

The Epistle

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Volume 20 Issue 10
October 2021

Ein Feste Burg

It's believed that sometime between 1527 – 1529, Dr. Luther wrote his most famous hymn, *Ein Feste Burg*, which, God Willing, we will sing this upcoming Reformation Sunday as Lutherans do every year. On its face, one might come away with the impression that the hymn is a triumphant song of victory, with its booming, march-like melody and its declaration of God's ample protection, like that of a mighty fortress. Triumphalism, however, isn't very Lutheran.

For Luther, a distinction was always warranted between the glory of God, as seen most clearly in Jesus on the Cross, and the glorification of Man, the unbridled celebration of worldly successes. We are drawn to a life, and a God, which promises us the latter. We are scandalized by a God who takes to His Cross and calls upon us to do likewise. So, it's no surprise that the whole Church, even in its Lutheran expression, has struggled to get these two right time and again. The Old Adam is a powerful swimmer! How else can be explained the prideful revelry that has accompanied the singing of this song by Lutherans "celebrating" Reformation for almost 500 years?

Looking beyond the title and the tune, what is this hymn of Luther's, that we sing with gusto, really saying? Something distinctly Lutheran; allow me to paraphrase:

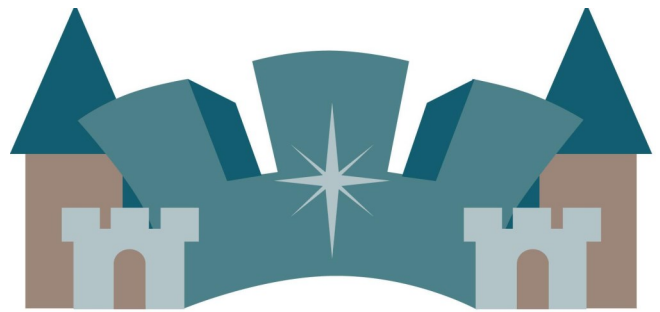
V. 1: God is our strong protector through whom we are saved. However, the Devil is set against us and none of us can match the Devil on our own.

V. 2: We cannot match the Devil (*Reminder! YOU CAN'T DO IT YOURSELF*) so, God sends Jesus to fight for us.

V. 3: There is evil everywhere, but we're not afraid because in the end we know God wins.

V. 4: God's Word is forever and God is our spiritual protector. Even when the forces of evil plunder our houses, steal all our stuff, kidnap our families, and take our lives, it doesn't matter because the Kingdom of God is ours forever.

Why write such a hymn??? The text itself is a loose paraphrase of Psalm 46. Most agree that it is a genuine Luther hymn but several theories exist as to its origin. One such theory posits it was written in memory of Luther's beloved student Leonhard Kaiser. Kaiser was a young preacher in northern Austria when he became acquainted the Gospel preaching we call Evangelical or Lutheran. Moved by the Gospel, he enrolled at Wittenberg and became a pupil of Luther. The two became close and Luther was particularly fond of the young preacher.



THE KINGDOM'S
OURS FOREVER

Kaiser, from the safety of Wittenburg, continued to send contraband, Lutheran pamphlets and books back to his hometown. In early Spring of 1527 word reached Kaiser that his father was terminally ill. Even though he would risk arrest to travel home to see his father, no one in his native land had yet died on account of Lutheranism. The young preacher, never missing an opportunity to proclaim the Gospel, took to the pulpit one Sunday while in his hometown. He was arrested immediately after. The local Dukes, along with the local Bishop, and Luther's opponent Prof. Johannes Eck sought to make an example of Kaiser due to his refusal to recant at trial *and* almost certainly his close relationship with Luther. Charged and convicted of heresy, he was burned at the stake on August 16, 1527.

Luther was crushed. By December of that year, he had written a pamphlet about his dear student, that was disseminated far and wide, *and* possibly a hymn to commemorate his passing. For every time Luther heard of another "heretic" condemned he understood it as: the way of discipleship, his likely fate, **and nothing compared to his God-given faith in the promise of God's Kingdom.** This is where A Mighty Fortress stems from. This is our festival hymn. This is a cross-centered faith. We are outmatched. We may lose everything. Christ is with you. Amen.

In God's Grace (alone),

Pr. Tony



A memorial near his execution site reads: "Leonhard Kaiser, preacher and martyr of the Gospel of Christ; burned at the "Gries" near Schärding on August 16, 1527. Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs, Matthew 5, verse 10." The bottom inscription on the stone reads: A Mighty Fortress is our God.



Confirmation

CLASSES

CALL FOR CONFIRMANDS

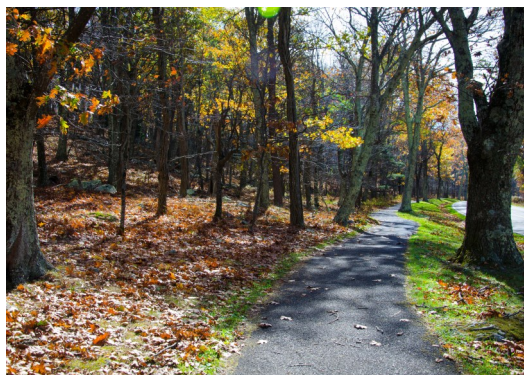
We pray that the COVID rate will continue to fall and we can begin our confirmation ministry near the start of November. Anyone with young people interested in beginning/continuing confirmation please

send a message to Pastor Tony this month. Thank you!

Join us for Bible Study every Tuesday at 10:00 AM, beginning September 7th. You may attend in person or via Zoom.



Prayerful Walkers



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

Tuesdays 8:15am-9am

Note time change!

Brown Bag & a Hymn

October 20th - 11:45 AM

Weather Permitting - BYO Lunch
(Outside and Distanced)





Morgantown, WV
Sunday, October 17, 2021

Mountaineer Mall, 5000 Greenbag Road

Registration at 1:00 PM
 Ceremony at 2:00 PM
 Walk at 2:15 PM

Route length: 2 miles

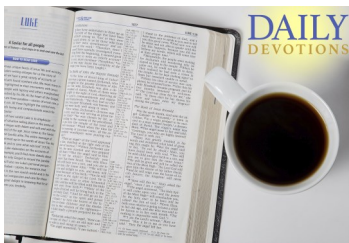
To join the St. Paul Walking Team, contact: Donna Ford-Werntz or the church office.

To donate: Walk to End Alzheimer's envelopes are in the pew racks, or mail to the church.

Make check payable to: St. Paul Lutheran Church
 Add in Memo line: Alzheimer's Walk



Our Alzheimer's Walk Queen
 Kay VandenBosche



Christ in Our home devotions for October—December are here. Please call 304-599-0620 or email office@stpaulmorgantown.org if you would like a copy mailed to you.

The Church Council will meet on September 30th.



**Council
 Notes**



From the Piece Makers

As I keep looking out the southeast window looking for the Harvest Moon, it reminds me that fall is coming.

The Piece Makers have also been thinking ahead to the holiday seasons. Not only have we been making quilts, but also decorations for the holiday season. Starting in mid-October we will display items for sale that will make great gifts or decorations for your own homes. We also have a beautiful King-size quilt which we will take donations of one dollar a ticket or 6 tickets for 5 dollars. Members of the Piece Makers are present at church on Sundays and also in the fellowship hall on Fridays. Starting Friday, October 15th and ending on Sunday December 5th, you can view and purchase beautiful hand made gifts or tickets. Since the Covid has interrupted our working and our ability to see members and friends, we would appreciate help from members of St. Paul by purchasing tickets and gifts. Donations from the sales and tickets go to supplies for the quilts we make for Lutheran World Relief. Keep your eye out for reminders of this sale in the bulletin and future newsletters.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT: AUGUST 2021	
OFFERING AND INCOME:	\$ 19,116
EXPENSES:	\$ 16,525
NET INCOME – JUNE 2021	\$ 2,591
NET INCOME FOR 2021	\$ 32,776

Serving in



SERVING ST PAUL October 2021	LAY ASSISTANT	LECTOR	USHERS	ACOLYTES	COUNTERS	ZOOM
3rd 10:00 AM	D. Borrelli	****	W. Graham	****	****	S. Setley
10th 10:00 AM	M. Haas	****	L. Springer	****	W. Graham J. Seasholtz	Peters
17th 10:00 AM	D. Borrelli	****	T. Riegel	****	****	C. Wertz
24th 10:00 AM	T. Riegel	****	W. Graham	****	D. Stiles M. Boroff	M. Boroff
31st 10:00 AM	M. Haas	****	L. Springer	****	****	S. Setley

Reminder: Deadline for November newsletter is October 25th!!!



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



To add a name to the prayer list, please call the office at 304-599-0620.

There is also a book for prayer requests in the narthex (entry).

Please check the prayer list for names which you have submitted, and let the church office know if a person can be taken off the list. Thank you!



Pastor's
Office Hours

Tuesday — Thursday 10am - 12pm

Pastor's office phone: (304) 212-5116

Pastor's cell (text or call): 681-209-6192

Email: pastor@stpaulmorgantown.org



Date	
October 3	Tamara Riegel
October 10	MaryLee Cushing
October 17	MaryLee Cushing
October 24	Mary Haas
October 31	Tamara Riegel

The **Epistle** is a publication from:
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Morgantown, WV
The Rev. Tony Setley, pastor
Office Hours: Monday -Thursday 9 AM—Noon
Telephone: (304) 599-0620
Pastor's Office Hours:
Tuesday - Thursday 10 AM—Noon

Officers Of The Congregation
President: Steve Woodruff
Vice President: Mary Boroff
Secretary: Joanne Seasholtz
Treasurer: Debby Borrelli
Financial Secretary: Jeanne Lemasters

Council Members		
Mary Boroff	Margie Suder	Carol Henry
Lindsey Naumann	Steve Woodruff	Joanne Seasholtz
Julie Sandolfini	Jerry Bouquot	Mike Peters