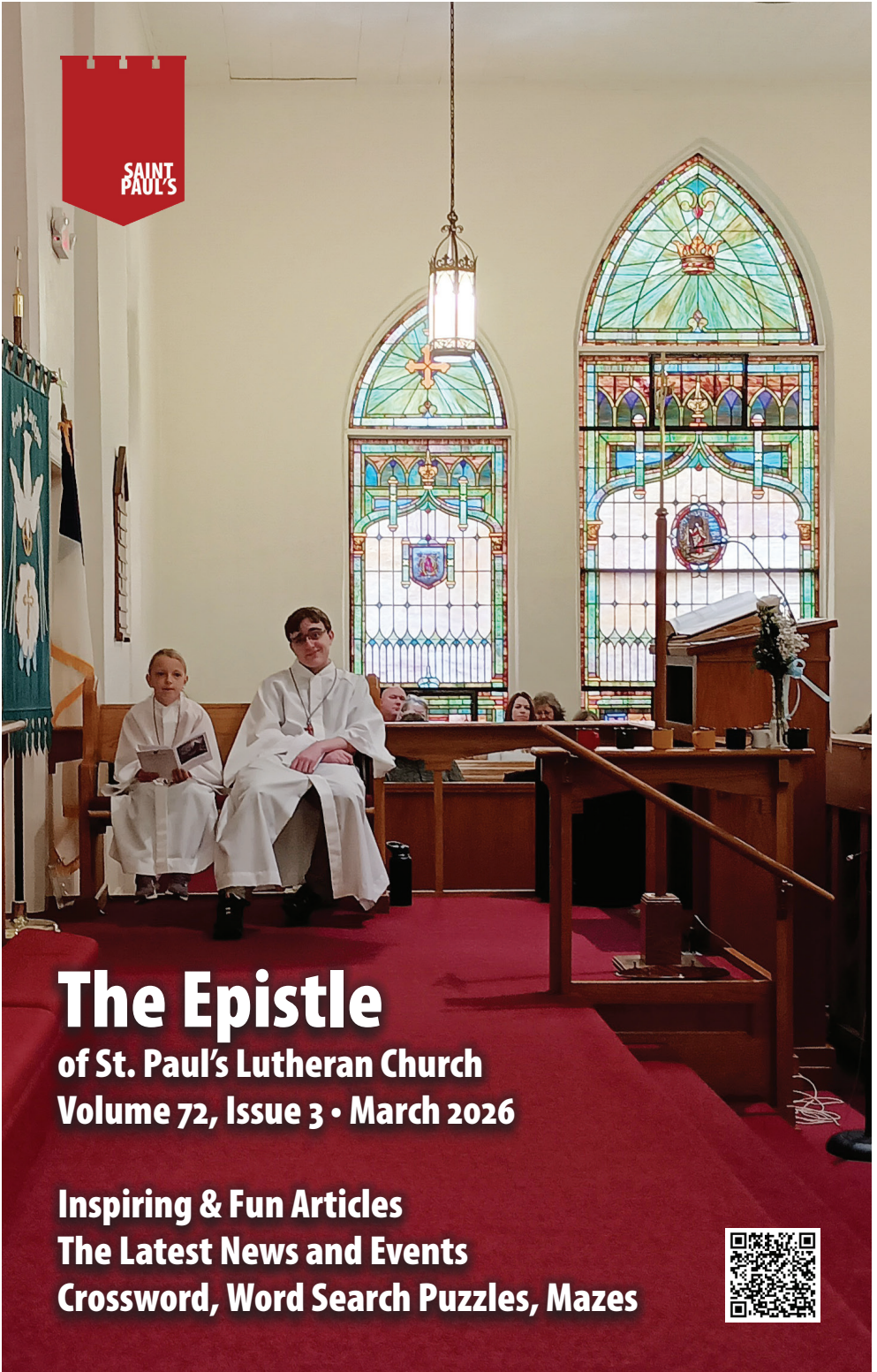




**SAINT
PAUL'S**

The Epistle

of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Volume 72, Issue 3 • March 2026

Inspiring & Fun Articles

The Latest News and Events

Crossword, Word Search Puzzles, Mazes







From the LCMC Service Coordinator, Rev. Dr. Julie Smith

The average American child recognizes a picture of the US President somewhere between ages 7 and 9. They recognize themselves in a mirror at around 1 year. They recognize their parents at around 2 months. If you were to judge by the frequency of being in the headlines or on a screen in front of us, you would assume that the President is the most important person in our lives. If you were to judge by the frequency of appearing in selfies on social media, you would assume that we are the most important person in our lives. But before any of that two others loom largest in our lives - mom and dad.

Families, especially parents, for better and for worse, shape us in the profoundest of ways. Ways that become deeply wired in our sense of self, our sense of security, our experience of love, our capacity for empathy. Becoming parents is a massive commitment to the well-being of a brand new person. A lifelong commitment. And the fourth commandment calls upon children to honor those who have undertaken that commitment.

Unfortunately, the fact that every member of every family, parent and child alike, is thoroughly in the grip of sin creates a whole lot of problems for us. Disrespectful children, dishonorable parents, both bring messy and destructive complications to living under this commandment.

That mess and destruction then spills out of our homes and into our streets, into our communities, into our churches, into our institutions, into our world. Our unwillingness to honor our parents and others in authority, our dishonorable conduct when we are the parents and others in authority, it erodes the fabric of society and makes everything in our world unstable.

We can't forget that the commandments will never create the peaceable kingdom. They slow down our worst impulses, but they never really tame us. They make it possible for us to live with one another, but they do not solve the problem of our sin.

But where they are ignored, or replaced with other priorities, darkness and chaos reign. How might our world look different if we honored our parents? How might it look different if we were honorable parents?

This isn't about mindless obedience to the whims of our parents or others in authority. Where parents or others in authority would seek to elevate themselves to God's place in our lives, where they would seek to have us fear, love, and trust them above anything else, the first commandment remains the higher authority. The problem is that we sinners are not always great at properly discerning when that is happening. We can't even always tell it by its fruits. Are confrontations between citizens and law enforcement violations of the 4th commandment or are they the needed corrective of the 1st commandment? I get nervous around anyone who is 100% certain of the answer to that.

What we can know with certainty is that when we despise or anger our parents or others in authority, something has gone seriously wrong somewhere. And it's going to take more than time outs or groundings or stricter curfews to get to the bottom of it.

But when the relationships within our homes are marked, not only by obedience, but by respect, love, and service, that spills out into our world in ways that benefit us all.



Book Bags for High School

During the month of March the Lutheran Women will be assembling High School Book Bags for Disaster Relief. If you would like to help we will be collecting **book bags, composition books, mechanical pencils, pens and pocket folders.**

After we assembled Elementary School Book Bags last fall, we found out there is a need for High School Book Bags. If you feel led there will be bins in the narthex and hallway. Any help will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support.

For the Love of Kids and Old Folks

Please slow down immediately upon entering the church parking lot from either direction. We have many children and elderly on foot in the same parking lot where cars routinely are traveling at a high speed. Several of our people have begun to complain about their fear of getting hit. Please, please, please, slow down before you regret it.

Care Team

The Stephen Ministry program and the old Communion Team have been merged into the St. Paul's Care Team. The Care Team team will operate in connection with the church office so that the responsibility of visiting can be shared equally among more members. The group will not be bound by the rules and training of the Stephen Ministry Program.

Further conversation will take place about making our Care Team visits consistent with our values and goals. The Care Team will meet quarterly for fellowship and to discuss the program.

Please call the church office if you would like to be a part of the St. Paul's Care Team. The Care Team will be **meeting for breakfast on Saturday, March 7, at Cracker Barrel.**

Bible Studies and Prayer

Tuesday Bible studies (10:00am and 6:00pm) are working through the Bible. They are just about ready to start the book of Numbers. Each student receives a commentary written by Pastor Ryman, as well as crossword and Word search puzzles that go with the readings. By the end of this Bible study, you will have a couple of notebooks filled with commentary, puzzles, and your notes. We are currently finishing the book Leviticus. Join us!

Morning Prayer (8:30–9:00am weekdays) is a time of reading and discussing the Daily Lectionary and praying through our church prayer needs and as God leads us in the Word. The daily readings may be found on each Sunday's worship page at <https://StPaulsLutheran.Church/worship-services>

Calendar of Events for March

Sundays

- Sunday School at 9:30am each Sunday
- Men's Choir practice each Sunday at 4pm
- Handbell Ensemble practice each Sunday at 5pm
- Vespers each Sunday evening at 6pm in the parsonage
- March 1 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- March 1 – Youth and Family Committee, 2pm
- March 8 – Kathy Ketchie Circle meets following worship
- March 8 – Christian Education Committee, 2pm
- March 8 – Worship and Music Committee, 3pm
- March 15 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- March 22 – Kristie and Danny Ward (Naomi's Heart Mission) will be our guests
- *Join us for Morning Prayer in the chapel at 8:30am Monday – Friday.*

Mondays

- Home School dance class, weekly in the fellowship hall, 10am
- March 2 – Facility Accessibility committee meeting, 6:30pm
- March 2 – Hama Lingle Circle, 7pm
- March 9 – Melissa Lura Circle, 6pm
- March 9 – Finance Committee, 6:30pm
- March 9 – Cruise 'n Barbecue planning, 7pm
- March 16 – April newsletter articles due this week
- March 16 – Council meeting, S. Salisbury Fire Dept., 6:30pm
- March 23 – Lutheran Men's meeting, 6:30pm

Tuesdays

- Bible Study Classes, 10am and 6pm each Tuesday
- Girl Scouts, 6:30pm each Tuesday
- March 3 – Grace Ridenhour Circle, 6:30pm
- March 10 – Bonnie Bost Circle, 7pm
- March 17 – Staff meeting, 5pm

Wednesdays

- Classical Conversations Home School group, 8:30am–3:30pm
- Lenten Service, 6pm each Wednesday during March

- Adult Choir practice follows worship service during March
- March 4 – Ellen Bumgarner Circle, 10am
- March 25 – Fun Bunch Lunch, Sweet Meadow Cafe, 11:30am

Thursdays

- Rowan Smart Start, 10am–Noon, each week
- March 19 – Friendship Club, Village Inn Pizza, 11am

Fridays

- March 13 – Youth/Family trip to Kentucky, depart at 4am; returning Sunday, March 15

Saturdays

- March 7 – Care Team, breakfast at Cracker Barrell, 8am
- March 14 – Cemetery Clean-up Day, 9am (rain-date, March 21)
- March 21 – Fundraiser supper for Naomi's Heart Mission, 4pm

Friendship Club

St. Paul's Friendship Club will meet **March 19th at 11:00am** at Village Inn Pizza on Statesville Blvd. for lunch. If you plan to join us, please let me know by the 17th. I will need a head count for the restaurant. Thank you—Helen Gordon (704-636-5002)

Cemetery Clean-up

The Cemetery Committee will be cleaning everything from the cemetery on Saturday, March 14, beginning at 9am (rain-date is March 21). If you have flowers on a grave that you wish to keep, please remove them before the clean-up day. The committee members will not leave anything. Everything will be thrown away. If you know of anyone who may need this information, please relay this information to them so they have a chance to get any flowers they want to keep as well.

Spaghetti Supper for Naomi's Heart

We will have a fundraiser supper on March 21st, at 4pm in the fellowship hall. Spaghetti, garlic bread, and drinks will be served. We will accept a free-will offering to benefit Naomi's Heart Mission. Kristie and Danny Ward will be with us for the supper.

Did You Know? History of St. Paul's, 1961–1963

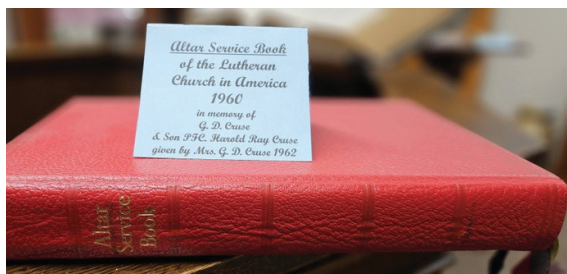
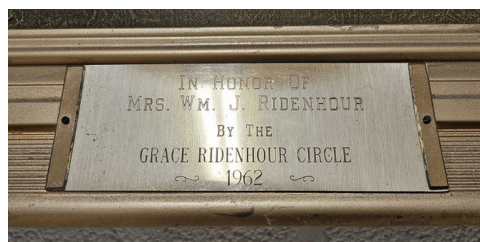
- 1961 had a new beginning for older members. In October of that year the Senior Friendship Club was organized. The organization still exists today under the name of Friendship Club (so you don't have to be old, just friendly to join) and still meets the third Thursday of each month!
- During the year, the well at the parsonage could no longer furnish water for both the parsonage and the church. A new well was drilled to furnish water for the church.
- The Women of the Church sponsored many activities: they served meals to groups from the VA Hospital and to families who had lost loved ones; visited shut-ins; sent contributions or gifts to the Children's Home in Salem, Virginia; and prepared Kiddie Kits and Layettes, and sent used clothing to the Lutheran World Action organization.
- In 1962, Mr. Leo Bernhardt (father of Roy Bernhardt, and grandfather of Ben Bernhardt, Perry Bernhardt, and Karen McConnell) made card and pencil holders for the back of the pews. He also made a memorial plaque board for the church vestibule. All were given in memory of his 12-year-old grandson, Allen Bernhardt (son of Roy and Mary Ruth Bernhardt, brother of Ben Bernhardt), who died in 1961. The Morgan group, where Allen's mother, Mary Ruth Bernhardt was a member, also gave a green stole to the church in his memory.
- During the year, all organizations of the church provided contributions used to widen the drives and put gravel on them. A cement walk was poured down the full length of the east side of the church, and about a dozen parking spaces were created for senior members.
- A reproduction of Warner Sallman's "Head of Christ" (facing page) was given in honor of Mrs. Grace Ridenhour, the pastor's



wife, and hung in the Education Building. A new group, the Grace Ridenhour Group of St. Paul's Women, was also formed and named in her honor.

- The most historical event in 1962 was the 158th annual convention of the United Lutheran Synod of North Carolina at our church. St. Paul's was honored to be the first rural church to host such a convention.

- Other happenings during the year were: the Sunday School purchased Bibles and gave them to children promoted from the Primary to the Junior Department, and purchased robes and new copies of *Service Book and Hymnal* for the choir. Curtains were purchased for the stage in the Educational Building by the Luther League. A new altar book was given in memory of George Cruse and his son Harold Ray Cruse (killed in WWII). And a white linen cloth on the Mensa on the alter (cloth purchased by Church Women and made by Mrs. Arnold (Pauline) Canup). 1962 was certainly a busy year for St. Paul's!



- 1963 will prove to be another busy year for our church. The old church pedal organ was refinished and changed to electric by the

History 1961–1963 continued

O.E. Cook family in memory of their son, James “Bubba” Cook. A violet stole was given to the church in memory of Mr. Robert Wilhelm, who died suddenly, by his friends on his paper route. A donation was given to the Student Loan and Gift Fund, also in memory of Robert Wilhelm.

- One of the biggest events during the year was the merger of our Synod, The United Lutheran Synod of America (created in 1918 by an earlier merger of three German Lutheran synods in the eastern U.S) with the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church, of Swedish ethnicity with some dating to the colonial era; the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church of America; and American Evangelical Lutheran Church, made up of ethnic Danish families. The merger formed the Lutheran Church in America and required several changes, especially in the constitution, to meet the requirements of the new church synod.
- During the year a Communion Service was given in memory of Mr. & Mrs. John Cress; a set of red altar paraments were given in honor of Mr. L.C. Cauble; choir robes were made by the Women of the Church for the Junior Choir; 15 Confirmation robes were made by the Church Women and first used on Palm Sunday in 1963; and the men of the church continued their support of the Boy Scouts while the women supported the Cub Scouts.
- It was during that year that the Church Council felt the need of a historian for the church. Mrs. W.H. Canup (Maggie Julian Canup) was appointed and accepted the position of preparing our first history book, covering years 1830–1996, from which information for our monthly history articles are taken.



Easter Flowers

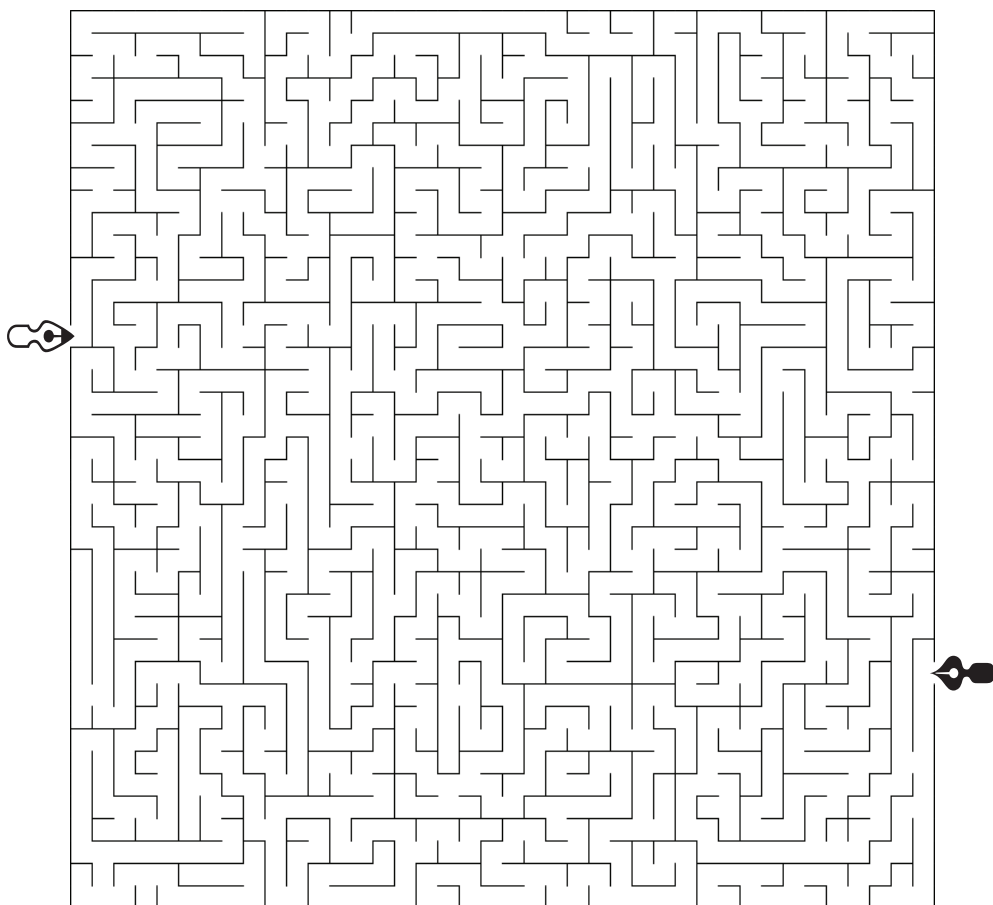
Orders will be taken to purchase hanging baskets for Easter. Each basket is \$14.50. All orders must be **turned in Sunday, March 22nd**. The flowers will be placed around the altar area as decoration for Easter Sunday. Order forms will be available in the narthex through March 22.

Raffles

The raffles for the Cruise 'n Barbecue are always a great success. Last year we had 39 baskets. We hope to have the congregation's help again this year.

Our Women's Circles have been asked to donate a basket, and some families get together to donate baskets. **If you would like to donate a basket, or items to go into baskets (gift cards are always a hit), please contact Terri Powlas (704-637-6849; powlastb@gmail.com) or Susan Bernhardt (704-637-0155; srbernhardt@carolina.rr.com).**

The Cruise 'N Barbecue is April 23, 2026. Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each or 30 tickets for \$20. Let's generate a lot of interest in buying the tickets for our Helping Hands Fund.



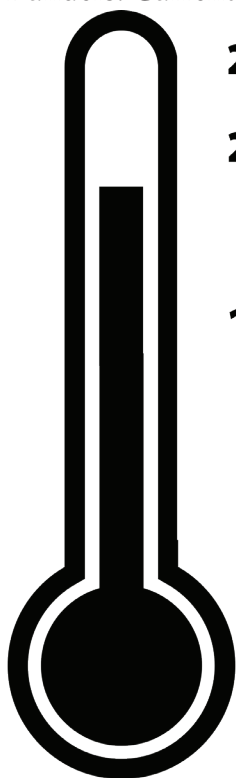
Council Highlights

- Council met February 16th at the South Salisbury Fire Dept. South Salisbury has been kind enough to let us use their facility for the entire year of 2026 while we are under construction. Our next meeting will be March 16th.
- This month we reviewed the inactive members list and will be contacting these members via phone, texts, email, or letter, or all four, to try to encourage them to return to worship and be part of this church community.
- We received a motion from the **Call Committee** to call Brian Lord as our Penior Pastor and call Rev. Dr. Mark Ryman as our Associate Pastor. This was unanimous to call both and will be working on a pay package for both. So, be looking for a called congregational meeting coming soon.
- **Christian Education** met February 8th. We are making plans for an Easter egg hunt on April 4th at 1pm. Discussed how to proceed with the Wednesday service Lenten dialogues. VBS is also being planned; more to come after our March meeting. Next meeting March 8 at 2pm. Lauren Holland and Kara Burnett were elected as co-chairpersons, and also share in the secretary duties.
- **Worship & Music Committee** did not meet in February. In the January meeting we elected Crystal Bost as Chairperson and Donna Lyerly as secretary. We discussed the purpose of the committee and thanked John for the great job he is doing. Plans are being made to assist Johnsie with supply organists through Easter Morning and pray for her return soon. We miss hearing Johnsie play. Our next meeting will be March 8th at 3pm.
- **Property** Keeping the church in operating condition is an on-going job and is not just a monthly chore but a daily chore. January man hours = 104. Co-chairs Paul Canup & Dan Dolan
- **Outreach** January meeting we discussed: Joshua trip May 5th, Shut-in list, Kitchen disaster kits, Rowan Helping Ministries, Care Teams, Autumn Care services, church signs. Susan Bernhardt elected chairperson, Lisa Monroe Secretary. Next meeting February 21st at 10am to put together kitchen kits.

• **Youth & Family** The year was planned in the January meeting, Going to see the movie “David”; movie nights at church, Ark Encounter trip, Easter breakfast, Youth Sunday, help with VBS. Please read bulletins and newsletters for all time and dates for upcoming activities. Fun! Don’t miss out. All youth welcome Jennifer Aldridge and Lisa Lord, elected co-chairpersons, and Matt Holland Secretary.

• **Finance** met February 9th. As always, we are looking at the money operation of the church which is also a daily chore. We missed 2 weeks in January due to weather which contributed to us having less income than expenses. As of January 31st, we have exceeded expenses over income by \$24,133.00. At the January meeting Brent Monroe was elected as chairperson and Karen Charles elected as Secretary

• **St. Paul’s Facility & Accessibility Improvement Committee** (FAIC) construction is well underway by Central Piedmont Builders. Currently, work includes new drain lines east corner



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2

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of sanctuary, removal and re-routing existing HVAC, electric power meter and breaker connections, new wiring, and demolition in many areas of the church. Please be careful as you move inside and outside the church.

• **Cemetery** Sadly, we lost 12 members of our church family in 2025, 10 buried in church cemetery and 2 buried at the Salisbury National Cemetery. John Canup and Lindsey Lowman are co-chairs.

• **Capital Building Fund** As a congregation, are doing well with our commitment to fund our building project. Hopefully, we can turn “doing well” into “doing excellent.” As of January 31 2026 we have received \$2,312,287.26 of our \$2.9 million goal.

March 2026 Anniversaries (M/M)

Sun	Mon	Tue	W
1 M/M Marnita and Craig Parks **David and Judi Honbarger	2 **Shirley Hoosier	3 Karen Girdler Tommy Huffman **Patti and Steve Horinka	4 Joshua Terrell **Audrey and Huffman
8 Libby Bingham Zoe Wells **Drake Johnson	9 **Julie Johnson	10 Lisa Monroe Samantha Wells **Kristen Johnson	11 Della Jenkins **Ruth Julian
15 **Tammy Leazer	16 Sue Lentz **Donald and Sue Lentz	17 **Brenda and Jeff Leonard	18 George Barrin Linda Goodman **Butch and Al Sydney and C
22 Michael Socorro **Lisa, Brian, Talia, and Joshua Lord	23 **Judy and Lindsay Lowman	24 Jan Dolan **Donna and Alan Lyerly	25 Bonnie Hinsor **James Lyerly
29 Ben Bernhardt Meghan Free Vaughn Wilhelm **Christine Maloney	30 Renay Lyons Justin Wells **Sharon McBride	31 Wendy Stutts-Pittman M/M Vicki and Sam Sanders **Robert McCanless	



Pray

— Birthdays
) — Daily Prayer (**)

ed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Tommy	5 Xander Goodman M/M Katie and Dan Funderburk	6	7 Tammy Leazer Christine Maloney
	**Julie and German Jaramillo	**Della Jenkins	**Randy and Donna Johnson
	12 Butch Lewis George Reese Mason Smith **Brenda Julian	13 M/M Pat and Dick SmithLi	14 **Brenda Lay
	19 Nicole Amos **Jean Lilley	20 Carson Friel **Teresa Linker	21 Hollis Wilhelm **Ashley and Johnny Lombard, Chloe and Rebecca Lombard
ger in lesia Lewis ollin Lewis	26 Kara Burnett **Vaughn Lyerly	27 Tim Goodman Keith Hoffner **Katie Lyerly	28 Jeff Miller **Renay Lyons

without ceasing.

Pray for Our Homebound and Long-Term Care

Autumn Care: Walter Smith, Shirley Hoosier

Terra Bella: Della Jenkins

Trinity Oaks: Ray Kubitz, Lottie Simpson

Bermuda Commons: Edna Chapman

Home: Allen Burnett, Wilbur Canup, Don and Betty Camerlin,

Barbara Deese, John Cornelison, Sonya Eller,

Harold Goodman, Ruth Julian, Betty and Ed Niedens, Susie

Page, Dottie Stancil, Jane Wilhelm



*We extend our love and sympathy to the family
of Sandy Corley who died Thursday, February 5, 2026.*

Please keep her family in your prayers.

We extend our love and sympathy to Chad Walker and family.

Chad's father, Rick Walker, died Sunday, February 8, 2026.

Please keep his family in your prayers.

*We extend our love and sympathy to the family
of Dot Goodman who died Wednesday, February 18, 2026.*

Please keep her family in your prayers.



Thank you

I want to send heartfelt thanks to all of the members of St. Paul's who have sent cards, messages, prayers, and reached out to my Mom and Dad to see how my surgery went, and how my recovery is going. It is greatly appreciated and means more than you know. Love you all, and God bless!

Gary Hinson

Prayer Needs

- Shiela Barringer – cancer
- Samantha Clark – health concerns (*Cottingham family friend*)
- Michael Corley – health concerns (*Amy Barringer's brother*)
- Nancy Crapster – health concerns (*friend of Sandy Corley*)
- Kelly Gainey – health concerns
- Jerry Hilliard – health concerns
- Gary Hinson – recovering from surgery
- Tiffany Holland – health concerns
- Randy Johnson – health concerns
- Bill Kief – health concerns (*cousin of Carolyn Canup*)
- Sally Kruchkow – health concerns (*Tiffany Holland's grandmother*)
- Tammy Leazer – health concerns
- Alan Lyerly – upcoming surgery
- Sharon McBride – recovering at home
- Robin McKnight – recovering from surgery
(*Julie Johnson's sister-in-law*)
- Tommy McKnight – health concerns (*Julie Johnson's brother*)
- Irene Miller – health concerns
- Susan Page – health concerns (*Susie Page's daughter-in-law*)
- Melinda Redding – health concerns
- Carol Reese – health concerns (*George Reese's brother*)
- Linda Robbins – health concerns (*step-mother of Heather Canup*)
- Bobby Shelton – health concerns (*Dani Cottingham's father*)
- Jenny Smith – health concerns (*Bonnie Hinson's sister-in-law*)
- Hurley Stanley – health concerns (*boyfriend of Julie Johnson*)
- Johnsie Taylor – health concerns
- Kelly Warfield – health concerns (*friend of Heather Canup*)
- Ashley Powlas Young – recovering from surgery

One day a man was praying to God and said "God, what is a billion years to you?" God responded, "Only a second, my son."

The man then asked, "God, what is a billion dollars to you?" God answered, "Only a penny, my son." The man asked, "God, may I have one of your pennies?" God responded, "In a second."

Missions

Thank you for your generous \$403.72 gift to Focus on the Family. As 2026 gets under way, we are excited to report that opportunities for effective family outreach around the world have never been more plentiful.

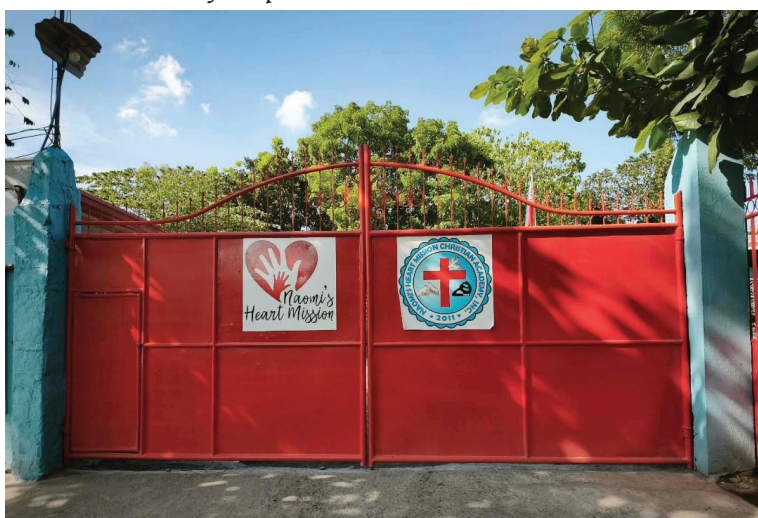
Thank you for coming alongside us in our work. Your partnership means the world to us. Grace, peace, and blessings to you and your entire household!

Sincerely,
Jim Daly, President

Thank you for your generosity in giving \$576.75 to Naomi's Heart Mission in the Philippines. We are continually blessed by your monthly support to Naomi's Heart and grateful to you for having such a heart of compassion for the many children and families we serve on a daily basis. We would not be able to accomplish the work we do without your love and desire to walk beside us. Blessings to you, St. Paul's. Danny and I will see you in March.

Kristie Ward
Founder of Naomi's Heart Mission

Our Red Doors of Hope



Missions

Thank you for the two donations of \$251.57 and \$576.75. Because of the snow and ice, many people were in need of food during February. Your contributions have made such a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

Linda Austin
Organ Lutheran Church
Pantry/Outreach Program

Thank you for your January gift of \$403.72, and \$176.10 in February. We are grateful for your partnership and continued support of Samaritan's Purse. In over 100 nations we are bringing relief in Jesus' name. Your gifts and prayers help make it possible for us to meet immediate needs and introduce people to the living hope of a Savior. Thank you, and God bless you.

Sincerely,
Franklin Graham, President

Thank you so much for the way you continue to walk with Spiritual Orphans Network (SON) through your prayers, generosity, and partnership. We are truly grateful for the trust you place in us as we serve together in God's work around the world. Thank you for your gift of \$403.72 in February.

We would love your help in praying for and encouraging individuals from your congregation who may feel called to serve. If someone you know would like to learn more, I would love to talk with you.

Pastor David Breidenbach

We are grateful to partner with you to make Jesus known around the world. Thank you for your donations totaling \$3,883.96 for the year of 2025, and thank you for your faithfulness and generosity.

For His name in all nations,
The Radical Team

We thank you and appreciate your support for the 2025 donation of cleaning supplies and household items. Your support is essential for our agency and enhances the lives of the survivors we serve. On behalf of everyone here at the Family Crisis Council, thank you for your generous recent gift and for allowing us to direct your donation where the need is greatest. Your support truly makes a difference in the lives of survivors in our community.

Your contribution helps create pathways to hope, healing, and empowerment for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. Community support such as yours has been an indispensable part of our success. Over the last fiscal year it has enabled the Family Crisis Council to provide shelter, counseling, court advocacy, clothing, and other valuable resources to survivors.

With sincere appreciation,
Angel M. Chapman-McDavid
Executive Director

We are grateful for all your gifts in support of Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM). Your prayers and financial support are a wonderful encouragement. Thank you for your financial support of \$2,248.50 in 2025.

At the end of 2025, we began support for a program called Mampiray, which means unity, and works to identify children with impaired vision in the public schools. The program trains teachers to identify these students and how to teach them. The program also seeks to identify children who have a parent in prison and give support for them.

We are excited for all the opportunities before us in 2026. Together, we will continue to serve God by blessing the people of Madagascar through Friends of Madagascar Mission.

Peace in Christ!
Rev. David P. Lerseth

The Righteousness of One

Find the 19 bold words from Romans 5:14–19 KJV.

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

Nevertheless death **reigned** from **Adam** to **Moses**, even over them that had not **sinned** after the similitude of Adam's **transgression**, who is the figure of him that was to come. But not as the offence, so also is the **free** gift. For if through the **offence** of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by **grace**, which is by one man, Jesus **Christ**, hath **abounded** unto many. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the **judgment** was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. For if by one man's offence **death** reigned by one; much more they which **receive abundance** of grace and of the **gift** of righteousness shall reign in life by one, **Jesus** Christ. Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to **condemnation**; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto **justification** of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the **obedience** of one shall many be made righteous.

Memorial Gifts

Gifts were received in memory of **Becky Hilliard** for the Capital Building Fund from

Susan and Ben Bernhardt
Crystal and Dana Bost
Alice Davis
Jenny Earnhardt
Helen Gordon
Bonnie and Wayne Hinson
Cindy and Frank Hinson
Judi and D.W. Honbarger
Sunday School Classes 4 & 6

Gifts were received in memory of **Rick Walker** for the Capital Building Fund from

Jennifer and Lee Aldridge
Perry and Lori Bernhardt
Susan and Ben Bernhardt
Dana and Crystal Bost
Alice Davis
Karen and Tim Deal
Helen Gordon
Bonnie and Wayne Hinson
Cindy and Frank Hinson
Judi and David Honbarger
Terri and Alan Powlas
Susan and Mark Ryman

A gift was received in memory of **Sandy Corley** for the General Fund from
Judy and Lindsay Lowman

Gifts were received in memory of **Sandy Corley** for the Capital Building Fund from

Jennifer and Lee Aldridge
Cindy and Travis Alligood
Lori and Perry Bernhardt
Susan and Ben Bernhardt
Crystal and Dana Bost
Donald Burton
Carolyn and John Canup
Susan Cruz
Alice Davis
Karen and Tim Deal
Jenny Earnhardt
Myra Jane and Terry Eller
Helen Gordon
Bonnie and Wayne Hinson
Cindy and Frank Hinson
Judi and D.W. Honbarger
Tammy Leazer
Vaughn Lyerly
Kay Moody
Mita Powlas
Terri and Alan Powlas
Susan and Mark Ryman
Bethany, Ken, Lauren and
Lindsey Whisnant

Gifts were received in memory of **Ellis London Cauble** for the Capital Building Fund from

Jeanne and Tony Shaver
Sue Young and family

A gift was received in memory of **Linda Hess** for the Capital Building Fund from

Lori and Perry Bernhardt

A gift was received in memory of **Doris Swartzenberg** for the Capital Building Fund from Alice Davis

A gift was received in memory of **Sylvia Mahaley** for the Capital Building Fund from Alice Davis

Gifts were received in memory of **Dot Goodman** for the Capital Building Fund from Alice Davis

Harold and Louise Eller
Myra Jane and Terry Eller
Helen Gordon
Bonnie and Wayne Hinson
Judi and D.W. Honbarger
Tammy Leazer
Terri and Alan Powlas
Susan and Mark Ryman
Wayne and Jane Wilhelm

Gifts were received in memory of **Dot Goodman** for the General Fund from

Travis and Cindy Alligood
Susan and Ben Bernhardt
Dana and Crystal Bost
Susan Cruz
Karen and Tim Deal
Jenny Earnhardt
Vance Goodman

Gifts in Honor of

A gift was received from from Sunday School Classes 4 & 6 for the Capital Building Fund in honor of **Coy Wilhelm** to thank and recognize him for all his years of teaching Sunday School.

A gift was received in honor of **Paul Canup** for the Capital Building Fund from an anonymous donor.

A gift was received in honor of **Sharon McBride** for the Capital Building Fund from the Ellen Bumgarner Circle.

A gift was received in honor of **Nolan Smith**, who was baptized on February 15, for the Capital Building Fund from his grandmother, Mita Powlas.

A gift was received in honor of **Nolan Smith's baptism** for the Capital Building Fund from Brian, Lisa, Talia, and Joshua Lord.

March Madness

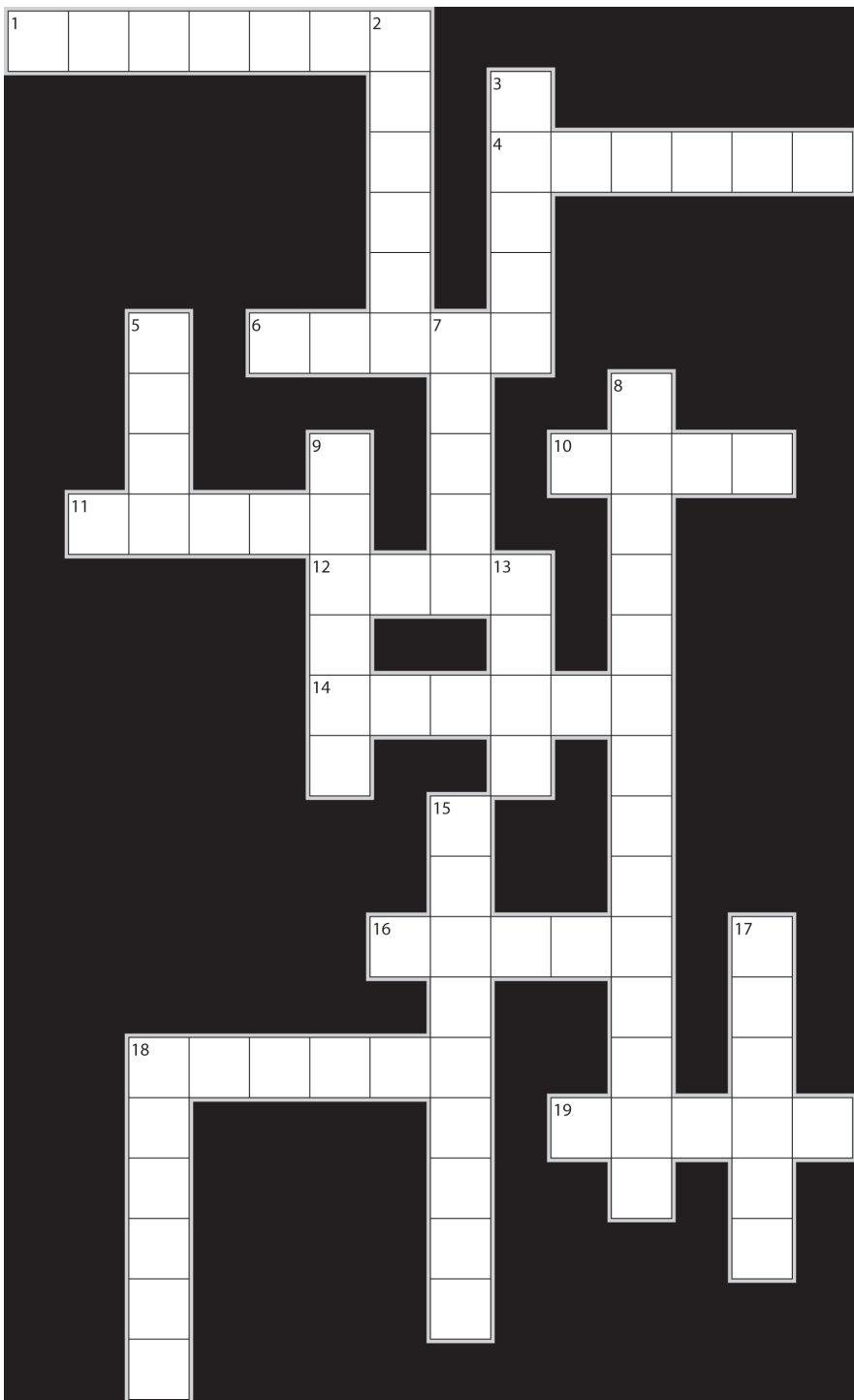
Don't let these clues drive you mad.

ACROSS

1. What curse did God threaten upon the Israelites for disobedience? (Deuteronomy 28:28)
4. What stoped the prophet's madness (2 Peter 2:16)
6. Food consumed by Nebuchadnezzar during his madness (Daniel 4)
10. The prophet who was called "this mad fellow" (2 Kings 9:11)
11. The servant who was considered out of her mind when she said Peter was at the door (Acts 12:15)
12. To soothe King Saul's madness, one was sought who could play this instrument. (1 Samuel 16:16)
14. The king who believed David was mad (1 Samuel 21:13-15)
16. Cause of Nebuchadnezzar's madness (Daniel 4:30)
18. Who said, "Much learning has made you mad"? (Acts 26:24)
19. The "madman" who lost his kingdom (1 Samuel 21:12-15)

DOWN

2. Feigning madness, David let this run down his beard. (1 Samuel 21:13)
3. The Babylonians were mad over these. (Jeremiah 50:38)
5. Where David pretended madness
7. King Saul's weapon thrown in a manic rage
8. King who lived like a beast for seven years (Daniel 4)
9. Prophet whose madness was stopped by a donkey (2 Peter 2:16)
13. Type of "spirit" that tormented King Saul (1 Samuel 16:14)
15. The demon-possessed man who cut himself with stones was from where? (Mark 5:1-20)
17. Name of the demons possessing the man in the Gerasenes (Mark 5:1-20)
18. They said Jesus was "out of his mind." (Mark 3:21)



Offering

Online Giving is accessible at StPaulsLutheran.Church/give. Scanning this QR code will take you directly to the giving page. There is a minimal fee for each transaction.



General Fund Giving and Expenditure Report January, 2026

Income for January	\$23,607.35
Expenditures for January	\$47,740.81
Net Income (income minus expenses)	\$-24,133.46
Income year to date	\$23,607.35
Expenditures year to date	\$47,740.81
Net Income YTD (Income minus expenses)	\$-24,133.46
Budgeted Income year to date	\$53,564.31
Actual Income year to date	\$23,607.35
Income less than Budgeted YTD	\$-29,956.96

The report above is provided to you for information as you plan your giving to St. Paul's. It includes income and expenditures for the General Fund only, which is for the ongoing budgeted operations of the church. This does not include special gifts made to dedicated funds or to the Capital Building Fund.

In addition to our annual benevolences, our children collect a weekly spare-change mission offering. In the last three years, they have collected close to \$25,000.00 for missions. So, please bring your spare change to worship!

- Lutherans for Life – \$1,951
- The Table Ministry – \$2,022
- Friends of Madagascar Mission – \$2,248.50
- Lutheran Military Veterans & Family Ministries – 2,396

More about all of our missionaries may be found at:
<https://stpaulslutheran.church/missionaries>

Capital Building Fund Balance
as of January 31, 2026 \$2,098,023.44

Offering Envelopes

This is a friendly reminder to fill out all information on your offering envelopes to ensure that your contribution is properly recorded.

Make sure any designated funds are noted on the envelope with the amount and name of each fund, as well as the total given. White envelopes are credited to the church member using the number printed on the envelope.

Blue envelopes—please make sure your first and last names are on the envelope. Designated funds should be noted on the “For” line if they are for a specific fund/mission. The total amount being given should also be noted.

All funds will go to the General Fund unless otherwise noted, so be sure to list the fund if other than general.



Just for Fun

In these remarks are hidden the names of 15 books of the Bible. It's a real Lulu. Kept me looking so hard for facts, I missed the revelation. I was in a jam, especially since the names were not capitalized. The truth will come to numbers of our readers; to others it will be a real job; for all it will be a most fascinating search. Yes, there will be some easy to spot, others hard to judge. So we admit it usually results in loud lamentations when we can't find them. One lady says she brews coffee while puzzling over this.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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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Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

St. Paul's newsletter, the "Monthly Epistle," is intended to keep everyone informed about happenings within the congregation that effect and contribute to our ministry together. In order to maximize reach and minimize cost, the preferred methods of distribution are by email, and posting on our St. Paul's website (www.StPaulsLutheran.Church). All members are encouraged to use the newsletter as a resource to help you consider how God is calling you to be involved in the life of his church. If you are unable to access the newsletter online, or would just like to have a printed copy to refer to, the most cost-effective way to receive it is to pick up a copy from the narthex or church office. We mail copies to those members whom we know don't have online access, or are shut-in. If you want to be added to our mailing or email list, please contact the church office.