



The Weekly Epistle

The 16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 8, 2024

Take This Sheet Home With You!



@StPaulMorgantown

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

It's been an exciting week! I'm so happy to share that over the next several months, we will begin or continue confirmation programs for a total five students, in 3 groups, from both middle school and high school. We are blessed with a diverse group of confirmands for the coming year, and it's a reminder that while the foundations of our faith are unchanging, the path to understanding them can and should vary.

Lutherans have long recognized confirmation as a vital ministry, "a public profession of faith prepared by long and careful instruction," as Luther once described. Each student will explore the same core principles, but their journey will be uniquely shaped by their experiences and growth.

St. Paul, we are stewards of this sacred process, nurturing and guiding these young people as they deepen their understanding of God's Word and their role in the body of Christ. Please keep them in your prayers throughout this important time.



In Christ's love,
Pastor Tony

Our Hymns Today

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| ◆ Opening Hymn: | <i>O God of Mercy, God of Light</i> | Green #425 |
| ◆ Psalm | 146 | Green, p.287 |
| ◆ Hymn of the Day: | <i>Where Cross the Crowded Ways</i> | Green #429 |
| ◆ Communion Hymn: | <i>How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds</i> | Green #345 |
| ◆ Closing Hymn: | <i>Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing</i> | Green #559 |

The First Reading**Isaiah 35:4-7a**

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water. (NRSV)

The Second Reading**James 2:1-17**

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment. What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. (NRSV)

The Gospel**Mark 7:24-37**

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then

looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.” (NRSV)



The choir rehearses Sundays at 9am in the loft. All ages and abilities are welcome and encouraged to join!!

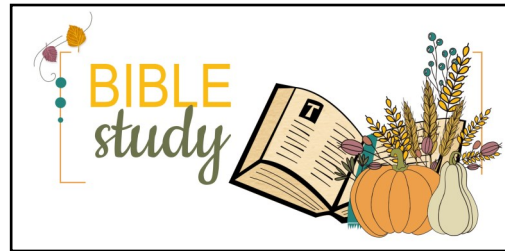
God's Work Our Hands

Today, people across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will be serving in their communities.



Join our Piecemakers today and help create quilts which will be sent to people in need all around the world. In the Fellowship Hall, after worship Pre-requisites: knowing how to tie a square knot . . . We'll teach you if you don't know!

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 during September, October, or November.



Tuesday Morning Bible Study Resumes Sept. 3rd.

(Also available on Google Meet)

Topic Study: Angels and Demons

7:30—8PM on Google Meet & Facebook

Tuesdays, September 17 & 24

Rally Day will be next Sunday September 15th



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.

Watch out for the kids!

The Classical Conversations homeschool group is using our green space (and sometimes the parking lot) again this year. Please watch for the kids.



The altar flowers are given by Bob and Linda Kleeb on the occasion of their 50th 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

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Tamara Riegel, Administrator

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9AM —Noon

Call/Text: (304) 599-0620

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: **Mary Haas**

Lector: **Sally Kirkpatrick**

Usher: **Larry Springer**

Counters: **Sally Kirkpatrick & Bill Graham**

Broadcaster: **Carl Werntz**

Serving September 15th:

Assisting Minister: **Matthew Sampson**

Lector: **Stephanie Setley**

Usher: **Bill Graham**

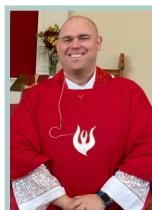
Counters: **Dave Stiles & Mike Peters**

Broadcaster: **Mary Boroff**

The Rev. Tony Setley, Pastor

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

Email:
Pastor@StPaulMorgantown.org



This Week's Schedule

Sunday, September 8

Choir 9:00 AM

Choir loft

Adult Bible Study 9:00 AM

Lounge

Worship 10:00 AM

Nave

God's Work Our Hands 11:15 AM

Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, September 10

Bible Study 10:00 AM

Lounge

Thursday, September 12

Prayerful Walkers 9:00 AM

Parking Lot

Friday, September 13

Piecemakers 10:00 AM

Fellowship Hall

Sunday, September 15

Adult Bible Study 9:00 AM

Lounge

Choir 9:00 AM

Choir loft

Worship 10:00 AM

Nave