

**2025
Congregation Officers**

President-
Suzanne Umstott
Vice President-
Casey Colledge
Secretary-
Debbie Szymanski
Treasurer-
Stephanie Wade

2025 Congregation
Council Members

Education (Faith
Formation)-
Charity Friend
Evangelism-
Linda Zeller
Finance-
Brenda Aydelotte
Ministry in Daily Life-
Nancy Ayers
Personnel-
Brenda Aydelotte, Casey
Colledge, Sue Umstott
Property-
Todd Umstott
Social Ministry-
Marsha Tarte
Stewardship-
Casey Colledge
Worship & Music-
Liz Medcalf

St. Paul Church Staff

Pastor
The Reverend Ryan K.
Viands
Director of Music
David Rankin
Parish Administrator
Debbie Szymanski
Sexton
Cody Morris
Treasurer
Stephanie Wade

PROCLAIMING A TIMELESS CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD SINCE 1794



THE SPIRE

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

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November 2025

Pastor's Ponderings

What Kind of King Is This?

"My Kingdom Is Not From This World."



On Sunday November 23rd, we as a parish church will be celebrating the Kingship of Christ, Jesus our Lord. And we will also be celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Hannah, daughter of Peter and Wanlin. However, as we think towards the end of this month of November, past the events and celebration of Thanksgiving Day, and before the somber season of Advent, we do well to take a moment (more than just a Sunday alone) to recognize Jesus as our King.

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

Most people living in North America today are not too familiar with what it means to live under a monarchy. Rather, we are used to the freedom and equality granted to us by a democratic government. If Jesus were to come back today, he might say “My democratic nation is not of this world.” Even if democracy is preferable to monarchy, it still does not mean that earthly governments would like Jesus if he were alive today. Those who rule the world would probably still feel threatened by the powerful way in which Jesus spoke truth to people in power.

In Jesus we experience a ruler who utilized an entirely nonviolent kind of power, instead of relying upon the powers of the state, including law enforcement, weapons, or military might, Jesus taught and exemplified a power that moved people through love rather than coercion or violence. Jesus did not want to take over the power of the state his mission was to teach people how to love each other and create just and compassionate relationships in their communities.

Standing before Pilate, in the presence of political and military-earthly-power, Jesus proclaims that his kingdom is not from this world. These words are a welcome corrective to rulers around the globe who claim they are acting on behalf of God to create divinely approved earthly kingdoms.

To rule over people’s hearts, Jesus does not need to be a commander-in-chief or an earthly king. Instead, the power in his realm is characterized by acts of love done by his followers in his name. Citizenship in this blessed realm does not depend upon the nation in which one lives; it is granted as a free gift to all people by the grace of God. This IS our real king! For the king of our lives and livelihood is and will always be, King Jesus! The Lord of Lords! And the King of Kings! The Prince of Peace! Thanks be to God! Happy Christ the King Sunday to you all!

I would like to warmly thank everyone who attended my Pastor’s Appreciation luncheon on Sunday, October 5th and for the many generous gifts you gave me in appreciation. Each and every gift will be used to further my ministry among you with a heart full of thanksgiving. I thank God every morning that He has called me to shepherd among you and continues to gift me with your presence and faith. Please know that I pray for each and every one of you every morning during my devotional time. May Jesus our Lord, continue to bless us all as we continue the ministry He has set before us.

Love and blessings always, Fr. Ryan +



On October 5th, as part of clergy appreciation month, we honored Father Ryan and our 2 Liturgical deacons, Casey Colledge and Timothy Friend. Their ministry to our church family at St Paul's is invaluable.

On October 25th, we had a one-day council retreat. Our guest speaker was Gilson Waldkoenig, PhD. Gil spoke about stewardship of the land and offered several resources such as Interfaith Power and Light and Green Faith. Council will be reaching out to these organizations to get additional information on how we might improve our impact on the earth and our natural resources.

We celebrated Reformation Sunday on October 26th at St. John's Lutheran Church in Cumberland. The service was a combined effort of all local Lutheran churches. Rev. Phillip Huber, Chair, Maryland VOAD was the guest speaker. Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) leads the VOAD movement, as a convener, thought leader, and advocate for a diverse group of organizations dedicated to serving communities throughout the disaster cycle. All offerings collected during this service will be sent to VOAD.

Council will meet again on Tuesday, November 11th at 5:30 PM.

Blessings.

Sue Umstott, Council President

*Pastor Appreciation
Sunday, October 5th*





Please bring a pie and join us on Thanksgiving Eve for fellowship. We'll enjoy social time and pie beginning at 5:00 p.m. in the lower level library prior to Thanksgiving Eve Eucharist at 6:00 p.m.



Please join us on Tuesday, December 16th for a pizza dinner and Christmas Caroling. We will meet in fellowship hall at 5:30 p.m.

All ages are welcome!

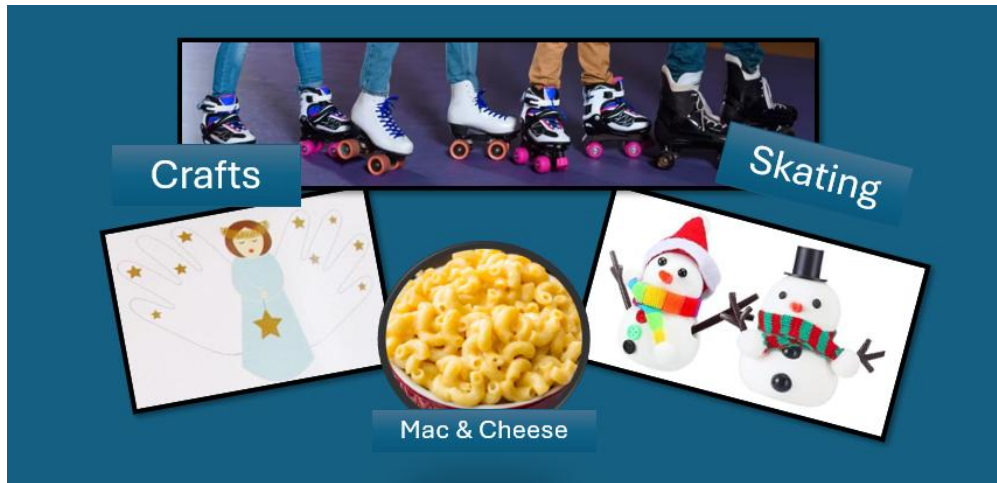


A paint and sip event with Beth Hilliker will be held on Friday, November 14th beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the upper level coffee house at St. Paul's. The cost is \$35.00 which includes paint supplies and instruction for creating the scene shown. No skill is needed to participate. Please sign up on the bulletin board by Sunday, November 2nd. BYOB and a small snack to share.

Blessing of the Animals



Family Gathering and Fun Time!
Sunday, December 14 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm



Join us for a fun time with family, friends, and neighbors!

Meet us on Sunday, December 14 beginning at 5:00pm at the Moon Glo Roller Skating Rink (12700 Bedford Rd NE). We will skate, make angel and snowmen crafts, and enjoy a dinner of Mac and Cheese, Veggies, and Christmas Cookies.

Our family's calendars and lives are filled with so many activities, especially at this time of year. Set aside a time to enjoy one another's company, not have to worry about making a meal, and for families to just have fun together! There is no cost to families for this event. A grant was provided under the umbrella of the GenOn Christian Parenting Project. The project seeks to build relationships between family members and between families and churches so that all people feel loved, cared for, and have a sense of belonging. Each family will receive a bag to take home with activities to encourage faith talk during the Christmas season.

RSVP needed.

**Please sign up on the bulletin board, text, or email Debbie Streicher.
(703-303-7255 or dstreicher52@gmail.com)**

FAITH *family* & Fun

The children of St. Paul Lutheran and their parents and grandparents are invited to join us on the third Tuesday of each month. We start with a family dinner, move to family worship in the small chapel, then back upstairs for a craft activity. We start at 6:00 p.m. and are usually finished in an hour and a half. Our next event is on November 18th. Please sign up on the bulletin board.



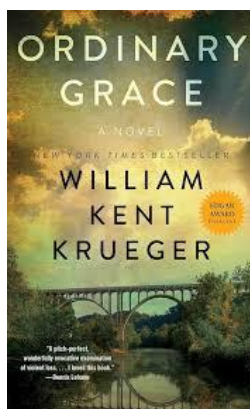
As you might have noticed Casey has been recording the sermon messages each Sunday. She has been loading them to a Google Drive so folks who aren't able to be in church can still hear the message from that week. If you would like to have access to the recordings, please reach out to Casey with your Gmail email address and she can give you access to the Google drive where they will be stored. If that option does not work, please reach out to Casey to discuss the best way to receive the recording that is right for you. You can reach her on her cell 814-977-8220 or via email ccolledge750@gmail.com.



Celebrate!

November 4—Mia Jean Broadwater's birthday
November 16—Travis and Liz Medcalf's anniversary

Joy Book Club



Our newest selection is [Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger.](#)

New Bremen, Minnesota, 1961. The Twins were playing their debut season, ice-cold root beers were selling out at the soda counter of Halderson's Drugstore, and *Hot Stuff* comic books were a mainstay on every barbershop magazine rack.

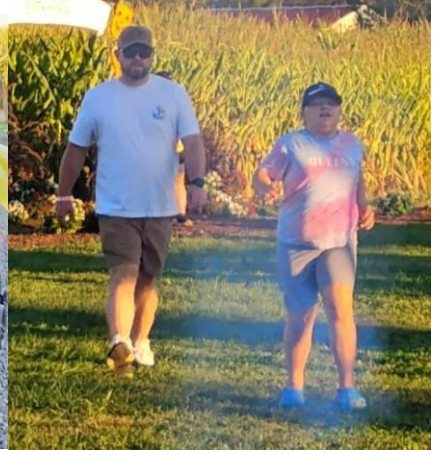
It was a time of innocence and hope for a country with a new, young president. But for thirteen-year-old Frank Drum it was a grim summer in which death visited frequently and assumed many forms.

Accident. Nature. Suicide. Murder.

We will meet for discussion on Tuesday, November 26th at 6:00 p.m. in fellowship hall.

Brookdale Farm Intergenerational Activity

October 4th





Discover God's Plan for You

PLACE assessment helps you learn about the gifts God has given you. The assessment takes place over a period of two days. The process includes discovering personality, spiritual gifts, abilities, passions, and how life experiences reveal where God may be calling you while connecting your passions and abilities to daily life.

Dates: **Friday, March 6** – Dinner at 5:30pm followed by Part 1 ending before 9:00pm
Saturday, March 7 – Begin Part 2 at 9:30am to 1:30pm (includes a light lunch)

Location: St. Paul Lutheran Church

Cost: \$10.00 for the workbook. Donations towards meals are appreciated.

Sign up on the bulletin board.

Questions? Contact Debbie Streicher (dstreicher52@gmail.com or 703-303-7255)



Thank you

I wanted to express my deepest gratitude for the generous gift cards you presented to me during the Pastor's Appreciation Luncheon. It is truly a humble honor to serve alongside Tim and Fr. Ryan during our times of worship and fellowship at St. Paul. Your kindness, love, and care have touched me deeply, and I'm so blessed to be part of such a loving and supportive church family. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your unwavering support and friendship.

With all my appreciation and love, Casey



Sunday

10:00 a.m.
11:30 a.m.

Monday

6:00-8:00
7:00 p.m.

Wednesday

5:15 p.m.
6:00 p.m.
6:45 p.m.

Thursday

5:30 p.m.

Saturday

10:00 a.m.

Sunday

10:00 a.m.
11:45 a.m.

Monday

11:00 a.m.
6:00-8:00

Tuesday

5:30 p.m.

Wednesday

5:15 p.m.
6:00 p.m.
6:45 p.m.

Thursday

4:00-6:00
5:30 p.m.

Friday

6:00 p.m.

Sunday

10:00 a.m.
11:45 a.m.

November 2

Worship-All Saints
Potluck luncheon and
CBIZ presentation

November 3

Art class-coffee house
Let's Beautify Cumberland-
fellowship hall

November 5

Hand Bell rehearsal
Vespers-Chapel
Choir rehearsal

November 6

Confirmation instruction

November 8

Grief Support group

November 9

Worship

Book Study

November 10

Prayers in the chapel
Art class-fellowship hall

November 11

Council meeting

November 12

Hand bell rehearsal
Vespers-lower chapel
Choir rehearsal

November 13

Bountiful Blessings
Confirmation instruction

November 14

Paint and Sip-coffee house

November 16

Worship
Book Study

Monday

6:00-8:00

Tuesday

6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

5:15 p.m.
6:00 p.m.
6:45 p.m.

Thursday

5:30 p.m.

Saturday

10:00 a.m.

Sunday

10:00 a.m.
11:45 a.m.

Monday

6:00-8:00

Tuesday

6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

5:00 p.m.
5:15 p.m.
6:00 p.m.
6:45 p.m.

Thursday

Friday

Sunday

10:00 a.m.
11:45 a.m.
6:00 p.m.

November 17

Bountiful Blessings delivery

Art class-fellowship hall

November 18

Faith and Fun Family Night

November 19

Hand bell rehearsal
Vespers-lower chapel
Choir rehearsal

November 20

Confirmation instruction

November 22

Grief Support group

November 23

Worship-Holy Baptism
Book Study

November 24

Art class-fellowship hall

November 25

Beginnings Friendship Soup

Joy Book Club

November 26

Beginnings ½ day of school

Thanksgiving Pie Social
Hand Bell rehearsal
Vespers-Chapel
Choir rehearsal

November 27

Happy Thanksgiving!

November 28

Beginnings and Church building closed

November 30

Worship
Book Study
Bach Vespers