

PROCLAIMING A TIMELESS CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD

SINCE 1794



THE SPIRE

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

2022 CONGREGATION OFFICERS

President:

Suzanne Umstott

Vice President:

Kathleen Ball

Secretary:

Debbie Szymanski

Treasurer:

Stephanie Wade

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Education

(Faith

Formation):

Debbie Streicher

Evangelism

Jane Roderick

Finance:

Suzanne Umstott

Ministry in Daily Life:

Nancy Ayers

Social Ministry (Fellowship):

Cindy Read

Worship and Music:

Kathleen Ball

Youth:

Gary Miller

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August 2022

BEARING JESUS TO THE WORLD

"My Soul doth magnify the Lord. And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Lk. 1:46.

The month of August is an important month within the liturgical calendar of the Church. There are many feast days and dedications to the mother of God in this month. We mostly hear the story of Mary usually around Advent/Christmass time. However, Mary's story is a very vital part of salvation history and once a year is not enough. Blessed Mary's story has traditionally been important to women, throughout the centuries since her life time spent here on earth, highlighting, as it does, the significant role of a woman, a very pregnant woman no less. Most mothers can probably relate to St. Mary's feelings of awe, blessing, and praise, even if their children are merely human and their pregnancies mostly planned and understood.

The Madonna's song, too, is well-loved by disenfranchised people. She sings of a God who is changing the order of the world, who is merciful to the poor, and who lifts up the lowly. How could this NOT give hope to these who are weary for the way things are? But is there an entry point to this month of Mary, the virginal mother of God! So, what is the point of August 15th (especially) for those of us who aren't mothers, or those who aren't disenfranchised? How can we sing of Mary's song for ourselves?

When visited by the angel Saint Gabriel, Blessed Mary chooses to believe the unbelievable truth that she herself is chosen by God. Her song then praises this magnificent truth of God's holiness, a holiness that expresses itself not in exalting the already exalted or lifting up those who are already powerful, but in caring for the underdog, and doing so through ordinary people lie us.

God, our almighty father, still choosing us, whoever we are, asking if we too will bear God's Son to the world that so desperately needs Him. When we tell the world that Jesus' coming means—how it changes everything—and when we labor to make God's love real and visible, we join with the Blessed Mother of God, Mary, in delivering good news to a world that longs to hear and experience it. When we believe in God's choice, as unlikely as it may seem, we can join our holy mother's declaration that *"the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His name."* (St. Luke 1: 49).

Fr. Ryan +

THE REVEREND
RYAN K. VIANDS
Pastor

DAVID RANKIN
Director of Music

DEBBIE SZYMANSKI
Parish Administrator

STEPHANIE WADE
Treasurer

RAMON ROCHE CARDONA
Sexton

From the president—

As always, summer has been a very busy time here at St. Paul's. We have accomplished a great deal of things over the last 2 months including building and ground maintenance and renovations/repairs to continuing our social ministries.

The annual church picnic was a huge success thanks to all of the hard work done by Cindy Read, Social Ministry/Fellowship and everyone else who helped and participated.

Our appreciation also goes out to Debbie Streicher and the Faith Formation team for another great Vacation Bible School.

Many thanks to the committee members and church staff and everyone who volunteers their time to our church and our community.

The council will meet again on
September 13th.

I hope everyone is having a wonderful and
safe summer.

Blessings
Sue Umstott, Council President

New Members Course

Have you ever wanted to know more about Lutheranism? This 6-week course will satisfy the requirement for those interested in membership at St. Paul. If you feel the Spirit is moving you towards a fuller fellowship with St. Paul church please join Father Ryan.

The course is tentatively scheduled for Tuesdays at 5:30 beginning on September 20th. Please call the church office to register.



**Father Ryan will have Acolyte and
Crucifer training following worship
on Sunday, August 14th.**

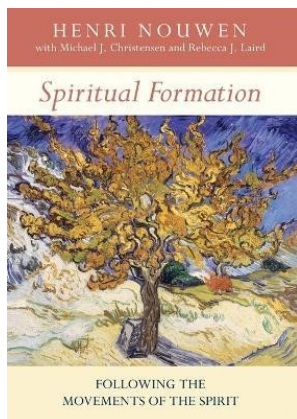
All who are interested in serving are
invited to attend.

LOFT
(Living Our Faith Together)



The LOFT (Living Our Faith Together) Bible study will take place following worship every Sunday and **resumes again on Sunday, September 18** after the summer break. We read the scriptures each week that have been heard during worship plus a few more, talk about them, and discover ways to relate the message to our own lives. We close with a prayer and a blessing. All are welcome to join us at any time. Bibles are provided but we also encourage you to bring a favorite study Bible.

Father Ryan will hold this Fall Book Study on Sundays at 8:30 a.m. beginning on September 18th. Please call the church office to register so we can order books.



*Spiritual formation, I have come to believe, is not about steps or stages on the way to perfection. It's about the movements from the mind to the heart through prayer in its many forms that reunite us with God, each other, and our truest selves.-
Henri Nouwen*



**Hear ye,
Hear ye!!!!**

Fall is around the corner and so are many of the activities at St. Paul. PLEASE consider being a part of one or all. Can you sing, cook, package, visit, write, read, garden, teach, etc., etc., etc? There are many places you can be a vital part in the life of the church, even if only occasionally. If each of us does a little, the end result will be big! There are ministries to appeal to everyone ----- worship, prayer, study, youth, puppet, fellowship. Watch your bulletins, The Spire, the website stpaulcumberland.org, listen for announcements and find a place for YOU! We look forward to seeing you.

*thank
you*

St. Paul,

I feel blessed to be a member of your congregation! Growing up here, I have felt love, support and wisdom. And though I will be away at school, I know that I carry these sentiments into my future. I am grateful to be surrounded by wonderful people and to have a home away from home! Thank you for the Amazon gift card! It will help a lot in the fall with school expenses!

Thank you,
Erica Metheny

To my wonderful St. Paul's family,

Thank you so much! You all have been so supportive all these years and I am so, so thankful. Thank you for the lovely card and the amazing monetary gift. The graduate blessing was so nice. Thank you all for the love and support I have received throughout the years. My whole life I've known my church family was behind me.

Emily Metheny

Dear Congregation of St. Pauls,
I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation for receiving the Schaidt Scholarship. I am very thankful for receiving this financial assistance to attend Allegany College of Maryland and I am enjoying my time as a Multimedia Technology Student. Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Daniel Highland

*Congratulations to our
2022-2023
Scholarship recipients!*

**Mortimer C. and
Elizabeth Ann Schaidt
Scholastic Tuition Fund**

Daniel Highland-\$3,800.00

**Gladys Frick
Memorial Scholarship**

Emily Metheny-\$270.00

Bowersox Memorial Scholarship

Daniel Highland-\$580.00
Emily Metheny- \$580.00



**The Bountiful Blessings team
needs small or medium sized
empty shampoo bottles.
Please place bottles
on the kitchen counters.**



Heritage Days September 10th-11th

Our sanctuary will be open for personal guided tours on Saturday from 10:00-4:00 and on Sunday from 12:00-4:00. We will also hold a joint rummage sale with Beginnings Montessori School in fellowship hall on Saturday from 10:00-4:00 and on Sunday from 12:00-4:00.

Volunteers are needed to set up the rummage sale on Friday at 3:30 and to work the rummage sale.

Please sign up on the bulletin board located outside fellowship hall.

We will be collecting donations of bottled water to share with tour guests. We will also be collecting donations for the rummage sale.

No large electronic items please.

Items can be placed on the front of the stage in fellowship hall.

Please donate and consider volunteering in support of St. Paul and this community event.

PLACE Assessment? What is it really?

Personal discovery in a combination of assessments and teaching where you learn:



Discover God's Plan for You

It can be confusing to find your place in daily life and even when you consider where and how you can serve in the ministry of the church, whether in the congregation or the community. Society or even your friends and family say you “should” be serving in one way, but this leaves you feeling discouraged and unfulfilled. No matter what age we are, there are times we feel stuck in a role and prayerfully seek answers. The PLACE assessment helps you know who you are and the gifts God has given you.

God created you for a purpose. Let's discover it!

Debbie Streicher will facilitate a two-day session. She has been trained in facilitating, has taken it several times herself, and administered it to over 70 people. She has seen it make a big difference in the lives of individuals as well as the ministry of the church in several different congregations. The two-day process includes discovering personality, spiritual gifts, abilities, passions, and how life experiences reveal where God may be calling you and connecting your passions and abilities to daily life.

Dates: **September 23** – Begin with dinner at 5:30pm followed by Part 1 ending at 9:00pm
September 24 – Begin Part 2 at 9:30am, lunch at noon, and finish at 4:00pm

Location: St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Cost? Donations towards books and meals appreciated

Questions? Please do not hesitate to ask Debbie (dstreicher52@gmail.com , 703-303-7255)





VBS took place this year in-person from June 13-16.

The theme was *ReNew* and based on the Parable of the Sower. 20 children joined 20+ adults and another 10 youth as helpers to bring total participation this year to approx. 50 participants. The look and feel was an intergenerational setting as all ages participated in each of the four rotations and helped one another building some very fun relationships throughout the four days.

Congregations participating were: St. Paul's, St. Luke's, Souls Won Outreach Cathedral, First Presbyterian, and Metropolitan AME.

Four rotations were experienced each day: Crafts (led by Charity Friend and Emily Metheny), Snack (led by Ellen Roberts and Burt Streicher), Chapel Storytime (led by Katie and Otto Ross and Rick Metheny), and Recreation (led by Carrie Hewitt). All rotations had youth helpers also.

Small groups were led by Debbie Metheny, Shannon Watkins, Pastor Ryan, Luavina Anthony, Kaitlin Diehl, Christine Miller, Rebecca Funk, and Carolyn Clauson-Andrews. Many thanks for support from Debbie Szymanski! Debbie Streicher facilitated the planning, organizing, openings and closings, and lots of pictures.

Many thanks to all who made this year's VBS a faith-filled, joyful experience!



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Vacation Bible School Classes,
The Interfaith Food Pantry wishes to acknowledge, with thanks and appreciation, your donation of 234 food items delivered to the pantry on June 23rd. This donation was in conjunction with 4 other local churches. To the children, thank you so much for your participation in this collection. It will help children just like you. We also thank your teachers for encouraging you to help others. This donation will help meet the needs of our many clients who are referred to the pantry each week for emergency food.

God bless you for thinking of us and your neighbors.

Linda Stewart, Secretary

Music and Lyrics by
Stephen Sondheim
Book by
James Lapine

Directed by
Jordan D. Kline
Music Direction by
Beau Hartman

Inspired Stages Presents
INTO THE WOODS

At the Bobby Preston Memorial Amphitheatre, Frostburg

August 12-14 at 7:00PM

August 13-14 at 1:00 PM*

(* Special Act 1 Only Matinee Performances)

<https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/66126>



WITH SUPPORT FROM OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS



Daniel Highland is playing the
steward in this play.
Come support the time and talent
of our local performers.



Emily Grace Hudgins-Errigo

You're never too young
to be a
Bountiful Blessings
volunteer!

*-Like good stewards of the
manifold grace of God, serve
one another with whatever gift
each of you has received.
-1 Peter 4:10*

Worship and Picnic Lakewood Beach Pavilion June 12, 2022





**Happy AUGUST
birthdays!!!**

5 – Terry Hostetler
11 – John Beegle
22 – Rena Christopher



**Please contact Debbie in the church
office (301) 722-6604 if you would
like to sponsor Sunday altar flowers.**

The following dates are available:

**September 25
October 16
October 23**

Tuesday	August 2
5:30 PM	Council Meeting
Friday	August 5
Last Day-Beginnings Summer Sessions	
Saturday	August 6
2:00 PM	Long/Winters Wedding-Chapel
Sunday	August 7
10:00 AM	Worship
Wednesday	August 10
5:00 PM	APPS Meeting
Thursday	August 11
4:00-5:00	Bountiful Blessings
Saturday	August 13
11:00 AM	Dick Paulman funeral
Sunday	August 14
10:00 AM	Worship
11:30 AM	Acolyte/Crucifer training
Sunday	August 21
10:00 AM	Worship
Wednesday	August 24
5:00-7:00	Beginnings Orientation
Thursday	August 25
4:00-5:00	Bountiful Blessings
Sunday	August 28
10:00 AM	Worship
4:00 PM	Faith Formation Meeting
Wednesday	August 31
Beginnings First Day of School	