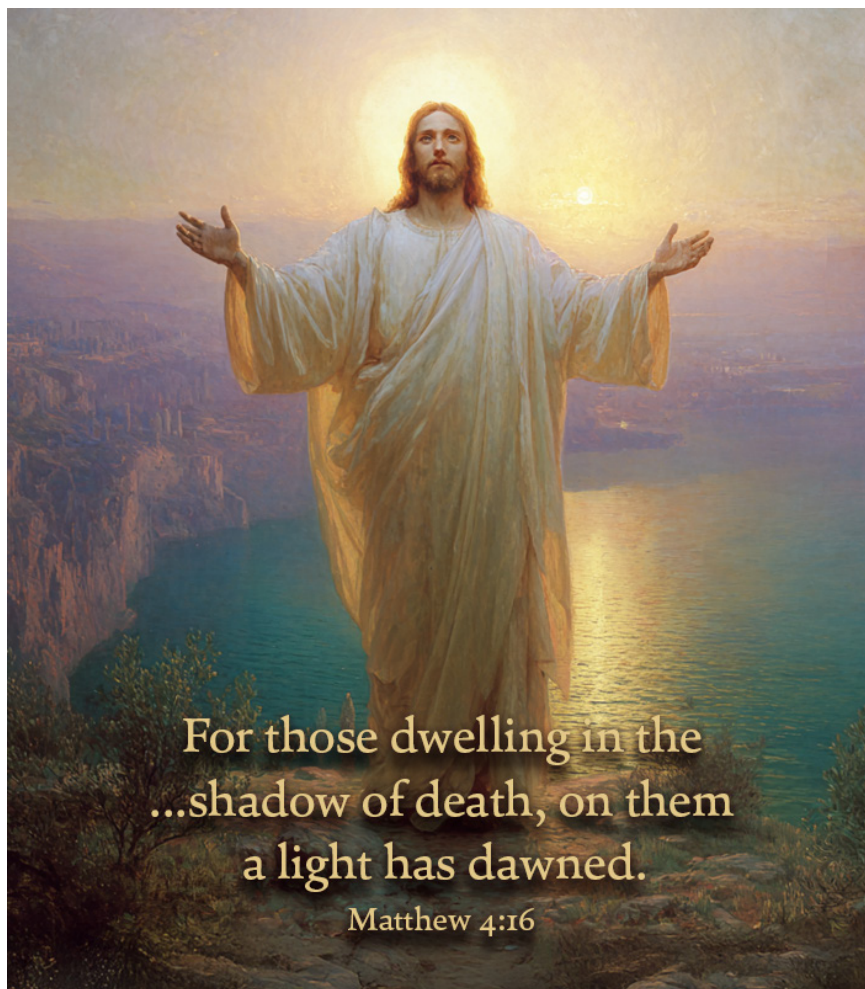




For those dwelling in the
...shadow of death, on them
a light has dawned.

Matthew 4:16

Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 25, 2026 • 10:30AM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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

Acolyte: Clara Canup • Crucifer: Alexander Canup
Cantor: John Brock • Lector: Perry Bernhardt
Communion Assistants: Cooper Aldridge & Jennifer Aldridge

This Week's Memory Verse

For the word of the cross
is folly to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved
it is the power of God.
1 Corinthians 1:18



Memory Verse Aid

FTWOTC
IFTTWAP,
BTUWABS
IITPOG.
1C118

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “Variations on You Servants of God”

Lachenauer/
Albrecht

Special thanks to Dawn Merrell for being our organist today.

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: "You Servants of God"

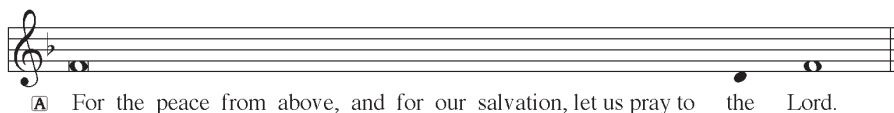
252

Greeting

57

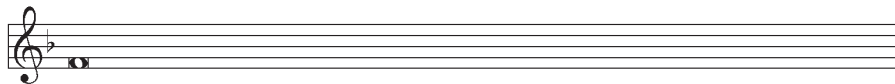
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

The Kyrie

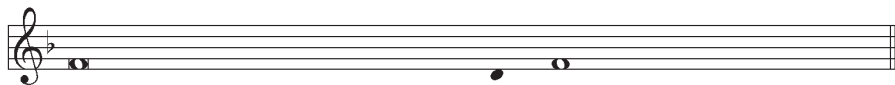




C Lord, have mer - cy.



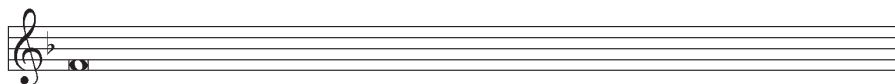
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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.

Almighty and eternal God, graciously look down on our weakness. Reach out to us with your majestic right hand and satisfy us with his glory. We ask through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Please be seated.

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:1-4

¹But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

³You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

The word of the Lord.

Psalm 27

248

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom then | shall I fear?

the LORD is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I | be afraid?

²When evildoers came upon me to eat | up my flesh,
it was they, my foes and my adversaries,
who stum- | bled and fell.

³Though an army should en- | camp against me,
yet my heart shall not | be afraid;

**⁴And though war should rise | up against me,
yet will I put my | trust in him.**

**⁵One thing have I asked of the LORD; one | thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days | of my life;**

**⁶To behold the fair beauty | of the LORD
and to seek him | in his temple.**

**⁷For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe | in his shelter;
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his
dwelling and set me high up- | on a rock.**

**⁸Even now he lifts | up my head
above my enemies | round about me.**

**⁹Therefore I will offer in his dwelling
an oblation with sounds | of great gladness;
I will sing and make music | to the LORD.**

**¹⁰Hearken to my voice, O LORD, | when I call;
have mercy on me and | answer me.**

**¹¹You speak in my heart and say, | “Seek my face.”
Your face, LORD, | will I seek.**

**¹²Hide not your | face from me,
nor turn away your servant | in displeasure.**

**¹³You have been my helper; cast me | not away;
do not forsake me, O God of | my salvation.**

**¹⁴Though my father and my moth- | er forsake me,
the LORD | will sustain me.**

**¹⁵Show me your | way, O LORD;
lead me on a level path, because | of my enemies.**

**¹⁶Deliver me not into the hand of my | adversaries,
for false witnesses have risen up against me,
and also those | who speak malice.**

**¹⁷What if I had not believed that I should see
the goodness | of the LORD
in the land | of the living!**

**¹⁸O tarry and await the LORD pleasure;
be strong, and he shall com- | fort your heart;
wait patiently | for the LORD.**

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:10–18

¹⁰I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. ¹²What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." ¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. ¹⁸For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

The word of the Lord.

Please stand for the Gospel.

63



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the fourth chapter.



Gospel: Matthew 4:12–25

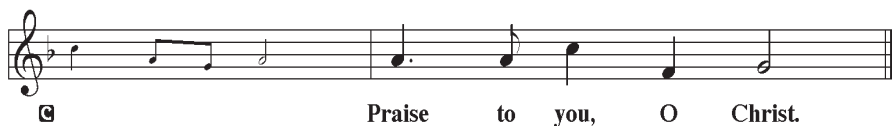
¹²When [Jesus] heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might

be fulfilled: ¹⁵“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles — ¹⁶the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.”

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ¹⁸While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. ²³And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

²⁴So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. ²⁵And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

The Gospel of our Lord.



Confession of Faith

64

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

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I 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: "Leaving the Dark Lands"

Hymn: "Leave Your Nets"

Lyrics: Ryman

When our Lord heard that his friend
Was detained and taken in,
He withdrew to Galilee,
Settling beside the sea.

Fulfilling what prophets see,
Zebulun and Naphtali
Was where Jesus came to dwell,
Dawning Light in Gentile Hell.

In the land of death and shade
God's Great Light was now displayed
For all of the world to see—
Shining still for you and me.

One day Jesus shone on shore
For two at their netting chore:
"Follow me and leave your kin;
I'll make you fishers of men!"

Leave your nets and drop your plow;
 Put Him first and trust Him now.
 Take the Savior by the hand;
 Let Him lead you to His land.

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: “What A Friend”

Adult Choir
 Violinist, Hila Canup

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



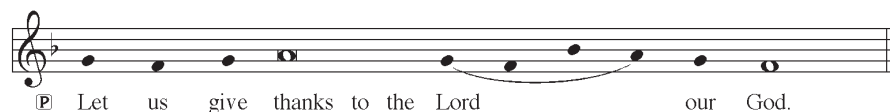
Let us Pray...

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

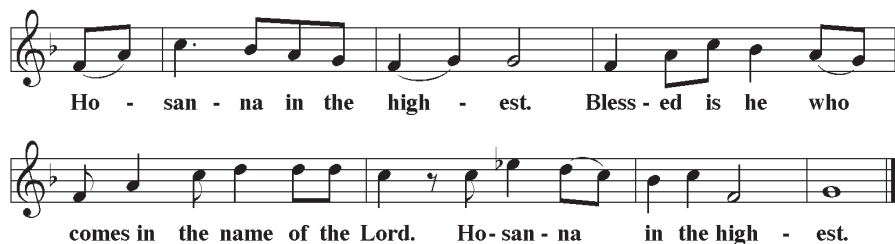
The Great Thanksgiving

68



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:





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

☐ 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.

Blessing 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,



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: "Variations on You Servants of God"

Bisbee

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



Brunswick Stew

We will be cooking Brunswick Stew the morning of January 31st, in the picnic shelter. Tickets will be sold on the porch again today. Each ticket is \$10, and is good for one quart of stew. Proceeds will go to the Capital Building Fund.

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.

Koontz Elementary Collection

The Lutheran Women are collecting sweat pants and leggings for Koontz Elementary School during the month of January. Small to extra large youth sizes are needed for boys and girls. There are bins in the Narthex and in the hallway outside the conference room. Thanks so much for your continued support.

Youth and Family Museum Trip

The Youth and Family committee is planning a three-day, two-night trip to Kentucky to attend the Creation Museum and the Ark Museum. We will be leaving Friday, March 13th at 4am, and returning Sunday, March 15th in the evening. We will be attending the Creation Museum Friday afternoon, the Ark Museum Saturday, and doing a morning prayer service on Sunday before returning to Salisbury. **At least one parent must go with your child on this trip.** If you are interested in going, please fill out the form in the link or the QR code. <https://forms.gle/6WnaR6whe2QGZXjR8>



Men Invited to James River

All men are invited to a special evening to learn about James River Equipment (Julian Road) and John Deere, on **Monday, January 26, at 6:30pm**. With the fellowship hall kitchen unavailable, St. Paul's Men will offer opportunities throughout the year to learn more of other's work, hobbies, and interests. Matt Holland, James River's Marketing/Online Sales Manager, will kick it off sharing information about the company and John Deere equipment as we enjoy sub sandwiches in their conference room, followed by a tour of the facilities. **Meet at the side entrance nearest the animal shelter at 6:30pm**, Monday, January 26th, for an interesting evening learning more about those John Deere green machines, and James River Equipment.

Sunday, January 25

- Sunday School, 9:30am
- Worship, 10:30am
- Cruise 'n Barbecue volunteer forms available
- Acolyte & Crucifer training, 3pm
- Men's Choir practice, 4pm
- Handbell Ensemble practice, 5pm
- Vespers in the parsonage, 6pm

Join us at 8:30am, Monday–Friday in the chapel for morning prayer.

Monday, January 26

- Homeschool dance class, 10am
- Lutheran Men's meeting at James River Equipment,

Tuesday, January 27

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

Wednesday, January 28

- Classical Conversations Homeschool, 8:30am–3pm
- Fun Bunch lunch, 11:30am at Palms
- Adult Choir practice, 6:30pm
- No Youth Confirmation Class this week

Thursday, January 29

- Rowan Smart Start, 10am–12pm
- Bus tour preview dinner at Blue Bay, Statesville Blvd., 5pm

Saturday, January 31

- Brunswick Stew pick-up, 1pm–3pm at the picnic shelter

Sunday, February 1

- Sunday School, 9:30am
- Worship, 10:30am
- Autumn Care worship, 2pm
- Youth & Family Committee, 2pm
- Men's Choir practice, 4pm
- Handbell Ensemble practice, 5pm
- Vespers in the parsonage, 6pm

Epiphany 3A

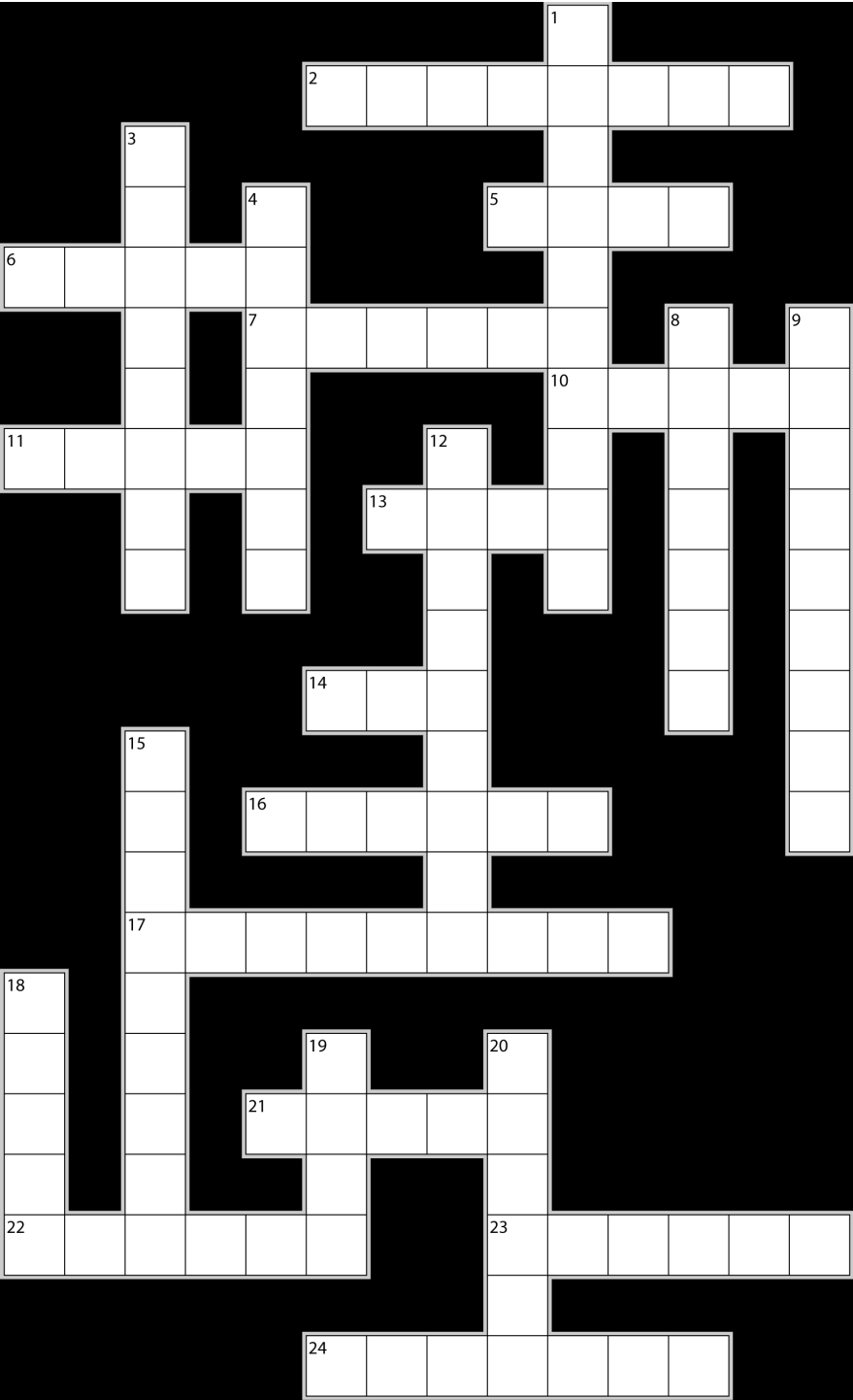
*Find the answers in today's lectionary readings from
Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1-14; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-25.
The English Standard Version is used to build this puzzle.
Solve online: <https://tinyurl.com/Epiphany3Acrossword>*

ACROSS

2. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and....
5. The Lord will lift me high upon a....
6. The gospel reading says that Jesus' fame spread throughout this land.
7. I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the...
10. Though an army encamps against me, it shall not fear.
11. One thing have I asked of the Lord, that I may _____ in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.
13. Were you baptized in the name of...?
14. In the latter time he has made glorious the way of the...
16. Paul asked if _____ is divided.
17. After leaving Nazareth, Jesus went to live there by the sea.
21. Paul did not preach with eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its...
22. The Lord has broken the yoke of his burden as on the day of...
23. Jesus saw two brothers casting a net into the sea. Their names were Peter and...
24. Jesus promised the first disciples that if they followed him, he would make them...

DOWN

1. The Lord is the _____ of my life.
3. The people who walk in this have seen a great light.
4. After the Baptist's arrest, Jesus withdrew into there.
8. The nation rejoiced before the Lord as with joy at the...
9. Paul baptized Crispus and Gaius and the household of...
12. The Lord is my light and my...
15. Paul asked the Corinthian Church if he was _____ for them.
18. There will be none of this for her who was in anguish.
19. Jesus withdrew when he heard that _____ had been arrested.
20. Christ did not send Paul to baptize but to...



Recent Prayer Needs

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

- Shiela Barringer – cancer
- Samantha Clark – health concerns (*friend of Cottingham family*)
- Kelly Gainey – health concerns
- Dot Goodman – health concerns
- Becky Hilliard – health concerns (*Jerry's sister*)
- Jerry Hilliard – health concerns
- Bill Kief – health concerns (*cousin of Carolyn Canup*)
- Gary Hinson – recovering from surgery (*Bonnie and Wayne Hinson's son*)
- Tammy Leazer – recovering from surgery
- Sharon McBride – recovering at home
- Irene Miller – recovering at home
- Melinda Redding – recovering from surgery
- Carol Reese – health concerns (*George Reese's brother*)
- Jenny Smith – health concerns (*Bonnie Hinson's sister-in-law*)
- Johnsie Taylor – recovering at home
- Ashley Powlas Young – recovering from surgery

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.

*The Lord is my light
and my salvation,
so I ain't skeered!*

Psalm 27:1

Stats

General Fund offering 1/18	\$7,844
Other offering 1/18.....	\$1,332
Worship attendance 1/18	154
Sunday School attendance reported 1/18	68

Children's Change Collection

Last week's total: \$131.50 Total so far: \$483.50

Children's change collections this quarter
will support the Small Catechism Project.

In the last two+ years, the children have collected
\$24,189.62 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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wingman@stpaulslutheran.church

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jtaylor783@aol.com

Judy Lowman, Treasurer
splcjlw63@gmail.com

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

Next weeks lessons: Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

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