

The Epistle

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Volume 21 Issue 10 October 2022

To God's people of St. Paul on Our 125th Anniversary,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

Believe it or not, Advent is fast approaching. In 8 short weeks we will begin a new "church year." Annually, Advent challenges us to simultaneously look both backward and forward. On the one hand, we focus on the first coming of Christ, in his incarnation and birth come Christmas. On the other hand, we are called to look forward to the second coming of Christ, when he shall return. It is an opportunity to look behind and in front of us, all at once; to witness God's love for the world that has been and will be.

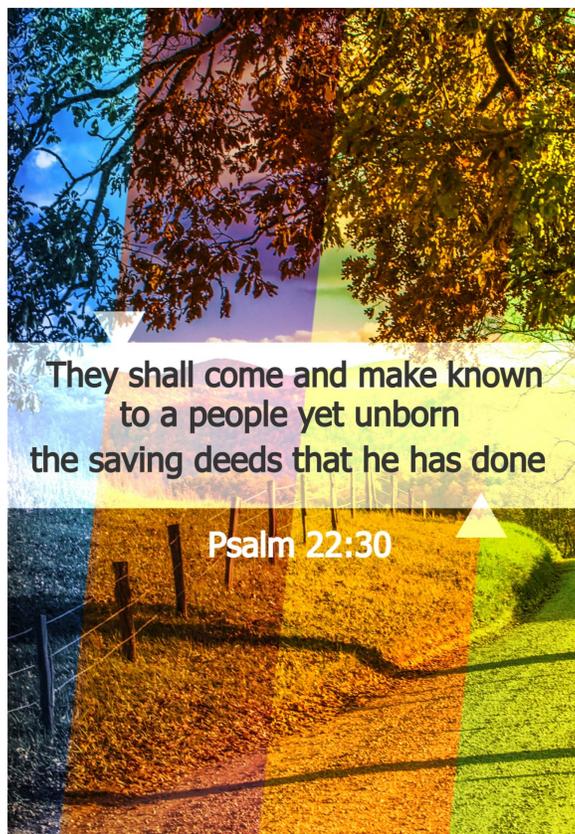
In this month, in which we will gather to celebrate our 125th anniversary, I can't help but find a similar pattern at work. A congregational anniversary draws our attention to examine how we began, who came before, and what *have* we done? Anniversaries, in many ways, also stir questions of: what comes next? Who will we be? What *will* we do?

What's interesting, for both scenarios, is that focusing on the past and on the future is ultimately a practice that reorients us to the here and now. Our spiritual call in Advent is to actively remember Christ's incarnation and to prepare now for Christ's future coming again. In the same way, our church's 125th is a time to celebrate and actively remember what this church has done and to prepare now to co-author a new history that has yet to be written.

Looking back, when done at its best, is achieved through honest reflection. Jesus' birth was not the idyllic scene painted on so many post-cards. He was born in a time of social turmoil to an unwed, young woman into a family of humble means. Without the privilege of birth among family in the home, he was born amongst the animals in a town not his own. He was honored by three kings, who warned his family to flee their country, as he was to be hunted by the king that was his own. Yet, it was also the moment of the Lord God crossing the great barrier into human life and even mortality. The first step to the revelation of God's love for the world on the Cross.

St. Paul's own history is, like all churches, not perfect. (Just read the epistles for a start!) There has most certainly been more good than bad but there have been times of joy tempered by disagreement, hardship, and hard-headedness. Yet, this is where the Lord God and God's people have baptized one another, communed together, and loved one another and the community as Christ loves us. That is who we have been.

We cannot know where we are going; much as we cannot know when Christ will come again. So, leaning into



the hope and mystery of the future, I invite us to continue through this 125th celebration as church together with the same spirit that Advent bids us to adopt in our own lives. Live as through Christ is coming soon and very soon. Live as though your actions big and small matter. Live for God. Christ will come and the story of St. Paul to 150, then 200, etc. will be written. What has been has been and what will be will be...the question we can answer now is: what are we doing?

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Tony

Sunday, Nov. 13th

Meeting of the
Congregation

To review and approve the 2023 Spending Plan

To be held immediately following worship



Solar panel installation has begun! We'll dedicate the panels to kick off outdoor activity at Oktoberfest, and final hookup should occur by mid-November.

Sunday, October 2nd

is the first Sunday
of the month

All who wish may come up to the rail
after the service for prayers and
anointing.

**Prayers for Healing
Sunday**



Celebrate with us!
St. Paul Lutheran Church

125 Years in Morgantown



October 8, 2022

11:00 Program

Sanctuary

**Devotions, Music, Our History,
Tales (Tall and otherwise)**

12:00 Lunch

Fellowship Hall

**Roast Chicken Breast, Seasoned Potatoes, Green Beans,
Cake**

Soft drinks, Tea, Coffee, Water

1:00 Social Hour

Lawn, (weather permitting)

Pretzels, soft drinks (provided)

Beer (BYOB)

Music from Flutzzicato

Face Painting, caramel apple making

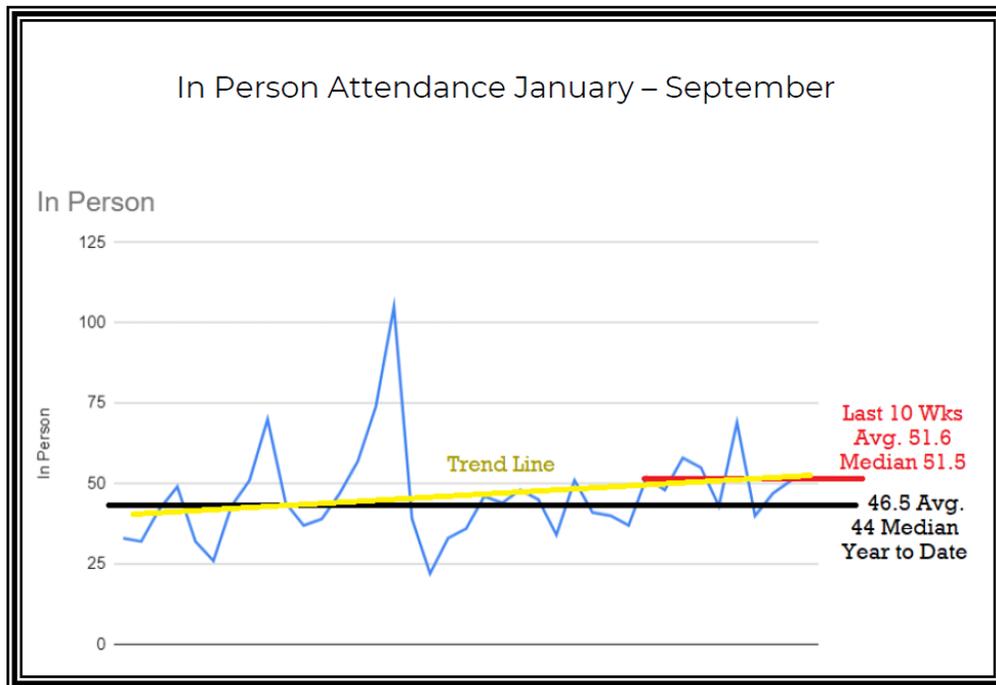
From the Piece Makers

As fall with its yellow, red, and orange colors the Piece Makers are busy making quilts and Fall decorative Wall Hangings. These will be available for sale at the Oktoberfest following church and the dinner October 8th. We will also have some Christmas Wall Hangings and items that will make gifts or decorations for your friends and family. Look for our products at the Festival and after church in the following weeks. Money from the sale goes to purchasing the yard for the ties and padding we need purchase.

On some Fridays the Piece Makers get visitors. Recently we were pleased to have Debbie and Ed Rhodes drop by and share news of their activities. We took the opportunity to tell them of the 125th anniversary and Oktoberfest celebration. We look forward to seeing more visitors especially those who would like to join us in making quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Come join us for 10 until 2 on Fridays. We will not be working on October 7th because of the need for decorating for the anniversary dinner.



to



SEPTEMBER	
Bathrooms	MaryLee Cushing
Kitchen	
Stairwells	Sylvia McEwuen
Vacuum and Sweep Upstairs	Sandolfini
Sweep Downstairs	



Join us for
**SUNDAY
SCHOOL**



Sunday School for elementary and upper pre-school students

9 AM Sundays in the nursery room

We have some volunteers who are willing to plant an array of spring blooming bulbs in the front flower bed. If you would like to contribute money, bulbs, or time to their efforts, please contact them. Donations can be given in the offering plate; put "landscaping" on the envelope or memo line. You can contact Marie Graham at 304-777-0523.



October 16th at 3 PM
Blessing of the Animals



**LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY
@ WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY**

WEEKLY RHYTHMS

FALL 2022

SUNDAYS

6 pm Mass (Eucharist)
Dinner
Compline

MONDAYS

10 am Matins

TUESDAYS

10 am Matins

WEDNESDAYS

6 pm Vespers

THURSDAYS

8 pm Compline

Reminder: Deadline for November newsletter is October 24th!!!



Service and Fun—Sunday Oct 2nd— Grades K-12

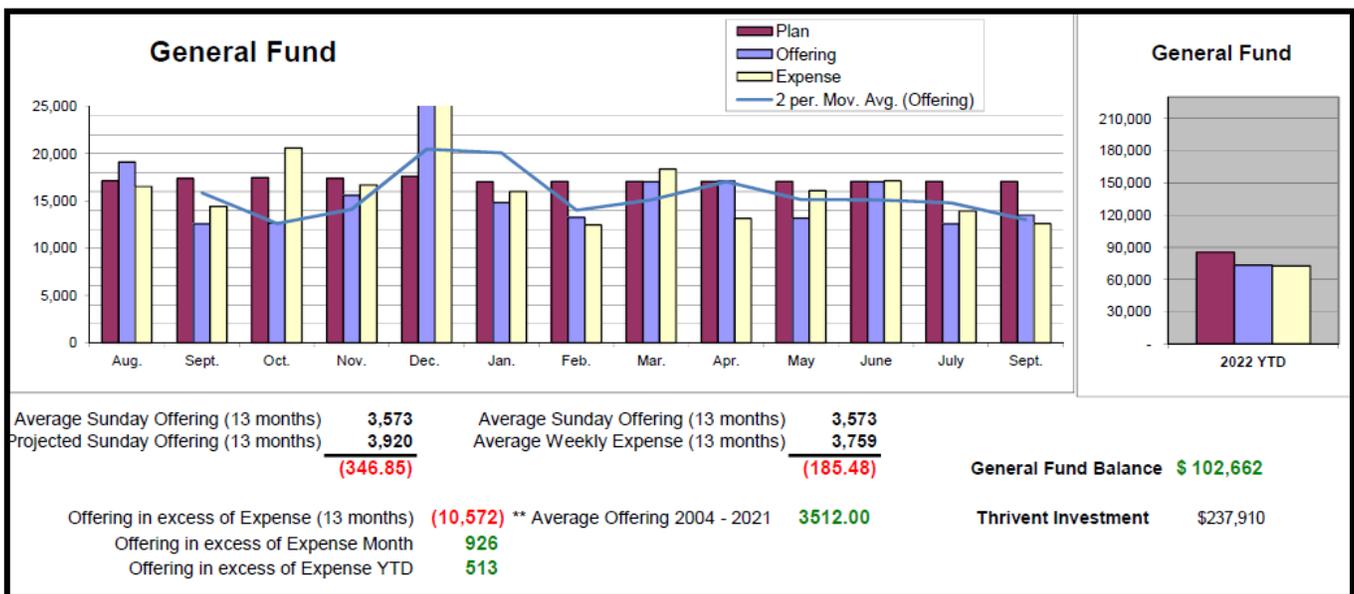
Meet at the church at 2 PM for a service project, then it's off to mini-golf at Mountaineer Mini-golf and then Mountaineer Country Ice Cream. We should be wrapped by 5 PM. Golf & ice cream fees will be provided by the church for the kids, but parents are welcome to join in!



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



SERVING ST PAUL October 2022	LAY ASSISTANT	LECTOR	USHERS	ACOLYTES	COUNTERS	ZOOM
2nd 10:00 AM	M. Sampson	B. Schaupp	L. Springer	Sandolfini	M. Suder J. Bouquot	M. Boroff
9th 10:00 AM	M. Grimm	J. Lemasters	D. Custer	E. Naumann	****	S. Setley
16th 10:00 AM	S. Setley	M. Kirkpatrick	W. Graham	Sandolfini	S. Kirkpatrick C. Henry	Peters
23rd 10:00 AM	J. Lemasters	S. Grimm	T. Riegel	E. Naumann	****	C. Wertz
30th 10:00 AM Reformation Sunday	V. Sandolfini	S. Sandolfini	L. Springer	S. Sandolfini	M. Boroff L. Naumann	M. Boroff



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 9:00 AM Choir & Sunday School (adult & children) 10:00 AM Worship Service 2:00 PM K-12 event	3	4 8:15 AM Prayerful Walkers 10:00 AM Bible Study	5	6	7 10:00 AM Piecemakers	8 125 th Anniversary Celebration 11 AM Service Noon Dinner 1 PM Social Hour
9 9:00 AM Choir & Children's Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service	10	11 8:15 AM Prayerful Walkers 10:00 AM Bible Study	12	13	14 10:00 AM Piecemakers	15
16 9:00 AM Choir & Children's Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 3:00 PM Blessing of the Pets	17	18 8:15 AM Prayerful Walkers 10:00 AM Bible Study	19	20 7:00 PM Council	21 10:00 AM Piecemakers	22
23 9:00 AM Choir & Children's Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 3:30 PM Circle of Friends	24	25 No Walk or Bible Study	26	27	28 10:00 AM Piecemakers	29
30 9:00 AM Choir & Children's Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Reformation Sunday Confirmation Day	31 8:00 AM Lutheran Men in Mission					



Tuesday — Thursday 10am - 12pm
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 President: Joanne Seasholtz
 Vice President: Lindsey Naumann
 Secretary: Mary Haas
 Treasurer: Steve Woodruff
 Financial Secretary: Jeanne Lemasters

Council Members

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Lindsey Naumann	Steve Woodruff	Joanne Seasholtz
Julie Sandolfini	Jerry Bouquot	Mike Peters