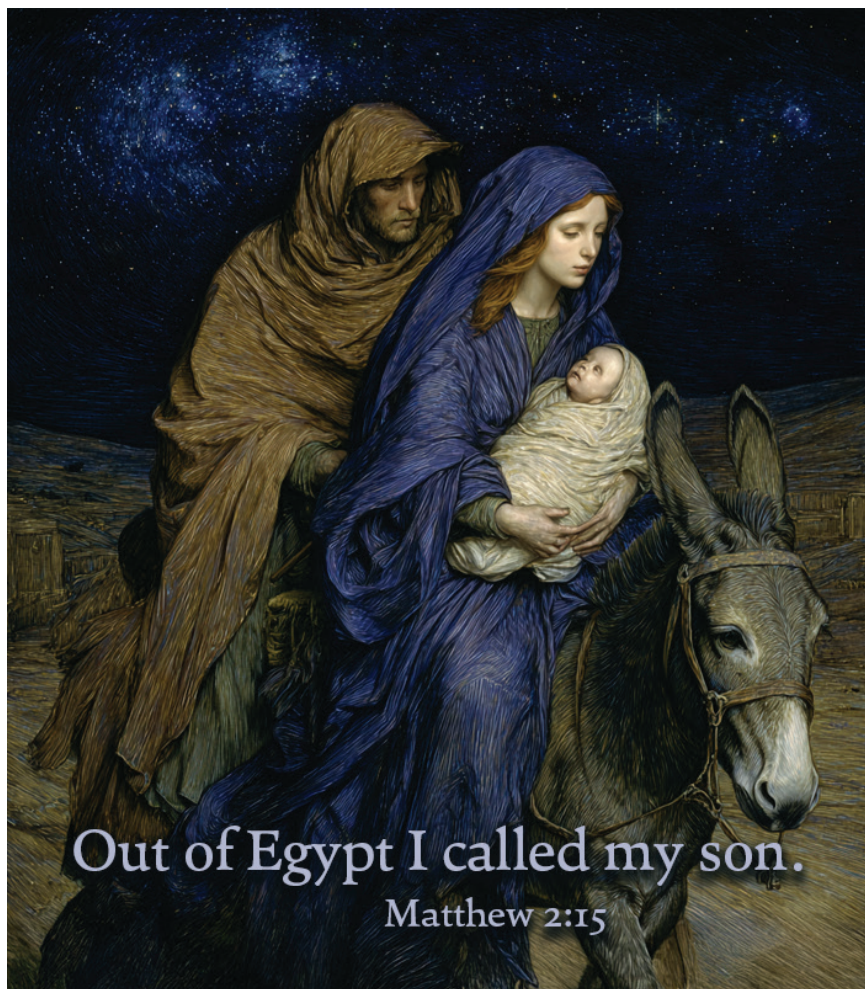




First Sunday after Christmas
December 28, 2025 • 10:30AM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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

Acolyte: Rebecca Lombard • Crucifer: Brady Bost
Cantor: Andrew Baker • Lector: Perry Bernhardt
Communion Assistants: Travis Alligood & Bonnie Hinson

This Week's Memory Verse

The fear of the LORD
is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it
have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever!
Psalm 111:10



Memory Verse Aid

TFOTL
ITBOW
ATWPI
HAGU
HPEF
PIIIIO

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “Because of Bethlehem”

Contemporary Choir

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

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

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

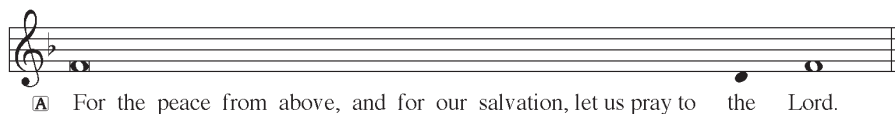
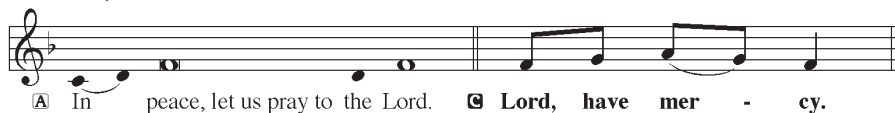
Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and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

Hymn: “Angels From the Realms of Glory”

50

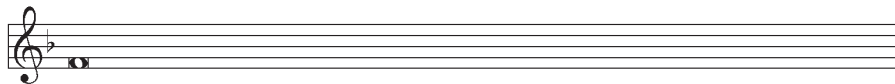
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

The Kyrie

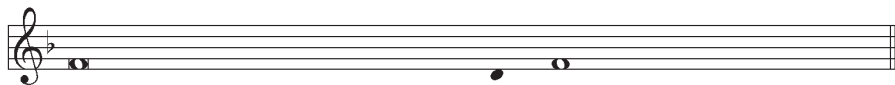




C Lord, have mer - cy.



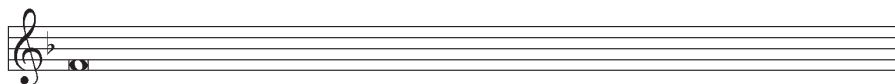
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature and be born of the Virgin Mary. Grant that we, having been redeemed and made your children by grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit—through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, forever one God.

Amen

Please be seated.

First Lesson: Isaiah 63:7–14

⁷I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely.” And he became their Savior. ⁹In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. ¹⁰But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them.

¹¹Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit, ¹²who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, ¹³who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. ¹⁴Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest. So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name. *The word of the Lord.*

Psalm 111:1–10

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with | my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the | congregation.

²**Great are the deeds | of the LORD!**
they are studied by all who de- | light in them.

³His work is full of majes- | ty and splendor,
and his righteousness en- | dures forever.

⁴**He makes his marvelous works to | be remembered;**
the LORD is gracious and full | of compassion.

⁵He gives food to | those who fear him;
he is ever mindful | of his covenant.

⁶**He has shown his people the power | of his works**
in giving them the lands | of the nations.

⁷The works of his hands are faithful- | ness and justice;
all his command- | ments are sure.

⁸**They stand fast forev- | er and ever,**
because they are done in | truth and equity.

⁹He sent redemption to his people;
he commanded his cove- | nant forever;
holy and awesome | is his Name.

¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the begin- | ning of wisdom;**
those who act accordingly have a good understanding;
his praise en- | dures forever.

Second Lesson: Galatians 4:1–7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son,
born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were
under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And
because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our
hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a
son, and if a son, then an heir through God. *The word of the Lord.*

Please stand for the Gospel.





The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the second chapter.



Gospel: Matthew 2:13–23

¹³When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.”

¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod.

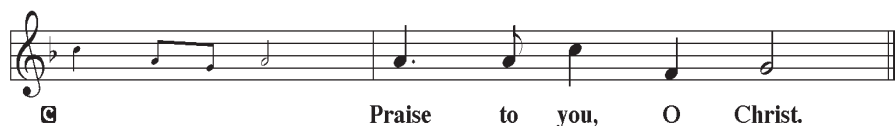
This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.” ¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that

he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled

what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

¹⁹But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” ²¹And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

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.

Children's Chat

Sermon: "God's Unfailing Grace"

Hymn: "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

70

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: “Asleep in the Hay”

Adult Choir

Offertory



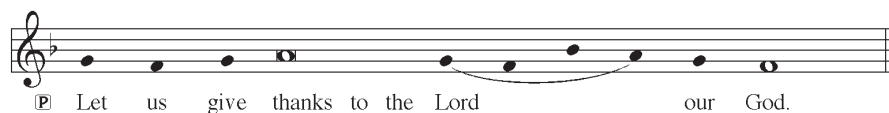
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your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



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:



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



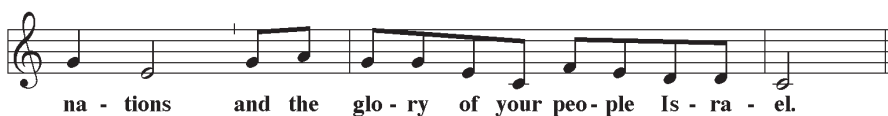
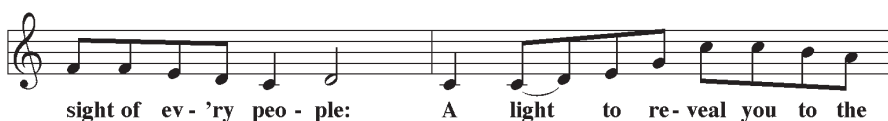
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**



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

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

*Congratulations to Rachel and Jonathan Cannon
on the birth of their son, Jacob Michael Cannon.
Jacob was born on November 26, 2025.*

2025 Offerings

Donations for 2025 need to be in today. Any mailed donations, or online giving received after this morning will be counted and posted for 2026.

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.

Flowers

If you plan to provide flowers for a Sunday service, please verify with your florist that they are able to get into the church if they will be delivering, 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 and show them where the cooler is. You may call the church office for more information on providing flowers for the coming year.

Sunday, December 28

- Sunday School, 9:30am
- Worship, 10:30am
- Vespers, 6pm

Tuesday, December 30

- No Bible Study classes
- No Girl Scouts,

Wednesday, December 31

- Fun Bunch Lunch at *Mykonos*, 12pm

Thursday, January 1, 2026

- Happy New Year! The church office is closed Thursday.

Sunday, January 4

- Sunday School, 9:30am
- Worship, 10:30am
- Worship service at Autumn Care, 2pm
- Youth & Family Committee, 2pm
- Lutheran Women's Quarterly meeting, 5pm
- Vespers, 6pm

Fun Bunch

The Fun Bunch is a group that meets once a month for lunch—just for fun. Anyone is welcome to join us. Contact Louise Eller (704-870-9176) for information.

Basement Restrooms

The ladies restroom by the chapel (basement) is closed for the duration of construction. The men's room near the chapel is now designated as a 'unisex' restroom. An inside lock has been installed on that door. The other ladies restrooms remain open.

Praise Ye the Lord

Find the 25 bold words from Psalm III:1-10 KJV.

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

Praise ye the LORD. I will praise the **Lord** with my whole **heart**, In the **assembly** of the **upright**, and in the **congregation**. The works of the LORD are great, Sought out of all them that have pleasure therein. His work is **honourable** and **glorious**: And his righteousness **endureth** for ever. He hath made his **wonderful** works to be remembered: The LORD is gracious and full of **compassion**. He hath **given** meat unto them that fear him: He will ever be **mindful** of his covenant. He hath shewed his people the **power** of his works, That he may give them the **heritage** of the heathen. The **works** of his hands are **verity** and **judgment**; All his commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever, And are done in **truth** and uprightness. He sent **redemption** unto his **people**: He hath commanded his **covenant** for ever: **Holy** and reverend is his name. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of **wisdom**: A good understanding have all they that do his **commandments**: His praise endureth for ever.

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
- Shirley Hoosier – recovering from surgery
- Robin McKnight – recovering from surgery
(Julie Johnson's sister-in-law)
- Irene Miller – health concerns
- Melinda Redding – recovering surgery
- Lottie Simpson – health concerns
- Johnsie Taylor – health concerns
- Greg Wilhelm – health concerns
- Hollis Wilhelm – health concerns

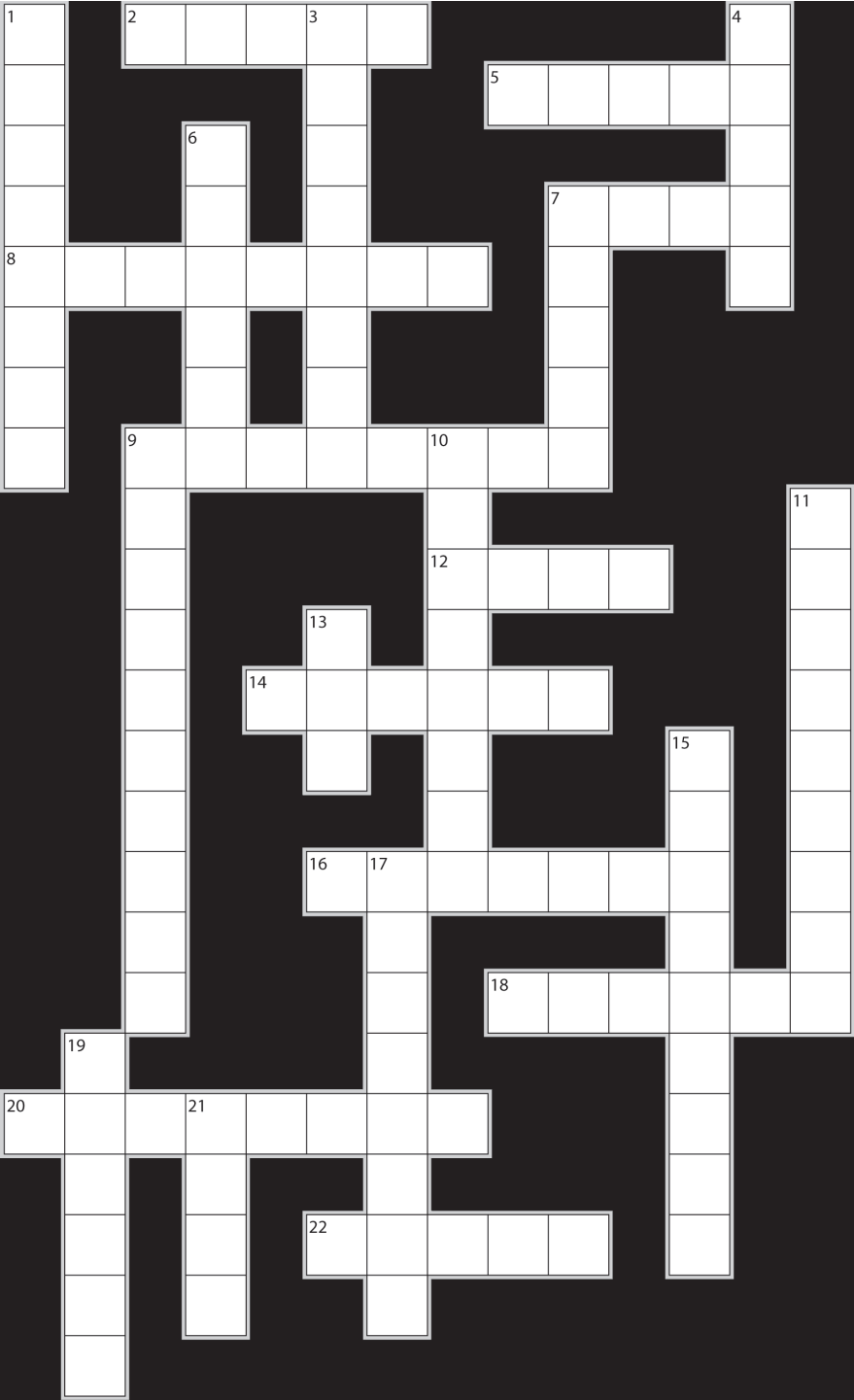
For a longer list of prayer needs, please consult The Monthly Epistle.

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.

**Heal me,
O Lord,
and I shall
be healed.**

Isaiah 40:29



Christmas 1A

*Find the answers in today's lectionary readings from
Isaiah 63:7-14; Psalm 111; Galatians 4:4-7; Matthew 2:13-23.*

The English Standard Version is used to build this puzzle.

Solve online: <https://tinyurl.com/xmas1acrossword>

ACROSS

2. God called Israel and his Son out of it.
5. As an adopted son, you are no longer a servant or...
7. If you are a son of God through his redemptive adoption, then you are also this.
8. The prophets said that the Messiah would be called this.
9. Out of his love and pity, the Savior did this.
12. The Spirit of the Lord gave this to Moses and the people.
14. In the affliction of Israel, he was afflicted.
16. After leaving Egypt, Joseph took his family to this district.
18. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of this.
20. Joseph took his family to live in this city.
22. What great things of the Lord are studied by those who delight in them?

DOWN

1. God sent his Son when this time had come.
3. This angel of the Lord saved the people of old.
4. I will give thanks to the Lord with all of it.
6. It endures forever.
7. He sought to destroy the child Jesus.
9. The Lord sent this to his people.
10. The Lord is gracious and...
11. Seeing that he had been tricked, Herod resorted to killing all the boys two years old and younger in this city.
13. God's Son was born of a woman and born under this.
15. Isaiah recounts this love of the Lord.
17. God sent his Son to redeem us so that we might receive this.
19. Isaiah recounts how the Lord divided these for the Israelites.
21. God sent his Spirit into our hearts, crying this.

Stats

General Fund offering 12/21	\$9,490
Other offering 12/21.....	\$2,211
Worship attendance 12/21.....	205
Sunday School attendance reported 12/21	60

Children's Change Collection

Last Sunday: \$211.00 Total so far: \$2,251.00
Collections for this quarter of 2025 will go to
Lutheran Military Veterans and Families.

In the last two+ years, the children have collected
\$23,561.62 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.**



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

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ebarringer@bellsouth.net

John Brock, Music Director
splcmusicalisbury@gmail.com

Johnsie Taylor, Organist
jtaylor783@aol.com

Judy Lowman, Treasurer
splcjlw63@gmail.com

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

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

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