



# The Weekly Epistle

The 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
September 1, 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

In times of uncertainty, and there are plenty in this life, God promises to guide us. Jesus tells His disciples, "Do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say" (Luke 12:11-12). Throughout Scripture, we see God providing not just words but the wisdom and strength to act according to His will.



Whether Moses before Pharaoh or the apostles facing persecution, God equips His people when they need it most. Trusting in this divine provision is a vital part of our faith. In that spirit, I am trying something unique this week—I haven't pre-read the texts. This isn't just slacking on the job; I want us to listen together, trusting the Spirit will guide our reflection. Let's see where this goes.

*Yours in Christ, +Pastor Tony*



**Rally Day will be on Sunday September 15<sup>th</sup>.** It's an annual event to celebrate a return from summer into a more regular pattern of church life. We will have youth Sunday School sign-ups with gifts and there will be information on our various ministries in the church and how to get involved.

## Our Hymns Today

- |                    |  |                   |
|--------------------|--|-------------------|
| ◆ Opening Hymn:    | <i>You Servants of God</i>                   | Green <b>#252</b> |
| ◆ Psalm            | 15   | Green, p.220      |
| ◆ Hymn of the Day: | <i>Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways</i> | Green <b>#480</b> |
| ◆ Communion Hymn:  | <i>Be Thou My Vision</i>                     | Blue <b>#776</b>  |
| ◆ Closing Hymn:    | <i>For the Fruit of All Creation</i>         | Blue <b>#760</b>  |

**The First Reading****Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9** So

now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you. You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!' For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children. (NRSV)

**The Second Reading****James 1:17-27**

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world. (NRSV)

**The Gospel****Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition." Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile. For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person." (NRSV)



### Choir Rehearsals Begin

September 8<sup>th</sup> and will be  
Sundays at 9am in the loft.

All ages and abilities are welcome and  
encouraged to join!!



The Lutheran Men  
in Mission  
breakfast has  
been moved to  
Labor Day Monday  
to avoid the  
football traffic on  
Saturday

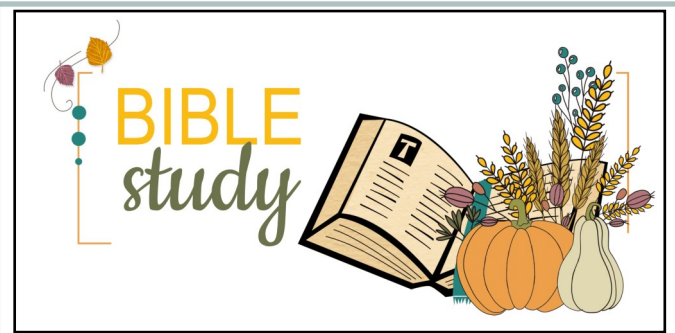
Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9 AM at Eat'n Park

A new sign up sheet for  
cleaning the church is  
now on the table in the  
narthex (entry). Please  
consider helping out by  
doing a chore or two dur-  
ing September, October, or November.



### 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.



**Tuesday Morning Bible Study Resumes  
Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

**(Also available on Google Meet)**

**Topic Study: Angels and Demons  
7:30—8PM on Google Meet & Facebook  
Tuesdays, September 17 & 24**

### Vinny Sandolfini's Upcoming Eagle Scout Project



Our council recently  
approved an Eagle  
Scout project, of St.  
Paul member Vinny  
Sandolfini, which will  
be a beautification of the Patteson side  
lower entrance. A path will be built  
between the circular sitting area and the  
lower walk, and the project will also  
include the addition of a new picnic  
table to replace the old tables. Please  
consider donating to this project. You  
can put cash or checks, made out to  
Julie Sandolfini, in the marked envelopes  
in your pews.



The altar flowers are  
given by Cathy Dattola  
on the occasion of her  
40<sup>th</sup> wedding  
anniversary



### 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)

### St. Paul Lutheran Church

Tamara Riegel, Administrator

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9AM —Noon

Call/Text: (304) 599-0620

[Office@StPaulMorgantown.org](mailto:Office@StPaulMorgantown.org)



### Officers Of The Congregation

President: Bill Graham

Vice President: Lillian Stevens

Treasurer: Joanne Seasholtz

Secretary: Lindsey Naumann

Financial Secretary: Sue Cook

### Serving Today:

Assisting Minister: **Steve Woodruff**

Lector: **Barbara Parsons**

Usher: **Tamara Riegel**

Counters: **Jerry Bouquot & Lillian Stevens**

Broadcaster: **Mary Boroff**

### Serving September 8<sup>th</sup>:

Assisting Minister: **Mary Haas**

Lector: **Sally Kirkpatrick**

Usher: **Larry Springer**

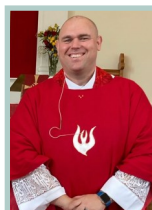
Counters: **Sally Kirkpatrick & Bill Graham**

Broadcaster: **Carl Werntz**

### The Rev. Tony Setley, Pastor

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

Email:  
**[Pastor@StPaulMorgantown.org](mailto:Pastor@StPaulMorgantown.org)**



### This Week's Schedule

#### Sunday, September 1

Adult Bible Study 9:00 AM

Lounge

Worship 10:00 AM

Nave

#### Monday, September 2

Lutheran Men In Mission 9:00 AM

Eat'n Park

#### Tuesday, September 3

Bible Study 10:00 AM

Lounge

#### Thursday, September 5

Prayerful Walkers 9:00 AM

Parking Lot

#### Friday, September 6

Piecemakers 10:00 AM

Fellowship Hall

#### Sunday, September 8

Adult Bible Study 9:00 AM

Lounge

Choir 9:00 AM

Choir loft

Worship 10:00 AM

Nave