

# The Epistle

Volume 22 Issue 12  
December 2023



<sup>3</sup> Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. (Genesis 1 NRSV)

After a whirlwind spree of cosmic creation, God rested. These 6 days, then a rest on 7, became the command and model for humanity as well. Work and rest. Not in even parts, mind you, but still sabbath rest is built into the mold. Moreover, the light, the day, is meant for work and play, and so much more, and at night, we rest, as natural creatures do. An entire system, God-given and Divinely inspired, to incorporate work and rest into our bodies, our lives, and our routines.

Sounds nice – do you feel rested? Especially this time of year when the days grow shorter and you have to travel and buy presents and go to holiday gatherings and go to church more and put up the decorations and now basketball season is starting, are you kidding me, and where did I put the wrapping paper Stephanie!? No not that one, the other one that I used on Sammy's gift two years ago, it was right here! And how can we be out of dog food! And why am I not restful like God wants?!

Life is hard to figure out and so is our relationship with God it would seem. Just when you think you know that God desires us to have perfect Sabbath rest you also remember that Jesus speaks in parables about the metaphorical need to remain awake; not long before chastising his disciples for literally falling asleep. Paul likens the Christian life to running a race several times over in the Epistles. And as for that Sabbath

rest, what do Jesus and his band of disciples do with their Saturdays? Pluck grain when they're hungry, go to synagogue, heal the sick and the lame. Not very restful.

Maybe the issue is we complicate our minds with over-focusing on balancing this problem – maybe we need to stop trying to get it right and beating ourselves up for not being perfect at being perfect for ourselves?

For his own part Jesus kept Sabbath – unless someone needed to be healed. Jesus took naps and slept – unless he needed to stay awake. We run the race set before us, we should rest when we need it and can, and run when it's called for. We are given a model for rest and race that maybe isn't as legalist as sun-up / sun-down. We are given a model that says listen, see, know, and do your best.

Will we be any more rested? Probably not. But perhaps we'll be a bit more Christlike in balancing the two. And that is always the goal. Wishing you a peace that surpasses all understanding in running and resting to help others know Him this Christmas season!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Tony



Join us for Christmas!



Christmas Eve candlelight service - 7 PM

Christmas Day service - 2 PM.

## Santa Lucia

At St. Paul, we have established a discretionary fund named the Santa Lucia fund that is used to provide assistance to those who need timely assistance with food, gas, utilities, etc. St. Lucy will be here to take a special collection for the fund during the December 10<sup>th</sup> worship service.



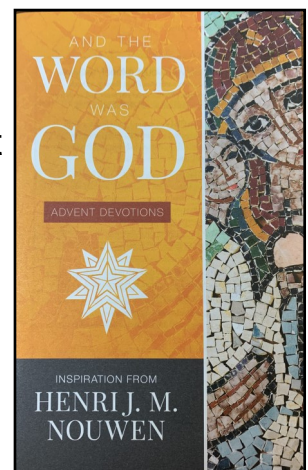
For more information on Saint Lucy, see the Wikipedia article on "Saint Lucy."

The children's Advent pageant, "We're Waiting", will be presented during the worship service on December 17<sup>th</sup>.



Contact Pastor Tony if your children would like to participate.

Devotional books for Advent are available. Please contact the church office if you would like to have one mailed to you.





# Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 AM

## *“HANGING OF THE GREENS”*

December 10<sup>th</sup> — Following the worship service

Come and join the fun and fellowship as we decorate the sanctuary for Christmas.

*Decorate the Church*



Poinsettias can be ordered by calling the church office at 304-599-0620

or by emailing

[office@stpaulmorgantown.org](mailto:office@stpaulmorgantown.org).



Cost is \$15 each. You may place payment in the offering plate. Please mark your check or your envelope “Poinsettias”, and note the dedication.

Please order by **December 11<sup>th</sup>**.

The office will be closed for the holidays

December 25-January 1.





It's time to make the baskets! We will be collecting donations, and our goal is to provide meals for 35 or more families through the Rock Forge Food Pantry. Rock Forge appreciates your continued support of this outreach to people in our community.

### *How to help:*

#### **Donate *food*:**

#### **Here are the items we need for *each* basket:**

| <u>Item:</u>                                   | <u>Amount:</u>         |
|--|------------------------|
| Instant potatoes                               | 1 box                  |
| Dressing/stuffing                              | 2 boxes or 1 large bag |
| Dinner Rolls                                   | 1 dozen                |
| Green beans                                    | 2 cans                 |
| Corn   | 2 cans                 |
| Carrots  | 2 cans                 |
| Applesauce                                     | 1 small jar            |
| Cranberry Sauce                                | 1 small can            |
| Gravy  | 1 small jar            |
| Egg noodles                                    | 1 bag                  |
| Mac and cheese                                 | 2 boxes                |
| Candy canes/<br>Christmas candy                | 1 bag or box           |
| Hot cocoa mix                                  | 1 box                  |
| Reusable Kroger bag                            | 2                      |
| Dessert (cake mix and frosting, or cookie mix) |                        |



Please bring donated items to the church before Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Donate *time*:** We will shop for items on **Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**, the baskets will be assembled on **Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**, and we will deliver them on Monday. We would love a donation of your time to help with shopping, assembly, or delivery.

**Donate *money*:** If you would like to donate money, please note "Food Baskets" on your check or offering envelope and place it in the offering basket.

We will use cash donations to purchase dry milk, gift cards for turkeys, and items not donated in kind.

Questions? Contact the church office ([office@stpaulmorgantown.org](mailto:office@stpaulmorgantown.org), or [304-599-0620](tel:304-599-0620)).



St. Paul needs an updated church directory. We'll call for photos in January, so consider taking family photos over the holidays, if you don't already have a good one to submit.



## Member DIRECTORY



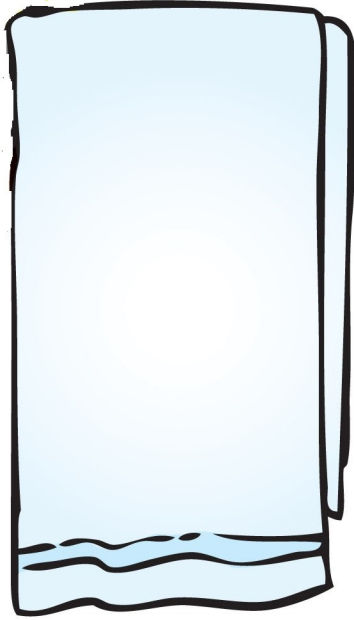
### From the Piece Makers

Around Morgantown are signs announcing various church bazaars. I have visited several and purchased some presents and baked goods. You do not need to travel around the county to find a bazaar with hand made quilts, lap robes, aprons, bags, wall hangings, throws, luminaries, and pot holders. St. Paul has its own Bazaar in the Narthex for you to visit before and after church services during Advent. People often ask if they might purchase the quilts hanging from the balcony. We will be putting up Christmas quilts when the church is decorated for Christmas. If you see a quilt you like, we will be pleased to sell it to you. Money from the sale of the quilts and other items goes for the purchase of padding and thread.. The labor is a gift of love to friends, those in need in West Virginia or throughout the world with Lutheran World Relief.

In addition to Lutheran World Relief the Piece Makers gave quilts, as suggested by members of St. Paul to hospitalized Veterans. Thanks to the local veterans for their request. The Fox family also delivered 18 quilts to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in Maryland.



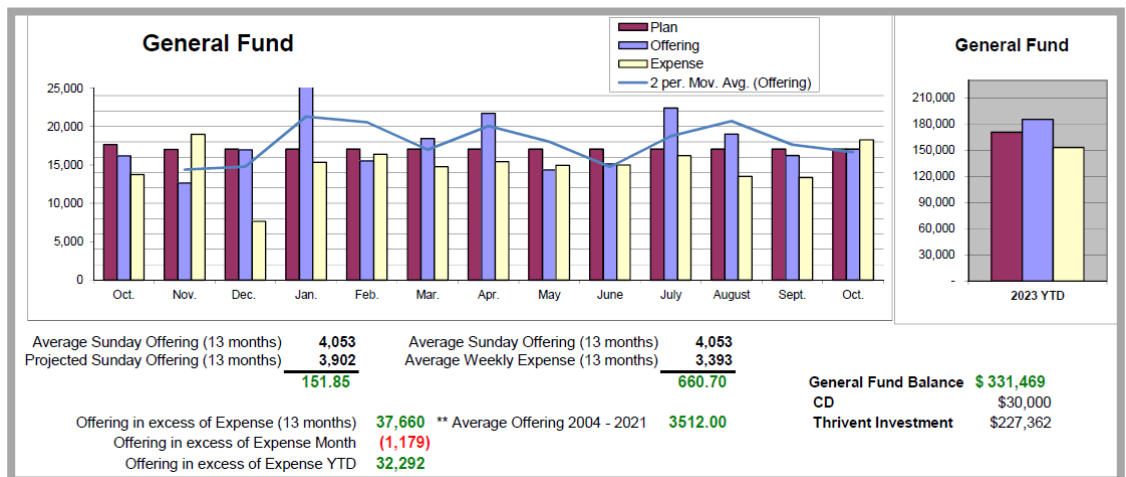
If you have any old fabric napkins that you no longer use, we are in need of twenty-inch square white polyester napkins. Please bring them to the church office.



The Lutheran Men in Mission will have a “Men’s and their Ladies Night Out” on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Restaurant TBD. Please RSVP to Steve Woodruff or the church office.



### Treasurer's report for October 2023





| SERVING<br>ST PAUL<br>December<br>2023                | ASSISTING<br>MINISTER | LECTOR            | USHER       | COUNTERS                    | BROAD-<br>CAST |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup></b><br>10:00 AM                     | S. Woodruff           | S. Setley         | L. Springer | J. Bouquot<br>W. Graham     | Peters         |
| <b>10<sup>th</sup></b><br>10:00 AM                    | S. Setley             | M. Grimm          | T. Riegel   | M Suder<br>L. Stevens       | C. Wertz       |
| <b>17<sup>th</sup></b><br>10:00 AM                    | M.<br>Sampson         | S.<br>Kirkpatrick | D. Custer   | S. Kirkpatrick<br>M. Peters | S. Setley      |
| <b>24<sup>th</sup></b><br>10:00 AM                    | ****                  | ****              | W. Graham   | ****                        | Peters         |
| <b>24<sup>th</sup></b><br>7:00 PM<br>Christmas<br>Eve | M. Haas               | B. Parsons        | L. Springer | J. Bouquot<br>J. Seasholtz  | S. Setley      |
| <b>31<sup>st</sup></b><br>10:00 AM                    | M. Grimm              | S.<br>Kirkpatrick | W. Graham   | K. Shockley<br>J. Sandolini | C. Wertz       |



# December



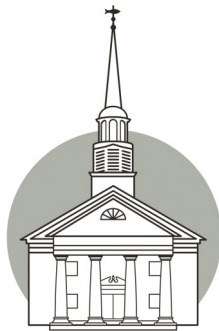
| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY                       | WEDNESDAY                          | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY  |
|--|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|--|---|
|  |  |                               |                                    |   | 1<br>10:00 AM<br>Piecemakers   | 2   |
| 3<br>9:00 AM<br>Sunday School<br>and Choir<br><br>10:00 AM<br>Worship<br>Service   | 4  | 5<br>10:00 AM<br>Bible Study  | 6<br>7:00 PM<br>Advent<br>Worship  | 7<br>9:00 AM<br>Prayerful<br>Walkers                        | 8<br>10:00 AM<br>Piecemakers<br>6:30 PM<br>Men and La-<br>dies Night Out | 9   |
| 10<br>9:00 AM<br>Sunday School<br>and Choir<br>10:00 AM<br>Worship<br>Service<br>11:15 AM<br>Hanging of the<br>Greens                    | 11<br>Poinsettia<br>orders and<br>payment due        | 12<br>10:00 AM<br>Bible Study | 13<br>7:00 PM<br>Advent<br>Worship | 14<br>9:00 AM<br>Prayerful<br>Walkers                       | 15<br>10:00 AM<br>Piecemakers  | 16<br>Shop for Baskets<br>Time TBD                          |
| 17<br>9:00 AM<br>Sunday School<br>and Choir<br>10:00 AM<br>Worship including<br>children's pro-<br>gram<br>Pack Baskets<br>after service | 18<br>9:30 AM<br>Deliver baskets                     | 19<br>10:00 AM<br>Bible Study | 20<br>7:00 PM<br>Advent<br>Worship | 21<br>9:00 AM<br>Prayerful<br>Walkers<br>7:00 PM<br>Council | 22<br>10:00 AM<br>Piecemakers  | 23<br>3:30 PM<br>Circle of Friends                          |
| 24<br>Christmas Eve<br>10:00 AM<br>Service of 1342<br>Lessons and<br>Carols<br>7:00 PM<br>Candlelight<br>Service                         | 25<br>Christmas Day<br>2:00 PM<br>Worship<br>Service | 26                            | 27                                 | 28<br>9:00 AM<br>Prayerful<br>Walkers                       | 29<br>10:00 AM<br>Piecemakers  | 30<br>8:00 AM<br>Lutheran Men in<br>Mission @<br>Eat'n Park |
| 31<br>9:00 AM<br>Sunday School<br>10:00 AM<br>Worship  |  |                               |                                    |   |  |   |



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. Names will be removed after they have been on the list for 90 days. Please contact the church office to reinstate a name.



**St. Paul Lutheran Church**

MORGANTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA  
FOUNDED 1897

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

**Pastor's Office Hours:**  
Tuesday — Thursday 10am - 12pm  
Pastor's office phone: (304) 212-5116  
Pastor's cell (text or call): (304) 715-2350  
Email: pastor@stpaulmorgantown.org

**Officers Of The Congregation**  
President: Joanne Seasholtz  
Vice President: Lindsey Naumann  
Secretary: Lillian Stevens  
Treasurer: Steve Woodruff  
Financial Secretary: Jeanne Lemasters

**Council Members**

|                  |                |                  |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Mary Haas        | Grethe Myles   | Lillian Stevens  |
| Lindsey Naumann  | Steve Woodruff | Joanne Seasholtz |
| Julie Sandolfini | Bill Graham    | Mike Peters      |