

PROCLAIMING A TIMELESS CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD

SINCE 1794



THE SPIRE

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

2021 CONGREGATION OFFICERS

President:

Suzanne Umstott

Vice President:

Kathleen Ball

Secretary:

Debbie Szymanski

Treasurer:

Stephanie Wade

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Education (Faith Formation):

Debbie Streicher

Evangelism

Jane Roderick

Finance:

Suzanne Umstott

Ministry in Daily Life:

Nancy Ayers

Property:

Edward Ayers

Social Ministry (Fellowship):

Cindy Read

Stewardship:

Vacant

Worship and Music:

Kathleen Ball

Youth:

Gary Miller

March 2021

****We will resume in-person worship this Sunday, March 7th at 10:00****

Dear Saint of Saint Paul Church,

While trees are in their dormant period it is a season for cutting them back or pruning them. Rather than hurting the trees, pruning—when done correctly—can improve the shape, future growth, and fruit-bearing potential of a tree.

Lent can also be a time for pruning that which is misguided in us. Lent can be a time for us to get rid of those things that may be preventing our spiritual growth. We trim things back and get closer to the vital trunk and root system that those things that truly do sustain and nourish us may take root. How do we do this? We rightly begin this season by returning to God's word which nourishes and sustains us like nothing else can or will. Since Ash Wednesday, we have begun a familiar 40 day journey in our Christian walk into the holy season of Lent. We began two weeks ago the somber Lenten fast with the imposition of ashes and time of quiet prayer and meditation. It is a solemn day when we remember our own mortality, our frailty, our limitations. We are not superhuman. Our bones can be broken as well as our will and spirit.

We do not have as much control over the world as we might think we do. Really, we do not have as much control over our own selves as much as we think we do. How many New Year resolutions, diets, and personal declarations have we seen change from rock solid conviction to forgotten and distant memories.

This most holy season of Lent gives us the difficult opportunity to recognize that the salvation of the world....even the salvation of myself....will not come from me.

Keeping a holy Lenten season is a humbling season indeed. Lent helps us focus, a little more each day, on the one from whom my salvation and the salvation of the world does come—Jesus the Christ.

Ash Wednesday we were marked with a cross of ashes as a stark reminder that we are nothing more (physically) than dust of the earth. And to realize and hear this reality is very hard to swallow. However, it is the sobering reality of truth. We are dust and to dust we will return. But we are also beloved children of God and the redemption of the cross reaches even to little dust balls such as us. Also remembering, even in our most dormant seasons in this life, our heavenly Father is making us ready to achieve our fullest possible growth potential.

Thanks be to God, for His amazing grace. Pax, Fr. Ryan +

THE REVEREND
RYAN K. VIANDS
Pastor

DAVID RANKIN
Director of Music

DEBBIE SZYMANSKI
Parish Assistant

STEPHANIE WADE
Treasurer

RAMON ROCHE CARDONA
Sexton



"Do not neglect in meeting together"

(Hebrews 10:25)

"Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching, to teaching." (1 Timothy 4:13)

Sunday, March 7, 2021

Circumstances of the pandemic made it advisable to suspend in-person worship for a while. It was difficult not to come together with the people of God who encourage us, and pray for us, as we journey together in faith, but we were richly blessed by the staff of Saint Paul Church and Debbie Streicher who worked each week, during Covid-19 restrictions, to enable us to follow the liturgy, and worship in our homes virtually.

The Worship and Music Committee met via Zoom on February 24, 2021, and unanimously agreed that we could safely resume in-person worship on March 7, 2021.

As before, we will follow the Ministry Plan Guidelines shown below.

Masks are mandatory, they must cover both nose and mouth while inside the building

Please do not talk or visit with each other while inside the building

Please be diligent about following these two guidelines.

During worship:

Physical distancing, pews are marked for seating

Music, instrumental only, please refrain from singing

Peace, remain in place with a nod, wave, "peace sign"

Holy Eucharist Pre-packaged communion kits will be used. Ushers will distribute the kits and will return to pick up the used kits.

To minimize physical contact: there will be no bulletins, the **entire liturgy will be on the screens**; **offering plates** will be available at both entrances;

Taking Faith Home will take place prior to the Benediction; there will be no

Loaves and Fishes Fellowship after church.

Worship and Music Committee: Kathleen Ball, Ray Hunt, Liz Medcalf, David and Tammy Rankin, Pastor Ryan Viands and Linda Zeller

From the Council President.....

On February 9, 2021 our church council met and at that time the council nominated me for president to fill the vacancy left with the resignation of Burt Streicher. This nomination came after serving on the council finance committee. I am honored to have been selected for this position and will do my best to fulfill the duties entailed as council president in the best interest of the council and church. My thanks to Burt for his service and thanks in advance to all of the council and church members and Pastor Ryan for your help and support.

Let me take this opportunity to provide you with some information about myself. I have lived and worked in the Cumberland area my whole life. On February 8th of this year I retired from M&T Bank after 40 years of employment. That job has quickly been replaced with a job working with my husband, Todd, in the 7-Eleven convenience store industry. We have 2 daughters, Alexandra and Anastasia and a son, Lucas.

During my career at the bank, I dedicated most of my years to working with small businesses in our area. This allowed me to get involved with many not-for-profit organizations in our community at various levels and gain an understanding of their goals and objectives. I am hopeful that this knowledge and the connections I have made will be a great benefit to the church as we move forward in 2021 to continue and grow our good works for our neighbors and friends both here and abroad. I have seen firsthand St. Paul's caring and commitment evolve over the years and the many lives that have been touched and am excited over the prospects of what the future will hold for us.

God Bless.

Sue Umstott, Council President

LOFT Living Our Faith Together Bible Study



LOFT Bible study will meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 via Zoom beginning on March 10th. The Taking Faith Home Bible Readings and discussion are part of the Bible study each week. If you would like to be added to the email list for updates, please contact the church office.



Easter Sunday floral baskets

We will order 10 floral baskets which will adorn the sanctuary in praise and adoration for the resurrection of Jesus Christ. If you would like to sponsor one of these baskets in honor or memory of a loved one, family member or friend please contact Debbie Szymanski.

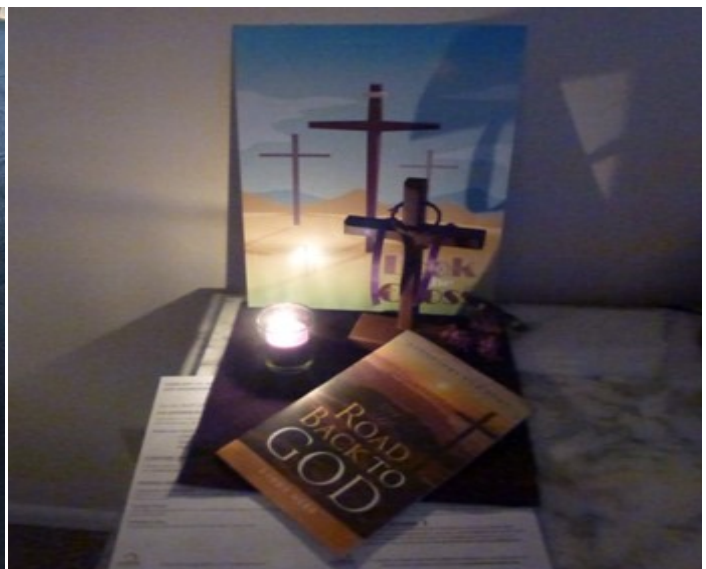
The cost of each basket is \$75.00.

Taking Faith Home During Lent ***A Lenten Focus on the Bible and Devotions***



The Lenten bags for the home that were either picked up or delivered before Ash Wednesday included several resources to encourage a focus on the Bible and devotions during Lent. Apart from printed copies of Taking Faith Home and a devotional booklet, it included a purple cloth, candle, and unfinished cross. You were invited to decorate the cross and share pictures of the cross. Thanks to those who have submitted pictures of their cross and their devotional space in their homes. Please continue to submit pictures for us to post and share during the time we, as a faith community, journey to the cross together.

Pictures can be emailed to Debbie Streicher at dstreicher52@gmail.com.



**The Luther League
Puppet Ministry Team**



"Birds of a feather stick together!"

The theme for Vacation Bible School 2021 will be announced in April. As has been our tradition over the past ten years, we will continue to host and be part of a community VBS where eight or more local congregations gather during the summer to teach and share the love of Jesus with one another and with our neighbors.

There will be an initial online planning meeting on Wednesday, March 3, at 5:30 pm. A theme and the format will be chosen. Last year's online VBS was a success. Online, in-person, and a hybrid model will be discussed at the meeting.

If you would like to volunteer this year or learn more about this ministry, please do not hesitate to attend the meeting. Please contact Debbie Streicher for more information at dstreicher52@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Plans are beginning to come together for the puppet ministry team's role in VBS this year. Being on the team is not just learning to be a puppeteer. There are also parts for those who enjoy music, technology, sound, designing sets, making costumes, and writing skits. If you have ever wanted to be part of the team, this may be the year! There is no age limit. Ages 5 through 99 are involved in puppet ministries across the country. It is fun, educational, and an effective resource for outreach in the community.

Please consider joining us for an online meeting on Monday, April 12, at 7:00 pm.

Email Debbie Streicher at dstreicher52@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

ST. PAUL'S APPS



A PLACE PEOPLE SHARE

APPS After School Program Update:

Since we are still unable to meet with the children in person, we have continued the APPS drive-thru program. One Wednesday each month, the APPS families have the opportunity to drive-thru the church parking lot and pick up a box of food, treats for the kids and a Bible lesson. When we started in October, we were offering a home-cooked meal, but with the spike in COVID, we now pack the boxes with meal items that families can make at home. Sadly, the spike in COVID also side-lined our middle and high school helpers. But that didn't stop helpers Maddie and Emma! They make a cute craft each month to include in the boxes. For December they made dough APPS ornaments for each family. Hopefully the helpers will be back soon! Each month we have consistently served about 25 families. It has been a wonderful way to keep in touch with the APPS kids and their families. Many of the kids come with their parents, so we have a chance to catch-up with them once-a-month (which we love!). We have three more drive-thru events (March, April, and May) to end this school year, and then we hope to be back to in-person APPS this Fall!

MARCH

Tuesday 10:00-12:00	March 2 Lutheran Questions/ Lutheran Answers book study
Wednesday 5:30 PM	March 3 Beginnings 1/2 Day VBS Planning meeting via Zoom
Thursday/ Friday Sunday 10:00 AM Monday	March 4-5 Beginnings Spring Break March 7 Worship March 8 Beginnings Spring Break
Tuesday 10:00-12:00 5:30 PM	March 9 Lutheran Questions/ Lutheran Answers book study Church Council meeting via Zoom
Wednesday 7:00 PM Thursday 4:00-6:00	March 10 LOFT via Zoom March 11 Drive-thru Bountiful Blessings
Sunday 10:00 AM Tuesday 10:00-12:00	March 14 Worship March 16 Lutheran Questions, Lutheran Answers book study
Wednesday 5:00-6:00 7:00 PM Sunday 10:00 AM Tuesday 10:00-12:00	March 17 APPS drive-thru distribution LOFT via Zoom March 21 Worship March 23 Lutheran Questions, Lutheran Answers book study
Wednesday 7:00 PM Thursday 4:00-6:00	March 24 LOFT via Zoom March 25 Drive-thru Bountiful Blessings
Sunday 10:00 AM Tuesday 10:00-12:00	March 28 Worship March 30 Lutheran Questions/ Lutheran Answers book study
Wednesday 7:00 PM	March 31 LOFT via Zoom

Happy Birthdays & Anniversaries March, 2021



March — 3 – Sabra Isom
 13 – Andrew Highland
 14 – Stephanie Wade
 19 – Barbara Highland
 23 -- Kay & Mack Beal
 1991

Kaden Sharpless (grandson of
Donna & Larry Goldizen)
Canniversary
Diagnosis 2008



Lily and Hyacinth plants
for Easter Sunday can be
ordered through the church office in
honor or memory of a loved one,
family member or friend.

The plants will be displayed in the
sanctuary Easter morning and can be
taken home following worship.

The cost is \$6 per plant; orders are
due by Thursday, March 26th.

Please include a designation for the
bulletin with your order.

Thank You

Dear Pastor and Congregation:

The Interfaith Community Pantry would like to thank your church and its members for your support. During 2020, your church and/or members gave \$200 to the pantry.

The Interfaith Community Pantry serves those in need of emergency food. Last year we received 1,179 referrals representing 3,264 people. Those served received 22,043 food items.

Thanks to you and your members for their continued support.

The Executive Board of the
Interfaith Community Pantry

Thank you so much for the prayer shawl and bag of goodies. This will be used well during my chemo treatments. God Bless you all and the church for the prayers and love.

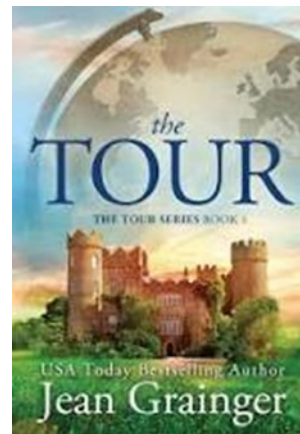
Jamie Kisamore and family

****Jamie is the sister of our LOFT friend Casey. She was given one of St. Paul's cancer treatment bags with a prayer shawl.****

2020 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.

Book Club



Please join us in reading *The Tour* by Jean Grainger. Book discussions are held via Zoom; please contact Kathleen Ball at 240-727-1798 if you'd like to receive book club information.