



The Epistle

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Volume 21 Issue 8 August 2022

There is a strange tension that exists in the hearts of many in our pews. Mine too. On the one hand, we pray for those who are sick and suffering. We do it every week as a gathered church and perhaps even more frequently as individuals. We believe God mercifully hears our prayers and that (even if the how is hard to articulate) prayer works. On the other hand, when we think of "healing ministries" many of us think of the worst forms of Christianity-based abuses. I do. Charlatans healing actors to stage an event for the crowd, people financially exploiting the vulnerable & desperate, and even people misguided into forgoing proven medical treatments as they wait for a miracle.

With the seemingly inescapable nature of the latter so prevalent during the past century (you can still find such things within the depths of your television cable-package), is it any wonder that for much of the Church the bad has outweighed the good and made us suspicious of doing too much (or any) of something that as Christians we are called to do?

Filled with such suspicion, the first time I attended a "normal" church that offered anointing and prayers for healing during the communion liturgy I was somewhat taken aback and hesitant to say the least. I walked quickly by the healing station, eyes front, slightly down. The mainline protestant quick-step toward safety. But after a few weeks, I summoned what was needed to ask the Pastor about it with an open mind. My hesitation had grown into curiosity, which is a good stage to be in when you're a first-year seminary student (or at anytime I suppose). "What did she think was going to happen," I politely asked her, "miraculous healing or something?" "Probably not but that'd be great," she replied, "people come here hurt, and sick, and tired, and whatever. Anointing and prayer connect them, the church, and God in a way that is meaningful. It does something for them."

This was hard to doubt after watching people post-prayer for several weeks. It did do something for them. You could see that in their faces. Most walked away not looking happy as we think of it but looking peaceable. Something like they had just interacted with a peace that is surpassing all understanding. Something that was meaningful and moving for sure, whatever it was. It wasn't until my short rotation visiting in that church was nearly complete, that one Sunday found me not exactly sick but definitely in search of that which they were offering. I laid my mainline protestant quick-step aside and waited to be blessed and prayed for. It was one of those strange moments in life that was little and significant all at once. It allayed my well-formed fears of "healing ministries" (at least in total) and left me with a certain peace. I wouldn't say it's something I need all the time, that's not the point of it anyway, but in that moment, I did need it...even if I didn't know it beforehand.

As a minister, I've had many opportunities to pray and anoint. Do I think miraculous healing will happen? No, but that would be great. But something happens, something that connects the hurting, and sick, and tired, and whatever to God. Something strange and routine, big and little, all in

one. Something I'd like to make more known to us here at St. Paul. Starting August 7th, and continuing on the first Sundays of the month, anyone who would like to come back up to the rail after the dismissal is invited to do so. Prayers for healing, for sickness, for suffering, for loss, for heartache, for whatever you bring will be offered, along with anointing. If you need to come up, if you want to come up, come. And if you don't, that's okay too.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Tony

"Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working." James 5:13-16



Council Notes

The Church Council met on June 16th. Here are some highlights of the meeting:

- Council discussed preparations for VBS and the July 28th cookout
- Property repaired and painted the wall by the AED near the office door, trimmed a tree branch, sprayed for weeds, and changed batteries in smoke detector and security cameras
- Council decided on our new logo design from the options presented by the graphic artist and look forward to the final product
- The 125th Anniversary/Oktoberfest Committee will make plans to meet ASAP to begin the push toward our celebration
- An audit committee has been set for an internal audit of our books, and we are taking bids from financial professionals to do a review
- An emergency expense was authorized for repairs to the pump in our HVAC unit. The repairs are necessary for continued A/C and heating and total \$4800. The funds will be drawn from our Thrivent Choice Dollars account. Thank you to everyone who has participated in Thrivent Choice



Men's Night Out Returns!

AUGUST 16th (Tuesday) – 6PM
4003 Morningside Way
Morgantown, WV 26505
Hosted by Larry Springer & Bill
Graham

Please RSVP to Larry
304-599-8118 / springerlws@comcast.net



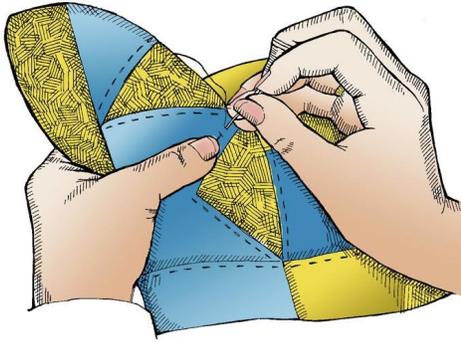
Back to School Movie Night

Sunday, August 21—7 PM

Popcorn, candy, and drinks provided

Ron's Gone Wrong

“The story of Barney, a socially awkward middle-schooler and Ron, his new walking, talking, digitally-connected device, which is supposed to be his 'Best Friend out of the Box.' Ron's hilarious malfunctions set against the backdrop of the social media age, launch them into an action-packed journey in which boy and robot come to terms with the wonderful messiness of true friendship.” Rated PG



From the Piece Makers

The Piece Makers were pleased to welcome two new members, one a member of St. Paul, Lillian Stevens; and Trisha Colter, a nonmember. We are pleased to have two these two workers and hope that more people will also join us.

A big "thank you" to Bonnie McMillian for her donation of fabric.

We were pleased to donate Mary Sanders two quilts for her work with Community Lutheran Partners.

We have many quilts ready to send to the warehouse and many ready for someone to tie. Hope to see you on Fridays 10-2.

AUGUST	
Bathrooms	Mary Boroff
Kitchen	
Stairwells	
Vacuum and Sweep Upstairs	Sandolini
Sweep Downstairs	Sylvia McEwuen



Are you able to sponsor an after-worship coffee hour? You need only provide a few snacks and make the coffee.

A sign-up list is available in the church entry, or contact the church office.

Christian Formation



Sunday, August 7th

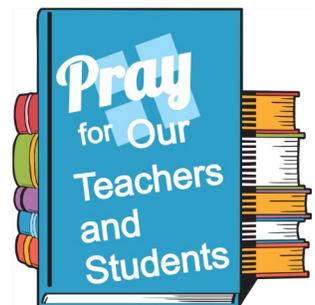
A brief training for Sunday School teachers will be held after worship on this day. This fall, we plan to rotate among parents and other volunteers to lead Sunday School each week. The program we will use, Whirl, is engaging for kids and easy to for leaders to prep. Volunteers welcome!

Sunday August 21st

Get excited for the coming school year! Rally Day marks the start of Sunday School.

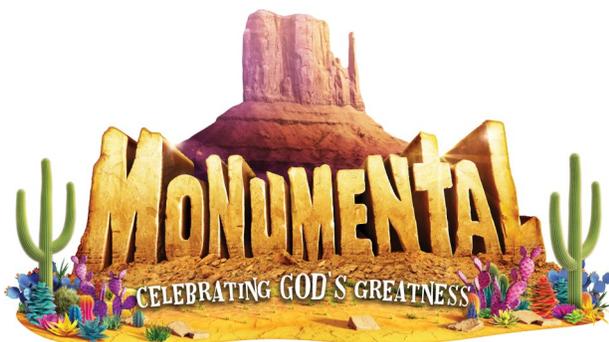
Bring your backpack to church on that day and have it blessed for the coming school year.

Regular Sunday School begins August 28th at 9 AM.



A big thank you to everyone who helped with Vacation Bible School:

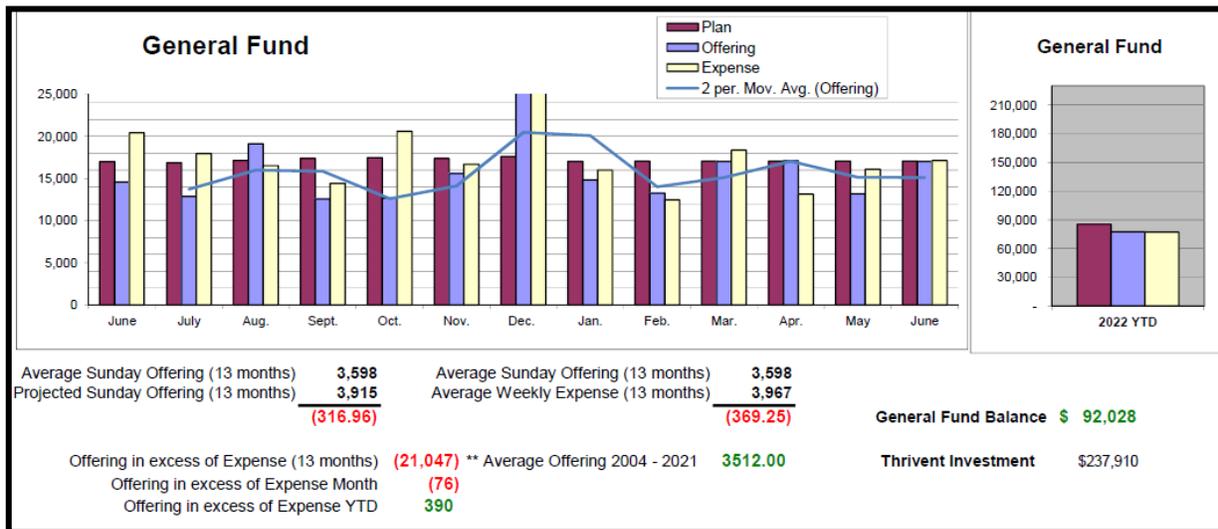
Mary Boroff, Mary Haas, Lindsey Naumann, Grace Riegel, Julie Sandolini, Joanne Seasholtz, Pastor Tony Setley, and our teen helpers, Vincent and Shelby Sandolini. Many thanks also to everyone who contributed financially and materially.





Thank you to Larry Springer and Bill Graham for the many things they do to keep the property in good shape (making arrangements with service providers, painting, repairing, weeding, even little things like taking out the trash.

Thanks also to Mary Haas for providing flowers for the altar, even on Sundays when no one has signed up to sponsor



Online Offering: You can give securely online at your convenience with a debit/credit card or checking account.

Visit www.stpaulmorgantown.org/giving.

Thank you!





Serving in August

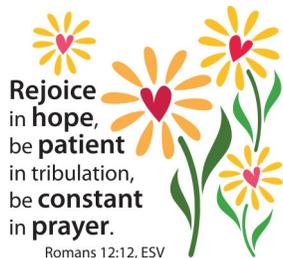
SERVING ST PAUL August 2022	LAY ASSISTANT	LECTOR	USHERS	ACOLYTES	COUNTERS	ZOOM
7th 10:00 AM	S. Woodruff	S. McEwuen	T. Riegel	Sandolfini	K. Shockley M. Peters	Peters
14th 10:00 AM	M. Haas	T. Riegel	D. Custer	Sandolfini	****	S. Setley
21st 10:00 AM	M. Sampson	J. Lemasters	L. Springer	G. Riegel	M. Boroff J. Seasholtz	M. Boroff
28th 10:00 AM	S. McEwuen	M. Boroff	W. Graham	E. Naumann	****	C. Wertz

Reminder: Deadline for September newsletter is August 24^{nth}!!!



AUGUST 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 8:15 AM Prayerful Walkers 10:00 AM Bible Study	3	4	5 10:00 AM Piecemakers	6
7 10:00 AM Worship Service	8	9 8:15 AM Prayerful Walkers 10:00 AM Bible Study	10 Confirmation Trip to	11 (and middle school) Washington DC	12 10:00 AM Piecemakers	13
14 10:00 AM Worship Service	15	16 8:15 AM Prayerful Walkers 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Men's Night Out	17 WVU classes begin	18 7:00 PM Council	19 10:00 AM Piecemakers	20
21 10:00 AM Worship Service Rally Day and Blessing of the Backpacks	22	23 8:15 AM Prayerful Walkers 10:00 AM Bible Study	24	25	26 10:00 AM Piecemakers	27
28 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 3:30 PM Circle of Friends	29 8:00 AM Lutheran Men in Mission	30 8:15 AM Prayerful Walkers 10:00 AM Bible Study	31			



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 narthex (entry).

Please check the prayer list for names which you have submitted, and let the church office know if a person can be taken off the list.

Thank you!



Tuesday — Thursday 10am - 12pm
 Pastor's office phone: (304) 212-5116
 Pastor's cell (text or call): 681-209-6192
 Email: pastor@stpaulmorgantown.org

The **Epistle** is a publication from:
 St. Paul Lutheran Church, Morgantown, WV
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 Telephone: (304) 599-0620
 Pastor's Office Hours:
 Tuesday - Thursday 10 AM—Noon

Officers Of The Congregation
 President: Joanne Seasholtz
 Vice President: Lindsey Naumann
 Secretary: Mary Haas
 Treasurer: Steve Woodruff
 Financial Secretary: Jeanne Lemasters

Council Members

Mary Haas	Grethe Myles	Carol Henry
Lindsey Naumann	Steve Woodruff	Joanne Seasholtz
Julie Sandolini	Jerry Bouquot	Mike Peters