

St Paul Partners October 2009

St. Paul Lutheran Church-Startown
www.stpaulstartown.org

The Rev. Chris Christopher, Pastor
church office: 828-464-3853

Mission Statement

We the people of St. Paul are called and empowered by God-
To **Witness** through Christ; To **Welcome** everyone through the Holy Spirit:
To **Worship** with joy; and
To **Work** with God to meet the needs of our community.

This month's newsletter is sponsored by
The St. Paul Fellowship Sunday School Class

250th Anniversary Celebration

On Sunday, October 11th, we will celebrate our common heritage with St. Paul Reformed Church which began in 1759 at Old St. Paul's Church. We will have our regular 1st Service here at 8:15 and Sunday School at 9:20. But for the 10:30 Service, we will congregate across Startown Road at the old church of St. Paul Reformed, for a joint worship service with their congregation. Following that service, we will dismiss to the Mission Campus for a BBQ Lunch with all the fixin's, and an afternoon of fellowship, games and special music with CrossMark and St. Paul Reformed Bluegrass Band. Make plans to participate and celebrate the Startown Spirit with our long-time friends and neighbors!

Dates to Remember

- Oct. 11th 250th Anniversary Celebration with St. Paul's Reformed, p. 1
- Oct. 18th Annual Meeting, p. 6
- First Communion Celebration, p. 8
- Oct. 25th Youth Sunday
- Oct. 31st Trunk-N-Treat, p.10
- Nov. 1st All Saints' Day
- Nov. 7th Church Work Day
- Nov. 21st Red Cross Blood Drive, p.10
- Nov. 25th Community Thanksgiving Service, p. 11
- Dec. 5th Living Nativity, p. 10
- Dec. 6th Limestone College Choir Christmas Concert here, p.10
- Jan. 3rd Congregational Challenge "Read the Bible in 90 Days" begins, p.14

Results of the Churchwide Assembly – page 15
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Book of Faith Activities for September 2009

<u>Date</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Bible Passages</u>	<u>Weekly Reading</u>
10/4	Jesus, the Way	John 14: 1-12	Romans 1-5
10/11	The Adulterous Woman	John 8: 1-11	Romans 6-7
10/18	Feeding the 5000	John 6: 1-15	Romans 8-9
10/25	Jesus and Nicodemus	John 3: 1-17	Romans 10-14

True or False

- 1. If you know Jesus, you will know the Father. (John 14)
- 2. God's wrath is let loose on idol worshippers. (Romans 1)
- 3. Jesus allows only the sinless to enforce the Law. (John 8)
- 4. Christ died for the righteous, the godly. (Romans 5)
- 5. After eating lunch with Jesus, the crowd desired to make Him king. (John 6)
- 6. In ALL things, God works for the good of all who love him. (Romans 8)
- 7. Nicodemus is a Jew of high standing. (John 3)
- 8. Those mature in faith are not to judge those weaker in faith. (Romans 14)

Book of Faith Activities for September 2009

Pastor Chris will be offering a video-based class that would last for seven weeks on:

"How Lutherans Interpret Scripture."

Class times and dates are flexible, so consider this wonderful learning event. He can even meet with two classes, a day and an evening session if there is interest. The class sessions are an hour long, but will last no more than 1 hour and 15 minutes each, to allow for discussion if needed.

He is also willing to do the class with adult Sunday School classes, as it is video based and he can join the class after the video is started (the video segments are usually no more than 25 minutes each).

If you have an interest in such a class, please contact him at 464-3853, or pastorchris@stpaulstartown.org

Book of Faith Focus for September 2009

“The Gospel of John”

What is the main theme in the Bible book of John?

The main theme in the Bible book of John is to prove conclusively that Jesus is the Son of God and that all who believe in Him will have eternal life. The key verses of the book of John are John 20:30-31 where we are told, "Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

The history of John the disciple of Jesus was well known. He was the son of Zebedee, brother of James and called a "Son of Thunder." The book of John was written after the destruction of Jerusalem, in A.D. 70 and before John's exile to the island of Patmos.

Of the eight miracles recorded in this book, six are unique, (among the Gospels), to John, as is the "Upper Room Discourse" (chapters 14-17). Over 90 percent of John is unique to his Gospel - John does not contain a genealogy or any record of Jesus birth, childhood, temptation, transfiguration, appointment of the disciples, nor any account of Jesus parables, ascension, or great commission.

In every chapter, Jesus deity is revealed and Jesus identity is understood by the titles He is given. The titles of Jesus in the gospel of John includes Son of God, Messiah, the Word, the only Son, Lamb of God, true bread, life, resurrection, and vine. And the formula is "I am." When Jesus uses this phrase, He affirms His preexistence and eternal deity. Jesus says, I am the bread of life (6:35); I am the good shepherd (10:11, 14); I am the resurrection and the life (11:25); I am the way, the truth, and the life (14:6); and I am the true vine (15:1).

John makes it clear that Jesus is not just a man; He is the eternal son of God. Because Jesus is God's Son, we can perfectly trust what He says. By trusting Him, we can gain an open mind to understand God's message and fulfill His purpose in our lives.

www.AllAboutJesusChrist.org

Treasurer's Report for August 2009

GENERAL FUND

	<u>August Budgeted</u>	<u>August Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>
INCOME				
Contributions	26,149.83	24,390.15	209,198.64	174,730.22

MAJOR ACCOUNT AREAS

EXPENSES

Benevolence	25,149.82	2,201.00	20,341.36	17,858.00
Pastoral Support	9,497.00	7082.21	75,896.00	63,887.32
Finance Ministry	129.17	56.01	1,033.36	840.01
Support Ministry	8,764.76	8,346.48	70,118.08	65,762.30
Property Ministry	2,859.16	2,922.34	22,873.28	23,640.97
Learning Ministry	715.41	377.85	5,723.28	4,651.46
Worship Ministry	512.07	-257.92	4,096.56	1,237.23
Witness Ministry	522.90	123.52	2,583.20	985.34
Communications	250.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00
Welcome Ministry	166.66	107.68	1,333.28	290.96
<u>Youth Ministry</u>	<u>400.02</u>	<u>-64.12</u>	<u>3,200.16</u>	<u>234.69</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	26,149.82	20,895.05	209,198.56	179,388.28

INCOME - EXPENSES **3,495.10** **-4,658.06**

August 30 Checkbook balance: **1,909.67**

<u>GOOD SAMARITAN</u>	August 1, 2009 Balance	608.48
<u>FUND</u>	Contributions	2,580.15
	Paid out (Help given))	515.92
	August 31, 2009 Balance	2,672.71

We had a good month financially but are still behind year-to-date when we compare income to expenses.

Stewardship Ministry

MAKE IT SIMPLE

The Stewardship Ministry extends a sincere thank you to all who participated in our Make It Simple Breakfast. We hope you enjoyed not only the meal, but also the DVD presentation highlighting all the work done by our ministries at St. Paul. The video can also be seen on the St. Paul website.

Thank you also to the members of the Stewardship and Welcome Ministries, and once again to Bradley and Sharron Scronce. Each of these St. Paul partners exemplify the service we need from each member of our congregation.

We should also thank the ELCA for providing the **Make It Simple Program** to its member congregations **at no cost**. The theme has certainly been timely in our current economy, and will hopefully be an idea that you can focus on in the coming year. Less complicated and less cluttered lives should enable us to focus more on what God has called us to do - and less of the busyness that the devil uses to distract us from our mission.

If you did not have an opportunity to turn in your Time & Talent and Commitment cards, we encourage you to bring them to worship in the next few weeks, or drop them by the church office - whichever is "simpler" for you. This is your church, and we need your support to serve, thrive and grow.

Leadership Ministry

Council President: Otis Morton
Secretary: Gail Blackburn

Vice-president: Steve Bumgarner
Treasurer: Howard Reinhardt

Council: Dick Walker, Robin Rudisill, Glenn Hoke, Frank Moxham, Roger Frye, Scott Bowman, Martha Staley, Barbara Sloop, and Vivian Scott.

Annual Meeting Announcement

The Annual Meeting of St. Paul Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, October 18, 2009 at 9:30am in the Sanctuary. The items of business will include: election of 4 members to Council, consider and approve a budget for 2010, and consider any other business before the congregation.

Council Highlights – September 10, 2009

- Motion approved to accept the resignation of Joe Kleya, Sexton
- Motion approved to place a plaque for Joe Kleya on the Memorial list and the purchase with funds from Memorial at a cost of appx \$64.
- Motion approved to place a plaque for Pastor Yount on the Memorial list and to purchase with funds from Memorial at a cost of \$64.
- Motion approved to allow second service on October 11, 2009 to be held in the old UCC church building. (This is the joint service for the 250th Centennial Celebration with St Paul's Reformed and St Paul Lutheran).
- Motion approved to allow the Jr Youth to hold a fundraiser to raise money for a retreat.
- Motion approved to allow Pastor Chris to compose a letter regarding the social statement on the ELCA Ministry policy concerning ordination with review and approval of President Morton and all council members to be printed in the Newsletter.
- Motion approved to discontinue sending the excess money (1/2 of balance over \$1,000) from the Good Samaritan Fund to ECCCM each quarter.
- Motion approved to accept the recommended budget with corrections and present to the congregation.

Finance Ministry

Finance Committee Members are: Howard Reinhardt, Treasurer/Finance chair; Judy Hoke, Amanda Lowman, Martha Staley-Stewardship Chair, Jerry Sweet, and Dick Walker.

Our church has held back on two expenses that were included in this year's budget: ECCCM and Corner Table (\$1200 each) because our income has not been sufficient enough to meet our expenses. At the end of August we have spent \$4658.06 more than we have had contributed.

Do you pay other expenses on line with "bill Pay"? You can set out church up as a vendor and use your envelope number as the account number and make your church financial contribution that way. That way you can easily give to the church even if you forget to bring your envelope or your check to church or if you are unable to be here. Many people are using this easy way of paying bills and you can include the church in the same way.

The committee is working on establishing a scholarship program with some money that has been given to the memorials. More information will come when details have been worked out and approved by the Church Council.

Howard Reinhardt, Finance Committee Chair and Treasurer

Learning Ministry

First Communion

We will celebrate some of our young Christians growth in faith, as they have studied with their parents and begun their Lutheran theological training concerning the practice of Holy Communion. On Sunday, October 18 we will gather with them at the Table of the Lord and celebrate their growth in this means of grace and their introduction to the Lord's walk with them.

Confirmation Ministry 2009-10

This year's **first year** catechism students will receive instruction weekly during Sunday School, studying the Old Testament. The instructors are Robin Fincannon and Barbara Sloop.

This year's **second year** students will meet each Sunday afternoon from 5-6:15pm, studying the "Life and Ministry of Jesus." The instructor is Pastor Chris.

Both sections of Confirmation students have a daily devotional homework assignment and a weekly quiz on the previous weeks lesson. By the completion of their Confirmation ministry, they will have a knowledgeable introduction to the Scriptures, a basis for their Confirmation Vows(their adult profession of faith) and a foundation for a life-long journey with Christ.

Pastor's Honor Roll

We have 11 elementary youth participating in the Pastor's Honor Roll ministry this fall. To make the Honor Roll, they must accumulate 90 or more points each month. They access points by: Sunday School Attendance, Worship Attendance, Bible Story reading and completion of a weekly worksheet, memory work, and Youth Group attendance. Pray for them and give thanks for their parents who help and support their efforts to **Grow in the Lord and His Word.**

Women of the ELCA - (WELCA)

The Sisters in Spirit will meet on Monday evening, October 5th at 6pm. If you are not part of a Women's Circle, come and check us out.

The Sunshine Circle's October Meeting On Monday, October 12th, 11am, the Sunshine Circle will be having as our guest speaker Eva Narvaez, Volunteer Manager from Palliative CareCenter & Hospice of Catawba Valley along with our very own Vivian Scott who will talk about the Volunteer Program, and how you can give back to your Community by being a Volunteer. All are invited to hear this talk. Lunch will be served afterwards.

RSVP: Linda Sweet or Helen Bowman.

Welcome Ministry

The Welcome Committee is chaired by Jane Bumgarner. Those on the committee are: Rita Bass, Steve Bumgarner, Jeanette Coulter, Kristi Grimes, Judy Hoke, Gloria Lentz, Laura Lutz, Glenda Shook, and Linda Sweet.

The month of September has been a very busy month for the Welcome Committee. Working behind the scenes the committee set up, decorated and hosted St. Paul's Homecoming Dinner, Sunday - September 13. The dinner was very well attended...the food was outstanding (what good cooks St. Paul has!)... and it was so nice to sit with friends and enjoy a time of fellowship and laughter.

Working with the Stewardship Committee, Welcome prepared the meal for our Simple Breakfast on Commitment Sunday, September 27th. It was a wonderful morning of good food, good fellowship, and wonderful invitations to share in the work of the Lord here at St. Paul – Startown.

A great big 'THANK YOU' goes out to the Welcome Committee for sharing their time and talents in service to our Lord.

Special Events and Communications

Keith Frye chairs the Special Events Sub-Committee of the Witness Committee
Frank Moxham chairs the Communications Sub-Committee.

Trunk – N - Treat

We will hold our annual Trunk-n-Treat festival on Saturday, October 31st in the church parking lot and fellowship hall. This is a huge event in our community each year drawing over 200 families. And it is fun for St. Paul to get together and "out-do" each other in trunk decorations and costumes. Set up is anytime after lunch on Saturday, October 31st. The fun begins at 5pm and lasts until 8pm. So please, consider participating in this wonderful way to meet the young families in our community, showing them St. Paul's hospitality, and having fun besides. Sign-up sheets will be going around adult Sunday School classes for parking spaces or call Keith Frye (461-0001) to let him know that you are going to "Trunk" with us. See you there!

Red Cross Blood Drive

St. Paul will host another Red Cross Blood Drive on Saturday, November 21st, from 10am -3pm. Our goal is 30 units of blood. Come and "Give the Gift of Life".

Living Nativity

Walk in the brisk evening air on Saturday, December 5th at our Mission Campus, while taking in different scenes that tell the story of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The event begins at 6pm, with each walking tour taking about 20 minutes. We will have golf carts available for those unable to walk well. This is a great event for all ages. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors and come join us!

Limestone College Choir Christmas Concert

Enjoy an afternoon concert by the Limestone College Concert Choir as they perform carols and songs that lead us joyfully into the Christmas Season. The concert, on Sunday, Dec. 6th, begins at 3pm and will be followed with a reception. Invite all the music lovers you know and join us for a wonderful afternoon of great music.

November Newsletter deadline

The deadline for newsletter articles or calendar information for the November Newsletter is October 25th. Email your copy to Pastor Chris ***and*** Cheryl for inclusion in the newsletter. Please honor this deadline so the office staff and volunteers can communicate the news in a complete and timely manner.

Worship Ministry

The Worship Ministry is chaired by Karen Bowman. Members include: Kathy Frye, Jan Mitchem, Sissy Moxham, Charlene Scott, Vivian Scott, Trish Scronce, Denise Sigmon, Kathy Simmons, and Nancy Walker.

Carolyn Sosebee Concert: Carolyn Sosebee and her twin sister, Cathy McGill will be in concert at Unity Baptist Church in Gastonia, on Sunday evening, October 11, 2009, at 6:30. We invite you to join us, and we would greatly appreciate your prayers as we prepare and present.

A Wise Option: This year members have been given the option to use peace lilies rather than floral designs in the sanctuary. There are, of course, occasions that members definitely want or prefer fresh flowers. However for those who have chosen to use the peace lilies through the first 33 weeks of 2009 a total of **\$500** has been channeled into other needed funds: the general fund - \$300, Good Samaritan - \$150 and memorials - \$50. The use of peace lilies is an economical alternative and a good way to help our general funds.

Thank you to all our members who generously donate flowers, lilies, and newsletter support; provide wine, bread, food and give of their time, talents and resources in many and various areas.

October 11th – St. Paul and our sister church, The United Church of Christ, will hold a 250th year celebration. A combined service will be held at the old UCC church across the street at 10:30. A BBQ lunch will follow at the Pavilion. Fun, games and activities will begin at 1:00 and at 2:00 Cross Mark will present a concert. This will be a wonderful day of worship, fellowship, food and music.

October 18th – Holy Communion will be celebrated with our children and parents who have just completed their Holy Communion Family instruction. This will be a special celebration of their growth in faith and understanding.

November 1st – All Saints Sunday will be celebrated. If you have someone you would like to be remembered on that day, please call the church office or fill out the bulletin insert and drop in the offering plate.

A Little Church Humor - A man and his son went to church, and when they came out the man was complaining that the service was too long, the preacher no good, and the singing off-key. Finally the little boy said, "*Daddy, I thought it was pretty good for a dollar.*"

Youth Ministry

The Youth Committee is chaired by Steve and Amy Morton. The members are: Marty Coulter, Adam Fincannon, Robin Fincannon, Judy Herman, Chantae Lail, Amanda McKinney, Michelle Potter, Christine Price, Trinity Price, Robin Rudisill, and Charity Stewart.

Sr. Youth Schedule (Pastor Chris – advisor)

Date	Activities	Time	Meeting Place
Sunday, 10/4	Game Night	6:30 - 8pm	Fellowship Hall
Sunday, 10/11	BBQ/Games	12-4 pm	Mission Campus
Sunday, 10/18	Servant Event	6:30 - 8pm	Fellowship Hall
Sunday, 10/25	“Jesus, Justice, Jazz Concert” at LRU		12pm – 8pm
Saturday, 10/31	Trunk-n-Treat	4 - 8:30pm	Fellowship Hall

Jesus, Justice, and Jazz Concert at Lenoir Rhyne University.

Musical artists Agape, Lost and Found, and Rachel Kurtz are on tour to help change the world. Join them for a powerful and exciting evening of music, storytelling, and encouragement in your journey of faith. They will be at Lenoir-Rhyne University on Oct. 25 from 3:00 p.m. until approximately 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$15 plus two items for the food pantry. Prior to the event, the artists are challenging each participant to bring at least \$20 to support ELCA World Hunger. These donations will be counted toward the \$1 million goal of the Youth Challenge. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall here following 2nd Service and go to lunch, and then go to LR for the Youth Gathering.

Jr. Youth (grades 5-8) –Michelle Potter, leader

The Junior Youth Group (grades 5-8) will be holding a fundraiser to raise money to attend a Faith Alive weekend later this year. The youth have been working very hard creating homemade holiday cards and will be selling them before and after both services from October 25-December 13. There are several different designs and will be sold in sets of 5 for \$7.50. Please support our junior youth & buy a set of cards! Thank-you!

TLC – The Little Christians (grades 1-4)- Amy Morton, leader

Watch the bulletins for upcoming TLC youth activities.

Little Lambs (age 3 through Kindergarten)- Chantae Lail, leader

Watch the bulletins for upcoming Little Lambs youth activities.

Community Ministries

Thrivent Builds – Habitat For Humanity Project

I am writing to update you on the Thrivent Builds with Habitat 2009 project. The house has been built with the volunteer support of 152 volunteers with 139 (91%) being Lutheran and 78 (51%) being Thrivent members. These statistics are inspiring throughout the Southeast region for the Thrivent Builds with Habitat program! The house has been dedicated and another Catawba County family has been given a "hand up" (not a handout)--a shot at home ownership that might never have been a reality for them otherwise!

To date \$6616.01 has been given in 2009. There was \$689.93 left over from the 2008 build. This leaves \$779.06 to be raised for the 2009 Thrivent Builds with Habitat House for us to meet our \$8085 pledge to make the project a reality.

Any donation large or small would be greatly appreciated as we seek to complete the financial commitment to the 2009 build. Should you, your church, or anyone you know who has a heart for this ministry choose to donate, the check should be made out to CVC-Thrivent Builds and should be mailed to:

Denise Sellers
134 37th Avenue PI NW
Hickory, NC 28601.

Every donation is totally tax deductible and an acknowledgement of your donation will be sent to all donors. Any donation large or small would be greatly appreciated so that we can wrap up the 2009 TBH project.



Residential Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Collection

When: Saturday, November 7th (*Rain or Shine*)

Where: LP Frans Stadium Parking Lot – Hickory

How: Just pull up, and they will offload for you.

What:

Electronics: computers, monitors, TVs, cell phones,
VCRs, stereos, calculators, fax machines, etc.

Household Wastes: batteries, paint, solvents, shellacs, wood sealers,
wood preservatives, cleaners, drain openers, etc.

Automotive: car batteries, oil, brake fluid, antifreeze, starter fluid

Miscellaneous: pesticides, insecticides, poisons, weed killers, acids, bases,
kerosene, pool chemicals, gas cylinders, metallic mercury

WHAT: READ THE BIBLE IN 90 DAYS

Why: We are People of the Book and therefore should read the Book

How: We will provide materials, classes to help understand what you have read, sermon series that highlights the current readings, and encouragement along the way.

Who: Everyone at St. Paul, yes, even our children. The children will have different, age appropriate materials, but should be included in the challenge.

When: The Challenge begins on Sunday, January 3rd and its completion will be celebrated on Easter Sunday, April 4th

Just 12 Pages a Day - about 45 minutes a day.

The Bible in 90 Days' Whole-Church Challenge provides everything that's needed to help a church encourage its members to read through God's revelation to his people for the ages. In less time than it takes to read 4 pages of the USA Today, your church can read the entire Bible, from cover to cover, in 90 days. It's a big challenge with big rewards. Imagine the powerful transformation of your church as you read every page of God's Word. Accomplish it in 13 short weeks - with benefits that will multiply for the rest of your lives.

The Learning Ministry and the Worship Ministry are jointly sponsoring this Challenge. Watch for further details.

The 2009 National Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America held its biennial National Assembly during the week of August 17-23 in Minneapolis, MN. There were 1045 Voting Members present to make decisions regarding the practice of ministry in the ELCA. Voting Members were elected by majority votes at each of the 64 ELCA Synod Assemblies. Thus they represent the whole of the church. Sixty percent of them were laity, and 40% were clergy. There was a 50/50 ratio of men/women.

A number of important issues were discussed and decided.

1. We will enter into a Full Communion Covenant with the United Methodist Church. That means many things, but most practically that we can share clergy, ie... Methodists can serve ELCA congregations, and ELCA pastors can serve Methodist congregations. We are already in full communion covenants with the Episcopal Church, the Moravian Church, the Reformed Church, the Presbyterian Church (USA), and the United Church of Christ. (vote: 958-51)
2. The Lutheran Malaria Initiative: In conjunction with the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, Lutheran World Relief, and the UN, to help eradicate malaria in the Sub-Sahara region of Africa through education, environmental development, and purchase of mosquito netting for susceptible areas. (Vote: 989-11)
3. The Social Statement: "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust" was approved as the church's statement on Human Sexuality. This is a result of the studies from congregations throughout the ELCA in 2004-6. It addressed marriage and faithfulness, cohabitation, child pornography, sex slave trafficking, prostitution, and same-gender relationships. Needed a 2/3 majority to pass. (Vote: 676-338)
4. The most controversial issues emerged around the question of allowing congregations to call as pastors, practicing homosexuals in long term, monogamous relationships. According to the Robert's Rules, this needed a simple majority for passage. The motion passed, allowing congregations to call persons in such relationships. (Vote: 559-451)
However, within this motion, there is a "bound conscience" clause that affirms the right of congregations to call whomever they feel is the best pastoral candidate. In this clause, no congregation will be required to interview or call anyone who is homosexual if it is against their understanding of Holy Scripture.
5. Approved a motion to allow the church to bless same sex relationships. (Vote: 619-402)
6. Approved a motion to allow synods the same bound conscience option as congregations. (Vote: 667-307)

St. Paul Lutheran Church Congregational Council Response

We have deliberately waited to respond so we could have a better idea of exactly what these votes mean for the ELCA, for the NC Synod, and for us at St. Paul. Pastor Chris has just returned from Lutheridge where the Bishop met with the pastors from the NC Synod to discuss the Assembly and the decisions that were made. Currently, the Bishop and the NC Synod Council are working to clarify some of the theological, legal, and practical issues.

What is going on around the NC Synod?

- A new denomination is forming, called CORE (Lutheran Coalition for ReNewal) as a response to this vote, and some congregations have already started the process of leaving the ELCA.

- Some congregations have decided to withhold their benevolence until they are satisfied that their offerings are not supporting something they do not believe in.
- Some congregations have adopted a "Bound Conscience" Statement that states their intentions and ministry practices.
- Most congregations are simply waiting to see how this will "shake out" at the Synod level before they move forward with any formal response.

What is going on at St. Paul?

We fall in the category of most congregations in NC and are simply waiting, watching, and listening. Information is being gathered for the different options in front of us, and we will discuss them. At the present time, we are continuing to give our benevolence gifts, as the agencies and institutions of the NC Synod, such as Lutheran Services for the Aging, Lutheran Family Services, Lutheran Social Services, Lenoir Rhyne University, Southern Seminary, Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Hunger Relief, and Lutheran Campus Ministries depend on our gifts to continue their ministry on our behalf.

In the mean time, Pastor Chris is meeting with individuals and families who have questions and would like to discuss them. If you would like to meet with him, please call. The Bishop is available to discuss the differing options with us. The Council will continue to keep you updated on any developments.

Faithfully Serving:

Otis Morton, Steve Bumgarner, Gail Blackburn, Dick Walker, Robin Rudisill, Glenn Hoke, Frank Moxham, Roger Frye, Scott Bowman, Martha Staley, Barbara Sloop, Vivian Scott, and Pastor Chris