

PROCLAIMING A TIMELESS CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD

SINCE 1794



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:

Edward Ayers

Social Ministry

(Fellowship):

Cindy Read

Stewardship:

Burton Streicher

Worship and Music:

Kathleen Ball

Youth:

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November 2020



Pastor's Ponderings

Psalm 135

- ¹ Praise the LORD. Praise the name of the LORD;
praise him, you servants of the LORD,
² you who minister in the house of the LORD,
in the courts of the house of our God.
³ Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good;
sing praise to his name, for that is pleasant.
⁴ For the LORD has chosen Jacob to be his own,
Israel to be his treasured possession.
⁵ I know that the LORD is great,
that our Lord is greater than all gods.
⁶ The LORD does whatever pleases him,
in the heavens and on the earth,
in the seas and all their depths.
⁷ He makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth;
he sends lightning with the rain
and brings out the wind from his storehouses.

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THE REVEREND
RYAN K. VIANDS
Pastor

DAVID RANKIN
Director of Music

DEBBIE SZYMANSKI
Parish Assistant

STEPHANIE WADE
Treasurer

RAMON ROCHE CARDONA
Sexton

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- ⁸ He struck down the firstborn of Egypt,
the firstborn of people and animals.
⁹ He sent his signs and wonders into your midst, Egypt,
against Pharaoh and all his servants.
¹⁰ He struck down many nations
and killed mighty kings—
¹¹ Sihon king of the Amorites,
Og king of Bashan,
and all the kings of Canaan—
¹² and he gave their land as an inheritance,
an inheritance to his people Israel.
¹³ Your name, LORD, endures forever,
your renown, LORD, through all generations.
¹⁴ For the LORD will vindicate his people
and have compassion on his servants.
¹⁵ The idols of the nations are silver and gold,
made by human hands.
¹⁶ They have mouths, but cannot speak,
eyes, but cannot see.
¹⁷ They have ears, but cannot hear,
nor is there breath in their mouths.
¹⁸ Those who make them will be like them,
and so will all who trust in them.
¹⁹ All you Israelites, praise the LORD;
house of Aaron, praise the LORD;
²⁰ house of Levi, praise the LORD;
you who fear him, praise the LORD.
²¹ Praise be to the LORD from Zion,
to him who dwells in Jerusalem.

Praise the LORD

LESSON & FR. LUTHER'S COMMENTARY:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." St. John 3: 16.

To whom does God give his beloved Son? God gives him to the world—the lost multitude who never deserved it. They could only expect to remain lost and condemned without him. God gave his Son to the lost so that they might be saved. Then what should you do for this loving God in return?

Nothing! Don't go on pilgrimages for merit. Don't do this or that good work for merit. Instead, simply believe in Christ alone. Then you will be able to get rid of your old nature and cling to him. Your faith, or course, should be the kind that produces good works.

You cannot take hold of this gift—the Son of God — with your hand. The Son of God cannot be contained in a jar. He is grasped only with the heart and by faith.

When this gift comes into your heart, when you believe in Christ with your whole heart, then you won't be the same person. Even if you once were a thief, an adulterer, or a murderer, you will become a new person, for you have the light in your very heart.

What the Lord Christ wants first and foremost is your heart—a heart that believes in him alone. God wants your best, not your mouth or your hand, but your very heart. He wants you to be righteous on the inside.

When you believe in Christ, your heart becomes clean. St. Peter says that faith purifies the heart (Acts of the Apostles 15:9). That some faith doesn't permit you to be arrogant or proud. For when the heart is cleansed, the hand, eyes, feet, and all other members are also cleansed. You will act differently than before. Faith won't permit you to be a sinner, fornicator, or adulterer any longer. So your entire life will reflect what's in your sincere heart"

--The Rev. Fr. Dr. Martin Luther (1483-1546)

THE PRAYERS OF INTERSESSION:

Loving God may your love be the center and the focus of our lives, fill our hearts with love.

Healing God, heal the hurts and wounds, the scars that form within and without, fill our hearts with wholeness.

Forgiving God, may we know forgiveness, and being forgiven, know release, fill our hearts with your grace. Liberating God, liberate our hearts and minds, our faith and our theology, fill our hearts with your presence. Restoring God, restore the damaged, rebuild the broken, make us whole, fill our hearts with your Son, Jesus.

Most ever gracious Lord Jesus, light of the world, walk with hope, bring strength and healing alongside and within the hearts of our near and dear ones, all those fighting Covid-19 and struggling for hope and relief, those fighting fires in the West and those recovering from the storms along the Gulf Coast and preparing for Hurricane Delta.

We lift to you our one nation under your rule and its leaders and all those seeking for your mercy and justice, give them guidance and commitment to your call and desire for all nations to be righteous, inclusive, and caring communities of your love.

We lift to you for hope and healing the friends and family of all who must place their loved ones into your eternal embrace and we offer to your care all those of whom we name in our hearts now,.....(pause).

Sweetest Jesus, with your Holy Spirit, in our going out and our coming in, during our waking and our sleeping, teach us to love through our prayers and pray with our lives. Through the merit and sake of our dear Lord Jesus we pray. Amen

Fr. Ryan +

Puppet Ministry Team News

A Word from the President

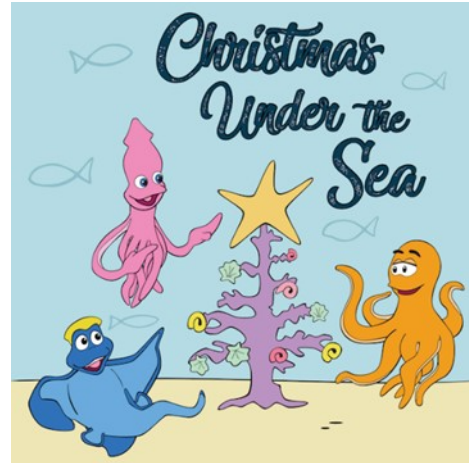
The church council met in fellowship hall on 13 Oct 2020. The council discussed routine matters and no major decisions were necessary. Given all the adjustments and decisions we have made due to the pandemic, the council has stayed focused on what we can safely do during this time. The outdoor blessing of the animals worship service was held on our front steps and lawn on 4 October and was well attended. St. Paul's was represented at the Cumberland Community CROP walk for world hunger on 11 October. Living our Faith Together (LOFT) has begun for the fall season and has begun meeting again in fellowship hall with social distancing between tables. We continue to support the community through Bountiful Blessings drive-through pickups. We served 89 families in October. We were able to begin again our APPS afterschool program by providing hot meals and packets for the students and their families through once-a-month drive-through pickups. We served 17 families in October.

We are closely watching the progress of the pandemic situation and are reducing the restrictions whenever we can safely. The last week in October we were informed that a couple in our congregation had tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. They are both now in quarantine in their home. It is also good that our preventative measures for the congregation have worked and no other cases have yet to be identified within the congregation. This reinforces that we still need to pay attention to the pandemic and wear masks and socially distance ourselves from each other.

I hope everyone was able to enjoy our nice October weather and the beautiful fall foliage. Be safe and healthy as we continue to deal with this unusual pandemic situation.

Prayers and blessings to all,

(Burt Streicher, Council President)



Planning and practices for a Christmas presentation by the puppet ministry team are beginning to take place this month.

The presentation will take place on Wednesday, December 16th at 6 pm in Fellowship Hall. The theme this year is *Christmas Under the Sea* with Icky, the squid, and Sting, the stingray. As Icky and Sting are decorating for Christmas, they find themselves explaining the real meaning of Christmas to Ollie, the octopus. Following the presentation, there will be two special blacklight Christmas songs with an appearance from our own, Hubie and Tubie!



Hubie and Tubie in
The Manger Zone!

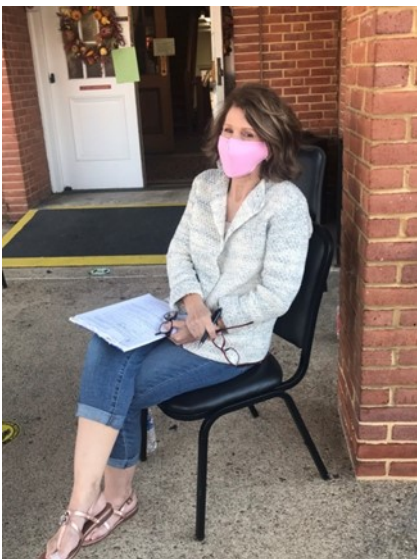
Who did that????

There are many things being done around St. Paul's that are noticed in some ways, but overlooked in others. We see that they're done, but without any fanfare or outward recognition, so it's time to correct that. Jane Roderick, we do thank and love you for all you do for us!!

On entering the ramp from the parking lot & at the front door of the church you see flower pots --- Jane does those. You come in and there's a beautifully-done seasonal bulletin board on your right and a large "newsy" one on your left. Jane does that. The hymn boards in the sanctuary, which, by the way, once hung in the Baltimore Street church, are prepared weekly with the appropriate dates and hymn numbers. Again, Jane does them. When the Shepherd's Ministry is bagging cookies and candy for our homebound, Jane is there helping.

There's a display at the parking lot entrance to the sanctuary and the narthex that are also decorated for the season. There are little Fall pumpkins on the sanctuary windowsills. Guess who?? If you see any shiny silver or sparkling crystal glassware, that too is kept beautiful by Jane Roderick. When Bountiful Blessings is active indoors, there's usually a nice snack or small meal prepared for the recipients and it's all done with the St. Paul's help of Jane Roderick. While carrying on outdoors these days, Jane is always there to help.

Jane, please know how much we appreciate all that you do and thank you so much for the many hours of service you give to St. Paul's.



THESPIRE 4



LOFT has begun meeting in Fellowship Hall following worship each Sunday. Restrictions are observed at this time with social distancing at tables and wearing masks. The Bible study is based on Taking Faith Home. Mountain Highs and Valley Lows are shared followed by scripture readings and discussions. The closing includes prayer and a blessing. All ages are welcome!



*"Not **Everything** is Cancelled"*

Sun is not cancelled
Autumn is not cancelled
Relationships are not cancelled
Love is not cancelled
Reading is not cancelled
Devotion is not cancelled
Music is not cancelled
Imagination is not cancelled
Kindness is not cancelled
Conversations are not cancelled
Hope is not cancelled
And God's love for HIS people is
never cancelled.

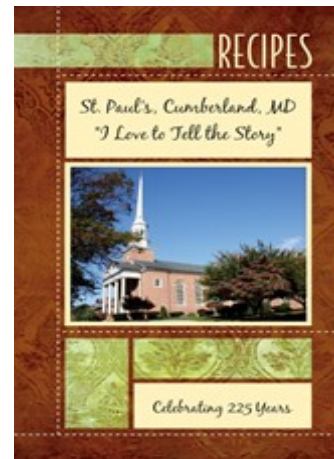


Included in this month's issue of The Spire is a bookmark "In Our Thoughts and Prayers" which lists those who have long-term prayer needs. We will update this bookmark in January if there are changes. We encourage all to let the church office know if you have additions or if changes have occurred in the need for prayer.

We will continue to pray for new and short-term needs on Sunday mornings and pray for all concerns on the first Sunday of each month.

"Prayer for others has been described as loving our neighbor on our knees."

The Worship and Music Committee



"I Love to Tell the Story, Celebrating 225 Years"

The cookbook features stories, pictures and recipes connecting the generations.

Gift ideas for former members or former Cumberland residents.

Cookbook: \$10.00 each

Mug: \$10.00 each

See familiar faces in this old Sewing Group or Sanctuary Choir picture?



APPS is Back!!

After seeing the success of Bountiful Blessings' drive-thru service, we decided to try drive-thru APPS. Our first drive-thru was October 21st and we served 17 APPS families! We handed out boxes filled with:

A wonderful, hot, home-cooked meal provided by the Kitchen Crew. Thank you to Debbie Szymanski, Cecil Bell, Rena Christopher, Linda Zeller, Ed & Nancy Ayers, Burt Streicher, and Pastor Ryan for preparing and packing a delicious spaghetti dinner with all the fixings and dessert.

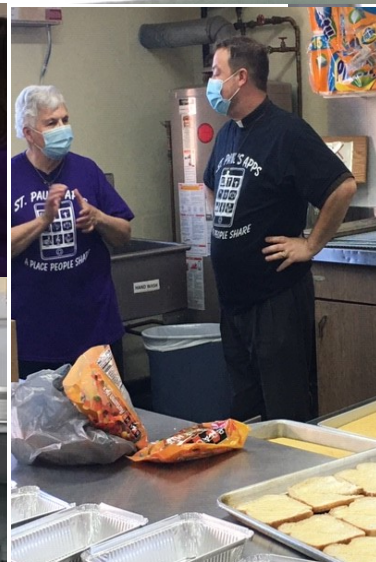
Pencil boxes full of school supplies. The boxes were decorated for each child by the middle and high school helpers. Thank you to Jordyn, Maddie and Emma for doing a wonderful job making each box special.

Pumpkins, a Bible story, and Halloween treat bags.

Papa John's provided a coupon for each family for a free pizza. Thank you to Dave and Erin Delong for providing a second meal to the APPS families.

I would also like to thank Artie from Fox's Pizza on Centre St. for providing the boxes used to pack the goodies. And finally, thank you to my awesome APPS crew: Jeanne Bowers, who did most of the organizing and legwork; Christine Miller, who made calls to families, Rebecca Funk, who came to help pack and hand out boxes; and our helpers (Jordyn, Maddie, Emma & Aniston), who helped pack and hand out boxes. Many hands make light work!

It was so wonderful to see and talk with the kids from APPS again! Most of the kids came with their parents, so we had the opportunity for a short visit. It's been a struggle for many of the families trying to balance work and homeschool their children. They were all thankful for their goody box, so we're going to continue the drive-thru APPS program. Once per month we'll be handing out boxes with dinner and other goodies. The next scheduled dates are November 18th and December 16th. Stay tuned, we may be asking for some donations. **Stephanie Wade**



Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 4th





Sunday November 1-All Saints Sunday
10:00 AM Worship
11:15 AM LOFT
Tuesday November 3-Election Day
BEGINNINGS CLOSED
10:00-12:00 Lutheran Questions,
 Lutheran Answers book study
Sunday November 8
10:00 AM Worship
11:15 AM LOFT
Monday November 9
5:30 PM Worship and Music
 Committee Meeting via Zoom
Tuesday November 10
10:00-12:00 Lutheran Questions,
 Lutheran Answers book study
5:30 PM Council Meeting
Thursday November 12
4:00-6:00 Drive-Thru
 Bountiful Blessings
Friday November 13
BEGINNINGS CLOSED-
 parent conferences
Sunday November 15
10:00 AM Worship
11:15 AM LOFT
Tuesday November 17
10:00 AM Lutheran Questions,
 Lutheran Answers book study



November Birthdays and Anniversaries

4 – Mia Jean Broadwater
 5 - Beth & Joey Szymanski -
 twin's birthday
 16 - Travis & Liz Medcalf - anniversary
 21 - Harriet & Robin Douglas -anniversary

Wednesday November 18
5:00-6:00 PM APPS drive-thru
Sunday November 22
10:00 AM Worship
11:15 AM LOFT
3:00 PM Advent Concert
 with Frostburg State
 Chamber Choir
Tuesday November 24
10:00-12:00 Lutheran Questions,
 Lutheran Answers
 book study
Wednesday November 25
BEGINNINGS
FRIENDSHIP SOUP
Thursday November 26
HAPPY THANKSGIVING
Friday November 27
BEGINNINGS AND
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
Sunday November 29
First Sunday of Advent
10:00 AM Worship
11:15 AM LOFT

*Savior of the Nations,
Come*

*An Advent Concert with the
Frostburg State University
Chamber Choir*

*Sunday, November 22nd
3:00 p.m.*

St. Paul Lutheran Church

*Masks are required.
Socially distant seating.*