



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 2026

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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

Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Acolyte: Hudson Burnett • Crucifer: Hila Canup
Cantor: Andrew Baker • Lector: Jennifer Aldridge
Communion Assistants: Autumn Hill & Julie Johnson

This Week's Memory Verse

Owe no one anything,
except to love each other,
for the one who loves another
has fulfilled the law.

Romans 13:8



Memory Verse Aid

ONOA,
ETLEO,
FTOWLA
HFTL.

RI38

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “Jesus Loves Me”

Austin Lovelace

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: "God is So Good"

27

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

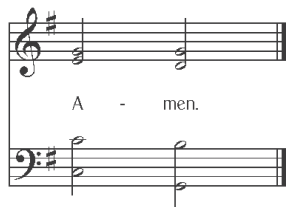
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Leader: The Lord be with you. Congregation: And with your spirit.

O Lord, always lead and follow us with your grace, that we may be still more intent on doing good. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, forever one God.

Please be seated.



A - men.

First Lesson: Ezekiel 33:7–9

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

The word of the Lord

¹Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,
and whose sin is | put away!

**²Happy are they to whom the LORD im- | putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there | is no guile!**

³While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,
because of my groaning | all day long.

**⁴For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my | sin to you,
and did not con- | ceal my guilt.

**⁶I said, “I will confess my transgressions | to the LORD.”
Then you forgave me the guilt | of my sin.**

⁷Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers
to you in | time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.

**⁸You are my hiding place; you preserve | me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.**

Second Lesson: Romans 13:1–10

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer.

⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. ⁸Owe

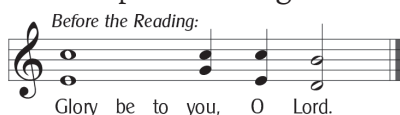
no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation *Please stand for the Gospel.*



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



Gospel: Matthew 18:1–20

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” ²And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

⁷Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye

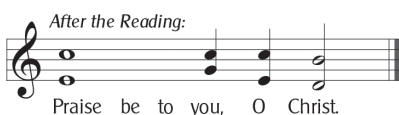
than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

¹⁰See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

¹⁵If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

The Gospel of our Lord



Confession of Faith

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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: "To Be a Kid Again"

Hymn: "Jesus Loves Me!"

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

Exhortation

Preface

86

Leader *Congregation*

The Lord be with you. 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, holy Father, for 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 upon his church, as he had promised, causing the whole earth to rejoice.

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

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,

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;**

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,



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.

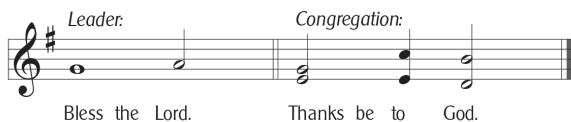
Glory be | to the | Father,
and to the | Son, and | to the | Holy | Spirit,

As it was in | the be- | ginning,
is now, and ever shall be, | world with- | out | end. A- | men

Benedicamus

93





Postlude: “A Trumpet Choral”

J. S. Bach

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.



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.

First Communion Classes

The second of the first communion **classes will be September 13**, just after worship in the pulpit side transept.

Chicken Pie Time

The Melissa Lura Circle will be making chicken pies again this year. In order to be sure you will get a pie, we will **pre-sell** them. A **sign-up sheet** will be in the Narthex on September 6th, 13th and 20th. The cost is \$8.00 for a small one and \$25.00 for a large pie. The frozen chicken pies will be ready for pick-up on Sunday, October 4th, after church. *Checks should be made payable to the Women of St. Paul's*. This makes a quick and easy supper, as the vegetables are cooked in the chicken pie. Thanks for your support.

For where two or three
are gathered in my name,
there am I among them.

— Matthew 18:20 —

This Week's Calendar

Sunday, September 6

- Sunday School, 9:30am
- Worship, 10:30am
- Grace Ridenhour Circle, transept after worship
- Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- Youth & Family Committee, 2pm
- Contemporary Choir practice, 4pm
- Vespers in the parsonage, 6pm

Monday–Friday

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

Monday, September 7, Labor Day

- Church office is closed for Labor Day

Tuesday, September 8

- Bible Study 10am and 6pm
- Trinity Oaks Rehab birthday party, 2:30pm
- Bonnie Bost Circle, 7pm

Wednesday, September 9

- Classical Conversations home school, break day
- Ellen Bumgarner Circle, 10am
- Adult Choir practice, 6:30pm
- Confirmation class, 7pm

Thursday, September 10

- Rowan Smart Start, 10am–Noon
- Food for Thought book bag packing at RHM, 10am
- Home school Dance class, 4pm

Friday, September 11

- Youth & Family clean-up day for homecoming Sunday, 6pm

Sunday, September 13, Homecoming Sunday

- Sunday School, 9:30am
- Worship, 10:30am
- First Communion class #2, after worship in the transept
- Homecoming potluck/covered-dish lunch, 12pm
- Christian Education Committee, 2pm
- Contemporary Choir practice, 4pm
- Vespers in the parsonage, 6pm

Kathy Ketchie Circle Schedule

September 20th, the Kathy Ketchie Circle will meet in the Sunday School room near the kitchen at 4pm. October 11th, and November 8th, we are back to second Sunday, and will meet in Sunday School room near the kitchen at 4pm. December 13th, we will be eating at a restaurant. Thanks! (Linda Behrendt)

St. Paul's Men's Annual Fish Fry – DATE CHANGE

St. Paul's Men's Fish Fry will be held in the **picnic shelter on Saturday, OCTOBER 3, 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, but takeout boxes will be available.

We will have **tickets** on the lawn after service on Sunday, September 20th and 27th. **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 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!

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 Deal – health concerns
- Michael Goodman – recovering from surgery
- Myralyn Goodman – health concerns
- Gary Hawks – health concerns (*friend of Jimmie Earnhardt*)
- Bonnie Hinson – recovering from surgery
- Tammy Leazer – Autumn Care Rehab
- Alesia Lewis – health concerns
- Chloe Monroe – recovering from surgery
- Stan Parnell – health concerns (*nephew of Jimmy Earnhardt*)
- Kensley Phipps – health concerns
- George Saieg – acute health concern (*friend of St. Paul's members*)
- Linda Shirley – recovering at home
- Kelly Smith – health concerns (*friend of Karen Charles*)
- Wayne Taylor – health concerns
- Kenny Willis – health concerns (*brother of Gina Wilhelm*)
- Hugh and Kathy Wilhelm – health concerns

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,
Bob McCanless, Susie Page, Melinda Redding, Dottie Stancil,
Jane Wilhelm

Previous Sunday's Stats

General Fund offering 8/30.....	\$5,630
Other offering 8/30.....	\$1,595
Worship attendance 8/30	176
Sunday School attendance reported 8/30.....	44

Children's Change Collection

Last week's total: \$158.50 Total so far: \$1,525.50

Children's change collections this quarter
will support St. Paul Lutheran Seminary.

In the last two+ years, the children have collected
\$29,259.12 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.

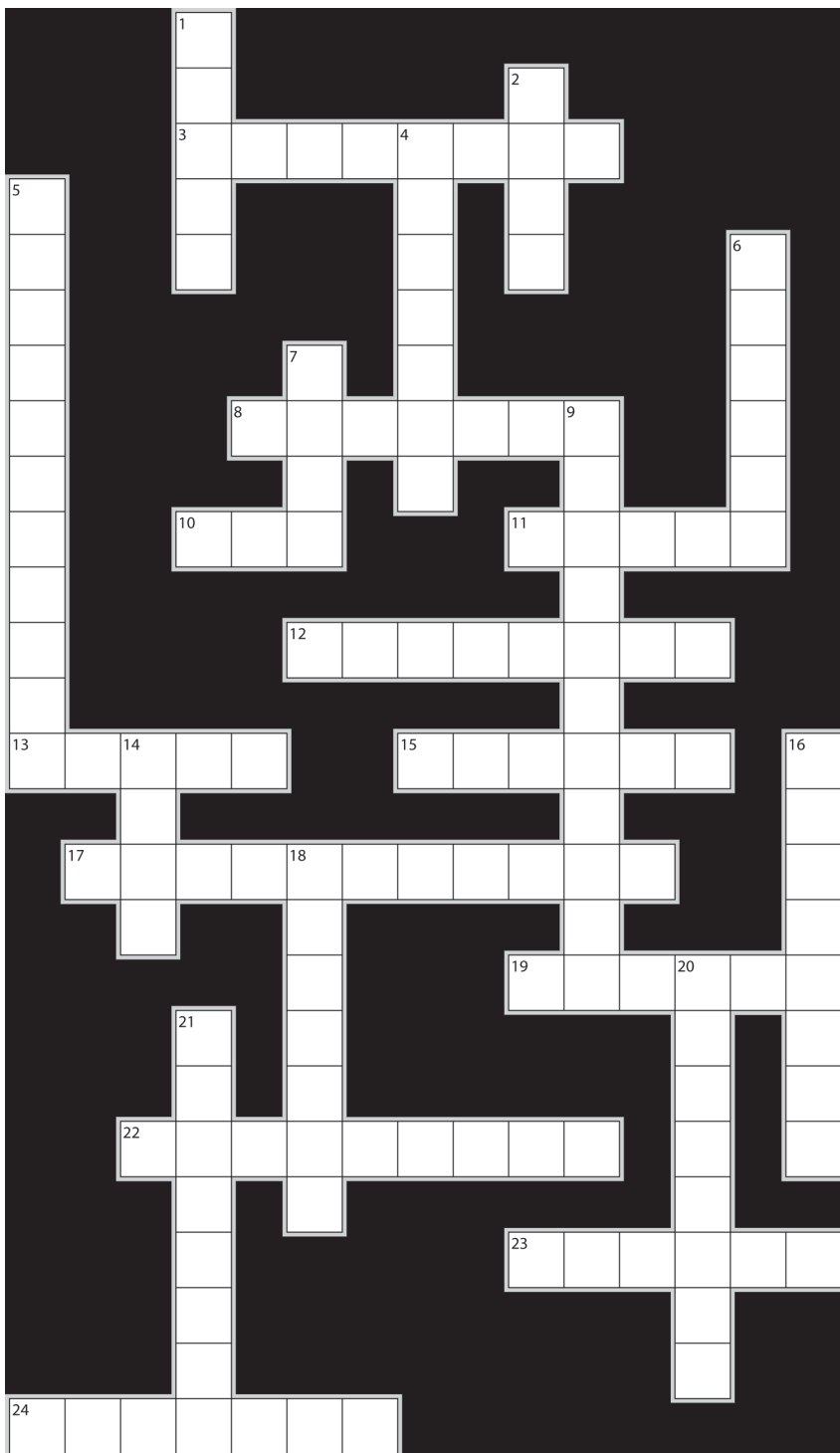
The total collected for Friends of Madagascar Mission
during the third quarter of 2025 was \$2,248.50.

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**.



Fifteenth Sunday of Pentecost, Year A

*Find the answers in today's lectionary readings from
Ezekiel 33:7-9; Psalm 32:1-7; Romans 13:1-10; Matthew 18:1-20.*

The English Standard Version is used to build this puzzle.

Solve online: <https://tinyurl.com/pentecost15A-crossword>

ACROSS

3. The law is summed up in this word: You shall love him as yourself.
8. Blessed is the one whose sin is what?
10. There is no authority except from him.
11. If Ezekiel did not warn the wicked, what would be on his hand?
12. Blessed is the one whose transgression is what?
13. Rulers do not bear this in vain.
15. If your brother refuses to listen to your charges against him, tell it to them.
17. It is necessary that these come.
19. It is not the will of the Father that one of these little ones should what?
22. Whoever causes a child who believe in Jesus to sin, it would be better for him to have what fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea?
23. The Lord was this place for David.
24. What was the watchman to give?

DOWN

1. When David did not confess, these wasted away.
2. If Ezekiel warns the wicked, he will have delivered his what?
4. Whoever does this like a child is the greatest in the kingdom.
5. Let everyone be subject to them.
6. Who was Ezekiel to warn in Israel?
7. Rulers are not a terror to this conduct.
9. The Lord surrounded David with these shouts.
14. Honor those to whom honor is...
16. What did God consider Ezekiel to be for Israel?
18. The Lord preserved David from this.
20. If the wicked does not turn from his way, he will die in his what?
21. Unless you turn and become like them, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.



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. Brian Lord, Pastor

wingman@stpaulslutheran.church

Rev. Dr. Mark Ryman, Pastor

pastor@stpaulslutheran.church

Pamela Cottingham, Secretary

secretary@stpaulslutheran.church

Dana Bost, Council President

Dana.Bost59@gmail.com

John Brock, Music Director

splcmusicalisbury@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: Genesis 50:15–21; Psalm 103:1–12; Romans 14:1–12; Matthew 18:21–35

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