

PROCLAIMING A TIMELESS CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD

SINCE 1794



THE SPIRE

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

2022 CONGREGATION OFFICERS

President:

Suzanne Umstott

Vice President:

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What other Christians say to Lutherans:

“That’s too Roman Catholic.”

(But really isn’t)

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

CRUCIFIXES

A common misunderstanding among some Christians is the opinion that a crucifix, or the use of a crucifix, is a “Roman Catholic” practice only. The history of Lutheranism demonstrates that the crucifix was a regular and routine feature of Lutheran worship and devotional life during Luther’s lifetime and during the period of Lutheran Orthodoxy. It was also the case among the founding fathers of The Lutheran Church. If you were to visit most of the original congregations of the Lutheran Church in the United States (especially within the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. But also within the Lutheran churches of the ELCA), you would find lovely crucifixes adorning their altars and, in addition, beautiful statues on the altar of Christ and the four evangelists or other scenes.

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

The sign of the cross, is ecumenical in that it is used by the Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, and Episcopalian parishes and is slowly increasing in use among mainline protestant and reform congregations. It is also a remembrance of the death and resurrection of our Lord: the center of our very faith. The sign of the cross is a treasured part of our heritage as Lutherans because the practice was encouraged and used by Fr. Dr. Martin Luther himself. Provisions for using the sign of the cross on many occasions- Holy Baptism, at Ordination, in Daily Prayer, at the invocation in orders for confession and forgiveness, at the Blessing during the Sending rite, in Holy Communion, at the reading of the Holy Gospel, and the conclusion of the Nicene Creed and the final Benediction.

VESTMENTS

In the 16th century Reformation, the Lutherans retained the traditional clerical vestments (pastor's robes) [See Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Article XXIV]; what is the purpose of liturgical vestments for the priest/pastor? Who do Lutherans keep them? the purpose of vestments is at least threefold: 1.) To cover the person in a uniform manner so that we do not focus on the pastor's personality or wardrobe but upon the activity of the means of grace (i.e. Preaching, Baptism, reading Scripture, administering the Lord's supper). 2.) to indicate the office which the pastor holds by call and Ordination, or by appointment as in the case of deacons or choir, or acolytes, etc. 3.) To adorn the Lord's Divine Mass/Liturgy/Worship and that shows our continuity with the ancient Churches practice of holiness and reverence. In this, it helps separate the sacred from the secular or profane.

CANDLES & INCENSE

Incense has a long history in Christendom, Judaism, and other world religions. It adds our noses to the multisensory experience of holy worship. The psalmist expresses the symbolism of incense and prayer "Let my prayer rise before you as incense before You; the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice." You will usually see Altar candles, candelabras, Sanctuary Lamp-kept beside the Tabernacle, aka "Eternal Flame," The Pascal (or Christ) Candle, and Advent candles. All of our candles, however, point to one clear picture of who Jesus Christ is for us. He is the light of the world. He is the light by which we see the rest of the things in our lives. So when you see the candles lit this Sunday, or at evening vespers in the chapel, may you remember that He came to light up your life and your humanity.

CHANTING

Chanting has a long and rich history in the Christian Church. A common misconception is that chanting originated in the Roman Catholicism, but chanting as we know it today has been in place since at least the time of St. Gregory the Great (540-604 A.D.) in fact, chanting in various forms goes back all the way to the time of the New Testament and even to worship in the synagogues prior to that. In other words, chanting belongs to us as Lutherans just as much as it does to Roman Catholicism. It is our heritage as "Evangelical Catholics" Christians who have received this tradition from our ancestors in the faith.

THE HOLY MASS

At the time of the Reformation, many Protestants and Reform leaders (i.e. H. Zwingli) abolished the Roman Catholic form of the Mass and substituted a Memorial Communion service. Lutherans, however, retained the Holy Mass but purged it of all misinterpretations. Roman Catholic doctrine made the Holy Mass more sacrificial than sacramental in people's minds." "We are unjustly accused of having abolished the Holy Mass. Without boasting, it is manifest that the Mass is observed among us with greater devotion and reverence and more earnestness than among our opponents. Moreover, the people are instructed often and with great diligence concerning the Holy Sacrament, why it was instituted, and how it is to be used (namely, as comfort for terrified consciences) in order that the people may be drawn to the Communion and Holy Mass...Since, therefore, no novelty has been introduced which did not exist in the church from ancient times, and since no conspicuous change has been made in the public ceremonies of the Mass except that other unnecessary Masses which were held in addition to the parochial Mass, probably through abuse, have been discontinued, this manner of holding Mass ought not in fairness be condemned as heretical or unchristian". "AC XXIV 1, 40)

Information compiled from:

The book of Concord of the Augsburg Confessions of the Lutheran Church.

These articles I have chosen to select are in observance of our Lutheran Reformation month. If you have any comments or questions about this reading, please give me a call and I would love to talk to you further about our practices of Lutheran Christian Faith.

In His Service,
Pax, Fr. Ryan +



Pastor Appreciation Month

Thank you Pastor Fr. Ryan K. Viands
We are truly blessed!



CELEBRATE!!!!

- 1 – Wanda Hunt
- 4—Casey Colledge
- 8 – Debbie Metheny
- 11 – Linda & Lynn Zeller
Anniversary (1969)
- 12 – Bob Davis
- 15 – Tamela Rankin
- 15 – Donna Goldizen
- 29 – Debbie Streicher
- 30 – Ed Ayers

LOFT (Living Our Faith Together)

OCTOBER 2, 2022
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Church Year Cycle C

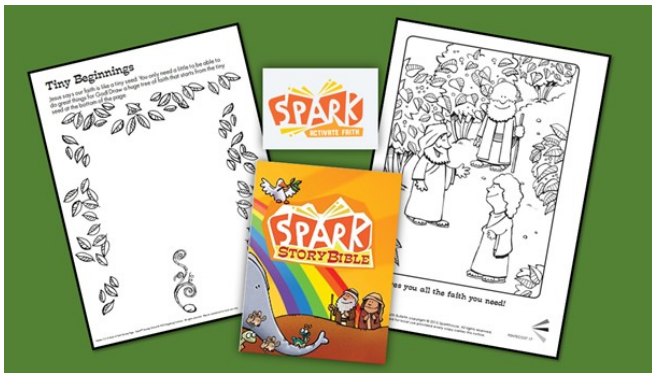
THEME FOR THE WEEK:
The righteous live by faith.



LOFT (Living Our Faith Together) Bible Study meets every Sunday following worship in Fellowship Hall. The study is based on the Taking Faith Home bulletin we receive each week during worship and provides the opportunity to share highs and lows, read the scriptures, talk about them, and discover ways to relate the message to our own lives.

Bibles are provided but we also encourage you to bring a favorite study Bible.

Chapel and Craft Time for Children



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. This year, resources from Spark Digital provide lots of fun activities and materials for the children to learn about and grow in their faith.



Several have asked if the PLACE Assessment will be happening again.

The answer is yes! For those who missed the opportunity in September, it will be offered again in November.

What is PLACE? It is discovering God's plan for you. It can be confusing to find your place in daily life and even when you consider where and how you can serve in the ministry of the church, whether in the congregation or the community. Society or even your friends and family say you "should" be serving in one way, but this leaves you feeling discouraged and unfulfilled. There are times we feel stuck in a role and prayerfully seek answers. The PLACE assessment helps you to learn who you are and the gifts God has given you.

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.

Why a full day?

This assessment requires the time to take your personality into consideration as well as your spiritual gifts. And then both are added to your life passions and the abilities you have. By melding all together and reflecting on your life experiences, how your spiritual gifts tie into daily living begins to reveal itself.

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

Christ Cubby for Children During worship



Christ Cubby is a designated area in the back of the Nave (at the back of the pews) where children are invited to store and then pick up their bags for use during worship. Each bag contains resources to help the children be involved during worship. New this year! There is now a soft, padded area with pillows where the youngest of children are welcome to sit and play with faith related toy sets or read children's Bible stories. Stay tuned for future additions!

Many thanks to Beth Deshaies for her insights and willingness to provide a little something different each week in the bags and add such delightful, new touches to this special area where children and families feel welcome to worship each week.

Coffee and Snacks



Throughout October, all ages are invited to Fellowship Hall following worship to grab something to drink and a snack before heading to the LOFT Adult Bible Study and Chapel and Craft Time for the children. For the time being, snacks will be ones that are pre-packaged as we continue to address health concerns for all ages.



The Allegany County Department of Social Services' 18th annual Safe and Snug Program will operate from September 12th through October 28th. The program, funded entirely by community support, distributed 437 coats in 2021. 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 MASSBF, Maryland Association of Social Services Board Foundation, P. O. Box 2351, Annapolis MD 21401-attention finance and note Safe and Snug in the memo section.

Worship announcements

Reformation Sunday
October 30th
10:00 a.m.
Please wear red!

All Saints Sunday
November 6th
10:00 a.m.

Please submit names of loved ones to the office who have died within the last year for our All Saints remembrance.

You are invited to bring a framed photo or memento of loved ones for our All Saints remembrance table.



Sunday
8:30 AM
10:00 AM
11:30 AM
Monday
NO SCHOOL-Parent/Teacher Conferences
Wednesday
6:00 PM
6:30 PM
Friday
6:00-9:00

October 2
Book Study
Worship
LOFT and Chapel Time
October 3
October 5
Vespers
Choir rehearsal
October 7
Beginnings Parents
Night Out
October 9
Book Study
Worship
LOFT and Chapel Time
Blessing of the Animals
October 11
Council Meeting
October 12
Vespers
Choir rehearsal
October 13
Bountiful Blessings

Sunday
8:30 AM
10:00 AM
11:30 AM
Wednesday
6:00 PM
6:30 PM
Sunday
8:30 AM
10:00 AM
11:30 AM
Wednesday
6:00 PM
6:30 PM
6:30-8:00
Thursday
4:00-6:00
Friday
11:00
Sunday
8:30 AM
10:00 AM
11:30 AM

October 16
Book Study
Worship
LOFT and Chapel Time
October 19
Vespers
Choir rehearsal
October 23
Book Study
Worship
LOFT and Chapel Time
October 26
Vespers
Choir rehearsal
Washington Street
Association meeting
October 27
Bountiful Blessings
October 28
Beginnings Parade of
Costumes 1/2 Day
**October 30-
Reformation**
Book Study
Worship
LOFT and Chapel Time

For a giggle ----

What is a ghost's favorite dessert
(Answer - I- scream)