

The Epistle

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Volume 20 Issue 8 August 2021

There's Something About Mary...No Matter Who You Are

On Sunday, August 15th, we'll take a break from Ordinary Time in the Church for the Commemoration of Mary, Mother of Our Lord. Some Lutherans sometimes do this in the Summer. The feast day itself was established in the 9th Century and a belief in the *Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, her bodily acceptance into Heaven, can be traced to another 400 or so years before that. However, after the dust settled on the Reformation most Lutherans set aside the belief in the Assumption...but we retained the feast day, as you might expect.

As I prepared for this day five years ago, the congregation I was serving in Ohio lost one of her most faithful and stalwart members. A humble, caring, and kind Lutheran from rural Minnesota who had been the principal actor in establishing Peace Lutheran's "legendary" rose garden some four decades prior, taught Sunday School, and raised their family in the church.

When you are serving a small family-sized congregation and a near-founding member dies, it changes the Sunday sermon; no matter the day or the text. But still I was hesitant, if only for a moment...

"Can a comparison to Mary be made?" I thought, "Tom was in the Army."

Suffice to say, I doubt Tom Walker consciously ever modeled his life after Mary. I certainly don't think he would have suspected that his non-funeral, funeral sermon would be a comparison between himself and the Mother of God. But at least according to his beloved wife Bea (+) and his friends in the church, he would have loved it. And that I don't doubt, because that's who Tom was; a man who consciously or unconsciously lived so many of the virtues of Mary in his own life; fidelity, courage, compassion. He even founded the rose garden...the term Rosary coming from *Rosarium*, rose garden; the flower associated with Mary. *Occasionally, God really just has to hit you in the nose with it!*

Sometimes, when looking for figures in the faith to learn from or emulate, we can try looking for a mirror. That's not all bad, I suppose. The closer the image, perhaps the more concrete the lesson. But we shouldn't be stymied by the differences between us and the Saints gone before nor the Saints living now when it comes to looking for examples and role models in the Lord. We might find out that Mary (any of them), Martha, or Deborah has just as much to teach a young man as John the Baptist, Solomon, and the Sons of Thunder ever will. And likewise for women, or rich, or poor, or young, or old, so on and so on. In memory of Tom and in anticipation of celebrating Mary, Mother of Our Lord, I invite each of you to find an "unusual" role model in the faith, you might be surprised what you find!

See you in Church,

Pastor Tony

*"Here am I,
the servant
of the Lord:
let it be
with me
according to
your word."*

LUKE 1:38, NRSV



Council Notes

The Church Council met for its monthly meeting on July 17th. Here are some highlights of the meeting:

--vote to continue with Covid guidelines as adopted last month based on Committee's recommendations, with amendment to include acolytes & lay readers who are vaccinated. Council will continue

to evaluate monthly and as indicated by local numbers.

--we need to fill a vacancy on Council. (Hint, hint)

--we are currently without sexton/custodial services.

--THANK YOU to all who participated in the grounds workdays! The results are impressive!

--at meeting of Congregation on 7-18 the gas pipeline easement grant for work by Dominion Energy Corporation was approved. In addition, clear glass replacement windows for sanctuary were approved.

--next Congregational meeting will be for purpose of electing 2 delegates to attend Synod Assembly here in Morgantown on Oct.16. Please consider participating!. You are needed!

We need people who can be friendly and welcoming to serve as **ushers**. You will be asked to greet people as they enter the church, assist visitors and anyone who needs help, and direct people to communion.

Ways you can SERVE

We also need people who can run the **Zoom** broadcast during the service. If you have some familiarity with Zoom (and who doesn't, nowadays?), Carl Wertz will be happy to train you.

Special Meeting of the Congregation



A special meeting of the congregation of St. Paul is called for the Sunday of September 19th, following the morning worship. The purpose of the meeting is to elect voting members to represent the congregation at the WV-WMD Synod Assembly on October 16th. The assembly will be held in Morgantown at Mylan Park. This is the only business to be considered at this special meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: JUNE 2021

OFFERING AND INCOME: \$ 14,575

EXPENSES: \$ 20,425

NET INCOME – JUNE 2021 (\$ 5,850)

NET INCOME FOR 2021 \$ 35,272

Thank you to everyone for your work and prayers to make Installation Sunday so wonderful for us — the Setleys

A belated thank you to Luke Sandolini, who installed the new office door after the break-in.

Thanks to the anonymous donors of a new computer for the office.

Thank you to Dave and Brenda Stiles for preparing the meal for the installation, and to council for serving the meal

Thanks to Robert Zay for providing music for the installation service.



Thrivent Choice

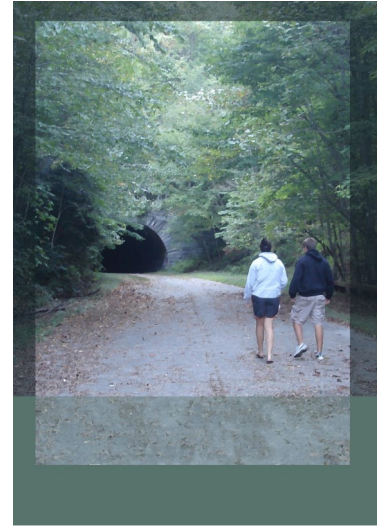
Are you a Thrivent Member? The Thrivent Choice program lets members choose where some of Thrivent Financial's charitable outreach funds go. If you are a Thrivent member who is eligible to participate in this program, you can choose St. Paul Lutheran Church to receive your Choice Dollars. Thank you to those who have already designated their Choice Dollars to St. Paul! For any questions concerning the Thrivent Choice Program, please contact your Thrivent representative.

Prayerful Walkers

Weather Permitting - Join Pastor Tony for a prayer, a bit of Scripture, and a morning walk around the neighborhood.

7:15am-8am

August 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 31st



BLESSING of the BRAINS



and the BACKPACKS

Blessing of the Backpacks and Brains

August 22nd

During the worship service

Students: bring your backpacks and your brains, and receive a blessing for the year ahead!

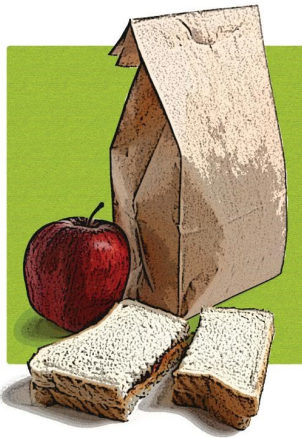
REMINDER: If you are unable to attend worship in person, offering envelopes may be mailed to the church!

St. Paul Lutheran Church
309 Baldwin Street
Morgantown, WV 26505



Installation of Pastor Tony July 25th, 2021





Brown Bag & a Hymn

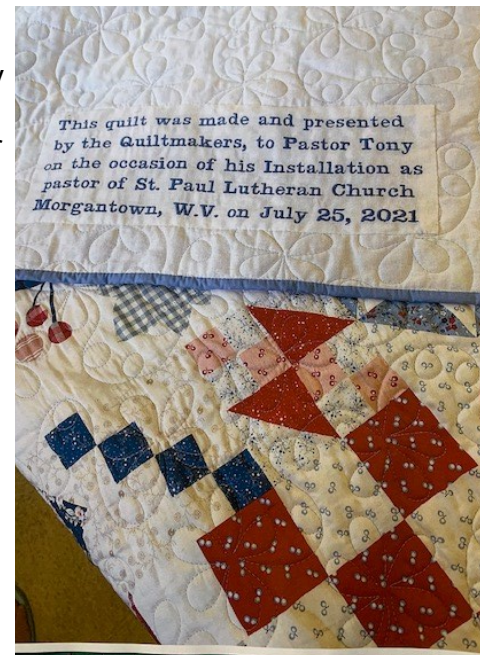
August 18th - 11:45 AM

Weather Permitting - BYO Lunch (Outside and Distanced)

From the Piece Makers



The Piecemakers have been working on quilts and other interesting fabric projects. We presented a queen size quilt with the Mackinac pattern in red, white, and blue to Pastor Tony at his installation July 25th and a wall hanging to his mother. Come November we will have some nice projects for sale and a drawing for a beautiful quilt. We hope you will consider these as possible gifts for friends and family or an addition to your house. We thank members for working at home on these extra projects.



We also thank those friends such as Eva Thomas who donated fabrics to our efforts. We were pleased that Leah, granddaughter of Diann Craig, who from time to time has joined us since she was a young girl. Now she is returning home this month for her senior year. We welcome and appreciate the time and talents of all. Our efforts are joint works. If you do not know how to make a quilt, we will be happy to show you how to do one phase of the quilting project and be happy to share your company through our fellowship. Come join us on Friday's between 10 and 2.

As we move back to more in-person worship, consider signing up to sponsor flowers for a Sunday. A sign-up poster is in the entry



Serving in



SERVING ST PAUL August 2021	LAY ASSISTANT	LECTOR	USHERS	ACOLYTES	COUNTERS	ZOOM
1st 10:00 AM	S. Woodruff	S. Setley	W. Graham L. Springer	S. Sandolini	W. Graham S. Woodruff	C. Wertz
8th 10:00 AM Baptism	D. Borrelli	E. Melby	Melby	G. Riegel	*****	S. Setley
15th 10:00 AM Mary, Mother of Our Lord	S. Woodruff	M. Boroff	T. Riegel D. Custer	V. Sandolini	K. Shockley J. Sandolini	Peters
22nd 7:00 PM	M. Haas	S. Setley	T. Riegel W. Graham	B. Martin	*****	L. Springer
29th 7:00 PM	M. Haas	M. Boroff	L. Springer D. Custer	R. Schockley	J. Bouquot C. Henry	C. Wertz



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10:00 AM Worship Service VBS 6:00 PM	2 VBS 6:00 PM	3 7:15 AM Prayerful Walkers VBS 6:00 PM	4 VBS 6:00 PM	5 VBS 6:00 PM	6 10:00 AM Piecemakers	7
8 10:00 AM Worship Service	9	10 7:15 AM Prayerful Walkers	11	12	13 10:00 AM Piecemakers	14
15 10:00 AM Worship Service	16	17 7:15 AM Prayerful Walkers	18 11:45 AM Brown Bag & a Hymn	19 7:00 PM Council	20 10:00 AM Piecemakers	21
22 10:00 AM Worship Service & Blessing of the Backpacks	23	24	25	26	27 10:00 AM Piecemakers	28
29 10:00 AM Worship Service 3:30 PM Circle of Friends	30 8:00 AM Lutheran Men in Mission	31 7:15 AM Prayerful Walkers				

Reminder: Deadline for September newsletter is August 23rd!!!

Officers Of The Congregation

President: Steve Woodruff

Vice President: Mary Boroff

Secretary: Joanne Seasholtz

Treasurer: Debby Borrelli

Financial Secretary: Jeanne Lemasters

The **Epistle** is a publication from:

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Morgantown, WV

The Rev. Tony Setley, pastor

Office Hours: Monday -Thursday 9:00—12:00

Telephone: (304) 599-0620

Pastor's Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 10 AM—Noon, Wednesday Noon—3 PM

Council Members

Mary Boroff

Margie Suder

Carol Henry

Lindsey Naumann

Steve Woodruff

Joanne Seasholtz

Julie Sandolfini

Katie Switzer

Mike Peters