

The Epistle

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Volume 20 Issue 7 July 2021

Christmas in July

Indulge me, please. No doubt a strange request coming from a Lutheran Pastor! I think we need a Christmas re-do and, as my installation is coming up on July 25th, a 'Christmas in July' seems most appropriate. I will admit, partly it's just because I have always loved the trappings of Christmas: the tree, the presents, the songs, the cookies, and of course Santa and the cold, though sadly these last two we cannot reproduce in Summer. But a larger reason is that no Holy Day better signifies the coming together of God and the people of God quite like this occasion.

The Nativity of Jesus, the Incarnation of God in human flesh and blood, makes clear that we do not worship a distant God. Far from it! We worship a God who is intimately involved in the human experience, His and ours. And just as God draws close to us, in the flesh, we draw close to one another in the same manner. As Christians there is power and importance in being close to one another not only in a spiritual sense but also in a physical way. We see each other, hear each other, embrace each other, and we share the Body and Blood of our Lord together.

These are things we could not do on December 24, 2020, and are things which have been necessary to withhold ourselves from for much of this past year-plus. Zoom and other forms of communication have been a God-send during the pandemic but unfortunately they simply do not have the ability to transmit any of these tangible portions of the Christian worship experience; this is particularly clear on an occasion to celebrate the Incarnation...although our youngest members did an outstanding job retelling the story of Christmas in their online-pageant!

I think we need another shot this year at being together for this occasion. To speak, to sing, and to break bread together remembering this festive, Festival Day. So on the 25th, indulge me please, wear some Christmas colors, sing loudly, bring a present for our Pantry Plus More collection drive (see more in this newsletter), and join with me remembering and giving thanks to God that he draws close to us, and we to one another.

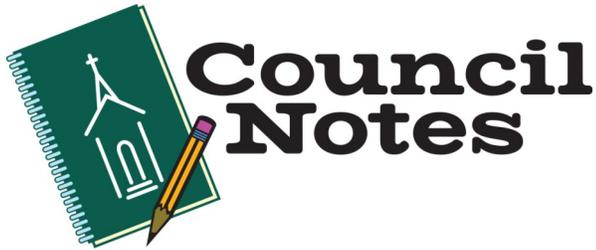
Yours in Christ,
Pastor Tony



For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given...
and his name shall be called

*Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6



The Church Council met for its June monthly meeting on July 17th. As all members of the council are fully vaccinated, masks were not required for the first time. Following a round of personal introductions to help new members get to know everyone else, the council reviewed and approved the previous minutes, the treasurer's report, and committee reports.

For business activities, it was reported that the door to the secretary's office was replaced with a solid core door and the breaker bar on the north entrance door was repaired following the break-in of the church. Nothing was stolen in the break-in, but the repairs cost \$240. The annual synod assembly was next discussed as it will be in Morgantown in October 2021. St. Paul has no particular responsibilities at this time except to elect two members of the congregation to serve as our representatives. A special congregational meeting will be held for this election.

Council approved the expenditure of \$4400 for the mortgage debt to the WVU Lutheran Chapel as agreed to in Pastor Setley's contract. This will be repaid at the rate of \$100 per month. At the request of Pastor Setley, St. Paul will be collecting donations for Pantry Plus More on the Sundays of July 11th, 18th, and 25th.

Property has obtained two quotes for replacement of the windows in the sanctuary. Council decided to request an additional quote specifying an antique or frosted glass in the replacement windows similar to the existing windows. This issue will also be presented in a special congregational meeting as the cost exceeds what council may approve.

Pastor Setley will be formally installed as pastor of St. Paul on July 25th at the morning service. Council decided to follow the service with a catered meal to celebrate and welcome the Setleys to St. Paul. This will follow the precautions recommended by the Covid committee.

The Covid committee submitted new recommendations for lifting restrictions due to the Covid pandemic. These were accepted by council to be reviewed as conditions change in the county.

Finally, council reviewed a proposal from Dominion Gas to place an 8 inch gas line along the property border between St. Paul and CMA. Mike Peters is following up with additional questions to Dominion Gas prior to our approval. This will be at no cost to St. Paul and there will be some reimbursement for our permission.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Woodruff, council president



Pastor's
Office Hours

Mondays and Tuesdays - 10am - 12pm and Wednesdays Noon-3pm

Pastor's office phone: (304) 212-5116

Email: pastor@stpaulmorgantown.org

Special Meeting of the Congregation



A special meeting of the congregation of St. Paul is called for the Sunday of July 18th, following the morning worship. The items to be covered are a contract with Dominion Gas to install a new gas line along the property border with Christian Missionary Alliance church, and bids to refurbish the windows in the sanctuary. The congregation will consider the motion to accept the terms for granting an easement to Dominion Gas as negotiated by Mike Peters. Regarding the sanctuary windows, bids will be presented for either clear glass or frosted glass. The bids exceed the dollar limit to which the council is able to commit. These are the only two items to be considered.

Window bids and the terms of the easement are available at the church and upon request.

The Rev. Tony Setley will be installed at St. Paul on Sunday, July 25th at the 10:00 AM service. A catered dinner will follow the service. The dinner will be served by people who are masked and gloved, and the dinner will be outside, weather permitting.



Installation of Pastor Tony



Welcome Dinner

In order to plan, we do need to know how many will be coming. Please respond by phone (304-599-

0620) or email (office@stpaulmorgantown.org) to the church office.

Please join us!



Thank you to those who helped with cleanup after we got water in the basement, especially Steve Woodruff, Mary Boroff, and Lindsey Naumann.

Thanks to Jerry Bouquot for donating a new computer to do the Zoom services.



Pantry Plus More Collection July 11-25

Pantry Plus More provides food and personal items to children throughout the county.

We will be collecting for two weeks. Please bring items to the church.

Most Needed Donations

Hormel Compleat Meals

Prego Ready Meals

Campbells Ready Meals

Microwaveable Bowls of Soup – Chicken, Beef with vegetables, sirloin burger and more

Microwaveable Dinty Moore Beef Stew or any microwaveable ready to eat meals

Deviled Ham or “Potted” meat

Nutella and Nutella & Go!

Jif to Go

Gatorade/Powerade Sports Drinks

Microwaveable Chef Boyardee – all kinds

Microwaveable Bowls of Mac N Cheese

Fruit snacks – any kind including fruit roll ups, gushers

Rice Krispy treats

Kid Friendly Cereal Bowls and Large Boxes – Cheerios, Frosted Flakes, CapnCrunch

Mini Muffins

Cookies – snack size

Microwave Popcorn

Individual chips, pretzels, popcorn, pringles

Jello Cups

Detergent Pods

Shampoo/Conditioner and Bodywash

Deodorant

Wide Ruled Spiral Notebooks

Ear Phones

Money (cash or checks made to Pantry Plus More or St Paul)

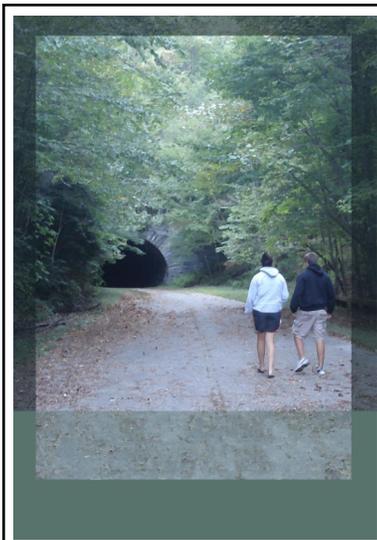
For more information: <https://www.pantryplusmore.org/donate/>

A big THANK You to everyone who helped with cleaning up the flowerbeds after church on June 27th. We also had some elves who came in the week before and the morning after.

One more time! Stay after worship on Sunday, July 11th, and pull those stubborn weedy holdouts. Wear working clothes to church and enjoy coffee, snacks, and conversation while your work. Many hands make light work! Rain date July 18th



Help Us Maintain the Church Grounds



Prayerful Walkers

Weather Permitting - Join Pastor Tony for a prayer, a bit of Scripture, and a morning walk around the neighborhood.

7:15am-8am

Tuesdays in July 13, 20, and 27



October 16th

Mon County 4H Center, Morgantown, WV

St. Paul's needs to send two voting members to this assembly. Voting members must be elected by a meeting of the congregation. Please speak to a council member if you are able to serve.





ALL ABOARD FOR FUN AT ROCKY RAILWAY VBS

AUGUST 1-5, 2021

Registration is open for everyone age five through those who have completed sixth grade.

Sunday through Thursday, 6:00 – 8:15 PM

Don't miss the fun! Registration forms are available at the church. For more information, call 304-599-0620 or email of-fice@stpaulmorgantown.org. Bring friends!!

A registration form is attached as a pdf to the newsletter email.

Volunteers needed!

Please notify the church office or sign up at the church.

TREASURER'S REPORT: MAY 2021

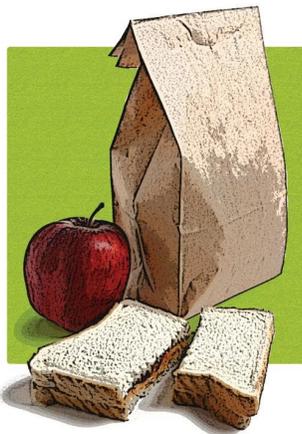
OFFERING AND INCOME:	\$ 12,696
EXPENSES:	\$ 4,567

NET INCOME – MAY 2021	\$ 8,129
NET INCOME FOR 2021	\$ 41,122

REMINDER: If you are unable to attend worship in person, offering envelopes may be mailed to the church!

St. Paul Lutheran Church
309 Baldwin Street
Morgantown, WV 26505





Brown Bag & a Hymn

July 21st - 11:45am

Weather Permitting - BYO Lunch (Outside and Distanced)



LWF Quilters Pin

From the Piece Makers

“Thank you for all you do as God’s hands in the world!” are the words on the Certificate of Appreciation each quilter received along with a pin from Lutheran World Relief.

St. Paul’s Peace Makers also thank several individuals who helped the Piece Makers this past month. Eva Thomas and Brenda Status made dona-

tions of fabric and sheets. Edmond VandenBosche delivered quilts to the warehouse. Thank you to Robert Zay for joining us after practicing on the organ and tying quilts. Thank you to the mystery person who donated a large bag of fabric, and to those members of St Paul who cleaned the room after the rains June 13th.

One of the gifts of fabric was patriotic in nature. Renate worked at home turning these fabrics into lap robes for veterans. **Should you know of a veteran who might benefit from a lap robe, please tell a quilter.** If you go to yard sales keep an eye out for cotton sheets because they make the best backs for quilts.



As we move back to more in-person worship, consider signing up to sponsor flowers for a Sunday. A sign-up poster is in the entry





WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



	LAY ASSISTANT	USHERS	COUNTERS
4th 10:00 AM	Borrelli	Melby	G. Riegel M. Boroff
11th 10:00 AM	Haas	P. Smith L. Springer	***
18th 10:00 AM	Borrelli	T. Riegel D. Custer	D. Stiles L. Naumann
25th 10:00 AM	Haas	W. Graham L. Springer	***



PRAYERS



To add a name to the prayer list, please call the office at 304-599-0620. There is also a book for prayer requests in the entry.

Please check the prayer list for names which you



			WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 10:00 AM Piecemakers	3
4 10:00 AM Worship Service	5	6	7	8	9 10:00 AM Piecemakers	10
11 10:00 AM Worship Service Work Day after worship	12	13 7:15 AM Prayerful Walkers	14	15 7:00 PM Council	16 10:00 AM Piecemakers	17
18 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:30 AM Congregation Meeting Work Day (rain date)	19	20 7:15 AM Prayerful Walkers	21 11:45 AM Brown Bag & a Hymn	22	23 10:00 AM Piecemakers	24
25 10:00 AM Installation Service Welcome Dinner after worship 3:30 PM Circle of Friends	26 8:00 AM Lutheran Men in Mission	27 7:15 AM Prayerful Walkers	28	29	30 10:00 AM Piecemakers	31



Sign-up for "Pastor Tony's Daily-ish Emails" List

You can sign-up to receive regular emails (prayers, reflections, and alike) from Pastor Tony by visiting www.TonySetley.com and entering your email address.

Officers Of The Congregation

President: Steve Woodruff

Vice President: Mary Boroff

Secretary: Joanne Seasholtz

Treasurer: Debby Borrelli

Financial Secretary: Jeanne Lemasters

The **Epistle** is a publication from:

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Morgantown, WV

The Rev. Tony Setley, pastor

Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 9:00—12:00

Telephone: (304) 599-0620

Pastor's Office Hours: Monday-Tuesday 10 AM—Noon, Wednesday Noon—3 PM

Council Members

Mary Boroff

Margie Suder

Carol Henry

Lindsey Naumann

Steve Woodruff

Joanne Seasholtz

Julie Sandolini

Katie Switzer

Mike Peters