

PROCLAIMING A TIMELESS CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD

SINCE 1794



THE SPIRE

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

2021 CONGREGATION OFFICERS

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Suzanne Umstott

Vice President:

Kathleen Ball

Secretary:

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Treasurer:

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APRIL 2021

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Education (Faith Formation):

Debbie Streicher

Evangelism

Jane Roderick

Finance:

Suzanne Umstott

Ministry in Daily Life:

Nancy Ayers

Property:

Edward Ayers

Social Ministry

(Fellowship):

Cindy Read

Stewardship:

Vacant

Worship and Music:

Kathleen Ball

Youth:

Gary Miller

Happy April to the Saint of St. Paul Parish!

Christ is Risen. Alleluia! Year after year, Christians end their Lenten fast with a giant and profound "Alleluia," shouted with enough gusto to make up for forty days of reflective and meditative time. Easter Sunday is the mother of all Sundays: the church is packed, the music is festive, and joy seems to be in the air—or is it? Is it hard for you to say "Alleluia" this year? If so, you're in good company.

While the women who returned from the empty tomb proclaimed the good news with boldness, the apostles just politely smiled and nodded and thought to themselves that it was an "idle tale" (St. Luke 24: 11). Like some of us, they looked at the world around them and wondered how the resurrection could possibly be true. Sometimes we talk about Easter as if it erases what happened on Good Friday, much like the "Undo" key on our computers or cell phones. But deep down, we know that even after all the fights come on and all the hymns are played, we're still living in a Good Friday world. And even more than ever, Covid-19 has made it feel like over a year of Good Fridays. But in fact, Christ Is Risen, however, there are days when it sure is hard to say "Alleluia."

"Alleluia" doesn't mean that everything is right with the community, nation, or world or that all of life is now fixed. "Alleluia" doesn't mean that we are not alone and that there's no place we could ever go that the arms of Jesus won't reach us. Were we left to our own devices, we might forget that. But in this parish family, gathered around the living presence of Jesus, we find the audacity to shout "Alleluia" while the rest of the community, nation and world laughs and shakes their heads, still with the disbelief that faith in God has raised Christ Jesus from the dead. We find faith to see new life sprouting in what looks like total wilderness in this messed up world. However, we find courage to be fully alive even in the face of death itself. Here, in this parish family of faith called Saint Paul Lutheran Church, our hearts are lifted up and we know that Christ Indeed Is Risen from the dead! Just as He said He would! Happy Easter/Resurrection Day Child of God!! Halleluiah! Fr. Ryan +

THE REVEREND
RYAN K. VIANDS
Pastor

DAVID RANKIN
Director of Music

DEBBIE SZYMANSKI
Parish Assistant

STEPHANIE WADE
Treasurer

RAMON ROCHE CARDONA
Sexton

Mortimer C. and Elizabeth Ann Schaidt Scholastic Tuition Fund

On April 15th St. Paul's will begin accepting applications for the Mortimer C. and Elizabeth Ann Schaidt Scholastic Tuition Fund for the 2021-2022 academic year. Instructions and the application form can be found online by visiting www.stpaulcumberland.org or by requesting the information from the church office. The scholarship is competitive and available only to members of St. Paul's. 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 Caitlin Hudgins stpaulsscholarship2015@gmail.com.
Applications are due by June 15, 2021.

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 26th.

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

2020 GIVING STATEMENTS

If you would like a copy of your yearly giving statement, please call the church office and one will be provided to you.

From the Council President.....

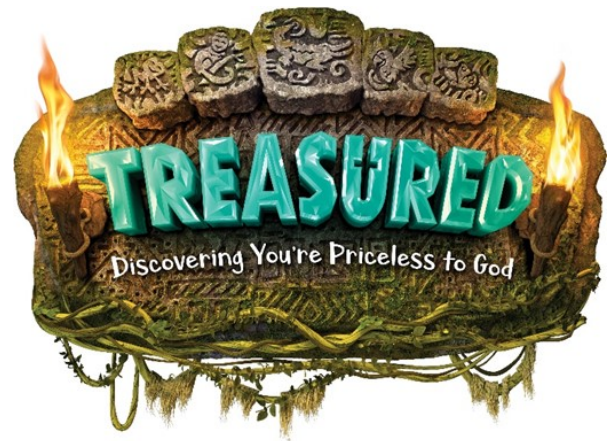
On March 9, 2021 the council met via Zoom conference. The primary focus of this meeting was preparing for Palm Sunday and Holy Week. It was an eye-opening experience to hear about how much time and preparation is involved in making sure everything is ready for these worship services. Many thanks to Kathleen Ball, Council Vice President/Worship and Music committee, Pastor Ryan, Debbie Szymanski and everyone who provided assistance during the meeting.

Also, at this time the council stewardship committee is currently vacant. We are working on dividing those responsibilities among several other committees for now with the ultimate goal of filling that position in the future. If you are interested in hearing more about what this committee entails and how you can help, please contact me or any council member for more details.

The next council meeting will be on Tuesday, April 13th. The Council has decided to return to in-person meetings with pandemic protocols in place.

Blessings
Sue Umstott, Council President

Cumberland Area Joint Vacation Bible School 2021



Treasured, Discovering You're Priceless to God, is our theme for Vacation Bible School for 2021. At the first planning meeting in March, a decision was made to once again do our Cumberland Area Joint VBS online using a private Facebook group page. For those who are not on Facebook, we will have links that can be sent via email for viewing videos. Registration forms will be available on the St. Paul's website beginning on April 26. The next planning meeting is on Thursday, April 15 at 6:30 pm on Zoom.

If you would like to volunteer this year or learn more about this ministry, please do not hesitate to attend the meeting. Please contact Debbie Streicher for more information at dstreicher52@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

LOFT Living Our Faith Together Bible Study



The LOFT Bible study provides the opportunity for us to gather, get to know one another, and delve into scripture readings each week. LOFT will continue to meet via Zoom online until May 26. There will be a break over the summer months with the hope to begin meeting in-person following worship and fellowship each Sunday in the fall. If you would like to be added to the email list for updates, please contact the church office.

The Luther League Puppet Ministry Team



The puppet ministry team will begin meeting for recording Vacation Bible School skits in the end May. They will meet online via Zoom on Monday, April 12 at 7:00 pm for planning.

July 21 – 24 provides the opportunity for our team to join in an online national Fellowship of Puppeteers conference. Making puppets, learning beginning and basic skills, and more will be offered through workshops. If you have ever considered joining the team, this may be the right time!

If you would like to learn more about our puppet ministry and/or be involved, please contact Debbie Streicher at

dstreicher52@gmail.com .

The Season of Eastertide

Easter is the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ, the "queen of feasts," of the Church year. Easter celebrates an event so great that it cannot be limited to just one day on Easter Sunday. Thus, Easter consists of fifty glorious days of celebration and feasting. It literally means a "week of weeks." Beginning with the Great Easter Vigil and continuing throughout the Easter season, the candelabras are lit; and the lighted Paschal Candle is appropriately placed near the Gospel side of the High Altar. The Ascension of Our Lord makes the fortieth day of the Easter season, celebrating Christ's ascension into heaven. The fiftieth day of Easter is Pentecost in which the Holy Spirit descends upon the apostles with tongues of fire.

An Easter Day Prayer

Lord Jesus, risen glorious from the dead, I worship thee as my living Savior this day, who hast redeemed me to be Thine own eternally; and I adore Thee as conqueror of Satan, sin, and death. Accept me and my Easter hallelujah, which I bring to Thee with all believers of all ages and races and nations.

Joy fills my heart as I come into Thy presence; for Thy resurrection proclaims to me and all believers forgiveness of all our sins, which brings peace to our hearts and songs of praise to our lips. I know that we are now reconciled to God, our heavenly Father.

Joy fills my heart as I worship Thee, the eternal, living Lord; for death cannot hold us in terror, and even the grave cannot keep our dust and ashes. I need not weep despairing tears; for Thou wilt raise me and all believers to eternal life. Our loved ones fallen asleep in Thee are in Thy safe-keeping, eternally delivered from this world of suffering and pain.

Joy fills my heart as I today join with all Thy saints to praise Thee; for I know that hell shall not prevail against Thy Church, which by Thy power and strength goes on from victory to victory as we bear witness of Thee and confess Thy name to the ends of the earth.

Take full possession of my heart today. Cleanse me from all sin. Keep me in Thy grace. Let not the cares and worries of this life rob me of the joy of Thy Holy Gospel. Increase the number of Thy faithful people from day to day. Gather from all nations of the earth Thine own elect. Then Thine shall be the glory, Thy be the honor, Thine be the praise, throughout all eternity. Hallelujah! Amen.



Please join us for Holy Week
Monday-Thursday-March 29-April 1
Stations of the Cross each day 5:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday-April 1 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday-April 2 7:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday-April 4 10:00 a.m.

Thank You

Dear Members of St. Paul,
Thank you so much for keeping me in your thoughts and prayers
as I fell ill and all through my recovery.

Your love, thoughtfulness and healing energy
were felt all of the way over here in Harford County.

Many thanks to you and your sanctuary again, and
please have a safe and blessed Easter season.

Love,
Lucille M. Roderick



Thursday	April 1
5:30 PM	Beginnings 1/2 Day
7:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
Friday	Maundy Thursday
7:00 PM	April 2
Saturday	Beginnings Closed
10:00 AM	Good Friday
Sunday	April 3
10:00 AM	Easter Sunday decorating
Monday	April 4
	Easter Worship
	April 5
	Beginnings and Church Office Closed
Tuesday	April 6
10:00-12:00	Lutheran Questions/ Lutheran Answers book study
Wednesday	April 7
7:00 PM	LOFT via Zoom
Thursday	April 8
4:00-6:00	Drive-thru Bountiful Blessings
Sunday	April 11
10:00 AM	Worship
Tuesday	April 13
10:00-12:00	Lutheran Questions, Lutheran Answers book study
5:30 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday	April 14
5:00-6:00	APPS drive-thru distribution
7:00 PM	LOFT via Zoom
Thursday	April 15
6:30 PM	VBS Meeting via Zoom
Sunday	April 18
10:00 AM	Worship
Wednesday	April 21
7:00 PM	LOFT via Zoom
Thursday	April 22
4:00-6:00	Drive-thru Bountiful Blessings

Sunday	April 25
10:00 AM	Worship
Tuesday	April 27
10:00-12:00	Lutheran Questions/ Lutheran Answers book study
Wednesday	April 28
7:00 PM	LOFT via Zoom



April Celebrations

April – 2 – Daniel Highland
9 – Patty Graham
12 – Linda Zeller
17 – Joe Graham
First couple married in current chancel -
18 - 1960
Sabra and Art Isom
20 – Dot Rhoads
21 – Larry Goldizen
22 - Gary Miller
29 – Kathleen Ball

He is Risen!



He is Risen Indeed!
Alleluia!