



Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 10, 2026 • 10:30AM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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

Acolyte: Otto Newsome • Crucifer: Reese Goodman
Cantor: Talia Lord • Lector: Jennifer Aldridge
Communion Assistants: Julie Johnson & Stan McConnell

This Week's Memory Verse

Jesus said,
if you love me,
you will keep
my commandments.

John 14:15



Memory Verse Aid

JS,
IYLM,
YWK
MC.
J1415

Welcome and Announcements

Recognition of Mothers *(We will present rose buds to the newest mother, the newest grandmother, and the oldest mother here today.)*

Prelude: “Christ is Risen”

Handbell Ensemble

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: "Come Thou Almighty King"

522

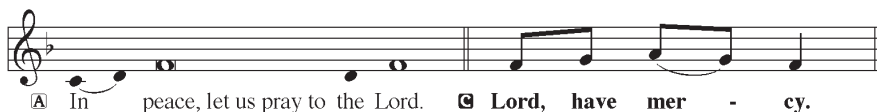
Greeting

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







Prayer of the Day

62



O God, all good things can come from you alone. Generously consider then our humble prayers. Inspire us to consider what is true, and direct us to accomplish what is right—through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Please be seated.

First Lesson: Acts 17:16–31

¹⁶Now while Paul was waiting for [Silas and Timothy] at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities” — because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?” ²⁰For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

²²So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious.

²³For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’

What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.
²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.
²⁶And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸for ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are indeed his offspring.’ ²⁹Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

The word of the Lord.

Psalter: Psalm 66:7–18

(numbered 8–20 ESV)

⁷Bless our | God, you peoples;
make the voice of his praise | to be heard;

⁸**Who holds our | souls in life,
and will not allow our | feet to slip.**

⁹For you, O | God, have proved us;
you have tried us just as sil- | ver is tried.

¹⁰**You brought us in- | to the snare;
you laid heavy burdens up- | on our backs.**

¹¹You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through | fire and water;
but you brought us out into a place | of refreshment.

¹²**I will enter your house with burnt offerings
and will pay | you my vows,
which I promised with my lips and spoke with
my mouth when I | was in trouble.**

¹³I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts with the | smoke of rams;
I will give you ox- | en and goats.

¹⁴**Come and listen, all you | who fear God,
and I will tell you what he has | done for me.**

¹⁵I called out to him | with my mouth,
and his praise was | on my tongue.

¹⁶**If I had found evil | in my heart,
the Lord would | not have heard me;**

¹⁷But in truth | God has heard me;
he has attended to the voice | of my prayer.

¹⁸**Blessed be God, who has not reject- | ed my prayer,
nor withheld his | love from me.**

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 3:13–22

¹³Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

The word of the Lord.



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



Gospel: John 14:15–21

¹⁵[Jesus said,] “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

¹⁹Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

²¹Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

The Gospel of our Lord.



Confession of Faith

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

Sermon: "Christ's Descent into Hell"

Hymn: "Spirit of God, Descend Upon my Heart" 486

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: "He Died for Me" Andrew Baker

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.

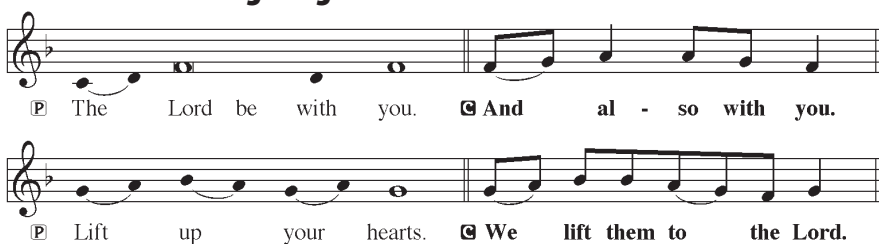
Let us Pray...

67

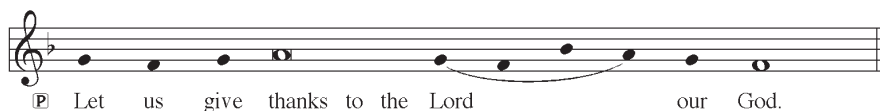
Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Great Thanksgiving

68



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



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:



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.

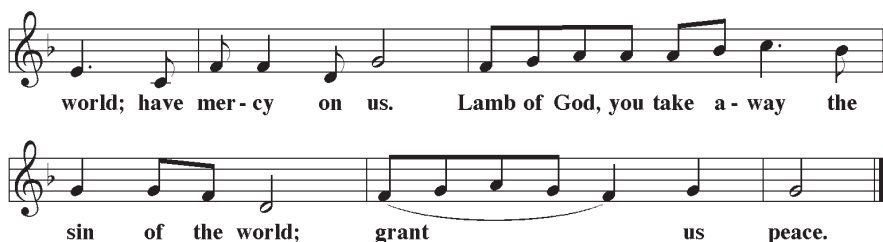
Holy Communion *An usher will direct you to the Table.*

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

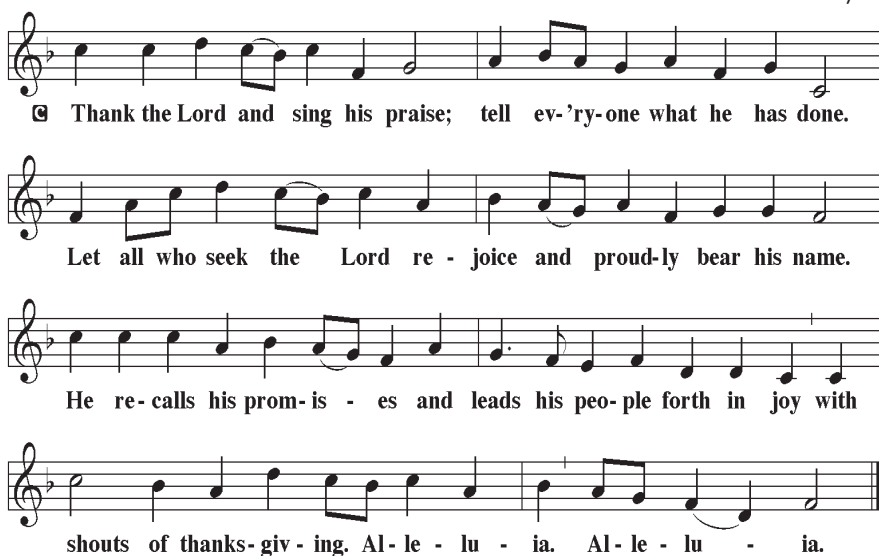
☪ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



Blessing The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

Canticle

72



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: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Mark Thewes

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.



*The altar flowers are given by the Altar Guild
to the glory of God and in honor of all of our Mothers.
Children are welcome to come up to the steps after
worship to get a carnation for their mother.*



Ordination Luncheon

Brian Lord will be ordained during our service on May 24. We will have a luncheon in his honor after worship in the fellowship hall. Everyone is invited. We ask those who plan to attend to put an "O" by your name in the friendship register so we will know how many to prepare for.

Youth Sunday

Youth Sunday is May 31, 2026. High school seniors, Andrew Baker, Sara Barringer, and Peyton Holland, will be preaching that Sunday. We look forward to hearing their messages.

Girl Scout Cookies

The girl scouts still have some 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.

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.

Cruise 'n Barbecue Update

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's St. Paul's Cruise 'n Barbecue a huge success! We give all glory to God for the beautiful weather he provided for us, and the opportunity to serve him in this way. Twelve hundred (1,200) Port-a-Pit dinners were served (tickets were sold out by 1:00), there were 147 entries in the car show, and 40 outstanding raffle prizes. That, and the friendly people at St. Paul's are reasons we continue to hear from more and more attendees that this is one of the best and favorite events of its kind. Over \$21,000 was raised which will allow the Helping Hands Fund and committee to provide assistance and help fulfill needs during the coming year. Mark your calendars—always the last Saturday in April—April 24, 2027.

VBS 2026

VBS 2026 dates are set—**June 26th–28th** (Friday night–Sunday). The theme is *David: Hero of God*. There will be classes for 3-year-old – 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 10, Mother's Day

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

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

Monday, May 11

- Home school dance class, 10am
- Melissa Lura Circle, 6pm
- Finance Committee, 6:30pm

Tuesday, May 12

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

Wednesday, May 13

- Ellen Bumgarner Circle, 10am
- Adult Choir practice, 6:30pm
- Youth Confirmation class, 7pm

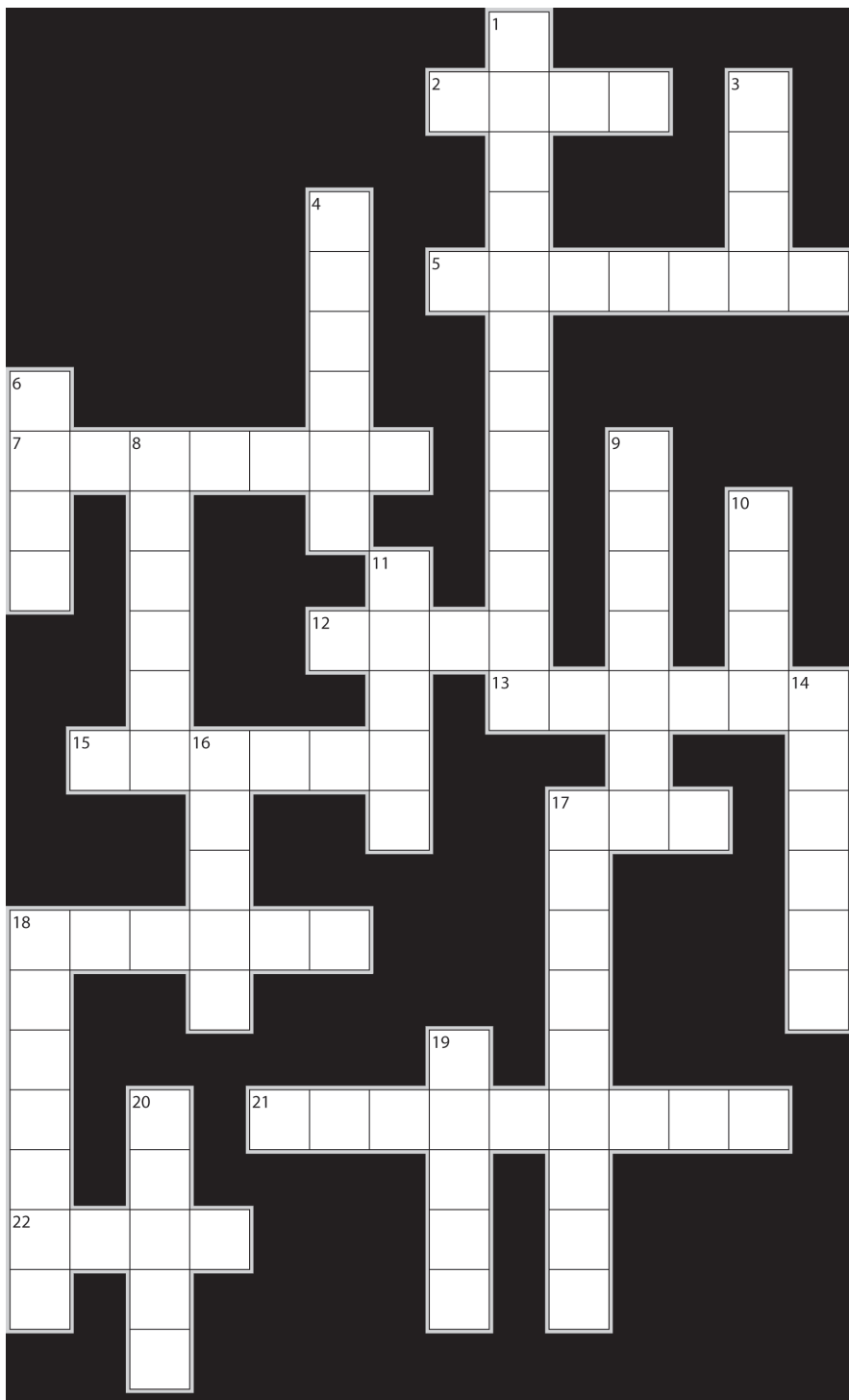
Thursday, May 14

- Smart Start, 10am–12pm

Sunday, May 17, Confirmation

- Sunday School, 9:30am
- Worship, 10:30am; three of our youth will be confirmed
- Christian Education Committee, 1pm
- Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- Kathy Ketchie Circle, 4pm
- Vespers, 6pm

**See that no one
repays anyone evil for evil,
but always seek to do good
to one another and to everyone.**



Easter 6A

*Find the answers in today's lectionary readings from
Acts 17:16-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21.
The English Standard Version is used to build this puzzle .
Solve online: <https://tinyurl.com/easter6A-crossword>*

ACROSS

2. You should be able to give a reason for this that is on you.
5. As related to the flood, this saves you.
7. Jesus promised he would not leave us like these children.
12. The psalmist declares that God has not let them slip.
13. God has tried us like this is refined
15. What we confess in the second article of the Apostles Creed as Hell, the second lesson calls by this term.
17. God was patient while this vessel of salvation was being built.
18. You know the Spirit because he does this with you.
21. God overlooked these times.
22. "Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my..."

DOWN

1. If you love Jesus, you will keep his what?
3. Christ suffered once for these.
4. Where was Paul when his spirit was provoked?
6. The psalmist said he would perform these to God.
8. God has attended to the voice of the psalmist's what?
9. Some of the philosophers called Paul this derisive name.
10. Because Jesus lives, you also will...
11. In God, we live and move and have our what?
14. God now calls all people to do this.
16. Paul was provoked in spirit because the city was full of these.
17. Though tested, God brought the people out into this place.
18. Always be prepared to give this to anyone who asks.
19. It cannot receive the Helper.
20. Jesus promised to send his Helper, the Spirit of what?

Recent Prayer Needs

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

- Shiela Barringer – cancer
- W. A. Cline – health concerns (*Wayne Cline's brother*)
- Dan Dolan – upcoming surgery
- Sonya Eller – health concerns
- Kelly Gainey – health concerns
- Frank Giambastiani – health concerns (*Lisa Lord's father*)
- Sarah Goodman – recovering at home
- Autumn Hill – recovering from surgery
- Doris Hilliard – health concerns
- Jerry Hilliard – health concerns
- Tiffany Holland – health concerns
- Alesia Lewis – health concerns
- Alan Lyerly – recovering at home
- Dennis Martinez – cancer (*friend of Lisa Lord*)
- Irene Miller – health concerns
- Will Poplin – health concerns (*Ann Poplin's son*)
- Mita Powlas – recovering from surgery
- Melinda Redding – recovering at home
- Carol Reese – health concerns (*George Reese's brother*)
- Dottie Stancil – health concerns
- Scott Watson – health concerns (*son of Larry & Leilani Watson*)
- Nancy Wilhelm – recovering at home
- 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 5/3	\$4,819
Other offering 5/3	\$2,939
Worship attendance 5/3.....	176
Sunday School attendance reported 5/3	68

Children's Change Collection

Last week's total: 156.00 Total so far: \$851.50
Children's change collections this quarter
goes to support Marion Medical Mission.

In the last two+ years, the children have collected
\$26,652.62 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

Reminders: 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 1:12-26; Psalm 68:1-10; 1 Peter 4:12-19, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

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.