

ST. PAUL'S CALL

FEBRUARY 2022

St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield
139 Craig's Meadow Road
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Church office: 570-223-9422
E-Mail: stpaulscraigsmeadow@verizon.net
Web Site: stpaulscommunitychurch.com
Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield

Rev. James Thomas Pastor



COME JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Services at 8:30 and 10:00am

Sunday the	6 th	5 th Sunday after Epiphany – Communion
	13 th	6 th Sunday after Epiphany - Communion
	20 th	7 th Sunday after Epiphany - Communion

27 th	Transfiguration of the Lord
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Contemporary Service with the

Praise Team



Message from Pastor Thomas

WELCOME TO THE STEWARDSHIP TEAM

(printed in our January 30, 2022 bulletin)

The church council has authorized the formation of a new Stewardship Team. The Stewardship Team's Job is to develop a Stewardship Campaign beginning November 13, 2022. Seven (7) St. Paul's members are needed for the team. Three persons have already signed-on. Four (4) additional members are needed. Please let Laura Pride, Church Council President, or Pastor Thomas know if you wish to serve. Meetings are scheduled for ZOOM and occasionally in-person. The first meeting will be scheduled for February after we canvass members for the best date and time. This promises to be an educational and rewarding experience.

Stewardship Sunday – November 13, 2022

This year the Stewardship Program is called *Consecration Sunday*. Did you know that ...?

1.5% of personal income is given in churches that only take an offering, but do not have a pledging program and do not have an annual stewardship campaign. 2.9% of personal income is given in congregation where pledging is the practice. 4.6% of personal income is given where pledging is done on a percentage of income given rather than a fixed \$ amount.

Beginning in mid-October, church members and friends are invited to speak during worship about what the church and giving means to them. Articles included in the bulletin and newsletter will discuss the meaning and theology of stewardship. During October and early November, you will receive an invitation to attend Consecration Sunday!

On Sunday, November 13 we will make our pledges as part of a Consecration Worship Service, which will include Communion. During the worship service you are invited to fill the pledge card it in an offering plate. We will pray prayers of thanksgiving for our pledges.

In May, 2023 we will have a mid-point celebration of Consecration Sunday. This is the culmination of our Stewardship season. The focus on the pledges four plus one – the pledges of our membership – that we support the church with 1.) prayers, 2) Presence, 3) money, and 4) service. The plus one is an opportunity for you to consider St. Paul's in your will and/or estate giving. We are seeking to expand our understanding of stewardship as more than the annual financial drive to stewardship being a total commitment to our faith.

Worship will be immediately followed by a FREE Catered Meal for all church members and friends. At the meal we will announce the results of our pledging.

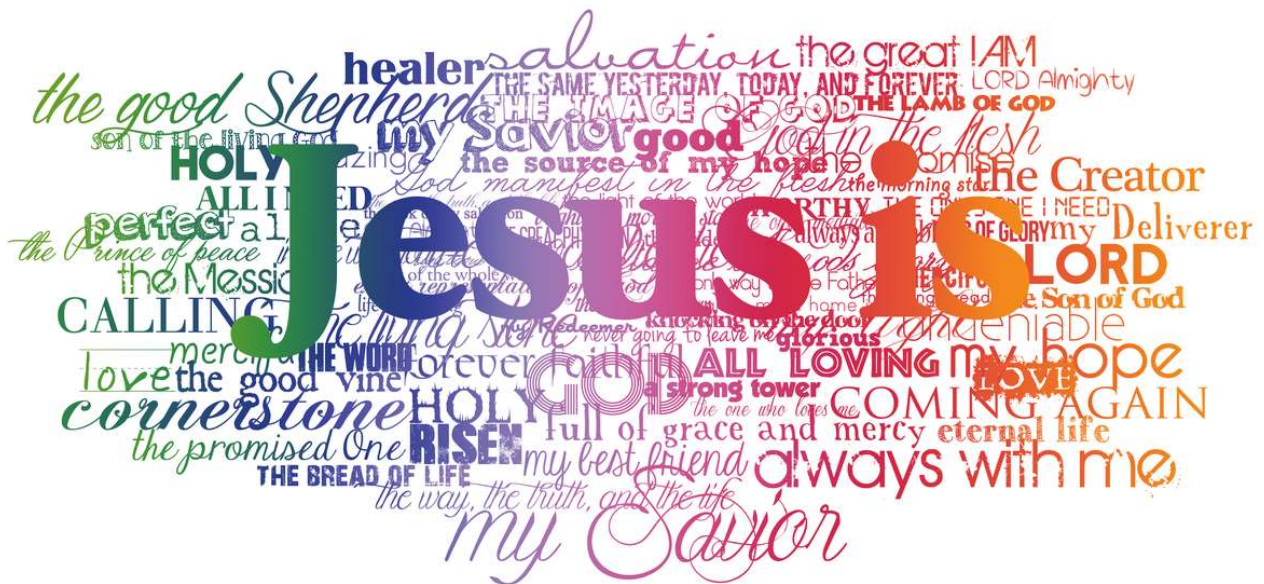
THE WORK OF CALLING A NEW PASTOR TO ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The ELCA Call Process is a prayerful way in which the ELCA's 65 synods engage their congregations, church-related organizations and rostered ministers. Presently, St. Paul's East Stroudsburg is in the Call Process. Our Church Council has asked the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod to provide a pastoral candidate for a full-time call. This candidate most likely will be a first-call candidate. This means that the person who interviews with the Call Committee is a recent graduate of one of the ELCA seminaries, or someone ordained in another Lutheran church of Christian tradition. It does not mean that the person will come inexperienced. Many strong candidates for calls to congregations are second career persons having spent years in other professions.

Each year in February and September, synods from across the ELCA gather and report information on vacancies at ministry sites in their synod that would be appropriate for first call deacons or pastors. These vacancies may be open at the time of reporting, or are anticipated to open in the very new future after reporting. St. Paul's is on this list.

Through prayerful discernment, candidates, synods, regions and the church work together to identify where the spirit is calling each candidate to begin interviewing for first calls.

We pray that God will lead a candidate to St. Paul's Church, and in a short while we'll welcome our new pastor. Pastor Thomas had agreed to remain as Interim Pastor, with congregational and synod approval, until the new pastor arrives. We are working on it.





MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNCIL
PRESIDENT LAURA PRIDE

Dear Church Family,

I hope all of you and your families are doing well. A reminder to reach out to us if you need anything! Our church family is full of people who are willing to help in many ways! All you need to do is ask. You may call or email me, or call the church or Pastor Thomas directly. Our church family far extends the walls of the church and we would all do well to remember that. Some of us are worshipping in person, some by watching the YouTube recording, some by attending Tuesday morning Bible Study. Some are Facebook lurkers. However, you are choosing to take part in the activities of the church, I welcome you to continue! You are welcome!

Our Congregational meeting...The one where we see the previous year in review... will take place on Sunday February 27 after the 10:00 service. We invite as many of you as possible to attend this meeting in person. If you are not able, no worries! We are working on being able to use Zoom. The congregational officers along with council members will be installed during the 10:00 service that morning. A packet of ministry summaries will be available in person and via email. The agenda is a review of ministries and a look at the year ahead. It's a time to meditate on what has been accomplished and what we still might want to do moving ahead. There are definite opportunities in the year ahead for like-minded friends to get together in support of church ministries! I invite all of you to review the ministry summaries, meditate in gratitude for all that has been accomplished and discern where you might be called to serve St. Paul's in the future. Our mission has not changed despite the pandemic. God is good.

In addition to reading the newsletter, I invite you all to follow us on Facebook (St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield), or go to our website (www.stpaulscommunitychurch.com). I also invite you all to follow the Northeast PA Synod on Facebook (Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA) or go to their website (nepasynod.org).

On February 7, I will be attending a Zoom meeting of the Council Presidents of the Pocono Mission District. These meetings are monthly and facilitated by Pastor Niels Nielsen, our District Dean and Associate of the Bishop. Pastor Nielsen is also the liaison to the Bishop for congregations in the Call Process. His knowledge has been invaluable to me these last several years. This month's meeting is important. We will be gathering to discuss the changing landscape of ministry. We have been asked to imagine and plan how our congregations (of the Pocono Mission District- there are 13 of them) can be "the church together" in the years to come. We will discuss sharing pastors, educational resources, program ideas, and reaching out to the stranger together. We need to plan how we can be increasingly connected to one another. I am honored to represent our congregation in this capacity and I am without a doubt impressed with the progress our congregation has taken in this direction. We need to think outside of the box (the church building so to speak) when it comes to ministry and mission in the future, and we are doing just that.

Again, I encourage you to look on the Synod's Facebook Page and website to see the church in action and how congregations are coming together in the face of what may seem like adversity. A closer look will reveal that we are not facing adversity, but the future! We need to do that together! I know we can do it! We already are!

God's blessings to All,
Laura Pride

**Ready to make
someone smile this
Valentine's Day?**

<http://goodgifts.elca.org/>



Give [honeybees](#) (\$20), a [fruit-tree seedling](#) (\$10) or a [piglet](#) (\$30) in honor of your valentine and help someone in our world overcome hunger and poverty. Each gift provides a sustainable source of food, income or both to help a family in need. This Valentine's Day, you can share the love of Christ far and wide!

Donate now and print or email one of our [limited-edition cards](#) to let your loved one know about your sweet gift. Card options are available after checkout.

Greetings from Worship and Music!



Valentine's Day, also called **Saint Valentine's Day** or the **Feast of Saint Valentine**, is celebrated annually on February 14. It originated as a Christian feast day honoring one or two early Christian martyrs named Saint Valentine. Through later folk traditions, it has become a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of love.

Your Worship and Music committee is working on Livestreaming worship services. An announcement will be made when this feature is available. "A Night of Music: Organ Dedication" concert is planned for the Spring. Details to follow. We are looking for people to sponsor the flowers and bulletins for Sunday services. Please sign up on the charts located on the bulletin board for the Sunday of your choice. It's a great way to honor a loved one. Anyone who is able to read, light candles or serve as a greeter on a Sunday is encouraged to sign up. A sheet is on the bulletin board.

Choir meets Saturdays at 2pm in the sanctuary. We would love for you and a friend to join us. Praise team meets on Wednesday evenings and performs on the 4th Sunday of the month. Please see Chris Matthy if you're interested.

Ash Wednesday is on March 2nd of this year. Details for Lenten and Easter services will be coming via email. If you know someone who would like to receive the newsletter, please let Lynne Williams know in the office.

Our next meeting is on February 7th at 6:30 pm. Please share your ideas with us for making the services more meaningful for you, your friends and family. We would 'love' to hear from you!

Yours in Christ,
Worship and Music Committee

January 30th THREE BAPTISMS with PASTOR MATTHY



DANNY THE MOOSE drawing



Jeannette Richardson
the proud winner.

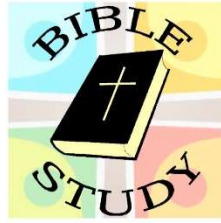
Donated by Nancy Fritz



Beautiful lap robes for nursing
homes are on display in the narthex,
made by our Friday Ladies.

In case you missed it. Every Tuesday in Social Hall.

JOIN US



St. Paul's Tuesday
Bible Study group will resume
tomorrow February 1st with
Pastor Thomas.

11:30am - 12:30pm
in the social hall.

New study books have arrived.



FOOD PANTRY

Thursday February 10th and 24th 9:30am to 12:00noon.

If schools are closed due to the weather pantry will be held the following day.

(Please call the office if other arrangements need to be made.)

**(Pantry needs jelly and cereal at this time,
monetary donations are appreciated)**

FRIDAY LADIES

MEET EVERY FRIDAY (weather permitting)

10:00 – 12:00



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 Ed Stephens.



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





SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

FEBRUARY 2022 • ISSUE 2 • VOLUME 30

Faith in Action

Arndt's Lutheran Church in Easton





Hunger is a real problem in our country and our area of Pennsylvania is no different. Last year we started a reverse Advent food drive where congregants collected food items each day during Advent, culminating with delivery to our local food bank. It was such a success that we decided to expand it to the community. Volunteers will collect, sort, and deliver food items to the pantry right after Christmas when the need is the greatest. This year's food drive was very successful as we collected 983 lbs. of food valued at \$1671 for the ProJeCt Easton Food Pantry in Easton, PA. Approximately 43 families from Arndt's and people outside the community participated in the project. A local moving company donated a truck and manpower for the delivery. We hope to make this project an annual event of providing for those in need.

FAITH FORMATION SATURDAYS



FAITH FORMATION
SATURDAYS OCCUR THE
SECOND SATURDAY OF EACH
MONTH, STARTING IN
FEBRUARY, RUNNING FROM
10:00AM – 12:00PM

STEWARDSHIP EXTRAVAGANZA

 **JUNE 18, 2022** 
**TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH, LANSDALE**
AN EVENT ORGANIZED BY THE
SEPA AND NEPA SYNODS
(REGISTRATION FORTHCOMING)

PRAYING TOGETHER



Marty Everhart
Doug LaFauci
Roy Koehler
Phyllis Pelletier
Emma Weaver

MISSION SUPPORT 2022



Send in your mission support
commitments for 2022. You
can find the form on the synod
website, under the resources
tab.

boundless
god beyond measure

JULY 24-28, 2022
MINNEAPOLIS, MN
REGISTER NOW AT ELCA.ORG

Save the date **SYNOD
ASSEMBLY
2022**
*June 10-11
Reading*

FEBRUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Bible Study 11:30am – 12:30pm	2 Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30pm	3	4 Friday Ladies 10:00am - 12:00noon	5 Choir Rehearsal 2:00pm
6 5 th Epiphany Service w/Communion 8:30am and 10:00am	7 Church Office closed	8 Bible Study 11:30am – 12:30pm Council Meeting 7:00pm	9	10 Food Pantry 9:30am – 12:00 noon	11 Friday Ladies 10:00am - 12:00noon	12 Choir Rehearsal 2:00pm
13 6 th Epiphany Service w/Communion 8:30am and 10:00am	14 Church Office closed	15 Bible Study 11:30am – 12:30pm	16 Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30pm	17	18 Friday Ladies 10:00am - 12:00noon	19 Choir Rehearsal 2:00pm
20 7 th Epiphany Service w/Communion 8:30am and 10:00am	21 Church Office closed	22 Bible Study 11:30am – 12:30pm	23	24 Food Pantry 9:30am – 12:00 noon	25 Friday Ladies 10:00am - 12:00noon	26 Choir Rehearsal 2:00pm
27 Transfiguration of our Lord 8:30am Service 10:00am Contemporary Service with the Praise Team Congregation Meeting 2nd Service	28 Church Office closed					