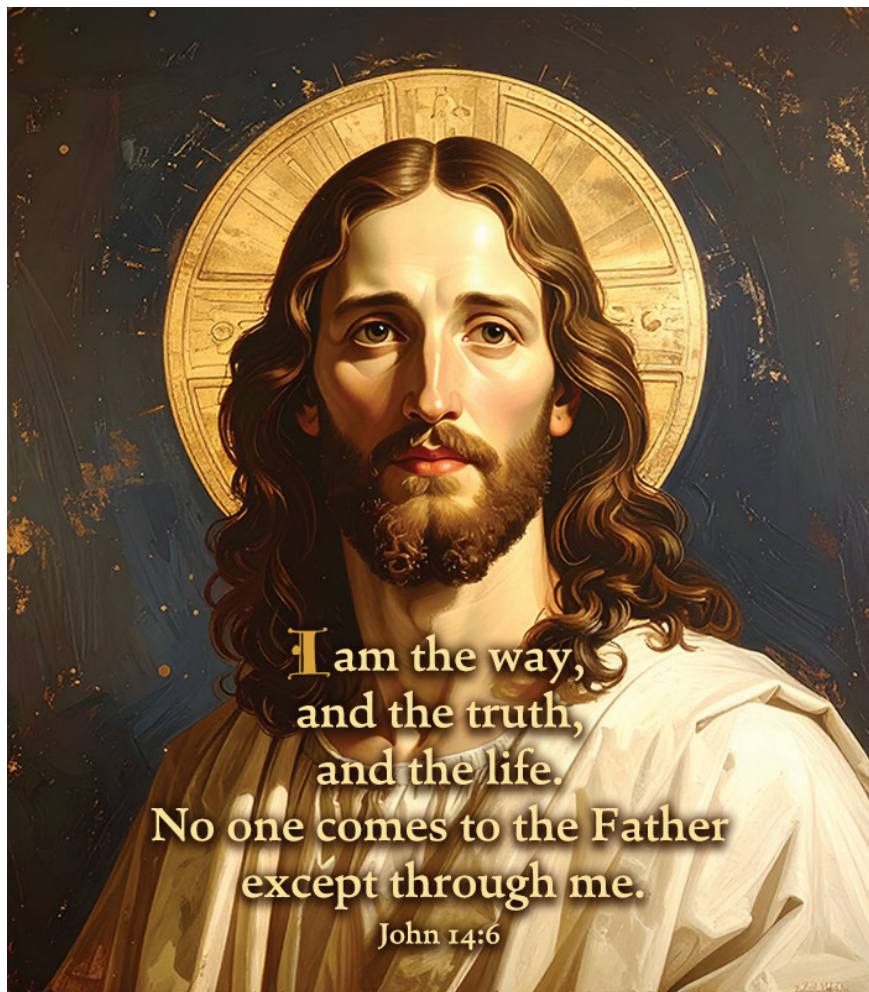




Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2026 • 10:30AM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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

Acolyte: Josh Lord • Crucifer: Cooper Aldridge
Cantor: Hila Canup • Lector: Perry Bernhardt
Communion Assistants: Julie Johnson & Stan McConnell

This Week's Memory Verse

I am the way,
and the truth,
and the life.
No one comes
to the Father
except through me.
John 14:6



Memory Verse Aid

IATW,
ATT,
ATL.
NOC
TTF
ETM.
J146

Congregational Meeting—10:20am

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “Beautiful Savior”

Robert Hobby

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: "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"

143

Greeting

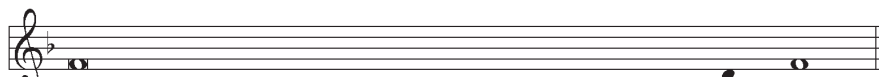
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

The Kyrie

57

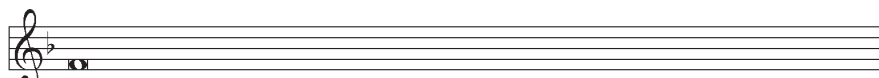




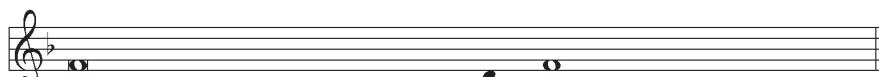
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



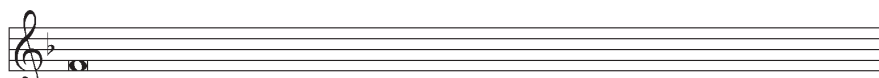
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



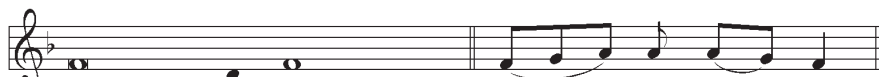
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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

60



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.





Prayer of the Day

62



O God, you make the minds of the faithful to be of one will. Grant that your people would love what you command and desire what you promise, that, among the manifold changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joys are to be found—through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Please be seated.

First Lesson: Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60

¹Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ²And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

⁵And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. ⁷And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. ⁸And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people.

⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen.

^{2a} And Stephen said:

⁵¹“You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you.

⁵²Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.” ⁵⁴Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep. *The word of the Lord.*

Psalter: Psalm 146

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will
sing praises to my God while I | have my being.

²**Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any | child of earth,
for there is no | help in them.**

³When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,
and in that day | their thoughts perish.

⁴**Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help!
whose hope is in the | LORD their God;**

⁵Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;
who keeps his prom- | ise forever;

**⁶Who gives justice to those who | are oppressed,
and food to | those who hunger.**

⁷The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind;
the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;

**⁸The LORD loves the righteous;
the LORD cares | for the stranger;
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way | of the wicked.**

⁹The LORD shall | reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 2:2-10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation — ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” ⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” ⁸and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.
The word of the Lord.

Please stand for the Gospel.

63





The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14th chapter.



Gospel: John 14:1-14

¹[Jesus said,] “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. ¹²Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

The Gospel of our Lord.



Confession of Faith

64

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

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

²I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,
died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

³I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

Please be seated.

Children's Chat

Lutheran Military Veterans & Families

Rev. Leslie Haines

Sermon: "Hopefully Devoted"

Hymn: "Beautiful Savior"

518

The Prayers of the Church

65

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

65

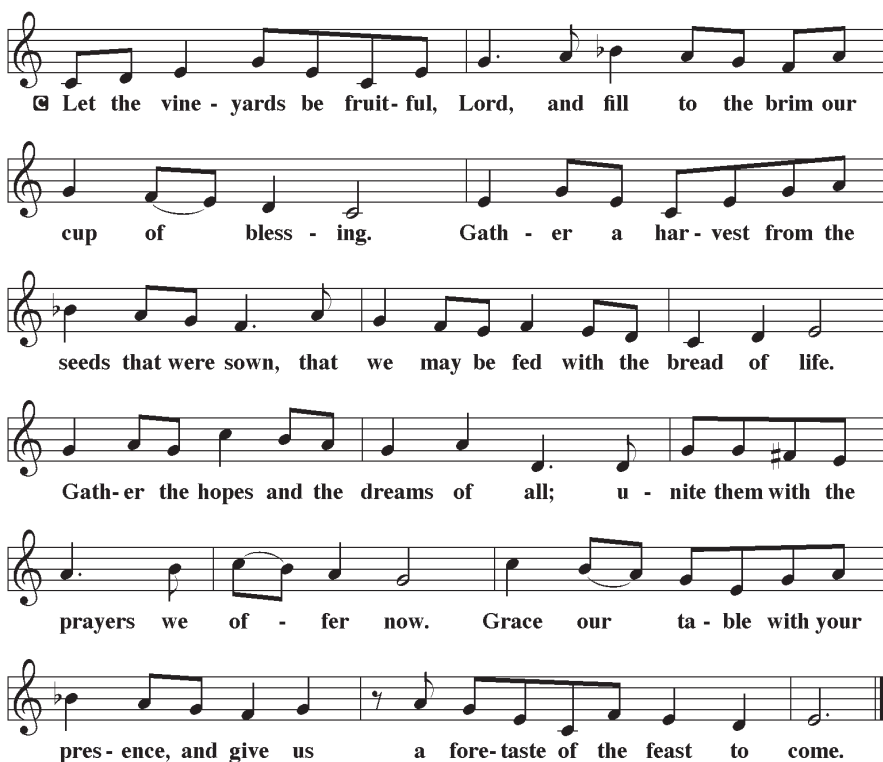
Anthem: “The Lord Will Be My Shepherd”

Adult Choir

Please stand.

Offertory

66

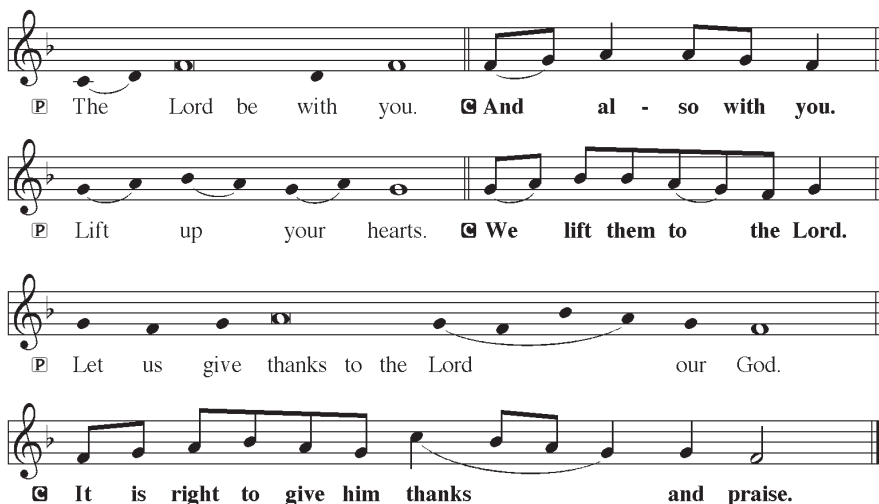


Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
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 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, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord—for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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,

¹**hallowed be thy name,**

²**thy kingdom come,**

³**thy will be done,**

on earth as it is in heaven.

⁴**Give us this day our daily bread;**

⁵**and forgive us our trespasses,**

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

⁶**and lead us not into temptation,**

⁷**but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen

Please be seated.

Holy Communion *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**

Canticle

72

☐ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.

He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with

shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer

74

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. 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: “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resound” Robert Hobby

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

74

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.

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

Amen.



Called Congregational Meeting

There is a congregational meeting today. The only purpose of this meeting is to vote on calling Brian Joseph Lord as Pastor and Rev. Dr. Mark Ryman as Associate Pastor, as well as approval of the total pay package. The motion by the Church Council is: “to call to St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Salisbury, NC, Brian Joseph Lord as Pastor at a total pay package of \$125,465.00 and, The Rev. Dr. Mark Ryman as Associate Pastor at a total pay package of \$67,949.00.”

For Christ and his Church,
St. Paul’s Church Council

Gina Barringer
Susan Bernhardt
Dana Bost
Josh Canup
Tim Canup
Lisa Monroe

Susan Faggart
Matt Holland
Donna Lyerly
Mita Powlas
Bethany Whisnant
Luke Ziegler

Matthew Cottingham
Dan Dolan
Tony Heilig
Keith Hoffner
Stan McConnell
Terri Powlas

Wilhelm Latvia Mission

Mark and Julia Wilhelm are returning to northeastern Europe (on the Russian border) this summer to share the gospel in a unique way. The summer camps that SON (Spiritual Orphans Network) offers uses learning the English language as the tool that attracts attendees. The text for the summer program is the English Bible. If you would like to help Mark and Julia with their mission trip to Latvia, you may do so by putting a special offering in a blue envelope in the offering plate. Mark your envelope "Wilhelm."

They will leave on June 2. Funds received after they leave will be used towards defraying other camp costs, providing scholarships for local kids who cannot pay the full cost, and assisting other team members who may come up a bit short on their fundraising.

Youth Sunday

Youth Sunday has been rescheduled for May 31, 2026. Our high school seniors will be preaching that Sunday. We look forward to hearing their messages.

Girl Scout Cookies

The girl scouts still have a few cookies left over. If anyone would like any Trefoils, Tagalongs, Thin Mints, or Lemon-Ups please contact Amy Barringer. Each box of cookies is \$6.00.

VBS 2026

VBS 2026 dates are set! We will be holding VBS **June 26th–28th** (Friday night–Sunday). The theme is David: Hero of God. There will be classes for 3-year-old Preschool – Middle school. If you are interested in volunteering to work with our youth for VBS weekend, please contact Lauren Holland, 980-234-2907, or Kara Burnett, 704-239-7614.

This Week's Calendar

Sunday, May 3

- Sunday School, 9:30am
- Called Congregational Meeting, **10:20am**
- Worship, 10:30am with guests from Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministry
- Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- Youth & Family Committee meeting, 2pm
- Hand bell ensemble practice, 5pm
- Vespers, 6pm

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

Monday, May 4

- Home school dance class, 10am
- Facility Accessibility Committee, 6:30pm
- Hama Lingle Circle, 7pm

Tuesday, May 5

- Bible Study, 10am and 6pm
- Grace Ridenhour Circle, 6:30pm
- Girl Scouts, 6:30pm

Wednesday, May 6

- Christian Tours bus trip leaves today
- Adult Choir practice, 6:30pm
- Confirmation Class, 7pm

Thursday, May 7

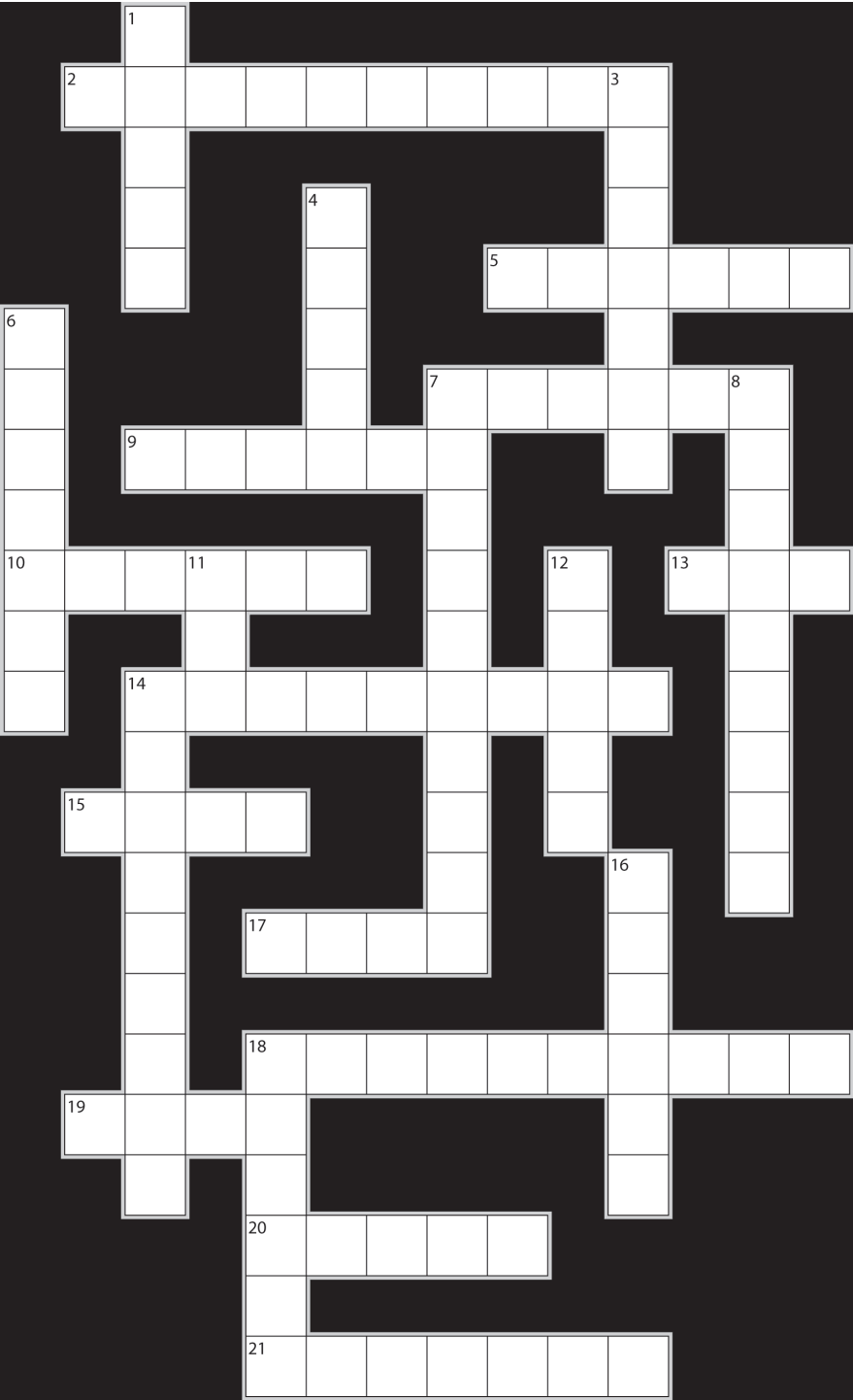
- Smart Start, 10am–12pm

Saturday, May 9

- Homeschool Ballet program, 4pm–8pm
- Christian Tours bus trip returns today

Sunday, May 10, Mother's Day

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



Easter 5A

*Find the answers in today's lectionary readings from
Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a, 51-60; Psalm 146; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14.
The English Standard Version is used to build this puzzle.*

Solve online: <https://tinyurl.com/easter5Acrossword>

ACROSS

2. The Lord upholds the widow and who else?
5. In the early days of the church, the disciples were increasing in what?
7. He said that he didn't know where Jesus was going.
9. If you have seen Jesus, you have seen him.
10. The church is this kind of race.
13. Besides the truth and life, Jesus is this.
14. You will not get this from princes.
15. Long for it like newborns.
17. The apostles devoted themselves to prayer and the ministry of what?
18. The were complaining against the Hebrews.
19. If you ask Jesus anything in his what, he will do it.
20. There are many of these in the Father's house.
21. He gazed into heaven and saw God

DOWN

1. Blessed is the one whose help is this man's God.
3. People do this when they disobey the word.
4. The Lord keeps this forever.
6. Don't put your trust in them.
7. Christians are a royal what?
8. The apostles would not give up on doing this.
11. The Lord made heaven and earth and what else?
12. Stephen gazed into heaven and saw God's what?
14. We are to offer this kind of sacrifice.
16. You are being built up like this kind of stones.
18. Do not let them be troubled.

Recent Prayer Needs

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

- Jennifer Aldridge – physical therapy
- Shiela Barringer – cancer
- W. A. Cline – health concerns (*Wayne Cline's brother*)
- Sonya Eller – recovering at home
- Kelly Gainey – health concerns
- Frank Giambastiani – health concerns (*Lisa Lord's father*)
- Sarah Goodman – recovering at home
- Autumn Hill – recovering from surgery
- Doris Hilliard – hospitalized
- Jerry Hilliard – health concerns
- Tiffany Holland – upcoming surgery
- Alesia Lewis – health concerns
- Alan Lyerly – recovering at home
- Dennis Martinez – cancer (*friend of Lisa Lord*)
- Irene Miller – recovering at home
- Will Poplin – health concerns (*Ann Poplin's son*)
- Mita Powlas – upcoming surgery
- Melinda Redding – recovering at home
- Carol Reese – health concerns (*George Reese's brother*)
- Dottie Stancil – health concerns
- Scott Watson – health concerns
- Nancy Wilhelm – recovering at home
- The family of Donald Austin who died April 10, 2026
- The family of Mary Holland who died April 12, 2026
- The family of Raymond Kubitz who died April 17, 2026
- The family of Walter Smith who died April 20, 2026
- The family of Sharon McBride who died April 21, 2026

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.

Previous Sunday's Stats

General Fund offering 4/26	\$10,875
Other offering 4/26.....	\$4,865
Worship attendance 4/26	179
Sunday School attendance reported 4/26	77

Children's Change Collection

Last week's total: 185.50 Total so far: \$695.50

Children's change collections this quarter
will support Marion Medical Mission.

In the last two+ years, the children have collected
\$26,496.62 for missions.

Total during the first quarter of 2026 to
benefit the Small Catechism Project: \$2,213.00

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 name and your family member's names are written in the friendship register each Sunday.**



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

A family of faith sharing the gospel and love of Christ

Phone: 704-633-0922

Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Facebook: www.facebook.com/StPaulsLCMC

Wi-Fi: splcguest – pass: SavedbyGrace

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12 Noon

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Mark Ryman, Senior Pastor
pastor@stpaulslutheran.church

Brian Lord, Associate Pastor
wingman@stpaulslutheran.church

Pamela Cottingham, Secretary
secretary@stpaulslutheran.church

Dana Bost, Council President
Dana.Bost59@gmail.com

John Brock, Music Director
splcmusicsalisbury@gmail.com

Johnsie Taylor, Organist
jtaylor783@aol.com

Judy Lowman, Treasurer
splcjlw63@gmail.com

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

Next week's lessons: Acts 17:16-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

Sola Publishing ©2019 Online Worship Resource Site from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2013 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SBTo09378. Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2016 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission.
All rights reserved.