



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

DECEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

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

HOLIDAY SERVICE DATES AND TIMES



Evening Advent Zoom Services
12/7, 12/14 and 12/21
Invite sent each week



3:30pm and 7:00pm



CHRISTMAS MORNING
10:00am combined service



*New Years
Day Worship*

**10:00am combined service
of Lessons & Carols**

LIVE STREAMING AVAILABLE ON FACEBOOK

FOR THE 10:00AM SUNDAY SERVICE. Go direct to Facebook or Web Site home page and select FB tab



Welcome to Advent and Merry Christmas from Worship and Music!

At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God's own love and concern." – **Mother Teresa, Love: A Fruit Always in Season**

Church Decorations – Special thank you to the Pride family for hanging the greenery in the church, Dick and Mary Lee Rehm for the beautiful Christmas wreaths, Laura Biddulph, Faye Jones, Jolie Mrakovcich and Lynne Williams for putting up the trees and to Jeannette Richardson for the lovely poinsettias. We will need some help after the 10am service on December 18th to ready the church for Christmas Eve!

Advent Series – Laura Pride is holding Advent services via Zoom on Wednesday evenings. Zoom will open at 6:30 with the service running from 7-7:45pm.

Angel Tree – There are a few more tags! Please bring your unwrapped presents to the church by Friday, December 8th. Affix the tag to the gift or attach to the bag, if multiples. The Salvation Army thanks you for your help!

Meals on Wheels – Remember to place your gifts for Meals on Wheels in the basket in the narthex. Items like large print crossword puzzles, cards, gloves or warm items for our seniors is appreciated.

Christmas Parament Dedication – On Sunday, December 18th we will be dedicating the new Christmas paraments given to the church in memory and celebration for the life of Chris Sandra Matthy. We give special thanks to the Matthy family for this beautiful gift!



Musical and Other Events in the Area

Thursday Advent Series First Presbyterian Church of Stroudsburg

December 1 – Susan Frickert, organist
December 8 – Vale Rideout, tenor
Scott Besser, accompanist
December 15 – Stroudsburg HS Chorale
December 22 – Valenches String Trio

Guests are invited to bring lunch and a covered drink to enjoy some music of the season. Concerts are Thursdays at 12:10pm.

Longest Night "A Light in the Darkness" **St. John's Lutheran Church of Stroudsburg**

Wednesday, December 21st 7:30pm

Bob Riday, Director Gary Raish, Accompanist

Christmas Concert by the Bach & Handel Chorale of Jim Thorpe on December 10th at 3:00pm at **St Paul Lutheran Church in Tannersville** **158 Fish Hill Rd. Tannersville. PA**

Music will be a combination of Bach, Handel and classical Christmas tunes.

Free concert, donations accepted and refreshments available.

A Living Nativity

Experience from your car

2nd Saturday of December 5pm -7pm

(rain date 3rd Saturday)

Faith United Methodist Church

Non-perishable food donations accepted

stroudsburgfaith.org

Altar Flowers and Bulletins - Make someone's day with an altar flower arrangement this holiday season! Bulletin sponsorships are also available. Check out the bulletin board to sign-up. Checks may be given to the Church Secretary or Dana Strohl.

Service Assistants – Thank you to all those who signed up for the month. We're still looking for some greeters. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board. Your help as an acolyte, greeter or lay reader is most appreciated.

Celebration Hall Building Fund – For those who would like to make an end of year donation, please consider our building fund to offset the mortgage on this wonderful building that serves as a gathering place for the local community. Just indicate on your check "Building Fund".

Wishing you a Blessed Holiday Season!

Worship & Music





OUTSIDE WREATH DECORATIONS BY DICK REHM



**SALVATION ARMY
ANGEL TREE**



**DONATIONS FOR MEALS ON WHEELS,
ORGANIZED BY FAYE JONES**



**WILL BE READY FOR KIDS MITTENS ON DEC 8th
DONATIONS GO TO WIC**

**WINTER and SNOW HAS ARRIVED
AT OUR FAIRY GARDEN**



**SPECIAL THANKS TO NOREEN MANDA
FOR ALL THE CARDS SHE SENDS OUT WHEN
WE'RE SICK, IT'S OUR BIRTHDAY OR JUST TO SAY
ST. PAUL'S IS THINKING OF YOU.**

**FRIDAY LADIES BUSY AS ALWAYS DELIVERED
6 LAP ROBES TO PLEASANT VALLEY MANOR
AND
1 TO A RESIDENT AT SHIRLEY FUTCH PLAZA.**

PRAISE TEAM GETTING READY FOR THEIR LAST CONTEMPORARY SERVICE of 2022
NOVEMBER 27th 2022



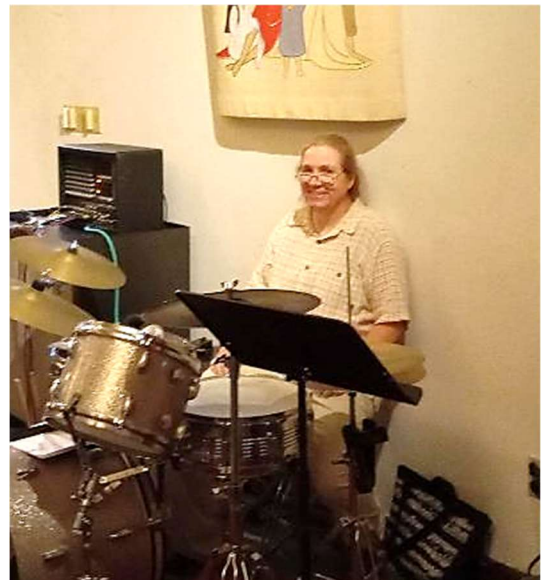
Barbara, Sam and Laura



Laura and Dave



Chris, Barbara and Sam



Tracey



Praise Team Leader Chris

FOODS THAT WILL HELP OUR WILD FRIENDS DURING COLD WEATHER

guardiansofrescue.org



- Uncooked oats
- Cereal
- Cooked rice (ideally brown)
- Soaked dog kibble
- Wet dog or cat food
- Fresh coconut in the shell
- Baked potatoes
- Suet blocks / bird cake
- Raw peanuts / walnuts / others
- Raw sunflower seeds
- Wild birdseed
- Bread is better than nothing at all,
but is very low in nutritional value.

Thank You for caring!



SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA



Dear Friends and Christ,

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Creator and from Jesus Christ! On behalf of the Northeastern PA Synod Staff and Bishop Christopher deForest we wish you the merriest Christmas and a blessed and fruitful new year!

This year the NEPA Synod accomplished a cornucopia of ministry in all corners of the NEPA territory. Your love for God in Christ fed the hungry, built relationships with the downtrodden and outcast, diapered babies, shared the love of God in Christ, and much more...

Christmas reminds us of the length God goes to build relationships with us. God comes all the way down to a dirty stable in Bethlehem... an unexpected, messy beginning for the Messiah. Jesus is exactly the Messiah we needed without understanding why we needed him.

Christmas is an opportunity to reflect on the ways God comes to us unexpectedly -- It's an opportunity to meditate on the reality that Christ comes to us as an infant, totally reliant on his parents... Christ comes in the most usual way, and yet he's the one foretold in the prophets of old, he saves the people from sin and death, and he keeps coming to us. Jesus comes to us in bread and wine, in baptism, through prayer and thanksgiving, and when we gather together around God's Word.

Continue to be the Body of Christ in the world. Keep serving, preaching, proclaiming, worshipping, and sharing the good news of what God has done for us!

Yours in Christ,
NEPA Synod Staff



Register Now!

Join us!

LEARNING MINISTRIES DAY

January 28, 2023

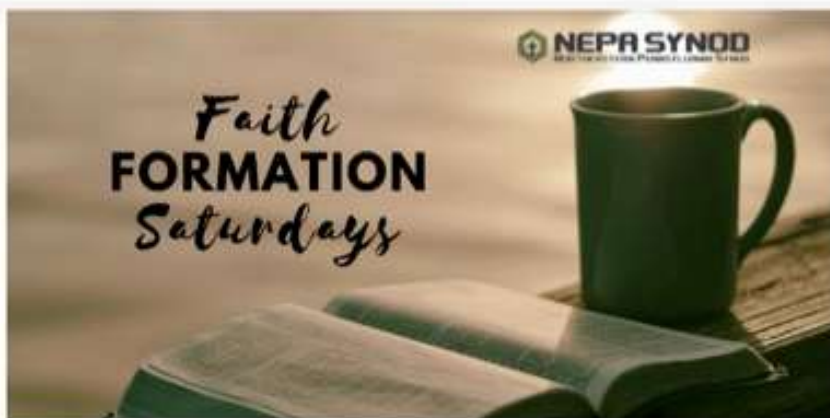
[WWW.GODSLOVE.ORG/
LEARNINGMINISTRIESDAY](http://WWW.GODSLOVE.ORG/LEARNINGMINISTRIESDAY)



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**SYNOD
ASSEMBLY
2023**

**JUNE
1-3**



Faith Formation Saturdays

Date: Monthly (2nd Saturday)

Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm EST



SHARE WITH YOUR FRIENDS

Please call the office for phone number or see Sonji Patrick 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.



Celebrate Your Event



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

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



DECEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Choir 6:30pm	2 Friday Ladies 9:30am – 12:00noon	3
4 2nd Sunday of Advent 8:30 & 10:00am w/communion Pastor Thomas	5 Music & Worship 6:30pm	6 Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm	7 Evening Advent Service on Zoom	8 Food Pantry 9:30am – 12:00noon Choir 6:30pm	9 Friday Ladies 9:30am – 12:00noon	10
11 3rd Sunday of Advent 8:30 & 10:00am w/communion Pastor Thomas	12	13	14 Evening Advent Service on Zoom	15 Christmas Pantry 9:30am – 12:00noon Choir 6:30pm	16 Friday Ladies 9:30 – 12:00noon	17
18 4th Sunday of Advent w/communion Pastor Thomas	19	20 Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm	21 Evening Advent Service on Zoom	22 Choir 6:30pm	23 Friday Ladies 9:30 – 12:00noon	24 Christmas Eve Services 3:30pm and 7:00pm
25 Christmas Day Service Combined service at 10:00am	26	27 Bible Study 11:30am – 12:30pm	28	29 Choir 6:30pm	30 Friday Ladies 9:30 – 12:00noon	31 New Year's Eve

JANUARY 1st 2023 New Year's Day Combined service at 10:00am of Lessons and Carols