

# PROCLAIMING A TIMELESS CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD



# 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

15 N. Smallwood Street

Cumberland, MD 21502

(301) 722-6604

[www.stpaulcumberland.org](http://www.stpaulcumberland.org)

Email: [debbie@stpaulcumberland.org](mailto:debbie@stpaulcumberland.org)

## March 2020

## 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

Dear friends in Christ:

We did *know*, didn't we, that these past weeks weren't the *real* beginning of Spring, right? But we *have* just entered the real, and solemn, season of **Lent**, marked by the fun and tummy-filling occasion of Shrove Tuesday followed by an honest-to-God observance of Ash Wednesday.

These next six weeks comprise the Church's annual invitation for us to get down to the nitty gritty of our self-awareness as faltering, fumbling, *very* human beings who spend much of the time falling flat on our ash-marked faces. But it is also the opportunity to be mindful every day of the Psalmist's assurance that "The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness."

As we take inventory of our foibles and failings, our God is reaching out a hand to help us up from our knees back onto our feet, dusting us off, and urging us to get back out there into the game, to put our heart and mind and body and soul into the life we've been given, with all the ups and downs that it has and will toss our way.

The secret sauce of this challenge is that we don't have to brave this journey all by our lonesome selves, because God is with us every single step of the way – often right by our side, sometimes behind us giving us a more-or-less gentle kick in the rear end, always going out ahead of us to mark the way, and now and then carrying us when we are too weak to crawl even an inch forward.

This "off season" of Lent can make all the difference in terms of our regard for our sinful but already forgiven selves, of our renewed forbearance for a world that isn't always all that nice, and of the resolve to follow our Lord Jesus' commandment, on the last night of his life with us, to "love each other as I have loved you."

God be with you and bless you in your Lenten reflections.

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

The church council met on February 11, 2020. At the annual council retreat, the council elected the following members as congregational officers for the coming year: Burt Streicher, President, Kathleen Ball, Vice-President, Debbie Szymanski, Secretary, and Stephanie Wade, Treasurer. The council also developed our strategic goals for the coming year:

- Call a full-time pastor
- Reseal and repaint parking lot
- Hold a church clean-up day
- Begin monthly family game nights
- Increase Bountiful Blessings volunteer support
- Conduct a faith formation survey with youth and teens

At the meeting Rick Metheny, chair of the call committee, introduced their recommended pastoral call candidate to the council members. After sharing the call committee's reasons for selecting this pastor for recommendation, the council members were able to ask questions to the candidate about experience, background, and ministry approach. The council unanimously voted in favor of recommending this candidate to the congregation for call.

The candidate will preside and preach at the St. Paul worship service on March 8, 2020. A special congregational meeting will be convened immediately after the service in the sanctuary to allow members of the congregation to vote on the call recommendation. We are happy, excited, and pleased to finally be at this point in our deliberate and intentional process for calling a full time pastor.

It is hard to believe that we are in the season of Lent already. I am looking forward to attending the mid-week, Wednesday, Chapel Lenten sessions at 6:30pm to 7:00pm again this year. Please add Vacation Bible School (*Rocky Railway*), June 22 to 26, 2020 and our annual church picnic at the Lakewood Beach Pavilion on 28 June 2020 to your schedules. Our church council will next meet on 10 March 2020.

Blessings in this Lenten season,

(Burt Streicher, Council President)

## LOFT Living Our Faith Together Sundays at 11:45am



If you haven't experienced LOFT, consider joining us on Sunday mornings during Lent as we engage in caring and faith-filled conversations based on the scripture readings of the day. Each week we explore the Bible readings we heard during worship more deeply and connect them with stories from our own lives. All ages are invited to join the conversations. LOFT begins after worship and fellowship and meets at tables in Fellowship Hall. Younger ages enjoy age-related activities. Come and see!

**LOFT Potlucks  
St. Patrick's Day Milestone Moment  
Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm**



St. Patrick's Day became an official Christian feast day in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. Lenten restrictions on eating and drinking alcohol were lifted for this special day. The day commemorates the arrival of Christianity in Ireland and recognizes St. Patrick as a Christian missionary who later became the patron saint of Ireland. Come and join us for this Milestone Moment as we enjoy dinner together and share caring conversations, scripture reading, a prayer, and blessing.

Have a favorite Irish food? If not, perhaps you could search online for a recipe. Irish food is not a must. Please bring a favorite dish. Sign up on the bulletin board.

**The Luther League Puppet Ministry  
Team News**

**Countdown to Easter**



The Luther League and friends will present **Countdown to Easter** on Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> for APPS children, youth, and families. The presentation tells the story of Holy week along with several songs. The all-time favorite Bunny Song will be included. *"It's all about J-E-S-U-S!"* The team will also visit local senior residences as part of an Easter Vigil tradition started last year. The team can always use a few extra hands for props and to help back stage. All are welcome to join us for the Easter Vigil. If you'd like to help with the presentation or join us for the Easter Vigil, please let us know.

Contact Debbie Streicher:  
[dstreicher52@gmail.com](mailto:dstreicher52@gmail.com) or 703-303-7255.

**2019  
GIVING  
STATEMENTS**

**If you would like a copy  
of your yearly giving  
statement, please call  
the church office and  
one will be provided to  
you.**



### APPS After-School Program Update

This year we have about a dozen Middle and High School Helpers. They are APPS alumni who have returned to help us out. They do a wonderful job each week working in the classrooms, assisting with crafts and games, basically helping in any area where we need a second pair of hands. To reward the helpers for their work and also give them some free time together (without the younger kids), we provide some fun group outings.



It's a great opportunity for the adult leaders and kids to unwind together. We recently shared a fun evening of bowling and pizza, and our future plans are swimming at the YMCA, attending a high school play and the ACIT basketball tournament, and to end the year with a picnic at Rocky Gap.

Thank you to Jeanne Bowers for keeping the helpers organized and planning these fun activities! The APPS Family Easter Dinner will be on April 8<sup>th</sup>, with dinner starting at 4:30 followed by a puppet show and Easter egg hunt. Please join us for some Easter fun! The delicious dinner and the Puppet Team's black light show are worth the trip!

Stephanie Wade



*Congratulations to  
Mia Broadwater!*  
Peace Builder of the Month at  
West Side Elementary School



The Ramblers will have lunch at Hobo's Restaurant on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. The church van will leave St. Paul's at 11:30 for lunch at noon. Please sign up by Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>.



St. Paul's will have midweek services from 6:30-7:00 p.m. each Wednesday during Lent beginning this Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. There will be time for silence, song, and reflection on Bible readings in the tradition of the Community of Taize. Parking will be available on the circle in front of the church, convenient to the side door leading to the Chapel where we will meet.



**Easter flower orders are being taken now through Thursday, April 2nd.** Tulips, hyacinths, lilies and mums will be delivered from a greenhouse in Pittsburgh. The cost is \$6.00 per plant. They will decorate the altar Easter morning and can be taken home after the service. Please call the church office to place your order and let us know how you'd like the order designated in the Easter bulletin.

## Vacation Bible School 2020 June 22 -26



It's that time of year to turn our attention to planning for Vacation Bible School at St. Paul Lutheran. We work together with 7 other congregations in the Cumberland area for a fun-filled week with families and friends. The next meeting will be on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The theme this year is Rocky Railway. Please mark your calendars now!

Questions? Contact Debbie Streicher at

[dstreicher52@gmail.com](mailto:dstreicher52@gmail.com).



Mountainside Baroque will present *Venice and Rome* on Sunday, March 29th at The Allegany Museum beginning at 4:00 p.m. *A raucous concert from the Italian Renaissance and Early Baroque featuring voices and the Washington Cornett and Sackbutt Ensemble. Music of Orlando di Lasso, Filippo Azzaiolo, Anonymous and others.*

## FEASTING VERSUS FASTING

By Bishop Bill Gohl

*Is not this the fast that I chose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? --Isaiah 58:6*

William Arthur Ward (1921-1994), an American author, teacher, and Pastor suggested that there was sometimes a shallowness to the typical Lenten fast from meat, chocolate or alcohol. Dr. Ward pressed those in his care to think more deeply about fasting from something intrinsically destructive cultivates renewal of the heart, mind and spirit.



### Feasting versus Fasting, This Lent

Fast from judging others; feast on the Christ dwelling in them.  
Fast from emphasis on differences; feast on the unity of life.  
Fast from apparent darkness; feast on the reality of light.  
Fast from thoughts of illness; feast on the healing power of God.  
Fast from words that pollute; feast on phrases that purify.  
Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.  
Fast from anger; feast on patience.  
Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.  
Fast from worry; feast on divine order.  
Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.  
Fast from negatives; feast on affirmatives.  
Fast from unrelenting pressures; feast on unceasing prayer.  
Fast from hostility; feast on non-resistance.  
Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.  
Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.  
Fast from personal anxiety; feast on eternal truth.  
Fast from discouragements; feast on hope.  
Fast from facts that depress; feast on verities that uplift.  
Fast from thoughts that weaken; feast on promises that inspire.  
Fast from shadows of sorrow; feast on the sunlight of serenity.  
Fast from idle gossip; feast on purposeful silence.  
Fast from problems that overwhelm; feast on prayer that undergirds.

**May your Lenten fasts lead to genuine Easter feasting-  
not in 40 days, but for all your days.**



**Sunday March 1**  
 10:00 AM Worship Service  
 11:15 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship  
 11:45-12:30 LOFT  
 5:00 PM **Beginnings Board Meeting**

**Monday March 2**  
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics

**Wednesday March 4**  
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics  
 3:30-6:00 APPS afterschool program  
 6:30-7:00 Midweek Lenten Service  
 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

**Sunday March 8**  
 10:00 AM Worship Service  
 11:15 AM Congregational Meeting  
 11:30 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship  
 11:45-12:30 LOFT  
 1:00-5:00 Girl Scouts Thinking Day in fellowship hall

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

**Tuesday March 10**  
 5:30 PM Church Council meeting

**Wednesday March 11**  
**Beginnings 1/2 day**  
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics  
 3:30-6:00 APPS afterschool program  
 6:30-7:00 Midweek Lenten Service  
 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

**Thursday March 12**  
**Beginnings Spring Break**  
 11:30 AM Ramblers to Hobo's Restaurant  
 4:00-6:00 Bountiful Blessings

**Friday March 13**  
**Beginnings Spring Break**

**Sunday March 15**  
 10:00 AM Worship service  
 11:15 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship  
 11:45-12:30 LOFT

**Monday March 16**  
**Beginnings Spring Break**

**Wednesday March 18**  
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics  
 3:30-6:00 APPS afterschool program  
 6:30-7:00 Midweek Lenten Service  
 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

**Sunday March 22**  
 10:00 AM Worship Service  
 11:15 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship  
 11:45-12:30 LOFT

**Monday March 23**  
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics  
 6:30 PM VBS Meeting

**Wednesday March 25**  
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics  
 3:30-6:00 APPS afterschool program  
 6:30-7:00 Midweek Lenten Service  
 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

**Thursday March 26**  
 4:00-6:00 Bountiful Blessings

**Sunday March 29**  
 10:00 AM Worship service  
 11:15 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship  
 11:45-12:30 LOFT



## SPECIAL DATES IN MARCH

March – 3 – Sabra Isom **Happy Birthday!!**

23 – Kay & Mack Beal (1991) **Happy Anniversary!!**

Kaden Sharpless (grandson of Donna & Larry Goldizen)  
Cancerversary, diagnosis in 2017 - Doing great!! **YAY!!!**

	3/1	3/8	3/15	3/22	3/29
<b>Ushers</b>	Mark Seib and Art Isom	Ed Ayers and Bob Davis	Terry Hostetler and Art Isom	Mark Seib and Bob Davis	Terry Hostetler and Art Isom
<b>Greeters</b>	Deana Emerick and Mary Ann Hiester	John and Syliva Hixon	Dennis and Cindy Read	Dave and Rena Christopher	Kathleen Ball and Nancy Lohr
<b>Crucifers</b>	Andrew Highland	Emily Metheny	Harper Broadwater	Mia Broadwater	Andrew Highland
<b>Lectors</b>	Caitlin Hudgins	Kathleen Ball	Debbie Streicher	Lisa Rowley	Travis Medcalf
<b>Technicians</b>	Ed Ayers and Debbie Szymanski	Rick Metheny	Jim Squires and Debbie Szymanski	Andrew and Daniel Highland and Debbie Szymanski	Jim Squires and Debbie Szymanski
<b>Counters</b>	Cecil Bell and Burt Streicher	Debbie Szymanski and Stephanie Wade	Bob Davis and Terry Hostetler	Burt Streicher and Debbie Szymanski	Bob Davis and Terry Hostetler
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Jim and Patti Squires	Emily and Erica Metheny	Gary Miller and Debbie Streicher	Jim and Patti Squires	Brenda Marvin and Diane Rhoads
<b>Loaves And Fishes Fellowship</b>	David and Tammy Rankin	Burt and Debbie Streicher	Deana Emerick	Ed Ayers and Nancy Lohr	Kathleen Ball and Debbie Szymanski