

# PROCLAIMING A TIMELESS CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD

SINCE 1794



# THE SPIRE

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

## CONGREGATION OFFICERS

### President:

Dr. Burton Streicher

### Vice President:

Kathleen Ball

### Secretary:

Debbie Szymanski

### Treasurer:

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January 2021

## What is the Epiphany?

The 12 days of Christmas is the period in Christian theology that marks the span between the birth of Christ and the coming of the Magi, the three wise men.

The Epiphany season, beginning on January 6th, serves the church year by bridging Christ's incarnation and his passion. It celebrates the revelations of Jesus as the Christ, the Savior of the world, particularly in such events as the miracles.

The number of Sundays within the Epiphany season is determined by the date set for Easter.

The First Sunday after the Epiphany is always celebrated as the Baptism of Our Lord.

The last Sunday after the Epiphany is always celebrated as the Transfiguration of Our Lord.

White is the liturgical color for the festivals of the Epiphany, the Baptism of Our Lord and for the Transfiguration of Our Lord. Green is the color for the second through the eighth Sundays after the Epiphany of Our Lord.

The Holy Communion liturgy for this season includes the Gloria in excelsis, the proper preface for Epiphany and the Nunc dimittis.

THE REVEREND  
RYAN K. VIANDS  
Pastor

DAVID RANKIN  
Director of Music

DEBBIE SZYMANSKI  
Parish Assistant

STEPHANIE WADE  
Treasurer

RAMON ROCHE CARDONA  
Sexton

## A Word from the President

The church council met via a Zoom video conference call on December 8. The council reviewed the current community COVID-19 infection rates and determined that the congregation should continue to not have in-person gatherings at the church. We will continue to offer on-line worship services through our website and Facebook page. The LOFT Bible study group will also meet on-line. The council approved the overall 2021 budget to be presented at our annual congregational meeting on 31 January 2021. The finance committee recommended that we hold the projected income the same as the previous year and maintain fixed expenses such as payroll and insurance the same but reduce other expenses to allow for the overall decreased cash balance resulting from the previous 2020 end-of-year results. We determined that there will be three council position openings that should be filled and approved during our annual congregational meeting.

This year we will hold our annual meeting at 11:30 a.m. via a Zoom video conference call. Please bear with us as we utilize this new method for holding our annual meeting. Given the expected illness infection rates for January, it seems most prudent and wise to use this method at this time. Please mark 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, 31 January 2021 on your calendars for this important meeting. We will not be holding a LOFT Bible study for that day. More information will be forwarded to you this month about how to join us with your digital device or telephone for the meeting.

As we look forward to the new calendar year, new resolutions, and hopefully ending our national COVID-19 pandemic through vaccinations, I hope everyone will be able to enjoy the beginning of a new year and the Epiphany season with family and friends. Our church council will meet next on 12 January 2021.

Blessings in the New Year,

(Burt Streicher, Council President)

## LOFT (Living Our Faith Together)



LOFT gathers each Sunday at 11:30 am online via Zoom. All ages are welcome to join the caring conversations and Bible readings. If you'd like to join on Sunday mornings, please contact Debbie Streicher ([dstreicher52@gmail.com](mailto:dstreicher52@gmail.com)) for the link.

**This month LOFT will not meet on  
Sunday, January 31.**

The annual meeting for the congregation is scheduled on that day at the same time.



**“Connecting visually with each other  
via Zoom is a blessing.”**

## Advent and Christmas 2020 Style

Advent and Christmas – a time of waiting and a time of celebration. A 2020 Covid-19 pandemic challenge met. Open the building for worship? Close the building for safety? The Worship and Music Committee met often to develop guidelines, review guidelines, suggest ways to stay connected.

A big **THANK YOU** goes to the Worship and Music Committee: **Ray Hunt, Liz Medcalf, David and Tammy Rankin and Linda Zeller** who give their time and talent to encourage and support worship as circumstances change and adjustments need to be made.

A big **THANK YOU** also goes to: **Debbie Streicher** envisioning online worship, **Barbara, Andrew and Daniel Highland, Gary and Christine Miller and Lynn and Linda Zeller** adorning the front portico and sanctuary and to the glue that held us all together **Pastor Ryan and Debbie Szymanski**.

Kathleen Ball, Chairperson

### Advent services from the Chapel



### Christmas Eve from the Sanctuary



### Merry Christmas to the community!



Thank  
you

I'd like to thank you all for my Christmas cards and gifts.

Your generosity and kind words are much appreciated and warmly received.  
Father Ryan+

Dear Father Ryan and members of St. Paul, Every year you have opened your doors once a week to us for band practice and you do not ask for anything in return. This year, of course, has been a very unusual season and we have had to cancel our concerts this summer. As a gesture of good will and for all that you have done for us in the past, we are sending you a donation to be used at your discretion. We hope that you will experience much joy and peace during this holiday season and above all stay safe.

In Peace,  
Jakki Rogers  
Potomac Concert Band

\*\*a check for \$150.00 was enclosed

**Happy January birthdays!!!**



6 – Harper Broadwater  
13 – Art Isom  
31 - Jay Cochrane



Psalm 100: 2 “Serve the Lord with gladness ----- “

----- and Kathleen Ball certainly does that for St. Paul's. Her willingness to help, to tackle a project and to lead the way are unending and for all of that, we say “thank you, Kathleen”!

Kathleen ably serves on Council as the Worship and Music chairperson, which has been no small task this past year trying to determine how and if we can hold our weekly worship services. Let's add other ways she shares her talents ----- Lector, Bountiful Blessings, Intercessory Prayer coordinator, Cookbook creator, seamstress, as needed, ie Confirmation stoles, chief mask maker. She's been a faithful participant in LOFT, Lutheran Questions - Lutheran Answers, a willing and able major delicious donor for “Loaves and Fishes” after-church gatherings and meals that we used to have when allowed.

Kathleen truly does “serve the Lord with gladness”.

# In CHRISTIAN Sympathy

Our Christian Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Faith Bible and Pauline Lee.

Our Christian Sympathy is also extended to the family and friends of Stacey Sanker.

Stacey was a member of Metropolitan AME and an integral part of our ecumenical community Vacation Bible School. Stacey participated in planning meetings, managed the supper for VBS participants, teachers and volunteers and this past year, was a co-host with Debbie Streicher as Vacation Bible School moved online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



# JANUARY

- Sunday January 3**  
10:00 AM Online worship  
11:30 AM LOFT via Zoom
- Monday January 4**  
**Church Office and Beginnings reopen**
- Sunday January 10**  
10:00 AM Online worship  
11:30 AM LOFT via Zoom
- Tuesday January 12**  
10:00-12:00 Lutheran Questions,  
Lutheran Answers book study  
5:30 PM Church Council meeting  
via Zoom
- Thursday January 14**  
4:00-6:00 Drive-thru  
Bountiful Blessings
- Sunday January 17**  
10:00 AM Online worship  
11:30 AM LOFT via Zoom
- Monday January 18**  
**Church Office and Beginnings closed**  
**Martin Luther King Jr. holiday**
- Tuesday January 19**  
10:00-12:00 Lutheran Questions,  
Lutheran Answers book study
- Sunday January 24**  
10:00 AM Online worship  
11:30 AM LOFT via Zoom
- Tuesday January 26**  
10:00 AM Lutheran Questions,  
Lutheran Answers book study
- Thursday January 28**  
4:00-6:00 Drive-thru  
Bountiful Blessings
- Sunday January 31**  
10:00 AM Online worship  
11:30 AM Annual Meeting via Zoom

## Western Maryland Food Bank, Inc. Facebook post

Our hearts are heavy at Western Maryland Food Bank. We have lost our friend and partner in service Cecil Bell. A true servant to his community, Cecil was always willing to help going above and beyond for those in need. What a loss for our community. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wonderful wife Marsha & family. Please do your part! Wear the mask, social distance and be a Cecil in this world! RIP Cecil we will miss you and will continue your work.



The Western Maryland Food Bank donated food boxes in Cecil's memory for each of our APPS afterschool program families. The boxes, along with a craft activity kit, cookie recipe and cookie cutter, Nativity sticker set, Nativity story book and magnet, were distributed to families on Wednesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>.



Miss Christine, Miss Jeanne and Miss Stephanie - our dedicated APPS teachers