



The Weekly Epistle

Jan Hus, Martyr
July 7, 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

There were different *levels* of following Jesus in the Bible. The closest level is the **select disciples**, Peter, James, and John come to mind—Jesus takes them specifically to places the others cannot go. The most familiar level is **disciple**. As in the big 12. These are the dozen most closely associated with Jesus during his ministry—think Last Supper. There was a ring beyond that which grows the number to 70 (or 72 depending on the scroll) who are still called disciples. Devoted enough to be sent out by Christ, but not necessarily close enough to get a literal or figurative seat at the table. Then you have **followers** of Jesus. These are a part of the large crowd that come to hear him speak, and likely some of those traveled along behind him, at least for a time. You have the large crowd who doesn't follow—the proverbial **multitude**. And last you have the **one-offs**, like the bleeding woman or Jairus from last week's Gospel, who seek out Jesus once but are said, none-the-less, to have been graced with a faith that saves.

Maybe now you're thinking, "here comes the part when the Pastor encourages us to get to the next level." Not so fast my friends. We find that Jesus doesn't seem to make much of a fuss about what group someone is in, at the particular time they are in it. He feeds, heals, comforts, and teaches them regardless; because, when you are with Jesus, you are with Jesus and Jesus is with you. Do I believe God's desire for us is to be as close to Jesus as possible? Sure do. Do I believe that being in one place or another makes us inadequate? Sure don't. God will draw us all to Himself in due season. So simply thanks be to God you're near Jesus today—be it more or less.

Yours in Christ, +Pastor Tony

Our Hymns Today

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|--------------------|---|-------------------|
| ◆ Opening Hymn: | <i>Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty</i> | Green #250 |
| ◆ Psalm | 119:113-120 | Green, p.277 |
| ◆ Hymn of the Day: | <i>Faith of Our Fathers</i> | Green #500 |
| ◆ Communion Hymn: | <i>Just As I Am</i> | Green #296 |
| ◆ Closing Hymn: | <i>The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve</i> | Blue #723 |

The First Reading

Job 22:21-30

Agree with God, and be at peace; in this way good will come to you. Receive instruction from his mouth, and lay up his words in your heart. If you return to the Almighty, you will be restored, if you remove unrighteousness from your tents, if you treat gold like dust, and gold of Ophir like the stones of the torrent-bed, and if the Almighty is your gold and your precious silver, then you will delight yourself in the Almighty, and lift up your face to God. You will pray to him, and he will hear you, and you will pay your vows. You will decide on a matter, and it will be established for you, and light will shine on your ways. When others are humiliated, you say it is pride; for he saves the humble. He will deliver even those who are guilty; they will escape because of the cleanness of your hands. (NRSV)

The Second Reading

Revelation 3:1-6

And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works; you have a name for being alive, but you are dead. Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is at the point of death, for I have not found your works perfect in the sight of my God. Remember then what you received and heard; obey it, and repent. If you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you. Yet you have still a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes; they will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. If you conquer, you will be clothed like them in white robes, and I will not blot your name out of the book of life; I will confess your name before my Father and before his angels. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. (NRSV)

The Gospel

Matthew 23:34-39

Jesus said, "Therefore I send you prophets, sages, and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town, so that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. Truly I tell you, all this will come upon this generation. Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you, desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'" (NRSV)



Jan Hus (1369-1415) was a Czech theologian, reformer, and philosopher.

A key predecessor to Protestantism, he criticized church corruption and pushed for religious reforms. His teachings influenced the Hussite movement. He was excommunicated and later burned at the stake for heresy, becoming a martyr and inspiration for future reformers, including Martin Luther. We commemorate his witness today in worship.

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!!

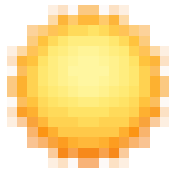
Register at

StPaulMorgantown.org/VBS



Circle of Friends

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



Solar Panels Update

“One Year's Worth of Power Produced”

June 23rd was big milestone for our solar project at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Our panels went active on Feb. 20, 2023.

In 2022, our last full year before the panels, St. Paul used 46.4 MWh of power. The total power produced by the panels since becoming operational has surpassed that number.

Join us for
cookout on
July 24th at
PM.

Burgers,
dogs, and
drinks will
be

provided; bring a side to share
if you wish.

This event coincides with the
last evening of Vacation Bible
School. The children will be
sharing what they learned.



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Serving Today:

Assisting Minister: **Sylvia McEwuen**

Lector: **Stephanie Setley**

Usher: **Larry Springer**

Counters: **Carol Henry**

& Steve Woodruff

Broadcaster: **Mary Boroff**

Serving July 14th:

Assisting Minister: **Mary Haas**

Lector: **Michael Grimm**

Usher: **David Custer**

Counters: **Julie Sandolini**

& Lillian Stevens

Broadcaster: **Mike & Jen Peters**

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Tamara Riegel, Administrator

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9AM —Noon

Call/Text: (304) 599-0620

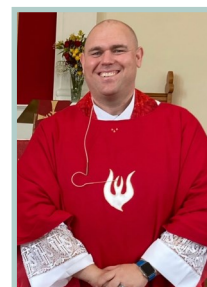
Office@StPaulMorgantown.org



The Rev. Tony Setley, Pastor

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

Email:
Pastor@StPaulMorgantown.org



This Week's Schedule

Sunday, July 7

Adult Bible Study 9:00 AM

Lounge

Worship 10:00 AM

Nave

Friday, July 12

Piecemakers 10:00 AM

Fellowship Hall

Sunday, July 14

Adult Bible Study 9:00 AM

Lounge

Worship 10:00 AM

Nave



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!

Officers Of The Congregation

President: Bill Graham

Vice President: Lillian Stevens

Treasurer: Joanne Seasholtz

Secretary: Lindsey Naumann

Financial Secretary: Sue Cook

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**