



The Weekly Epistle

The 3rd Sunday after Pentecost
June 9, 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

Perspective is a funny thing. How close would you say September is? If you are a Summer-enthusiast, you might say its too soon, only 3 months. If you are more of a Wintarian, you might open the calendar and say, there's 3 months left—the horror! Probably not a surprise for many of you that you can count me in the latter group.

But as I peek ahead on the calendar, and wince at the deluge of sweat and sunlight laid before me, I notice something sitting on September 8 - and surprise myself by saying, "that's only 3 months away!"

Last Sunday, we put up a fundraising poster to encourage 12 months of giving to the Circle of Friends free meal ministry. The congregation descended like a wonderful plague of locusts after worship. Less than a handful remain.

Now, to be clear, Lutherans do not think good works are tied to how a person is saved—your salvation is Jesus' job not yours. And yet good works and salvation are inseparable all the same. For as we are freed by the Gospel from the yoke of "having to do," we are thereby liberated to freely love God and neighbor. And, we see that here.

September 8, almost exactly 3 months from today is the ELCA's God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. A day set aside to bring our liberated love of neighbor into the community by doing an act of service for our neighbors. I would like to challenge you to think about what we can do as a congregation called to be Jesus' body in this place—and then I want to hear you idea. Don't wait too long—can you believe its almost September?

Yours in Christ, +*Pastor Tony*

Our Hymns Today

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|--------------------|--|-------------------|
| ◆ Opening Hymn: | <i>For the Beauty of the Earth</i> | Green #561 |
| ◆ Psalm | 130 | Green, p.281 |
| ◆ Hymn of the Day: | <i>Praise the Savior, Now and Ever</i> | Green #155 |
| ◆ Communion Hymn: | <i>Day By Day</i> | Blue #746 |
| ◆ Closing Hymn: | <i>Go, My Children, With My Blessing</i> | Blue #721 |

The First Reading**Genesis 3:8-15**

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' The Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your

The Second Reading**2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1**

But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—'I believed, and so I spoke'—we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. (NRSV)

The Gospel**Mark 3:20-35**

And the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, 'He has gone out of his mind.' And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, 'He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.' And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, 'How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered. Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin'—for they had said, 'He has an unclean spirit.'

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, 'Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.' And he replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' And looking at those who sat around him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and

**SAVE THE DATE:
VACATION BIBLE
SCHOOL 2024!**

Our annual vacation Bible school will be held Sunday July 21—Wednesday, July 24. Each day from 5:30pm—7:30pm.

Our theme will be “Holy Trinity!” Sign-up sheets for kids and volunteers are available in the narthex and online sign-ups will be posted this week. More details to come.

This Week’s Schedule

Tuesday, June 11

Bible Study 10:00 AM
Lounge

Thursday, June 13

Prayerful Walkers 8:00 AM
Parking Lot

Friday, June 14

Piecemakers 10:00 AM
Fellowship Hall

Sunday, June 16

Adult Bible Study 9:00 AM
Lounge
Worship 10:00 AM
Nave

North Star Boys Choir at St. Paul on June 16

The North Star Boys Choir (northstarboyschoirmn.org) will be joining us for worship on June 16th. The choir will offer several selections from their current tour presentation; America the Beautiful. A free-will offering will be collected.

We need a handful of families that can host two boys overnight on June 15. If you have the ability to host please let Pastor Tony know asap and thank you to those who have already offered!



LOOKING FOR HELPERS—Altar Guild



The Altar Guild prepares the altar for communion each week and cleans up after each service. We also clean and maintain the linens. If you would like to help with this, we welcome you! We will train you, and

you will learn the proper names for all those odd things on the altar. If you are interested, please contact the church office or MaryLee Cushing.

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.

Officers Of The Congregation

President: Bill Graham
Vice President: Lillian Stevens
Treasurer: Joanne Seasholtz
Financial Secretary: Sue Cook

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Tamara Riegel, Administrator

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9AM —Noon

Call/Text: (304) 599-0620

Office@StPaulMorgantown.org



ELCA

Serving Today:

Assisting Minister: **Stephanie Setley**

Lector: **Mary Boroff**

Usher: **Tamara Riegel**

Counters: **Mary Boroff & Bill Graham**

Broadcaster: **Mike and Jen Peters**

Serving June 16th:

Assisting Minister: **Mary Haas**

Lector: **Shabonne Grimm**

Usher: **Dave Custer**

Counters: **Margie Suder & Jennifer Reed**

Broadcaster: **Mary Boroff**

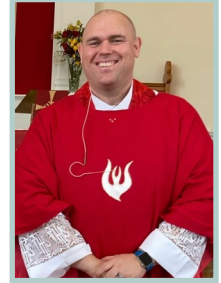
The Rev. Tony Setley, Pastor

Phone (text or call):

304-715-2350

Email:

Pastor@StPaulMorgantown.org



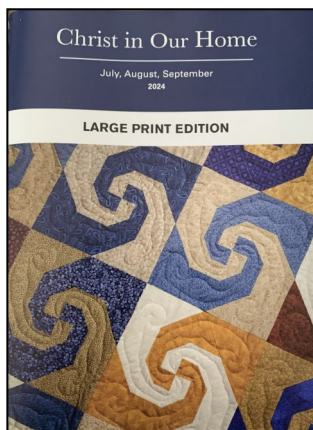
Online Offering

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

Thank you!

TAKE FAITH HOME!

Christ In Our Home devotional books for July-September are now available at the church. If you wish to have a copy mailed to you, please contact the church office.



In Loving Memory

The altar flowers are given by the Kirkpatrick family in memory of Mike.

GOD'S HOUSE, OUR HANDS

Please consider signing-up for a temporary cleaning assignment here at church. Sheets are on the back table in the narthex.

