



THE EPISTLE

Volume 6 Issue 11

St Paul Lutheran Church

November 2007

From the Pastor's Desk

Wednesday of Pentecost 21
Oct. 24, 2007
Muslims, Christians and Peace

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

November 11th, 2007
Following the 11:00 AM Service

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On Oct. 12, 2007, over 100 Muslim leaders and scholars addressed a letter to Christian leaders around the world. Included in those addressed was, naturally, Mark Hanson, our presiding bishop and President of the Lutheran World Federation. In this letter entitled "A Common Word between Us and You", which you can read in its entirety at http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/11_10_07_letter.pdf, these Muslim leaders call for peace between Christians and Muslims. They write,

Muslims and Christians together make up well over half of the world's population. Without peace and justice between these two religious communities, there can be no meaningful peace in the world. The future of the world depends on peace between Muslims and Christians.

The basis for this peace and understanding already exists. It is part of the very foundational principles of both faiths: love of the One God, and love of the neighbour. These principles are found over and over again in the sacred texts of Islam and Christianity. The Unity of God, the necessity of love for Him, and the necessity of love of the neighbour is thus the common ground between Islam and Christianity.¹

Throughout the following pages, these leaders and scholars quote extensively from the texts of Qur'an, the Torah and the Gospels to show that love of God and love of neighbor are foundational pieces for both Islam and Christianity. They then invite Christians into the arena of peacemaking through this shared territory.

To say that there is a great deal of mistrust and animosity between Christians and Muslims is perhaps an understatement. Certainly looking back over the past millennium, the Crusades, the wars waged over the Holy Land, are a terrible part of shared history. The attacks of September 11, 2001 led by Muslim extremists, governments of predominantly Muslim nations who sponsor such terrorists, and the prejudicial images fed to us by the media only fan the flames of our hatred for each other and feed our animosities.

Yet, we must not believe that fear and loathing are the only possible stances to take toward one another. In this letter over one hundred Muslim leaders from around the world agree. There is a broad area

¹"A Common Word," p. 2

where we may come together and at the very least recognize the humanity of the other. By invoking the two commandments of love, Christians are reminded that our love of neighbor is firmly rooted in the love of God, since all human beings are created in the image of God. We find ourselves in a world where insularity and parochialism are not options if we truly desire to live out these commandments.

Granted, when there are voices who refuse to behave as we do, who call for hatred and violence (and those voices exist in both Christianity and Islam), we must resist. There are hard obstacles to be overcome that much is certain. But our discipleship, our following of Jesus, demands that we not look for easy answers that would allow us to ostracize others, even if they seek our harm. We continue to bear witness to the faithful God who sought reconciliation with a fallen humanity, and who is still active restoring relationships and bringing true peace to people on earth. Understand what I am saying, this call to work for peace among our Muslim neighbors is not a call for appeasement. We are not simply to capitulate to something less than a true peace, which is not peace, but domination of one over another. We are called to work for that peace which God promises will be upon the earth when God's Kingdom comes. As we work toward that goal by God's grace, we must look upon each other as inherently bearing the dignity of being one created by God in the divine image.

In the document "Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions" (*Nostra Aetate*) from the Second Vatican Council, the following statement, which I believe is true for all Christians, is made.

We cannot truly call on God, the Father of all, if we refuse to treat in a brotherly way any man, created as he is in the image of God. Man's relation to God the Father and his relation to men his brothers are so linked together that Scripture says: "He who does not love does not know God" (1 John 4:8).

No foundation therefore remains for any theory or practice that leads to discrimination between man and man or people and people, so far as their human dignity and the rights flowing from it are concerned.

The Church reproves, as foreign to the mind of Christ, any discrimination against men or harassment of them because of their race, color, condition of life, or religion. On the contrary, following in the footsteps of the holy Apostles Peter and Paul, this sacred synod ardently implores the Christian faithful to "maintain good fellowship among the nations" (1 Peter 2:12), and, if possible, to live for their part in peace with all men,⁽¹⁴⁾ so that they may truly be sons of the Father who is in heaven.⁽¹⁵⁾₂

Let us then accept the letter from our Muslim neighbors with the faithfulness and hope in which it was offered. And as we engage the world in our lives of faith, let us be agents of peace to all whom we encounter, so that we may continue to witness to the peace God intends for all.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Brian

²Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions", *Vatican Council II*, Costello Publishing, Northport, New York, 1996, p. 57

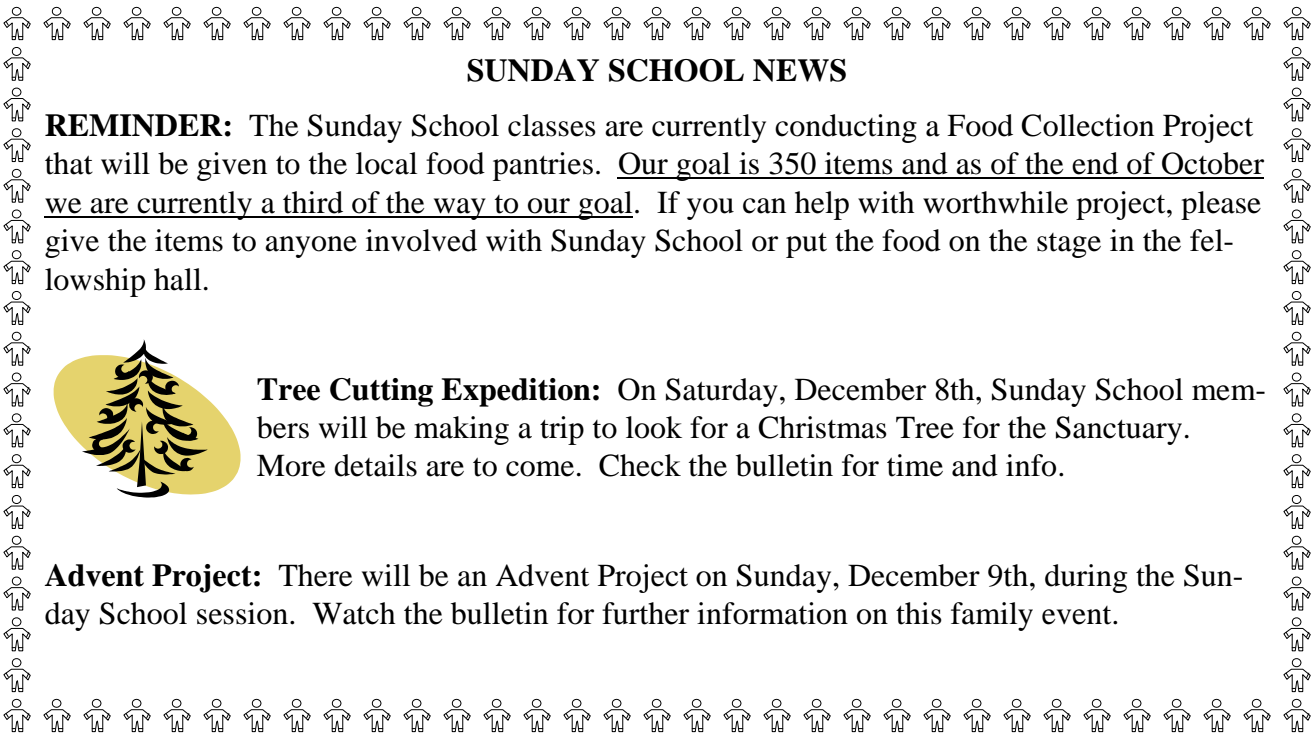
FROM THE CHAPEL: (www.LutheranMountaineer.org)

First and foremost, the Chapel extends its thanks to the Fellowship Committee and all the others that helped prepare and serve The Wurst Dinner on Campus following the Reformation Sunday Pipe Organ Concert. Seventy-five attended the dinner. The concert itself drew an audience of 105! It was great to see so many folks from St. Paul there. Thanks for coming.

This month, things will slow down at the Chapel. With the All Saints' Sunday service, Reformation Daze! will be behind us. We'll take a much needed breather from special activities until we ramp up for Advent and the end of the term.


The Schola Cantorum is planning on doing an Advent Latin/Gregorian Chant Compline. If you would like to sing with the Schola for this event, please contact the Chapel (304-296-5388 or Schola@LutheranMountaineer.org). Practices are Sunday nights, 6:00 – 6:45 PM. A pleasant voice and ability to stay on pitch is all that is required. We'll teach you to read the music.

The Chapel will close Nov. 17 for the Thanksgiving recess. We reopen with a 7:00 p.m. Christ the King Mass on Nov. 25. If you are not returning from Thanksgiving travels until that Sunday afternoon, please join us.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

REMINDER: The Sunday School classes are currently conducting a Food Collection Project that will be given to the local food pantries. Our goal is 350 items and as of the end of October we are currently a third of the way to our goal. If you can help with worthwhile project, please give the items to anyone involved with Sunday School or put the food on the stage in the fellowship hall.



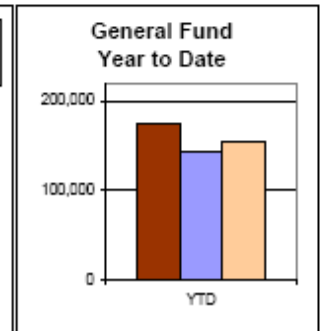
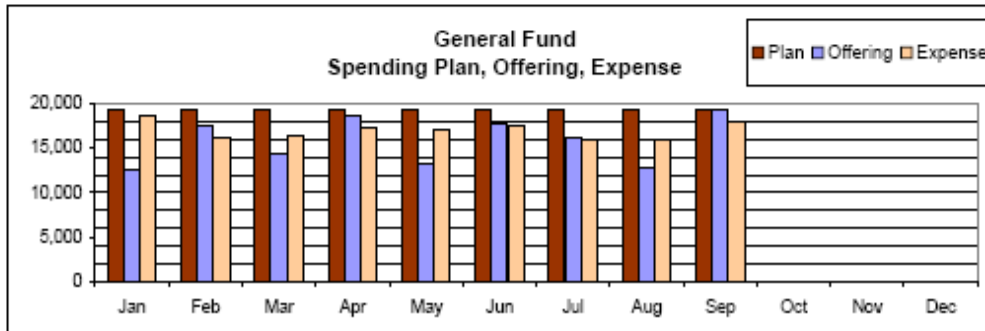
Tree Cutting Expedition: On Saturday, December 8th, Sunday School members will be making a trip to look for a Christmas Tree for the Sanctuary. More details are to come. Check the bulletin for time and info.

Advent Project: There will be an Advent Project on Sunday, December 9th, during the Sunday School session. Watch the bulletin for further information on this family event.

Treasurer's Report

St Paul Lutheran Church Statement of Revenue and Expense with Spending Plan

September 2007	September				Year to Date			Year to Date	
	General Fund	Spending Plan	+/- of Plan Rec'd-Spent	% of Plan Rec'd-Spent	General Fund to Date	Total Plan to Date	% of Plan Rec'd-Spent	Restricted Fund	Total Funds to Date
Support and Revenue									
Contributions	19,499	19,291	208	101%	134,553	173,622	77%		134,553
Designated/Restricted	327	0			5,014			27,721	27,721
Total Assets	19,826	19,291	535	103%	139,567	173,622	80%	27,721	162,274
Expenses									
Designated/Restricted		0			1,835	0		28,541	30,376
Congregational Council		0			1,339	0		0	0
Benevolences	3,043	3,213	(170)	95%	27,387	30,417	90%	0	27,387
Church Mortgage	617	400	217	0%	5,551	3,600	154%	0	5,551
Committee - Christian Education	530	545	(15)	97%	1,973	5,856	34%	0	1,973
Committee - Fellowship	145	142	3	102%	892	1,460	61%	0	892
Committee - Staff Support	0	0	0	0%	0	30	0%	0	0
Committee - Outreach	37	260	(223)	14%	1,655	2,740	60%	0	1,655
Committee - Property	0	325	(325)	0%	947	2,925	32%	0	947
Committee - Resource	0	0	0	0%	0	500	0%	0	0
Committee - Stewardship	0	0	0	0%	0	100	0%	0	0
Committee - Worship & Music	651	455	196	143%	3,563	5,212	68%	0	3,563
Insurance	0	280	(280)	0%	2,912	3,020	96%	0	2,912
Building Operation	1,928	2,121	(193)	91%	20,172	23,029	88%	0	20,172
Office Operation	465	582	(117)	80%	3,544	5,238	68%	0	3,544
Parish Communications	65	160	(95)	41%	1,221	1,490	82%	0	1,221
Payroll	8,159	9,602	(1,443)	85%	79,380	86,416	92%	0	79,380
Total Expenses	15,640	18,085	(2,445)	86%	152,371	172,033	89%	28,541	179,573
Excess of Support and Revenue Over Expenses	4,186	1,206	2,980		(12,804)	1,589		(820)	(17,299)



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

November 11th, 2007

Following the 11:00 AM Service

Following the late service, there will be a special congregational meeting for discussion and to approve the budget for the upcoming 2008 year. All members are encouraged to attend this special meeting to plan for the upcoming year. There will be a time of fellowship following the meeting with finger foods and coffee/punch. The Fellowship committee will be supplying the beverages and members of the congregation are asked to bring any type of finger food that they would like to provide. Please plan on attending this very important meeting!

News from Council

The St. Paul Congregational Council met Thursday, October 11th, and we wish to share some of the highlights with you.

- Great news! Congregational giving for September was the best month of the year, meeting and slightly exceeding our monthly budget. THANK YOU to every member!
- We remind you that a special congregational meeting on the spending plan will be held November 11th. The regular annual congregational meeting will be in January, at which time we will need to elect four council members. Please consider with prayer whether you might serve.
- Our secretary, Barb Bonnett, will be on vacation November 5-9. Please let the office know if you can fill in on any of these days.
- The food and coffee in the narthex after the services has been great, and we thank those who contribute, especially Glenn Borrelli, who does the coffee every Sunday. However, sometimes the food is not cleaned up, probably because everyone thinks someone else will do it. This wastes food and attracts pests. If you bring food on Sundays, please make sure that it is cleaned up after the late service.
- Our final social of the year was held on October 17. We will resume the socials next spring.




FROM THE PIECEMAKERS: We have been working all summer around everyone's vacation. Thirty-eight quilts were delivered to the warehouse in New Windsor, a total of 113 pounds which makes a bundled bale to go into a shipping container. We would like to thank everyone who made this project possible. Also we are still looking for a few good people to help us with the making of the quilts. Our summer help is leaving us the end of October. Pastor Brian told me to chain them to the basement—Ha Ha!! Only kidding! We are working on some exciting projects for the Christmas season. Please come and join us for the fellowship of creating the quilts, everyone is welcome regardless of experience.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA:

Just a reminder that our monthly meeting will be held from 2:00 to 4:00 PM on the second Wednesday. We will meet at this new time from now on.

On November 3rd, Saturday, 3 of our group will be going to Tygart Lake State Park for the annual cluster meeting. Highlights of this meeting will come in future newsletters.



*The Service League of
Morgantown
invites you to share the spirit of the
season at the*

Annual Holiday Open House.

The Old Stone House Gift Shop
313 Chestnut Street
Morgantown

Friday, November 2nd, 10am-6pm

Saturday, November 3rd, 10am-6pm

Sunday, November 4th, 12pm-4pm

*Visit our quaint, historic shop for unique holiday gifts
including WV items and locally handcrafted products.*

Tea and cookies served.

Proceeds benefit the citizens of Monongalia County.



FROM THE LIBRARY: The library is overflowing with treasures, including the addition of books from Pastor Brown. Have you checked it out lately? There are no time limits and no fines involved in borrowing, but please sign them out in the black book that you'll see on the shelf to the right of the door as you enter. Happy Reading!!

COUNCIL MEMBERS WANTED!!!

We need members of the congregation to volunteer to serve on the upcoming council. There are 4 council seats to be filled, 1 for a 2-year term and 3 for a 3-year term. If you are interested in submitting your name for the upcoming election to be held in January, please see a member of council or contact the church office.

Love to sing? The Choir needs you!

Rehearsals are Wednesday at 7:00 PM in the balcony.

Choir sings at 8:30 service 1st & 3rd Sundays
and 11:00 service 2nd & 4th Sundays.

Have questions? Call Beth at 284-8615



THANKSGIVING BASKETS



Again this year we will be collecting items to fill 20 Thanksgiving food baskets. The baskets will be given to Scott's Run Settlement House & Rock Forge Neighborhood House. We will be applying for funds from Thrivent to cover the cost of the turkeys. We need donations for all the trimmings to fill the 20 baskets. Dave Stiles will be again doing his wonderful job of coordinating the collection. He will send an e-mail to the members of the congregation that we have address for. If you do not receive an e-mail and want to contribute, please call the office to see what items are needed. Thank you in advance for your wonderful support of such a good cause!!

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

We will hold our annual Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 20th at 7:00 PM. Pastor David Rockwood from Grace Lutheran Church in Fairmont, West Virginia will be conducting the service. Plan on attending this service of thanksgiving



Just Neighbors: Feeding the Hungry in Your Community

Friday, November 30 Grace Lutheran Church, 300 Gaston Ave., Fairmont
1:00PM-8:00PM



Saturday, December 1 Holiday Inn, Fairmont. 7:30AM- 2:30PM

Group will be housed at the Holiday Inn on Friday night.

Just Neighbors is an interactive multimedia curriculum designed to engage you and take you to the root causes of hunger and poverty in our communities. **Just Neighbors** introduces you to some of your neighbors in need and offers insight into their daily struggles. **Just Neighbors and other workshop guests** will point the way to greater understanding of ways each of us can act on what we've learned

Guest Presenters: Frank McCann, National Director of *Just Neighbors*, Mountaineer Food Bank, Bread for the World

Special Topics: What works in your community? How can you become involved? Advocacy and what it means to you.

Join us and learn what it means to be *Just Neighbors!*

REGISTRATION FORM- Just Neighbors Nov. 30- Dec. 1, 2007 Fairmont, WV

Name _____

Congregation/Community Organization _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

_____ I plan to commute DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 27

_____ I will be spending the night.

_____ I prefer a single room

_____ I will share a room with _____

DEADLINE TO RESERVE A ROOM IS NOVEMBER 8.

To register, enclose a \$25 materials fee made payable to CLP.

Send form to

Connie Twedt

P.O. Box 141

Wardensville, WV 26851

For more information, contact Connie at 304-874-3605 or at ctwedt@frontiernet.net

St. Paul Youth Group

Community Service Project:

At the October meeting, the group completed construction on 7 cat scratching posts to donate to the Animal Friends Shelter of Monongalia County. This project was suggested by Emily Stiles and AJ Bartlett and was begun last spring. Special "Thank you!" to Bill Graham for building supplies and construction help and to Gene Makela and Glenn Borrelli for use of tools and construction help. Emily & AJ are delivering the posts to the Animal Friends Shelter with a youth group leader.

November – December Activities

Gift Card Collection for Glade Run residents:

Again this year, the youth will collect gift cards from any local store to send to the Glade Run Residential Treatment Facility (RTF), a program of Lutheran Social Services in Zelienople, PA for the Christmas season. The St. Paul youth will make collection announcements during worship services in Nov. Gift card donations should be placed in the offering plates. The gift cards will be forwarded to Glade Run by Steve Gnegy, synod representative to Glade Run and member of St. Paul congregation (and High School Sunday School teacher).

Youth Group Lock-in:

Sunday Nov. 11, 7 pm until Monday Nov. 12, 7 am

Each youth is permitted to bring 1 guest –

GUEST MUST HAVE A SEPARATE PERMISSION FORM!

Activities:

- Preparing cookie dough for youth group Christmas cookie sale
- Talent competition – each attendee should prepare a 30 second talent spot - music, joke, dramatic reading, dance, etc.

Games, food, and talk

Bring:

- High schooler – 1 package cookies or chips/pretzels to share
- Middle schooler – 1 liter juice or pop to share
- Sleeping bag or blankets

PERMISSION FORMS – forms are located in the middle and high school Sunday School rooms – remember that guest need a separate permission form also!!

RSVP by Wed. Nov. 7th to Kris or Debby

Christmas Cookie Sale:

Dec. 2nd and 9th – orders taken for Christmas cookie sale – see Dec. newsletter and bulletins for cookie varieties and prices!

Dec. 9 – (times to be announced) – bake Christmas cookies

Dec. 16 – Cookies available for pick-up after worship services

Prayer Corner

One of the most important things we can do for others is to pray for them, not just generally, but especially for particular needs and interests that they have. . . "The great intercessors remain the men and women of secret influence in all communities, and to be mentioned in their prayers is incomparably more enriching than to be mentioned in their wills. (W.E. Sangster)

Please pray for those in need. We ask you to include:

Illness

Lois Kleeb
Rachael Sheets
Jason Coley
Anna Folkemer
Dax Brecht
Gary DeMoss
Sierra Gabbert
Sarah Bishop
Bob Snyder
Sondra Frownfelter
Sally Schwing
Jane Zay
Norma Linton
Henry Hess
Betty Kelso
Mary Swigert
Philip Smith
Gloria Steyers
Tom Kelso
Paul Brecht
Jackson Bowling
Mary Whittington

Home Bound

Mary Hutchinson
James Sharley
Virginia Sweitzer
Rilla Tonon

Grief

The family of:
Darlene Miller
Christine Gabbert

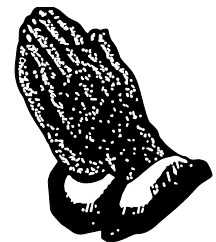
Family Concerns

The Hartley family
Jeff & Lisa Kleeb

Recuperation Active Duty

Cliff Bishop
Helen Goryance
Dorothy Hess
Jeff Meadows
Rob Walters
Brian Fox
Jason Glass

PLEASE NOTE: Starting at the end of November we will be creating a new list of names on the prayer list. If you have someone that you want to keep on the list, please either notify the church office, offer the name at the Sunday service or put a message in the secretary's box outside of the office. We will be purging the prayer list on a monthly basis, so it will be necessary for you to notify the office every month.



The Green Corner

FOOD WATCH (Before the Holidays)

This year, scares related to imported food from China prompted nationwide concern. Trade deals approved by Congress have dramatically increased U.S. food imports and imposed limits on safety and inspection—and more free trade deals are impending with Peru, Panama, Columbia, South Korea. In 2005, the U.S. became a net food importer for the first time, and the unsafe imported food that is caught before it reaches our tables is a tiny share; the vast majority of imported foods are untested, unexamined.

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration has jurisdiction over most food imports, and it will conduct border inspections on only 0.6 percent of imported vegetables, fruit, seafood, grains, dairy and animal feed in 2007, down from 8 percent prior to NAFTA and WTO. Just 11 percent of imported beef, pork, chicken is inspected by the Dept. of Agriculture. Federal Trade Agreements (FTA), North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) require the U.S. to rely on foreign regulatory and safety inspectors to ensure safe food, but FDA data show that Americans are three times more likely to be exposed to dangerous residues from imported foods.

These pending trade pacts (including CAFTA) require that U.S. Food safety regulators treat imported food the same as domestically produced food. They also empower foreign food producers to pursue challenges in foreign tribunals directly against U.S. food safety laws if they believe such laws undermine their foreign investor rights. Already, under NAFTA, Canadian cattle producers demand \$235 million from the U.S. government for the temporary ban on Canadian beef imports during the mad cow disease scare. Is it time for American Trade policy to replace trade volume with health priority? (Public Citizen, Sept/Oct, 07)

What You Can Do:

1. Buy local
2. Check product labels
3. Advocate improved Food Safety Policies and country-of-origin labeling in Congress
4. Check web www.citizen.org/documents/FoodSafetyReportFinal.pdf

THANKSGIVING REFLECTION

“The Traveling Onion”

When I think how far the onion has traveled, just to enter my stew today, I could kneel and praise, all small forgotten miracles, crackly paper peeling on the drain board, pearly layers in smooth agreement, the way knife enters onion and onion falls apart on the chopping bloc, a history revealed.

And I would never scold the onion for causing tears. It is right that tears fall for something small and forgotten. How at meal, we sit to eat, commenting on texture of meat or herbal but never on the translucence of onion, now limp, now divided, or its traditionally honorable career: For the sake of others, disappear—

—Naomi Shihab Nye

SERVING ST. PAUL November 2007	LAY ASSIS- TANTS	LECTORS	ACOLYTE- CRUCIFER	USHERS	NURSERY WORKERS	COUNTERS
4th 8:30 AM	M. Haas	M. Haas	M. Bott- Hansmann	G & K Kullman	The Huber Family	P. Cushing
11:00 AM	L. Stiller	G. Gorce	N. Price L. Price	E. Graham L & L Paulson	K. Custer S. Armstrong	L. Paulson
11th 8:30 AM	D. Borrelli	E. Melby	J. Borrelli	LA Hartley P. Smith	The Kullman Family	
11:00 AM	S. Woodruff	S. Woodruff	AJ Bartlett M. McCulla	S. Bartlett J & S McCulla	A. Grosso S. Rizzo	S. Price T. Riegel
18th 8:30 AM	S. McEwuen	S. McEwuen	P. Cushing	K. Powell E. Dillon	M. Bott- Hansmann M L Bennett	
11:00 AM	L. Stiller	T. Potter	E. Stiles E. Graham	R. Strakal D & C Custer	J. Graham The McCulla	S. Lynch L. Springer
20th Thanksgiving 7:00 PM	S. Woodfuff	S. Woodruff	P. Cushing	ML Cushing S. Armstrong		
25th 8:30 AM	D. Borrelli	D. Borrelli	J. Borelli	S. McEwuen S. Lynch	ML Cushing	
11:00 AM	M. Haas	G. Makela	K. Custer E. Custer	C. Henry T & J DeVault	The Ford- Wertz Family	P. Johnson B. Graham

If you are unable to serve please find your own replacement. Thank you!

November 2007

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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25 8:30 AM Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Service	26 8:00 AM LMM (Shoney's)	27 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Adult Study	28 7:00 PM Choir Practice	29	30 10:00 AM Piecemakers																																																																																					

ST PAUL LUTHERAN
CHURCH

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Morgantown WV 26505



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Officers Of The Congregation

President: Bill Graham
Vice President: Leland Paulson
Secretary: Tamara Riegel
Treasurer: Dave Stiles
Financial Secretary: Eric Hansmann

Council Members

Bill Graham	Larry Springer	Connie Toffle
Leland Paulson	Steve Gabbert	Barbara Bonnett
Tamara Riegel	Lu Ann Hartley	Misti Bartlett