

PROCLAIMING A TIMELESS CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD

SINCE 1794



THE SPIRE

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

2023 CONGREGATION OFFICERS

President:

Suzanne Umstott

Vice President:

Debbie Streicher

Secretary:

Debbie Szymanski

Treasurer:

Casey Colledge

15 N. Smallwood Street

Cumberland, MD 21502

(301) 722-6604

www.stpaulcumberland.org

Email: debbie@stpaulcumberland.org

November 2023

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Education

(Faith

Formation):

Debbie Streicher

Evangelism

Jane Roderick

Finance:

Casey Colledge

Ministry in Daily Life:

Nancy Ayers

Property:

Todd Umstott

Social Ministry (Fellowship):

Cindy Read

Worship and Music:

Liz Medcalf

Youth:

Gary Miller



The stench was enough to knock them over: Lazarus had been dead for four days. At the very mouth of the tomb, amid suffocating proof that all hope was gone, Jesus insisted otherwise. “Lazarus, come out!” he cried, in a voice of great power. And when the dead man emerged: “Unbind him, and let him go.” The story begins in choking sorrow and ends in joyful liberation.

Christian faith in the communion of saints, our hope of resurrection into glory, is large enough to admit and feel all the pain and reality of death and the stench of death. Even while proclaiming God’s imminent triumph, Jesus, greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved at the death of his dear friend, begins to weep and cry. And it is in response to Martha’s earthy protest, “Lord, already there is a stench,” that he asks, “Did I not tell you that if you just believed, you would see the glory of God?”

This coming Sunday (Nov. 5th Actual Feast Day, Nov. 1st) is the Feast of All Saints. On this festival Sunday we remember and give thanks to Almighty God, creator of all life, for the lives of those who have gone before us in the faith and are now at rest in the arms of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Our celebration may well evoke tears as we feel the loss of those especially closest to us. Or, it may even have us smiling or chuckling at their memory. Either way, we need not suppress our tears, or even our chuckles, for they show how greatly we have loved them and them us.

THE REVEREND
RYAN K. VIANDS
Pastor

DAVID RANKIN
Director of Music

DEBBIE SZYMANSKI
Parish Administrator

CASEY COLLEDGE
Treasurer

RAMON ROCHE CARDONA
Sexton

Continued from page 1

We must remember, that Lazarus was set free from his burial cloths as a sign of God's promise to destroy the shroud of death that traps all peoples and creation. The empty tomb and abandoned grave clothes witness to God's fulfillment of this promise in the resurrected Jesus. Washed in this promise through the waters of baptism, we are reborn to an Easter life and wrapped in the swaddling clothes of the body of Christ. During this octave of All Saints we rejoice in the foretaste of the feast to come as we are nourished by stories and promises of resurrection, and fed from the altar of the Lord, Jesus in Holy Communion with Mary, Martha, Lazarus, Fr. Ryan, Debbie Szymanski, David Rankin, David Christopher, Larry Goldizen, Faith Bible, Dellann Fultz, Doris Giornesto, John Hixon, Cecil Bell, Mack Beal, Dot Rhoads, Earl Robinette, Ed Ayers, Travis Medcalf and ALL of God's beloved children who are the saints of the church.

⁸ *"For if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord.*

*So, whether we live or die,
we belong to the Lord."*

The Epistle of Saint Paul to the Romans 14: 8.



**You are invited to bring a framed
photo or memento of loved ones
for our
All Saints remembrance table on
Sunday, November 5th.**

From the president.....

As we head into the season of Thanksgiving and the holidays, 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 14th.

Blessings

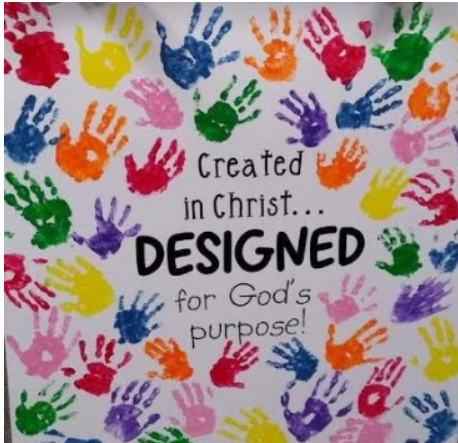
Sue Umstott, Council President



Ecumenical Community
Thanksgiving Vespers at
Emmanuel Parish
Sunday, November 19th
6:00 p.m.

Thanksgiving Eve Eucharist at
St. Paul Church
in the lower level chapel
Wednesday, November 22nd
6:00 p.m.

LOFT for Youth (Living Our Faith Together)



November 19th is Harvest Sunday.

Please bring non-perishable food items to church now through November 19th. We will bless our offering on Harvest Sunday, November 19th for distribution to the disadvantaged in our community through the Interfaith Food Pantry.

Particular needs are: Canned chicken, canned tuna, pancake mix and syrup and canned Chef Boyardee pastas.

A Noisy Offering will also be taken to benefit the pantry.



Beginning on November 5th, children, youth, and families participating in LOFT, Living Our Faith Together, are encouraged to join the congregation for food and fellowship every first Sunday of the month. All other Sundays, children and youth will meet at 11:30am in the LOFT room for youth after grabbing a snack in fellowship hall. This group is led and facilitated by Kaitlin Diehl and Pastor Ryan.

On November 5th, all ages in the congregation are invited and encouraged to stop off in Fellowship Hall following worship to add their handprint to a wall hanging that will be displayed in the LOFT for children and youth room as a reminder that we are all part of the body of Christ.

St. Paul Church is one of the sites, along with Social Services, the community may visit for a referral card to the Interfaith Food Pantry. The church office sees firsthand and on a daily basis the need for supplemental food assistance by many in our community.

Please consider purchasing a few extra grocery items for donation on Harvest Sunday as we share our blessings with our neighbors.

Thank you, Debbie Szymanski


Faith Formation Team


The next meeting for the Faith Formation Team will be on Monday, November 13th at 5:30pm. The team plans and facilitates LOFT (for adults and youth), Christ Cubby resources, seasonal faith formation resources for households, and Vacation Bible school. If you are interested in joining us or have questions, please contact Debbie Streicher (dstreicher52@gmail.com or 703-303-7255).

LOFT for Adults (Living Our Faith Together)

DECEMBER 3, 2023
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Church Year Cycle B

THEME FOR THE WEEK:
Advent is a season of hope.

WEEKLY MILESTONES: 
Take a moment to have each person share a recent mountain high and/or valley low in their lives.

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK: 
Restore us. O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
Psalm 80:19 (NRSV)

taking faith home
TFH BIBLE STUDY

Beginning in November, those participating in LOFT, Living Our Faith Together, Bible study for adults are encouraged to join the congregation for food and fellowship every first Sunday of the month. All other Sundays, this group will meet at 11:30am in Fellowship Hall for Bible study. For November and December:

- November 5 – Food and Fellowship
- November 12, 19, and 26 – Taking Faith Home Bible Study
- December 3, First Sunday of Advent – Food and Fellowship
- December 10 and 17 – Taking Faith Home Bible Study
- December 24 – No LOFT



Bishop William Gohl
will preach and
co-preside for worship at
St. Paul Church on Sunday,
December 3rd.

Sponsoring Special Music at St. Paul's

Over the years, special music at St. Paul's has enhanced worship in many ways. Groups like St. Paul's Brass and individual artists have become a tradition in our services.

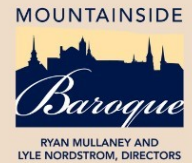
In the interest of being fiscally responsible, however, we have determined that our budget only supports a couple of programs. Last year, those were the Frostburg State University Chamber Choir presenting a Bach cantata at the first Sunday in Advent vespers and St. Paul's Brass during the Easter season.

There is the opportunity, however, for individuals to sponsor additional music financially. Individuals or groups can make a designated gift to bring in additional artists to be part of our worship. Speak to Director of Music David Rankin or Pastor Ryan for more information.



Echoes of the Oratory:

A Gregorian Chant-Along



ANNOUNCING OUR FIRST INTERACTIVE EVENT!

We are thrilled to host Echoes of the Oratory: A Gregorian Chant-a-Long, on Saturday, November 11, beginning at 3 pm, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 15 N. Smallwood St., in Cumberland.

Mountainside Baroque offers this first interactive experience designed to offer opportunities for local folks to experience new skills in a friendly setting. Participants will learn to read original chant notation, learn a little history, and, best of all, actually practice chanting with the help of MBQ board member Bishop Matthew Riegel.

No prior experience necessary. Novices and veteran chanters both welcome. There is no charge, though a donation basket will be available for those so moved.

We kick things off at 3:00 p.m. and will quit the educational segment by 4:15 p.m. There will be a short break around 3:40 p.m.

We reconvene at 4:30 p.m. for a short demonstration (approx. 20-30 minutes) for the general public (i.e., anyone who didn't join us for the educational segment but who would like to hear what we have accomplished).

Light refreshments will be available. Plan to come be a part of this fun activity!



Hello from Dot Rhoads!



**Spaghetti Luncheon and
Dessert Auction
following worship
Sunday, November 5th.**

**There is no cost. Donations to capital
improvement projects are appreciated.**

Please sign up on the bulletin board if you're
able to donate food or dessert auction items for
the luncheon.

If you have questions please contact
Christine Miller at 301-724-3569



A Faithful Prayer Life

As followers of Jesus, we have a good example of the importance of being faithful to prayer. Jesus prayed often, giving us a model for prayer that we pray by memory, and prayed in specific circumstances: at his baptism, choosing the twelve, in the Garden of Gethsemane and while on the cross, as well as many other times.

The question may be asked of us, are we as faithful in giving time to prayer as we are to finding time for entertainment, traveling, dining out, going to sporting events? All those are very good ways to spend time, but what about prayer time?

Author F. B. Meyer, says: "The great tragedy of life is not unanswered prayer, but un-offered prayer."

Do we only associate prayer with crises in our lives?

Prayer is one of the major fundamental foundations of our Christian faith. Is there a better time than now to develop a viable, faithful pattern of prayer personally, as well as for our church and our hurting world?

Let us pray as a unified body of believers in Christ, to come before the Triune God to take advantage of an opportunity in the New Year to gather together to explore our own patterns of prayer and seek new ways to develop a closer relationship to our Creator and Redeemer through persistent and faithful communication.

More to come in the December Spire.



Blessing of the Animals
October 15th, 2023

Coloring page for kids of all ages!

“Give
thanks to
the Lord



for he is
good.”



**Psalm
136:1 KJV**

www.CreativePreschoolPrintables.com

Images © 2014 by Kristin Wallden



Wednesday

3:30 PM
5:15 PM
6:00 PM
6:30 PM

Thursday

6:15 PM

Sunday

8:30 AM
10:00 AM
11:30 AM

2:30 PM

Monday

6:30 PM

Wednesday

3:30 PM
5:15 PM
6:00 PM
6:30 PM

Thursday

4:00-6:00

Saturday

10:00 AM
2:00-6:00

Sunday

8:30 AM
10:00 AM
11:30 AM

Monday

5:30 PM

Tuesday

3:30 PM
5:30 PM

November 1

APPS Afterschool program
Hand Bell rehearsal
Vespers in the chapel
Choir rehearsal

November 2

Worship & Music
Committee Meeting

November 5

Book Study
Worship
Spaghetti Luncheon and
Dessert Auction
Beginnings Board Meeting

November 6

Let's Beautify Cumberland
meeting

November 8

APPS Afterschool program
Hand Bell rehearsal
Vespers in the chapel
Choir rehearsal

November 9

Bountiful Blessings

November 11

Dementia support group
Mountainside Baroque
-Echoes of the Oratory

November 12

Book Study
Worship
LOFT

November 13

Faith Formation Meeting

November 14

Bountiful Blessings Meeting
Council Meeting

Wednesday

3:30 PM
5:15 PM
6:00 PM
6:30 PM

Sunday

8:30 AM
10:00 AM
11:30 AM
6:00 PM

Wednesday

**Beginnings Friendship soup
Noon dismissal**

6:00 PM

Saturday

10:00 AM

Sunday

8:30 AM
10:00 AM
11:30 AM

Wednesday

3:30 PM APPS Afterschool program
5:15 PM Hand Bell rehearsal
6:00 PM Vespers in the chapel
6:30 PM Choir rehearsal

November 15

APPS-Thanksgiving
Hand Bell rehearsal
Vespers in the chapel
Choir rehearsal

November 19

Book Study
Worship
LOFT
Ecumenical Thanksgiving
Liturgy at Emmanuel

November 22

Thanksgiving Worship

November 25

Dementia support group

November 26

Book Study
Worship
LOFT

November 29



NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS

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