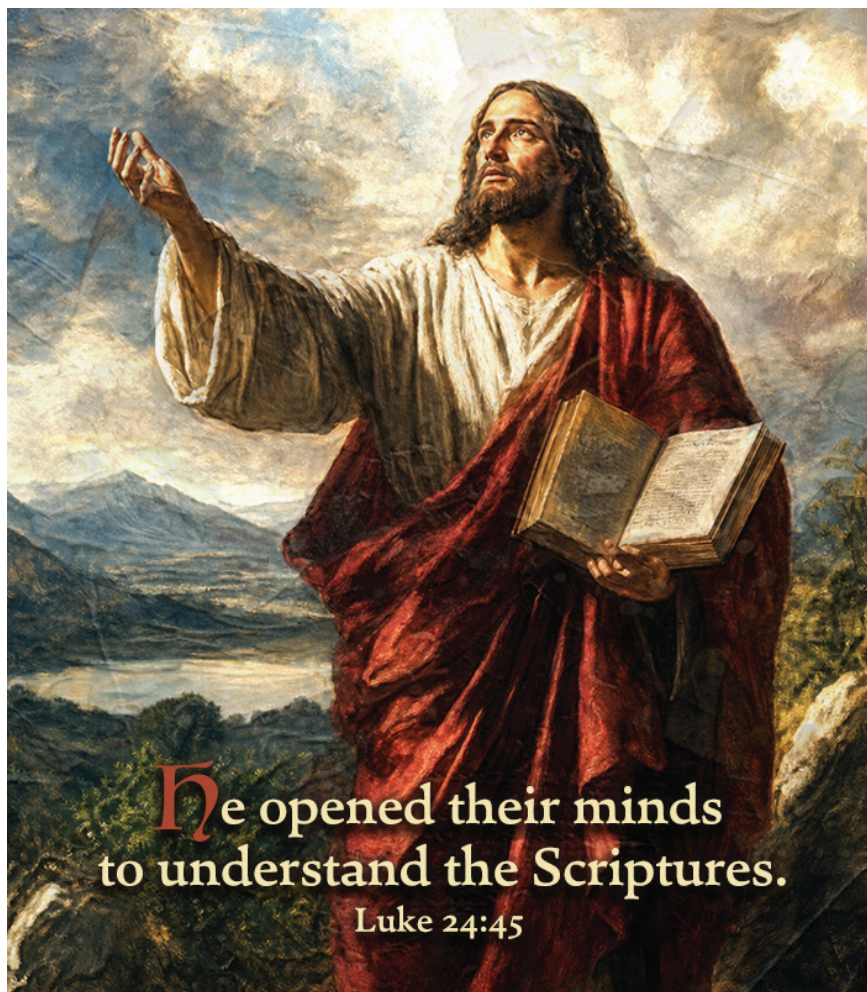




The Ascension of Our Lord
May 17, 2026 • 10:30AM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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

Acolyte: Cassidy Brown • Crucifer: Alexander Canup
Cantor: Lindsey Whisnant
Worship Assistants: Cooper Aldridge, Talia Lord, Elin Wells

This Week's Memory Verse

This Jesus,
who was taken up
from you into heaven,
will come in the same way
as you saw him
go into heaven.

Acts 1:11



Memory Verse Aid

TJ,
WWTU
FYIH,
WCITSW
AYSH
GIH.
AIII

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks”

Weber

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: “Alleluia, Sing to Jesus”

158

Greeting

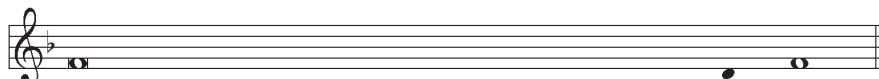
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

The Kyrie

57

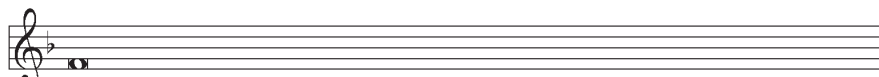




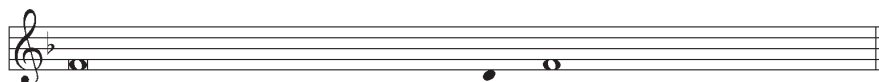
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



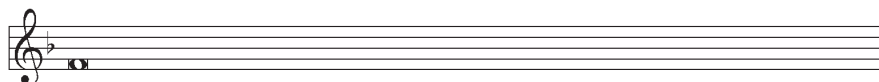
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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. **D** 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



Almighty God, we believe that your Son, Jesus Christ, has ascended into the heavens to sit at your right hand. Grant that our hearts and minds may be directed there, as well, to dwell in him each day, through the same 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 I:I-II

¹In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in

white robes, ¹¹and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

The word of the Lord.

Psalter: Psalm 47

¹Clap your hands, | all you peoples;
shout to God with a | cry of joy.

²**For the LORD Most High is | to be feared;
he is the great king over | all the earth.**

³He subdues the | peoples under us,
and the nations un- | der our feet.

⁴**He chooses our inheri- | tance for us,
the pride of Jacob | whom he loves.**

⁵God has gone up | with a shout,
the LORD with the sound | of the ram's horn.

⁶**Sing praises to | God, sing praises;
sing praises to our | king, sing praises.**

⁷For God is king of | all the earth;
sing praises with | all your skill.

⁸**God reigns o- | ver the nations;
God sits upon his | holy throne.**

⁹The nobles of the peoples have gath- | ered together
with the people of the | God of Abraham.

¹⁰**The rulers of the earth be- | long to God,
and he is high- | ly exalted.**

Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:15–23

¹⁵For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness

of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²²And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The word of the Lord.

Please stand for the Gospel.

63

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 24:44-53

⁴⁴Then [Jesus] said to [his disciples], “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” ⁵⁰And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹While he blessed them,

he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and were continually in the temple blessing God.

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

Sermon: "Opened Minds"

Hymn: "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

170

The Rite of Confirmation

The following persons have been instructed in the Christian faith and desire to make a public affirmation of their baptism. As I read your name, please come forward and face the congregation.

Cooper Aldridge

Talia Lord

Elin Wells

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul writes: “I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord” (1 Corinthians 1:4-9).

Through the education program of this congregation, you have had the opportunity to learn and grow in your understanding of the Scriptures, as well as the opportunity to assume a greater responsibility in the life of our Christian community and its mission in the world. We thank God for the many ways your faith has been confirmed among us.

Statement of Approval and Prayer

We give you thanks, Almighty God, for the gifts of wisdom, understanding, and faith that you have granted to these confirmands through their study of your Word. We pray that you would continue to increase their faith toward you and their love toward all your people, that the gifts of your Holy Spirit may always be evident in their lives. Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, forever one God.
Amen

Confirmands are seated.

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: “Come and Dine”

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.

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

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—who, after his resurrection, appeared openly to his disciples and, in their sight, was taken up into heaven, that he might make us partakers of his divine nature. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, 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

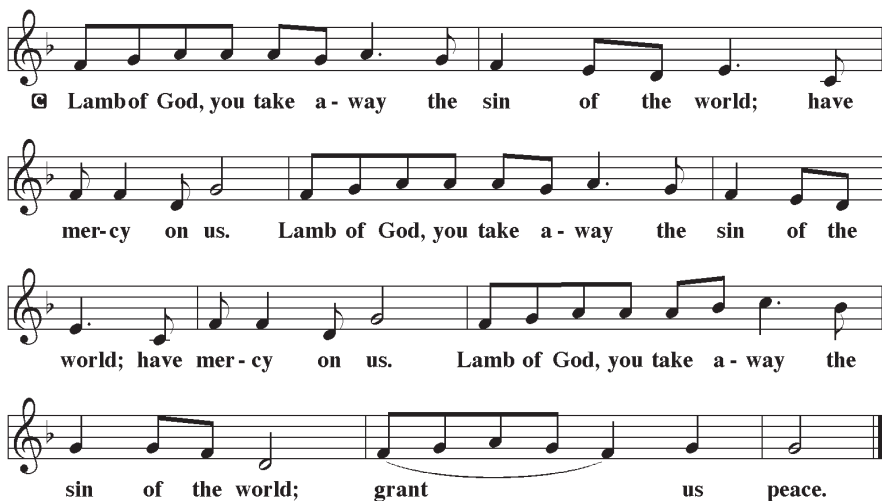
Please be seated.

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

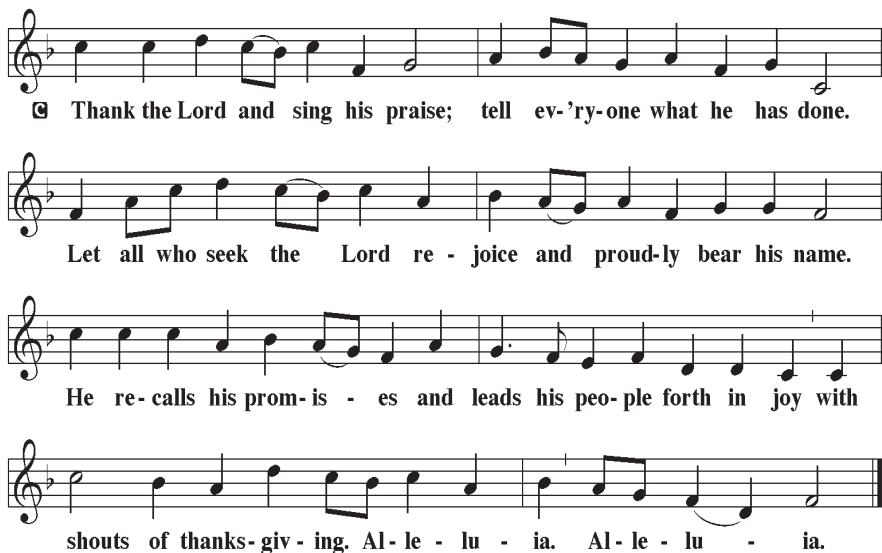


☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

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: “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Anna L. Page

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.

Congratulations to Garrett and Lisa Powlas on the birth of their daughter, Oona Lyra Powlas. Oona was born Thursday, May 7, 2026.



*The altar flowers are given in honor of the Confirmands,
Cooper Aldridge, Talia Lord, and Elin Wells,
by Terri and Alan Powlas.*



*Please join us at a reception honoring
Cooper Aldridge, Talia Lord, and Elin Wells,
today after the service. You will have the opportunity
to congratulate them, have refreshments, and see the work
they have accomplished over the last two years of study.*

Ordination Luncheon

Brian Lord will be ordained during our service next Sunday, 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. (*You do not need to do this if you marked your name last week.*)

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.

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-years old – Middle school. Registration will be done electronically this year through this QR code and link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScuRfRWWhKeJUuCW4BTAT34KhfN9BDzSRI5cDfJ3Diq6bqEChw/viewform>

For more information, contact Lauren Holland, 980-234-2907, or Kara Burnett, 704-239-7614.



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 need assistance.

This Week's Calendar

Sunday, May 17, Confirmation

- Sunday School, 9:30am
- Worship, 10:30am; three of our youth are being confirmed
- Reception in fellowship hall after service for Confirmands
- Christian Education Committee, 1pm
- Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- Kathy Ketchie Circle, 4pm
- Vespers, 6pm

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

Monday, May 18

- Home school dance class, 10am
- Articles for June Epistle due this week
- Council meeting, 6:30pm

Tuesday, May 19

- Bible Study, 10am and 6pm
- Staff Meeting, 5pm
- Girl Scouts, 6:30pm

Wednesday, May 20

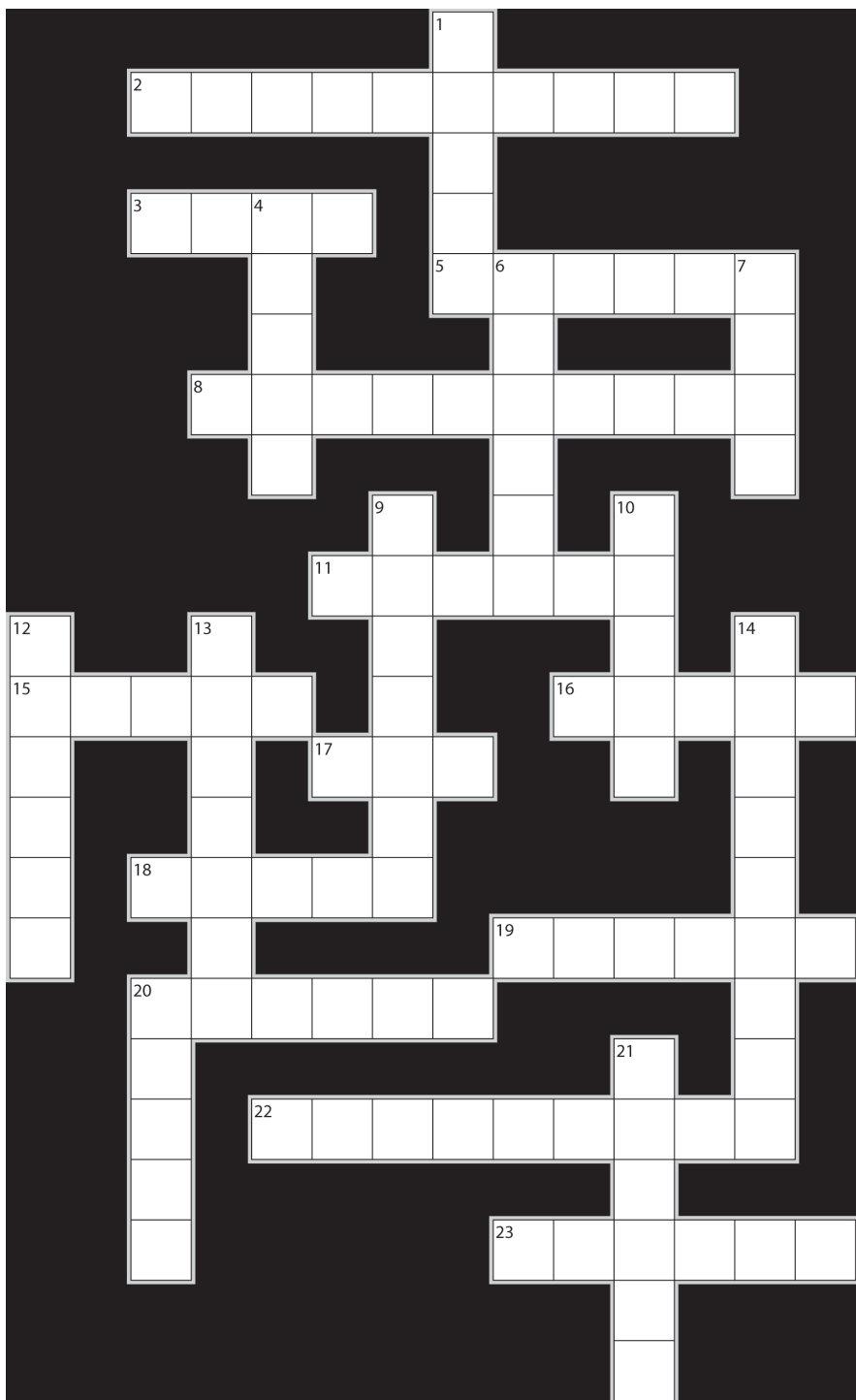
- Adult Choir practice, 6:30pm

Thursday, May 21

- Smart Start, 10am–12pm
- Friendship Club, 10:30am, Concord Family House

Sunday, May 24

- Sunday School, 9:30am
- Worship, 10:30am
- Ordination and Installation of Brian Joseph Lord
- Luncheon honoring Reverend Brian Lord in the fellowship hall after worship
- Vespers, 6pm



Ascension, Year A

*Find the answers in today's lectionary readings from
Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53.
The English Standard Version is used to build this puzzle.
Solve online: <https://tinyurl.com/ascensionA-crossword>*

ACROSS

2. Luke wrote both of his books to this person.
3. Paul desires that the Ephesians know this to which they are called.
5. Paul gave this unceasingly for the Ephesians.
8. Paul asked the Father to give the Ephesians the Spirit of wisdom and...
11. Paul prays the church would know the riches of their glorious inheritance in the what?
15. Paul prays that these eyes would be opened.
16. It carried Jesus from sight of the apostles.
17. Shout to God with loud songs of...
18. Jesus opened these so his disciples could understand the Scriptures.
19. The disciples were continually there blessing God.
20. For the Lord, the Most High, is to be...
22. What the disciples did toward Christ when he ascended
23. Where God sits

DOWN

1. God has gone up with this.
4. What you receive when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.
6. Jesus was parted from the disciples and carried where?
7. Repentance for the forgiveness of these should be proclaimed in Christ's name to all.
9. God reigns over them.
10. Sing praises with this.
12. Paul calls this Christ's "body."
13. Jesus commanded the apostles to stay in Jerusalem and wait for this.
14. Everything written about Jesus in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be what?
20. The number of days Jesus appeared to people after his resurrection
21. Jesus baptized with him.

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*)
- Jean Deal – health concerns
- Dan Dolan – recovering from surgery
- Sonya Eller – health concerns
- Kelly Gainey – health concerns
- Frank Giambastiani – health concerns (*Lisa Lord's father*)
- 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*)
- Steve Shuping – cancer (*Louise Eller'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 5/10.....	\$6,930
Other offering 5/10	\$3,575
Worship attendance 5/10	182
Sunday School attendance reported 5/10.....	68

Children's Change Collection

Last week's total: \$233.50 Total so far: \$1,085.00
Children's change collections this quarter
goes to support Marion Medical Mission.

In the last two+ years, the children have collected
\$26,886.12 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: Numbers 11:24–30; Psalm 25:1–15; Acts 2:1–21; John 7:37–39

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