

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

October 2023

Pastor's Ponderings

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

FOR OUR TIME AND PLACE



In certain seasons of our lives we may feel like we have lost passion and energy within ourselves, in a significant relationship, in our faith, or even in our involvement with the church. What once had great meaning may now seem empty, dull or pointless.

Though we continue to tell the "old, old story" of Jesus and his love, it is made new in the context of our present-day lives, and as it leads us forward into the future with a renewed faith. Though that usually involves change, many of us would like to remain in the safe and comfortable faith of our former childhood, rather than face the challenges of a mature and questioning faith as we age.

The Reformation, which we commemorate (on Oct. 31st), was a time of great change and upheaval. The Rev. Dr. Fr. Martin Luther and the other reformers made the holy gospel come to life for that time and place in light of God's revelation to Fr. Luther as he translated St. Paul's passage in epistle to the Romans. It taught that the heart of the true gospel is that we are justified by God's grace as a free gift. There is nothing we can do to earn God's favor. Rather, the truth that sets us truly free is that God loves us unconditionally.

THE REVEREND
RYAN K. VIANDS
Pastor

DAVID RANKIN
Director of Music

DEBBIE SZYMANSKI
Parish Administrator

CASEY COLLEDGE
Treasurer

RAMON ROCHE CARDONA
Sexton

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If the holy gospel is to be fresh and dynamic in each new generation, it better mean that **we** will be open to the Holy Spirit's leading in our day and time as it had been for our ancestors before us. In what ways is the church in need of reform in our time and place? Our baptismal journey always leads us forward into a future in which the holy gospel will change, challenge and transform us into His likeness day after day. We seek not only personal salvation, but healing for the world and all those who live with poverty or brokenness of any kind. As we are set free from the powers of sin, death and the devil himself, we cannot help but work for justice for all those enslaved children of God who are oppressed. We go forth to passionately proclaim the holy gospel of God's mercy and grace for our time and place among God's creation and with and alongside ALL of his dearly beloved children. Thanks be to God, for the challenges and chances of this life, knowing we are never alone as we are challenged and grow towards eternity.

In His Service, Fr. Ryan +



An orientation for those interested in becoming liturgical deacons will be held following worship on Sunday, October 15th. Please sign up on the bulletin board.

From the president.....

As we head into fall and soon our thanksgiving season I am reminded of everything I have to be thankful for. Included in my blessings is my church family and all of the work we do in the community that we serve. As we move forward in our outreach, I would like us all to be mindful of the Blessing of the animals coming up and the request for donations for our local animal shelter where the need is great. We will also be participating in the safe and snug program again this year. Donations of hats, coats, gloves etc. will go a long way to keeping the students of Allegany County warm this winter. Hoping everyone is having a wonderful fall.

Blessings

Sue Umstott, Council President



October *Celebrations*

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



Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 15th

at

5:00 p.m.

on the Washington Street lawn.

Please bring your pet in a carrier or on a leash for a special blessing and a treat. We will also collect items needed by the Allegany County animal shelter:

Dog food

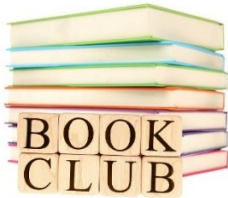
Cat food (wet and dry)

Kitten & puppy food (wet and dry)

Kitty litter (prefer the plain, non-scoopable clay variety)

Blankets and towels

Toys and Treats



Joy Book Club

Our next Joy Book Club selection will be *The Dictionary of Lost Words* by Pip Williams. We will discuss it on Tuesday, Oct. 24, at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

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).

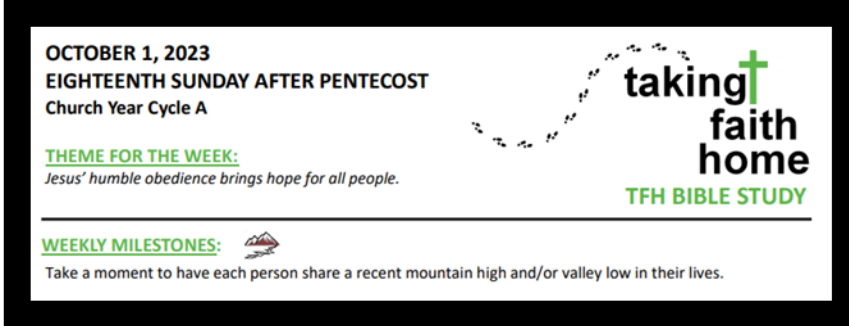


**November 19th is
Harvest Sunday.**

Please bring non-perishable food items to church beginning on Sunday, October 22nd. We will collect each Sunday and bless our offering for distribution to the disadvantaged in our community through the Interfaith Food Pantry on Harvest Sunday, November 19th. A Noisy Offering will also be taken to benefit the pantry.


LOFT for Adults

(Living Our Faith Together)



OCTOBER 1, 2023
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Church Year Cycle A

THEME FOR THE WEEK:
Jesus' humble obedience brings hope for all people.

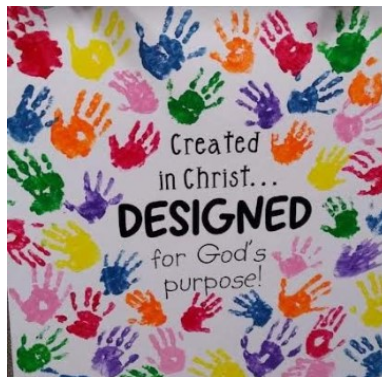
WEEKLY MILESTONES: 
Take a moment to have each person share a recent mountain high and/or valley low in their lives.

taking+
faith
home
TFH BIBLE STUDY

LOFT, Living Our Faith Together, Bible study for adults officially begins on Sunday, October 1 at 11:30am in Fellowship Hall. Each week, we begin by grabbing a small snack and a cup of tea or coffee before gathering around the table. We then take a few moments to share highs and lows and what's happening in our lives and then move on to reading scripture that is found in the Taking Faith Home bulletin insert. We use different translations of the Bible that often triggers interesting conversations. All are welcome to join us for one week or every week.

LOFT for Youth

(Living Our Faith Together)



LOFT, Living Our Faith Together, for children and youth meets every week on the lower level at 11:30am. Each week, the children and youth are invited to take a moment to get a snack and beverage in Fellowship Hall before they meet as a group. After snack time, there is a Bible reading and craft related to scripture readings that have been heard during worship. This group is led and facilitated by Kaitlin Diehl and Pastor Ryan.

On October 29th and 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.

Finance Committee Update

We thank you for the donations received so far toward the Air Conditioner Fund. Donations received so far is \$460. Please keep this in your prayers and if you feel called to donate, please note "Air Conditioners" in the memo line of your donation. We are thankful for the start of the fall season temperatures so that the air conditioners are not needed right now. I know many of us would like to keep the 80-degree days coming but I am happy that the use of the air conditioners is coming to an end. The more the units need to run the more strain we put on the good units that are functioning. As mentioned in the past newsletter, the cost of a new unit is over \$9000 each so we need to work on replacing the non-functioning units as soon as we can. Please prayerfully consider a year end tax-deductible gift if you feel called to go toward the Air Conditioner Fund to help us with this large expenditure.

Treasurer's Note

Grace and Peace to all my brothers and sisters here at St. Paul's. I have been very blessed and humbled to be serving as your Treasurer these past 8 months and have learned a lot about the church and the outreach that we do into our community. From Bountiful Blessings, the return of APPS, the Dementia Support Group, benevolence to community members in need, support of Mama Kay's Survivors luncheons, monetary donations toward the Union Rescue Mission and the Interfaith Food Pantry, and so many more! Please know that it's in part to your gracious and bountiful tithes and offerings that make these outreach opportunities possible. But I would be remiss if I didn't bring up the regular expenses that the church has. Just like at home, the cost of electricity, natural gas, cost for materials for building repairs and maintenance continue to increase, which continues to stretch our budget. I would ask for your prayers and continued support for the church through your tithes and offerings to help us be able to meet our budget as well as continue to our community outreach to help reach more and more of our neighbors in need.

Casey Colledge
*Treasurer and
Finance Committee Chair*



MOUNTAINSIDE *Baroque*

Ryan Mullaney
and Lyle Nordstrom
Directors

Safe and Snug

To prepare for the upcoming cold weather, The Allegany County Dept. of Social Services will host its 23rd annual Safe and Snug Program.

St. Paul's will collect new coats, jackets, sweatshirts, gloves, hats and scarves during the month of October. In 2022, over 400 new coats were distributed.

With your help, the agency can exceed this number in 2023 keeping even more children warm this winter.

Financial assistance is also needed.

Monetary donations can be made payable to MASSBF and mailed to 1 Frederick St. in Cumberland with Safe and Snug in the memo.

Echoes of the Oratory: A Gregorian Chant-Along

Saturday, November 11, 2023
3 p.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Mountainside Board Member Bp. Matthew Lynn Riegel will lead participants in an engaging experience of learning to read and sing Gregorian chant. After a break, a public performance of a portion of liturgy will follow. The workshop is not ticketed, but donations are requested.

thank you

Dear Scholarship Committee of St. Paul's,

Thank you very much for awarding me the Schaidt Scholarship. I am very appreciative and grateful to receive this generous award. This will greatly help me continue my studies at Frostburg State University. I am blessed to be a part of the congregation at St. Paul's and will do great work at Frostburg State University. Thank you again very much.

Sincerely,

Daniel Highland

COLORING PAGE FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES





October

Sunday

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

Wednesday

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

Sunday

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

Monday

6:30 PM

Tuesday

5:30 PM

Wednesday

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

Thursday

4:00-6:00

Saturday

10:00 AM

Sunday

8:30 AM
10:00 AM
11:30 AM
5:00 PM

October 1

Book Study
Worship
LOFT

October 4

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

October 8

Book Study
Worship
LOFT

October 9

Let's Beautify Cumberland
meeting

October 10

Council meeting

October 11

APPS
Hand Bell rehearsal
Vespers in the chapel
Choir rehearsal

October 12

Bountiful Blessings

October 14

Dementia support group

October 15

Book Study
Worship
LOFT
Blessing of the Animals

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

Sunday

8:30 AM
10:00 AM
11:30 AM
2:00 PM

Tuesday

6:00 PM

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

Thursday

4:00-6:00

Saturday

10:00 AM

Sunday

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

October 18

Hand Bell rehearsal
Vespers in the chapel
Choir rehearsal

October 22

Book Study
Worship
LOFT
Girl Scouts in
fellowship hall

October 24

Joy Book Club

October 25

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

October 26

Bountiful Blessings

October 28

Dementia support group

October 29

Book Study
Worship
LOFT