

PROCLAIMING A TIMELESS CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD

SINCE 1794



THE SPIRE

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

PARISH STAFF

THE REVEREND
FATHER RYAN K. VIANDS
Pastor

DAVID RANKIN
Director of Music

DEBBIE SZYMANSKI
Parish Administrator

STEPHANIE WADE
Treasurer

RAMON ROCHE CARDONA
Sexton

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March 2022

¹² Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, With weeping, and with mourning; ¹³ rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents

from punishing.

Joel 2: 12-13.

2022 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

To the Saints of Saint Paul Church,

We begin, yet again, another month! The year of 2022 A.D. is just rolling right along. Even though I realize it's just only March, it seems that this year is running fast for me already. But this month bring for us many anticipations. It may be your birthday, wedding anniversary, the month of one or more of your children's or grandchildren's birthday, or maybe the anniversary month of a loved one's death. There's also another observance that we will be remembering during this month on March 2nd. Can you guess what that is? This year on our liturgical calendar, the holy season of Lent begins on this date. And even though we are still very much in a time of a global pandemic I (as your shepherd) still plan to distribute ashes to the congregation on Ash Wednesday. Though we were not open last year for worshiping together in-person for Ash Wednesday, this year we will be. I still do plan to have the church nave and sanctuary open on Ash Wed. from 7a.m. to 8p.m. for anyone who may want to come and receive the sacramental symbol of their faith upon their forehead. However, in addition to having the church open for individual ashes we will also have a 12/noonday liturgy with our sisters and brothers from First Presbyterian Church and Emmanuel Episcopal Parish Church with us (at Saint Paul Church) for a 45 min. time of worship. And at 7p.m. (again, here at Saint Paul Church) an Ash Wednesday Mass. We will still be adhering to all the proper prodigals on this day with masking, physical distance, using sanitizing cloths etc. As before, following your time of worship or receiving your ashes during the day you are more than welcome to stay and pray if you wish for as long as you need.

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Lent (an Anglo-Saxon word meaning, “spring”) is a time of committing (if possible) to fasting, as well as giving up certain luxuries in order to replicate the account of the self-sacrificing nature of our Lord’s journey into the desert for 40 days. Many Christians throughout the world in observance of these holy days add a Lenten spiritual discipline, such as reading a daily devotional or the bible or praying through a Lenten calendar to draw themselves closer to Christ and God our father. If one is not able to “give up” something, one can take on something new. Like helping out with a ministry or two here at St. Paul Church. Perhaps helping out distribute much needed items for Bountiful Blessings on Thursdays would be a good place to start. Or joining our LOFT (Learning Our Faith Together) class time following worship. Or joining our book study at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Or attending Lenten vespers and Bible study on Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. There are innumerable ways in which we can grow spiritually during this holy time of Lent. I pray that you may make a commitment this Lenten season to be more intentional in what you may do as part of your pre-Easter devotion. Whatever you chose to do during this most holy season of our faith, do it with Christ as its center, as we meditate upon the greatest self-giving gift humanity has ever received.

Pax, Fr. Ryan +

A prayer of Fr. Martin.

There are scars,
seen and unseen,
in my life, in each life.
There is pain inside and out.
Hear this confession of heart...
There is need for wholeness and peace.
There is room for healing, and grace.
God of wholeness heal the hurts,
both inside and out, that make life difficult
each day.
Ease the pain, loosen the chains, bringing freedom
in their place.

What is this season of Lent all about anyway?

Anglo-Saxon: “Spring”

It is the forty-day (excluding Sundays) season of penitence and preparation for the Triduum (The three holy days, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday before Easter Sunday) and Easter. Lent is not as ancient as the Triduum or Easter. In the early fourth century, the death and resurrection of the Lord were observed together in a unified three-day celebration known as the Triduum, consisting of two days of fasting followed by the Great Easter Vigil.

By the middle of the fourth century, an additional three-week preparatory period developed. Soon it was expanded to six weeks, or forty days prior to the triduum. This additional preparatory period was known as Lent. It was the period of final, intense preparation of adult candidates (known as catechumens) who would be baptized at the Great Easter Vigil. For those who were already baptized, Lent was a period of time to review the meaning of the Bible, the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer and Baptism, and even the meaning of life itself, in preparation for the renewal of their baptismal vows at the Great Easter Vigil.

Lent also soon became a season of penitence in preparation for absolution on Maundy Thursday. By the close of the fifth century, there was a desire to exclude Sundays from Lent, since Sundays were not fast days, and thus Lent was extended to the Wednesday before its first Sunday. This Wednesday, originally known as the “Beginning of the Fast,” has been called Ash Wednesday since the late eleventh century.

The forty days of Lent recall Jesus’ forty-day fast in the wilderness after his Baptism (St. Matthew 4:2; St. Luke 4: 1-2), as well as Moses’ Forty-day fast on Mount Sinai (Exodus 34: 28).

Throughout most of Christian history, Lent has continued to have two primary purposes: the preparation of catechumens for Holy Baptism at the Easter Vigil, and the baptismal renewal of all the faithful in preparation for Easter Sunday.

Did you know,...

Lent is a solemn and austere time. It is appropriate to veil crucifixes and crosses (as well as statues and pictures) during Lent and omit the use of flowers (flowers are a sign of resurrection) in the sanctuary of the church. Banners and elaborate entrance processions are not used in Lent. The organ (or other instrument) is used only to support the choir and congregation in singing; festive preludes and postludes are not used in Lent. The color purple is used in Lent. As an alternative, some parishes elect to use unbleached linen. Rose is used on the altar on the fourth Sunday of Lent (this is for the half way mark of the season to Easter).

During Lent it is appropriate to use penitential hymns and minor pitched music. The Nicene Creed and Proper Preface of Lent are used. Mid-week liturgies which emphasize preparation for Baptism as well as baptismal renewal are appropriate throughout Lent.

The preparatory and austere character of Lent suggest that weddings are usually inappropriate during this season.



Why is everything covered?

Lenten Veil

Unbleached linen or purple or scarlet fabric used to shroud crucifixes, crosses, pictures, and statues during Lent as a means of expressing Lent's austerity. This practice derives from the eleventh century. Since its origin, it has often been interpreted as a "fast for the eyes." The veil is removed from the crucifix or cross during the Gloria in Excelsis of the Great Easter Vigil Mass.



Ash Wednesday-March 2nd

St. Paul church will be open for the
Distribution of Ashes
7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

St. Paul Church will host an Ecumenical Ash
Wednesday Liturgy
with Emmanuel Episcopal and First
Presbyterian-12:00 noon

Ash Wednesday Liturgy at St. Paul Church
7:00 p.m.

LOFT

(Living Our Faith Together)

SCRIPTURE READING DISCUSSION:



- What words stay in your mind or what ideas do you have from this reading?
- What message do you hear for us in this reading?
- How does this reading influence your thoughts, feelings, or future actions?

The first Sunday in Lent is March 6th. Consider joining us during this time in the church year as we focus on the Lenten scripture readings. There will be six weeks of Lenten readings through April 10th, Palm Sunday, as we turn our attention to the beginning of Holy Week. **Easter Sunday, April 17, we will not meet.**

We meet each week following worship in Fellowship Hall. Bibles are provided but we also encourage you to bring a favorite study Bible if you have one. Masks are required.

The Luther League Puppet Ministry Team



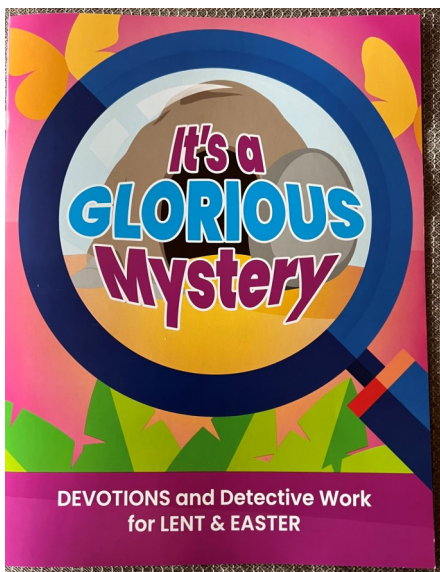
An Easter presentation titled Edgar's Eggcellent Easter Eggstravaganza will take place in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, April 13th**, early evening. If you are interested in helping with puppets, props, or set up, please contact Debbie Streicher (dstreicher52@gmail.com).

Faith Formation for Families with Children



Lenten Bags for the home will be designed with children in mind and include a Lenten Journal (craft), a devotional, a cross, a cross necklace, a widget flower, a prayer cube, and a palm leaf craft.

A special booklet titled, It's a Glorious Mystery, will be included in the worship bags for our children during Lent. There will be hidden clues along a Lenten trail. Children will wear special glasses to discover the clues each week. Parents and grandparents are reminded to take the extra children's bulletins and coloring sheets each week found in the trays above the cubby to use during worship.



I Am A Cracked Pot

As I prepare for Lent, a time of self-examination and repentance, I am reminded of a story called The Cracked Pot. If you are not familiar with it, it is well worth checking out, but this is my cracked pot story.

I have flaws, just like the cracked pot in the story I referenced. I may feel remorse and shame for those flaws (sins), but I need to do more than that. I need to repent, turn around, ask God's forgiveness. The Light of God is always with us and can shine through those cracks (sins) with healing. But I have to do some work too.

During Lent I will make time for prayer, meditation, and group study, to help me identify those sins that may separate me from God's will for me, asking God to forgive those sins, draw me closer to Him, and, very importantly, then leave those sins at the foot of the cross.

By doing the work through Lent, I will come to Easter Sunday, The Resurrection of our Lord, singing:

*My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, o my soul*

Kathleen Ball



HELP WANTED!



Please consider volunteering your time and talents to share in the work of our ministry to the community and this congregation.

Where can I help?

“Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much.”

Helen Keller



Our Christian sympathy is
extended to the
family and friends of:

Joe Graham

Dick Huffman

Miriam Sanner

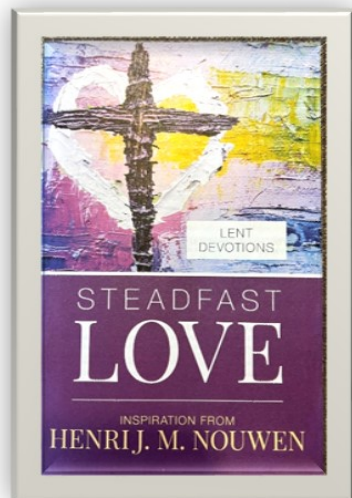
Jerry Stewart

*May their memories
be a blessing.*

Chapel and Craft Time



Chapel and Craft Time takes place following worship each Sunday as the children meet with Pastor Ryan in the Chapel. Many thanks to Kaitlin Diehl for her help with crafts and resources. Parents are welcome to be with their children or join the LOFT Bible study taking place in Fellowship Hall while the children are in Chapel.



If you have not yet received your Lenten devotional booklet, *Steadfast Love* by Henri J. M. Nouwen, there are still some available. They can be found in the Narthex along with a coin you can carry in your pocket during Lent as a reminder of God's love.

MOUNTAINSIDE *Baroque*

Ryan Mullaney
and Lyle Nordstrom
Directors

Fond Farewells

Saturday, March 19, 2022 8:00 p.m.
St. Paul Lutheran Church

*A harpsichord chamber concert
featuring keyboard artist
Marc Bellassai, who always brings
his unique entertaining talks and
tidbits to his performances of
Baroque keyboard music.*

Night Music of the North

Sunday, March 20, 2022 4:00 p.m.
St. Paul Lutheran Church

*MBQ's annual "chamber" concert
honors the tradition of the
Abendmusik (evening music) series
at St. Mark Church in the Northern
German city of Lübeck. On the
program are works for voice, strings,
and continuo. Countertenor Nathan
Medley will be featured.*



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 \$7 per plant; orders are
due by Thursday, April 7th.

Please include a
designation for the
bulletin with your order.





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.

WANTED!!

The Salvation Army is looking for someone to teach kids how to play chess. If you are interested, or know someone who might help, please contact ----

Captain Ronette Smith
302-777-7600



WORLD
ARTISTS
EXPERIENCES

Renowned Italian Musicians present

A Program of Light

Sunday, March 13th at 3:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

11 Washington Street.

The program opens with renowned Mezzo soprano Mariella Guarnera singing compositions by Bach, Saint-Saëns, Massenet and Webber.

The program continues with "Notte di Luce", a story told through music, dance and narration.

It was composed by Federico Longo during the pandemic, bringing light to the darkness of these unprecedented times. Longo, joined by violinist Domenico Masiello and pianist Michele Fazio, accompany the narration and dance video telling a story of hope-how light can overcome the night.

This concert is free;
donations are appreciated.
*Help us to be safe at this concert and thank you for understanding:
be vaccinated, wear your mask
and even if you are vaccinated practice social distancing.*

MARCH

Wednesday March 2 ASH WEDNESDAY

7:00 AM-8:00 PM

Distribution of Ashes-St. Paul

12:00 PM Ecumenical Liturgy-St. Paul

7:00 PM Evening Liturgy -St. Paul

Thursday March 3

5:30 PM Worship and Music Committee
Meeting via Zoom

Sunday March 6

10:00 AM Worship

11:15 AM LOFT and Chapel Time

Tuesday March 8

5:30 PM Council Meeting

Wednesday March 9

6:00 PM Lenten Liturgy

6:30 PM Lenten Book Study

Thursday March 10

4:00-5:00 Bountiful Blessings

Sunday March 13

10:00 AM Worship

11:15 AM LOFT and Chapel Time

1:00 PM Girl Scouts

Thinking Day

Wednesday March 16

12:00 PM Beginnings Half Day

6:00 PM Lenten Liturgy

6:30 PM Lenten Book Study

Thursday-Monday March 17-21

Beginnings Spring Break

Saturday March 19

8:00 PM Mountainside Baroque
Chamber Performance

Sunday March 20

10:00 AM Worship

11:15 AM LOFT and Chapel Time

4:00 PM Mountainside Baroque

Night Music of the North

Wednesday March 23

6:00 PM Lenten Liturgy

6:30 PM Lenten Book Study

Thursday March 24

4:00-5:00 Bountiful Blessings

Sunday March 27

10:00 AM Worship

11:15 AM LOFT and Chapel Time

Wednesday March 30

6:00 PM Lenten Liturgy

6:30 PM Lenten Book Study



March Birthdays & Anniversaries

3 – Sabra Isom

13 – Andrew Highland

14 – Stephanie Wade

19 – Barbara Highland

23 – Kay & Mack Beal (1991)

Kaden Sharpless (grandson of
Donna & Larry Goldizen)

Cancerversary - Diagnosis 2008