



# THE SPIRE

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ✝ CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

## 2018 CONGREGATION OFFICERS

### President:

Dr. Burton Streicher

### Vice President:

Kathleen Ball

### Secretary:

Debbie Szymanski

### Treasurer:

Stephanie Wade

## 2018 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

### Education (Faith Formation):

Debbie Metheny

### Evangelism:

Jane Roderick

### Finance:

Suzanne Umstott

### Ministry in Daily Life:

Nancy Lohr

### Property:

Edward Ayers

### Social Ministry

### (Fellowship):

Cindy Read

### Stewardship:

Burton Streicher

### Worship and Music:

Kathleen Ball

### Youth:

Gary Miller

## January 2019

Dear friends in Christ,

What a difference a month makes! Early in December an agreement was reached to welcome as Interim Pastor the Rev. Steve Haptonstahl, an Episcopal priest who has served as supply minister with St. Paul's several times in 2018.

As of December 10, here I am, Pastor Steve, and here's a little more about me.

My wife Tommi and I moved to Cumberland in 2010 after 19 *winters* in northern Minnesota, where my work was chiefly in ministry development and as an interim pastor. Now in semi-retirement, I have continued as trainer, consultant and/or supply minister with congregations in West Virginia and Maryland, including your sister church of St. John's here in Cumberland.

Your call committee is shouldering the work of searching for a new pastor. Meanwhile, I will be with you on two or three Sundays each month, leading special worship such as in Lent and Holy Week, and on other occasions. On a limited basis during the week I will be working alongside you, your many active, enthusiastic, and organized lay leaders, and your talented staff members. My role as I see it is to lift up all of you in your faith, fellowship, and outreach, to further the exciting ministries and the underlying mission of St. Paul's. I will join your devoted home visitors in ministering with your homebound and hospitalized members. I will be available for other pastoral services as needs might arise. You may reach me through the church office or directly by phone – 218-343-4183 – or via email – [hapn2stall@aol.com](mailto:hapn2stall@aol.com).

My pledge, then, is this: to *kneel* with you in prayer and communion with our God; to *sit* with you, to study and to share what we are learning as we journey on the Way; and to *stand* with you to extend by word and deed the love our Lord shares with us in every moment. An “interim” time (and I have learned this from experience) presents to a church the opportunity for new insights, new resolve, and new growth in Christ. God bless us all in this enterprise!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Steve

STEVE HAPTONSTAHL  
Interim  
Pastor

DAVID RANKIN  
Director of Music

DEBBIE SZYMANSKI  
Parish Assistant

STEPHANIE WADE  
Treasurer

RAMON ROCHE CARDONA  
Sexton

## A Word from the President

I hope that everyone has had a joyous and faith-filled holiday season. Now that the New Year is upon us we are entering into our 225<sup>th</sup> congregational anniversary year. There will be several occasions in the upcoming year to recognize this important milestone. The church council completed many items of business at our December meeting. We welcomed the Rev. Steve Haptonstahl as our part-time interim pastor. We are pleased and excited that Pastor Steve was available to serve as our interim pastor until a new pastor is found. Pastor Haptonstahl will preside at the second, fourth, and fifth Sunday worship services. We will continue to have supply pastors for the first and third Sundays. Pastor Haptonstahl will be available for 10 hours or more during the week to conduct church business and serve on pastoral duties. Please welcome him to our congregation and introduce yourself when you see him.

We selected the date for our annual congregation meeting which will be held on Sunday, 27 January 2019 after Loaves and Fishes fellowship. Please mark your calendars now and plan to be with us for this important meeting. We will be presenting a summary of our accomplishments for 2018, our proposed 2019 budget, elect new council members for vacant positions, and discuss other items of congregational business. Our call committee is working on filling in the forms required by the Synod and the ELCA as part of the search process. I am grateful for those who have been serving on council with me this year. With their help and support we have accomplished a great deal during this year of transition.

The council continues to consider improvements to the church security and safety. We have two contract proposals for a card swipe entry system on the inner doors and a remote video entry system for the school to open the interior doors from the basement. Further discussions are needed to determine whether either system or both are necessary for us. As we look forward to the New Year, have a great beginning and enjoy the Epiphany season.

(Burt Streicher, Council President)

## 225th Anniversary: In the Beginning

The year 2019 marks the 225th year that the congregation of St. Paul's Lutheran Church has been worshipping God together in Cumberland, Md. Throughout this year, we will be sharing some elements of our congregation's history in the Spire, as well as preparing for some commemorative celebrations during this year. During this time of transition for St. Paul's, it may be good for us to look at where we have been as we plot our course for where we are going. So we start at the beginning: May 11, 1794, was the date that German settlers organized the congregation. Originally called the Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Cumberland, Maryland, it was later called Christ's Lutheran Congregation. It wasn't called St. Paul's Lutheran Church until 1895, 100 years into its life.

The original church property, purchased from Thomas Beall of Samuel, was an acre, comprising the entire block ringed by Baltimore, Center, Frederick, and George streets downtown. The first church was a two-story log building, 60-feet by 40-feet, topped by a belfry. It served the congregation for more than 50 years. It is pictured in one of the stained glass windows in the current church.

Along with being the "Mother of Lutheranism" in Western Maryland, this congregation opened its church building in its first 40 years to nurture the growth of many of the other denominations and faiths – including the Methodists, Episcopalians, and Presbyterians. Services were held in German for more than 20 years, and the earliest church documents are written in that language.

A committee has been formed to plan some events to mark this anniversary. Your participation and/or ideas are welcome. Contact committee chair Liz Medcalf at [emedcalf@frostburg.edu](mailto:emedcalf@frostburg.edu) or 301-689-5894.

Source: St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Bicentennial Kirchenbuch

## The Luther League Puppet Ministry Team News



The Luther League puppet ministry team went caroling at Allegany County Nursing Home and Cumberland Healthcare Center on Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to Ed Ayers for scheduling visits and driving the van for us as we enjoyed this meaningful and fun evening together.

Practices resume on January 9<sup>th</sup>. They are weekly on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 6:30pm on the stage in Fellowship Hall. If you know of someone who would like to learn more about the team, please call Debbie Streicher (703-303-7255) or email her. ([dstreicher52@gmail.com](mailto:dstreicher52@gmail.com)).

## Living Our Faith Together LOFT



LOFT meets weekly on Sunday mornings for 45 minutes in Fellowship Hall after Loaves and Fishes (food and fellowship) following worship. We begin meeting in the New Year on January 6<sup>th</sup>, Epiphany. In Spanish speaking countries January 6<sup>th</sup> is called Three Kings Day. It is a time to commemorate the arrival of the Wise Men bearing gifts for the Christ Child. This special day we will read scripture and learn more about the Wise Men.

During the remaining weeks in January, we will be learning about the Journeys of St. Paul. All ages are welcome to join us for one week, two, or every week as we share fellowship, scripture readings, prayers, and blessings.



The Ramblers will meet for a noon lunch at Puccini Restaurant on Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up on the bulletin board no later than January 6<sup>th</sup> and call the church office if you need a ride.



## Birthdays and Anniversary

**January** – 6 – Harper Broadwater  
13 – Art Isom  
21 – Pastor Marsha & Cecil  
(2016)  
31 - Jay Cochrane



**Memorial donations have been received in  
memory of  
Carole Lennox from:**

**John and Sylvia Hixon  
Harvey and Anne May  
Kimberly Park  
Lynn and Linda Zeller**





**Sunday**  
10:00 AM Worship Service  
11:15 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship  
11:30 AM LOFT-Living Our Faith Together  
5:00 PM Beginnings Board Meeting

**Monday**  
9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics

**Tuesday**  
5:30 PM Council Meeting

**Wednesday**  
9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics  
5:30-6:30 Luther League puppet practice  
7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

**Thursday**  
12:00 PM Ramblers lunch at Puccini  
4:00-6:00 Bountiful Blessings

**Sunday**  
10:00 AM Worship Service  
11:15 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship  
11:30 AM LOFT-Living Our Faith Together

**Monday**  
9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics

**Wednesday**  
9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics  
3:30-6:00 APPS afterschool program  
5:30-6:30 Luther League puppet practice  
7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

**Friday**

**Sunday**  
10:00 AM Worship Service  
11:15 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship  
11:30 AM LOFT-Living Our Faith Together

**Monday**

**Wednesday**  
9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics  
3:30-6:00 APPS afterschool program  
5:30-6:30 Luther League puppet practice  
7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

**Thursday**  
4:00-6:00 Bountiful Blessings

**Sunday**  
10:00 AM Worship Service  
11:15 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship  
11:30 AM Annual Congregation Meeting  
11:30 AM LOFT-Living Our Faith Together

**Monday**  
9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics

**Wednesday**  
9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics  
3:30-6:00 APPS afterschool program  
5:30-6:30 Luther League puppet practice  
7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

**January 6**  
Worship Service  
Loaves and Fishes fellowship  
LOFT-Living Our Faith Together  
Beginnings Board Meeting

**January 7**  
Heavenly Bodies aerobics

**January 8**  
Council Meeting

**January 9**  
Heavenly Bodies aerobics  
Luther League puppet practice  
Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

**January 10**  
Ramblers lunch at Puccini  
Bountiful Blessings

**January 13**  
Worship Service  
Loaves and Fishes fellowship  
LOFT-Living Our Faith Together

**January 14**  
Heavenly Bodies aerobics

**January 16**  
Heavenly Bodies aerobics  
APPS afterschool program  
Luther League puppet practice  
Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

**January 18**  
Beginnings 1/2 day

**January 20**  
Worship Service  
Loaves and Fishes fellowship  
LOFT-Living Our Faith Together

**January 21**  
**OFFICE and SCHOOL CLOSED**

**January 23**  
Heavenly Bodies aerobics  
APPS afterschool program  
Luther League puppet practice  
Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

**January 24**  
Bountiful Blessings

**January 27**  
Worship Service  
Loaves and Fishes fellowship  
Annual Congregation Meeting  
LOFT-Living Our Faith Together

**January 28**  
Heavenly Bodies aerobics

**January 30**  
Heavenly Bodies aerobics  
APPS afterschool program  
Luther League puppet practice  
Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

## St. Paul's Website

*St. Paul's Lutheran Church Cumberland, MD*



Please take time to visit our new and updated website. It will launch publicly on Friday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. The About tab includes information about our staff, council, the ELCA, and the Delaware Maryland Synod. Other tabs include more detailed information about our ministries in drop down bars. The website is currently located at:

<https://stpaulcumberland.weebly.com/>

In the near future, the address may change to accommodate videos and our monthly calendar and newsletter, The Spire. Your patience, insights, and suggestions are appreciated as we develop this new look and feel for our website. Stay tuned!

	1/6/18	1/13/18	1/20/18	1/27/18
<b>Lectors</b>	Tamela Rankin	Debbie Streicher	Travis Medcalf	Ray Hunt
<b>Ushers</b>	Terry Hostetler and Bob Davis	Mark Seib and Bob Davis	Terry Hostetler and Art Isom	Mark Seib and Bob Davis
<b>Crucifers</b>	Mia Broadwater	Andrew Highland	Emily Metheny	Meadow Wagus
<b>Greeters</b>	Mary Ann Hiester and Jane Roderick	Kathleen Ball and Nancy Lohr	John and Sylvia Hixon	Dave and Rena Christopher
<b>Sound/Screen Technicians</b>	Ed Ayers and Debbie Szymanski	Jim Squires and Debbie Szymanski	Rick Metheny and Connor Manthey	Jim Squires and Debbie Szymanski
<b>Children's Church</b>	Stephanie Wade	Rena Christopher	Debbie Metheny	Christine Miller
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Gary Miller and Diane Rhoads	Andrew Highland And Jane Roderick	Emily and Erica Metheny	Brenda Marvin and Debbie Streicher
<b>Loaves and Fishes fellowship</b>	Caitlin Hudgins and David Errigo		Rankins	Deana Emerick

## Happy New Year!

“Glory to God in highest heaven,  
Who unto man His Son hath given;  
While angels sing with tender mirth,  
A glad new year to all the earth.”

**By Martin Luther**