

PROCLAIMING A TIMELESS CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD

SINCE 1794



THE SPIRE

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

2020 CONGREGATION OFFICERS

President:

Dr. Burton Streicher

Vice President:

Kathleen Ball

Secretary:

Debbie Szymanski

Treasurer:

Stephanie Wade

2020 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Education (Faith Formation):

Debbie Metheny

Evangelism:

Cecil Bell

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

15 N. Smallwood Street

Cumberland, MD 21502

(301) 722-6604

www.stpaulcumberland.org

Email: debbie@stpaulcumberland.org

July 2020

Pastor's Ponderings

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Genesis 22: 1-14 & St. Matthew 10: 40-42.

Terror text. Have you ever heard the term? I've not heard of it before this week. It refers to those texts in the bible that simultaneously instill fear and fascination. Remember the account of Moses and the snakes? These are the texts that made half of your Sunday school class say "ew" or "oh", no! while the other half said "wow" at the same time.

We've got one of those texts from last week's scriptures-Genesis 22: 1-14. It's the account of Abraham being called by God to sacrifice his son Isaac. Isaac, the son of laughter, the beginning of the nation promised by God, the apple of Abraham's eye... God wanted Abraham to kill him. Is that how God works?

This is not about killing or sacrifice...it's about binding and trust. The first tellers and listeners to hear this story heard it as a lesson of trust. They knew Isaac would not be killed. Within this was a session posing the questions—How much did Abraham trust God? How much did God trust Abraham? How much did Isaac trust his father and his father trust God?

These questions lead to the contemplation and affirmation that trust is essential to the fulfillment of God's purpose through and between God's people, as well as, an honor to receive and share. What an appropriate lesson for us today.

In our Gospel Lesson, Jesus says, "...Whoever gives a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple- truly none of these will lose their reward." The "little Ones" are you and I, sisters and brothers of the Body of Christ down through the ages.

The "reward" is dwelling in the presence of God. That invitation and presence-the promise-is fulfilled as we live in Christ's love, grace, understanding, empathy, and respect for each other.

THE REVEREND
RYAN K. VIANDS
Pastor

DAVID RANKIN
Director of Music

DEBBIE SZYMANSKI
Parish Assistant

STEPHANIE WADE
Treasurer

RAMON ROCHE CARDONA
Sexton

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Have you found in your relationship with God, that you can trust Him completely with your very life, assets and livelihood? Do you truly and honestly put trust in the Lord that He will supply your every need? If you have, ok. If you haven't, well... May this be your meditation for this month. Whatever camp you find yourself in, ask the question of why you are there, and are you where you need to be. Amen.

Pax, Pr. Ryan +
Let us pray,...

Loving and Sustaining God, you call us to obedience, to follow you in all things; to give up the things we cling to, and to give ourselves wholeheartedly to your purposes. We confess that we don't always find this easy to do. We confess that it is often very difficult to let go of the things we love. But we also know that you never ask more of us than what is possible and that you stand ready, at all times, to sustain us, and to provide everything we need. Give us courage to faithfully follow your leading, even when we cannot see the outcome, even when the path you call us to seems impossible to comprehend. Help us to trust you in all things, to let go of everything that would stand in the way of whole-hearted obedience to you. In the holy name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.



*"God writes the Gospel
not in the
Bible alone, but also on trees,
and in the flowers and
clouds and stars."*

-Martin Luther



Return to Worship Guidelines **Guidelines will remain the same for** **the month of July**

Please do not attend if you are
experiencing any
symptoms of
illness.

Church doors will be open to the outside
for hands-free entrance and exit.

No socializing will be permitted in the
church building.

To minimize direct contact there will
be no bulletins, we will use only the screens.

Bibles and hymnals have been removed
from the pews. Weekly announcements, the
prayer list and Taking Faith Home inserts
will be emailed/mailed to each member.

- Masks are mandatory.
- Hand sanitizer and gloves are available.
- Pews will be marked off for seating in order to maintain social distancing.
- There will be no Eucharist, sharing of the peace or singing of hymns. There will be music from the organ, piano and guitar.
- There will be no fellowship following worship.

Offering will not be collected during worship; offering plates will be available at both entrances.

The Worship and Music Committee and
Church Council have made every effort to
safely resume worship; these guidelines
will be reviewed each month for
updates or changes.

A Word from the President

The church council met via a Zoom video conference call on Tuesday, 9 Jun. As somewhat expected due to the COVID-19 pandemic shut-down, the treasurer's report indicated that our collections and investment income were down by about \$10,500 from the same time last year. While this amount is not nearly as bad as it could have been, the council hopes that as our worship services have now begun again that members will catch up with their stewardship giving and this reduction will be reduced. Our registration with the *AmazonSmile* program has been completed and we have received our first donation check from them. If interested in participating with your Amazon on-line orders, please contact the office on how to select St. Paul's as your charity. The council approved purchasing a new white high altar parament to complete the new white pulpit and lectern set we acquired last year. New floor coverings/rugs were also approved for purchase for the chancel area to soften floor traffic noise and provide softer standing/kneeling areas. Our next council meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 14th.

We will continue to review the changing state guidance and progress of the COVID-19 pandemic to determine how long our current worship service format will be continued. Our joint Vacation Bible School (VBS) will have a different look this summer and will be done in homes. It will begin on 13 July and extend for 5 weeks. VBS packets (one lesson for each of the 5 weeks) for each registered child will be available for pickup at St. Paul's on July 10th and 11th. Each Monday evening there will be an on-line gathering that will include music, puppet skits, and more that will support the Rocky Railway theme included in the packets. We are hopeful that we can have a celebration gathering at the end of the 5 weeks face-to-face at St. Paul's either outside or possibly inside depending on the social distancing restrictions at that time.

I hope that with the warmer weather and sunshine, our spirits are rising and life is getting better as we continue to deal with this unusual situation. Be safe and healthy.

Prayers and Blessings in this summer season,
(Burt Streicher, Council President)



Friday	July 3
	OFFICE CLOSED
Sunday	July 5
10:00 AM	Worship
Monday	July 6
	VBS Registration Deadline
Thursday	July 9
4:00-6:00	Drive-thru Bountiful Blessings
Friday	July 10
4:00-6:00	VBS resource packet distribution
Saturday	July 11
10:00-12:00	VBS resource packet distribution
Sunday	July 12
10:00 AM	Worship
Monday	July 13
	Beginnings Summer Camps begin
Tuesday	July 14
5:30 PM	Church Council meeting
Thursday	July 16
5:00 PM	Book Club discussion via Zoom
Sunday	July 19
10:00 AM	Worship
Thursday	July 23
4:00-6:00	Drive-thru Bountiful Blessings
Sunday	July 26
10:00 AM	Worship

Save the date

**Pastor Ryan's
installation**

**Sunday, September 13th
4:00 p.m.**

The Luther League Puppet Ministry Team News



Tammy and Katie Rankin, Emily and Erica Metheny, and Burt and Debbie Streicher will be planning and providing online skits and presentations during this year's Facebook Live Vacation Bible School that will take place on Monday evenings beginning on July 13th through August 10th. For those who cannot watch on Mondays, a recording will stay online in a closed Facebook Group throughout each week. The Fellowship of Christian Puppeteers National Conference held in Hagerstown, MD will be a hybrid this year between live presentations and online venues. The dates are July 23 – 25. Those interested in learning puppet basics and learning more advanced techniques, are invited to contact Debbie Streicher for more information.

Vacation Bible School 2020



Vacation Bible School will begin on July 13th. This year resource packets will be distributed to each registered child. **Pick up times for packets are July 10th from 4 to 6 pm and July 11th from 10 am to Noon at St. Paul's.** All presentations will be done on a Private Facebook Group on Monday evenings. There will be an invitation to continue conversations throughout each week in the group. This year, there are seven congregations joining together for this community event.

The registration form can be found on our website with a link on the homepage.

Forms are also available at the church. VBS is designed for ages 4 through those finishing the fifth grade. **The extended registration deadline is Monday, July 6th.**

Questions? Call or email Debbie Streicher: 703-303-7255 or dstreicher52@gmail.com.



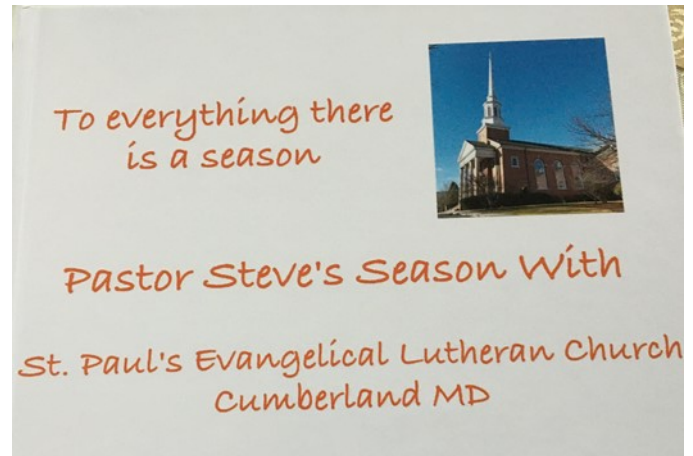
July – 19 – Cindy Read
23 – Nancy Lohr Ayers
24 - Donna & Larry
Goldizen's
Anniversary

Church Humor

“So far today, God, I’ve done all right. I haven’t gossiped, haven’t lost my temper, haven’t been selfish, grumpy, nasty or overindulgent. I’m really glad about that.

But in a few minutes, God, I’m going to get out of bed and from then on I’m probably going to need a lot more help.

Thank you. In Jesus’ name, amen.”



Thank you Pastor Steve!

A Memory Book in honor of Pastor Steve’s time with us has been created with blank pages in the back for our greetings. The book will be available at the parking lot entrance on the table outside Fellowship Hall, beginning Sunday, July 5. On alternate Sundays, it will be available at the Washington Street entrance. Please use the “no bleed” marker provided. We will present the book to Pastor Steve on Sunday, July 26th. Pastor Steve will return to preside for worship as Pastor Ryan returns to his former congregation for a farewell worship.

Congratulations Ed and Nancy Ayers!

