

PROCLAIMING A TIMELESS CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD

SINCE 1794



THE SPIRE

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

2024 CONGREGATION OFFICERS

President:
Suzanne Umstott
Vice President:
Debbie Streicher
Secretary:
Debbie Szymanski
Treasurer:
Casey Colledge

2024 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Education (Faith Formation):
Debbie Streicher
Evangelism
Linda Zeller
Finance:
Casey Colledge
Ministry in Daily Life:
Sharon Clark
Property:
Todd Umstott
Social Ministry (Fellowship):
Charity Friend & Marsha Tarte
Stewardship:
Charlie Clark
Worship and Music:
Liz Medcalf
Youth:
Debbie Metheny

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April 2024



The past several days leading up to the Holy Triduum, (The three holy days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday- and The Great Easter Vigil) these liturgies of the Church have helped us to practice living as servants in the world. We heard the story of Christ, who just a few days ago, (on Maundy Thursday) knelt before the feet of his disciples washed them as a servant. We also hear Christ proclaiming that we ought to follow his example to do likewise.

Are we ready to be the servant Church? Are we really interested in serving others? Really? Or are we more interested in what we get out of the church for ourselves? Can we truly embrace a vision of the church in which we are all servants of one another and servants within the larger community? Being one of Christ's disciples' means serving without always asking what's in it for us.

We who receive God's love and forgiveness are empowered to love and forgive others as we have been forgiven, first by Christ himself. We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another. Now this is not a suggestion, it is a command/mandate by Jesus himself right before he left his beloved disciples. You cannot be a follower of the Christ, if you are not in "*charity and love with your neighbor*" (St. Matthew 22:37-39). For we are called to be servants to each other as Jesus became our servant. Our commitment to his loving service is symbolized in the washing of feet, following the example our Lord gave us on the night before his betrayal, death, and entombment.

Remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples, we eat the broken bread and share the sacred cup of this meal every Maundy Thursday and every Lord's Day. Together we receive Christ's gift of himself and are made one body in the meal we share in his most only name.

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THE REVEREND
RYAN K. VIANDS
Pastor

DAVID RANKIN
Director of Music

DEBBIE SZYMANSKI
Parish Administrator

CASEY COLLEDGE
Treasurer

RAMON ROCHE CARDONA
Sexton

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However, these times of worship and liturgies are not completely ended or finished until we also live out God's love and forgiveness among others. In what ways do we figuratively kneel before others to wash the dust off their feet after their weary travels? In what ways do we extend the leaves of God's table to all who are hungry, lost, confused, tired, or poor, and who still needs to be invited to this great banquet and feast of Love? It is all of God's children yet to be invited by us.

For we must live these commands (again, not suggestions) if we are to taste and see the goodness of Christ and of his glorious resurrection. For the glories of Easter are much longer than one day or even fifty days. The true glories of Easter are for us to experience and participate in all the days of our earthly life. Now, Lent is over and the Easter feast has begun! Go! And live and act as though the living Christ has changed your life and made you one of his own to do His will for the sake of others who are in great need of Christ's hands and feet reviled through YOU!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!
In His Service, Fr. Ryan +



Save the Date

Worship and our Annual Church Picnic will take place at the Lakewood Beach Pavilion on Sunday, June 9th at 11:00 a.m. Further details will be forthcoming.

From the president.....

Our annual meeting was held Sunday, February 4th after our 10:00 worship service. Thanks to everyone who was able to participate in the meeting. I hope the committee reports were helpful in providing a greater understanding about the hard work that goes into fulfilling our church mission every day. We are grateful to have a number of new council chairpersons joining us in 2024. As we move forward into a new year there are many things that we, as a church family, would like to accomplish. It's an exciting time here at St. Paul's as we flourish and grow. We are blessed with our long-time members and the new faces we see every week.

With the retirement of our Sexton, Ramon, we are pleased to announce that Cody Morris will be filling that position. Cody started his employment with us on April 1st. We wish Cody and Ramon the best as they start a new chapter in their lives.

We continue to look for individuals who would be interested in assisting by being part of one of our church committees. Please contact the church office or a council member for more details on how you might be able to help. My appreciation to the committee members, church staff and volunteers for all of your hard work every day.

The next council meeting will be April 9th at 5:30.

Blessings
Sue Umstott, Council President

Finance Committee Report

Here is the snap shot for February & March Profit & Loss information as well as the attendance information as the snap shot of the church finances on a monthly basis.

If you have any questions about any of this information, please feel free to reach out to me and I will be happy to go into more detail with you.

Thank you

Casey Colledge

Finance Committee Chair & Treasurer

February 2024

Offerings	\$ 9,517.79
School Rent	\$ 2,100.00
Dividends from Investments	<u>\$ 12,947.79</u>
Total Income	\$ 24,565.58
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 28,464.72</u>
Net Income	\$ (3,899.14)

March 2024

Offerings	\$ 12,350.00
School Rent	\$ 2,100.00
Dividends from Investments	<u>\$ 14,051.71</u>
Total Income	\$ 28,501.71
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 28,065.51</u>
Net Income	\$ 436.20

Attendance	Sundays	Vespers	
	3-Mar 52		
	6-Mar	19	
	10-Mar 37		
	13-Mar	14	
	17-Mar 45		
	20-Mar	22	
	24-Mar 46		
	27-Mar	19	
	28-Mar	33	Maundy Thursday
	29-Mar	26	Good Friday
	31-Mar 99		Easter
Average	56	22	

Mortimer C. and Elizabeth Ann Schaidt Scholastic Tuition Fund

On April 15th St. Paul's Lutheran Church will begin accepting applications for the Mortimer C. and Elizabeth Ann Schaidt Scholastic Tuition Fund for the 2024-2025 academic year. Instructions and the application form can be found by visiting www.stpaulcumberland.org or by requesting the information from the church office. Priority consideration will be given to members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church followed by students who are in Allegany County. The award can be used for the payment of tuition only at an accredited institution offering a 2 or 4 year degree, graduate degree, technical or vocational training. In order to establish the applicant as a member, the applicant must have communed **and** contributed – in their own name - at least once in the past year. Additional questions should be directed to stpaulsscholarship2015@gmail.com.
Applications are due by June 15, 2024.

Bowersox and Frick Scholarship Information

Separate letter of application must be submitted for each scholarship.

Address all applications to the Scholarship Committee of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. **ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY 4:00 PM ON JUNE 23rd.**

The **GLADYS FRICK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** is available for young adults who are members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church or whose parents are members. To qualify as an applicant you must be a current high school graduate accepted at a four-year college, two-year junior college, community college, nursing school or accredited trade school.

This award shall be made to the applicant who has the highest level of scholastic achievement during his/her senior year in high school.

Please include the following information:

- a) name and telephone number
- b) home address and college address (if known)
- c) senior year transcript
- d) any comment you, the applicant, wish to make (list school at which you have been accepted.)

The **BOWERSOX MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** is available for all members of St. Paul's or for young adults whose parents are members. To qualify as an applicant, you must be a high school graduate, accepted by either a graduate school, a four-year college, a two-year college, a community college, nursing school or an accredited trade school either as a part-time or as a full-time student.

This award shall be made on the basis of need and the expressed determination of the student to gain this educational experience.

Please include the following information:

- a) name and telephone number
- b) home address and college address (if known)
- c) major course of study
- d) the degree for which you, the applicant, are a candidate and the date it is expected to be awarded
- e) last semester's grade transcripts
- f) list school at which you have been accepted
- g) expected cost for the year
- h) the amount you, the applicant, expect to earn
- i) any loan which you, the applicant, or your parents have previously obtained for the purpose of defraying schooling costs
- j) a statement concerning the need for assistance
- k) any comment you, the applicant, wish to make



I want to thank the church family and Pastor Ryan for all the caring thoughts, prayers, visits and gifts from all of you. I couldn't have it without you. Ed loved his church and his people. He will be missed for a long time. I appreciate all of you. St. Paul's has a wonderful church family.

Love in Christ,
Nancy Ayers



*“I pray because I can't help myself.
I pray because I'm helpless.
I pray because the need flows out of me
all the time, waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God.
It changes me.”* C. S. Lewis

We call on God because He has first called us.
God blesses us as we journey into His Presence.

We pray first in thanksgiving for the
many blessings in our lives. **Praise.**

We pray for forgiveness for our sins. **Pardon.**

We pray for those needs God lays on our hearts. **Petition.**
Praise. Pardon. Petition.

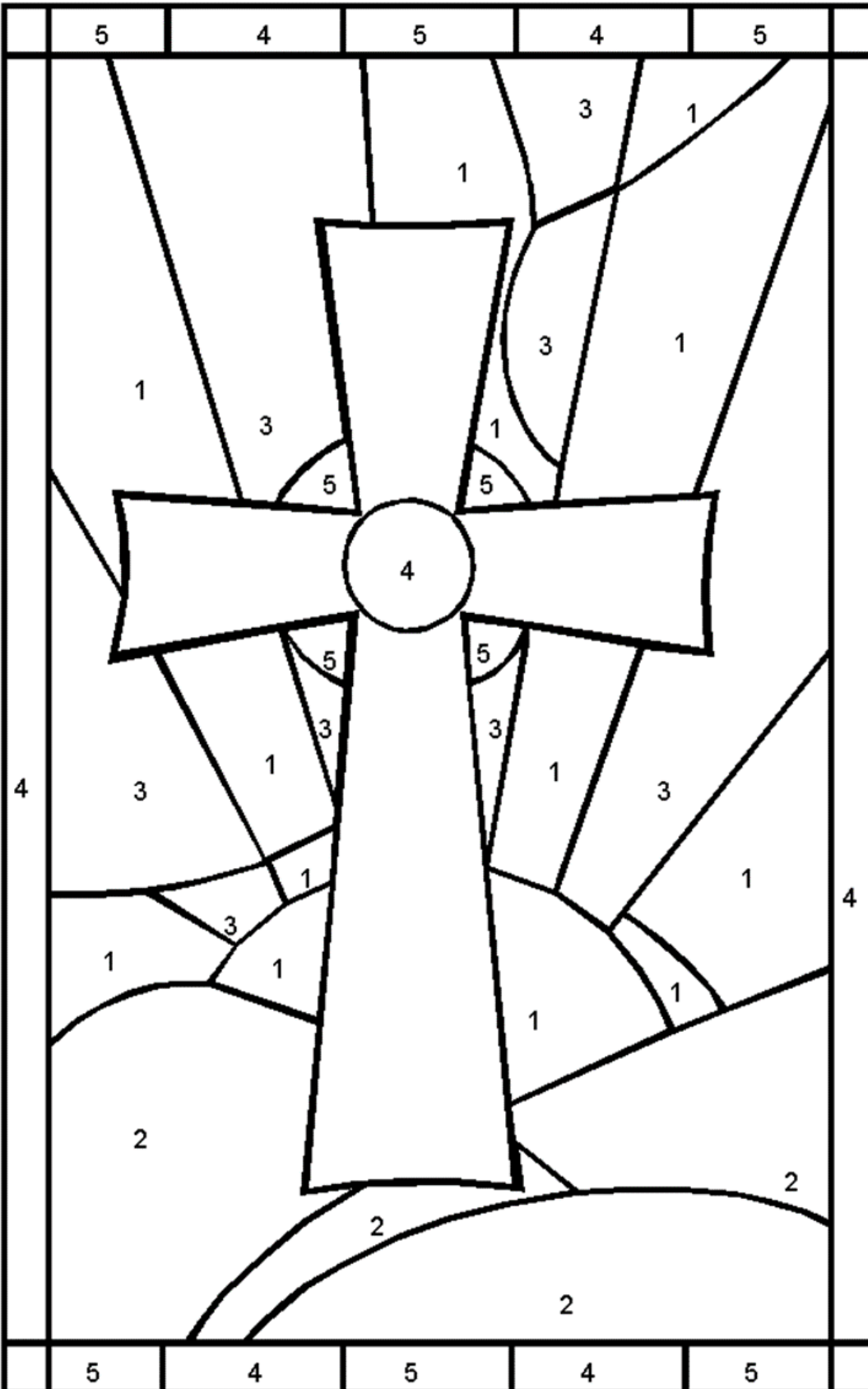
Connecting to our Creator and Redeemer fills the
longing of our souls for God.

Connecting sustains our faith even in our times of weakness.

**Philippians 4:6 – *Do not be anxious about anything,
but in everything by prayer and supplication
with thanksgiving let your requests
be made known to God.*”**

Connecting!

Coloring page for kids of all ages!



*Bear one another's burdens
and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

Galatians 6:2



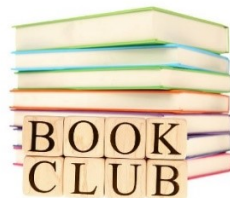
Do you hesitate to “bother” God? Do you believe there is a prayer quota and so you save prayer requests for emergencies?
Do you see your needs as inconsequential compared to the needs of others?

If you are going through a difficult situation or facing a particular need or problem in your life, the intercessory prayer ministry team will share your burdens with you each week through their personal daily prayer.

There is a wooden prayer box in the side Narthex for your prayer requests. Please fill out one of the forms with as much information as you wish. Your request is confidential and is not discussed within the prayer team or anyone else. You will not be approached if you submit a request.

In James we read: “You do not have because you do not ask.” (4:2b)

Kathleen Ball, Coordinator



Joy Book Club

The Club's next selection is
The Last Caretaker by Jessica Strawser.
*The club will meet for discussion on
Tuesday, May 28th at 6:00 p.m. in fellowship hall.*

APRIL

Monday April 1
Beginnings-No School
6:00-8:00 Art class in coffee house
7:00 PM Let's Beautify Cumberland
meeting in fellowship

Wednesday April 3
3:30 PM APPS Afterschool program

Sunday April 7
10:00 AM Worship

11:30 AM LOFT

Monday April 8
4:00-6:00 Beginnings Open House
6:00-8:00 Art class in fellowship hall

Tuesday April 9
5:30 PM Council meeting

Wednesday April 10
9:00 AM Tour group
3:30 PM APPS Afterschool program
5:15 PM Hand Bell rehearsal
6:00 PM Vespers in the chapel
6:45 PM Choir rehearsal

Thursday April 11
4:00-6:00 Bountiful Blessings

Saturday April 13
10:00 AM Grief support group
10:30 AM Countryside Inn tea luncheon

Sunday April 14
10:00 AM Worship
11:30 AM LOFT

Monday April 15
6:00-8:00 Art class in fellowship hall

Tuesday April 16
6:00 PM Vacation Bible School meeting

Wednesday April 17
Beginnings-Donuts with grown-ups
3:30 PM APPS Afterschool program
5:15 PM Hand Bell rehearsal
6:00 PM Vespers in the chapel
6:45 PM Choir rehearsal

Friday April 19
6:00-8:00 Beginnings Spring Fling dance

Sunday April 21
10:00 AM Worship
11:30 AM LOFT

Monday April 22
6:00-8:00 Art Class in
Fellowship hall

Wednesday April 24
3:30 PM APPS
5:15 PM Hand Bell rehearsal
6:00 PM Vespers in the chapel
6:45 PM Choir rehearsal

Thursday April 25
4:00-6:00 Bountiful Blessings

Saturday April 27
10:00 AM Grief support group

Sunday April 28
10:00 AM Worship
11:30 AM LOFT



Birthdays
& Anniversary

2 – Daniel Highland
9 – Patty Graham
12 – Linda Zeller
18 - 1960 - Sabra (Hast)
and Art Isom **First couple
married in current sanctuary**
20 – Dot Rhoads
22 - Gary Miller
29 – Kathleen Ball