

# 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

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September 2023

## 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

"We proclaim Christ Crucified!"

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians

"Behold the life giving tree of the cross."



Being confronted with death is a disorienting emotion. Our lives can be going along so well, and then all of a sudden we get a phone call that begins with the words, "We regret to inform you" or "Are you sitting down? We all know what's coming next. These are words to do not like or want to ever hear. And in an instant, our tightly woven lives start to unravel right before our very eyes.

As a people who try to avoid death at all costs, celebrating the great Feast of Holy Cross Day must not make a lot of sense to most of the world. The cross, after all, is an instrument used for a very gruesome death. It has become a symbol of the worst kinds of brutality that human beings can inflict on one another. And yet if it's only a symbol, only a kind of logo for Christianity, a trademark for our "product" in the vast expanse of consumer culture, we diminish the real torture it caused its victims—not the least of which is the one our gospel calls the "Son of Man."

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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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How will we as contemporary Christians think about the cross? Will we spend our energy trying to clean the image up-, hiding its shame and brokenness behind a veneer of power and prosperity? Or will we call it what it is and open ourselves to its tragedy?

The reason we observe the Feast of the Holy Cross Day is because God took the latter option. Our gospel says that God loved the world so much in this way: by opening the divine heart to share our common fate. Lifted up on the cross, we see more than a gruesome victim. We see ourselves in the face of the Crucified one more clearly. And because he lives, we too will live with him—our tragedies safe in His triumph. Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory to overcome what would have been our gruesome end.

In His Service, Fr. Ryan +

## *From the president.....*

As summer comes to a close we now think about children heading back to school. As some of you are already aware, we have decided to start the APPS program back up this year. Thanks to all of those who have made the commitment to volunteer their time and resources so that this program can once again be successful as an outreach to the community of our youth and their families in the area.

Looking forward to a wonderful fall season.

Our next council meeting will be held  
September 12 at 5:30 PM.

Blessings

Sue Umstott, Council President



**September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>**

The church will be open for sanctuary  
tours on Saturday from 10:00-4:00.

## Christian Education/Faith Formation

Have you participated in the past or simply wondered about Christian education opportunities at St. Paul's? **Join us on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am** in Fellowship Hall for coffee and doughnuts. We will introduce each one of the Christian education/faith formation opportunities we have to grow in our faith together.

**LOFT** (Living Our Faith Together) for adults

**LOFT** (Living Our Faith Together) for children and youth

Women in Scripture **Book Study**

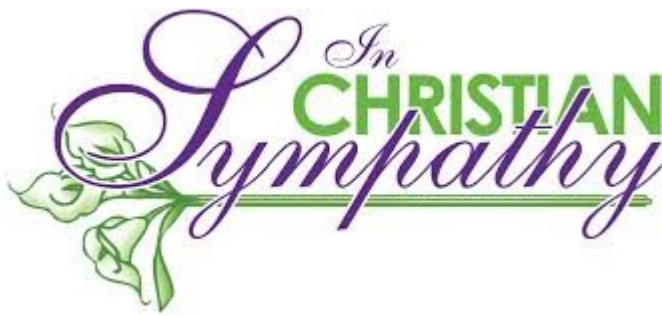


## Faith Formation Team Meeting

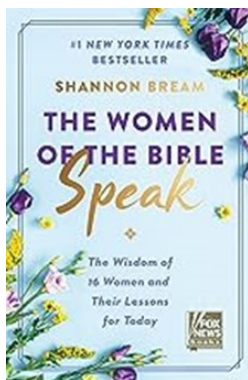


**The Faith Formation Team will meet on Wednesday, September 6 at 5:30pm** to discuss and make further plans for the fall for LOFT (for all ages) and for updating Christ Cubby, the children and youth worship resource center.

If you are interested in joining us or have questions, please contact Debbie Streicher ([dstreicher52@gmail.com](mailto:dstreicher52@gmail.com) or 703-303-7255).



Our sympathy is extended  
to the families  
and friends of  
John Hixon and  
Freida Spriggs.



### **Fall Book Study**

Sunday Mornings 8:30 a.m.

Martin Luther Chapel

Beginning September 17, 2023

Book cost: \$15.00

Please sign up on the bulletin board no  
later than Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.



## *September Celebrations !!!*

8 - Burt & Debbie Streicher -  
Anniversary (1979)

13 – Anniversary of Pastor Ryan’s  
Installation in 2020

13 – David Rankin

17 – Ray Hunt

28 – Kaden Sharpless  
Donna Goldizen’s grandson)

### **Congratulations to our 2023-2024 scholarship recipients!**

#### **Bowersox scholarship**

Daniel Highland	\$953.00
Emily Metheny	\$953.00

#### **Mortimer C. and Elizabeth Ann Schaidt scholarship**

Daniel Highland	\$4314.50
Emily Metheny	\$4314.50





## *Mama Kay's Survivors September 24, 2023*

*Immediately following worship you are invited into Fellowship Hall for lunch provided by Mama Kay (Cochrane) and her team. A fun dessert auction will be held as part of the luncheon.*

*Kay is a grateful survivor of breast cancer, but always on her mind are those friends and neighbors who did not survive, and the need for continuing research and development of the causes and possible cures of all cancers.*

*Many will remember our Relay for Life team under the leadership of Christine Miller, and the fun, in addition to good food, that we enjoyed.*

*There will be no cost; donations are appreciated.*

*Please check the announcements each week in the Sunday bulletin, as well as the St. Paul website and Facebook page for updates.*

## **Blest Be the Tie that Binds**



## **Our Hearts in Christian Love**

Members of Morning Star Lutheran Church in Luray VA, the home church of Father Ryan, visited Saint Paul on Sunday, August 20th. After worship we gathered for lunch in Fellowship Hall, and first, sang Happy August 23rd Birthday to Father Ryan's mother, Wanda.

Then, with lots of chatter and laughing, we enjoyed a meal prepared by members of Saint Paul. A huge thank you to all who helped set up on Saturday morning, prepared a wonderful array of food, and cleaned up when it was all over. We are blessed with so many who give with happy hearts and spirits!



### **APPS returns!**

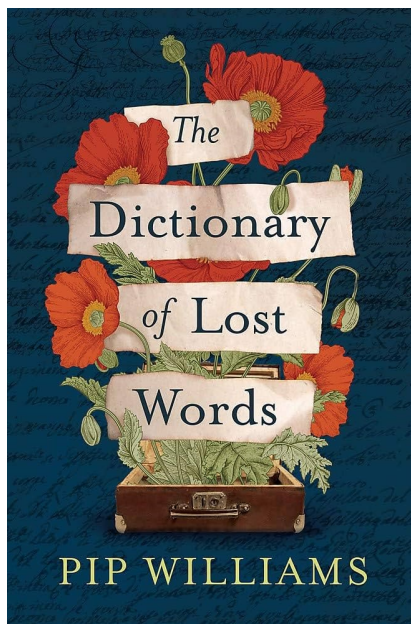
Our weekly Wednesday afterschool program for students at West Side Elementary will return this fall. We plan to welcome students back to St. Paul Church on Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in volunteering to assist teachers or help with snack and meal preparation please contact Stephanie Wade at 240-522-2645.

**The Hike for the Homeless** benefitting the Union Rescue Mission in our community will be held Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at the Main Beach, Rocky Gap State Park. The hike will begin at 9:00 a.m. followed by a picnic-style lunch and presentation at 12:00 p.m. Registration forms are available in the church office or on their website: [www.urmcumberland.org](http://www.urmcumberland.org).



The next PLACE two-day spiritual gifts assessment will be offered at St. Paul's on **Friday, September 29 and Saturday, September 30**. Debbie Streicher will facilitate. Sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board or contact Debbie at 703-303-7255 or [dstreicher52@gmail.com](mailto:dstreicher52@gmail.com).





**The Joy Book Club's next selection  
will be  
*The Dictionary of Lost Words*  
by Pip Williams.**

A New York Times bestseller, this historical novel is set during the height of the women's suffrage movement and with the Great War looming. *The Dictionary of Lost Words* reveals a lost narrative, hidden between the lines of a history written by men. Inspired by actual events, author Pip Williams has delved into the archives of the Oxford English Dictionary to tell this highly original story. *The Dictionary of Lost Words* is a delightful, lyrical, and deeply thought-provoking celebration of words and the power of language to shape the world.

The group will meet on Tuesday, Oct. 24,  
in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you

Dear Reverend Viands and the  
Scholarship Committee of St. Paul's,

Thank you very much for awarding me the generous scholarship to help me further my studies at Frostburg State University. I am very appreciative and grateful to receive the Bowersox Scholarship. I am very blessed to part of the congregation at St. Paul's and will apply myself to do good work at Frostburg.  
Thank you again very much.

Sincerely,  
Daniel Highland

Schaidt Scholarship Committee,

Thank you- I was amazed and very appreciative to receive notification of the scholarship award from the Mortimer C. and Elizabeth Ann Schaidt Scholarship Tuition Fund. It will make attending Loyola University of Maryland more feasible.

Sincerely,  
Emily Metheny



Dear Bountiful Blessings Ministry,

Thank you for the beautiful colored pictures your group has sent to the residents at Allegheny Health Nursing and Rehab. They continue to enjoy your artistic talents.

Many residents have them displayed in their rooms.

We look forward to receiving them again to distribute to residents.

Sincerely,  
Tara Richards  
Activity Director

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### *In memory of Freída Spriggs*

Freida was a dedicated volunteer for our APPS afterschool program. We liked to call her our “principal” as she firmly and lovingly assisted teachers with the children. Freida also volunteered with our ecumenical Vacation Bible School serving meals while also tending to any tasks in need of helping hands.

Freida died on August 12th. Her smile and warm hugs will be missed at St. Paul Church and in the community.





Coloring page for children of all ages !!!





<b>Sunday</b> 10:00 AM 7:30 PM	<b>September 3</b> Worship Potomac Concert Band Labor Day concert rain site	<b>Monday</b>	<b>September 18</b> Bountiful Blessings Delivery
<b>Monday</b> <b>Labor Day-Office and School closed</b>	<b>September 4</b>	<b>Wednesday</b> 6:00 PM	<b>September 20</b> Vespers
<b>Wednesday</b> 5:30 PM	<b>September 6</b> Faith Formation Team meeting	<b>Saturday</b> 10:00 AM	<b>September 23</b> Dementia Support group
<b>Thursday</b> 6:30 PM	<b>September 7</b> Let's Beautify Cumberland meeting	<b>Sunday</b> 8:30 AM 10:00 AM 11:30 AM 11:30 AM	<b>September 24</b> Book Study Worship LOFT Mama Kay luncheon
<b>Saturday</b> 10:00 AM 10:00-4:00	<b>September 9</b> Dementia Support group Heritage Days tours	<b>Monday</b> 6:00 PM	<b>September 25</b> Art class in gym
<b>Sunday</b> 10:00 AM	<b>September 10</b> Worship	<b>Wednesday</b> 3:30-6:00 6:00 PM	<b>September 27</b> APPS Vespers
<b>Tuesday</b> 5:30 PM	<b>September 12</b> Council meeting	<b>Thursday</b> 4:00-6:00	<b>September 28</b> Bountiful Blessings
<b>Wednesday</b> 2:00 PM 6:00 PM	<b>September 13</b> Sanctuary Tour group Vespers-Holy Cross	<b>Friday</b>	<b>September 29</b> PLACE
<b>Thursday</b> 4:00-6:00 6:15 PM	<b>September 14</b> Bountiful Blessings Worship & Music Committee Meeting	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>September 30</b> PLACE
<b>Friday</b> 7:30 AM	<b>September 15</b> Chairlift inspections		
<b>Sunday</b> 8:30 AM 10:00 AM 11:30 AM	<b>September 17</b> Book Study Worship LOFT		