

2026
Congregation Officers

President-
Suzanne Umstott
Vice President-
Casey Colledge
Secretary-
Debbie Szymanski
Treasurer-
Stephanie Wade

2026 Congregation
Council Members

Education (Faith
Formation)-
Charity Friend
Evangelism-
Linda Zeller
Finance-
Brenda Aydelotte
Ministry in Daily Life-
Nancy Ayers
Personnel-
Brenda Aydelotte, Casey
Colledge, Sue Umstott
Property-
Todd Umstott
Social Ministry-
Marsha Tarte
Stewardship-
Casey Colledge
Worship and Music-
Timmy Friend

St. Paul Church Staff

Pastor
The Reverend Ryan K.
Viands
Director of Music
David Rankin
Parish Administrator
Debbie Szymanski
Sexton
Brett Densock
Treasurer
Stephanie Wade

PROCLAIMING A TIMELESS CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD SINCE 1794



THE SPIRE

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

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Cumberland, MD 21502

(301) 722-6604

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March 2026

A Parade of Passion to the Cross



“Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.”

(St. Luke 19: 38)

The great Feast of Passion/Palm Sunday will be in just about a months' time. As we recall our Lord's triumphal entry into the city, his sorrowful passion, and his bitter death, we reflect on that week long journey from a parade of celebration to the bitter pains of anguish, suffering and demise.

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The first day of the week upon which we now know as “holy” week begins with a grand parade! How great is that? Everyone loves a parade, right? Floats and marching bands and beauty queens balanced on convertibles. This is how worship begins: with palm branches waving and, if you are blessed enough, a parade around the black singing songs of triumph and excitement is experienced, like we do with our fellow brothers and sister from other parishes upon the “holy” hill. That is how the day begins for us, as too with the disciples so filled with joy that they cannot contain themselves.

As you wave your palm branches and sing on this day, remember your most amazing days of faith. Think of days when Jesus was so real and so present in your own life. Wave those branches and sing in celebration for days when your heart is on fire with faith. Remember those days, and give thanks and praise to God for that precious gift of eternal life and salvation.

That is where we begin each Holy Week. But soon, and very soon, our focus will and does change. Soon we will turn away from the parade and the cheering crowds and look instead upon the accursed tree of the cross. When life is good and things are the way we always hoped they would be, when our plans work out, faith can come easy. But this week, we also remember that Jesus came not to ride as a king, but to reveal his glory of himself on the cross of life even in the midst of death.

In the cross of Christ we see the depth of great love that Jesus has for us and all of humanity, his great love for literally all of creation. In the accursed tree of the cross we are reminded that Jesus walks with us through the darkest valleys, through multiple hospital corridors and angry homes, through fields of loneliness and trails of hunger and need. In the glory of the cross however, we are reminded that Jesus seeks us out when the celebration ends and the hard realities of life rise up. For in the cross of Christ, I glory, we see and bear hope and our salvation, which comes as a total free gift of extragate grace, love, mercy, and forgiveness. Thanks be to God! Fr. Ryan +

Family Worship and Fun

The children of St. Paul Lutheran and their parents and grandparents are invited to join us on the third Tuesday of each month. We start with a family dinner, move to family worship in the small chapel, then back upstairs for a craft activity. We start at 6:00 p.m. and are usually finished in an hour and a half.

Our next event is on March 17th.

Please sign up on the bulletin board.



Our annual meeting was held Sunday, February 1st after our 10:00 warship service. Thanks to everyone who was able to attend the meeting. I hope the committee reports were helpful in providing a greater understanding about the hard work that goes into fulfilling our church mission every day. We are grateful to have several new council chairpersons joining us in 2026.

As we move forward into a new year there are many things that we, as a church family, would like to accomplish. It's an exciting time here at St. Paul's as we flourish and grow. We are blessed with our long-time members and the new faces we see every week.

We continue to look for individuals who would be interested in assisting by being part of one of our church committees. Please contact the church office or a council member for more details on how you might be able to help. My appreciation to the committee members, church staff and volunteers for all of your hard work every day.

The next council meeting will be March 10th at 5:30.

Blessings

Sue Umstott, Council President

Social Media Policy

St. Paul Lutheran Church recognizes the role social media plays in modern communication. We ask our parish family to refrain from posting and/or sharing photos (especially of minors) without obtaining direct permission from the individual, family and church vestry. This will respect their personal privacy in order to safeguard our parish family.



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 on Easter Sunday.

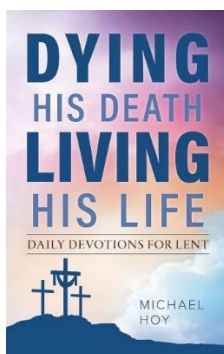
Donations will support women and children in our community through the Janet Cook Needy Fund.



Please join us on **Monday, March 9 at 11:00 a.m.** in the Luther Chapel to pray for the Church at large, for our world, and for Saint Paul.

The Saint Paul Prayer Team invites all to join us each month for a time of reflection and prayer for those needs presented to us. But as important, we pray for those needs unknown to us, unspoken in need for privacy.

For personal prayer in private, we might pray: "God, I do not know what is going on in my friend's life today, in family, work, or relationships, but I ask that they will feel Your Presence, as they are prayed for and experience Your grace."



Wednesday Lenten Vespers

6:00 p.m. in the chapel

In this series of worship for Lent, we are reminded that we are buried with Christ in his death so that we might live with him in his resurrection. The old is gone. The new has come. Each day affords us a chance to die to self and live for him. In word and song, we contemplate those things that were put to death on the cross so that we might receive the blessings of new life in Christ.



Discover God's Plan for You

PLACE assessment helps you learn about the gifts God has given you. The assessment takes place over a period of two days. The process includes discovering personality, spiritual gifts, abilities, passions, and how life experiences reveal where God may be calling you while connecting your passions and abilities to daily life.

Dates: **Friday, March 6** – Dinner at 5:30pm followed by Part 1 ending before 9:00pm

Saturday, March 7 – Begin Part 2 at 9:30am to 1:30pm (includes a light lunch)

Location: St. Paul Lutheran Church

Cost: \$10.00 for the workbook. Donations towards meals are appreciated.

Sign up on the bulletin board.

Questions? Contact Debbie Streicher (dstreicher52@gmail.com or 703-303-7255)



Let Us Pray With You

Sunday Morning Prayers

Prayer requests called into the church office
or received through pastoral visits.

Prayed for during Sunday morning worship.

Intercessory Prayer Team Prayers

Prayer requests placed in the prayer box shown
below, (form provided), received by email to
mutmab43@gmail.com, or by text to 240-727-1798.



**These requests are prayed for daily by the
Prayer Team and are held in complete confidentiality.**

Kathleen Ball

Prayer Team Coordinator



Bountiful Blessings

We are asking for donations of hand lotion. If you can help us assist our
community neighbors, please put items in the box inside the parking lot entrance to
the church.



2 Corinthians 5:14 (NIV): *"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died."*

Bishop Gohl recently wrote in his weekly Blotter these words, "The love of Christ compels us" which have stayed with me as I struggle at this stage in my life to find purpose when the years of being active and in the church every time the doors were opened is no longer possible.

What does my love for Christ, in response to His love for me, compel me to do at 83 years old (in April)? Galatians 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

"The life that I now live" has changed. But I still have life – to live:

1. Blessed with more time to "read, study, and inwardly digest" (1928 BCP) the Word of God. I still have so much to learn.
2. Blessed with confidence in my faith and understanding.
3. Blessed to boldly express that faith by serving others in His Name.
4. Blessed to know that God does act, to be ready.

Philippians 1:21: "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

Just exist until Christ calls me home? I don't think so!

Kathleen Ball

Joy Book Club



Our next book is *The Extraordinary Deaths of Mrs. Kip* by Sara Brunsvold. Aidyn Kelley is talented, ambitious, and ready for a more serious assignment than the fluff pieces she's been getting as a cub reporter for the Kansas City Star. In her eagerness, she pushes too hard, earning herself the menial task of writing an obituary for an unremarkable woman who's just entered hospice care. But there's more to Clara Kip than meets the eye. The spirited septuagenarian may be dying, but she's not quite ready to cash it in yet. Never one to shy away from an assignment herself, she can see that God brought the young reporter into her life for a reason. And if it's a story Aidyn Kelley wants, that's just what Mrs. Kip will give her—but she's going to have to work for it. We will meet to discuss this on Tuesday, March 24, at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



March 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 (Married 1991)
Kaden Sharpless (grandson of Donna Goldizen) Cancerversary
Diagnosis 2008



Easter plants and baskets

Floral baskets

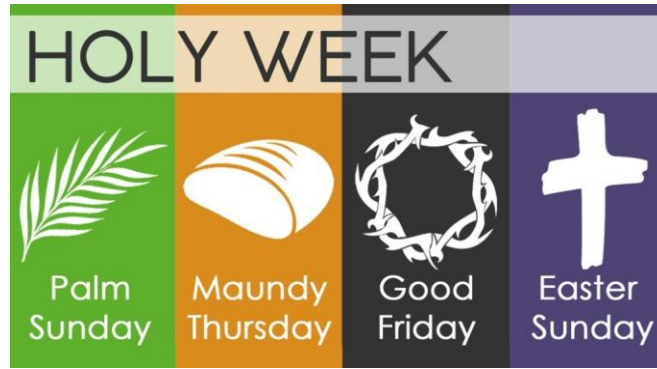
We will order 12 floral baskets which will adorn the sanctuary in praise and adoration for the resurrection of Jesus Christ. If you would like to sponsor one of these baskets in honor or memory of a loved one, family member or friend please contact Debbie Szymanski. The cost of each basket is \$75.00.

Potted plants

will also be displayed in the sanctuary Easter morning and can be taken home following worship. Information will be published in the weekly announcements beginning Sunday, March 8th regarding those orders.



A paint and sip event with Beth Hilliker will be held on Friday, March 20th beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the upper level coffee house at St. Paul's. The cost is \$25.00 which includes paint supplies and instruction for creating the scene shown. No skill is needed to participate. Please sign up on the bulletin board by Sunday, March 15th.
BYOB and a small snack to share.



Palm Sunday, March 29th

We will gather at St. Paul Church at 10:30, walk to the library and participate in a brief, joint blessing of the palms liturgy with Emmanuel Episcopal and First Presbyterian at 10:45. We'll process back to St. Paul with palm procession at approximately 11:00 to begin worship.

Wednesday, April 1st

Lenten Vespers at 6:00 p.m. in the lower level Luther Chapel.

Thursday, April 2nd - 7:00 p.m.

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

Friday, April 3rd

Cross Walk 12:00

Meet at The Shrine of SS. Peter and Paul at 12:00 noon. 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.

Easter Saturday-April 4th 10:00 a.m.

All available hands are needed to decorate for Easter Sunday.

Easter Sunday, April 5th, 10:00 a.m.

\$10 Giving Sunday – March 29th

As we start the new year, I would like to call on us in the sharing of our treasures. Each quarter of the year we have special areas of focus that we list on our giving envelopes. I would like to ask us to give at least \$10 each per month on the last Sunday of the month to help the special area of focus for that quarter. For January, February and March we are focusing on the St. Paul Building Fund. The church always has projects that are ongoing to keep the building in good working order. We just spent \$20,000+ for Air Conditioners for the church nave (those will be a blessing once the summer arrives). But this has reduced our funds to help cover other costs. Won't you help us build up those funds to support more upcoming projects?? Can you set aside at least \$2.50 a week each for the help to our quarterly areas of focus? It will help us work toward serving our church and the community. You can always give more if you feel called but I imagine we can all give \$2.50 a week extra to support these worthy causes.

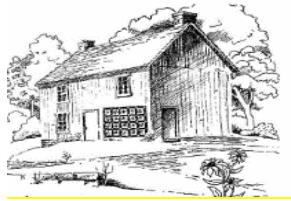
Below are the areas for each quarter:

January-March	St. Paul Building Fund
April-June	Union Rescue Mission
July-September	Bountiful Blessings
October-December	Interfaith Food Pantry

I will include a GIVING SUNDAY envelope in the bulletin on the designated Sunday so if you don't have offering envelopes you can still give your \$10 for the designated area of focus for that month/quarter.

**Thank you for sharing your treasures!!
Casey Colledge, Stewardship Chairperson**

**SCHOOLHOUSE QUILTERS GUILD
CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND**



The Schoolhouse Quilters Guild is hosting **Mary Koval's "Quilt Trunk Show"** presentation. It will be held on **March 21, 2026**, starting at 10 AM at the **St. Paul's Lutheran Church fellowship hall, 15 N Smallwood St, Cumberland MD 21502**. The event is free and open to the public.



We will gather at 8:45 a.m. Easter morning to share breakfast. Please sign up on the bulletin board to bring a casserole, baked good or fruit to share if you are able. ALL are welcome! The church will provide coffee and juice.



ONLINE GIVING is now available.

St. Paul Church has established and opened an online giving option. If you'd like give your offering/tithe online, please use the QR code above. Recurring and one-time donations can be set up via the QR code. Please see Debbie or Stephanie in the office if you need assistance.

Job Opportunity: Part-Time Parish Administrator

Location: Emmanuel Parish

Hours: Monday to Friday, 9 AM to 1 PM

Role Overview: Emmanuel Parish is seeking a dedicated and organized individual to join our team as a part-time Parish Administrator. This role involves providing essential secretarial and administrative support to the Parish Priest and Senior Warden.

Key Responsibilities:

- Manage phone calls and scheduling
- Maintain parish records, calendar, and inventory
- Support the historic tours ministry
- Handle social media and digital communications, including weekly bulletins and updates

Qualifications:

- Strong computer skills, including proficiency in Microsoft Office, MailChimp, and Google Calendar
- Self-motivated and able to multitask
- Experience in a liturgical setting is preferred

How to Apply: Interested candidates are invited to send their resume to: emmanuelparish03@gmail.com.

Join us in supporting the vibrant community of Emmanuel Parish!



Sunday 8:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	March 1 Choir rehearsal Worship Potluck luncheon
Monday Beginnings-No school; parent conferences 6:00-8:00 7:00 p.m.	March 2 Art class-coffee house Let's Beautify Cumberland! Meeting-fellowship hall
Wednesday 5:15 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	March 4 Hand Bell rehearsal Lenten Vespers-Chapel
Thursday 5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	March 5 Confirmation instruction Shake Your Soul-fellowship hall
Friday 5:30-9:00	March 6 PLACE Spiritual Gifts Assessment
Saturday 9:30-1:30	March 7 PLACE Spiritual Gifts Assessment
Sunday 8:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	March 8 Choir rehearsal Worship
Monday 11:00 a.m. 6:00-8:00	March 9 Prayers in the chapel Art class-fellowship hall
Tuesday 5:30 p.m.	March 10 Council meeting
Wednesday 5:15 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	March 11 Hand bell rehearsal Lenten Vespers-chapel
Thursday 4:00-6:00 5:30 p.m.	March 12 Bountiful Blessings Confirmation instruction
Saturday 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	March 14 Grief Support group Shake Your Soul
Sunday 8:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	March 15 Choir rehearsal Worship
Monday 6:00-8:00	March 16 Art class-fellowship hall

Tuesday 6:00 p.m.	March 17 Family Worship and Fun
Wednesday 5:15 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	March 18 Hand bell rehearsal Lenten Vespers-chapel
Thursday 5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	March 19 Confirmation instruction Shake Your Soul
Friday 6:00 p.m.	March 20 Paint and Sip-coffee house
Saturday 9:00-3:30	March 21 Schoolhouse Quilters Guild
Sunday 8:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	March 22 Choir rehearsal Worship
Monday 6:00 p.m.	March 23 Worship and Music Committee Meeting via Zoom
6:00-8:00	March 24 Art class-fellowship hall
Tuesday 5:00 p.m.	Vacation Bible School meeting-fellowship hall
6:00 p.m.	Joy Book Club-fellowship hall
Wednesday 5:15 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	March 25 Hand Bell rehearsal Vespers-Chapel
Thursday 4:00-6:00 5:30 p.m.	March 26 Bountiful Blessings Confirmation instruction
Friday Beginnings-Donuts with grown-ups and ½ day	March 27
Saturday 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 1:30-6:00	March 28 Grief Support group Shake Your Soul Fellowship Hall reserved
Sunday 8:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	March 29-Giving Sunday Choir rehearsal Worship
Monday 6:00-8:00	March 30 Art class-fellowship hall
Tuesday	March 31 Beginnings open house in the evening