

The Epistle

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Volume 20 Issue 9 September 2021

I love a good plan and a clear vision. I load my iPhone calendar with events, both personal and pastoral, with a certain sense of merriment. Every day before football practice I chart out the training sessions to the minute. My 8 years in the Army has given me the opportunity to practice Battalion level MDMP (Military Decision Making Process) and war-game annually. I have seven clocks or things-that-tell-time (to borrow a phrase from Ralphie Parker) in my office and, the crown jewel, a large white board that has categories, dates, ideas, and set events; a visual representation of good order...

...But over these past several weeks, more white space is showing on the board, along with strike-lines, question marks, and evidence of erasure...Welcome back to COVID uncertainty it seems.

Although some are more inclined to spontaneity, many Saints before have also struggled with the inability to answer the many Whens, Hows, and Whys, God lays before us. In the Gospels and the Epistles, Jesus and St. Paul are often fielding similar questions about when and what is coming (perhaps so the questioners can plan!). Jesus offers parables of thieves in the night and outright says that the time (of his return) is known only by God, St. Paul concurs. Sometimes, living in our Father's House means not knowing; and for some of us, this is a struggle.

I don't know yet exactly how or what or where to go from one day to the next with climbing infection numbers in our community, both personally and pastorally. But what I do know is this: God abides. God does not abandon us in the midst of those things we do not know or cannot understand. God remains present and, perhaps for us most importantly, God listens:

♪ What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not

carry Everything to God in prayer! ♪

So for the time being, I'll watch, I'll wait, and I'll pray a familiar prayer of comfort and truth:

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Tony



... do not be anxious about anything, but in everything **by prayer** and supplication with thanksgiving let **your requests** be made known to God.

Philippians 4:6



Council Notes

The Church Council met for its monthly meeting on August 19th. Here are some highlights of the meeting:

- Council discussed the COVID numbers in Monongalia County and made the decision to return to the abbreviated worship service with no singing. Contact tracing will be re-instituted, but temperatures will not be taken.
- Jerry Bouquot was elected to fill out Katie Switzer's term on Council

Thank you to Mary Haas for faithfully maintaining flowers on our altar during our time of Zooming worship.

Thanks to everyone who helped clean up after our *second* flood!



A homeschooling group is using our outdoor space again this year. They will be on our greenspace on Thursdays. Sometimes they are on the parking lot, so please be careful as you drive through!

Watch for Children!

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.



"WHOEVER WELCOMES YOU
WELCOMES ME,
AND WHOEVER WELCOMES ME
WELCOMES THE ONE
WHO SENT ME."

MATTHEW 10:40, NRSV

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.

Tuesday Bible Study is back!

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



Prayerful Walkers



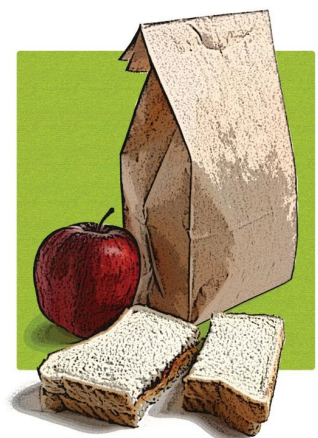
Weather Permitting - Join Pastor Tony for a prayer, a bit of Scripture, and a morning walk around the neighborhood.

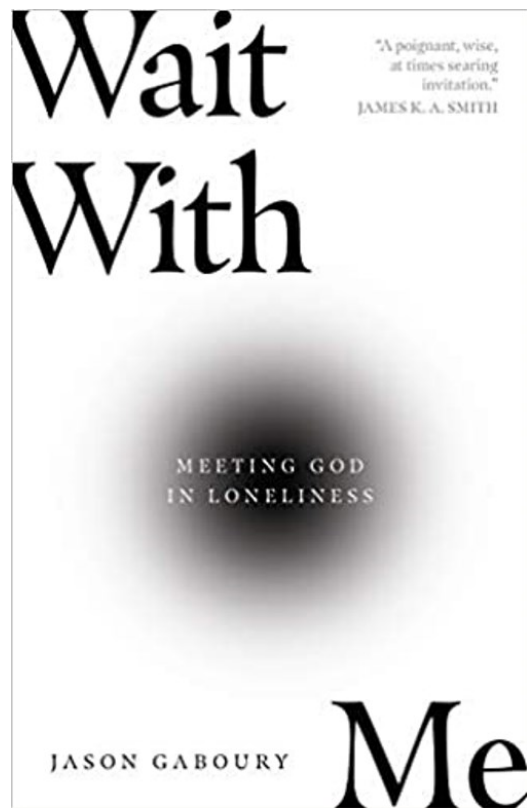
Tuesdays 7:15am-8am

Brown Bag & a Hymn

September 15th - 11:45 AM

Weather Permitting - BYO Lunch (Outside and Distanced)





Introducing Wait With Me - A Fall Book Read

I have gotten to know Br. Jason Gaboury through my affiliation with the Anglican Order of Preachers. He is a Dominican Friar, Husband, Father, Disciple, and has worked in campus ministry with the InterVarsity Organization for many years. Recently, Br. Jason published his first book, Wait With Me, Meeting God in Loneliness. Although not inspired by the pandemic, his work took on new importance over these past 18 months. You can find out more here: [Wait with Me - InterVarsity Press \(ivpress.com\)](http://ivpress.com)

I am inviting members of St. Paul to join me this fall (starting in October) in reading Br. Jason's book. Please email or jot your name down on the sign-up sheet in the narthex over the next three weeks if you are interested. Once I get a handle on who and how many...and what the pandemic landscape looks like...I'll publish a plan for the read.

I hope you join in!

Yours in Christ,

Pr. Tony



Date	
September 5	Mary Haas
September 12	Tamara Riegel
September 19	MaryLee Cushing
September 26	Mary Haas

From the Piece Makers

The Piecemakers were pleased to present Pastor Tony, his mother, and mother-in-law with quilted gifts this past month. We did not know at the time that Sheila Zinn had broken her ankle, but hope that she might use her gift as a lap robe while healing. This is a reminder that membership in St. Paul is not a requirement for individuals to receive a lap robe. Should you know someone who might benefit from receiving a lap robe, please tell Pastor Tony or one of the Piecemakers.

The return of WVU students and Fall weather will soon follow.

The Piecemakers are making quilts every Friday from 10-2 and are looking for additional people join us. Along with quilts for Lutheran World Relief we are currently making some fall decorations and items that would make great decorations for your home or presents for the holiday season. This sale will help us with our expenses. Watch the bulletin and next newsletter for more details.

We thank Greta Miles and Willa Jarvis for making donations of fabric and padding for our quilting efforts.



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

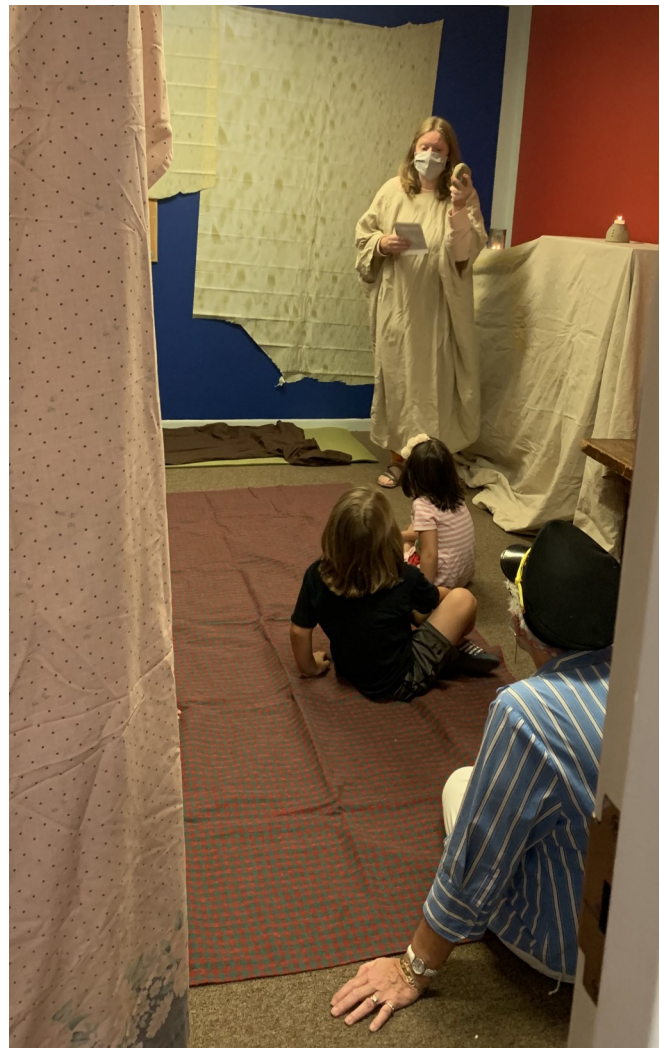


Vacation Bible School August 2021

Thank you to all our helpers: Mary Boroff, Mary Haas, Grace Riegel, Rachel Sampson, Stephanie and Tony Setley, Kim Shockley, Joanne Seasholtz, and Sheila Zinn.



Thank you to everyone who donated toward our VBS fundraiser for World Vision! We collected \$85.25 toward alpacas for Ecuadorian families!



Ananias pays a visit





Serving in



September

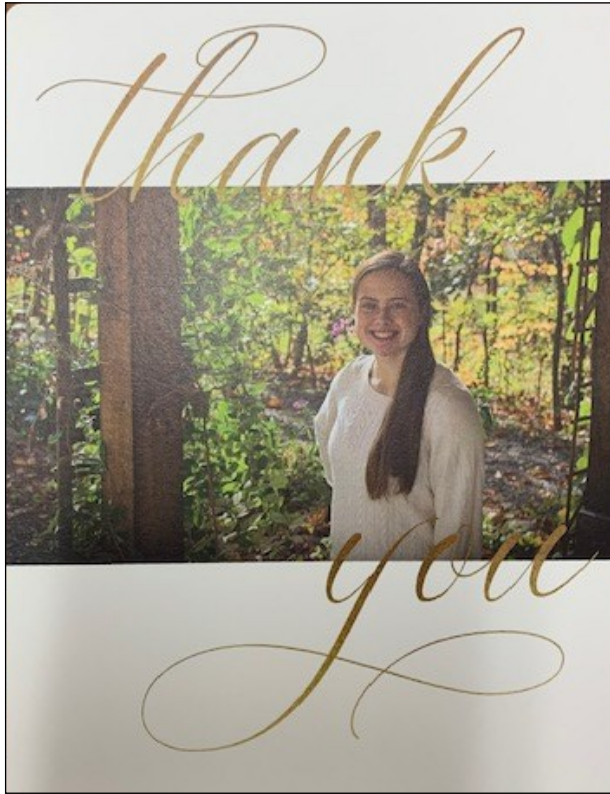
SERVING ST PAUL September 2021	LAY ASSISTANT	LECTOR	USHERS	ACOLYTES	COUNTERS	ZOOM
5th 10:00 AM	M. Haas	*E. Melby	W. Graham L. Springer	*S. Sandolfini	****	M. Boroff
12th 10:00 AM	M. Haas	*S. Kirkpatrick	D. Custer T. Riegel	*V. Sandolfini	D. Stiles M. Boroff	S. Setley
19th 10:00 AM	D. Borrelli	*S. Setley	T. Riegel L. Springer	*R. Shockley	****	C. Wertz
26th 10:00 AM	D. Borrelli	*S. McEwuen	S. McEwuen W. Graham	*A. Peters	S. Kirkpatrick M. Suder	Peters

*** Acolytes and lectors are scheduled but will not serve until we return to a full service.**

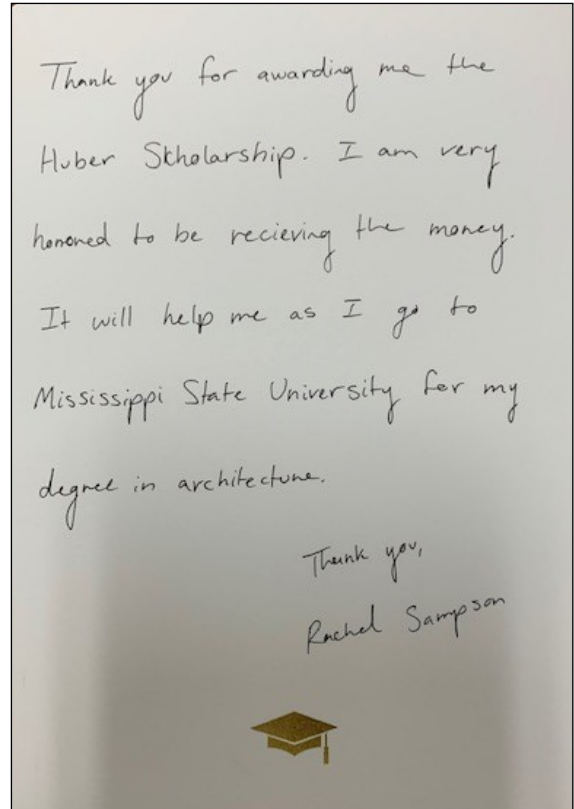
SEPTEMBER

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

Reminder: Deadline for October newsletter is September 20th!!!



*A thank-you note from
Rachel Sampson*



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