

St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield  
139 Craig's Meadow Rd.  
East Stroudsburg, Pa. 18301  
Phone: 570-223-9422

E-mail: [stpaulscraigsmeadow@verizon.net](mailto:stpaulscraigsmeadow@verizon.net)  
Web Site: [stpaulscommunitychurch.com](http://stpaulscommunitychurch.com)  
Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield

# ST. PAUL'S CALL

## February 2024

Pastor Deb Staniszewski

### JOIN US FOR PRAYER AND WORSHIP



### SUNDAY SERVICES 8:30am and 10:00AM

**LIVE STREAMING AVAILABLE ON FACEBOOK FOR THE  
10:00AM SUNDAY SERVICE.**

**You can also connect to Facebook by going to our web site.**

### 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.**

**INCLEMENT  
WEATHER  
INFORMATION**



Please check your e-mails or call the church office for a voice mail message.

Up-dates will be made early if it is decided that the church will be cancelled or we will only have one service due to weather.





Greetings Friends,

In Matthew's gospel, Jesus says, <sup>19</sup> "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup> but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:19-21, NRSVUE)

Valentine's Day seems like a good day to notice, and begin to explore where our hearts are at and what we treasure. This year Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday are both observed on February 14<sup>th</sup>, and so we begin our Lenten journey on the very same day that we celebrate the love we treasure.

During the season of Lent, we are called to reflect on our lives in Christ, and to turn to God. The season starts with Ash Wednesday when we are reminded that from dust we are formed, and to dust we shall return.

The scripture passage from Matthew got me thinking about treasure, and that while we are made from dust, it is special, amazing, holy, cosmic, space dust! That we are God's treasure, creatures made in God's image, who are given the breath of God, that we might live and love, and let God's love shine through us out into the world.

We are treasure to God who loves us first, and empowers us to love God, others and ourselves too. We hold a treasure above treasures within us, which is God's Holy Spirit. And when we come together as God's people in the body of Christ, and share God's love with others we act as God's hands and feet in the world. We carry God's love wherever we go.

You are treasure, you are loved, and worth loving. You are loveable, because God makes good stuff. And here's the other thing, those things are true about us, and about all of God's children! Loved ones, strangers, whether we are difficult or easy to love on any given day, we are all loved by God and are special treasure. So when you're dealing with someone difficult, a stranger, or even an enemy, imagine that "**God's Treasure**" is written in invisible sharpie on their forehead.

During Lent we're called to turn to God, to spend time in reflection and prayer, meditation, and fasting, as well as commit acts of loving kindness, as we repent and spend time reflecting on our life in Christ.

As we journey together from Ash Wednesday toward the cross, it's a good time to consider what we treasure in our hearts. If we find some things that aren't really worth treasuring, we can loosen our grip on those things, creating more space in our hearts and minds to recognize and experience the treasure which we carry always in our hearts that is worth more than all else, God's saving love, hope, grace and kindness.

Your Sibling in Christ,

Pastor Deb

# *Worship and Music!*



## Greetings from Worship & Music

**Lenten Soup Supper Series** – Lenten soup suppers will start on February 21<sup>st</sup> and will be held on Wednesday evenings at 6pm followed by a spiritual Lenten series. Please sign up if you can prepare soup, bring bread or a dessert. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Bring a friend along to share in the fellowship.

### **Lent and Holy Week Services**

- Ash Wednesday – Weds, Feb 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm
- Lenten Soup Suppers – Weds evenings 6-7:15pm. Feb 21 & 28, March 6, 13 & 20
- Palm Sunday – Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am and 10am
- Maundy Thursday – March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7pm
- Good Friday – March 29<sup>th</sup> at 12pm and 7pm
- Easter – March 31<sup>st</sup> at 8:30am and 10am

**Easter Flowers** – information will be posted in future bulletins and on the bulletin board.

**All New – Be A Worship Sponsor!** – For \$22.00, or split with another, you can sponsor a worship service. The money goes towards expenses for web sites used in bulletin preparation, copyright for songs and supplies like paper and toner. Checks can be given to Dana Strohl or Secretary Lynne Williams.

**Volunteers**- Sign-up sheets for service assistants are on the bulletin board. Please sign up, if you are available. Your help as an acolyte, greeter, lay reader and communion assistant is so important and most appreciated. If you have interest in leading a service on one of Pastor's Sundays when she is away, please contact Laura Pride.

**Altar Flowers** – Sign up on the flower chart on the bulletin board to reserve your altar flowers. Remember or honor a loved one. Checks may be given to Dana Strohl or left with Secretary Lynne Williams.

**Closed Captioning** – We're working on bringing closed captioning to Facebook Live and You Tube.

**Equipment** – Chris Matthy made arrangements to replace a microphone and we are in the process of getting a new keyboard for Celebration Hall and outside events.

**Next Meeting** – Monday, February 12th at 6:30pm. If you have any thoughts or ideas about the service or would like to join the Altar Guild or be part of the Worship & Music committee please let Lynne Williams, Church Secretary know.

Blessings to all,  
Worship & Music



# **FEBRUARY FOOD PANTRY**

**Thursday 1<sup>ST</sup>, 15<sup>TH</sup> & 29<sup>TH</sup>**

**9:30am – 12:00noon**

**Contact Wanda Richardson with any questions.**

**The food pantry needs: Boxed macaroni & cheese, cereal & Jelly.**

**Anything else you would like to donate is appreciated - It must be non-perishable in can, box or bag. Please check the "best by" and expiration dates, we cannot accept anything past the best by or expiration date.**

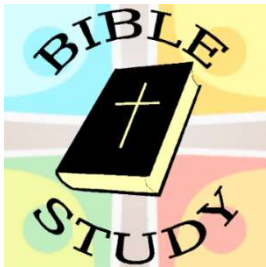
---



**The Altar Guild is looking for a few new volunteers.**

**Please see Nancy Fritz or leave you name in the office.**

**No experience necessary you will be instructed and helped as much as you need.**



## **BIBLE STUDY**

**Every Tuesday from  
11:30am to 12:30pm.**



**Women's  
Prayer Group**

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month  
Except and April just the 2<sup>nd</sup> week**

**Feb. Dates 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>TH</sup>**



Hello Church Youth Families,

Sunday School is held on Sunday mornings from 9-9:45 am. All children from preschool and up are welcome! We meet in the room to the left of the sanctuary.

Confirmation Class for this month (3-5pm):

February 11th at St. John's

February 25<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul's

Family Movie Night!

Family Movie Night date to be determined.

We will be watching *I Can Only Imagine*.

All are welcome! Come and join us for pizza, salad and snacks!

Touch of Home

We will be packing Touch of Home packages in late February.

Please submit or update addresses of college students, military personnel or young

adults to received packages.

Blessings always,

Christian Education Team

Alisa Nixon (908) 279-5242

Pastor Deb (570) 350-5115



## FRIDAY LADIES

Friday's 9:00 – 12:00 noon



Donations always welcome of clean cotton fabric printed or solid. Large pieces of fabric for backing, quilting thread or just ask the ladies if you have something they might use.

---

## COFFEE HOUR

Looking for people to host

(helpers available)

**SIGN UP SHEET ON BULLETIN BOARD**

Contact Madeline or Faye with any questions

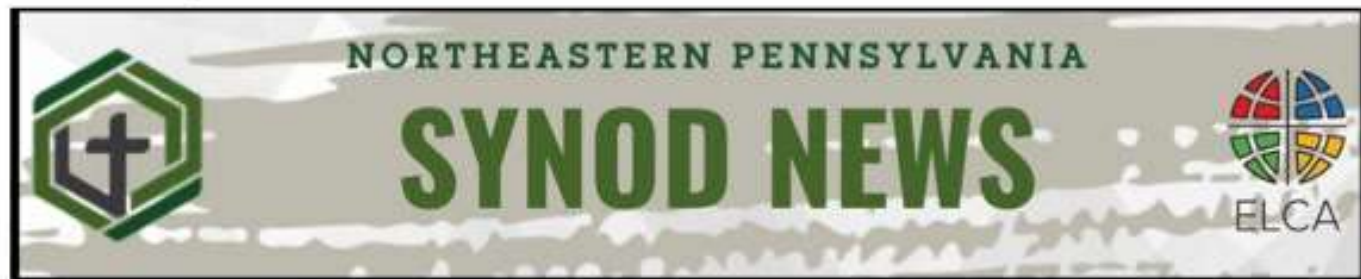


## CELEBRATION HALL RENTALS

For information contact

**SONJI PATRICK**

(CALL OFFICE FOR PHONE #.)



## Advent Shares: Hope Out Loud

Support from the HOL! (Hope Out Loud!) Capital Campaign saw Advent members participate in dozens of projects - some new, some one-time; some existing ministries were expanded or refreshed. The dedicated members of Advent who truly care about people in need were very active and supportive. One member shared: "When I had some tough years, my church came through for me! That experience changed me in big ways. I vowed that I would get involved more and & pay it forward". Helping others has made me a happier Christian." There are so many completed (and ongoing!) projects. These ministries are wide-ranging and varied - food, clothing, shelter, blankets, books, and prayers. Cookies at Christmastime.

Advent members help men, women, babies, children, people in prison, people in recovery from addictions, hungry people - in our community, our country, and around the world. Members have said that they feel joy in providing the services and the looks on the faces of the recipients reinforce joy there too. Some of the projects receive seed money from Thrivent Action Teams. Some of our favorite ministries and activities are Bombas Socks donations, books and Bibles for Berks County Prison, Christmas Cookies for Common Ground, the Hungry Yard Sale, Family Promise, our Little Free Library and Little Free Pantry, the (new in 2020) Prayer Team, and the many clothing drives.

As one example of the positive impact in the community: The Little Free Pantry was filled and emptied on the same day. We cannot keep it filled fast enough. Through our \$250.00 Thrivent Action Team sponsorship by members of different committees, we can grocery shop and fill our shelves in Advent's grocery shelves. We fill up my grocery cart three times a week and go outside to our Little Free Pantry. Within hours it had been emptied. Praise God for Thrivent and Advent's church members in helping fill our community's bellies with happiness through our wonderful blessed giving! Another goal of the HOL! The campaign was to increase the use of technology in our church life. In the middle of the pandemic, we premiered a fresh, beautiful, new website to tell people about Advent - reaching out in a modern way to share God's word and work with our neighbors, friends, and people who want to learn about God. This new website increases our visibility in the community and provides valuable information for members and visitors alike. Seeing new people attend and join our church brings





joy, creating more of a sense of “community”. We continue to be inspired by: 1) Jesus’ examples of sharing, healing – “love our neighbor as ourselves”, (2) a thirst for learning about our faith through study and worship, (3) the need for support in our local and global community, (4) Reflection on our blessings and those less fortunate, (5) and, socializing with others while providing service. Members think Advent’s sermons and services explicitly help to keep us inspired and filled with the joy of serving.



### Reconsiderations Task Force for Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust

The 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly authorized two reconsiderations of the social statement Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust. A task force will begin working in 2024 to lead this five-year process of discernment. Information is available about the reconsiderations and task force expectations. Apply or nominate





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<b>February 2023</b>				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	
				Food Pantry 9:30am - Noon  Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm	Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon		
	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	
	5 <sup>th</sup> Epiphany 8:30 and 10:00am Service  Sunday School 9:00-9:45am	Music and Worship 6:30pm	Bible Study 11:30am - 12:30pm	Praise Team 6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm	Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	<b>10</b>
	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
Transfiguration of our Lord 8:30 & 10:00am Sunday School 9:00-9:45am  Women's Prayer Group Confirmation St. Johns 3-5		Bible Study 11:30am - 12:30pm  Council Meeting 7:00pm	Ash Wednesday 7:00pm Service	Food Pantry 9:30-Noon  Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm  Finance Meeting 6:00pm	Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon		
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> Lent 8:30 & 10:00am  Sunday School 9:00-9:45am		Bible Study 11:30am - 12:30pm  Praise Team 6:30pm	Lent Soup Supper & Study 6:00pm - 7:15 in Social Hall	Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm	Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon		
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>			
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lent 8:30-10:00am  10:00 Contemporary Service w/Praise Team  Women's Group  Confirmation Here at St. Paul's 3-5pm		Bible Study 11:30am- 12:30pm	Lent Soup Supper & Study 6:00pm - 7:15 in Social Hall	Food Pantry 9:30-Noon  Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm	<b>*Movie Night</b> 6:30-8:30pm  Date to be determined.		