

PROCLAIMING A TIMELESS CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD



THE SPIRE

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ✝ CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND



2019 CONGREGATION OFFICERS

President:
Dr. Burton Streicher
Vice President:
Kathleen Ball
Secretary:
Debbie Szymanski
Treasurer:
Stephanie Wade

2019 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Education (Faith Formation):
Debbie Metheny
Evangelism:
Jane Roderick
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

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September 2019

Dear friends in Christ:

All of you who have lived in these parts a long time know that it's reasonable for us to expect a decent amount of Summer-like weather during the next month, or even longer. That's a big reason why Tommi and I left northern Minnesota to retire here nine years ago – in Duluth all we could count on was *no snow* for three months, anyway! (That's according to the Minnesota State Climatology Office.) But pleasant weather notwithstanding, September is the season when academic pursuits resume and football madness is here. *Go, (fill in the blank)!*

So, most of the 'chillun's among us, and not a few of the grownups, are back to the books, and a notable number of our congregation's members are, or have been, engaged in the realm of education. We prayed for all of you this past Sunday, and we wish you every success in the new school year.

We also look forward to the resumption of APPS, A Place People Share, welcoming children from West Side Elementary School each Wednesday after school for a time of learning, recreation, and a meal, with support from more than a dozen members and friends of the church. Bless you all, too.

And one other weekly learning opportunity is about to resume, LOFT – Living Our Faith Together. Led by Debbie Streicher, LOFT is an intergenerational program that convenes on Sundays after worship and fellowship. Bless all you LOFT-ers, of every age, as well. If you haven't yet tried it, come check LOFT out on a Sunday coming soon.

Education in our faith, according to Saint Paul, is about "equipping the saints for the work of ministry" (Ephesians 4:12). Learning in the wider sense is all about life – toward the pursuit of a career or trade; to help us grow into our God-given potential in our personal and our civic life; and just for the sheer delight of learning something we perhaps hadn't known before, like, oh, the snow record in northern Minnesota. *God bless us all!*

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Steve

STEVE HAPTONSTAHL
Interim Pastor

DAVID RANKIN
Director of Music

DEBBIE SZYMANSKI
Parish Assistant

STEPHANIE WADE
Treasurer

RAMON ROCHE CARDONA
Sexton

A Word from the President

The council met in August for an appreciation dinner. Thanks were given for their volunteer efforts and success in maintaining and supporting the ongoing ministries for the congregation this year. Our call committee is now in the process of interviewing pastor candidates. We are excited and hopeful to be in this stage of our pastor transition and pray that God will help us to see clearly and wisely in our call for a pastor.

We are having our stairway lift chairs inspected and tested which is an annual state requirement. We are moving forward with the 225th anniversary celebration activities and are finalizing the cook book. We have begun planning for our joint Lutheran Reformation Sunday service. Other ELCA Lutheran congregations in Cumberland will participate with us and are assisting with the planning.

It is hard to believe that we are already celebrating Labor Day weekend holiday. The summer season went by so quickly and all the fall activities are starting up. Schools are back in session, our weekly APPS after school program will be starting up soon, and we are rapidly approaching other fall season activities. The council will meet next on 10 September 2019 and has a full agenda of items to discuss. Please enjoy and relax during the ending days of summer as we launch into our fall activities.

(Burt Streicher, Council President)

The Luther League Puppet Ministry Team News



The puppet ministry team is in the stages of planning for activities and visits during the school year. The schedule includes a Christmas and Easter presentation for APPS children and their families, visits to local senior residence facilities, and a training to include local and Synod congregations. If you are interested in learning more about the team, please contact Debbie Streicher: dstreicher52@gmail.com or 703-303-7255.

225 Tidbits: Memories of Baltimore Street

In advance of the 50th anniversary of the Washington Street church, a group of members who had belonged in the Baltimore Street era were asked to talk about their recollections of that period. Here are some of their memories (with some other recollections thrown in):

Dr. Hixon T. Bowersox ruled with an iron hand, according to Gerald Arthur. Catechism was always Friday night, regardless of the protests of the students, who would miss the local football games. The lessons never let out a minute before 8 p.m.

Mim says Christmas services were at 6 a.m. Christmas morning. Dr. Bowersox said there were too many drunks downtown on Christmas Eve.

Dr. Bowersox was also very outspoken (a feature that is evident in the *History of St. Paul's* that he wrote). Alpha Reynolds' father-in-law ran a tobacco store and newsstand downtown, which was open on Sunday mornings. Alpha said that Dr. Bowersox asked him where he was sending his children for Sunday school. He said a Methodist church in south Cumberland. Dr. Bowersox told him they needed to come to St. Paul's.

The children's Sunday School was in the in the rounded portion to the right of the Baltimore Street entrance. Joy Douglas remembered watching mice running across the floor during Sunday school. Sabra recalled it being very crowded. The altar being used in the current sanctuary is believed to be the altar from the main Sunday School room.

Mim Sanner recalled that her family always sat under a window that was dedicated by Ernst & Sophia Barth. She always wondered who they were. Mrs. George Steiner sat in front of the Douglasses every Sunday. She later said when her family moved to the new church, they sat in the same general area in the new sanctuary.

Congregational meetings often included a speaker and entertainment. There was plenty of discussion, but those in attendance differed over how open the conversations were.

Women always wore hats to church, but no one seemed to recall when the fashion changed, but it was after the move to the new church. (Mim Sanner remembered panicking one day because she left the house without a hat.)

A 1955 special program noted that the choir had 12 sopranos, 8 altos, 7 basses and 5 tenors.



Final worship service at Baltimore Street location

ST. PAUL'S APPS



A PLACE PEOPLE SHARE

APPS After-School Program

2019-2020

School has started, which means APPS will be getting under way. We will begin on Wednesday, September 18th. We're looking forward to another fun year.

As always we're looking for new volunteers. We're hoping our middle school helpers return, but we could really use some adult help. If you're interested and would like to learn how you can help, we will be having a planning meeting on Wednesday, September 11th at 4:30 in Fellowship Hall. You don't have to commit to every week or from 3:30 through 6:00. Come for an hour and have dinner with the kids or help with crafts or music. We could really use someone with musical abilities. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer please call/text me at 240-522-2645 or email me at stephanie.wade@cumberlandmd.gov.

Keep us in your prayers!
Stephanie Wade

LOFT Living Our Faith Together



The Faith Formation team is meeting early in September to plan the look and feel of LOFT, Living Our Faith Together, that will meet regularly during the school year. Stay tuned for dates and times to be announced via our website, www.stpaulcumberland.org, and through the weekly worship bulletin.



The Sanctuary Choir will begin weekly rehearsals on Wednesday, September 18th at 7:30 p.m.
New voices always welcome!



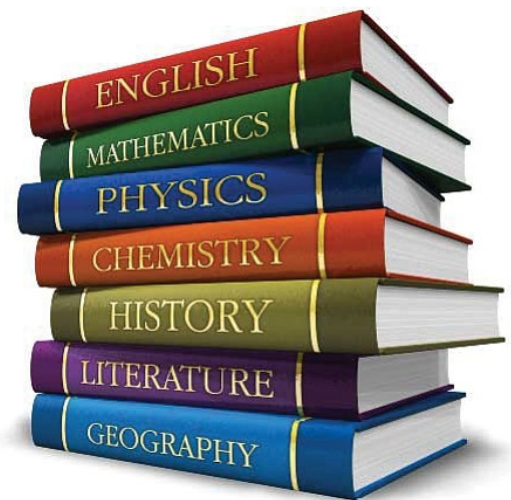
Safe and Snug 2019

The Allegany County Department of Social Services' 19th annual Safe and Snug Program will operate from September 23 through October 31, 2019. The program, funded entirely by community support, distributed 556 coats along with hats and gloves to children in need within our community in 2018. 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.

Thank you!

I want to thank the prayer group and others for the cards and wonderful notes. Thanks also to those who visited and called me.

Gregg Mazzone



Congratulations to our 2019-2020 scholarship recipients:

Bowersox Scholarship

Annie Simpson	\$726.00
Sean Wade	\$726.00

Schaidt Scholarship

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



A Prayer for the Beginning of School

August 20, 2019 by [Kimberly Knowle-Zeller](#)

Look out your window as the yellow busses pass by, The stop and start, the opening and closing of the door, The welcoming of children back to school.

Walk with the students, Lord, as they take that first step Into the unknown of a new school year. May they be greeted with smiles, high fives, and lots of words of affirmation.

Help them to hear that they belong and have gifts to share, and teach them to open their hearts to see new faces as friends still to meet, and to always choose kind words to speak.

Gather round the drop off line and see the cars and vans of parents, the sounds of anticipation, the goodbyes and waving hands, the final kiss and hug before embarking on the start of a new year.

Wrap your arms around those who are nervous and wondering if they'll make a friend, give confidence to the new students and the ones who struggle with learning.

May no one feel the loneliness of an empty lunch table or an unkind word, and if they should, surround them with friends who see them through the pain.

Be with the teachers, guide their lessons and assignments, open their hearts to see the whole child in front of them, and may they know how holy a work they are doing teaching young minds to be curious and always willing to learn, showing children the world and their place in it.

As the bell sounds and the backpacks rustle with pens and folders, we give thanks for all who work in the school:

Bus drivers, therapists, counselors, aides, cooks, custodians, lunchroom workers, tutors. Bless their hands and hearts as they share your love, may they hear words of gratitude, and may their smiles shine for others to see.

And Lord, be with the parents, this day, the ones who are dropping their children off for the first time, And for those who are sending their children off for their senior year. Ease their worries and nerves, help them to settle into the silence of their home or focus on the work to be done at their jobs. May they place their trust in you, Lord, the one who walks with them and their children, going before us all, to love and be loved.

Thank you for this new school year, full of energy and ideas excitement and joy. For the busses and backpacks, bells and pencils, teachers and lunchroom workers, custodians and principals, we give thanks. For your wisdom, Lord, that we continue to seek it, and look for signs of your love all around us, especially today in the classroom.

Amen.

Kimberly Knowle-Zeller is an ordained ELCA pastor, mother of two, and spouse of an ELCA pastor. She lives with her family in Cole Camp, MO. You can read more at her [website](#). Or follow her work on [Facebook](#).



The Ramblers are going to the Deep Creek Lake area on Thursday, September 12th. The church van will leave St. Paul's at 11:45 for a 1:00 lunch at Dutch's at Silver Tree. Following lunch and time permitting the group plans to stop at Shawnee Trading Post and Schoolhouse Earth. The cost for transportation is \$5.00. Please sign up no later than Sunday, September 8th.



Happy 40th Anniversary!!
Debbie & Burt Streicher
September 8th



Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Martha Lee Zollner who died on July 12, 2019.

We surpassed our goal of collecting 225 school supplies in
August for our APPS school!

Thank you for your support. We have 402 items to deliver
to West Side Elementary School.

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Final Collection for our 225th Anniversary:

**We are seeking 225 items of
non-perishable foods in September to support the Interfaith Food
Pantry.**

**The following items are the most distributed by the
pantry as suggestions:**

Canned beef stew	Canned chili	Canned tuna
Spam	Canned chicken	Peanut butter
Jelly in squeeze bottles	Cereal	Dry pasta
Pasta sauce	Instant potatoes	Instant rice
Pancake mix	Macaroni & cheese	
(only water needed to mix)		
Canned fruit with pull lids		

Please bring the items to church on Sundays or to the church office during
the week.



Sunday September 1
 10:00 AM Worship Service
 11:15 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship
 7:30 PM Rain site-Potomac Concert Band
Monday September 2-Labor Day
 OFFICE CLOSED
 5:00 PM Beginnings Board meeting
Wednesday September 4
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
 4:00 PM LOFT meeting
Friday September 6
 11:00 AM Beginnings Grandparent's Day-Fellowship Hall
Sunday September 8
 10:00 AM Worship Service
 11:15 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship
Monday September 9
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
Tuesday September 10
 4:00 PM Council Meeting
Wednesday September 11
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
 4:30 PM APPS meeting
Thursday September 12
 11:45 AM Ramblers to Dutch's at Silver Tree
 4:00-6:00 Bountiful Blessings
 6:30 PM Joint Reformation meeting
Sunday September 15
 10:00 AM Worship Service
 11:15 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship

Monday September 16
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
Wednesday September 18
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
 3:30-6:00 APPS afterschool program
 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
Thursday September 19
 6:00 PM Beginnings Back to School Night-Fellowship Hall/Parking Lot
Sunday September 22
 10:00 AM Worship Service
 11:15 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship
Monday September 23
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
Wednesday September 25
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
 3:30-6:00 APPS afterschool program
 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
Thursday September 26
 4:00-6:00 Bountiful Blessings
Sunday September 29
 10:00 AM Worship Service
 11:15 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship

*Our works do not generate
righteousness, rather our
righteousness in Christ
generates works.*

-Martin Luther

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS

	9/1	9/8	9/15	9/22	9/29
Ushers	Terry Hostetler and Art Isom	Mark Seib and Bob Davis	Terry Hostetler and Art Isom	Mark Seib and Bob Davis	Terry Hostetler and Art Isom
Greeters	Mary Ann Hiester and Jane Roderick	Nancy Lohr and Joy Zembower	Dennis and Cindy Read	John and Sylvia Hixon	Dave and Rena Christopher
Crucifers	Daniel Highland	Mia Broadwater	Erica Metheny	Meadow Wagus	Broadwater/ Miller
Lectors	Kathleen Ball	Tamela Rankin	Travis Medcalf	Dennis Read	Jay Cochrane
Technicians	Ed Ayers and Debbie Szymanski	Jim Squires and Debbie Szymanski	Rick Metheny	Daniel Highland and Debbie Szymanski	Jim Squires and Debbie Szymanski
Counters	Debbie Szymanski and Stephane Wade	Jay Cochrane and Terry Hostetler	Burt Streicher and Debbie Szymanski	Debbie Szymanski and Stephanie Wade	Jay Cochrane and Terry Hostetler
Communion Assistants	Jim and Patti Squires	Jane Roderick and Debbie Streicher	Emily and Erica Metheny	Jim and Patti Squires	Brenda Marvin And Diane Rhoads
Loaves And Fishes Fellowship	Rankins		Reads	Streichers	Baby Shower Luncheon