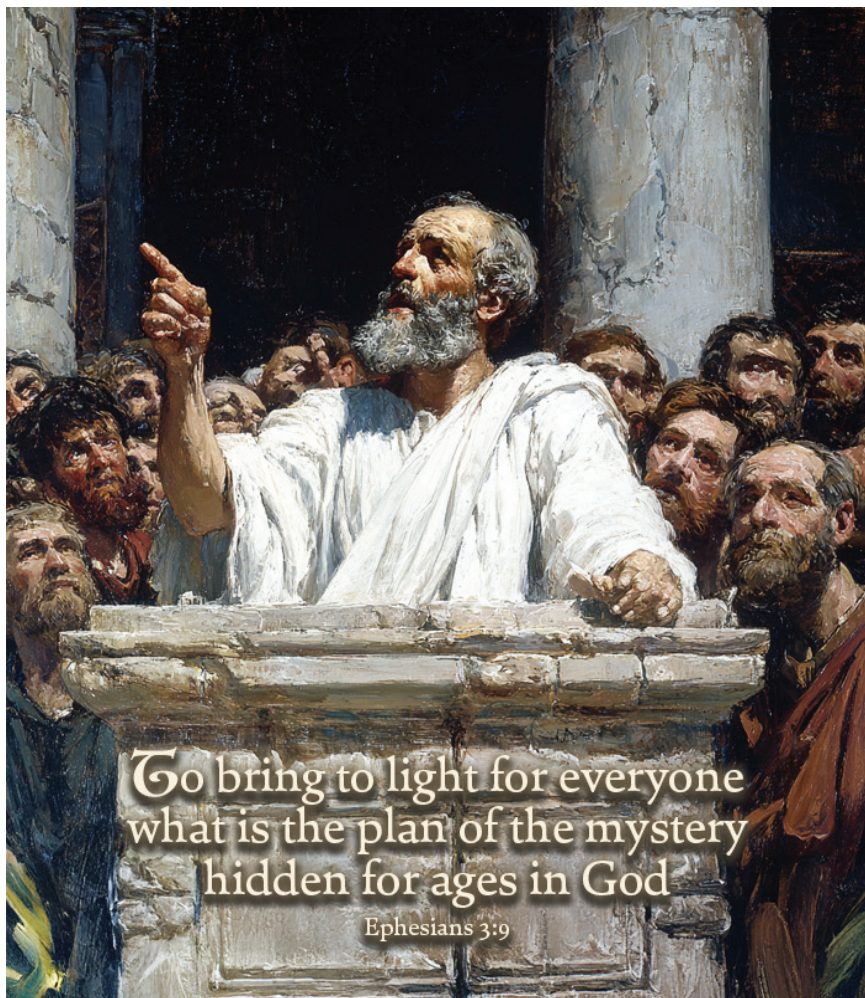




Epiphany of Our Lord
January 4, 2026 • 10:30AM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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

Acolyte: Cooper Aldridge • Crucifer: Sara Barringer
Cantor: Stan McConnell • Lector: Coy Wilhelm
Communion Assistants: Cooper Aldridge & Jennifer Aldridge

This Week's Memory Verse

Arise, shine,
for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD
has risen upon you.
Isaiah 60:1



Memory Verse Aid

AS
FYLHC
ATGOTL
HRUY
I6o1

Welcome and Announcements

Installation of New Council Members

Prelude

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness *Stand*

56

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

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

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

Reflection and self-examination

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: "As with Gladness Men of Old"

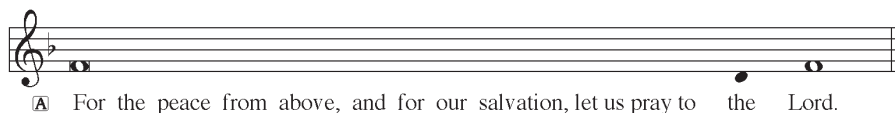
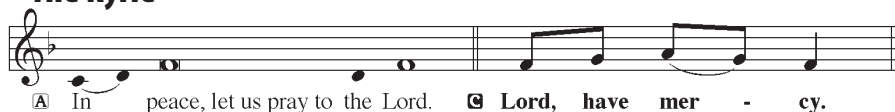
82

Greeting

57

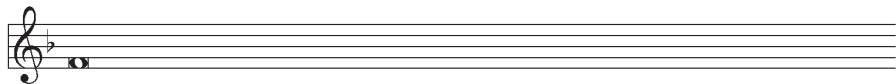
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

The Kyrie





C Lord, have mer - cy.



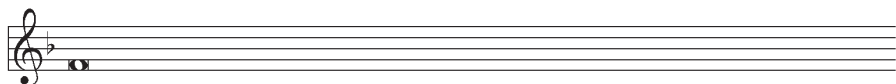
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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

58



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,





☞ The Lord be with you.

☞ And al - so with you.

O God, on this day, by the leading of a star, you revealed your only-begotten Son to the nations. Mercifully grant that we, who know you by faith, may be brought to contemplate the beauty of your majesty—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 60:1–6

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. ³And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. ⁴Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD. *The word of the Lord.*

Psalm 72:1–15

248

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 till the
moon shall | be no more.
- ⁸**He shall rule from | sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends | of the earth.**
- ⁹His foes shall bow | down before him,
and his enemies | lick the dust.
- ¹⁰**The kings of Tarshish and of the isles | shall pay tribute,
and the kings of Arabia and Saba | offer gifts.**
- ¹¹All kings shall bow | down before him,
and all the nations | do him service.
- ¹²**For he shall deliver the poor who cries out | in distress,
and the oppressed who | has no helper.**
- ¹³He shall have pity on the low- | ly and poor;
he shall preserve the lives | of the needy.
- ¹⁴**He shall redeem their lives from oppres- | sion and violence,
and dear shall their blood be | in his sight.**
- ¹⁵Long may he live! and may there be given
to him gold | from Arabia;
may prayer be made for him always,
and may they bless him all | the day long.

Second Lesson: Ephesians 3:1-12

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles — ²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷Of this gospel I was made a

minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. *The word of the Lord.*

Please stand for the Gospel.

63



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the second chapter.



Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."
⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained

from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. *The Gospel of our Lord.*



Order for Holy Baptism

121

A hymnal in honor of Jacob's baptism has been placed in the sanctuary this morning. The flower on the rail is also placed in honor of his baptism.

The Baptism of Jacob Michael Cannon

Confession of Faith

64

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

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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

Please be seated.

Children's Chat

Sermon: "The Divine Secret"

Hymn: "Bright and Glorious Is the Sky"

75

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

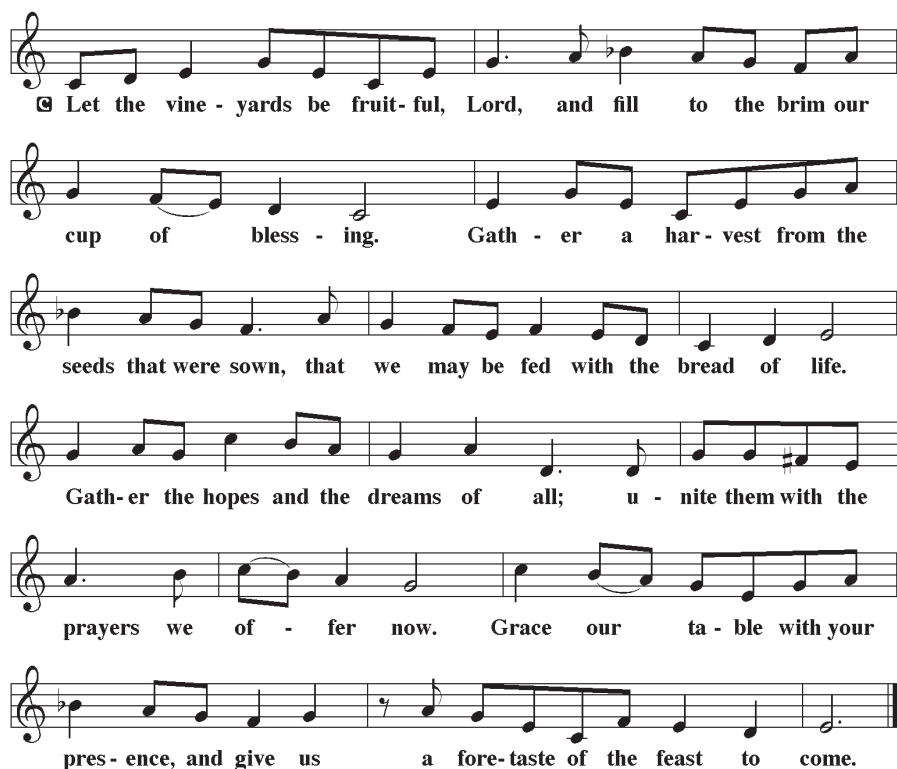
Anthem: “Come Adore Him”

Lindsey Whisnant

Please stand.

Offertory

66



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.

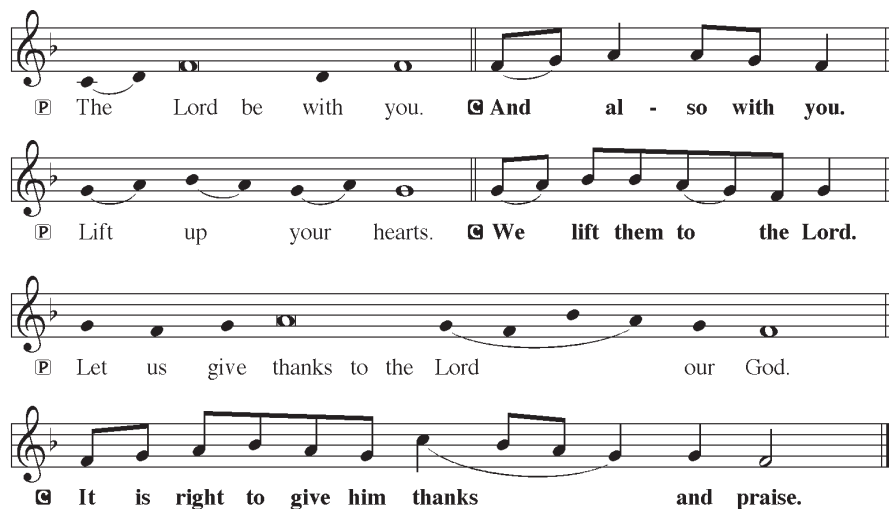
Let us Pray...

67

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

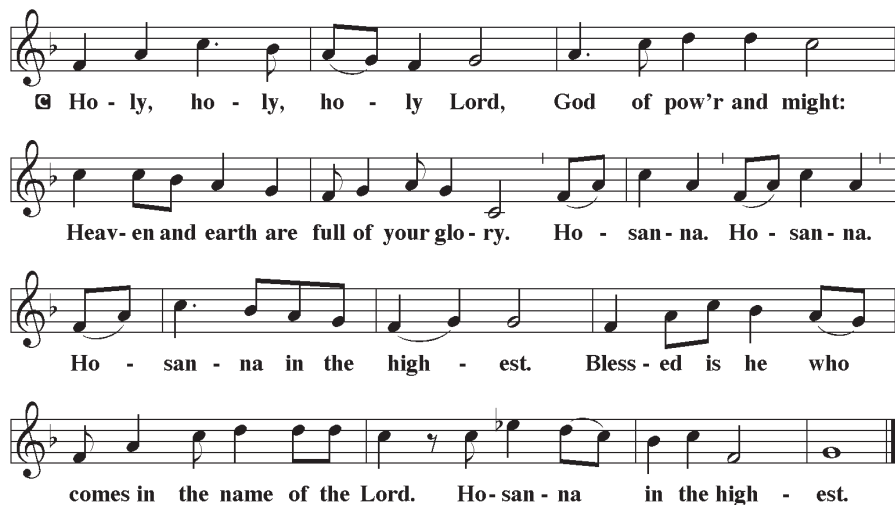
The Great Thanksgiving

68



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

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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

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

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

The Lord's Prayer

71

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

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

Holy Communion *Please be seated. An usher will direct you to the Table.*

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.

Agnus Dei

72



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**

Nunc Dimittis

73

☐ 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

Prayer

74

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.

His Baptism is today.



Contact Information

We are gathering information for the 2026 yearbook. If your mailing address, email address, or phone number has changed, please contact the church office right away.

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.

Sunday, January 4

- Sunday School, 9:30am
- Worship, 10:30am
- Installation of new Council members, 10:30am
- Baptism of Jacob Michael Cannon during 10:30am worship
- Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- Youth & Family Committee, 2pm
- Lutheran Women's Quarterly meeting, 5pm
- Vespers in the parsonage, 6pm

Monday, January 5

- Homeschool dance class, 10am
- Facility Accessibility Committee, 6:30pm
- Outreach Committee, 6:30pm

Tuesday, January 6

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

Wednesday, January 7

- Classical Conversations Homeschool, 8:30am–3pm
- Ellen Bumgarner Circle, 10am
- Adult Choir practice, 6:30pm
- Youth Confirmation Class, 7pm

Thursday, January 8

- Rowan Smart Start, 10am–12pm

Saturday, January 10

- Remove Christmas decorations, 9am

Sunday, January 11

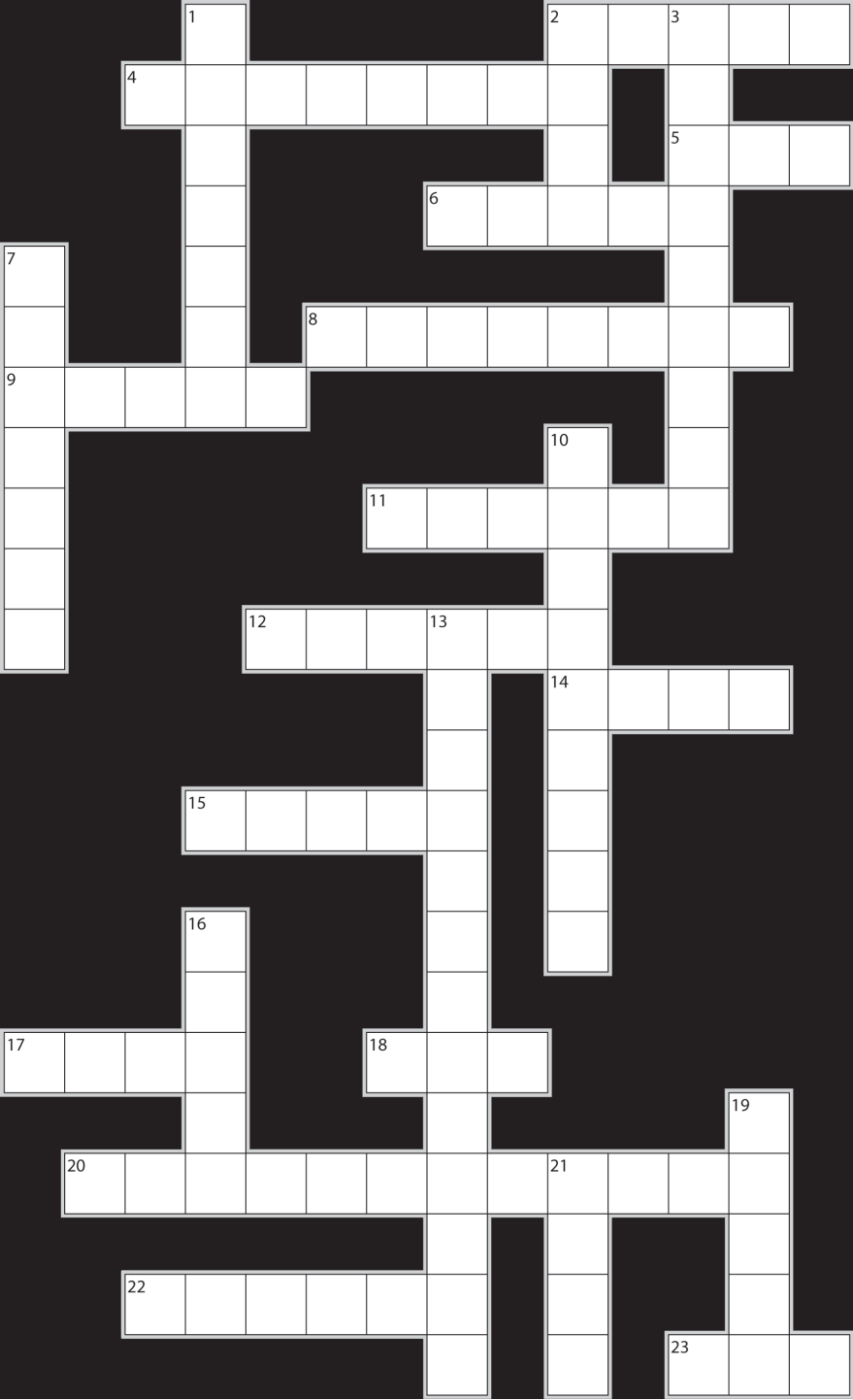
- Sunday School, 9:30am
- Worship, 10:30am
- Worship & Music Committee, 2pm
- Kathie Ketchie Circle, 4pm
- Men's Choir rehearsal, 4pm
- Handbell Ensemble rehearsal, 5pm
- Vespers in the parsonage, 6pm

A Psalm for Solomon

Find the 30 bold words from Psalm 72:1-12 KJV.

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

Give the **king** thy judgments, O God, And thy righteousness unto the king's son. He shall judge thy **people** with righteousness, And thy poor with **judgment**. The **mountains** shall bring **peace** to the people, And the little hills, by righteousness. He shall **judge** the poor of the people, He shall save the children of the needy, And shall break in pieces the **oppressor**. They shall **fear** thee as long as the sun And moon **endure**, throughout all generations. He shall come down like **rain** upon the **mown grass**: As showers that **water** the earth. In his days shall the righteous **flourish**; And **abundance** of peace so long as the moon endureth. He shall have **dominion** also from sea to sea, And from the **river** unto the ends of the **earth**. They that **dwel**l in the wilderness shall bow before him; And his **enemies** shall lick the dust. The kings of **Tarshish** and of the isles shall bring presents: The kings of **Sheba** and **Seba** shall offer gifts. Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: All **nations** shall **serve** him. For he shall **deliver** the **needy** when he crieth; The **poor** also, and him that hath no **helper**.



Epiphany A

*Find the answers in today's lectionary readings from
Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-15; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12.
The English Standard Version is used to build this puzzle.
Solve online: <https://tinyurl.com/epiphanyAcrossword>*

ACROSS

2. Jesus was born during this king's reign.
4. The king redeems the people's life from oppression and...
5. Where the plan of the mystery of the gospel was hidden for ages
6. The wise men offered Christ gifts of gold and frankincense and...
8. Paul was a prisoner on their behalf.
9. Arise and do this because your light has come.
11. A multitude of them will cover Israel.
12. Through her would the wisdom of God be made known.
14. Darkness will cover the earth but there will be light in Israel when he arises upon them.
15. Our gospel reading quotes what prophet?
17. The camels of Midian and Ephah and Sheba will bring this news to Israel.
18. May the people fear the king as long as this endures.
20. Camels will bring to Israel gold and...
22. Paul was the least of them.
23. May the king have dominion from sea to...

DOWN

1. Herod sent them in search of the newborn king.
2. The mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow...
3. May they flourish in the days of the king.
7. It was made known by revelation.
10. Where Jesus was born
13. May the king judge the people with this.
16. The region where Bethlehem is found
19. May this abound in the day of the king.
21. Lift them up and see.

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
- Tiffany Holland – health concerns
- Shirley Hoosier – Autumn Care
- Robin McKnight – recovering from surgery
(Julie Johnson's sister-in-law)
- Irene Miller – health concerns
- Melinda Redding – recovering surgery
- Carol Reese – health concerns (George Reese's brother)
- 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.

**He will not
leave you
or forsake you.**

Deuteronomy 31:6

Stats

General Fund offering 12/30.....	\$7,701
Other offering 12/30	\$1,949
Christmas Eve attendance.....	267
Worship attendance 12/30	179
Sunday School attendance reported 12/30.....	67

Children's Change Collection

During the first quarter of 2026 the Children's change collections will benefit the Small Catechism Project.

In the last two+ years, the children have collected
\$23,706.12 for missions.

The total collected for
Lutheran Military Veterans and Families
during the fourth quarter of 2025 was \$2,396.

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

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Judy Lowman, Treasurer
splcjlw63@gmail.com

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

Next weeks lessons:

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