

PROCLAIMING A TIMELESS CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD

SINCE 1794



THE SPIRE

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

2020 CONGREGATION OFFICERS

President:

Dr. Burton Streicher

Vice President:

Kathleen Ball

Secretary:

Debbie Szymanski

Treasurer:

Stephanie Wade

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September 2020

2020 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Education (Faith Formation):

Debbie Metheny

Evangelism:

Cecil Bell

Finance:

Suzanne Umstott

Ministry in Daily Life:

Nancy Lohr

Property:

Edward Ayers

Social Ministry

(Fellowship):

Cindy Read

Stewardship:

Burton Streicher

Worship and Music:

Kathleen Ball

Youth:

Gary Miller

Dear Children of God and Family of Saint Paul Church,

This time of year is usually the “back-to” season, with churches and schools buzzing with activities. The annual ritual can be stressful, but one thing I am realizing is that in life, as in church, ritual is incredibly important to our wellbeing.

Without our shared structure of tradition and seasonal expectations, things can seem nebulous, and a constant, low-grade anxiety can be utterly exhausting.

Because of this, it is very understandable that many people have been longing to return to church and just aren't ready to do that yet; still living in fear of the unknowns about this dreaded disease. In an always-changing world, the church (the people) is truly an anchor of strength, continuity, and stability. And though we have been worshiping in-person since June, things can still seem a bit “off”.

With this in mind, I propose that we lean into the times in which we live. Let's look at our cherished traditions and consider how we continue them in a new way.

Let's also take this unique opportunity to think out of the box and imagine a new way for old practices and how that may be done. And let us imagine our new future together. The time is now to envision new ideas in carrying out our mission and ministry. What are some ideas you possess or more theologically, how has the Holy Spirit lead you to participate more fully in the life of our church family to its mission of sharing Christ to an ever-changing world? Your church family and the Church as a whole, needs you and your God given talents now more than ever.

In the midst of a world turned upside down by a pandemic and real concerns about systemic racism, as well as a factious national election season, we would do well to remember how blessed we are to live in this beautiful place, and how interdependent community truly is. In the words of the prophet Micah, “*He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*”

Be a blessing, Fr. Ryan +

THE REVEREND
RYAN K. VIANDS
Pastor

DAVID RANKIN
Director of Music

DEBBIE SZYMANSKI
Parish Assistant

STEPHANIE WADE
Treasurer

RAMON ROCHE CARDONA
Sexton

A Word from the President

The church council met in fellowship hall as a group on 11 Aug 2020. The council approved for Queen City Sealcoating to reseal and repaint our parking lot on the 17-18 of August for \$4,800. I hope you have been able to see the excellent job they did. This will help protect our parking lot for many years into the future. Please thank Ed Ayers for coordinating this work and for completing one of our major council goals for this year.

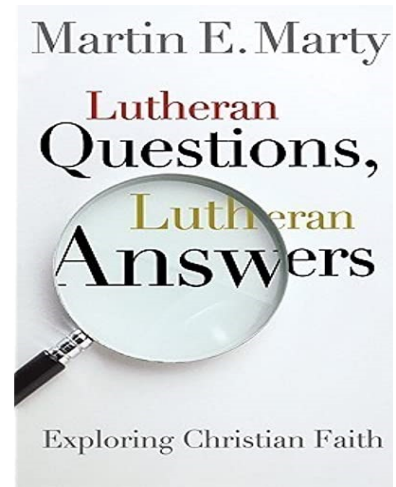
Our five week joint community Vacation Bible School (VBS) completed on Friday, 14 August. The Rocky Railway at-home program had 43 children registered from 10 different congregations. This innovative and well-structured VBS presentation was enjoyed by all the participants despite the social distancing restrictions.

We are continuing our second and fourth Thursday Bountiful Blessings with pre-bagged core items that are passed out to the participants in their cars. The interest has been increasing from the community with our session on 13 August having 27 return and 6 new families attending. Please join us with thanks to Cecil Bell for ensuring that this needed outreach program continues for our community.

I hope everyone is able to enjoy the beginning of September as school restarts in various forms, and we continue to deal with this unusual pandemic situation. Be safe and healthy.

Prayers and blessings to all,

(Burt Streicher, Council President)



This book study will begin either late September or the first of October. The ideal schedule would be to have class on Tuesdays from 10a.m.-12noon in the chapel. With Matins (morning prayer) the first ½ hr. Please call the office and let Debbie know if you would be interested in this basic study of Lutheranism. Please call by September, 21st so that we can order a book for you!

Book Study for the fall of 2020 A.D.

Lutheran Christians often have questions about Lutheran theology and beliefs that are basic to the Christian faith itself. Featuring a unique question-and-answer format, *Lutheran Questions, Lutheran Answers* is an accessible and concise treatment that provides the most frequently asked questions on important topics and brief but complete answers from distinguished historian and theologian, The Rev. Dr. Martin E. Marty. Among the questions included are: What is the purpose of the Bible? How do Lutherans interpret the Bible? What is the meaning of the cross? What is the purpose of human life? What is the grace of God? Do Lutherans have to worry about being "Left Behind"? arranged according to doctrinal topics this will be a great class for any of you who have ever wondered, what does the church really teach on these matters.

The Rev. Dr. Martin E. Marty
Is one of the most prominent interpreters of religion and culture today. Another of more than fifty books, he is also a speaker, columnist, pastor, and teacher, having been a professor of religious history for thirty-five years at the university of Chicago, where he is the Fairfax M. Cone Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus.

Puppet Ministry Team News



Vacation Bible School ended with a drive through for children and families on Friday, August 14th. Thank you to Emily and Erica Metheny for playing the roles of Cam Track and Lorlai throughout five weeks of skits and stories. They also were on hand to greet children and families for our closing day on Friday, August 14th when families drove by to meet them, sing the theme song, and pick up M&M's that were brought down the mountain on the train from Frostburg by Cam Track and his crew.

The team will meet online during the month of September (date to be announced) to make plans for the future. Possibilities for online recordings and gatherings will be discussed for a Christmas presentation.

LOFT (Living Our Faith Together)



The first week in September the Faith Formation Team will gather to make plans for the fall. LOFT last met in the end of May and normally meets weekly during the school year. LOFT is Sunday school, Bible study, and conversations all in one for all ages. From the end of March through May, this group met online using Zoom. Keep an eye on our website under the LOFT tab and in the weekly announcements for an update for plans this year as we move forward keeping an eye on restrictions caused by the pandemic.



In October, St. Paul's begins its 7th year as a site for Bountiful Blessings, Inc. Bountiful Blessings provides help, hope and support to families of all faiths by distributing non-food items in exchange for volunteer time.

Fundraisers have been on hold during the pandemic.

In order to raise money to help with gas and maintenance costs for their delivery vans, a **Scrap Metal Drive** is planned at their warehouse in Mechanicsburg, PA on October 3rd from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

HOW WE CAN HELP

Contributions of the following may be brought to St. Paul's during office hours on Thursday, September 17th and Friday, September 18th:

Aluminum cans
Auto parts
Computer monitors and keyboards
Electrical wiring
Flat screen TVs
Lawn furniture
Plumbing fixtures
Small appliances

A WIN-WIN

Bountiful Blessings gets needed funds – We get to clean our basement or garage!!

Kathleen Ball
Cecil Bell
Coordinators

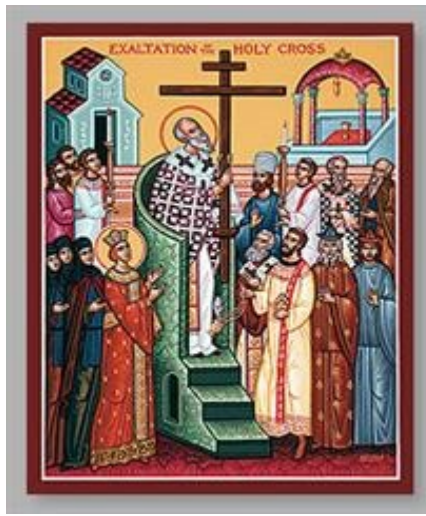


Included in this month's issue of The Spire is a bookmark "In Our Thoughts and Prayers" which lists those who have long-term prayer needs. We will update this list quarterly if there are changes and encourage all to let the church office know if you have additions or if changes have occurred in the need for prayer.

We will continue to pray for new and short-term needs on Sunday mornings and pray for all concerns on the first Sunday of each month.

"Prayer for others has been described as loving our neighbor on our knees."

The Worship and Music Committee



The Celebration of the Exultation of the Holy Cross

You are cordially invited to join us as
The Reverend Ryan K. Viands+ is installed as the
24th pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church
in Cumberland, MD

by The Reverend William J. Gohl, Jr.,
+Bishop of the Delaware/Maryland Synod. We will
celebrate this blessed occasion through worship in God's
Word and in the Holy Sacrament of the Altar on Sunday,
September 13th at 4:00 p.m. Your presence will make
this day memorable for Pastor Ryan.+

The color of the day is red.

Vesting and processing is optional for clergy.

Please RSVP to Debbie Szymanski by

Wednesday, September 9th.

(301) 722-6604 or debbie@stpaulcumberland.org

The congregation observes all national and state CDC guidelines.

Masks are required.

No reception will be observed at this time.

VBS 2020 Closing



The final day for Vacation Bible School was experienced by families who drove by to pick up a special treat from the puppet stars for VBS, Cam Track and Loralai, and to meet the co-hosts.

Children's smiles and parent's comments about VBS were an affirmation that our online Facebook Live presentations done on Mondays and Wednesdays were well received. The videos and presentations will remain online for families to view again and listen to the songs until the end of September.

2020 Back to School Blessing

Bless the school year ahead—fill it with compassion for those making difficult decisions, comfort to parents wondering how to manage home, work, and school, and strength to teachers navigating new ways of learning. Bless the school year ahead—reminding us to see our neighbors as ourselves and Christ in all that we meet. Bless the school year ahead—remembering that God always goes before us and claims us as beloved children of God. Bless the school year ahead—trusting your grace in our lives and hope for what is to come. Be with us this year. Grant us your wisdom, Lord, that we continue to seek it, and look for signs of your love all around us.

~ KIMBERLY KNOWLE-ZELLER

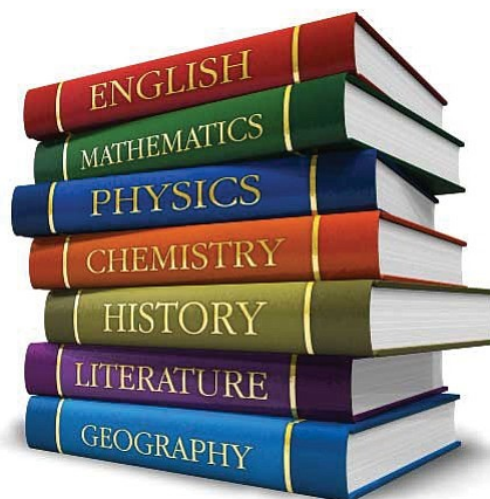


Tuesday
5:30 PM
September 1
 LOFT/Faith Formation
 Meeting via Zoom
Sunday
10:00 AM
September 6
 Worship
Monday
September 7
OFFICE CLOSED
Tuesday
September 8
Beginnings First Day of School
5:30 PM
 Church Council Meeting
Wednesday
5:30 PM
September 9
 Book Club via Zoom
Thursday
4:00-6:00
September 10
 Drive-Thru
 Bountiful Blessings
Sunday
10:00 AM
September 13
 Worship
3:00 PM
 Installation-
 The Reverend Ryan K. Viands
Sunday
10:00 AM
September 20
 Worship
Thursday
4:00-6:00
September 24
 Drive-Thru
 Bountiful Blessings
Sunday
10:00 AM
September 27
 Worship



Happy Anniversary!!!
 September 8- Burt & Debbie
 Streicher

Happy Birthday!!!
 September 13 – David Rankin



Congratulations to our
2020-2021
scholarship recipients:

Bowersox Scholarship

Annie Simpson	\$625.00
Sean Wade	\$625.00

Schaidt Scholarship

Annie Simpson	\$2,500.00
Sean Wade	\$2,000.00

We Will Survive 2020!

Everyone **PLEASE** be careful because people are going crazy from being locked down at home!

I was just talking about this with the microwave and the toaster while drinking my coffee and we all agreed that things are getting bad. I didn't mention any of this to the washing machine because she puts a different spin on EVERYTHING!!

Certainly couldn't share with the fridge cause he's been acting cold and distant!

In the end, the iron straightened me out! She said the situation isn't all that pressing and all the wrinkles will soon get ironed out!

The vacuum, however, was very unsympathetic...told me to just suck it up buttercup! But the fan was VERY optimistic and gave me hope that it will all blow over soon!

The toilet looked a bit flushed but didn't say anything when I asked its opinion, but the front door said I was becoming unhinged and the doorknob told me to get a grip!! You can just about guess what the curtains told me: they told me to "pull myself together!"