

PROCLAIMING A TIMELESS CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD



THE SPIRE

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

2019 CONGREGATION OFFICERS

President:

Dr. Burton Streicher

Vice President:

Kathleen Ball

Secretary:

Debbie Szymanski

Treasurer:

Stephanie Wade

2019 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Education (Faith Formation):

Debbie Metheny

Evangelism:

Jane Roderick

Finance:

Suzanne Umstott

Ministry in Daily Life:

Nancy Lohr

Property:

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July 2019

Dear friends in Christ,

Summer... I love it! Baseball, stock car racing, music festivals, splashing in a pool, dancing carefree in a surprise rain shower, family reunions, picnics, holiday band concerts and fireworks... the simple joy of relaxing on the veranda with a cold beverage after mowing the lawn... I love it all. What's *your* favorite summer pastime? What is it that makes recreation *re-creation* for you?

Vacation Bible School, just behind us, was a *blast*. Fun food, blindfold "trust walks," craft projects with service to others as the object, meeting some neat people as new neighbors, puppets and more puppets bouncing along while we sang and signed familiar songs and new ones, new friends exchanging phone numbers. We did *not* focus much on 'Be still and know that I am God.' There will be plenty of time for that during lazy summer afternoon naps to come, right? *Right?*

"Suffer the little children to come to me..." has been much on my mind during VBS week, but also as reports come from our nation's southern border about children being detained in warehouse-style buildings, sleeping on concrete floors, school-age kids looking after toddlers, with no soap, toothbrushes, showers or provision for laundering clothes, for weeks on end. Lord, we pray that we find a redemptive way through this shameful time for our nation. "...for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

During the first half of July Tommi and I will be away and back and away again, catching up with family and friends in the Midwest. I will also be joining a cadre of St. Paul's members for an ELCA training conference near Baltimore. Now you see that *you* get yourself some summer R & R, too.

Warmly, *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

At our June council meeting we reviewed and approved the Beginnings Montessori School's nature based playground equipment installation. The equipment will be installed this summer. Our pastoral call announcement was posted on the ELCA website on 11 June 2019. We also placed a pastor call opportunity notice on our St. Paul's website this month. We are now waiting for interested pastors to contact the Rev. Robin Simpson Litton who will schedule interviews for them with our call committee.

Our eight congregation ecumenical Vacation Bible School was held at St. Paul's on 17 to 21 June 2019. This exciting and inspiring gathering included 73 children and 35 youth and adult activity leaders. This year's theme was *Who Is My Neighbor? Learning to Love like Jesus*. There was music, singing, puppet presentations, dinner, a service project, snacks, recreation, and family times. At the end of the week, each child presented a donation to the Union Rescue Mission representative to support our community neighbors. We are very appreciative to the coordinator, Debbie Streicher, and all the adult and youth volunteers who gave freely of their time and energy to be with the children and help all ages to learn to love like Jesus.

As we enter the hot days of summer, I hope all can enjoy some relaxing fun-filled days with family and friends. May the Holy Spirit keep your hearts full of warmth and joy as we experience the Pentecost season.

(Burt Streicher, Council President)

Vacation Bible School 2019



Vacation Bible School brought together children, youth, and adults from eight congregations: McKendree United Methodist, Souls Won Outreach Cathedral, St. Luke's Lutheran, St. Paul's Lutheran, First Presbyterian, Ministry of Encouragement, Metropolitan AME, and First Church of God in Christ. It was a fun, action-filled, busy week for 73 children and 35+ youth and adults. St. Paul's has hosted Vacation Bible School with these congregations for the past 7 years. The highlight was on Friday evening when parents and families gathered for the closing. Donations were collected during the week. A representative from the Union Rescue Mission was present during the closing as each child brought forth a much-needed item as a donation to place in a box to go to the Rescue Mission. The children also worked on outreach projects during craft time to provide supplies for making mats for the homeless and decorated cards to give to those who are homebound, in rehab, a retirement home, or assisted living. Thanks, and appreciation to all who donated their time and energy to make this a memorable and successful week.



225 Tidbits – Building the Third Church

The second Christ's Church, started in 1842 and completed over a series of years, had no longer a life span than the first church made of logs. In particular, the basement story, where a lecture hall and room for the primary department of the Sunday school, had become so damp that it was of little use.

Pastor McAtee, who served from 1879-1883, was not interested in renovating the 1842 building and the congregation went along with his wishes, so no changes or plans for changes were made. It became apparent, however, that the congregation wanted something to happen – renovate or rebuild – but it took them a very long time settle on a plan.

Ultimately, the congregation was presented with two choices: renovate the current building, or sell the current property and rebuild elsewhere in Cumberland. Funds were being raised by 1888, but no plan could be settled on. Interestingly, the choice of tearing down the current church and building on the same site – what eventually happened – was not presented to the congregation.

The congregation and Vestry went back and forth over the course of several years, first deciding on renovation, then rejecting the plans developed to stay within the set budget. Sometime later, plans were submitted that would involve tearing down the current building and rebuilding on the site, but they were rejected over disagreements on cost and design. The discussions continued, with one plan substituting for less expensive materials – pine instead of oak, no cut stone, etc. Those plans weren't adopted, either. After more back-and-forth, the congregation was finally presented with three options – sell and build elsewhere, build on the present site, or remodel. The suggestion to build elsewhere was soundly defeated, 114 to 34. The choice of building at the current site (in a vote held the following week) was adopted 141 to 33. This was five years after the discussions and fundraising had begun.

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And it still wasn't time. The Vestry apparently got cold feet contemplating taking on the debt of a new building, and decided – without the congregation's approval – to defer the project again. Rev. John W. Finkbinder, the pastor who had shepherded the project almost since his first arriving in Cumberland, didn't let the matter die, and finally an architect and builder were secured and work began. Sunday, July 1, 1894, was the last service to be held in the second church. The congregation held services at B'er Chayim Temple, the synagogue at the corner of Union and South Centre streets, during the 14 months of construction. Pastor Finkbinder, sadly, was not able to preside over the services in the new church. In the fall of 1894, he announced that his wife's failing health required that they move to a better climate. The new church was dedicated Sept. 22, 1895, with the new name of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Source: *From Generation to Generation: Two Hundred Years in the Life of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.*

Memories are special moments that tell our *Story*

St. Paul's 225th Anniversary

Please plan to attend a meeting after church on **July 14** to finalize plans for the Anniversary Cookbook. **“Telling Our Story”** is the theme for the cookbook – connecting generations through recipes shared, and stories remembered of special times.

In celebration: showing God's love
in outreach to our community.

July – 225 items – Bountiful Blessings

We are into our fifth year of serving the community through Bountiful Blessings. St. Paul's has generously supported this program. In celebration of our anniversary, we are collecting core items: cleaning solutions, dish detergent, toilet paper, paper towels, laundry detergent, hair care, dental care, and bath bar soap, for distribution to the communities we serve. Please bring donations to church on Sundays or to the office during the week in July.

Coming Up:

**August – 225 items – South Penn and
Westside Schools (APPS program)**

**September – 225 items – Interfaith Food
Pantry**



The Ramblers will meet for a noon lunch at Hobo's Restaurant on Thursday, July 11th. Please sign up by Sunday, July 7th and call the church office if you need a ride.

July birthdays and anniversary!!

*July – 18 – Pastor Marsha
19 – Cindy Read
23 – Nancy Lohr
24 - Donna & Larry
Goldizen's anniversary*

	July 7	July 14	July 21	July 28	
Lector	Lisa Rowley	Tamela Rankin	Debbie Streicher	Ray Hunt	
Crucifer	Daniel Highland	Erica Metheny	Andrew Highalnd	Meadow Wagus	
Ushers	Terry Hostetler and Art Isom	Mark Seib and Bob Davis	Terry Hostetler and Art Isom	Mark Seib and Bob Davis	
Greeters	Nancy Lohr and Joy Zembower	Kathleen Ball and Mary Ann Hiester	Deana Emerick and Jane Roderick	Roy and Jean Lee	
Technicians	Ed Ayers And Debbie Szymanski	Connor Mantheiy and Rick Metheny	Jim Squires and Debbie Szymanski	Andrew, Daniel Highland and Debbie Szymanski	
Communion Assistants	Jim and Patti Squires	Emily and Erica Metheny	Jane Roderick	Brenda Marvin and Debbie Streicher	
Loaves and Fishes Fellowship					
Counters	Jay Cochrane and Terry Hostetler	Burt Streicher and Debbie Szymanski	Debbie Szymanski and Stephanie Wade	Jay Cochrane and Terry Hostetler	

**The Luther League
Puppet Ministry
Team News**



Many thanks to Tamela and Katie Rankin for leading the team during Vacation Bible School from skits to songs to preparing props. Four adults and seven youth helped make the puppet presentations a fun-filled, learning addition to the openings and closings each evening.

Later this month, Debbie Streicher and Tamela Rankin will participate in the Fellowship of Christian Puppeteers National Conference in Hagerstown, MD.

July ★★

“Ah summer, what power you have to make us suffer and like it.”-

-Russel Baker

Monday	July 1
5:00 PM	GYM FLOOR WAXING
Tuesday	Beginnings Board meeting
	July 2
	GYM FLOOR WAXING
Thursday	July 4
8:00 PM	Potomac Concert Band-rain site
Sunday	July 7
10:00 AM	Worship Service
11:15 AM	Loaves and Fishes fellowship
Monday	July 8
9:30 AM	Heavenly Bodies aerobics
Tuesday	July 9
5:30 PM	Council meeting
Wednesday	July 10
9:30 AM	Heavenly Bodies aerobics
7:00 PM	Potomac Concert Band rehearsal
Thursday	July 11
12:00 PM	Ramblers lunch at Hobo's
4:00-6:00	Bountiful Blessings
Sunday	July 14
10:00 AM	Worship Service
11:15 AM	Loaves and Fishes fellowship
Monday	July 15
9:30 AM	Heavenly Bodies aerobics
Wednesday	July 17
9:30 AM	Heavenly Bodies aerobics
Sunday	July 21
10:00 AM	Worship Service
11:15 AM	Loaves and Fishes fellowship
Monday	July 22
9:30 AM	Heavenly Bodies aerobics
Wednesday	July 24
9:30 AM	Heavenly Bodies aerobics
7:00 PM	Potomac Concert Band rehearsal
Thursday	July 25
4:00-6:00	Bountiful Blessings
Sunday	July 28
10:00 AM	Worship Service
11:15 AM	Loaves and Fishes fellowship
Wednesday	July 31
6:00 PM	Call Committee meeting
7:00 PM	Potomac Concert Band rehearsal