# ST. PAUL'S CALL JUNE 2022

#### St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield

139 Craig's Meadow Road East Stroudsburg PA 18301 570-223-9422

E-mail: stpaulscraigsmeadow@verizon.net Web Site: stpaulscommunitychurch.com

Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield



#### St. Paul's Mission Statement

We are a community of faith called to share the good news of Jesus as our model of life.

We seek spiritual maturity through worship, learning and serving.

We invite and welcome all who desire to share this journey of faith active in love.

YOU CAN VIEW PAST SERVICES ON OUR FACEBOOK AND WEB SITE.

LIVE STREAMING WILL NOW BE AVAILABE ON FACEBOOK FOR THE 10:00AM SUNDAY SERVICE.

### **A Message from Pastor Thomas**

Total sadness is a good description of our feeling as we hear the news of another violent act. In Uvalde, Texas, a soul-crushing twenty-one people died, including 18 children, a teacher, her husband from a heart attack, and the suspected gunman of extreme gun violence at Robb Elementary school. The killing of these children breaks our hearts. The news comes a few days after the murders of human beings at a grocery store in Buffalo, NY. We learned that this was the 27th school shooting this year. What do we do with our deep pain and grief? In the Scriptures, we read about how Jesus managed grief and pain. Jesus cried when he heard the news that his friend Lazarus had died.

In the Beatitudes, we read that those who weep are blessed. So how do we respond to grief and sadness? The Psalmists have taught us a way to approach God in our grief. It is lament or prayer of lament. It starts with acknowledging before God the depth of our sorrow, fears, anxieties, etc. It puts into words the content of our hearts. It trusts God to hold our pain while we expound or even rant about it. It allows us to go to the depth of our distress without going to a place without hope. It will enable us to cast our burden on God rather than trying to carry it all ourselves. Examples of community laments are Psalms 12, 44, 58, 60, 74, 79, 80, and 126. Some individual lament Psalm examples are 3, 4, 5, 7, 13, 14, 17, 25, and 27.

While we need tears, grief is important, and while we lament and pray, we also need policy and change. I saw a cartoon the other day with angels standing at the gate of heaven. One said to the other, "they keep sending us their thoughts and prayers and their children." The children are not only school children but 18 and 19-year-old Russians, some of whom are members of the Russian Orthodox Church. Our world needs concrete actions in communities. James reminds us that faith without works is dead. Turning pain and turning prayer into action are the logical next steps. Globally, hurting families and nations torn by war and violence are present in huge numbers. It is time to stop the gun violence.

Listen, we are not called by God to always be on our knees praying. Praying alone will not fix tragedies like the deaths in Buffalo the week before last. Prayers do, I think, have the character of strategic planning. Prayers help us align ourselves with the actions God wants us to take. In one prayer, we pray, "Thy will be done." The challenge is to realize the will of God in our lives and the world. Discerning God's will for our lives and the planet becomes an ever more pertinent matter considering the turmoil in the world today. Refugees, wildfires, and droughts are only a few of the existential threats facing millions. We must not simply commit to prayer without searching for concrete actions that offer remedies for the suffering world we are a part of. We prayerfully serve however we can. John Wesley sums a life of service up with these words: Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.

What difference might that make this week? Some of us struggle with challenges at work. Some face difficulties at home, or school. We know setbacks in our profession or personal lives, deal with stress and illness, or face an uncertain future? Our opportunity this week, is to let everyone around us know that whatever they face, they do not meet it alone. Jesus was praying for them back then and promises to accompany them through the Holy Spirit even now, all these years later. And we accompany neighbors. We are like the bridge over troubled waters.

On the eve of his crucifixion, Jesus prayed for the disciples. Then Jesus continued to walk with them. So too Jesus accompanies us through all that may come, holding us through the highs and lows of life, even though death to new life. This is the promise of resurrection, one we so urgently need to hear.

**Pastor Thomas** 



## Greetings from Worship and Music!

On Pentecost, we celebrate that we have been given an Advocate to accompany us. Poured out in wind and fire, water, wine, and bread, the Holy Spirit abides in and among us. We give thanks that God speaks to each of us, no matter our origins, language, or life path. Filled with the Spirit of truth, we go out from worship to proclaim the saving power of Christ's love and the freedom of God's grace with all the world.

Church Picnic June 19<sup>th</sup> – On Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup> we will have a picnic lunch in Celebration Hall following the 10:00am service. If you are able, please bring a side dish or dessert. You can drop these off in Celebration Hall before the late service begins. Hot dogs, chips and beverages will be supplied. Celebrate Father's Day with friends on Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>!

Service Assistants – Sign-up sheets for the summer schedule are on the bulletin board. Please take a minute and sign-up if you can serve as a lay reader, acolyte or greeter for a Sunday. Your help is most appreciated.

Altar Flowers and Bulletins - Celebrate a loved one by sponsoring the altar flowers and bulletins for a Sunday service. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board and checks may be given to the Church Secretary or Dana Strohl. We are in need of coffee cans to send the flower arrangements home in after church. If you have any, please drop them off to the Secretary's office.

Summer Musical Offerings – If you or if you know someone who would be interested in singing a solo, duet or play an instrument for special music during the summer season please see or call Kathy Ertle at 570-656-0659.

Summer Hours – Presently there are no plans to change the service hours. The early service is at 8:30am followed by the late service at 10:00am. Think about bringing a friend with you on a Sunday. All are welcome!

Our next meeting is on June 6th at 6:30 pm. Please share your ideas with us!

Yours in Christ,

**Worship and Music Committee** 

### WE HAVE BEEN BUSY SO FAR THIS YEAR AT ST. PAUL'S

Febuary 27,2022 Installation of congregation council members

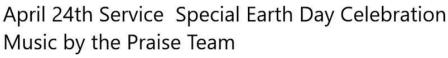
April 17th





St. Paul's Easter Services were special and enjoyed by everyone with refreshments between services.

Our choir girls Brooke, Jolie and Ashley entertained us during the choir anthem.



Special guest speaker from Brodhead Watershed Association Ann King-Foster, and Alan Pride

educating us about beekeeping.













May 1, 2022 Baptisim of Luca Erich Tufano



Jolie played her violin for us during a May Service which we all enjoyed.





Our very own Pastor Thomas!



Flowers are blooming ourside and the garden is just taking off, thanks to all the St. Paul's members that keep up the outside property so we can all enjoy.







# May 6, 2022 A Night of Music Dedication Concert



Dave at the piano



Tim joined us and played on our new organ.



St. Paul's choir



Joanne came in special from Ohio,



Praise Team entertained with songs.



Our guest artists Bruce Roshrbach from Allen Organ, Gary Raish and Bob Riday from St. John's Stroudsburg



Lisa and Bonnie our greeters and photo advisors!!

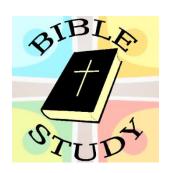


Madeline organized the refeshments. and Kathy organized the event.



## FRIDAY LADIES

9:30 - 12:00noon Every Friday



## **BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

Tuesday 11:30am - 12:30pm Last class June 7<sup>th</sup> for the summer.

(If classes continue everyone will be notified.)





Dick has been busy planting more vegetable in the garden.

We will be seeing veggies before you know it...

If you are interested in helping please let him know.



Still looking for some help with weeding the front and side of church.



## **FOOD PANTRY**

Thursday June 9<sup>th</sup> and 23rd 9:30am - 12:00noon

The May Post Office
"STAMP OUT HUNGER DRIVE"
was a great success.

Jackie had some great volunteers and got everything picked up and packed away.









You can purchase a homemade jar of honey during coffee hour.



#### Please call the office for phone number or see Laura Pride for contact information.

### **The Hospitality Committee**

Committee meets quarterly to review the operation of Celebration Hall. They take care of advertising the hall as a venue, booking events and acting as on-site stewards during those events. They also oversee the care of the hall including maintenance and cleaning.

Please share with family and friends.

If you are interested in rental information please contact | Laura Pride



## Celebrate Your Event







- Full Commercial Kitchen
- Seating: 160 Banquet Style 180 Assembly
- Parking: Up to 75 Vehicles
- Handicap Accessible
- Wi-Fi Ready



- Birthday Parties
- Anniversary Parties
- Banquets
- Meetings
- Workshops



To: Rev. James Thomas

#### Because He Lives

In Celebration of Christ's Love and Resurrection

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GIDEON BIBLES are being provided by

Jan + Parter durale

Address /409 Chary

City/State East Spandsbury PA Zip 18301

I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; . . . Revelation 1:18

## PASTOR THOMAS WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE EDWARD'S FOR THEIR DONATION

Each Bible provided by the donor will be placed by The Gideons and has the potential of reaching 2,300 readers in its estimated six-year life in a hotel or motel room. Bibles and New Testaments are placed and distributed by The Gideons in over 170 countries worldwide.

## Thank You Laura Pride for bringing and instructing your program to St. Paul's





For Strength & Balance



WHERE: St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield 139 Craig's Meadow Road, East Stroudsburg PA 18301 In their Celebration Hall behind the church





IF YOU HAVE ANY EVENT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE PLEASE E-MAIL TO OFFICE.

## SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA



"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you..." [Isaiah 43:2] This is the promise God made to the people of Israel, in a time when the whole nation was suffering the consequences of their turning away from their primary mission: to love God and love neighbor – especially, neighbors with the least advantages, status and resources. For our time, our church, and our synod, one of our most troubling issues is the sin of racism. Isaiah goes on to say: "Bring forth the people who are blind, yet have eyes, who are deaf, yet have ears!" [Is. 43:8] This speaks to the first step to take into those troubled waters: opening our eyes and ears to see and listen – with minds and hearts willing to go beneath the smooth surface and stir up the stories and truths that, though troubling, will clear the way for God "to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." [Is. 43:19] + Bishop Christopher deForest

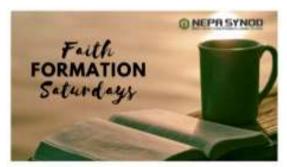
On May 22, 2021, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod hosted a virtual conference called "Trouble the Water," an inaugural day of racial justice worship and workshops. The goal of this event was to help our congregations to be more welcoming to Black, indigenous, and people of color; and to focus on racial justice and reconciliation within our churches, communities, and synod.

Participants were welcomed with a brief introduction to what we hoped to accomplish, and a request for participants to join us in that troubled water – to be willing to experience the discomfort caused by the ripples, and to plan to ride the waves of change and progress that we hoped to create. The organizers started with a land acknowledgment, acknowledged our shared national history of racism and discrimination, and explained that such historical acknowledgment was not about blaming us as individuals today, but about understanding how we came to be where we are in order to understand how to move forward together.

Next, we all worshiped together with song, prayer, and a sermon by Rev. Dr. James Thomas on "The Sins of Racism." Following worship, The Reverend CeCee Mills delivered an incredibly powerful keynote address, and after that two sets of concurrent workshops were offered. The first set of workshop options included Understanding Microaggressions, Trauma-Informed Neighborhood Engagement, Understanding Implicit Bias, and a presentation on the community organizing group POWER Northeast. The second set of workshops included Seeing and Disrupting Racism; Understanding White Privilege; and Church Together (led by ELCA Director of Racial Justice Jennifer De Leon).

The "Trouble the Water" event provided important space for honest, difficult conversation: wrestling with systemic racism and naming our complicity in a broken, inequitable system. Your gifts cultivate a Synod culture that listens to the stories of all people and actively works towards reflecting the Kingdom of God. Our ELCA has a mission of encountering 1 million new, young, and diverse people with the Good News in Jesus Christ. Thank you for your faithful, generous, and consistent giving to Mission Support. It makes a difference as we endeavor to live out that mission. + Rev. Rachael Dietz





Join us on the 2nd Saturday of every month!

(more information on our website)

#### **JUNE 2022**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Friday Ladies 9:30am – 12noon Healthy Steps	4 Vigil of Pentecost
5 Pentecost  8:30am w/communion 10:00am w/communion	Office closed Worship & Music 6:30pm	7 Bible Study 11:30am – 12:30pm	8 Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30pm	9 Food Pantry 9:30- 12:00noon	10 Friday Ladies 9:30am – 12noon	11
Holy Trinity  8:30am w/communion 10:00am w/communion	13 Office closed	14	15	16	17 Friday Ladies 9:30am – 12noon	18
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am w/communion 10:00am w/communion Picnic Lunch Celebration Hall	20 Office closed	21	Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30pm	Food Pantry 9:30- 12:00noon	Priday Ladies 9:30am - 12noon	25
26 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost 8:30am w/communion  10:00am Contemporary Service/Praise Team	27 Office closed	28	29	30		