

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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May 2022

God of the Nations

Picture the scene. It's Friday afternoon, Good Friday, to be specific. Suddenly, there's an earthquake. Rocks are split and tombs are opened. Change has come upon the scene. It's now Sunday, and Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary" went to visit the tomb where their beloved friend Jesus had been buried. Once again the morning is punctuated with an earthquake. An angel with an appearance "like lightning" rolls away the stone and opens the tomb. God's decisive work in Jesus demands all the drama that nature can muster.

The human participants in this story likewise experience extreme emotions because of the events. The guards' fear incapacitates them, and the women leave the tomb "with fear and great joy." And what is the dramatic message that they run to tell? "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." The message for Jesus' followers is not only His resurrection, but the command to "go to Galilee," where they can see the risen Lord, Jesus.

At the beginning of Jesus' public ministry he "went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people" (St. Matthew 4: 23). It was in Galilee that Jesus called His disciples and began to draw great crowds and tend to their needs. The presence of the loving Christ belongs in the context of the active ministry begun in this land.

As Jesus' followers, we too are given the command to do the ministry of Galilee. We too are called to go. To teach, to preach, proclaim, and heal, in all the diverse forms this work can take and in all the distant places we live. Filled with the great and powerful joy of the resurrection, we go to tell of Jesus' presence and to continue Jesus' work. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Now, let us live and work as if we truly believe this statement of faith to be true, alive, and active within us today and all the days of our earthly life! Amen.

In His Service, Fr. Ryan +

2022 CONGREGATION OFFICERS

President:

Suzanne Umstott

Vice President:

Kathleen Ball

Secretary:

Debbie Szymanski

Treasurer:

Stephanie Wade

2022 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:

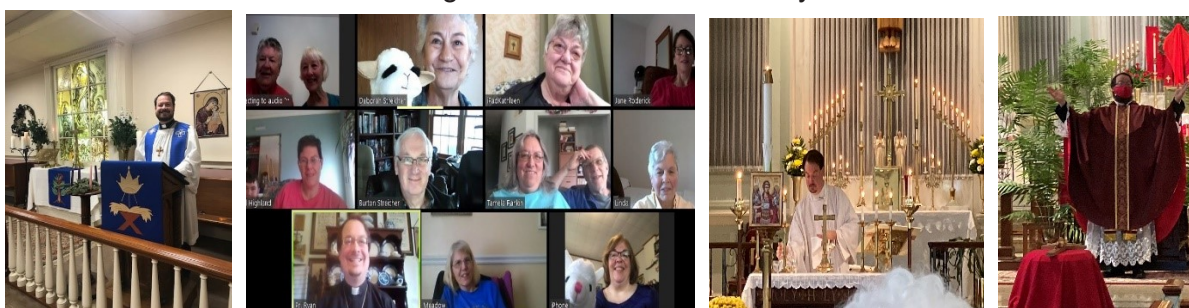
Kathleen Ball

Youth:

Gary Miller



Most Holy God,
Thank you for choosing The Rev. Fr. Ryan K. Viands as our pastor to shepherd Saint Paul Lutheran Church, Cumberland. We pray that you will continue to strengthen him, as he begins his third year of ministry to us, when so much familiar in our daily lives during this time, has been turned upside down. During these stressful times he has continued to lead us to you, the one true living God, by his example of living a life of faith and blessing our church and community.



APPS Family Easter Dinner (aka Family Faith Meals)

On April 13th, the APPS Family Easter Dinner was held, a little differently (again). We contacted the West Side families who had been participating in the Family Faith Meals, and offered a drive-thru Easter meal pick-up. The APPS kitchen crew was back at it, preparing a delicious ham and macaroni & cheese dinner. The middle/high school helpers handed out the meals. And this year in addition to the meal, the puppet team was back, presenting and “EGGcellent” puppet show. We had 10 families pick up dinners, and about half of the families stayed to enjoy the puppet show.

Thank you to the wonderful chefs, bakers and puppeteers for helping to create a little pre-Covid APPS!

And also thank you to the middle/high school helpers, who have been hanging in there with us. Let's hope that next year APPS will be back in the building, and the Family Easter Dinner will be even more “Eggcellent”!

Stephanie Wade

From the president.....

It was a very busy Lenten season, Holy week and Easter Sunday. We had a beautiful and well-attended Easter service. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make St. Paul's Easter worship special for all those who were able to be there with us.

We are heading into another busy spring and summer as we prepare for vacation bible school. Debbie Streicher and the Faith Formation Team have something very exciting planned for the youth in our community.

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 May 10th at 5:30 PM

Blessings
Sue Umstott, Council President

*To the Worship and Music
Committee
of the St. Paul Church Council:*

*For planning and participating in
Holy Week and Easter Sunday
activities, and to the many
volunteers who offered
their time to adorn God's church in
beauty on Easter Saturday:*



LOFT (Living Our Faith Together)



We will take a summer break.
Sunday, May 29th will be our last time to meet until the fall.

The LOFT (Living Our Faith Together) Bible study that takes place following worship every Sunday provides an opportunity for faith-filled conversations. As we read the scriptures each week, we find ways to relate the message to our own lives. We close with a prayer and a blessing. All are welcome to join us at any time.

Bibles are provided but we also encourage you to bring a favorite study Bible.

Masks are now an option.

If you have not joined us in the past, consider doing so during the month of May.

Vacation Bible School 2022



Dates: Monday, June 13 – Thursday, June 16

Time: 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Ages: Age 5 – those completing the 5th grade

Those completing the 6th grade and older are invited to be part of VBS as helpers. Congregations from the Cumberland area will join together to plan for a fun-filled VBS that will take place in-person this year. As we acclimate and begin to cautiously continue some guidelines with social distancing, this year's limit will be 40 children.

The next planning meeting will take place on May 12 at 5:30pm.

Registrations are now available on the St. Paul website under the Lifelong Faith Formation and then Vacation Bible School tab.

(<https://www.stpaulcumberland.org/vacation-bible-school.html>)

Printed copies will also be available in the church office.

Hymns in Scripture

What do you sing if the neighbors want you arrested?

Imagine going to church like this:

Sunday is a workday. Your fellow Christians will gather early, before the rush hour. You wake at about four AM, and take a bus toward your destination. From your stop, you walk toward a grand old home on Washington Street, and enter by a back door. Others make their way there too, coming singly or in pairs, a few at a time, from different directions and neighborhoods, dressed for their various occupations. Once inside, you greet each other ("Peace be with you!") and find your places in the living room. A dignified older gentleman sits at the opposite end of the room, his colleagues seated on either side of him. Standing next to him are his assistants. Each person brings bread they have brought and places it on a small table in front of him. When all have made their offering, he stands and begins the prayer over the bread and wine. When he is finished, all respond "Amen!" and his assistants break the bread into small pieces. Once again, you, your sisters and brothers come forward, now to receive the Bread of Heaven and the Cup of Salvation. It's all over in less than twenty minutes. This is how the Church meets week by week; but today something troubling happens. A neighbor is suspicious; she calls the authorities. Plainclothes agents trail some of you as you leave; you and a few others are apprehended, forced into a big black SUV, and taken to a remote location for questioning. The questioning is a formality; you admit to the 'crime' of being a Christian, and your sentencing is to hard labor, banishment, or even death.

[The description of a first-century Eucharist above was freely abridged/adapted from Dom Gregory Dix's book, The Shape of the Liturgy, (pp 142-144) a seminal influence on the liturgical reforms of the mid-twentieth century.]

Intermittent, unpredictable, and incredibly harsh persecution was a fact of life for Christians in the first century. The book of Revelation, from which our second lessons are drawn this Easter Season, was written to specific churches in Asia which were suffering at this time. To encourage those churches to persevere, the writer, John, shares his vision of a new heaven and a new earth, re-created and set right through Christ's resurrection power. Scattered throughout the book are fragments of hymns which the readers knew and sang often:

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" (5:12)

"To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" (5:13)

"Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." (7:10)

"Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." (7:12)

And, as you've guessed by now, we're singing them too, week by week, in the Hymn of Praise which begins "This is the feast of victory for our Lord." These fragments also turn up in other hymns this season. As we sing them, may we pray for, and stand in solidarity with, present day Christians who are suffering, and for all who are persecuted. Those in Ukraine come immediately to mind. And may we remember that the martyrs and the persecuted from days of old stand in solidarity with us, around the Throne to praise the Lamb who was slain, who trampled down death by death.

Christ Cubby Update



Much thanks and appreciation are given to the person who gave a donation to expand Christ Cubby. Christ Cubby is located in the rear of the nave and is the resource center for children and families during worship. You will find worship bags for each child to participate and be involved during worship. There is also a bookcase filled with children's Bibles, Bible story books, and weekly bulletins and coloring sheets for the children to use during worship or take home to engage in faith talk as a family.

New in May for Christ Cubby Bible stories in a box!



There will be 6 Bible stories with toy characters to play with and act out the story. Children will be invited to choose one of their likings to have during worship each week in the pew. There will also be a cloth Noah's Ark for younger ages.



Spotlight on Daniel Highland

An Allegany College ambassador.

Ambassadors are the “go-to” students to learn all about Allegany College of Maryland.



Daniel Highland

High School & Grad Year:

Allegany High School (2021)

Hometown: LaVale, MD

Major (Academic Program):

Multimedia Technology

Fun Fact: “I am a big Disney fan. I hope to join the Disney College Program and work at Disney as an animator, performer (I also sing & dance), or as an Imagineer.”

Favorite Thing About ACM: “The great classes offered in each of the majors/ programs – I am really enjoying the Multimedia classes.”

Why did you choose ACM?: “I chose ACM because it was a local college that had the program I wanted to study. I can get a great education while also staying close to my family.”

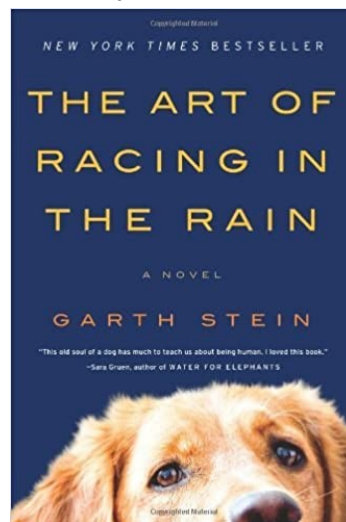
*thank
you*

Father Ryan and fellow members of
St. Paul Lutheran Church,

Thank you for once again remembering the years I have accumulated of having the Office Minister of Word and Sacrament entrusted to me by the Evangelical Lutheran Church with an Easter floral basket. It has been my distinct honor to have spent so many of those years serving you as a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. God bless you and all you love.

The Reverend John J. Duffus

The Joy Book Club



The club will read
The Art of Racing in the Rain
by Garth Stein as their next selection.
A discussion will be held in May.

The Luther League Puppet Ministry Team



The puppet ministry team's Easter presentation titled Edgar's Eggcellent Easter Eggstravaganza was a hit with families. All ages were invited to help with props as we sang the final song together, The Bunny Song, and went home with the words ringing in our heads: "Jesus is all about J-E-S-U-S!". Many thanks to Erica and Emily Metheny, Tammy and Katie Rankin, and Burt and Debbie Streicher for making this possible.

The puppet ministry team will now turn its attention to Vacation Bible School and preparing to be part of the openings and closings each day.



Mortimer C. and Elizabeth Ann Schaidt Scholastic Tuition Fund

On April 15th St. Paul's began accepting applications for the Mortimer C. and Elizabeth Ann Schaidt Scholastic Tuition Fund for the 2022-2023 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, 2022.**

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 24th.

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



St. Paul's Brass from Carlisle, PA will join us for worship on Sunday, May 29th.



Sunday
10:00 AM
11:15 AM

Sunday
10:00 AM
11:15 PM

Tuesday
5:30 PM

Thursday
4:00-5:00
5:30 PM

Friday
5:00 PM

Saturday
9:00-11:00

2:00 PM

Sunday
10:00 AM
11:15 AM

Monday

Sunday
10:00 AM
11:15 AM

May 1
Worship
LOFT and Chapel Time

May 8
Worship
LOFT and Chapel Time

May 10
Council Meeting

May 12
Bountiful Blessings
VBS Meeting

May 13
Pierce/Sims wedding
Rehearsal

May 14
Beginnings-
Fellowship Hall
Pierce/Sims wedding

May 15
Worship
LOFT and Chapel Time

May 16
Bountiful
Blessings delivery

May 22
Worship
LOFT and Chapel Time

Thursday
11:00 AM
4:00-5:00

Sunday
10:00 AM

11:15 AM
7:30 PM

May 26
Dale Louk memorial
Bountiful Blessings

May 29
Worship with
St. Paul's Brass
LOFT and Chapel Time
Rain Site-
Potomac Concert Band
Memorial Day Concert



MAY Birthdays and anniversaries

1 – Pastor Ryan's
anniversary with St. Paul 2020

6 – Doris Giornesto

11 – Patti & Eric Cosner
anniversary

(daughter of Pat Graham)

12 – Lisa Rowley

20 – Debbie Szymanski

21 – Liz Medcalf

29 – Patti Squires

31 - Stephanie & Marty Sharpless
anniversary (daughter of
Donna & Larry Goldizen)

31 – Diane Rhoads