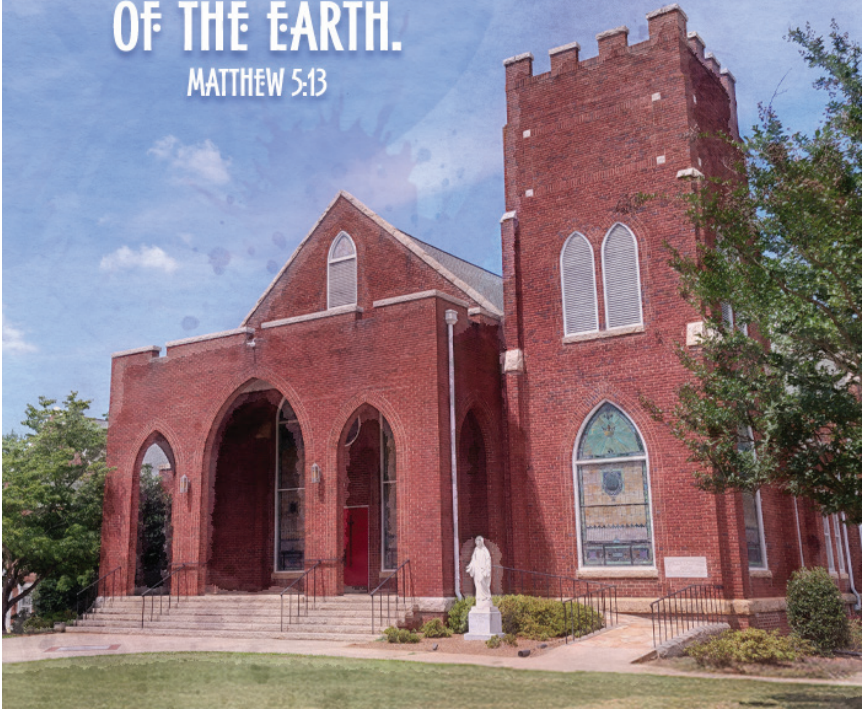


**YOU ARE
THE SALT
OF THE EARTH.**
MATTHEW 5:13



Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
February 8, 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

Lector: John Brock

Communion Assistants: Susan Ryman & Andrew Baker

This Week's Memory Verse

For I decided
to know nothing among you
except Jesus Christ
and him crucified.
1 Corinthians 2:2



Memory Verse Aid

FID
TKNAY
EJC
AHC
1C22

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Special thanks to Rob Durocher for being our organist this month.

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: "The Church of Christ in Every Age"

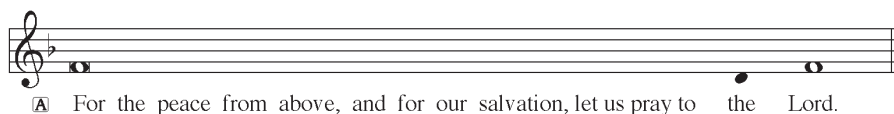
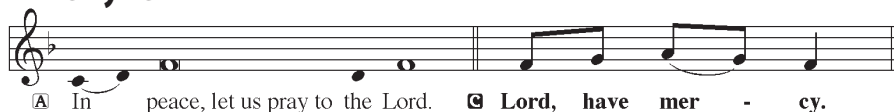
433

Greeting

57

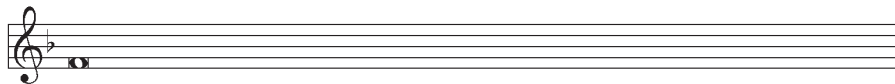
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the
Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

The Kyrie

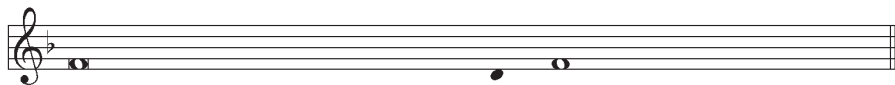




C Lord, have mer - cy.



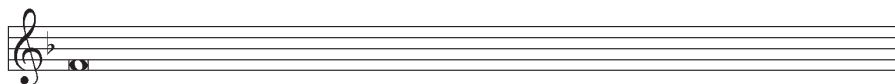
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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.

Stand watch over your family, O Lord, that we who depend entirely on your heavenly grace may always be protected in the mighty fortress of your love; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, forever one God.

Amen

Please be seated.

First Lesson: Isaiah 58:3-9a

³“Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?” Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the LORD? ⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? ⁸Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’”

The word of the Lord.

Psalms 112:1-9

248

¹Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the LORD
and have great delight in | his commandments!

**²Their descendants will be mighty | in the land;
the generation of the upright | will be blessed.**

³Wealth and riches will be | in their house,
and their righteousness will | last forever.

**⁴Light shines in the darkness | for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full | of compassion.**

⁵It is good for them to be gener- | ous in lending
and to manage their af- | fairs with justice.

**⁶For they will nev- | er be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlast- | ing remembrance.**

⁷They will not be afraid of any | evil rumors;
their heart is right; they put their trust | in the LORD.

**⁸Their heart is established and | will not shrink,
until they see their desire up- | on their enemies.**

⁹They have given freely | to the poor,
and their righteousness stands fast forever;
they will hold up their | head with honor.

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

¹I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. ⁶Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him” — ¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which

is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. ¹⁴The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Please stand for the Gospel.

63



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the fifth chapter.



Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

¹³You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. ¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. ¹⁷Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets;

I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

The Gospel of our Lord.



Confession of Faith

64

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

¹**I believe in God the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

²**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.

³**I 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 Salt”

Hymn: “O, Christ Our Hope”

300

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: “Holy, Holy, Holy”

Men’s Choir

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

Four staves of musical notation in G-clef, treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has a repeat sign after the first measure. The second staff has a repeat sign after the first measure. The third staff has a repeat sign after the first measure. The fourth staff has a repeat sign after the first measure.

♩ 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, 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:

Three staves of musical notation in G-clef, treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has a repeat sign after the first measure. The second staff has a repeat sign after the first measure. The third staff has a repeat sign after the first measure.

♩ 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

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

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life—and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another, for the sake of 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



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>



Sunday, February 8

- Sunday School, 9:30am
- Worship, 10:30am
- Kathy Ketchie Circle, following worship
- Christian Education Committee, 2pm
- 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, February 9

- Homeschool dance class, 10am
- Melissa Lura Circle, 6pm
- Finance Committee, 6:30pm
- Cruise 'n Barbecue planning meeting, 7pm

Tuesday, February 10

- Bible Study classes, 10am and 6pm
- Staff meeting, 5pm
- Girl Scouts, 6:30pm
- Bonnie Bost Circle, 7pm

Wednesday, February 11

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

Thursday, February 12

- Rowan Smart Start, 10am–12pm

Sunday, February 15

- Sunday School, 9:30am
- Worship, 10:30am
- Pastor Steve King (Sola Publishing), guest preacher
- Nolan Smith baptism
- Men's Choir practice, 4pm
- Handbell Ensemble practice, 5pm
- Vespers in the parsonage, 6pm

Here I Am

Find the 26 bold words from Isaiah 58:3–9a KJV.

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

Wherefore have we **fasted**, say they, and thou seest not? Wherefore have we **afflicted** our **soul**, and thou takest no **knowledge**? **Behold**, in the day of your fast ye find **pleasure**, and exact all your **labours**. Behold, ye fast for **strife** and **debate**, and to **smite** with the fist of **wickedness**: ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high. Is it such a fast that I have **chosen**? a day for a man to afflict his soul? Is it to bow down his head as a **bulrush**, and to spread **sackcloth** and **ashes** under him? Wilt thou call this a fast, and an **acceptable** day to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the **heavy burdens**, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy **bread** to the **hungry**, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? When thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? Then shall thy **light** break forth as the **morning**, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the **Lord** shall be thy **reward**. Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall **answer**; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am.

Recent Prayer Needs

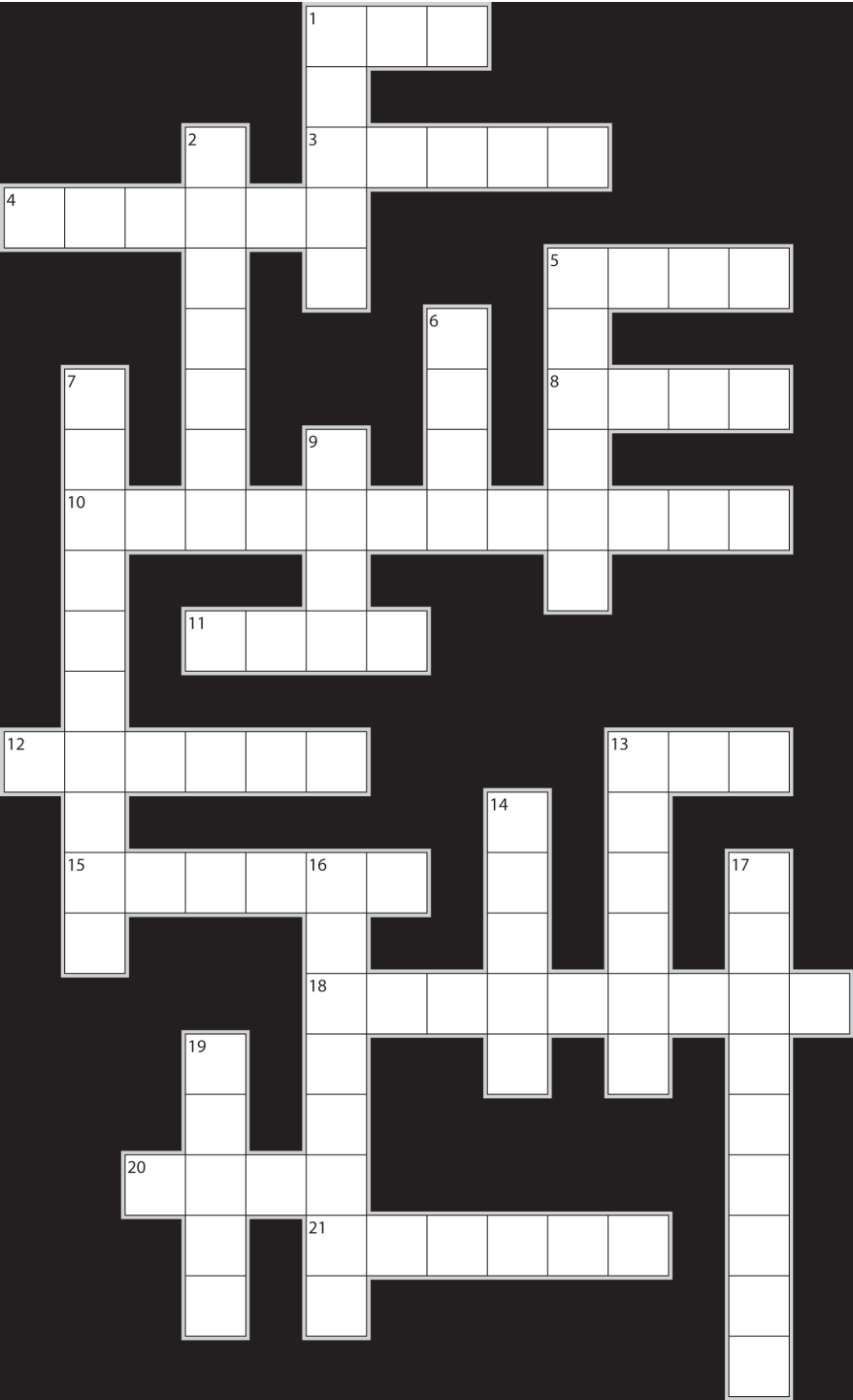
Please notify the church office when a prayer request should be removed from this list or updated.

- Jennifer Aldridge – upcoming surgery
- Shiela Barringer – cancer
- Samantha Clark – cancer (*friend of Cottingham family*)
- Sandy Corley – Hospice Care
- Dot Goodman – health concerns
- 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 – health concerns
- Irene Miller – health concerns
- 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 – health concerns
- Rick Walker – hospital/health concerns (*Chad Walker's father*)
- 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.*

**Rejoice always, pray continually,
give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.**

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18



Epiphany 5A

Find the answers in today's lectionary readings from

Isaiah 58:3-9a; Psalm 112:1-9; 1 Corinthians 2:1-16; Matthew 5:13-20

The English Standard Version is used to build this puzzle.

Solve online: <https://tinyurl.com/Epiphany5Acrossword>

ACROSS

1. Jesus came to fulfill it.
3. The natural person considers things of the Spirit to be...
4. The church has his mind.
5. Isaiah says false fasting will not be heard on...
8. True fasting will make your light break like the...
10. The blessed person delights in these.
11. Not one of these small letters will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.
12. When you fast truly, you shall call, and the Lord will...
13. The righteous is not afraid of this news.
15. The righteous person's heart is...
18. They will never be moved.
20. True fasting breaks every one of them.
21. Paul's messages were a demonstration of the...

DOWN

1. Paul did not come to the Corinthians with this kind of speech.
2. If your righteousness does not exceed that of the Pharisees, you will not enter it.
5. The church imparts this kind of wisdom.
6. Blessed is the man who fears him.
7. True fasting is to loose these bonds.
9. Those who follow Jesus are like this mineral.
13. People do not light a lamp and put it under this.
14. The church is this for the world.
16. Light dawns there for the upright.
17. Paul decided to know nothing but Christ...
19. It will be your rear guard.

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
Online Contributions received January 19–February 1	\$2,709
<i>No services were held January 25 or February 1, due to icy weather conditions.</i>	

Children's Change Collection

Last collection (1/18) 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

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Judy Lowman, Treasurer
splcjwl63@gmail.com

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

Next weeks lessons: Exodus 24:8-18; Psalm 2:6-12; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

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