

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

2020 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Education (Faith Formation):

Debbie Metheny

Evangelism:

Cecil Bell

Finance:

Suzanne Umstott

Ministry in Daily Life:

Nancy Lohr

Property:

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Social Ministry (Fellowship):

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Burton Streicher

Worship and Music:

Kathleen Ball

Youth:

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MAY 2020

Hi there!

I'd like to take a moment and introduce myself to my new faith family of Saint Paul Lutheran Church. I'm The Reverend Ryan Kendall Viands, but you can call me Pastor Ryan, or Father, as I have been called from time to time. I was born and raised in Luray, Virginia and I'm the third child (kind of) of four. I say kind of (as most of you already know) because I am a twin. I have an older sister Emily, an older brother Carl, and my twin brother Darren. My parents are Tony and Wanda. I was raised on a small family farm and enjoyed many aspects of country living.

I was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith at Morning Star Lutheran Church, Luray, Va. where I was the youngest to serve on the church council at age 17. I attended and graduated from Page Co. High School in 1998, Lord Fairfax Community College in 2000, James Madison University in 2003 and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg in 2009. My first and most recent call was to Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church of Buffalo Mills, Pa. where I served for twelve years, including my year of internship. I am thrilled and excited about my new call to St. Paul Church. I look forward to the wonderful and creative ways that we as a faith family will serve our Lord and His people.

In His Service, Fr. Ryan +

pr.ryan@stpaulcumberland.org

RYAN K. VIANDS
Pastor

DAVID RANKIN
Director of Music

DEBBIE SZYMANSKI
Parish Assistant

STEPHANIE WADE
Treasurer

RAMON ROCHE CARDONA
Sexton

A Word from the President

We are continuing to comply with the government's recommendation to cancel large group activities in order to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus infections. The church building has continued to be open on a limited basis with Debbie Szymanski and Ramon Roche Cardona providing essential emergency services and security. It is still not clear when we can resume church services and activities safely. At this point, we are not planning on resuming large group events during May. If this changes during the month, we will advise the congregation.

Last week was Pastor Steve Haptonstahl's last week with us as our part-time Interim Pastor. Pastor Steve jumped in quickly on 10 December 2018 to become our interim pastor guide. We are so appreciative and thankful for his dedication and contributions to the congregation as we worked our way through the transition period between pastors. Little did we know then that we would also be dealing with a national pandemic. His leadership and participation in worship services, visiting our homebound members, in Bountiful Blessings, in APPS sessions, in VBS, in our LOFT Bible studies and dinners, council meetings, and church picnic touched all of us. We will greatly miss Pastor Steve and Tommi being part of our faith family. We wish them the best and offer our blessings as they enjoy new adventures and ministry opportunities in the future.

Despite the sadness of losing the Haptonstahl's as part of our worship community last week, we are overjoyed and excited as we welcome our new pastor, Rev. Ryan Viands to our congregation. Pastor Ryan began his call with us on 1 May and has already set up in the Pastor's office. While the virtual transition between Pastor Steve and Pastor Ryan has limited us greatly in what we can do as a congregation during this national shutdown, we have planned to schedule a Sunday when we can have Pastor Steve and Tommi return for worship and have a proper farewell and Pastor Ryan can return to his former congregation for a final good bye and farewell. We will also schedule an installation service for Pastor Ryan with Bishop Gohl and Pastor Robin when we can.

I hope you and your family and friends are able to enjoy this Easter season at home. While we are limited in what we can do as a whole congregation, we continue to explore how best to stay in touch and service to each other through the mail, phone calls, and web opportunities (such as Zoom conference calls, Facebook, and our website). We have been conducting LOFT Bible studies on Sundays at 11:00am when we review the Taking Faith Home verses for the week. If interested please contact Debbie Streicher so we can send you the link. As Pastor Ryan begins his call with us, we will post his sermons online and look forward to him joining us for LOFT Bible study each week. We will also begin making plans for online worship with Pastor Ryan in the near future. While being locked up at home can be depressing and stressful at times, keep in mind that this is the day that God has made for us, and find parts of it to be thankful for and enjoy.

Prayers and Blessings in this Easter season,

(Burt Streicher, Council President)

Faith Formation in the Home during these Trying Times

Given that we cannot gather together to celebrate faith milestones as we have been doing face-to-face during our LOFT Potluck dinners, St. Paul's has acquired a *For Everything A Season: 75 Blessings for Life's Milestones* E-book for each of our members. We will be sending them out this month by email for your use. This book of 98 pages is a compilation of 75 blessings for life's milestones that help deepen and make sacred ordinary and out-of-the ordinary life moments. Each simple blessing has a welcome, prayer, a time for reflection, suggested ritual action, and a closing blessing. They can be easily done by families, other groups, or by someone alone. Our suggestion is that you first try the Mother's Day ritual found on page 10 which will be on May 10 this year. We are sensitive to how difficult it is to maintain a sense of Christian community during these difficult times. We are hopeful that you will find this book useful and helpful to your faith life. If you celebrate any of these faith milestones please take photos along with a short story of how it went and submit to the church office so we can put them onto either the St. Paul's website or Facebook. That way the rest of the congregation can connect, appreciate, and share your experience. Even though the current isolation and lock-down make this reference book extremely timely and valuable now, it can be used anytime in the future to help transform ordinary moments in time and space into holy moments of timeless grace. We send our blessings to you as we continue to grow in our faith together in new and creative ways.

The Luther League Puppet Ministry Team News



The Luther League puppet ministry team and puppets are abiding by the rules and wearing a mask when they venture out. They hope you are too! They miss seeing you and are waiting to hear when they can help with Vacation Bible School this year as the dates will be changing.

LOFT
Living Our Faith Together
Meeting Online



Easter Sunday LOFT

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the LOFT Bible study has been meeting online at 11:00 am on Sunday mornings using Zoom. We will continue to meet this way until further notice. During the April 26th gathering we did a farewell for Pastor Steve and Tommi until we can do one face to face. We look forward to Pastor Ryan joining us beginning on May 3.

If you have not joined LOFT before, consider doing so as a way to connect and check in with others from the congregation. Not familiar with Zoom? We are happy to help.

Please contact Debbie Streicher at dstreicher52@gmail.com.



Our sympathy is extended to the Davis family;
Fran died on March 23rd. Bob's address is:
12409 Stoneybrook Lane NW, Lavale MD 21502

Our sympathy is also extended to the Douglas family. Alan Douglas died on April 2nd. If you would like to send a card to his wife Judy her address is: 1202 N. Hillcrest Drive, Payson, AZ 85541-3322.

Mortimer C. and Elizabeth Ann Schaidt Scholastic Tuition Fund

On April 15th St. Paul's started accepting applications for the Mortimer C. and Elizabeth Ann Schaidt Scholastic Tuition Fund for the 2020-2021 academic year. Instructions and the application form can be found online by visiting www.stpaulcumberland.org or by requesting the information from the church office. The scholarship is competitive and available only to members of St. Paul's. The award can be used for the payment of tuition only at an accredited institution offering a 2 or 4 year degree, graduate degree, technical or vocational training. In order to establish the applicant as a member, the applicant must have communed and contributed – in their own name - at least once in the past year. Additional questions should be directed to Debbie Metheny: stpaulsscholarship2015@gmail.com.
Applications are due by June 15, 2020.

Bowersox and Frick Scholarship Information

Separate letter of application must be submitted for each scholarship.

Address all applications to the Vestry of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. **ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY 4:00 PM ON JUNE 26th.**

The **GLADYS FRICK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** is available for young adults who are members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church or whose parents are members. To qualify as an applicant you must be a current high school graduate accepted at a four-year college, two-year junior college, community college, nursing school or accredited trade school.

This award shall be made to the applicant who has the highest level of scholastic achievement during his/her senior year in high school.

Please include the following information:

- a) name and telephone number
- b) home address and college address (if known)
- c) senior year transcript
- d) any comment you, the applicant, wish to make (list school at which you have been accepted.)

The **BOWERSOX MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** is available for all members of St. Paul's or for young adults whose parents are members. To qualify as an applicant, you must be a high school graduate, accepted by either a graduate school, a four-year college, a two-year college, a community college, nursing school or an accredited trade school either as a part-time or as a full-time student.

This award shall be made on the basis of need and the expressed determination of the student to gain this educational experience.

Please include the following information:

- a) name and telephone number
- b) home address and college address (if known)
- c) major course of study
- d) the degree for which you, the applicant, are a candidate and the date it is expected to be awarded
- e) last semester's grade transcripts
- f) list school at which you have been accepted
- g) expected cost for the year
- h) the amount you, the applicant, expect to earn
- i) any loan which you, the applicant, or your parents have previously obtained for the purpose of defraying schooling costs
- j) a statement concerning the need for assistance
- k) any comment you, the applicant, wish to make



- May – 3 – Mary Margaret Dormio**
6 – Doris Giornesto
11 – Patti & Eric Cosner
anniversary
(daughter of Pat & Joe Graham)
12 – Lisa Rowley
20 – Debbie Szymanski
21 – Liz Medcalf
31 - Stephanie & Marty
Sharpless anniversary
(daughter of Donna & Larry Goldizen)
31 – Diane Rhoads

Health Insurance Portability and **Accountability Act**

The HIPAA Privacy regulations require health care providers and organizations, as well as their business associates, to develop and follow procedures that ensure the confidentiality and security of protected health information (PHI) when it is transferred, received, handled, or shared. **These regulations prohibit the hospital from informing the church when a member is admitted. This is a change to their previous policy. Please call the church office if you or a family member are in need of pastoral care.**

Vacation Bible School **2020** **Stay Tuned for New Dates**



Vacation Bible School meetings continue to take place on line. The decision has been made to reschedule the dates from June to a later time for this year. There has also been discussion about changes in the look and feel of VBS due to the circumstances and social distancing policies.

The next meeting is scheduled for
Monday evening, May 11th
at 7:00 pm.

Questions? Contact Debbie Streicher
at dstreicher52@gmail.com.



Loving Our Neighbor

Showing love for our neighbor is never more important than during a time like we are living in right now. It may be more difficult to show our love and care with social distancing, but God is still at work in us through our prayers.

The Intercessory Prayer Ministry team at St. Paul's prays daily for those needs offered to us. A letter is received each week by those participating with new prayer requests as well as ongoing requests. Please join us in praying for those suffering from the Covid-19 pandemic, for all those caring for those who are ill, for the families of victims of this virus, for those seeking a vaccine, and all others who serve in these times.

If you would like to know more about this prayer ministry, or would like to join in this ministry, please contact me at 240-727-1798 or mutmab43@gmail.com.

Kathleen Ball
Prayer Team Coordinator

We are living in a time called “social distancing”, voluntary or by law, and isolation — self-imposed or not — changes the way we think, feel and behave as humans. We are designed for relationship and when the way we relate normally changes, as in our APPS and Bountiful Blessings ministries, we, as a faith community can show those around us that we are here and we care.

Leslie Roser and **Diane Rhoads** use their talent to make tote bags and crochet prayer shawls, respectively, which we have shared with those going through medical treatments to help pass the time. The tote bags are filled with snacks, bottled water, lip balm, hand sanitizer, books, crossword or word find tablets, pens, etc. The shawls are included with a card “handmade with prayer.”

These totes and shawls are available for giving to anyone you may know who is going through a medical treatment program, or someone who is alone, who is fearful or especially vulnerable, during this pandemic, or someone who just needs cheering up!

Please call the church office if you would like to give a tote or shawl.



Please consider supporting local agencies in our community during this critical time.

Feed Western Maryland

a 100% community-funded emergency food bank located in Western Maryland, serving our community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Monetary donations can be sent to St. Paul's and we will forward to this group or made via www.feedwesternmaryland.com.

Interfaith Food Pantry

The pantry serves our community in a critical ministry to the food-insecure population. St. Paul's is one of the referral sites for individuals to the pantry.

301 Cumberland Street
Cumberland, MD 21502

Union Rescue Mission

The mission provides food, shelter and counseling to needy people in the community.

P. O. Box 1614
16 Queen City Pavement
Cumberland, MD 21502

**Frostburg State University
Student Affairs Crisis
Emergency Fund**

This fund at Frostburg State provides aid to enrolled students who are experiencing an immediate financial emergency as a result of an unexpected event, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Visit www.frostburg.edu and click on **Give to FSU** to support this fund.

Jane's Place

Provides therapy and a safe environment for abused children.

**April is Child Abuse
Prevention Month.**

26 Greene Street
Cumberland, MD 21502

Western Maryland Food Bank

The Food Bank works to enhance food rescue and distribution locally to address hunger in our community.

P. O. Box 243
816 Frederick Street
Cumberland, MD 21502

**Donations of canned goods,
non-perishable food
and baby diapers/wipes
can be brought to St. Paul's
Monday-Friday from
9:00-12:00 for distribution
to local agencies.**