



The Weekly Epistle

The 21st Sunday after Pentecost
October 13, 2024



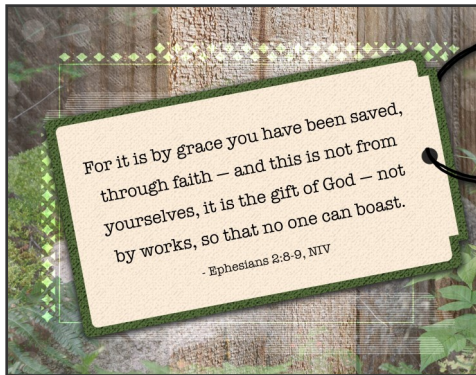
@StPaulMorgantown

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

How do evangelicals, like us, think about 'good works' and being 'rewarded' by God? Johann Gerhard was one of the great theologians of the Lutheran Age of Orthodoxy (1580-1730). In his *Loci Theologici* he described it thusly, "God, who is just, has promised eternal rewards not as payment for merit, but as a gift of grace. Good works are not the cause of our salvation, but they are the fruits and testimonies of

faith, which God graciously rewards for Christ's sake."

This sentiment aligns perfectly with both Luther's teaching and Scripture's, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9) As Luther taught, our faith in Christ should inspire holy living—expressions of gratitude to God. These good works are signs of our faith, not ladders to heaven. We live in freedom, knowing our salvation is secure, not in fear of punishment or pride in accomplishments. In that way, we embrace holy living, not to gain favor, but out of love for God and our neighbor. Our reward is a deeper relationship with Christ and the joy of serving Him faithfully.

Yours in Christ, +Pastor Tony

Our Hymns Today

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| ◆ Opening Hymn: | <i>God of Grace</i> | Green #415 |
| ◆ Psalm | 90:12-17 | Green, p.258 |
| ◆ Hymn of the Day: | <i>All Depends on Our Possessing</i> | Green #447 |
| ◆ Communion Hymn: | <i>Take My Life, that I May Be</i> | Green #406 |
| ◆ Closing Hymn: | <i>My God, How Wonderful Thou Art</i> | Green #524 |

The First Reading**Amos 5:6-7, 10-15**

Seek the LORD and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it. Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground! They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth. Therefore because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins—you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate. Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time. Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph. (NRSV)

The Second Reading**Hebrews 4:12-16**

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (NRSV)

The Gospel**Mark 10:17-31**

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible." Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first." (NRSV)

**2024 Walk to End Alzheimer's
Morgantown, WV
Sunday, October 20, 2024**

Mountaineer Mall
5000 Greenbag Road

Registration at 1 PM
Walk begins at 2 PM

To join the St. Paul walking team, contact Donna Ford-Werntz.

To donate, go online to alz.org/walk and click on "Find a Team," then search for "St. Paul Lutheran." Make sure to include the period after "St", or our team won't come up.

Online donations are preferred, but Donna will take cash or check donations if you wish to donate that way.



Here's a throwback photo! Can we get up as big a team this year?



You are invited to come up to the rail for prayers and anointing during the Hymn of the Day.



The altar flowers are given by Matt & Elaine Sampson in honor of their wedding anniversary

All Saints'

During the service on November 3rd (All Saints' Sunday), we will remember those who have died in the faith since November 1st, 2023.

If you would like someone to be remembered during that service, please fill out the **sign-up sheet in the narthex** or contact the church office.

This month, the **Circle of Friends** free community meal will be served October 27th at 4PM at the Lutheran Campus Chapel. Help is needed! Please contact Sheila Zinn to offer your assistance. 410-599-3818 or email: socialministry@stpaulmorgantown.org



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.

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Tamara Riegel, Administrator

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9AM —Noon

Call/Text: (304) 599-0620

Office@StPaulMorgantown.org



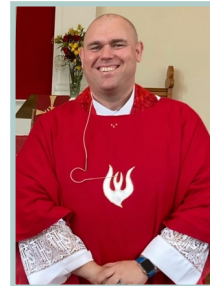
The Rev. Tony Setley, Pastor

Phone (text or call):

304-715-2350

Email:

Pastor@StPaulMorgantown.org



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!

Serving Today:

Assisting Minister: **Matt Sampson**

Lector: **Larisa Mount**

Usher: **Larry Springer**

Counters: **Kim Shockley & Lindsey Naumann**

Broadcaster: **Mike & Jen Peters**

Serving October 20th:

Assisting Minister: **Michael Grimm**

Lector: **Sally Kirkpatrick**

Usher: **Dave Custer**

Counters: **Sally Kirkpatrick & Mike Peters**

Broadcaster: **Carl Werntz**

Officers Of The Congregation

President: Bill Graham

Vice President: Lillian Stevens

Treasurer: Joanne Seasholtz

Secretary: Lindsey Naumann

Financial Secretary: Sue Cook

This Week's Schedule



Sunday, October 13

Choir (choir loft) 9:00 AM

Adult Bible Study (lounge)

Sunday School (classroom)

Worship 10:00 AM

Nave

Tuesday, October 15

Bible Study 10:00 AM

Lounge

Thursday, October 17

Prayerful Walkers 9:00 AM

Parking Lot

Council 7:00 PM

Lounge

Friday, October 18

Piecemakers 10:00 AM

Fellowship Hall

Sunday, October 20

Choir (choir loft) 9:00 AM

Adult Bible Study (lounge)

Sunday School (classroom)

Worship 10:00 AM

Nave

Walk to End Alzheimer's 2:00 PM

Mountaineer Mall