



The Weekly Epistle

The 8th Sunday after Pentecost
July 14, 2024



@StPaulMorgantown

Take This Sheet Home With You!

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

Elijah...again. Many times in the Gospels we see Elijah's name. Sometimes people think Jesus is Elijah (as in today's Gospel). Jesus says John the Baptist is Elijah elsewhere, and Elijah shows up on the mount for the Transfiguration at another point. Why so much? Well, waiting for Elijah was a big deal in 1C AD.

The anticipation of Elijah's return stems from the prophecies found in the Old Testament. Malachi 4:5-6 says, "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers." This promise was taken to heart by the Jewish people, who believed that Elijah would return to herald the coming of the Messiah.

A symbolic example of this waiting was born in the empty chair at Passover, also known as Elijah's cup. This practice symbolized hope and expectation. Passover itself commemorates God's deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt, making it a fitting occasion to express their yearning for future redemption. By leaving an empty chair, they were essentially saying, "We are ready and waiting for you, Elijah, to announce the Messiah's arrival." This tradition underscores a profound sense of hope and faith in God's promises. It reflects the Jewish people's deep longing for salvation and their trust in God's timing. For us as Christians, it serves as a reminder of the fulfillment of these prophecies in the coming of John the Baptist and ultimately, in Jesus Christ.

Our Hymns Today

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| ◆ Opening Hymn: | <i>This Is My Father's World</i> | Green #554 |
| ◆ Psalm | 85:8-13 | Green, p.254 |
| ◆ Hymn of the Day: | <i>Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus</i> | Green #487 |
| ◆ Communion Hymn: | <i>Beautiful Savior</i> | Green #518 |
| ◆ Closing Hymn: | <i>Lift High the Cross</i> | Green #377 |

The First Reading**Amos 7:7-15**

This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb-line, with a plumb-line in his hand. And the Lord said to me, 'Amos, what do you see?' And I said, 'A plumb-line.' Then the Lord said, 'See, I am setting a plumb-line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by; the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.' Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, 'Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said, "Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land." ' And Amaziah said to Amos, 'O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.' Then Amos answered Amaziah, 'I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, "Go, prophesy to my people Israel." (NRSV)

The Second Reading**Ephesians 1:3-14**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory. (NRSV)

The Gospel**Mark 6:14-29**

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, 'John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him.' But others said, 'It is Elijah.' And others said, 'It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.' But when Herod heard of it, he said, 'John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.' For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, 'It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.' And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an

opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, 'Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it.' And he solemnly swore to her, 'Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.' She went out and said to her mother, 'What should I ask for?' She replied, 'The head of John the baptizer.' Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, 'I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.' The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb. (NRSV)



Congratulations LTC-R Sampson

This weekend, St. Paul member Matthew Sampson completed his one-year term as Commander of the American Legion for the state of West Virginia. Matt has traveled all over the state and country for the last 12 months while serving in this capacity...

...and still made time to be a worship assistant on Sundays :)

Pastor Tony will continue for another year as the Legion State Chaplain.



VBS INFORMATION

Our annual vacation Bible school will be held Sunday July 21—Wednesday, July 24. Each day from 5:30pm—7:30pm. Kids Pre-K to 3rd. All are welcome!!

Register at

StPaulMorgantown.org/VBS



This month, the Circle of Friends free community meal will be served July 28th at 4PM at the Lutheran Campus Chapel. Help is needed! Please contact Sheila Zinn to offer your assistance. 410-599-3818 or socialministry@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

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Tamara Riegel, Administrator

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9AM —Noon

Call/Text: (304) 599-0620

Office@StPaulMorgantown.org



Officers Of The Congregation

President: Bill Graham

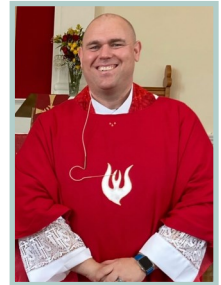
Vice President: Lillian Stevens

Treasurer: Joanne Seasholtz

Secretary: Lindsey Naumann

Financial Secretary: Sue Cook

The Rev. Tony Setley, Pastor



Phone (text or call):

304-715-2350

Email:

Pastor@StPaulMorgantown.org

This Week's Schedule

Sunday, July 14

Adult Bible Study 9:00 AM

Lounge

Worship 10:00 AM

Nave

Thursday, July 18

Prayerful Walkers 9:00 AM

Parking Lot

Council meeting 7:00 PM

Lounge

Friday, July 19

Piecemakers 10:00 AM

Fellowship Hall

Sunday, July 21

Adult Bible Study 9:00 AM

Lounge

Worship 10:00 AM

Nave

Vacation Bible School 5:30 PM

Nave

Serving Today:

Assisting Minister: **Mary Haas**

Lector: **Michael Grimm**

Usher: **David Custer**

Counters: **Julie Sandolini & Jennifer Reed**

Broadcaster: **Mike & Jen Peters**

Serving July 21st:

Assisting Minister: **Michael Grimm**

Lector: **Lindsey Naumann**

Usher: **Bill Graham**

Counters: **Dave Stiles & Jennifer Reed**

Broadcaster: **Carl Wertz**

Communion Today

- ◆ **Communion today** is at the rail. Proceed down aisle filling in from outside toward center. Return to your pew down the side aisle on your side of the Church.
- ◆ **Grape juice & gluten free wafers are available**, just ask for them at the rail.