson

This Week's Memory Verse

Righteousness shall be
the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness
the belt of his loins.
Isaiah 11:5



Memory Verse Aid

RSB
TBOHW
AF
TBOHL.
1115

Welcome and Announcements

Special thanks to Dawn Merrell, who is our guest organist today.

Prelude: “On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry”

Held

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**

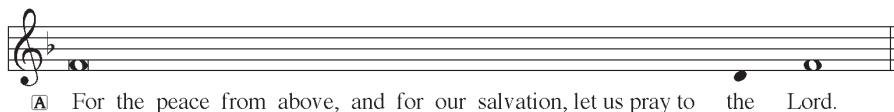
Hymn: "On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry"

36

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

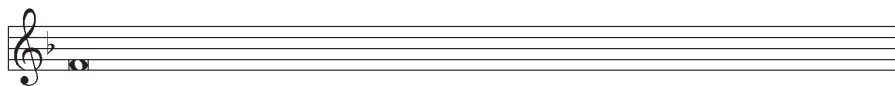
And also with you.

The Kyrie





C Lord, have mer - cy.



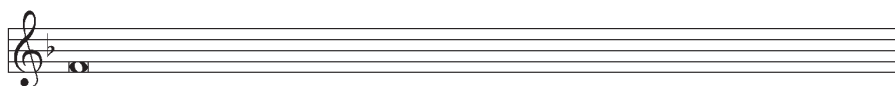
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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 our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of your only-begotten Son, that by his coming we may be enabled to serve you with pure minds—through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, forever one God.

Amen

Please be seated.

First Lesson: Isaiah 11:1–10

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ²And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. ⁹They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples — of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

Psalm 72:1–7

¹Give the King your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the King's Son;

²**That he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;**

³That the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the little | hills bring righteousness.

⁴**He shall defend the needy a- | mong the people;
he shall rescue the poor and crush | the oppressor.**

⁵He shall live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.

⁶**He shall come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**

⁷In his time shall the | righteous flourish;
there shall be abundance of peace 'til the
moon shall | be no more.

Second Lesson: Romans 15:4–13

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." ¹⁰And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." ¹¹And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." ¹²And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope." ¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. *The word of the Lord.*

Please stand for the Gospel.



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 3rd chapter



Gospel: Matthew 3:I–I2

¹In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ³For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’” ⁴Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” *The Gospel of our Lord.*



Confession of Faith

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

Please be seated.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Spencer, Cindy, Otto,
Oliver, and Alexandria Newsome

Children's Chat

Sermon: "The Goal of the Gospel"

Hymn: "Prepare the Royal Highway"

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.**

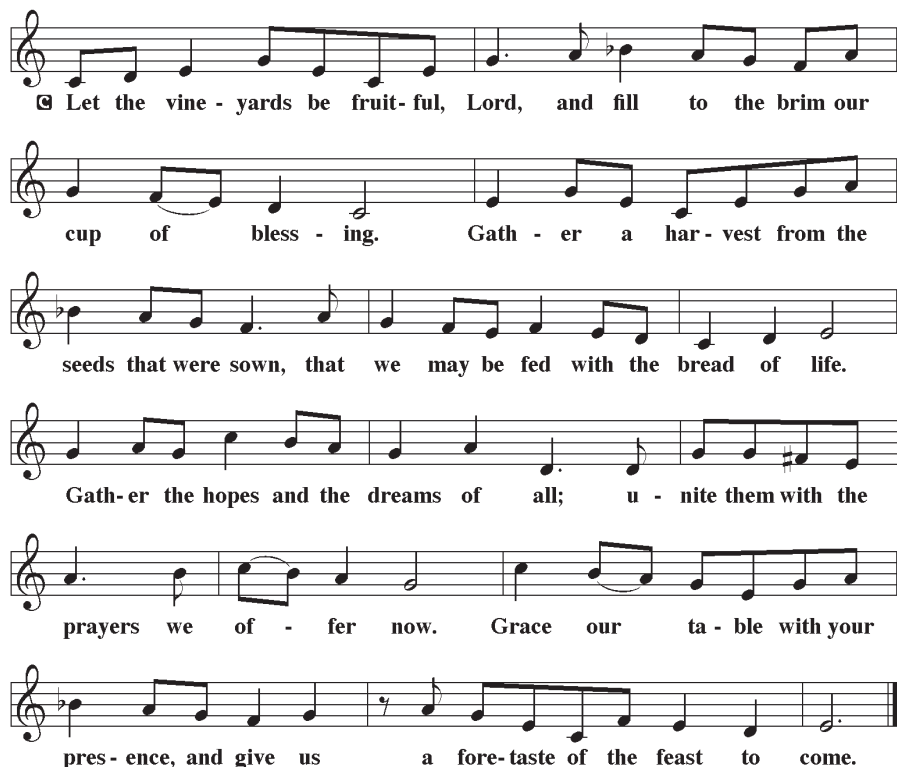
Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen

Offering

Anthem: “Advent Carol”

Adult 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 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, 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:

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



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.**

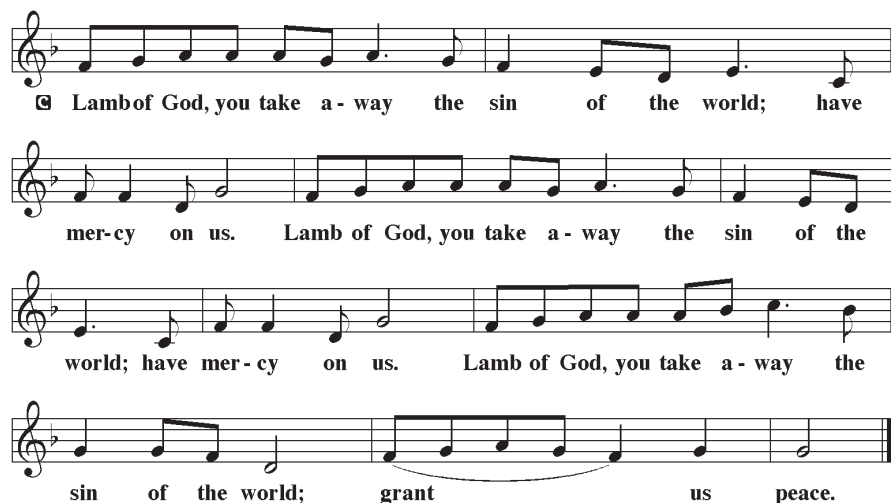
**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

Holy Communion

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: “Prepare the Royal Highway”

Sedio

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.

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



Mid-week Advent Supper and Service

On Wednesdays, **December 10th and 17th**, we will have a midweek supper and Advent service. Supper begins at **6pm**, followed by a service in the sanctuary at 7pm. 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.

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.

Poinsettias and Luminaries

Order forms are 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**. Luminaries are **\$10 each**. 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.

Flowers

Flower Town in Salisbury has closed. If you plan to provide flowers for a Sunday service, please verify with the florist you contact that they are able to get into the church (*for deliveries*) and that they know to put the flowers in the cooler. **If they do not have a code to get in, you will need to meet them here to let them in and show them where the cooler is.** They need to know:

- the type of flowers you want
- if you are getting them to fill the altar vases on the back wall or if you are ordering an arrangement to sit on the railing... (*We have liners that fit the brass vases. They may be taken to the florist to use unless you want them to provide a glass vase.*)
- how much you wish to spend on the flowers... Please pay for the flowers when you order them, either by phone, or in person. This will prevent any confusion on the final price (flower price + tax + delivery).

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.

Sunday, December 7

- Children's play rehearsal, **9am in the sanctuary**
- Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- Youth & Family Committee, 2pm
- Contemporary Choir practice, 4pm
- Kathy Ketchie Circle, out to Chef Santos, 5:30pm
- Handbell Ensemble practice, 5pm
- Vespers, 6pm

Monday, December 8

- Melissa Lura Circle, 6pm
- Finance Committee meeting, 6:30pm

Tuesday, December 9

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

Wednesday, December 10

- Home School meets 8:30–3pm
- Autumn Care chapel service, 2pm
- Mid-week supper, 6pm
- Mid-week Advent service, 7pm
- Adult Choir practice following the Advent service

Thursday, December 11

- Rowan Smart Start, 10am–12pm

Saturday, December 13

- Children's Play dress rehearsal, 10:30am

Sunday, December 14

- Children's rehearsal, 9am
- Christian Education Committee meeting, 2pm
- Worship & Music Committee, 3pm
- Children's Play, "'C' Is for Christmas," 4pm
- Vespers, 6pm

Basement Restrooms

The ladies restroom by the chapel is **closed for the duration of construction**. The men's room near the chapel is now designated as a 'unisex' restroom, and an inside lock has been installed. The other ladies restrooms remain open.

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
- Kelly Gainey – health concerns
- Dot Goodman – health concerns
- Helen Gordon – recovering from surgery
- Mary Holland – health concerns
- Shirley Hoosier – recovering from surgery
- Melinda Redding – recovering surgery
- Lottie Simpson – health concerns
- Johnsie Taylor – recovering from surgery
- Hollis Wilhelm – health concerns

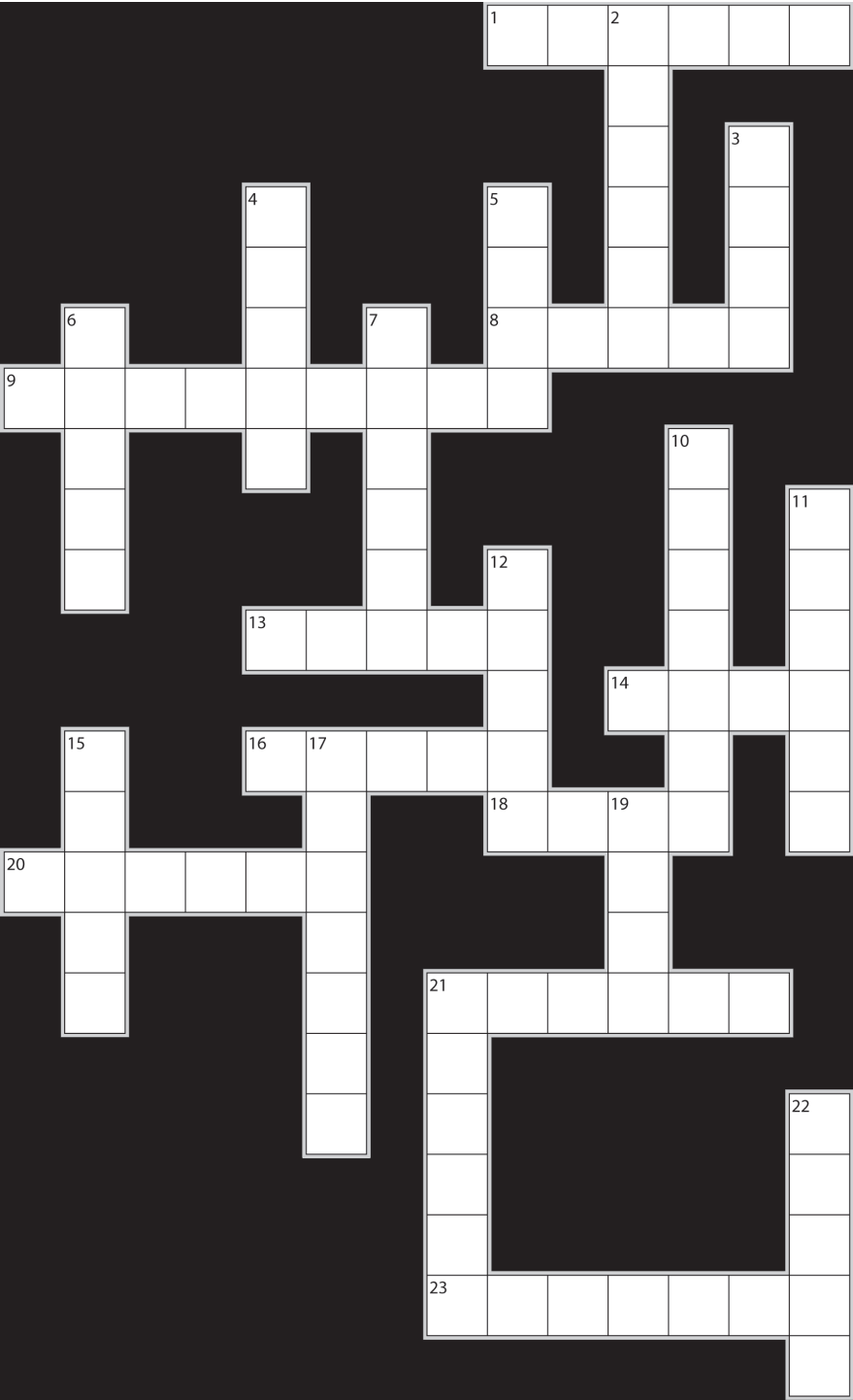
For a longer list of prayer needs, please consult The Monthly Epistle.

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.

**Beloved,
I pray
that you may prosper
in all things
and be in health,
just as your soul prospers.**

3 John 1:2



Advent 2A

*Find the answers in today's lectionary readings from
Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12.
The English Standard Version is used to build this puzzle.*

ACROSS

1. John the Baptist called the religious leaders snakes or...
8. May the king deliver their children.
9. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in...
13. John the Baptist came preaching in this wilderness.
14. John baptized with water but the Christ will baptize with the Holy Spirit and...
16. It shall come from the stump of Jesse.
18. We have this through the encouragement of the Scriptures.
20. We are to glorify him as with one voice.
21. He shall rest upon the shoot.
23. John the Baptist's protein source

DOWN

2. May the king judge them with righteousness.
3. By the power of this spirit you may abound in hope.
4. John the Baptist wore a garment of this hair.
5. May he be like rain on mown grass.
6. His root will come.
7. The stump shall kill them with the breath of his lips.
10. Give this to the King, O God.
11. John the Baptist's theme
12. The stump shall strike it with the rod of his mouth.
15. In his days may this abound.
17. How we are to live with one another in the church
19. A stump shall judge them with righteousness.
21. The root of Jesse shall stand as this for the peoples.
22. May the king do this to the oppressor.

Stats

General Fund offering 11/30	\$6,874
Other offering 11/30	\$1,292
Worship attendance 11/30	181
Sunday School attendance reported 11/30	77

Children's Change Collection

Last Sunday: \$204.50 Total so far: \$1,712.00
Collections for this quarter of 2025 will go to
Lutheran Military Veterans and Families.

In the last two+ years, the children have collected
\$23,021.62 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

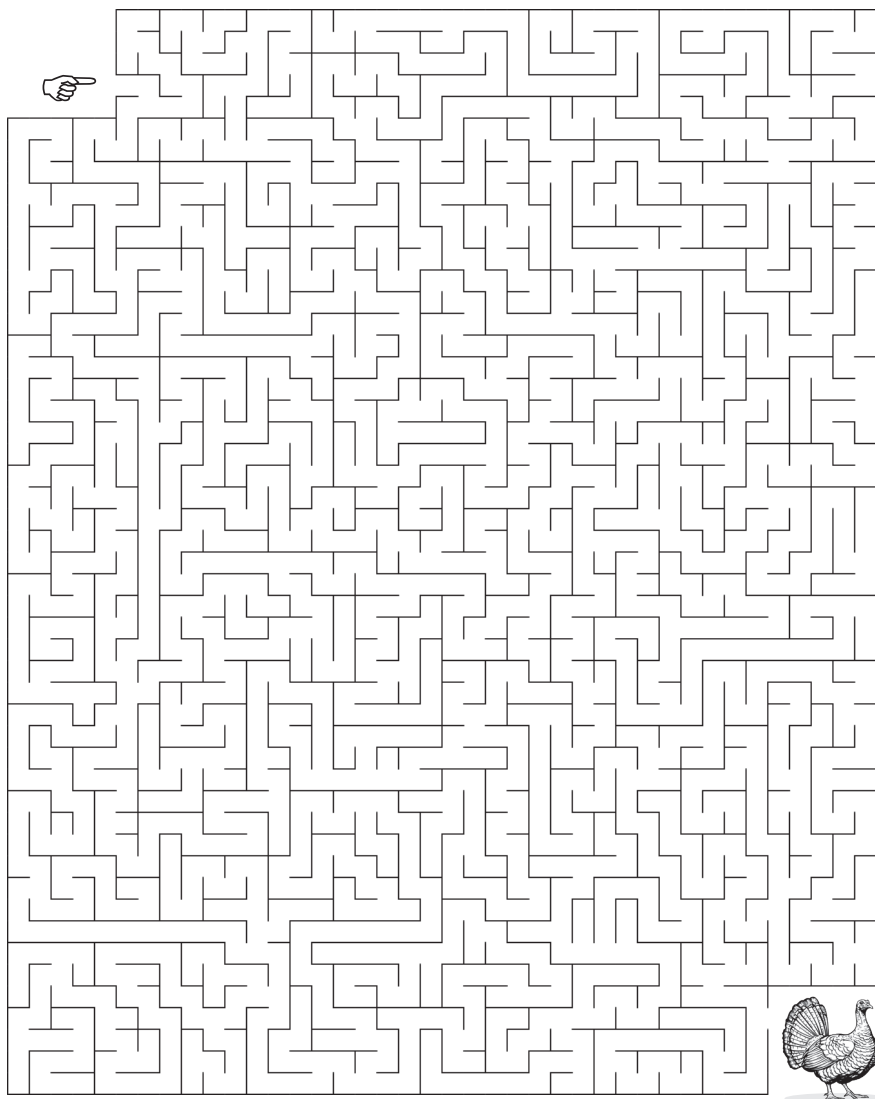


Reminder: Information for weekly bulletins should be turned in to the church office by Wednesday morning before Noon. Information for monthly newsletters needs to be in during the 3rd week of each month or earlier. You may email, call, or bring information. **Also, please be sure your and your family member's names are written in the friendship register each Sunday.**

Turkey Help

The organization *Three Wide* will use the facilities at First Presbyterian Church on December 11th, for prep and assembly of meals for families in need.

If you are helping to cook the turkeys, please have the cooked and sliced turkey in the pan provided to you and back in the **shelter refrigerator by 1:00pm on Thursday, December 11th.**
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
pastor@stpaulslutheran.church

Brian Lord, Associate Pastor
wingman@stpaulslutheran.church

Pamela Cottingham, Secretary
secretary@stpaulslutheran.church

Eric Barringer, Council President
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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: Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146; James 5:7-11; Matthew 11:2-15

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