



The Epistle

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Volume 21 Issue 9 September 2022

Who am I? The answer to this question shapes our identity and our identity shapes who we are, how we interact with the world, and how the world interacts with us. Personally, there are many ways I can answer that question. In modern speak, I've been identified as an: able-bodied, cis-gendered, hetero, Caucasian, male; something that upon first hearing left me puzzled until a seminary classmate informed me it meant I'm a run-of-the-mill white guy...this I understood.

In addition to that, I'm a husband, a father, a pastor, a soldier, a coach, an American, and a non-native West Virginian. Less flatteringly, I'm a bit of a philistine (audiobooks are my favorite read), a fat guy (old enough that the term husky no longer applies), a suburbanite (single-family home sprawl is my bag), and God help me, something of a political moderate (college Tony would be so disappointed).

So much discussion in our public life seems to revolve around personal and corporate identities that many say we're living in the age of "identity politics," here in our county. Some welcome this, some do not. Many think this is a brand new phenomenon, the truth is: the many would be wrong. As the teacher in Ecclesiastes said, "What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun." In fact, identities play a powerful role in Scripture and in what should be our understanding of who God makes us.

For example, humans are made in the image of God. God chose the Israelites to bless and to be a light to the nations. St. Mary was a virgin. Jesus is a descendant of David who was known by the markers of rabbi, messiah, and the way, the truth, and the life. He spends his life interacting with those defined in the Bible by their identity, the Pharisees, his disciples, the out-cast. St. Paul tells us he was a citizen of Rome, that he is from Tarsus, and that he was a Hebrew of Hebrews. You could do this all day.

Even if at times it seems tired or laborious, we cannot escape identity. Nor should we. For as we go back to that seminal question, "who am I," we find that the Bible tells us, as Christians, how we should begin to answer that question. St. Paul the Roman citizen, bids us to recognize and cling to our citizenship in Heaven. (Phil.3). As a Hebrew of Hebrews, he reminds us that we are children of God, clothed with Christ in Baptism, with no distinction for Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female amongst us. (Gal.3) Finally, that our very essence has been shaped to Christ, "We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Rom.6)

Wretched man that I am, I fail to recognize these as parts of my own identity as fully as I should. It's one thing to acknowledge before ourselves and others that we are Lutherans, or Christians, or church-goers. That is how the world sees us and so often it is how we see ourselves in relation to our faith. But what if at the top of our lists, mine and yours, we would say,



new
life

... just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may **live a new life.** ROMANS 6:4

“I am one who has been buried and raised to new life with Christ in my Baptism?” I think that would shape how the world see us and, more importantly, how we see ourselves. So, “who are you?”

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Tony



Council Notes

The Church Council met on August 18th. Here are some highlights of the meeting:

- Council worked on 125th anniversary celebration (Oktoberfest)
- Grethe Myles has written an updated church history for the 125th anniversary
 - Tee shirts will be on sale for the anniversary
 - Annual meeting to approve the spending plan will be November 13th

Sunday, Nov. 13th

Meeting of the Congregation

To review and approve the 2023 Spending Plan

To be held immediately following worship



St. Paul T-Shirts

\$13 each

Sign up on the sheet in the narthex or visit
www.stpaulmorgantown.org/tshirt

Celebrate with us!
St. Paul Lutheran Church

125 Years in Morgantown



October 8, 2022

11:00 Program
Sanctuary
 Devotions, Music, Our History,
 Tales (Tall and otherwise)

12:00 Lunch
Fellowship Hall
 Roast Chicken Breast, Seasoned Potatoes, Green Beans,
 Cake
 Soft drinks, Tea, Coffee, Water

1:00 Social Hour
 Lawn, (weather permitting)
 More music, Entertainment, Games
 Pretzels, Soft drinks, Beer (BYOB)

We want to ensure there's plenty of food for all! **Please respond by Thursday, September 15, 2022 to:**

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

\$10.00 each person, \$5.00 for children under 10 years old

Name _____ Contact info _____

Enclosed is my check for _____ Adults, _____ Children. Total \$ _____



From the Piece Makers

Perhaps you noticed that the many quilts in the Narthex disappeared. That is because 25 quilts were delivered for us to the warehouse. Thanks to Sherry and Dana Fox for performing that task for us.

We have many quilts ready for tying. We could use more people willing to spend some time on Fridays between 10 and 2:00 or to take home a quilt for tying.

Piece Makers are also preparing decorative fall wall hanging which will be offered for sale at the October Fest and the anniversary celebration. Since people often comment on the quilts and ask if they can be purchased, there will be several quilts with West Virginia, holiday, or patriotic themes for sale. Money from our sales is used to purchase the padding and thread needed to complete quilts.

SEPTEMBER	
Bathrooms	
Kitchen	
Stairwells	
Vacuum and Sweep Upstairs	Sandolfini
Sweep Downstairs	McEwuen



"God's work. Our hands." Sunday

**Sept. 11
2022**

Please join us after church on Sunday, September 11th

We will join together in activities which serve our neighbor

More details to follow

Christian Formation

Join us for
**SUNDAY
SCHOOL**



Sunday School for elementary and upper preschool students

9 AM in the nursery room

Pastor Tony will lead a four-session adult Sunday School, September 11 — October 2, 9-9:45 AM in the fellowship hall

ADULT
Sunday School

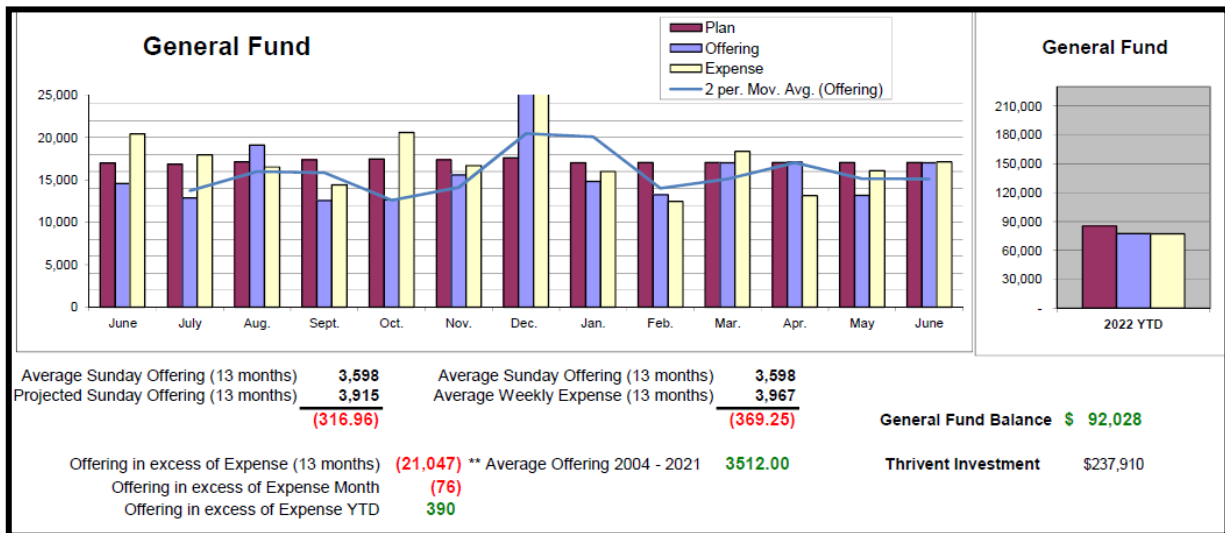


With the matching funds from the Parking Committee, our Vacation Bible School fundraiser gave \$1470 to Empty Bowls! Thank you to everyone who contributed!



Thanks to the people who quietly come in and work on the flower beds
 Thanks to Grethe Myles for all her work on the new congregational history, and to Lillian Stevens for proof-reading it

Please let the church office know if you have anyone you wish to thank



Online Offering: You can give securely online at your convenience with a debit/credit card or checking account.

Visit www.stpaulmorgantown.org/giving.

Thank you!




Serving in



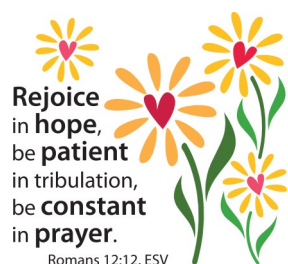
SERVING ST PAUL September 2022	LAY ASSISTANT	LECTOR	USHERS	ACOLYTES	COUNTERS	ZOOM
4th 10:00 AM	J. Lemasters	S. Kirrpatrick	L. Springer	Sandolfini	S. Kirrpatrick S. Woodruff	S. Setley
11th 10:00 AM	M. Haas	S. Setley	W. Graham	E. Naumann	****	Peters
18th 10:00 AM	S. Woodruff	S. McEwuen	L. Springer	Sandolfini	W. Graham J. Sandolfini	C. Wertz
25th 10:00 AM	S. McEwuen	T. Riegel	T. Riegel	E. Naumann	****	M. Boroff

Reminder: Deadline for October newsletter is September 26th!!!



SEPTEMBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 10:00 AM Piecemakers	3
4 9:00 AM Choir & Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service	5	6 8:15 AM Prayerful Walkers 10:00 AM Bible Study	7	8	9 10:00 AM Piecemakers	10
11 9:00 AM Choir & Sunday School (adult and children) 10:00 AM Worship Service Holy Cross Day God's Work Our Hands Day	12	13 8:15 AM Prayerful Walkers 10:00 AM Bible Study	14	15 7:00 PM Council	16 10:00 AM Piecemakers	17
18 9:00 AM Choir & Sunday School (adult and children) 10:00 AM Worship Service	19	20 8:15 AM Prayerful Walkers 10:00 AM Bible Study	21	22	23 10:00 AM Piecemakers	24
25 9:00 AM Choir & Sunday School (adult and children) 10:00 AM Worship Service 3:30 PM Circle of Friends	26 8:00 AM Lutheran Men in Mission	27 8:15 AM Prayerful Walkers 10:00 AM Bible Study	28	29	30 10:00 AM Piecemakers	



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!



Tuesday — Thursday 10am - 12pm
 Pastor's office phone: (304) 212-5116
 Pastor's cell (text or call): 681-209-6192
 Email: pastor@stpaulmorgantown.org

The **Epistle** is a publication from:
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 Tuesday - Thursday 10 AM—Noon

Officers Of The Congregation
 President: Joanne Seasholtz
 Vice President: Lindsey Naumann
 Secretary: Mary Haas
 Treasurer: Steve Woodruff
 Financial Secretary: Jeanne Lemasters

Council Members

Mary Haas	Grethe Myles	Carol Henry
Lindsey Naumann	Steve Woodruff	Joanne Seasholtz
Julie Sandolfini	Jerry Bouquot	Mike Peters