



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2026

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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

Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Acolyte: Gracelyn Ziegler • Crucifer: Reese Goodman

Cantor: John Brock • Lector: Travis Alligood

Communion Assistants: Autumn Hill & Julie Johnson

This Week's Memory Verse

For as the heavens
are high above the earth,
so is his mercy great
upon those who fear him.

Psalm 103:11



Memory Verse Aid

FATH
AHATE,
SIHMG
UTWFH.

PI0311

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”

Jason Payne

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: “Stand Up, Stand Up, for Jesus”

78

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.

O Lord, help your people to avoid the infection of the evil one, and with pure hearts to follow you, our only Lord. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Please be seated.

A - men.

First Lesson: Genesis 50:15–21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But

Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God?
²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.
The word of the Lord

Psalter: Psalm 103:1–12

- ¹Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his | holy name.
- ²**Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and forget not | all his benefits.**
- ³He forgives | all your sins
and heals all | your infirmities;
- ⁴**He redeems your life | from the grave
and crowns you with mercy and | lovingkindness;**
- ⁵He satisfies you | with good things,
and your youth is renewed | like an eagle’s.
- ⁶**The LORD ex- | ecutes righteousness
and judgment for all who | are oppressed.**
- ⁷He made his ways | known to Moses
and his works to the chil- | dren of Israel.
- ⁸**The LORD is full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and | of great kindness.**
- ⁹He will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will he keep his an- | ger forever.
- ¹⁰**He has not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor rewarded us according | to our wickedness.**
- ¹¹For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
so is his mercy great upon | those who fear him.
- ¹²**As far as the east is | from the west,
so far has he removed our | sins from us.**

Second Lesson: Romans 14:1–12

- ¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything,

while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself.

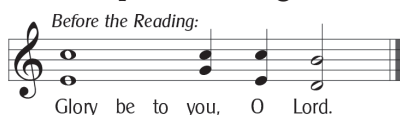
⁸For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." ¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation *Please stand for the Gospel.*



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

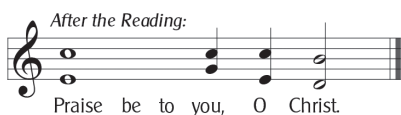


Gospel: Matthew 18:21–35

²¹Peter came up and said to [Jesus], "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven

times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

The Gospel of our Lord



Confession of Faith

81

Let us profess our faith with 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: "Paid in Full"

Hymn: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

II

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: "Peace Like a River/Amen!"

Adult Choir

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,



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;**

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

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: “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.

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.



Homecoming Worship and Covered-dish Lunch

Today is St. Paul's Homecoming Sunday. We are glad you are here. Everyone is invited to join us for the **potluck luncheon after worship** in the **Fellowship Hall**.

First Communion Classes

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

This Week's Calendar

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

Monday–Friday

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

Monday, September 14

- Finance Committee, 6:30pm
- Hama Lingle Circle, 7pm, at Susan Bernhardt's house

Tuesday, September 15

- Bible Study 10am and 6pm

Wednesday, September 16

- Classical Conversations home school, 8:30am–3pm
- Adult Choir practice, 6:30pm
- Confirmation class, 7pm

Thursday, September 17

- Rowan Smart Start, 10am–Noon
- Friendship Club, 10:30am, carpool to Speedy's Barbecue
- Home school Dance class, 4pm

Sunday, September 20

- Sunday School, 9:30am
- Worship, 10:30am
- First Communion for Stanton Fisher and Carson Holland
- Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- Kathy Ketchie Circle, 2pm
- Contemporary Choir practice, 4pm
- Vespers in the parsonage, 6pm

Binns-Counts Community Center

September is the month when the Women of the church collect **new toys** for the **Binns-Counts Christmas program**. Please place donations (ages newborn to 14) in the bins located in the Narthex and near the conference room. It is very helpful to receive the gifts in September, but **donations will be accepted until November 22nd**. Thank you for your participation.

Friendship Club

On September 17th, we will meet at the church at 10:30am to carpool to Lexington for lunch at 11:00am. After lunch we will go to Mr. Deal's home for the train ride. Please call Helen Gordon to let her know you will be going. Helen, 704-636-5002

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, to be paid at the time of pick-up. 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.

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!

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)

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
- Sandy Potts – health concerns (*friend of Dana & Crystal Bost*)
- 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
- Wanda Thomas – health concerns
(*sister of Dana Bost and Karen Deal*)
- Kenny Willis – health concerns (*brother of Gina Wilhelm*)
- Hugh and Kathy Wilhelm – health concerns
- Wayne Wilhelm – health concerns

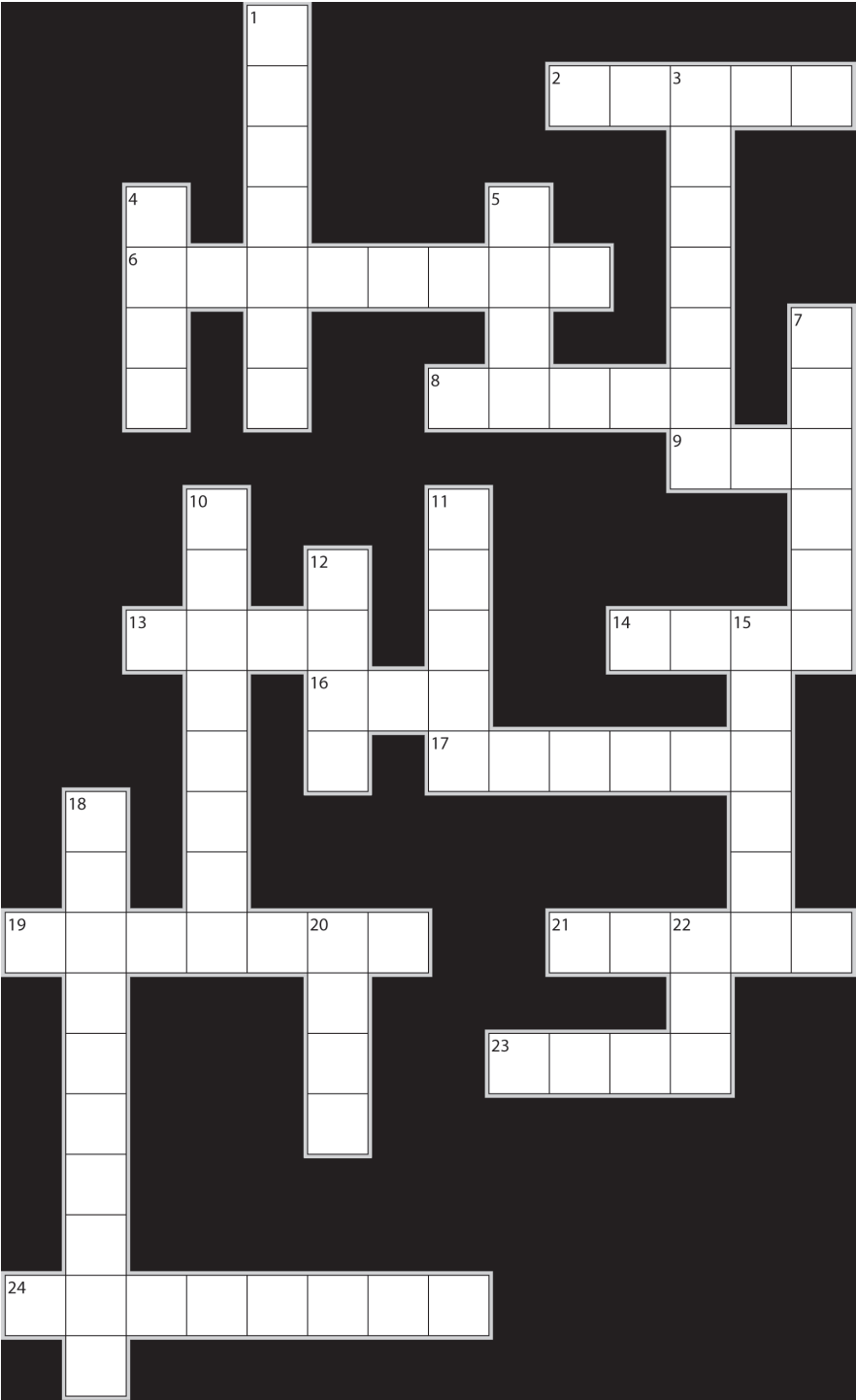
For a longer list of prayer needs, please consult The Monthly Epistle.

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



Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost, Year A

Find the answers in today's lectionary readings from

Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:1-12; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35.

The English Standard Version is used to build this puzzle.

Solve online: <https://tinyurl.com/pentecost16A-crossword>

ACROSS

2. We must forgive from here.
6. Do not quarrel over these.
8. We are not to forgive this many times but seventy-seven times.
9. How many thousands of talents did the servant owe his king?
13. When Jacob died, Joseph's brothers thought he would _____ them.
14. The king had this for his servant.
16. Like Joseph, the Lord redeems our lives from this place.
17. This kingdom may be compared to a king who settled his accounts.
19. None of us lives to whom?
21. The Lord is slow to what?
23. Joseph's brothers meant evil against him, but God meant it for what?
24. Do not forget all the Lord's what?

DOWN

1. Joseph's brothers lied to him, saying Jacob commanded Joseph to do this for his brothers.
3. Each one of us will give this to God.
4. Bless the Lord, O my what?
5. Every one of these will bow to Christ.
7. The manner in which Joseph spoke to his brothers
10. The Lord is merciful and what else?
11. The parable in the Gospel Reading is about this petition of the Lord's Prayer.
12. When his brothers asked forgiveness, Joseph did this.
15. Every what will confess that Christ is Lord?
18. The Lord does not deal with us according to our what?
20. If we live, we live to whom?
22. Joseph said to his brothers, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of _____?"

Previous Sunday's Stats

General Fund offering 9/6.....	\$10,131
Other offering 9/6	\$3,162
Worship attendance 9/6	152
Sunday School attendance reported 9/6.....	67

Children's Change Collection

Last week's total: \$138.00 Total so far: \$1,663.50

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

In the last two+ years, the children have collected
\$29,397.12 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**.



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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Judy Lowman, Treasurer

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

Next week's lessons: Isaiah 55:6–9; Psalm 27:1–9; Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30; Matthew 20:1–16

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