

# 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

15 N. Smallwood Street

Cumberland, MD 21502

(301) 722-6604

[www.stpaulcumberland.org](http://www.stpaulcumberland.org)

Email: [debbie@stpaulcumberland.org](mailto:debbie@stpaulcumberland.org)

October 2021

*"You will know the truth, and the truth  
will make you free" (St. John 8:32).*

## 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

It is a human thing to be tempted into name-dropping. If there is a way to elevate our status in the eyes of another, we will often consider doing that. When Jesus mentioned freedom to the religious people in front of him, they recited their pedigree, making sure he knew that they were children of Abraham and had themselves never been slaves to anyone. They might also have said things not unlike, "I grew up going to church," or, "I can recite the Lord's Prayer and the twenty-third psalm by heart!" We might imagine United States citizens responding in a similar way:

"Hey, we're free already; this is the land of the free  
and the home of the brave." Right?

Maybe the people hearing Jesus thought he was only talking about "religion."

Jesus' response is to clarify that true freedom is an eternal thing beyond intellectual understanding. Looking over his religious audience, we can imagine him hinting that religious people need freedom at least as much as anyone else (and maybe need it more!).

What does it mean to continue in Jesus' words, this place where true freedom emerges? Besides the language that came out of his mouth, consider that Jesus may have been referring to his way of living as the Living Word of God. Our greatest freedom comes not from knowing certain facts about Jesus or intellectually understanding certain theological principles, but from our relationship with Jesus himself. In that case, to continue in Jesus' word means to live faithfully in God's worry-free, no-strings-attached love. To live in freedom would mean to not worry about much else. This is what true freedom looks like and feels like to the attentive and active Christian. Let us follow in the way of our Lord, and be that living light for all to see.

THE REVEREND  
RYAN K. VIANDS  
Pastor

DAVID RANKIN  
Director of Music

DEBBIE SZYMANSKI  
Parish Assistant

STEPHANIE WADE  
Treasurer

RAMON ROCHE CARDONA  
Sexton

*continued on page 2*

*continued from page 1*

My dearest sisters and brothers, my church family of Saint Paul saints, this fall season is the perfect time to grow more connected to God in Christ through His holy word. Your Saint Paul Church family offers a number of ways to be more engaged with learning and growing into and through the holy words of scripture. Consider again, or maybe for the first time, joining one or more of our Bible study gatherings that we offer on Sunday mornings. Starting the first Sunday in October, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>, L. O. F. T. (Living Our Faith Together), starts following worship every Sunday. The gathering follows and discusses the liturgical calendar of lectionary readings that are assigned to each Sunday throughout the year. This lectionary cycle follows a three year rotation. In following this cycle, anyone can read 90% of the bible in just three years! How amazing is that! I know many people who have wanted to read the bible from cover to cover, and this gathering will help you do that. The discussions in this study are also very helpful and enriching. Come on, give it a try.

Also this fall, there will be a gathering starting on Sunday, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30a.m. to help you identify who we are as children of God through the Henri Nouwen book study called, "*The Art of Living*". This series embraces five of Nouwen's most essential teachings about our walk with God. This series includes, "*Identity*"-Finding myself in God, "*God*"-Discovering the Divine, "*Love*"-Experiencing Deep Connection, "*Suffering*"-Transforming Our Pain, "*Freedom*"-Finding Peace in Anxious Times. Now more than ever, the Church and the world need a fresh perspective on the transformative power of Christian spirituality. Spiritual master The Rev. Dr. Henri Nouwen offers this hope for renewal, speaking to the heart of today's believers. This study through God's word with open and honest discussions around these readings and meditation, will be a most hopeful and regenerating time in your week to help you gain a more deeper perspective and deeper appreciation for what God is doing for you and through you.

So, please take full advantage of what your church family here at Saint Paul is offering to help and guide you to a better and fuller relationship with our Lord, Jesus Christ and His church, the family and fellow saints of Saint Paul Lutheran Church.

See you all very soon!

In His Service, Fr. Ryan +



## *A Message from the President*

After a very busy summer and a short break, the council returned to in-person monthly meetings in August. We continue to receive and fulfill requests from individuals and organizations in our local community requesting assistance for those less fortunate. As the weather grows colder, there will be many more opportunities for us to help those in need including the safe and snug program and Bountiful Blessings. Thank you in advance for your support.

My appreciation to the committee members and church staff for all of your hard work every day.

The next council meeting will be October 12th.

Blessings  
Sue Umstott, Council President

## LOFT (Living Our Faith Together)



**When?** Sundays following worship  
**Where?** Fellowship Hall  
**What?** See description below

This Bible Study group for adults and youth began meeting in-person the first Sunday in October. We will gather each week in Fellowship Hall following worship every Sunday. CDC guidelines will be used during our time together. Our studies are based on the Taking Faith Home bulletin insert we receive each week as our guide for faith-filled conversations. During this time, we will ask that families be seated together until the guidelines are lifted.

There will be no coffee or snacks during October but we look forward to revisiting this decision at our next faith formation team meeting. Bibles are provided but those attending are encouraged to bring their own study Bible for highlighting and taking notes. Come and join us as we spend time together each week with sharing our highs and lows, reading and talking about scripture, and closing with a prayer and a blessing.

## Faith Formation for Families with Children During Worship and Chapel Time



### ***Welcome to our "Christ Cubby"!***

Christ Cubby, is the name of our new center for worship resources for children and families. It is located in the rear of the nave. On Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, worship bags for our children and families were blessed for use during worship and use during Chapel Time with Pastor Ryan. Chapel Time takes place following worship every Sunday. Children meet with Pastor Ryan in the chapel on the lower level to learn about worship and explore their worship bags and learn more about what takes place during worship. Parents are welcome to join their children during Chapel Time or join the LOFT Bible study taking place in Fellowship Hall.

What's in the bag? Resources for prayer, scripture, and more are found in each child's individual bag with different ways to be involved during worship.





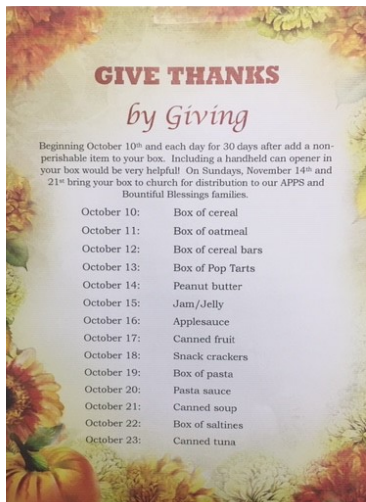
# *Blessing of the Animals Sunday, October 3rd*







The Allegany County Department of Social Services' 18th annual Safe and Snug Program will operate from October 1st through October 31<sup>st</sup>. The program, funded entirely by community support, distributed 312 coats in 2020. St. Paul's will collect new coats, hats and gloves and deliver them to the Department of Social Services. If you wish to make a monetary donation, please send it to ACDSS, One Frederick Street, Cumberland, MD 21502-attention finance and note Safe and Snug in the memo section.



### **Giving Thanks by Giving**

For our harvest project this year we will be filling boxes for distribution to our APPS and Bountiful Blessing families. In an effort to limit gathering, we chose a project that can be completed at home. Boxes and directions are available in each narthex. Please help us give thanks for our many blessings by sharing with others in our community.

# Thank You

Thank you for the care package!  
It is thoughtful and useful.

Pastor C. Scott Robinson

**\*\*Note\*\*** Members of the cancer ministry team sent Pastor Scott a bag to take along on his treatment days.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who pitched in around St. Paul as Ramon recovered from an illness.  
You are appreciated!

The church staff

Dear Pastor Ryan and congregation:

On behalf of the Order of Alhambra, Wamba Caravan #89, I want to extend a big thank you for the use of your utilities and bathroom during Heritage Days 2021. Your partnership helped us further our mission in assisting the intellectually disabled.

May God bless you all,

Grand Commander Christopher Morin

**\*\*Note\*\*** A check for \$200 was enclosed with this letter.



**Friday October 1**  
 Beginnings-No School  
 Parent/Teacher conferences

**Sunday October 3**  
 10:00 AM Worship  
 11:15 AM LOFT  
 5:00 PM Blessing of the Animals

**Thursday October 7**  
 5:30 PM Worship/Music  
 Committee Meeting

**Friday October 8**  
 6-9 PM Beginnings Parents  
 Night Out

**Sunday October 10**  
 10:00 AM Worship  
 11:15 AM LOFT

**Monday October 11**  
**OFFICE CLOSED-Columbus Day**

**Tuesday October 12**  
 5:30 PM Council meeting

**Thursday October 14**  
 4:00-5:00 Drive-thru  
 Bountiful Blessings

**Sunday October 17**  
 8:30 AM Nouwen book study  
 10:00 AM Worship  
 11:15 AM LOFT

**Wednesday October 20**  
 3:30-4:30 APPS drive-thru

**Sunday October 24**  
 8:30 AM Nouwen book study  
 10:00 AM Worship  
 11:15 AM LOFT

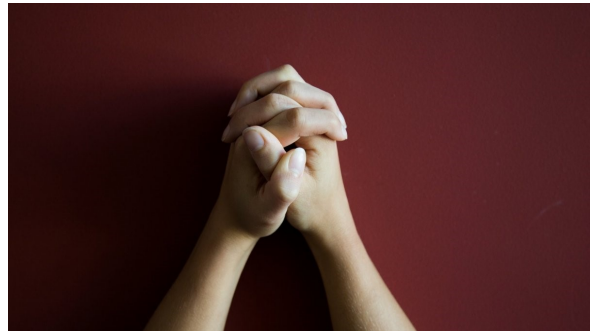
**Thursday October 28**  
 4:00-5:00 Drive-thru  
 Bountiful Blessings

**Friday October 29**  
 Beginnings 1/2 day-parade of costumes

**Sunday October 31**  
 8:30 AM Nouwen book study  
 10:00 AM Worship-Reformation  
 11:15 AM LOFT

## Celebrate!!!

8 – Debbie Metheny  
 11 – Linda & Lynn Zeller  
 (1969)  
 12 – Bob Davis  
 15 – Tamela Rankin  
 15 – Donna Goldizen  
 29 – Debbie Streicher  
 30 – Ed Ayers



**Once a man was asked “What did you gain by regularly praying to God?”**  
**The man replied, “Nothing....but let me tell you what I lost: anger, ego, greed, depression, insecurity and fear of death. Sometimes, the answer to our prayers is not gaining but losing; which ultimately is the gain.”**