



# The Weekly Epistle

The Holy Trinity  
May 26, 2024



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**Take This Sheet Home With You!**

**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**

We aren’t debtor people. At least I’m not. Some say the true lines between Christians are Catholic/Orthodox/Lutheran/Baptist—and those exist. But if you really want to get to the heart of the matter, say the Lord’s prayer with another Christian and when words become unexpectedly divergent, suddenly the breach between traditions has never felt wider. Some people are debtor people, some trespasses, and some go with sin. You can pick your punch—Jesus didn’t speak English anyway.

That said, the closest transliteration from the Biblical Greek to modern English has Jesus saying in Matthew’s Gospel , “forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.” In Luke, its “forgive us our sins as we forgive our debtors.” The King James set the word as trespasses, which may very well have captured both meanings in merry, ole England. And we’ve kept it so because...well—tradition!

But I have to give a nod to the debtor people. I think they’re grasping a truism that Jesus expresses that maybe we don’t perceive with sins and trespasses alone. Wrongs cause rifts, between God and people & people and people, that justice demands satisfaction for—an eye for an eye. To forgive another their sin is laudable and seems even pleasant. But to let the debt go unpaid—to forgo your justice/your payback—the self-sacrificial nature of that action shows clear. The Lord’s prayer bids us to do injustice to ourselves thereby freeing our neighbor. It’s not just being nice—its Jesus-work through and through. The Lord sacrifices for my sin and debt, Lord give me the strength to forgive my others in the same.

Yours in Christ, +*Pastor Tony*

## **Our Hymns Today**

- |                      |   |                   |
|----------------------|---|-------------------|
| ◆ Opening Hymn:      | <i>Holy, Holy, Holy</i>                         | Green <b>#165</b> |
| ◆ Psalm              | 29  | Green, p.228      |
| ◆ Gospel Procession: | <i>Father Most Holy (2 vv. out, 2 vv. back)</i> | Green <b>#169</b> |
| ◆ Hymn of the Day:   | <i>Holy God, We Praise Your Name</i>            | Green <b>#535</b> |
| ◆ Communion Hymn:    | <i>Praise to the Father</i>                     | Green <b>#517</b> |
| ◆ Closing Hymn:      | <i>Come, Thou Almighty King</i>                 | Green <b>#522</b> |

**The First Reading****Isaiah 6:1-8**

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.' The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!' Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.' Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!' (NRSV)

**The Second Reading****Romans 8:12-17**

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. (NRSV)

**The Gospel****John 3:1-17**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (NRSV)

## June, 2024 - Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 26 9:00 AM Bible Study 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship	May 27 MEMORIAL DAY  OFFICE CLOSED	May 28 10:00 AM Bible Study	May 29	May 30 9:00 AM Prayerful Walkers	May 31 10:00 AM Piecemakers	June 1
2 9:00 AM Bible Study <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>LAST DAY of</b> <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00 AM Worship	3	4	5	6	7 10:00 AM Piecemakers	8 3:00 PM Mike Kirkpatrick's Funeral
9 9:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship	10	11 10:00 AM Bible Study	12	13 9:00 AM Prayerful Walkers	14 10:00 AM Piecemakers	15
16 9:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship	17	18	19	20 7:00 PM Council	21 10:00 AM Piecemakers	22
23 9:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship	24	25 10:00 AM Bible Study	26	27 9:00 AM Prayerful Walkers 7:00 PM Suncrest Neighborhood Association	28 10:00 AM Piecemakers	29 9:00 AM Lutheran Men in Mission @ Eat'n Park



### Funeral Meals

### LOOKING FOR HELPERS

If you would like to volunteer to assist with bereavement committee please send your name, cell phone number, and email to Sara Bishop ([sara.bishop2613@gmail.com](mailto:sara.bishop2613@gmail.com)), Julie Sandolfini ([nursejuliern@hotmail.com](mailto:nursejuliern@hotmail.com)), or Grethe Myles-Witt ([grethemyles76@mac.com](mailto:grethemyles76@mac.com)) Our next meal will be Saturday, June 8 for Mike Kirkpatrick's funeral. Future meals are scheduled as needed. Thank you!

### 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



## Serving Today:

Assisting Minister: **Michael Grimm**  
Lector: **Tamara Riegel**  
Usher: **Larry Springer**  
Counters: **Mary Boroff & Bill Graham**  
Broadcaster: **Mary Boroff**

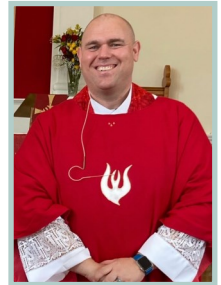
## Serving June 2<sup>nd</sup>:

Assisting Minister: **Steve Woodruff**  
Lector: **Sylvia McEwuen**  
Usher: **Bill Graham**  
Counters: **Jerry Bouquot & Lillian Stevens**  
Broadcaster: **Carl Werntz**

## 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](http://stpaulmorgantown.org/giving)

**Thank you!**



**Q:** What is Circle of Friends?

**A:** An organization, of people from local churches that has been providing consistent free, weekend meals to people in Morgantown for many years.

**Q:** How is St. Paul involved?

**A:** For years our congregation has provided one meal per month, even during the pandemic. Currently, we cook and serve the Sunday dinner of the 4th Sunday of the month.

**Q:** What does the ministry need? **A: YOU!**

PLEASE consider helping one of two ways. First, the entire monthly meal (about 40 servings) can be covered for just \$100. Please consider sponsoring a month—just drop the donation in the offering plate in an envelope with your named and marked “Circle of Friends.” Second, we need servers and some cleaners. 4th Sunday, 4:30-6:30 at the Lutheran Campus Chapel (1497 University Ave.) Please let Sheila Zinn or the office know if you can help. You can also put your name on the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Thanks!