

PROCLAIMING A TIMELESS CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD

SINCE 1794



THE SPIRE

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

2024 CONGREGATION OFFICERS

President:

Suzanne Umstott

Vice President:

Debbie Streicher

Secretary:

Debbie Szymanski

Treasurer:

Casey Colledge

15 N. Smallwood Street

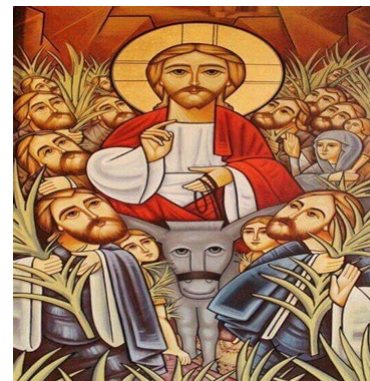
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March 2024



Pastor's Ponderings

As we continue to journey this labyrinth of Lent to Calvary two worlds collide and the brutal consequence is betrayal at the meal, betrayal in the garden, betrayal in the courtyard. At times the kingdom of this world seems unstoppable, the vision of the reign of God clouds, and what once seemed unquenchable lies cold and silent. The readings of Lent and especially of the passion narrative is the most poignant judgment upon humanity yet. As we hear once again the lengthy reading of Passion Sunday in a few weeks, and perhaps even participate in it ourselves, it is easy to feel guilty—or foolish, like having cheered for the wrong team.

Throughout the season of Lent we have heard Jesus explain—through metaphor, prophecy, and straight talk—the price of the kingdom of God. In the next few weeks we will see Jesus' most eloquent explanation. He empties himself of human power and resists the temptation of using heavenly power to escape the consequences. Jesus, my holy savior, a lamb led to the slaughter. Jesus, my holy savior, a visionary leader cut down in the prime of his ministry. Jesus, my holy savior, the victim of a fickle crowd. Jesus, my holy savior, a friend willing to step in and take the curse of another upon himself.

Two worlds collide. We are unsettled as we find ourselves aligned with the fickle crowd, the hapless disciples, and the speechless bystanders. Perhaps it is simply the nature of human love to be inconstant, temperamental. Fortunately God's love for us does not depend on whims. It cannot be swayed by things that we do or things that we fail to do. Another words, we can NOT gain our own merit in this life. For it is Christ alone who does this. God does not bless us in one breath and punishes us in the next breath. God's love for us does not change, no matter how capricious our own affection for God tend to be depending on the day. Thanks be to God for this and HIS amazing grace. God's continued holy Lenten journey to you as we near Palm/Passion Sunday and the greatest feast day of them all, Easter Sunday!

2024 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Education

(Faith

Formation):

Debbie Streicher

Evangelism

Linda Zeller

Finance:

Casey Colledge

Ministry in Daily Life:

Sharon Clark

Property:

Todd Umstott

Social Ministry (Fellowship):

Charity Friend & Marsha Tarte

Stewardship:

Charlie Clark

Worship and Music:

Liz Medcalf

Youth:

Debbie Metheny

THE REVEREND
RYAN K. VIANDS
Pastor

DAVID RANKIN
Director of Music

DEBBIE SZYMANSKI
Parish Administrator

CASEY COLLEDGE
Treasurer

RAMON ROCHE CARDONA
Sexton



Sunday March 24th-Palm Sunday

We will gather at St. Paul Church at 10:30, walk to the library at 10:40 and participate in a brief, joint blessing of the palms liturgy with Emmanuel Episcopal and First Presbyterian.

We'll process back to St. Paul Church with palm procession at approximately 11:00.

Wednesday, March 27th

Lenten Vespers at 6:00 p.m. in the lower level Luther Chapel. Parking is available on the front circle.

Thursday, March 28th - 7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Mass and Stripping of the Altar in the nave of St. Paul Church.

Friday, March 29th

Cross Walk 12:00

Meet at The Shrine of SS. Peter and Paul at 12:00 noon. (the church directly behind St. Paul's.) We will participate in *The Way of the Cross* beginning at the shrine, walking to St. Paul, Emmanuel Episcopal Parish and ending at First Presbyterian Church.

Good Friday Vespers 7:00 p.m. in the nave of St. Paul Church.

Holy Saturday 10:00 a.m.

All available hands are needed to help clean brass and Easter items and also to decorate for Easter Sunday.

From the president.....

As Easter fast approaches I like to reflect on the significance of Easter and Jesus Christ's triumph over death. Easter brings hope, new beginnings, and Eternal Life, made possible by the One who loved us enough to die in our place, Jesus Christ.

May you be blessed with love and peace this Easter.

Sue Umstott
Council President



We will gather at 9:00 a.m. Easter morning to share breakfast. Please bring a breakfast casserole, fruit or baked good to share if you are able. ALL are welcome! The church will provide coffee and juice. Please sign up on the bulletin board.



Following breakfast, an Easter egg hunt will be held beginning at 9:30.



Easter worship begins at 10:00.

Your Church Council

My name is Charlie Clark and I have been given the privilege of serving on St. Paul's Council in the capacity of Stewardship. I feel God has called me to serve in this capacity and I am looking forward to this challenge.

I am finding that Stewardship has many faces and in my readings I find that it is managing everything God brings into our lives in a manner than honors him. I will be exploring the many aspects of stewardship and sharing them with you.

One interesting biblical comparison that I was reading about was when God called Noah to become the steward of all animals in the face of the great flood. Noah was responsible to all creatures on Earth to steward them through the flood. I hadn't quite thought of it in that light before.

Charlie
Stewardship Committee

Finance Committee Report

As my second year as the Finance chair has begun, I would like to start sharing more information with you so you can see what is the snapshot of the church finances on a monthly basis.

If you have any questions about any of this information, please feel free to reach out to me and I will be happy to go into more detail with you.

Thank you

Casey

Colledge

January 2024

Offerings	\$ 5,345.00
School Rent	\$ 2,100.00
Dividends from Investments	<u>\$ 27,302.33</u>
Total Income	\$ 34,747.33
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 36,801.84</u>
Net Income	\$ (2,054.51)

Attendance	14-Jan	40
	17-Jan	8 Vespers
	21-Jan	45
	24-Jan	10 Vespers
	28-Jan	53
	31-Jan	21 Vespers
	4-Feb	70
	7-Feb	10 Vespers
	11-Feb	60
	14-Feb	30 Noontime
	14-Feb	36 Ash Wed.
	18-Feb	47
	21-Feb	22 Vespers
	25-Feb	60
28-Feb	23 Vespers	
Average		36

thank
you

St. Paul's Lutheran Church,
on behalf of the Potomac Concert Band,
we would like to extend our appreciation to
you for letting us practice at your facility
this past summer. Enclosed is a small
token of our appreciation.
Thank you for helping us connect with the
community through the beautiful gift
of music.

Sincerely,
Jakki Rodgers
Treasurer

**a check for \$100.00 was enclosed.

To: Pastor Ryan Viands and
Debbie Szymanski, Administrator

On behalf of Let's Beautify Cumberland!, we
would like to thank you for allowing us to use
your hall for our monthly meetings.
Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$250.00
as a donation to be placed in whatever fund
you think is appropriate.

We appreciate your willingness to help by
providing the meeting facility and being such a
good partner of LBC!

Sincerely,

Ginny Decker and Ed Mullaney, Co-Chairs

To my family at St. Paul Church,
I have gone through so much this
year. I am so grateful for my
parish family. I have received so
many well wishes, and
prayers from my parish family.
I appreciate this very much and I
know that God has strengthened
me to get through
all of this.

Wanda Hunt



LOFT, Living Our Faith Together, Bible Study
normally meets on the 2nd through 4th Sunday
mornings of the month following worship.

**During the month of March, LOFT will not
meet on the following Sundays:**

- March 3 – Join us for an Intergenerational
Food and Fellowship luncheon
- ◆ March 24 – Palm Sunday
(worship begins at 11am)
- ◆ March 31 – Easter Sunday
(Easter breakfast and egg hunt
before worship)

Faith Formation Team

The Faith Formation Team met on Monday, February 26th.
Plans for the March 3rd Intergenerational luncheon were discussed.

The theme will be prayer.

Discussions about ways Fellowship and Youth teams can work together in the future with the Faith Formation Team were also discussed.

Stay tuned for information about this year's VBS.

If you are interested in joining us or have questions,
please contact Debbie Streicher (dstreicher52@gmail.com or
703-303-7255).

Candlemas



On February 4th, prior to the luncheon and congregational meeting, a special candle lighting and resources were provided to recognize Candlemas, a traditional Christian festival that commemorates the ritual purification of Mary forty days after giving birth to Jesus. During worship, each household received beeswax candles for their homes.





Wednesday

Lenten Vespers

6:00 p.m. in the chapel

Restored In Christ

March 6th-Broken trust

March 13th-Broken bread

March 10th-Broken promises

March 27th-Broken justice

The season of Lent is a time for us to face together the brokenness of our lives and our world, and then turn that brokenness over to

Christ so that we can be restored by him through the cross.



Our Christian sympathy is extended to the families and friends of Ed Ayers and Garry Clark.



**Mountainside Baroque presents:
About the Maypole:
The Tudor Rose &
the Shakespearian Tradition**

Sunday, March 10th at 4:00 p.m.
St. Paul's Lutheran Church

The music of Elizabethan and Jacobean England is closely associated with the madrigal and lute. Though beginning as an imitation of the older Italian tradition, the English Composers, especially Thomas Morley, Thomas Weelkes, and John Dowland, transformed the model into a delightful English style, resulting in music that is still popular today

Featured in the concert will be some of Mountainside's favorite singers—Corrine Byrne, Emily Noël, Ben Hawker, Janna Critz, Ryan Mullaney and Corbin Phillips. These dynamic performers will be joined by viol player Arnie Tanimoto, lutenist Lyle Nordstrom and the “great, young, virtuoso” plucked string specialist, Arash Noori.



Almsgiving During Lent

Almsgiving is the tradition or practice of giving money or food to those in need. The suggestion during Lent is to decorate and use an Almsgiving Box to place in your home. The boxes are available on a table outside the sanctuary door on the side closest to the parking lot.

If you decorated and returned a box last year, those are also on the table. The boxes will be collected on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Donations will be given to the Community Café. The café will be located at 121/127 N. Centre St., be the first of its kind in the state of Maryland and will welcome all people regardless of their ability to pay.



Daffodil, hyacinth, lily, mum
and tulip 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 for daffodil, hyacinth and tulips is \$7; the cost for lilies and mums is \$8.

Please turn in your order to the office by
Wednesday, March 20th.

Please include a designation for the
bulletin with your order.



St. Paul Lutheran Church

February is here. The year 2023 is well in the past and thanks to caring people like you, another successful Making Strides year is in the books. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

In 2023 Mama Kay's Survivors had 8 registered members, 11 official sponsors and many other supporters. Together we raised \$10,391, which far surpassed our goal of \$5,000. This was only made possible by folks, like you, who chose to be our team sponsors and many others who supported our raffles, luncheons, yard sales and bake sales. We proudly wore the logos of our sponsors on our team shirts at all of our fundraisers as well as the day of the walk. Because of you, our team contribution helped the Western Maryland Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk raise \$46,055.

Because of you, cancer patients are getting support such as transportation to and from local treatments or housing and meals if they need to go out of town for treatment. You also helped to continue the research for more and better treatments, preventions and an ultimate cure.

Breast cancer is currently one of the most treatable cancers but it still takes far too many lives. With help like yours we've come a long way but we still have a long way to go. We will continue in these efforts until we've won the fight against breast cancer.

Thank you so very much for every dollar you've given, every encouraging word you've spoken, every step you've walked and every prayer you've sent up. Together we have and will continue to achieve even greater things.

Yes, you will be hearing from us again in the Spring when we start our planning for the fall of 2024. Until then please know that we appreciate you. Stay warm, stay healthy, stay safe and God bless! Thank you again so very, very much!

In the fight against breast cancer,

Kay Cochrane
Team Leader for Mama Kay's Survivors
Western Maryland Making Strides Walk



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

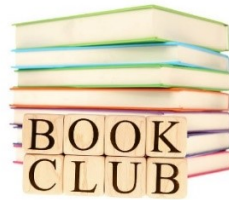
- 3 – Sabra Isom
- 9 – Rebekah Green
- 13 – Andrew Highland
- 14 – Stephanie Wade
- 16 – Marsha Tarte
- 19 – Barbara Highland
- 23 – Kay & Mack Beal (1991)
- Kaden Sharpless (grandson of Donna Goldizen)
Cancerversary Diagnosis 2008



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.



Joy Book Club

The Club's next selection is

The Prospectors by Ariel Djanikian.

The discussion will be held on Tuesday, March 26th.



Yarn is needed for Bountiful Blessing recipients who would like to knit/crochet Prayer Shawls for Saint Paul. Any color, partial skeins, or whole skeins would be appreciated. Please place in the box located near the parking lot doors.



Save the Date

Worship and our Annual Church Picnic will take place at the Lakewood Beach Pavilion on Sunday, June 9th at 11:00 a.m. Further details will be forthcoming.

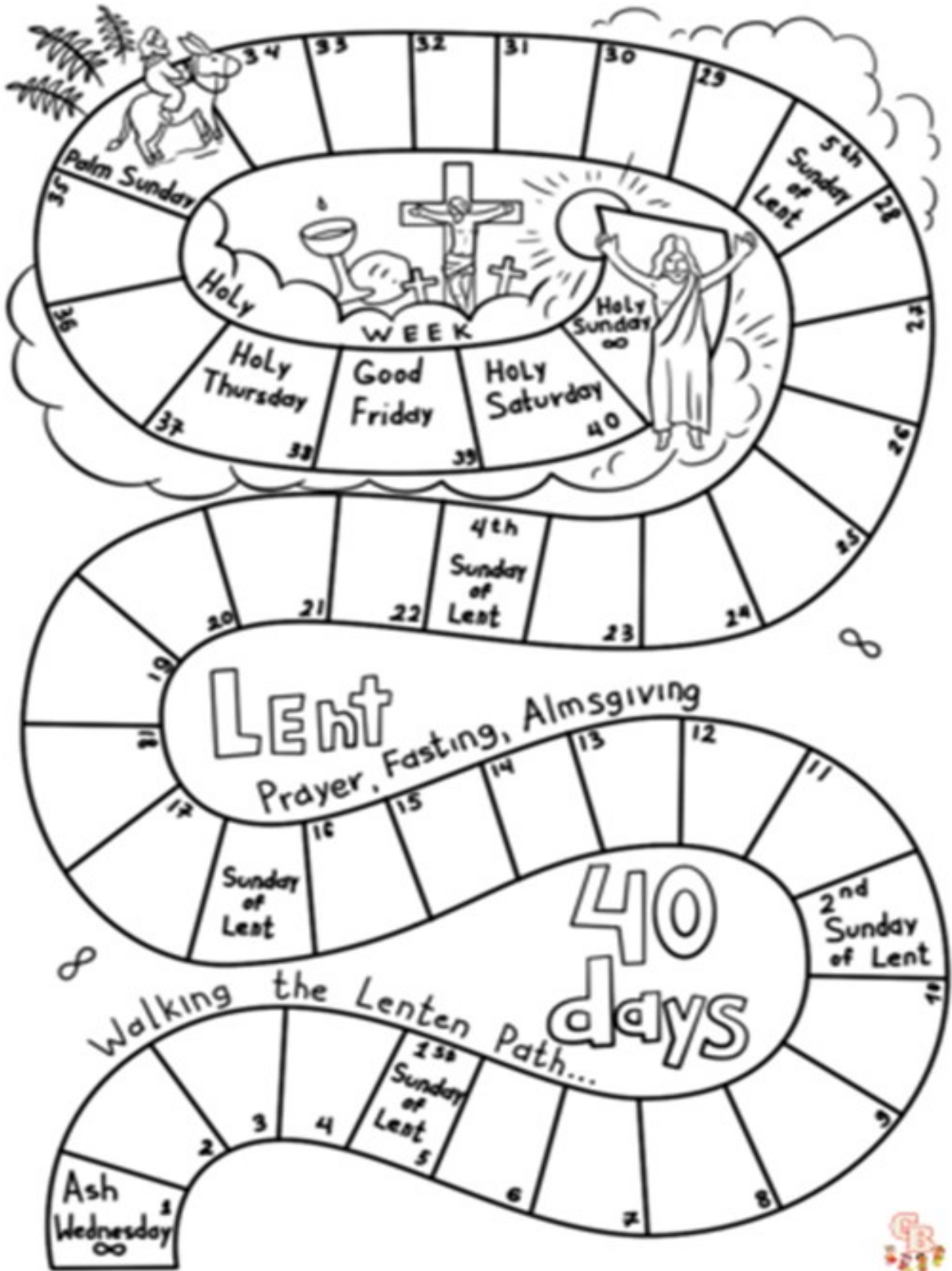
Celebrating 9 years of Harry Potter Book Night is magical! We have had so many changes, from starting the first Harry Potter Book Night in the Children's Literature Centre in Framptom Hall to now being held in the [Lewis J. Ort Library /Lane Center](#), many things are different! There is someone who can tell you how much it has changed, because he has been to EVERY SINGLE ONE! Daniel Highland, a current [Frostburg State University](#) student attended the very first Harry Potter Book Night at just 11 years old and has made it every year since! Daniel's love for Harry Potter has led him to being the assistant to the head of household for Gryffindor! He was honored with a gift from Hagrid and Dumbledore for attending all Harry Potter events since the very beginning! 🧙🏻‍♂️🪄🌟







Coloring page for kids of all ages!





Sunday March 3
 10:00 AM Worship
 11:30 AM Lenten Soup and Prayer Luncheon

Monday March 4
 6:00-8:00 Art class in coffee house
 7:00 PM Let's Beautify Cumberland meeting in fellowship hall

Tuesday March 5
 11:00 AM Psalm 22 study via Zoom

Wednesday March 6
 3:30 PM APPS Afterschool program
 5:15 PM Hand Bell rehearsal
 6:00 PM Vespers in the chapel
 6:45 PM Choir rehearsal

Thursday March 7
Beginnings Closed

Friday March 8
Beginnings Closed
 Mountainside Baroque rehearsal

Saturday March 9
 10:00 AM Dementia support group
 Mountainside Baroque rehearsal

Sunday March 10
 8:30 AM Book Study
 10:00 AM Worship
 11:30 AM LOFT
 4:00 PM Mountainside Baroque
About the Maypole

Monday March 11
Beginnings Closed
 11:00 AM Chapel Intercessory prayers
 6:00-8:00 Art class in fellowship hall

Tuesday March 12
 11:00 AM Psalm 22 study via Zoom
 5:30 PM Council meeting in fellowship hall

Wednesday March 13
 3:30 PM APPS Afterschool program
 5:15 PM Hand Bell rehearsal
 6:00 PM Vespers in the chapel
 6:45 PM Choir rehearsal

Thursday March 14
 4:00-6:00 Bountiful Blessings

Sunday March 17
 8:30 AM Book Study
 10:00 AM Worship
 11:30 AM LOFT
 1:30-4:00 Girl Scouts-
 Thinking Day in fellowship hall

Monday March 18
 6:00-8:00 Art Class in Fellowship hall

Tuesday March 19
 11:00 AM Psalm 22 study via Zoom

Wednesday March 20
 3:30 PM APPS
 5:15 PM Hand Bell rehearsal
 6:00 PM Vespers in the chapel
 6:45 PM Choir rehearsal

Saturday March 23
 10:00 AM Dementia support group

Sunday March 24-Palm Sunday
 8:30 AM Book Study
 10:30 AM Joint Blessing of palms at the library
 11:00 AM Worship

Monday March 25
 6:00-8:00 Art class in fellowship hall

Tuesday March 26
 11:00 AM Psalm 22 study via Zoom
 6:00 PM Joy Book Club

Wednesday March 27
 5:15 PM Hand Bell rehearsal
 6:00 PM Vespers in the chapel
 6:45 PM Choir rehearsal

Thursday March 28
 4:00-6:00 Bountiful Blessings
 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday

Friday March 29
 12:00 PM Cross Walk
 7:00 PM Good Friday

Saturday March 30
 10:00 AM Easter decorating

Sunday March 31-Easter
 9:00 AM Easter breakfast
 9:30 AM Easter Egg Hunt
 10:00 AM Worship