

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

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November 2021

Pastor's Ponderings

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

"THE PROMISE THROUGH TEARS"

THE FEASTS OF ALL SAINTS & ALL SOULS.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR WE WILL BE OBSERVING, CELEBRATING AND REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE DIED. SOME MAY HAVE LIVED LONG AND JOYFUL LIVES AND DIED IN PEACE KNOWING THAT THEY WERE READY TO MEET OUR GOD AND FATHER. OTHERS MAY HAVE DIED TOO YOUNG FROM AN ACT OF VIOLENCE OR TRAGIC ILLNESS; THEIR DEATH HAS LEFT THEIR LOVED ONES WITH UNRESOLVED ANGER AND OVERWHELMING SORROW. SOME PEOPLE MAY FEEL ABANDONED BY GOD IN THE MIDST OF THE DYING PROCESS AND AT DEATH, WHILE OTHERS WILL FEEL THE SUSTAINING PRESENCE OF GOD IN THEIR MOURNING.

MARY EXPERIENCED FEELINGS OF ABANDONMENT WHEN HER DEAR BROTHER LAZARUS DIED. SHE ACCUSED JESUS OF ALLOWING HER BROTHER TO DIE WHEN HE COULD HAVE CHOSEN TO SAVE HIM. MARTHA, MARY'S SISTER, ALSO BELIEVED THAT IT WAS TOO LATE FOR HER BROTHER. NEITHER WOMAN KNEW WHAT JESUS WOULD DO NEXT. AND IT WAS TRULY AMAZING.

BEFORE RAISING LAZARUS FROM THE COLD, DARK, DAMP TOMB WHERE HIS LIFELESS BODY HAD BEEN LAID, JESUS PAUSED TO WEEP WITH LAZARUS' SISTERS MARY AND MARTHA AND THE OTHERS WHO WERE WITH THEM. THESE TEARS MAY SEEM STRANGE TO THOSE WHO KNOW HOW THIS STORY ENDS. WHY WOULD OUR LORD BEGIN TO WEEP IF HE KNOW THAT IN A FEW MINUTES HE WOULD BE RAISING HIS DEAR FRIEND LAZARUS FROM THE DARKNESS AND STENCH OF DEATH AND RESTORE HIM TO HIS FAMILY AND COMMUNITY?

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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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JESUS' WEeping TELLS US SOMETHING ALMOST AS IMPORTANT AS THE RAISING OF LAZARUS ITSELF. IT REVEALS TO US A LOVING AND GRACIOUS GOD WHO SUFFERS WITH US IN THE MIDST OF OUR SADNESS AND GRIEF. IN JESUS, WE LEARN THAT GOD IS IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE WORLD WHENEVER ANGUISH AND PAIN EXISTS. OUR FATHER'S HEART IN HEAVEN BREAKS OPEN WHEN OUR HEARTS WHEN HIS CHILDREN ARE HURTING AND IN SORROW AND PAIN. GOD WEEPS AT THE INJUSTICE OF AN EARLY DEATH OR THE LONELINESS OF AN AGED PARTNER WHO OUTLIVES HER LIFE-LONG COMPANION.

EVEN THOUGH GOD GRANTS US HEALING AND HOPE FOR THIS LIFE, GOD EXPERIENCES OUR SORROW WITH US AS AN ACT OF UNCONDITIONAL AND MERCIFUL LOVE. IN THE SACRAMENTAL WATERS OF HOLY BAPTISM WE RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE; IN THE WATERS OF JESUS'S VERY OWN TEARS WE RECEIVE THE EVERLASTING PROMISE OF GOD'S SOLIDARITY WITH US IN ALL OF OUR TRIALS, SUFFERINGS, PAINS AND FINALLY OUR DEATHS TO WHICH WE ARE THEN BORN INTO ETERNAL LIFE EVERLASTING.

THANKS BE TO OUR GOD!

PAX, FR. RYAN +

First Sunday of Advent
November 28th
5:00 p.m.



Please join us for Advent Vespers including scripture readings, prayers and a homily. Students from Frostburg State University, under the direction of Dr. Scott Rieker, will perform Bach's first cantata for Advent.

From the Council President..

October was Clergy appreciation month. The celebration was established in 1992 with a mission of uplifting and encouraging pastors, missionaries and religious workers.

Pastors are there during the most stressful and difficult times of our lives. When someone is sick or has died, during divorce, or when life requires difficult choices, a minister is often the first person called. Pastors hold this role 365 days a year, and this is not a 9 to 5 job.

On Sunday, October 24th we honored Father Ryan and took this opportunity to thank him for all of his hard work and dedication to his church family here at St Paul. We feel very blessed to have him with us.

Blessings,
Sue Umstott, Council President



Celebrate!!!

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



A hand bell performance and choir are being planned for Christmas Eve.

- All singers must be fully vaccinated.
- Participants will be masked and socially distanced.
- Rehearsal space will be well ventilated.

If you'd like to participate, please sign up on the sheet located on the hand bell tables in the rear of the nave.



The tradition of decorating the altar and chancel with poinsettias will continue this year. Orders will be taken through Sunday, December 12th. The poinsettias will be ordered from a greenhouse in Pittsburgh and the cost for each plant is \$6.00. 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.

The Luther League Puppet Ministry Team



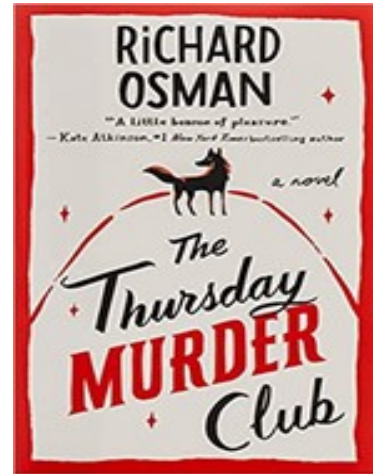
Stay tuned! The team will be back in action for a Christmas presentation taking place on December 15th at 5:30pm.

Thank You

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers during Mark's COVID illness and for your concern following his death. We appreciate the family at St. Paul.

The Seib Family
Stephanie, Michele,
Melissa and Vincent

The Joy Book Club



Our next read is *The Thursday Murder Club* by Robert Osman. In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet weekly in the Jigsaw Room to discuss unsolved crimes. When a local developer is found dead with a mysterious photograph left next to the body, the Thursday Murder Club suddenly find themselves in the middle of their first live case. All are welcome. Please join us.

LOFT

(Living Our Faith Together)

NOVEMBER 28, 2021
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Church Year Cycle C

THEME FOR THE WEEK:
Abound in love for one another.



**Curious about our LOFT time following worship each Sunday?
Consider joining us during the four weeks of Advent.
The first Sunday in Advent is November 28th.**

We gather each week in Fellowship Hall following worship every Sunday. To observe CDC guidelines at this time, we ask that masks be worn. Our studies are based on the Taking Faith Home bulletin insert we receive each week as our guide for faith-filled conversations. Come and join us as we spend time together sharing our highs and lows, reading and talking about scripture, and closing with a prayer and a blessing. Bibles are provided and we encourage you to bring a favorite study Bible if you have one.

Advent Resources for the Home



During early November, the faith formation team is making plans to provide Advent resources to use in your home. The following will be available for each household:

Advent Candles: Last year many received a brass Advent wreath frame. If you did not receive one, there will be some available.

Devotion booklets and Advent Calendars

A Christmas Tree Blessing (with an ornament)

Taking Faith Home for the four weeks of Advent

Resources for the home can be picked up on the first Sunday of Advent, November 28th, following worship.

Faith Formation for Families with Children During Worship, Chapel and Craft Time, and the Home



Christ Cubby, our center for worship resources for children and families is located in the rear of the nave. Worship bags for our children are full of resources to help them be engaged during our worship time. Chapel and Craft Time takes place following worship each Sunday with Pastor Ryan and Kaitlin Diehl. Time is divided between the Chapel, on the lower level, and the Faith Formation Room, also on the lower level. Parents are welcome to join their children during Chapel Time or join the LOFT Bible study taking place in Fellowship Hall.

Advent resource bags filled with an Advent wreath (cardboard), a calendar, and a few more surprises will be available for pick up following worship on the first Sunday of Advent, November 28th.

Advent will be a special time for children and families!

If you have questions, please contact Debbie Streicher.
(dstreicher52@gmail.com or 703-303-7255)



“As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands — one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.”

— Audrey Hepburn

Please consider sharing your talents and abilities with the church and outreach programs ----- Bountiful Blessings, APPS, VBS, donations to various local social service organizations, caring for and visiting our homebound, etc.

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”

1 Peter 4:10

As is said, “many hands make light work”. Please think about offering your help.

Let Us Pray With You

Sunday Morning Prayers

Prayer requests called into the church office or received through pastoral visits.

Prayed for during
Sunday morning worship.

Intercessory Prayer Team Prayers

Prayers requests received through church office, or by email to mutmab43@gmail.com; or 240-727-1798.

Prayed for daily by team members who receive requests via letter or email.

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

Kathleen Ball
Prayer Team Coordinator



As We Age

“As we age”, three words that I hear often at this point in my life.

Spoken usually during doctor visits!
I am fortunate, my discomfort and limitations are manageable.

Reflections: over 70 but not yet 100!!

At this age, inside I’m still the little girl raised in Cherrydale, VA;
Those years are sweet memories.

At this age, I can remember long ago events, better than yesterday’s;
I’m learning to appreciate this time of my life.

At this age, I question my usefulness.
Apparently, there are still things that I need to do or discover.

At this age, obituaries are the first thing I look at in the newspaper.
I am grateful – I’m still here!

At this age, days of constant activity are gone.
Time! to quiet my mind, meditate on God’s Word, and listen for His voice.

As a Christian, this aging process is a sign of one of God’s blessings to me, a blessing many are not privileged to know having died before reaching age 70. Growing old, gracefully or not, has its challenges, but the Kingdom of God is closer, and is not an end, but a wonderful new beginning. “But as it is written: Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” I Corinthians 2:9

As I contemplate on these things, at my age, this day, I can say, “it is well with my soul.”

Kathleen Ball

Tuesday

4:30 PM

5:30 PM

Thursday

5:30 PM

Sunday

8:30 AM

10:00 AM

11:15 AM

Tuesday

5:30 PM

Thursday

4:00-5:00

Friday

Sunday

8:30 AM

10:00 AM

11:15 AM

Wednesday

3:30-4:30

Sunday

8:30 AM

10:00 AM

11:15 AM

Wednesday

7:00 PM

Eve Vespers at Emmanuel Episcopal
Thursday and Friday November 25 and 26
Church Office and Beginnings Closed
Sunday

8:30 AM

10:00 AM

11:15 AM

5:00 PM

Monday

November 2

Faith Formation Meeting

Joy Book Club

November 4

Worship and Music

Committee Meeting

November 7

All Saints Sunday

Nouwen Book Study

Worship

LOFT and Children’s Chapel

November 9

Church Council meeting

November 11

Bountiful Blessings

**Beginnings Closed-
Staff Development**

November 14

Nouwen book study

Worship

LOFT and Children’s Chapel

November 17

APPS drive-thru

November 21

Nouwen Book Study

Worship

LOFT and Children’s Chapel

November 24

Beginnings 1/2 Day

Ecumenical Thanksgiving

Eve Vespers at Emmanuel Episcopal

Holy Baptism

First Sunday of Advent

Nouwen Book Study

Worship

LOFT and Children’s Chapel

Advent Vespers

November 29

Beginnings Closed