

2026
Congregation Officers

President-
Suzanne Umstott
Vice President-
Casey Colledge
Secretary-
Debbie Szymanski
Treasurer-
Stephanie Wade

2026 Congregation
Council Members

Education (Faith
Formation)-
Charity Friend
Evangelism-
Linda Zeller
Finance-
Brenda Aydelotte
Ministry in Daily Life-
Nancy Ayers
Personnel-
Brenda Aydelotte, Casey
Colledge, Sue Umstott
Property-
Todd Umstott
Social Ministry-
Marsha Tarte
Stewardship-
Casey Colledge
Worship and Music-
Timmy Friend

St. Paul Church Staff

Pastor
The Reverend Ryan K.
Viands
Director of Music
David Rankin
Parish Administrator
Debbie Szymanski
Sexton
Brett Densock
Treasurer
Stephanie Wade

PROCLAIMING A TIMELESS CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD SINCE 1794



THE SPIRE

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

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April 2026



EASTER

The Season of New Life in Christ

In the Christian Church Year, the two major cycles of seasons, Christmas and Easter, are far more than a single day of observance. Like Christmas, Easter itself is a period of time rather than just a day. It is actually a seven-week season of the Church year called Eastertide, the fifty days that begins at sundown the evening before Easter Sunday (the Easter Vigil) and lasts for six more Sundays until Pentecost Sunday. For the newly baptized, this is a period of *mystagogy* (being “led into mystery”), a time for prayerful reflection on the experience of their sacramental journey. The symbols and rites of the Easter season are channels of this grace.

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THE PASCHAL CANDLE

The new Paschal candle towers over the Easter assembly, a majestic symbol of the joy and glory radiated by the risen Lord. Its stature is both inspiring and pragmatic, for it will burn at every Easter season Mass and every funeral rite during the year. This pillar of Christ is lowered into the baptismal font three times at the Easter Vigil in a symbolic relationship that gives birth to the baptized so they may “rise to the life of newborn children through water and the Holy Spirit.”

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

The recitation of the Creed on Easter is typically replaced by a renewal of baptismal vows. Easter joy and glory are diminished if the faithful do not pledge to renounce sin and follow Christ. This renewal rite challenges both the newly baptized and the whole assembly to a more faithful witness to Jesus’ message and a more Christ-like way of life. The faithful attest to their spoken vows by holding taper candles lighted from the Paschal flame as they are sprinkled with the waters of baptism.

THE RETURN OF “ALLELUIA”

The Easter season is marked by the return of “Alleluia” to the liturgical celebration. Its Lenten absence represented a kind of spiritual fast, but with Christ arisen we once again feast on exuberant songs of “alleluia” or “Praise God!” For Easter Sunday, the gospel procession is often extended in length and musically embellished. The dismissal rite is also enhanced with alleluias, sealing our call to go forth in the peace of the risen Christ.



JESUS’ RESURRECTION

What happened on Easter was a complete surprise to the disciples. The Jesus that they had known and who had died was suddenly experienced as alive again. This new life, described as resurrection, was not just a restoration of one’s former life—a resuscitation from the dead. The prophets Elijah and Elisha had brought people back to this life, as had Jesus for the daughter of Jairus, the son of the widow of Nain, and Jesus’ beloved friend Lazarus. Although their return from the dead left them temporarily alive, they would die again. But Jesus’ resurrection was a new life that would not be subject to death again. It was eternal life, permanent and undying existence in the presence of God forever.

CUSTOMS OF THE EASTER SEASON

The Easter Seasons, which follows the celebration of Easter Sunday, is a time of joy and renewal in the liturgical calendar. It lasts for 50 days, culminating on Pentecost.

During this season, various customs and traditions are observed.

Easter Octave: The Christian Church observes the eight-day period known as the Easter Octave, beginning on Easter Sunday and ending on the following Sunday, often referred to as Divine Mercy Sunday. The entire octave is celebrated as a single solemnity and each day is considered a continuation of the Easter celebration.

Veneration of the Crucifix: During the Easter Octave, there is a particular focus on the veneration of the Cross, continuing the reflection on Christ's sacrifice and resurrection. This devotion is often seen during the Good Friday liturgy but extends into the Easter season.

Easter Water: The Easter Vigil features the blessing of water, which is then used for baptisms and for the blessing of people, homes and other objects throughout the Easter season. Holy Water fonts are often replenished with the newly blessed water.

Easter Candle: The Paschal Candle, which is lit during the Easter Vigil, remains in the sanctuary throughout the Easter season as a symbol of the risen Christ's presence and is typically used in liturgical processions and ceremonies.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises: Christians often renew their baptismal promises during Mass on Easter Sunday and other occasions throughout the Easter season, emphasizing their commitment to the faith.

White and Gold Liturgical Vestments: Clergy wear white and gold liturgical vestments during the Easter season to symbolize the purity, joy and glory of Christ's resurrections.

Easter Sunday Processions: In some parishes, especially in certain European countries, there are processions on Easter Sunday, often led by clergy, with the faithful following behind. These processions can be elaborate and may include the display of religious statues or icons.

Easter Hymns and Liturgical Music: Special Easter hymns and liturgical music are sung during Mass throughout the Easter season, reflecting the joy and celebration of Christ's resurrection.

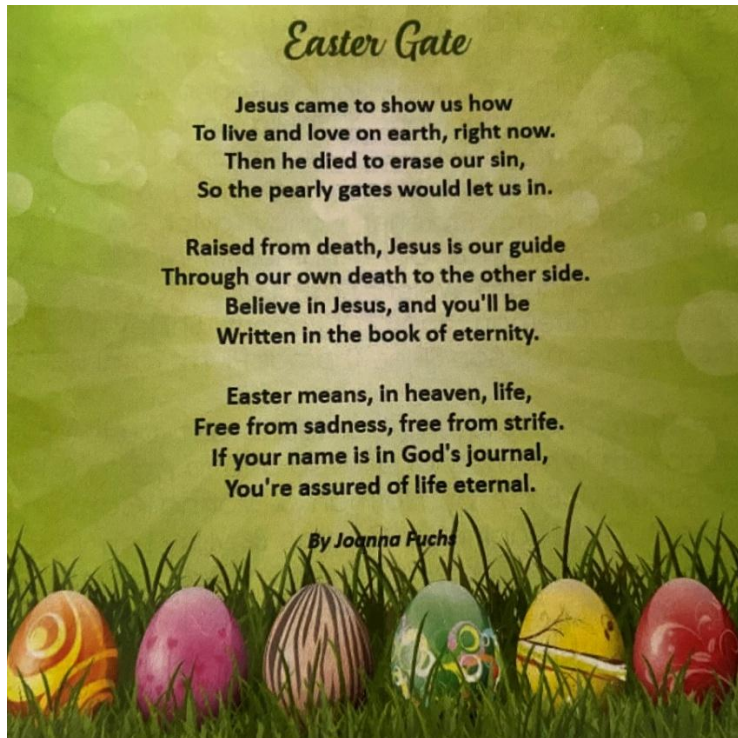
These customs and traditions enhance the celebration of Easter and the Easter Season, emphasizing the central importance of Christ's Resurrection in the Christian Faith.

THE RESURRECTION MYSTERY

“O truly blessed Night,” sings the *Exsultet* of the Easter Vigil, “which alone deserved to know the time and the hour when Christ rose from the realm of the dead!” But no one was an eyewitness to Christ’s Resurrection and no evangelist describes it. No one can say how it came about physically.

Still less was its innermost essence, his passing over to another life, perceptible to the senses. Although the Resurrection was an historical event that could be verified by the sign of the empty tomb and by the reality of the apostles’ encounters with the risen Christ, still it remains at the very heart of the mystery of faith as something that transcends and surpasses history.





April Celebrations

2 – Daniel Highland

12 – Linda Zeller

18 - 1960 -Sabra (Hast) and Art Isom

First couple married in current sanctuary

22 - Gary Miller

29 – Kathleen Ball

Family Worship and Fun

The children of St. Paul Lutheran and their parents and grandparents are invited to join us on the third Tuesday of each month. We start with a family dinner, move to family worship in the small chapel, then back upstairs for a craft activity. We start at 6:00 p.m. and are usually finished in an hour and a half. Our next event is on April 21st.

Please sign up on the bulletin board.



Happy Easter!! As we move into our spring and summer seasons, your council continues to meet monthly and review church activities and how we can best support our friends and family in our community and abroad. Evangelism, chaired by Linda Zeller with the help of many others continue to play a vital role through Bountiful Blessings in supporting the less fortunate in our area with much needed household and personal care products. This program also provides the clients it serves with a venue for fellowship. Many thanks to everyone who helps support this mission.

We are thankful to Marsha Tarte, Chair of Social Ministry and all of those who provide their help in organizing the monthly fellowship following the first Sunday service each month. This is the perfect time for members and visitors to relax with good food and conversation. All are welcome!

In March, the Council voted to renew its membership with the DCBA (Downtown Cumberland Business Association). Several council chairs volunteered to attend the monthly meetings and report back with updates on the Downtown Cumberland activities.

Please pay close attention to the reports shared in the spire from your hard working vestry chairs. They are truly a blessing.

As Christians, we are given new life and new mercies every morning. Spring provides a wonderful reminder to us that we should be living a full life.

Blessings,

Sue Umstott, Vestry President



Wednesday, April 1st

Lenten Vespers at 6:00 p.m. in the lower level Luther Chapel.

Thursday, April 2nd - 7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Mass and Stripping of the Altar in the nave of St. Paul Church.

Friday, April 3rd

Cross Walk 12:00

Meet at The Shrine of SS. Peter and Paul at 12:00 noon. We will participate in *The Way of the Cross* beginning at the shrine, walking to St. Paul, Emmanuel Episcopal Parish and ending at First Presbyterian Church.

The Solemn Vesper/Tenebrae of Good Friday 7:00 p.m.
in the nave of St. Paul Church.

Easter Saturday-April 4th 10:00 a.m.

All available hands are needed to decorate for Easter Sunday.

Easter Sunday, April 5th

Breakfast	8:45 a.m.
Easter Egg Hunt	9:15 a.m.
Worship	10:00 a.m.

\$10 Giving Sunday – April 26th

I would like to call on us in the sharing of our treasures. Each quarter of the year we have special areas of focus that we list on our giving envelopes. I would like to ask us to give at least \$10 each per month on the last Sunday of the month to help the special area of focus for that quarter. Can you set aside at least \$2.50 a week each for the help to our quarterly areas of focus? It will help us work toward serving our church and the community. You can always give more if you feel called but I imagine we can all give \$2.50 a week extra to support these worthy causes.

Below are the areas for each quarter:

April-June	Union Rescue Mission
July-September	Bountiful Blessings
October-December	Interfaith Food Pantry

I will include a GIVING SUNDAY envelope in the bulletin on the designated Sunday so if you don't have offering envelopes you can still give your \$10 for the designated area of focus for that month/quarter.

**Thank you for sharing your treasures!!
Casey Colledge, Stewardship Chairperson**



ONLINE GIVING is now available.

St. Paul Church has established and opened an online giving option. If you'd like give your offering/tithe online, please use the QR code above. Recurring and one-time donations can be set up via the QR code. Please see Debbie or Stephanie in the office if you need assistance.



+ Bishop William Gohl will be with us on Sunday, April 19th. Please join us for fellowship and a potluck luncheon. Sign up on the bulletin board with the number in your family attending and the dish you plan to bring.



We will gather at 8:45 a.m. Easter morning to share breakfast. Please bring a casserole, baked good or fruit to share if you are able.

ALL are welcome!

The church will provide coffee and juice.



An Easter egg hunt will be held beginning at 9:15.



A paint and sip event with Beth Hilliker will be held on Friday, April 17th beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the upper level coffee house at St. Paul Church.

The cost is \$25.00 which includes paint supplies and instruction for creating the image shown. No skill is needed to participate.

Please sign up by Sunday, April 12th.

BYOB and a small snack to share.



Mama Kay's Survivors

May 3, 2026

You are invited for lunch provided by Mama Kay (Cochrane) and her team following worship on Sunday, May 3rd.

Kay is a grateful survivor of breast cancer, but always on her mind are those friends and neighbors who did not survive, and the need for continuing research and development of the causes and possible cures of all cancers.

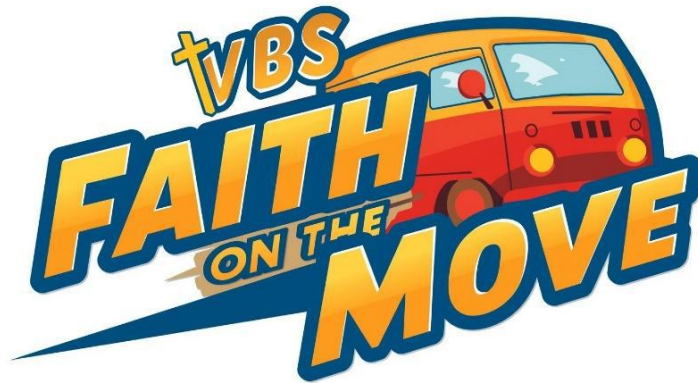
There will be no cost; donations are appreciated.

Paint and Sip
Family Worship and Fun



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper





Cumberland Area Vacation Bible School

Dates: June 15-18 Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Ages: Intergenerational: Children, Youth, and Adults

All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Where: Monday, June 15 – Meet at St. Paul in Cumberland

Tuesday, June 16 – Meet at White Oaks Bowling Alley

Wednesday, June 17 – Meet at St. Paul in Cumberland for transport to Brookdale

Farms Thursday, June 18 – Meet at Moon Glo Skating Rink

Registration Deadline: June 8

Social Media Policy

St. Paul Lutheran Church recognizes the role social media plays in modern communication. We ask our parish family to refrain from posting and/or sharing photos (especially of minors) without obtaining direct permission from the individual, family and church vestry. This will respect their personal privacy in order to safeguard our parish family.



Wednesday	April 1
	Beginnings closed
5:15 p.m.	Hand Bell rehearsal
6:00 p.m.	Lenten Vespers-Chapel
Thursday	April 2
	Beginnings closed
7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper
Friday	April 3
	Beginnings closed
12:00 p.m.	Crosswalk
7:00 p.m.	The Solemn Vesper/Tenebrae of Good Friday
Saturday	April 4
10:00 a.m.	Easter Sunday decorating
Sunday	April 5
8:45 a.m.	Choir rehearsal
8:45 a.m.	Easter breakfast
9:15 a.m.	Easter Egg Hunt
10:00 a.m.	Worship
Monday	April 6
	Beginnings closed
	Church Office closed
6:00-8:00	Art class-fellowship hall
Wednesday	April 8
5:15 p.m.	Hand bell rehearsal
5:30-7:30	Mountainside Baroque puppet rehearsal-fellowship hall
6:00 p.m.	Vespers-chapel
Thursday	April 9
4:00-6:00	Bountiful Blessings
5:30 p.m.	Confirmation instruction
Saturday	April 11
10:00 a.m.	Grief Support group
Sunday	April 12
8:45 a.m.	Choir rehearsal
10:00 a.m.	Worship
Monday	April 13
6:00-8:00	Art class-fellowship hall

Wednesday	April 15
5:15 p.m.	Hand bell rehearsal
5:30-7:30	Mountainside Baroque puppet rehearsal-fellowship hall
6:00 p.m.	Vespers-chapel
Friday	April 17
	Beginnings Career Day
6:00 p.m.	Paint and Sip-coffee house
Sunday	April 19
	Bishop Gohl's Visit
8:45 a.m.	Choir rehearsal
10:00 a.m.	Worship
11:45 a.m.	Potluck luncheon
Monday	April 20
6:00-8:00	Art class-fellowship hall
Tuesday	April 21
5:00 p.m.	Council meeting
6:00 p.m.	Vacation Bible School meeting
Wednesday	April 22
5:15 p.m.	Hand Bell rehearsal
5:30-7:30	Mountainside Baroque puppet rehearsal-fellowship hall
6:00 p.m.	Vespers-Chapel
Thursday	April 23
4:00-6:00	Bountiful Blessings
5:30 p.m.	Confirmation instruction
Saturday	April 25
10:00 a.m.	Grief Support group
10:00-12:00	Potomac Concert Band-fellowship hall
Sunday	April 26-Giving Sunday
8:45 a.m.	Choir rehearsal
10:00 a.m.	Worship
Monday	April 27
6:00-8:00	Art class-fellowship hall
Wednesday	April 29
5:15 p.m.	Hand bell rehearsal
5:30-7:30	Mountainside Baroque puppet rehearsal-fellowship hall
6:00 p.m.	Vespers-chapel