

PROCLAIMING A TIMELESS CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD

SINCE 1794



THE SPIRE

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

2022 CONGREGATION OFFICERS

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Suzanne Umstott

Vice President:

Kathleen Ball

Secretary:

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Treasurer:

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November 2022

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Education

(Faith

Formation):

Debbie Streicher

Evangelism

Jane Roderick

Finance:

Suzanne Umstott

Ministry in Daily Life:

Nancy Ayers

Social Ministry (Fellowship):

Cindy Read

Worship and Music:

Kathleen Ball

Youth:

Gary Miller

THE REVEREND
RYAN K. VIANDS
Pastor

DAVID RANKIN
Director of Music

DEBBIE SZYMANSKI
Parish Administrator

STEPHANIE WADE
Treasurer

RAMON ROCHE CARDONA
Sexton

BLESSED ARE YOU

“Blessed are you... Woe to you... But I say to you...”

(St. Luke 6: 20-31). This portion of Jesus’ sermon on the plain sounds like wisdom from one who was very tuned in to how the world works. It’s a more elaborate version of the saying “What goes around comes around.” There are incredible injustices in the ways humans live together, but not on of these is constant.

Conventional wisdom says the one who is rich, full, laughing, and complimented is blessed. But none of these go on forever. Hunger, poverty, grief, hatred, and death will come, they all will come and even take turns which one will come at us next. They are leveling forces that come to good and evil alike. These inevitable and painful realities are not to be feared but to be met with active love, resistance, and hope for a new beginning and transformation.

Those who are victims now are told that they are not alone—the prophets suffered before them—but they are given the tools for resisting further abuse. By doing good, the intention is to show the abusers that they do not have the final word, leading to our ultimate transformation.

Jesus challenges his disciples to follow a new way of being in the world. Jesus asks followers to believe that God is with them in their most dire situations no matter how dark the valley may be. Jesus asks people to question their assumptions about who is blessed—perhaps it is not the one with the most, the biggest, the best of anything. But perhaps those who have very little to nothing that the world calls valuable.

Jesus speaks directly to those who are most trodden down and promises that the good news is for them. And for those who live more on the “woe” side of life right now, there is a challenge for us to love, bless, give freely, and treat others with the utmost care and respect given to any child of God. We pray in the prayer Jesus taught us, “your kingdom come.” We hope to glimpse this kingdom now—the way of life we will one day know more fully when we shall see our creator face to face. Until then, during this holy month of All Saints and All Souls, as we name those living eternally in the greater church triumphant—our blessed dead—and give God the almighty thanks for their life whom witnessed in their own lives to the one who gives life and eternal salvation, Jesus the Christ, our Redeemer, Lord, and friend. So, who are the blessed? Blessed are YOU!

In His Service,
Pax, Fr. Ryan +

From the President.....

As we head into the holiday season, we are making plans for all of the wonderful festivities that will take place here at St. Paul's. We will also be participating in some programs like Safe and Snug which benefit those less fortunate in our community by providing a new coat, hat or gloves etc. Please take this opportunity to lend a hand to those in need. Many thanks to the committee members and church staff and everyone who volunteers their time to our church and our community.

The council will meet again
on November 8th.

Blessings

Sue Umstott, Council President



The tradition of decorating the altar and chancel with poinsettias will continue this year.

Orders will be taken through Sunday, December 11th. The poinsettias will be ordered from a greenhouse in Pittsburgh and the cost for each plant is \$7.00. Please call the church office to place your order or place it in the offering plate marked "poinsettia order" and advise us how you wish to have your floral offering designated in the bulletin. Be sure to let us know if you will be picking up your plant.

Chapel and Craft Time for Children With Pastor Ryan



Chapel time for children takes
place every Sunday
following worship.

Children are invited to have a
beverage and a snack in
Fellowship Hall before heading to
the chapel for time with Pastor
Ryan and then on to the Craft
Room for follow-up activities with
Pastor Ryan and Kaitlin Diehl.

LOFT

(Living Our Faith Together)

NOVEMBER 27, 2022
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Church Year Cycle A

THEME FOR THE WEEK:
Jesus is coming to bring hope.



LOFT (Living Our Faith Together) Bible Study meets every Sunday following worship in Fellowship Hall. Consider joining us for fellowship and Bible study during the season of Advent. **The first Sunday in Advent is November 27.** Coffee and a snack will be provided each week for us to enjoy as we share highs and lows, read scripture, and engage in lively and sometimes deep conversations about how the scripture readings relate to our own lives.



What is PLACE? It is a spiritual gifts assessment that helps you to learn who you are and the gifts God has given you. This is done through learning about our personalities, abilities, and passions and how they connect in our lives. Our time together provides a wonderful opportunity to learn not only about ourselves, but get to know others as well.

Debbie Streicher will facilitate the one-day session on:
Saturday, November 12.

The day begins at 9:00am and ends at 4:30pm.

Snacks, beverages, and lunch will be provided.

Donations towards books appreciated.

Please RSVP by contacting Debbie at dstreicher52@gmail.com.

Just for Kids (of all ages!)



HA HA HA!!

Why didn't the turkey eat any food on Thanksgiving?

(Because he was already stuffed.)

What animal has the worst table manners?

(The turkey, because it gobbles everything up.)

What kind of key has legs but cannot open doors?

(A turkey!)

Let us pray -----

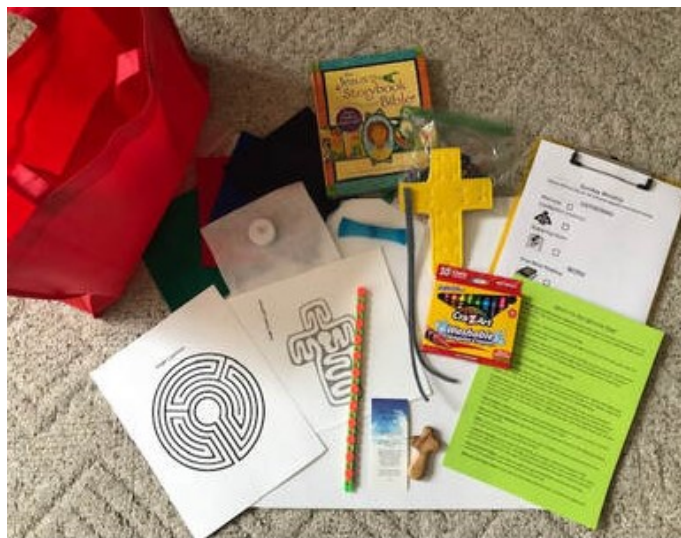
Thank you for the world so sweet,
Thank you for the food we eat,
Thank you for the birds that sing,
Thank you, God, for everything!

~ Edith Rutter Leatham (from [A Child's Book of Prayers](#) by Juli Kangas)

Children are Welcome During Worship



The Christ Cubby area is a special place for especially our youngest worshipers to feel welcome each week. It can be found in the back of the Nave (behind the pews). Both younger and older children are invited to pick up their bags for use during worship. Each bag contains resources to help the children be involved during worship. Children's bulletins are also available on top of the Cubby. Stay tuned for future additions!





Bishop William Gohl will preach
and co-preside for worship at
St. Paul Church on Sunday,
December 11th.

*Together
Let Us Pray*

Sunday Morning Worship – Prayer requests may be called into the church office, or received through pastoral visits. These requests are read, by name only, on Sunday morning during the Prayers of Intercession.

Intercessory Prayer Team – Prayer requests can be received through the church office, by email to mutmab43@gmail.com; or phone call to 240-727-1798. These requests may be more detailed, if desired, and are prayed for daily by team members who receive requests via letter or email each week. Confidentiality is assured.

Prayers of Thanksgiving – God hears our prayers, as He promised, and we honor Him by our requests and our thankfulness.

Please make your requests known to us, through either or both, and if you feel called to do so, please join our prayer team.

Kathleen Ball
Prayer Team Coordinator



Fall is in full swing!
You know what follows!
Soon it will be time for hanging of the
greens, garland and setting up Christmas
trees which is scheduled for
Friday, December 16th
at 5:00 p.m. **In order for this to be
successful we need volunteers.**

Please contact the church office
301-722-6604 or
debbie@stpaulcumberland.org
if you're able to help.



***The Holy Solemnity Mass for the
Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
December 24th
7:00 p.m.***

***Christmas Day Holy Mass for the
Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
10:00 a.m.***

The Joy Book Club

Is reading Mr. Churchill's Secretary.
A discussion will be held in December.



For fans of Jacqueline Winspear, Laurie R. King, and Anne Perry, *Mr. Churchill's Secretary* captures the drama of an era of unprecedented challenge—and the greatness that rose to meet it.

London, 1940. Winston Churchill has just been sworn in, war rages across the Channel, and the threat of a Blitz looms larger by the day. But none of this deters Maggie Hope. She graduated at the top of her college class and possesses all the skills of the finest minds in British intelligence, but her gender qualifies her only to be the newest typist at No. 10 Downing Street. Her indefatigable spirit and remarkable gifts for codebreaking, though, rival those of even the highest men in government, and Maggie finds that working for the prime minister affords her a level of clearance she could never have imagined—and opportunities she will not let pass. In troubled, deadly times, with air-raid sirens sending multitudes underground, access to the War Rooms also exposes Maggie to the machinations of a menacing faction determined to do whatever it takes to change the course of history.

Ensnared in a web of spies, murder, and intrigue, Maggie must work quickly to balance her duty to King and Country with her chances for survival. And when she unravels a mystery that points toward her own family's hidden secrets, she'll discover that her quick wits are all that stand between an assassin's murderous plan and Churchill himself.

In this daring debut, Susan Elia MacNeal blends meticulous research on the era, psychological insight into Winston Churchill, and the creation of a riveting main character, Maggie Hope, into a spectacularly crafted novel.

Holiday Grief Seminar
The Living Legacy Foundation will be sharing their "Handling the Holidays" seminar at St. Luke's Lutheran Church (1601 Frederick Street, Cumberland, MD 21502) on Thursday, November 17 at 6 p.m. Helpful tips for navigating the holiday season while grieving the loss of a loved one are provided. Family and friends are welcome.

Please RSVP to Wendy Upchurch at 301-697-5444.



Ecumenical Community
Thanksgiving Vespers at
Emmanuel Parish
Tuesday, November 22nd
6:00 p.m.

Thanksgiving Eve Eucharist at
St. Paul Church
in the lower level chapel
Wednesday, November 23rd
6:00 p.m.

November



Wednesday	November 2
5:20 PM	Bell rehearsal
6:00 PM	Vespers
6:30 PM	Choir rehearsal
Saturday	November 5
10:00 AM	Orthodox church- in chapel
Sunday	November 6- All Saints Sunday
8:30 AM	Book Study
10:00 AM	Worship
11:30 AM	LOFT and Chapel Time
Tuesday	November 8
	School Closed-Election Day
5:30 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday	November 9
5:20 PM	Bell rehearsal
6:00 PM	Vespers
6:30 PM	Choir rehearsal
Thursday	November 10
4:00-6:00	Bountiful Blessings
Saturday	November 12
9:00-4:30	Spiritual Gifts Assessment
Sunday	November 13
	Baptism
8:30 AM	Book Study
10:00 AM	Worship
11:30 AM	LOFT and Chapel Time
Wednesday	November 16
5:20 PM	Bell rehearsal
6:00 PM	Vespers
6:30 PM	Choir rehearsal

Sunday	November 20
8:30 AM	Book Study
10:00 AM	Worship
11:30 AM	LOFT and Chapel Time
Monday	November 21
	Bountiful Blessings Delivery
Tuesday	November 22
6:00 PM	Community Thanksgiving at Emmanuel Parish
Wednesday	November 23
	School Friendship Soup
	Dismiss at Noon
6:00 PM	Thanksgiving Eve Eucharist
Thursday	November 24
	Happy Thanksgiving
Friday	November 25
	School and Office closed
Sunday	November 27
8:30 AM	Book Study
10:00 AM	Worship
11:30 AM	LOFT and Chapel Time
Monday	November 28
	School Closed
Wednesday	November 30
5:20 PM	Bell rehearsal
6:00 PM	Vespers
6:30 PM	Choir rehearsal

Celebrations for the month!

4 – Mia Jean Broadwater
 5 - Beth & Joey Szymanski
 twin's birthday
 16 - Travis & Liz Medcalf
 Anniversary

A Prayer for those Growing Older

Lord, You know that I am growing older.
Keep me from becoming talkative and possessed
with the idea that I must express myself
on every subject.
Release me from the craving to straighten out
everyone's affairs.
Keep me from the recital of endless detail.
Give me wings to get to the point.
Seal my lips when I am inclined to tell of my
aches and pains. They are increasing with
the years and my love to speak of them
grows sweeter as time goes by.
Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally
I may be wrong.
Make me thoughtful but not nosey;
helpful but not bossy.
With my vast store of wisdom and experience it
does seem a pity not to use it all. But You know,
Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Autumn's Beauty

The leaf colors of reds, oranges and yellows delight us in the Fall. This beauty, soon turns to falling leaves as they and die leave the tree. There is beauty, even in letting things go.

A quote from G. K. Chesterton:

“I don’t have God’s capacity to delight again and again at each new leaf. He keeps unfurling them—they even wave to get my attention! — but the eyes of my soul glaze over. But in autumn, the creativity of God screams at us. Look at these things. Autumn reminds us that there’s a world of wonder, our souls awaken.”

Just as the seasons of the year change, so do the seasons of our lives.

We notice it first perhaps in our parents, their leaf color turns silver, their steps may be slower, but if we really spend time with them, we notice there is a wisdom and grace and decades of memories they can share with us.

Then, one day we look into a mirror and see our parents. There is more silver than reds and browns, our steps are slower, we are more forgetful, our memories not quite as sharp, unless you want to talk about 30 or 40 years ago! And, we tell the same stories over and over and over, as our parents did. From our spring summer, we have taken on the beauty of autumn.

We read in I Chronicles 29:15

“We are here for only a moment. We are visitors and strangers in the land as our ancestors before us. Our days on earth are like a passing shadow, gone so soon without a trace.”

This is not a time for sadness. We prepare during our “moment” by spending time in the presence of God in daily prayer, Bible study, weekly church worship with our community of faith. And, when the time comes, we can fall into the arms of our Savior for life more beautiful than any season.

