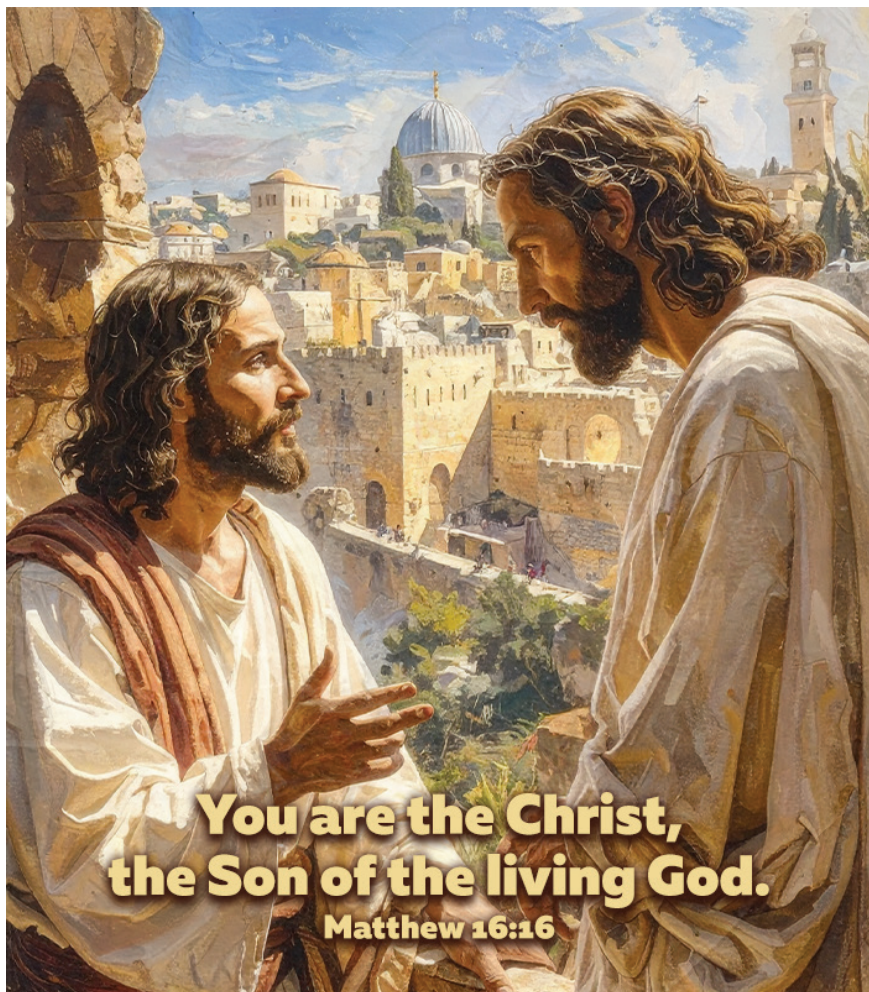




Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 2026

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

205 St. Paul's Church Road, Salisbury, NC 28146

Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Acolyte: Josh Lord • Crucifer: Sutton Fisher

Cantor: Talia Lord • Lector: Ken Whisnant

Communion Assistants: Jennifer Aldridge & Terri Powlas

This Week's Memory Verse

When I called,
you answered me;
you increased my strength
within me.
Psalm 138:3



Memory Verse Aid

WIC,
YAM;
YIMS
WM.
P1383

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “Prelude on ‘Olivet’”

John Barr

Please stand.

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

Amen

Confession of Sin

73

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sin to God our Father, imploring him, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Who made heaven and earth.

I said I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

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.**

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to you, that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring your grace, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Most merciful God, you have given your only Son to die for us. Have mercy on us, and for his sake grant us remission of all our sins. By your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of you and of your will, and true obedience to your word, so that by your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Absolution

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given his only Son to die for us, and for his sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe in his name, he gives power to become children of God, and bestows on them his Holy Spirit. All who believe and are baptized shall be saved. Grant this, O Lord, unto us all. **Amen**

Hymn: "The Church's One Foundation"

88

Greeting

74

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.

Kyrie Eleison

74

Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Christ, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.

Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

75

Leader:

Congregation:

Glory be to God on high!

And on earth peace, good will toward all. We praise you, we bless you,

we worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory,

O Lord God, heaven - ly King, God the Father Al - mighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ, O Lord God, Lamb of God,

Son of the Father: You take away the sin of the world, have mercy



on us. You take away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.

You sit at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy on us.

For you are holy; you on - ly are the Lord; You only, O Christ, with the

Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

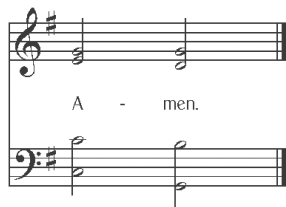
Salutation and Prayer of the Day

77



Leader: The Lord be with you. *Congregation:* And with your spirit.

Care for your Church, O Lord, with perpetual mercy. Since we totter and are sure to fall without your grace, remove what will harm us and arrange what will make us whole. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, forever one God.



A - men.

Please be seated.

First Lesson: Isaiah 51:1-6

¹“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. ²Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him. ³For the LORD comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. ⁴Give

attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coast lands hope for me, and for my arm they wait. ⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed.”

The word of the Lord

Psalter: Psalm 138

(ESV numbered vs 1–8)

¹I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with | my whole heart;
before the gods I will | sing your praise.

²**I will bow down toward your holy temple
and | praise your Name,
because of your | love and faithfulness;**

³For you have glori- | fied your name
and your word a- | bove all things.

⁴**When I called, you | answered me;
you increased my | strength within me.**

⁵All the kings of the earth will praise | you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words | of your mouth.

⁶**They will sing of the ways | of the LORD,
that great is the glory | of the LORD.**

⁷Though the LORD be high, he cares | for the lowly;
he perceives the haughty | from afar.

⁸**Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you | keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my
enemies; your right hand | shall save me.**

⁹The LORD will make good his pur- | pose for me;
O LORD, your love endures forever; do not
abandon the works | of your hands.

Second Lesson: Romans 11:33–12:8

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his

ways! ³⁴“For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?” ³⁵“Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” ³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

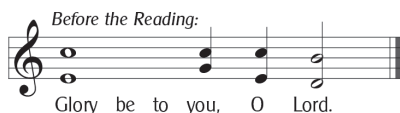
⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation *Please stand for the Gospel.*



The Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.

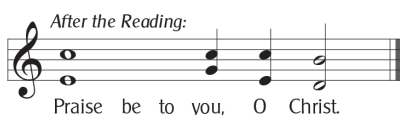


Gospel: Matthew 16:13–20

¹³When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And

they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of our Lord



Confession of Faith

81

Let us profess our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen

Please be seated.

Children's Chat

Sermon: "The Rock of Confession"

Hymn: "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

98

Prayers of the Church

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

*Scan the QR code to the right to be taken directly to
the giving page on your phone or tablet. Ushers will also pass the
offering plates along each row.*



Anthem: “Who Do You Say I Am?”

Adult Choir
Alexander Canup, soloist

Exhortation

Preface

86

Leader



The Lord be with you.

Congregation



And with your spir - it

Leader



Lift up your hearts.

Congregation



We lift them to the Lord.

Leader



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right, and good for us, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, our Lord and Savior, who ascending above the heavens and sitting at your right hand, poured out the Holy Spirit as he had promised upon the chosen disciples, causing the whole earth to rejoice.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you, and saying:

Sanctus

89



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na
in the high - est Bless - ed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est

The Lord's Prayer

90

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

¹hallowed be thy name,

²thy kingdom come,

³thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

⁴Give us this day our daily bread;

⁵and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

⁶and lead us not into temptation,

⁷but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night in which he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: Take, eat, this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying: Take, and drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Agnus Dei

91



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin
of the world, have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world,
grant us peace. A - - - - - men.

Distribution of Communion

92

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.

May the body and precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in true faith to everlasting life.

Thanksgiving

92

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this your salutary gift, and we ask you in your mercy to strengthen us through the same, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another—through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen**

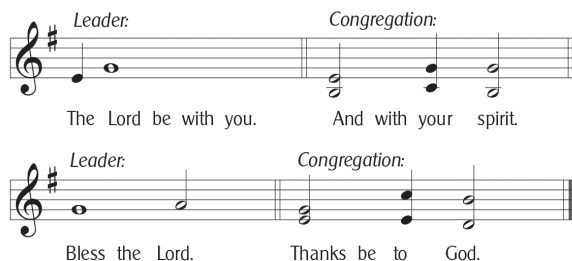
Nunc Dimittis

92

Lord, now let your servant depart | in | peace,
ac- | cording | to | your | word.
For my eyes have seen | your sal- | vation,
which you have prepared before the | face | of | all | people:
A light to lighten | the | Gentiles
and the | glory | of your | people | Israel.
Glory be | to the | Father,
and to the | Son, and | to the | Holy | Spirit,
As it was in | the be- | ginning,
is now, and ever shall be, | world with- | out | end. A- | men

Benedicamus

93



Leader: Congregation:

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.

Leader: Congregation:

Bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Postlude: “The Church’s One Foundation”

Daniel Burton

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.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

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



History Committee

The History Committee will meet at **4pm, today**, in the History Room. This meeting is for those currently on the committee, and those interested for the coming year.

First Communion Classes

If your child is at least 9 years old and is ready to start receiving Holy Communion, Pastor Lord will hold short **classes on August 30, and September 6**, after worship in the pulpit side transept. The students will receive their first communion on September 13.

Planning Meeting—Yard Sale

The Women of St. Paul's would like to have a yard sale to help with funds for our treasury since we will not be able to hold a full bazaar this year. We would like to have anyone interested in a yard sale or at least one person per circle to meet on Sunday, **August 30th at 5pm**. We want to have definite plans in place so we can start advertising for a possible November date. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Bernhardt 704-637-0155, srbernhardt@carolina.rr.com.

Rally Sunday—August 30

Coffee, juice, and doughnuts will be served on the front lawn **Sunday, August 30, 2026** for Rally Sunday. We invite everyone to come, and bring a friend. **There are classes for every age.** If you haven't been attending Sunday School, this is the perfect Sunday to get started.

Sunday School kids will sing for us before **new Bibles** are presented to students moving into the next learning level. This is also the Sunday that some of the grade school students will move up a class. They will go to their classrooms and meet the teachers after the Bible presentations are made.

That afternoon, we will have the **congregational Ice Cream Social** at the picnic shelter at **4pm**. Bring your favorite homemade ice cream. If you do not have an ice cream freezer you may bring store bought ice cream, or another favorite dessert.

Susan and Pastor Ryman will host **Vespers at the parsonage**, as they do each Sunday evening, at **6pm**. You are invited!

Youth Confirmation Class

Confirmation classes will begin on **Wednesday, September 9**. Students going into the seventh grade this school year (or older) are eligible as first year Confirmands. Confirmation classes are held **Wednesday evenings at 7pm**, during the school year, for two years. At least one parent or grandparent should be present during each class with your child. In order for your child to be confirmed, consistent attendance is mandatory. These first-year students will be confirmed in 2028.

Youth & Family Clean Up for Homecoming

Mark your calendars for our annual youth event—"pew/shelter clean-up"—on **Friday, September 11th, at 6pm**. Bring your cleaning spirit along with vacuums, brooms, and cleaning cloths! We will be providing **pizza and dessert**.

Homecoming Worship and Potluck

St. Paul's Homecoming Sunday is **September 13th**. We hope you will invite former members who haven't been with us in a while, as well as friends and family who may not have a home church.

All are invited to the **potluck luncheon after worship** in the picnic shelter (weather permitting). Keep in mind, our kitchen has only one range right now, so **heating/cooking food here will be very limited**. Please plan your food accordingly.

This Week's Calendar

Sunday, August 23

- Sunday School, 9:30am
- Worship, 10:30am
- History Committee meeting, 4pm
- Vespers in the parsonage, 6pm

Monday–Friday

- Morning Prayer, 8:30am in the counting room;
Look for "Daily Word" on our website.

Tuesday, August 25

- Bible Study 10am and 6pm

Wednesday, August 26

- Classical Conversations home school, 8:30am–3pm
- Fun Bunch Lunch at Il Colosseo, 11:30am
- Adult Choir practice, 6:30pm

Thursday, August 27

- Rowan Smart Start, 10am–Noon
- Home school Dance class, 4pm

Sunday, August 30, Rally Sunday

- Sunday School, 9:30am
- Rally Sunday activities begin at 9:30am on the front lawn
- Worship, 10:30am
- Installation of Sunday School teachers, 10:30am
- Ice Cream Social, in the picnic shelter, 4pm
- Women's Yard Sale planning meeting, 5pm
- Vespers in the parsonage, 6pm

Recent Prayer Needs

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

- Bob Barringer – recovering from surgery
- Carolyn Canup – health concerns
- W. A. Cline – Hospice at home (*brother of Wayne Cline*)
- Jean and Jimmie Deal – health concerns
- Autumn Hill – health concerns
- Tammy Leazer – Autumn Care rehab
- Alesia Lewis – health concerns
- Danielle Martin and daughter Remy Mann, for God's presence in their home (*friends of Judy and Lindsay Lowman*)
- Chloe Monroe – recovering from surgery
- Stan Parnell – health concerns (nephew of Jimmy Earnhardt)
- Will Poplin – health concerns (*Ann Poplin's son*)
- George Saieg – acute health concern (*friend of St. Paul's members*)
- Linda Shirley – Autumn Care rehab
- Kelly Smith – health concerns (*friend of Karen Charles*)
- Kenny Willis – health concerns (*brother of Gina Wilhelm*)
- Hugh and Kathy Wilhelm – health concerns
- Jordan and Sarah Winter, whose newborn daughter Felicity passed away August 18 (*friends of Matthew and Lauren Holland*)

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.

Pray for Our Homebound and Long-Term Care

Bermuda Commons: Edna Chapman • *Terra Bella:* Della Jenkins

Trinity Oaks: Lottie Simpson, Allen Burnett • *Home:* Susan Beeker,

Barbara Deese, Sonya Eller, Shirley Hoosier, Ruth Julian,

Susie Page, Melinda Redding, Dottie Stancil, Jane Wilhelm



Thirteenth Sunday of Pentecost, Year A

Find the answers in today's lectionary readings from

Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 138; Romans 11:33-12:8; Matthew 16:13-20.

The English Standard Version is used to build this puzzle .

Solve online: <https://tinyurl.com/pentecost13A-crossword>

ACROSS

1. I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole...
6. Some people said Jesus was this Baptist.
7. Though many, we are one what?
8. This hand of the Lord delivers.
10. What Jesus gave the disciples in the Gospel Reading
13. Look to the rock from which you were...
14. Give attention to me, my people, and give this to me.
16. Paul describes God's ways as being...
18. The Lord increased the strength of the psalmist's what?
20. We should use our gifts in proportion to our what?
21. On this rock I will build my...
22. The one who gives or contributes, should do so with this quality.

DOWN

2. Some people said Jesus was this prophet.
3. The Lord preserves your life though you walk in the midst of this.
4. Be transformed by the renewal of your what?
5. Isaiah says they hope for the Lord.
9. Other people said Jesus was one of the prophets like this one.
11. Present your bodies as a living what?
12. The psalmist says this attribute of the Lord is great.
14. The Lord makes Zion's wilderness like this garden.
15. Lord, do not forsake the work of your...
17. Look to the what from which you were dug?
19. Isaiah says the earth will wear out like what?
21. Peter confessed, "You are the..."

St. Paul's Men's Annual Fish Fry – Saturday, September 19th

The time is fast approaching for another of our congregation's signature annual events. St. Paul's Men's Fish Fry will be held in the **picnic shelter on Saturday, September 19th, at 6:00pm.**

Proceeds from this year's fish fry will benefit St. Paul's Men's sponsorship of two students at Naomi's Heart Mission. There will be no drive-thru pickup. However, takeout boxes will be available.

We will have tickets on the lawn after service on Sunday, September 6th and 13th. **A minimum donation of \$15 for adults, \$7 for those under 12** is requested (under 3—free).

To make sure there's more than enough for you to enjoy, please **purchase your tickets ahead of time.** Only a very limited number of tickets will be sold at the event. We appreciate your understanding.

We look forward to another great fish fry—great food, great fellowship, and best of all, showing God's love and changing lives through Naomi's Heart Mission. This is also another great opportunity for you to invite those friends and family to come and experience our St. Paul's church family!

**Truly I tell you,
whatever you did for one
of the least of these
brothers and sisters of mine,
you did for me.**

Matthew 25:40

Previous Sunday's Stats

General Fund offering 8/16	\$14,010
Other offering 8/16	\$16,170
Worship attendance 8/16	183
Sunday School attendance reported 8/16	69

Children's Change Collection

Last week's total: \$219.50 Total so far: \$1,189.00
Children's change collections this quarter
will support St. Paul Lutheran Seminary.

In the last two+ years, the children have collected
\$28,922.62 for missions.

Total collected during the second quarter of 2026
for Marion Medical Mission: \$2,229.00.

Total collected 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 submitted 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

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wingman@stpaulslutheran.church

Rev. Dr. Mark Ryman, Pastor

pastor@stpaulslutheran.church

Pamela Cottingham, Secretary

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jtaylor783@aol.com

Judy Lowman, Treasurer

splcjlw63@gmail.com

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

Next week's lessons: Jeremiah 15:15–21; Psalm 26; Romans 12:9–21; Matthew 16:21–28

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