

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

15 N. Smallwood Street

Cumberland, MD 21502

(301) 722-6604

www.stpaulcumberland.org

Email: debbie@stpaulcumberland.org

May 2021



Pastor's Ponderings

The Chosen

*I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation
may reach to the end of the earth."
The Prophet Isaiah 49:6b*

Every now and then, Christians get into squabbles around the topic of election - the idea of who is "Chosen by God." In these discussions we often fixate on whether or not God has chosen us. Sadly, these discussions often go down paths where we believe God is including us and excluding others. I am not quite sure this is how election is understood in the Bible.

Take Israel for example. They are after all the chosen people of God. But God does not include them to the exclusion of everyone else. He chooses them to carry his blessing to everyone else. They are to be "a light to the nations, that my [God's] salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

In the Bible, God does not choose some to win a prize while others get kicked to the curb. God chooses or elects one person or group for the sake of all the others. Israel was chosen to be a light to the nations. Jesus was chosen for the sake of bringing salvation to the world. We are chosen for the sake of sharing the Gospel with all who will hear it.

The end goal, when it comes to election, is that all the world might know and rejoice in the blessing of the Triune God.

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

From the President.....

On April 13, 2021 the council resumed in-person meetings. There was reflection around Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Sunday. I thought the services were very moving and the Sanctuary looked awe inspiring. Thanks again to Pastor Ryan, Kathleen Ball and the Worship and Music Committee and the many people who provided assistance. Jane Roderick/Evangelism Committee reported a positive response to the Holy Week and Easter Sunday advertisements.

Additional outreach is being planned by Cindy Read, Social Ministry/Fellowship including our annual church picnic. Nancy Ayers/Ministry in Daily Life reported on the homebound calls for the month of March and April which I'm sure are much appreciated. Ed Ayers/Property continues to work on the maintenance and repairs of the building and some special projects pertaining to lighting the church steeple. The council has decided to explore avenues for on-line giving. More details to come from the Finance Committee. Debbie Streicher and the Faith Formation team are finalizing plans for Vacation Bible School which will be held on-line from June 14th through the 25th.

Many wonderful and exciting things are happening here at St. Paul's due to the hard work of so many people including all the committee members and church staff.

The next council meeting will be on Tuesday, May 11th. The Council will continue with in-person meetings with pandemic protocols in place.

Blessings

Sue Umstott, Council President

LOFT Living Our Faith Together



The LOFT Bible study will meet via Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm on May 5, 12, 19, and 26. Following the May 26 time together, there will be a break until the fall. All ages are invited to join for sharing highs and lows, reading scripture, and prayer based on the Taking Faith Home readings found in the bulletin insert each Sunday during worship. It is a good opportunity to engage in discussions about the message heard on Sunday. If you would like to be added to the email list for the Zoom link and updates, please contact the church office.

The Luther League Puppet Ministry Team



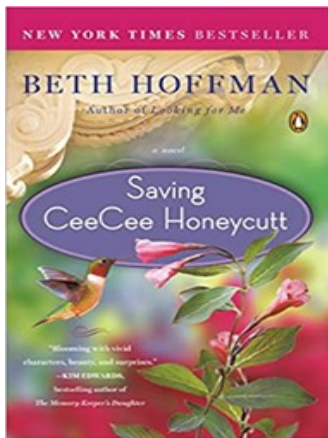
The puppet ministry team met in April and is making plans for participation in VBS. Once again God Sightings by our puppets and friends, dancing, singing, and skits are on the list. Emily and Erica Metheny will help with skits as they play the lead roles for this year. We will meet Dr. Diggingstone.

In July, our team will be invited to join in an online national Fellowship of Puppeteers conference. If you are interested in joining the team, this may be the right time!

To learn more about our puppet ministry, please contact Debbie Streicher at dstreicher52@gmail.com.



Cecil Bell's funeral will be held at Emmanuel Episcopal Church on Saturday, May 15th at 11:00 a.m. A luncheon will follow; weather permitting it will be in the garden. **Please follow pandemic protocols by wearing a mask and social distancing.**



The next reading for Book Club will be **"Saving CeeCee Honeycutt"**, by Beth Hoffman. Laugh-out-loud funny and deeply touching. "Packed full of Southern charm, strong women, wacky humor, and good old-fashioned heart." Check it out!



If you would like to sponsor the altar flowers on one of the following dates please contact the church office.

May 30
June 27
July 25
August 22
August 29



Please contact Debbie Szymanski if you are willing to become an offering counter. Offering is counted in teams of 2 people and can either be done following Sunday worship or on Monday mornings.

Cumberland Area Joint Vacation Bible School 2021

God's Greatest Treasure Is YOU!

Dates? June 14 – June 25

Place? Online in a private Facebook Group

When? Monday, Wednesday, and Friday both weeks

Time? 5 pm (Lesson Presentation) and 8 pm (Bedtime Bible Story)

Registration forms are now available for Vacation Bible School, 2021. There will be printed copies in the office and it can also be downloaded on the St. Paul's website. The registration deadline is Monday, June 7, with a limit of 48 children.

You will find a link to more info and the form at: <https://www.stpaulcumberland.org/>.

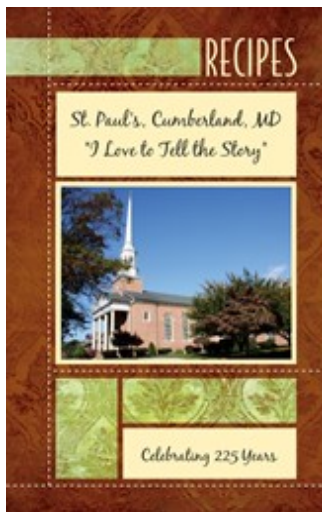
The planning team has met several times in the past month. Many thanks to those who were able to gather in-person to make decisions and get orders placed for the contents of this year's home resources. There will be 5 sessions and 5 bags filled with activities for learning about the scripture readings each day. The theme this year is Treasured: Discovering You're Priceless to God.



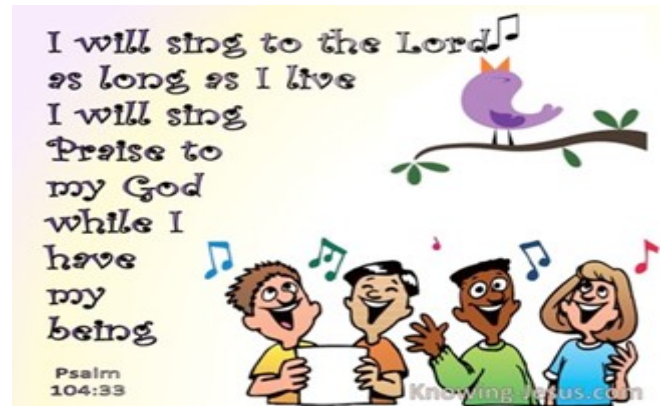
The next planning meeting is both in-person and online on
Monday, May 17 at 4:30 pm.

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 .

I Love to Tell the Story *Celebrating 225 Years*



A cookbook of favorite recipes from the families and friends of St. Paul's who have gathered on many occasions to share the love and fellowship so often accompanying good food. This cookbook also includes sections with history and pictures: **Remembering Baltimore Street, the Sewing Groups, Music Ministry, Youth Ministry** and the many other activities past and present. Anniversary cups are also available. Cost: \$5.00 each, cookbook and cup.



As we have done in the past, please suggest one or two favorite hymns that you would like to hear during the summer. Though we are still not singing, hearing a favorite hymn played, with the words on the screens, can bring about special memories.

GREEN = Go = Debbie Streicher !!

Have you noticed a common denominator when activities at St. Paul take place? Our gratitude is overwhelming when we think of Debbie Streicher and all she has done, and continues to do, for us. She was largely responsible for holding us together and keeping us active for the months we were without a full-time pastor, and we can't thank her enough.



- When we realized in-person worship couldn't happen for awhile due to Covid, Debbie came to the church each week to record Pastor Ryan's sermons, and, along with our amazing Debbie Szymanski and David Rankin, made them available for us to participate in virtual church.
- Church Council, Call Committee, Worship and Music Committee contributor
- "Bag Lady" ----- Advent, Lent and Holy Week bags of take-home worship materials prepared for our observances while we were under Covid restrictions
- LOFT --- Living Our Faith Together ---- together she and husband Burt have prepared a weekly Bible study on ZOOM for any or all who wish to participate
- Puppet Ministry ---- perhaps Debbie's strongest passion! She has a family of puppets and puppeteers who have worked together, learned together and gone into the community, as occasions allow, to share this ministry and to enhance our own activities, ie APPS, VBS and bringing her "friends" to worship services for children's church.
- VBS ----- Spearheaded a Vacation Bible School last year and again for this year unlike any we've ever had before ---- a drive-thru VBS including St. Paul and at least eight other congregations ---- an outreach involving prepared bags of study materials, crafts, etc plus weekly ZOOM gatherings for all to share ----- a phenomenal effort and huge success.
- Prepares and shares the Taking Faith Home bulletin inserts through Milestone Ministries, providing scripture, prayers and blessings for families to use in their homes during the week.

Heartfelt thanks & appreciation from us all, Debbie!!!





Sunday	May 2
10:00 AM	Worship
Tuesday	May 4
10:00-12:00	Morning Prayer via Zoom
Wednesday	May 5
7:00 PM	LOFT via Zoom
Sunday	May 9
10:00 AM	Worship
Tuesday	May 11
10:00-12:00	Morning Prayer via Zoom
5:30 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday	May 12
7:00 PM	LOFT via Zoom
Thursday	May 13
4:00-5:00	Drive-thru Bountiful Blessings
Sunday	May 16
10:00 AM	Worship
Monday	May 17
4:30 PM	VBS Meeting- Conference room
Tuesday	May 18
10:00-12:00	Morning Prayer via Zoom
Wednesday	May 19
5:00-6:00	APPS drive-thru distribution
7:00 PM	LOFT via Zoom
Sunday	May 23
10:00 AM	Worship
Tuesday	May 25
10:00-12:00	Morning Prayer via Zoom
Thursday	May 27
4:00-5:00	Drive-thru Bountiful Blessings
Sunday	May 30
10:00 AM	Worship
Monday	May 31
Beginnings and Church Office closed-Memorial Day	



Birthdays and Anniversaries

May - 1 – Pastor Ryan's first Sunday
at St. Paul -- 2020
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
(daughter of Donna & Larry
Goldizen)
31 – Diane Rhoads

Happy Happy to all !!!

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 2021-2022 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 Caitlin Hudgins stpaulsscholarship2015@gmail.com.
Applications are due by June 15, 2021.

Bowersox and Frick Scholarship Information

Separate letter of application must be submitted for each scholarship.

Address all applications to the Scholarship Committee 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