



ST. PAUL VISITOR SEPTEMBER 2021

*The mission of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church is to **CELEBRATE** and **PROCLAIM** to all the saving grace of **JESUS CHRIST** in word and deed.*



We pray for...

LaDonna, Charles, Anne,
Jackie, Marty, Judy,
Clarice, Rachel, Nora, and
Myles.

Shepherding God, you
are the source of life
and health. Surround
those who struggle
with illness or other
difficulties of life and
bring them to whole-
ness and healing.
Amen.

If you would like to
add someone to the
prayer list or have a
"prayer email" sent
out please call Kathy
at 304-525-9630.

WORSHIP

We will have in person worship during September. We ask that you wear a mask while in the building.

The service will also be live streamed on Facebook and posted on our YouTube channel.

COVID 19

As of now the council is asking that all persons wear a mask while in the church building.



We have a brand new website! Please go to "stpaulhuntington.org" to check it out. It is still under construction so check back often for new updates. If there is something you think we should have on the website please contact Kathy at secretary@stpaulhuntington.org or give her a call at 304-525-9630.

OFFICE HOURS

Generally someone is in the church office Monday through Thursday from 9:30am-1:30pm. If you are planning to come to the church please call beforehand to make sure Pastor or Kathy is there.

CONNECT WITH US

Phone: 304-525-9630

Email:
secretary@stpaulhuntington.org
pastor@stpaulhuntington.org
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VISIT OUR WEBSITE

stpaulhuntington.org



St. Paul Lutheran Congregation
Group



St. Paul Lutheran Church
Huntington, WV

Pastor's Reflections

I have been making my way through a book by one of my favorite authors, N. T. Wright. The book is a series of sermons/ teaching lectures entitled: Following Jesus, Biblical Reflections on Discipleship. It has been a good read so far. I think I have enjoyed it because of the title – Following Jesus. Isn't this something we all are called to do? Professor Wright takes the Word of God as food in the Bible very seriously and for this I am very appreciative.

One chapter is entitled: The God Who Raises the Dead. In this chapter he writes: "Do you know what the most frequent command in the Bible turns out to be? What instruction, what order, is given again and again, by God, by angels, by Jesus, by prophets and apostles? What do you think - 'Be good'? 'Be holy for I am holy'? Or negatively, 'Don't sin'? 'Don't be immoral'? No, The most frequent command in the Bible is: 'Don't be afraid.' Don't be afraid. Fear not. Don't be afraid. Wright goes on to say: "Let's make no mistake about it: until you learn to live without fear you won't find it easy to follow Jesus."

WOW! So, not fear! How does one do this? Maybe it is not so much about just putting fear aside but know it is there as a part of our lives. You all know as well as I do that to fear sometimes can be good. I fear driving too fast because of what may happen if I get caught or something shows up in front of my car and I can't stop in time. Maybe you fear getting COVID, even as you know those who have taken all the precautions available and still got sick. Maybe you fear you will not have enough to live on in your retirement. Maybe you fear the future creation we are leaving to our children and grandchildren.

Whatever you may fear remember and celebrate that God comes and says do not fear. What were the first words the angels said to the women at the tomb: DO NOT FEAR! (Easy for them to say – no one just vanishes from a grave when they die!)

Maybe that's the whole point. You see God will take those fears – all that bad news and give us Good News. I think N.T. Wright says it best here: "And the resurrection of Jesus issues the surprising command: don't be afraid; because God who made the world is the God who raised Jesus from the dead, and now calls you to follow him. Believing in this God means believing that it is going to be alright; and this belief is, ultimately, incompatible with fear."

So, being a disciple is knowing and believing and experiencing the God of creation who transforms/ changes/ upends our fears. I have heard some colleagues of mine say: God has got this. God has got you – you hot mess of a human being. God has got you in love. God has got you through all the fears and bad news of life – reminding you of the Good News of Jesus – suffered, died and risen from the dead.

Life is different now with Jesus in the world. May God give you strength and courage and peace to be a person of Good News.

Alleluia! Amen!

Pastor M <><

Dear Congregation:

I always enjoy the latter half of August/early September, when the summer comes to an end, students move back into town, and the new academic year begins. After all, I love both of my jobs, at Marshall and at St. Paul. I can also feel this renewed spirit at St. Paul, despite the seemingly never-ending pandemic and the restrictions it has brought on travel, other activities, and even our worship at church.

You know that I usually choose music for a reason, and sometimes I tell you about it, sometimes I don't (music can speak for itself, too). Since a few of you asked: On the Sunday before Marshall's first day of classes (August 22), I played a somewhat unusual choice as a postlude: Frederic Chopin's Revolutionary Etude. Besides the fact that it is extremely difficult to play (I learned it as a teenager but never performed it—early August, after my return from Germany, I thought, perhaps I am ready now!), it also fits our situation: It projects struggle, but at the same time it inspires strength, confidence, and ultimately arrives at a positive outcome.

It's been a tough one-and-a-half years for many of us. Still, I hope you can join me in experiencing the new energy (spirit, if you will) that all the incoming and returning students bring to Huntington at the start of the academic year. On September 12, the day of our annual picnic in Ritter Park (weather permitting...), we will be able to pick up some of this spirit musically. "Render the Hearts", a Christian pop/rock band comprised of former Marshall students will provide the music for our worship in the park. Some of them sat in my music classes at Marshall not too long ago, and I am excited to hear and see them again "in action." They are serious about their music and embarked on a professional career as praise band even during their days at Marshall—I know it's going to be good!

Henning

The Huntington based band, "Render the Hearts" will be performing at our picnic on September 12. If you would like more information on the band go to www.renderthehearts.com.



All things fall come with September. Do you ever take a look at the balance of it all? Fall begins and school starts and routines and schedules take hold. Everybody leaves their summer behind along with the carefree mentality and extra available time. We just transition from one season to the next. As, I have driven my children to school the last couple of mornings....I have taken notice of the full moon(almost white) in the western sky and I have looked in my rear view mirror to see the biggest and most beautiful orange sun coming up in the eastern sky. It has brought me peace to recognize God's Love, beauty and balance and Grace and Mercy all around us. I have enjoyed the orange glowing full moon as it lights up the night sky as I end my day and I have enjoyed watching the most beautifully orange sun rise as I start my day. Thank you God for showing me your love and blessings daily. As our seasons change and our lives pick up a few paces, Still take moments to pray first, love one another and share the Good News. Find the balance.

We found balance at our Pray, Love, Share<><VBS. We had about 20 youth and 20 youth and adult helpers this year. The children from ages 2-14yrs. enjoyed fellowship and food, an interactive bible story, signing and song, an awesome craft, yoga, prayer and popsicles. Many members of our Congregation came together to share their gifts and the word. I would like to Thank each and every one of you from my heart. My sister, Julie Markel, traveled from Wheeling with her 3 boys to share yoga and God's word each night. We talked about how to Pray first. We shared the story of Jesus telling the disciples about The Lord's Prayer. We learned the Lord's prayer. We sang it & signed it & crafted it on a bandanna to take home. The second night we shared the story about the promise of the Holy Spirit and how Jesus told the disciples to love God, love other people and help each other. God will always love you and God's Holy Spirit will be here to guide and help you always. We also shared the story of Zaccheus, as a reminder that God loves everyone and that we may be forgiven. We signed and sang Jesus loves me and Zaccheus and shared the love of God with one another while painting rocks for our rock garden and making cards for homebound and members on our prayer lists. The love showed through as we sang "Jesus loves me" while having parachute play in Miller Park. We did some fun yoga poses and remembered, Jesus loves us no matter what we do. Pastor Kevin closed us in prayer reminding us to share God's love with one another. Our final day was filled with the story of Jesus is the vine and we are the branches and sharing the Good News. We sang the song and planted flowers to take home and to share with those on our prayer list and homebound. As we closed that final night..... my heart was full! I felt the balance. God is so GREAT! It was a successful VBS in the hottest temperatures! We made friends, prayed, rejoiced in song, shared in His word, loved one another, enjoyed in fellowship, made fun crafts, decorated our rock garden , evangelized in our community, learned some yoga poses and mindfulness, and shared the Good News with one another! VBS also brought 2 sisters and 7 cousins together for the first time in a year! Always remember the balance.

John 15:9- As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.

I pray that everyone can find the balance in the start of this school year. Pray, Love, & Share the Good News. Help us Lord to have a safe and healthy school year. Remain in His Love.

Your Loving sister in Christ,

Jill May





September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
				Bible Study on YouTube		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10:00am Worship	 Church office closed	9:30am Quilting		Bible Study on YouTube		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10:00am Worship and picnic at Ritter Park	7:00pm Writer's Group	9:30am Quilting		Bible Study on YouTube		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:00am Worship		9:30am Quilting		Bible Study on YouTube		
26	27	28	29	30		
10:00am Worship Council Meeting		9:30am Quilting		Bible Study on YouTube		



- 2 Isaiah Garnett
- 3 Betty Church; Pat Jones
- 4 Wilda Maynor; Christine Vickers
- 6 Katie Bell; Luke Fornash
- 8 Zak Garnett
- 9 Garrin Simpson
- 10 Jennifer Murray; Brad Bell
- 11 Trudy Hesse
- 14 Ruthann Arneson
- 16 Jo Kendall
- 18 Daniel Kist
- 21 Annette DuVall
- 27 Dominick Barham; Neil Arneson
- 29 Carolyn Becker

NEWS FROM CRIDLIN:

We have been blessed to have Diana VanHorn as our Cridlin Food and Clothing Pantry Director since February 1999. She has done an outstanding job in this position. As many know, Diana will be retiring at the end of this year.

We are excited to announce we have hired a new director and we are very excited about her moving into this role. Lynn Cummings will be officially starting on November 1 and work with Diana through the end of the year. Lynn has already been volunteering and learning about this ministry and is very excited about this opportunity.

Please announce this in your churches and we will have more details to share for your September newsletters. We will also be sharing details about Diana's retirement celebration.

We do ask for prayers for Diana and Lynn and the pantry during this time or transition and do appreciate all you do for the pantry.

May God continue to bless your ministry and your churches.

The Christian Associates Board of Directors.



Our sympathies to the family of Richard DuVall who passed away in August.

The DuVall family would like to thank those who prayed, called, texted, and sent cards during the recent illness and death of our brother Richard. Your kindness was very much appreciated.

If you have an abundance of produce from your garden please bring it each Sunday morning to share with the congregation.

If you would like fresh produce please check out the table in the narthex each Sunday morning. There is no charge for the produce but you are asked to make a donation, if you can, to the ELCA World Hunger Fund.

All leftover produce will be taken to Cridlin Food Pantry.



If you would like to make a prayer request for yourself or someone else there are several ways you can do this:

Call the church office at 304-525-9630 and request a name to be put on the prayers that are read on Sunday morning.

Call the church office and request that a prayer email be sent out to the congregation

Request prayer on our Facebook page—"St. Paul Lutheran Congregation Group"

You may also email the church at secretary@stpaulhuntington.org



Join us on September 12 at 10:00am for a special Worship service in Ritter Park, followed by a picnic.

Please wear your red St. Paul t-shirt and bring a lawn chair.

If you do not have a St. Paul shirt or need a new one please contact the church office.

PICNIC STILL ON FOR SEPTEMBER 12 at 10 AM AT RITTER PARK

As of August 23 the picnic is still planning to be held in Ritter Park on September 12 at 10 a.m. The local contemporary Christian band *Render the Hearts* will be playing during our worship and give us a small concert while we are eating. Please watch your email/ newsletter/ bulletin for more updated information in the days ahead. If it does rain we will be inside and reschedule the band. Please pray for good weather.

Photo Release Form

We would like to add pictures of our church activities to our new website to make it more appealing to visitors to our site. We want to respect everyone's wishes when it comes to publishing their photo so we will be asking you to fill out a Photo Release Form before we put any photos on the site. These forms will be available in the bulletin for the next couple of weeks and will be sent out electronically for you to sign and return. If you do not wish any photos of yourself (or children) to be on the website you can either not fill out a form or you can write your wishes on the form and turn it in. A form is also included on the next page if you wish to fill it out and return it to the church.

Worship Helpers for August

Altar Guild: John and Nola Scott

Reader/Worship Assistant

Sept. 5 Bernadette Wellman

Sept. 12 Keith Wellman

Sept. 19 Ruthann Arneson

Sept. 26 Beth Brown

Flowers:

no flowers-picnic

Arneson

Candles:

PHOTO RELEASE FORM

I hereby grant St. Paul Lutheran Church permission to use my likeness in photographs, video recordings or digital photos in all its publications, including website entries, without payment or any other consideration. I understand and agree that these materials will become the property of the organization and will not be returned. I hereby irrevocably authorize the organization to edit, alter, copy, exhibit, publish or distribute these photos for purposes of publicizing the organization's programs or for any other lawful purpose. In addition, I waive the right to inspect or approve the finished product, including written or electronic copy, wherein my likeness appears. Additionally, I waive any right to royalties or other compensation arising or related to the use of a photo of me. I hereby hold harmless and release and forever discharge the organization from all claims, demands and causes of action that I, my heirs, representatives, executors, administrators, or any other individuals acting on my behalf or on behalf of my estate have or may have by reason of this authorization.

I am 18 years of age and am competent to contract in my own name, or if I am under age 18, a parent or guardian has signed below. I have read this release before signing, and I understand the contents, meaning and impact of this release.

(signature)

(Date)

If the person signing is under age 18, we ask that the person sign but there must also be the signed consent by a parent or guardian, below:

I hereby certify that I am the parent or guardian of:

named above, and do hereby give my consent without reservation to the foregoing release on behalf of this/these person(s).

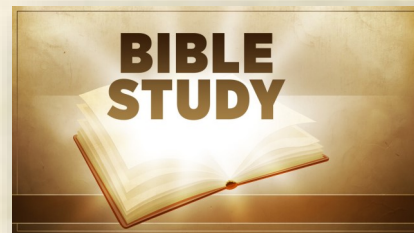
(parent/guardian's signature)

(Date)

(Parent/guardian's printed name)

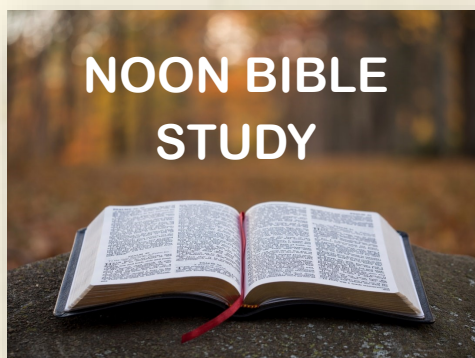
Pastor Bible Study on YouTube

Join Pastor Mackey each Thursday as he presents a Bible Study based on the texts for the upcoming Sunday. Each study will be posted to YouTube by 12 noon each Thursday. The study will have two parts focused on the following questions: 1. What does the text say? 2. What does the text mean for me in my walk as a follower of Christ?



IN PERSON BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Mackey has decided to put off the in-person Thursday Noon Bible Study until the first week in October. Throughout the month of September please check the St Paul YouTube channel each Thursday for a Bible study reflection on the texts that will be used the upcoming Sunday. As always if you have a question about the texts or want to talk further with pastor please call or email him.



DAILY DEVOTIONAL in your inbox

The readings listed below are sent to the congregation each day (Monday-Friday) by email. If you are not currently receiving the Daily Devotional and would like to please contact the church at secretary@stpaulhuntington.org with your email address.



READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

August 30-Sept. 3: James 2:1-17; Mark 7:24-37

Sept. 6-10: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 116:1-9; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

Sept. 13-17: Psalm 54; Mark 9:30-37

Sept. 20-24: Psalm 19:7-14; Mark 9:38-50

Sept. 27-Oct. 1: Psalm 8; Mark 10:2-16

PRAYER VENTURES FOR SEPTEMBER

- 1** Pray for the relief and resilience of people and communities impacted by wildfires, flooding, severe storms and extreme heat.
- 2** Remember in prayer ELCA campus ministry leaders and the Lutheran Campus Ministry Network (LuMin) as they serve students, faculty, staff and others at colleges and universities nationwide. Pray for their ministry of sharing God's grace through worship, study, fellowship, care and service.
- 3** Give thanks for the International Women Leaders (IWL) scholarship program and for the accomplishments and new beginnings of the six IWL scholars who graduated in May, embarking on journeys of leadership and service, and of the seven incoming students starting their programs.
- 4** Pray for the people of Haiti, who endure poverty, political turmoil and the long, difficult recovery from their 2010 and 2021 earthquakes. Ask God to build up their faith, hope, courage and strength in the face of daunting difficulties, and resolve to support them with prayers, advocacy and generosity.
- 5** Ask the Spirit's help in responding to the diverse needs, circumstances and challenges of our neighbors, and in opening our hearts and minds to those who are forgotten, neglected, ignored or unfamiliar to us.
- 6** *Labor Day* On this day, we recognize, rejoice in and pray for the work people do to sustain their families and benefit their communities and society. Pray that all will receive fair wages, work in safe environments, be renewed through times of sabbath and experience fulfillment in their labor. Pray for the success of all those seeking employment and for the well-being of people unable to work.
- 7** Pray that God will equip and energize us as we invite new people to know Jesus, to participate in our communities of faith and to experience being a Lutheran Christian.
- 8** "I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long" (Psalm 146:2). Ask the Spirit to inspire us as we praise and thank God in everything we do or experience during our baptismal journey.
- 9** Pray for our ELCA missionaries accompanying Lutheran church bodies and companions in Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Serbia, Russia, Slovakia, Austria, Belgium, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.
- 10** Pray that we will not act with prejudice, indifference or injustice, or shy away from the complexities of service and ministry, with our neighbors who suffer poverty, hunger or homelessness. Ask God to help us concentrate on our neighbors in need, acting with boldness, generosity, humility and concern for the dignity of those we serve.
- 11** Give thanks for the ministry and service of volunteers as they wind up their construction season with ELCA Mission Builders and look forward to future projects that will strengthen ministries and grow the church.
- 12** *"God's work. Our hands." Sunday* In our baptismal journey we serve our neighbors daily, but on this day we celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor — in partnership with local congregations and ministries, social service organizations and community residents.
- 13** Pray for forgiveness when our words, writing and online posts cause hurt or offense or wound the spirits of others. Ask the Spirit to help us think through our intentions and what we want to say so that our words will reflect the love, forgiveness and encouragement that God has shown toward us.
- 14** These days are filled with challenges and distractions. Pray that we will not forget the growing number of people victimized by gun violence and the trauma and fear it spreads through families and communities. Ask God to strengthen our resolve and inspire our advocacy to prevent gun violence, care for those who suffer, and bring hope and change to our nation.
- 15** *First Day of Hispanic Heritage Month* Thank God for the gifts, history, contributions and rich cultural diversity of our Latino siblings. Pray for the growth and vitality of the 147 ELCA Latino ministries and the Latino Ministries Association (Asociación Luterana de Ministerios Latinos ELCA) as they work to share the good news, encourage unity in Christ, fight racism and promote Christian values that unite Latinos of the ELCA in a "community of communities."
- 16** Pray that we will walk in the presence of God, trusting that God is gracious, righteous and merciful, hearing our every prayer.

17 Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the Florida-Bahamas Synod Assembly, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in learning, choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

18 Pray that the Spirit will stir our compassion and commitment and that God will energize us to empower, support, welcome and advocate for people driven from their homes by conflict, persecution, poverty and climate change.

19 Give thanks for Jesus' teaching and example, which inspire us to serve humbly, share the gospel and invite people to experience the blessings of community in our congregations and church.

20 Thank God for our special relationship with the United Methodist Church, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 2009. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, and pray that together we will find strength and new resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor, especially in these uncertain and challenging times.

21 *Matthew, apostle and evangelist* "Follow me" (Matthew 9:9). With this simple invitation Matthew left his work as a tax collector and followed Jesus, not knowing how his life or work would change. Pray that when we sense God's call, we will answer, trusting that God has something in mind for us — just as we are — and will employ our gifts, skills and passions while cultivating new gifts in us.

22 Pray that, when we encounter problems in life or when everything seems to be working against us, we will trust in God to uphold our lives and deliver us — sometimes in ways we neither seek nor expect.

23 Pray that our lives will manifest the wisdom of God, wisdom that "is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy" (James 3:17).

24 Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the Northwestern Ohio Synod Assembly, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in learning, choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

25 Pray for the well-being of health care workers who continue to labor long and hard in responding to the pandemic, preventing the spread of COVID and its variants, and equitably treating the ill and infected.

26 Give thanks and praise to God that, as siblings in Christ, we have a vast faith community that is caring and supportive, equips and encourages us to serve and to share the good news, and strives to do God's work in the world together with its ministry companions and partners — locally and globally.

27 Pray that we will build and nurture communities of faith that engage with us when we are suffering, sick, in need of forgiveness and mercy, or wrestling with our faith and God's truth.

28 Pray for dialogues and actions that will unite our church with other Lutheran denominations, permitting us and our siblings in Christ to share pastors, witness, mission and ministries.

29 Give thanks for the mysteries of creation and the universe that stir our wonder, inspiration, gratitude and desire to explore. Praise God!

30 Pray for our presiding bishop, secretary and 65 synod bishops as they gather for the Conference of Bishops to worship, study, share insights, conduct church business, provide support for rostered ministers and help identify, invite, equip and support new leaders in the church.



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

721 12th Avenue
Huntington, WV 25701
304-525-9630



CONTACT INFORMATION

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CHURCH COUNCIL 2021

Vice President, Jenny Murray
Treasurer, Andrew Wellman
Secretary, Cheryl Konzett
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