

This Week's Schedule

Tuesday, April 30

Bible Study 10:00 AM
Lounge

Thursday, May 2

Prayerful Walkers 9:00 AM
Parking lot

Friday, May 3

Piecemakers 10:00 AM
Fellowship Hall

Sunday, May 5

Choir practice 9:00 AM
Choir loft
Kids Sunday School 9:00 AM
Downstairs S.S. Room
Adult Bible Study 9:00 AM
Lounge
Worship 10:00 AM
Nave

For more information and updates, visit us at StPaulMorgantown.org or our **Facebook** group, *The Epistle Online*.

Serving Today:

Assisting Minister: **Mary Haas**

Lector: **Mike Kirkpatrick**

Usher: **Bill Graham**

Counters: **Jerry Bouquot, Jennifer Reed**

Broadcaster: **Mary Boroff**

Serving May 5th:

Assisting Minister: **Stephanie Setley**

Lector: **Lindsey Naumann**

Usher: **Dave Custer**

Counters: **Margie Suder, Lindsey Nauman**

Broadcaster: **Carl Werntz**

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Tamara Riegel, Administrator

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9AM —Noon

Call/Text: (304) 599-0620

Office@StPaulMorgantown.org



Do you know of someone graduating in May or June?

Please let us know so that we may recognize them on May 19th. High school and up only, please. Call the church office 304-599-0620.

Officers Of The Congregation

President: Bill Graham

Vice President: Lillian Stevens

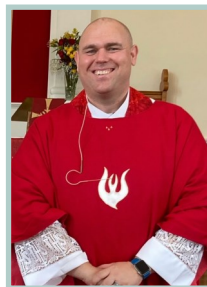
Treasurer: Joanne Seasholtz

Financial Secretary: Sue Cook

The Rev. Tony Setley, Pastor

Phone (text or call):
304-715-2350

Email:
Pastor@StPaulMorgantown.org



Online Offering

You can give a secure online offering with a debit/credit card or checking account. Scan or visit: stpaulmorgantown.org/giving

Thank you!



The Weekly Epistle

The 5th Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024

Take This Sheet Home With You!



@StPaulMorgantown

StPaulMorgantown.org

All Are Welcome: At St. Paul we welcome all to worship and share in God's love, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, age, economic status, background, life situation, or wherever you are in your faith journey.

All who Believe and are Baptized (from any church) are invited to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion here.

A Word from Pastor Tony

Few tasks in life are simultaneously so hard and easy as keeping a house plant alive. Add water...repeat. But maybe it's the comfort from that ease that makes it challenging? You can easily forget the steps, as most of the time they are pretty self-sustaining. So, I forgot to water my office plants before I left for vacation. This past Monday, when I came returned to my office, they were drooping, faded, and looked like their end was near.

Add water...repeat...hope. By Tuesday morning, I was pleasantly surprised to find them standing tall and filled with color again. How can something that seemed fated for death be so wonderfully brought back to life? Sometimes the metaphoric lessons in life smack you in the face! In our lives with God and Church it can be easy to forget that a certain level of continuous attention is necessary. Add water...repeat...hope and be joyfully amazed by how God brings back to bloom what was once faded.



Today's Announcements

- ◆ Today we welcome **David Hartzell** and **Amelia Elias** into membership. David works in WVU Residential Life & Amelia is a pharmacy student. They are engaged to be married this Summer.
- ◆ **Communion today** will be at the rail. Please line-up in the center aisle and proceed forward to the rail, filling in from outside toward center. Return to your pew down side aisle on your side of the Church.
- ◆ **Grape juice & gluten free wafers are available;** just ask for them at the rail.
- ◆ If you are unable to come forward but would like to receive, please let the usher know and the bread and wine will be brought to you.

Our Hymns Today

- | | | |
|--------------------|--|-------------------|
| ◆ Opening Hymn: | <i>Oh, Love, How Deep</i> | Green #88 |
| ◆ Psalm | 22:22-30 | Green, p.225 |
| ◆ Hymn of the Day: | <i>Praise the Savior, Now and Ever</i> | Green #155 |
| ◆ Communion Hymn: | <i>Lord of All Nations</i> | Green #419 |
| ◆ Closing Hymn: | <i>Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen</i> | Blue #674 |

The First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea. (NRSV)

The Second Reading

1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also. (NRSV)

The Gospel

John 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples." (NRSV)

We Welcome David Hartzell & Amelia Elias Into Membership!

PRESENTATION & PASTOR'S WELCOME

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Now, therefore...

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, (+) the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

...Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

PROMISES

People of God do you intend to support David and Amelia as members of our family of faith; to welcome them, to join them in hearing God's Word, sharing His supper, and proclaiming the Gospel in word and deed? If so answer "We do, and we ask God to help and guide us." ...**"We do, and we ask God to help and guide us."**

CONCLUDING PRAYER

WELCOME & THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.