



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

ST. PAUL'S CALL OCTOBER 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

**Everyone is welcome please join us
Sunday Service
8:30am & 10.00am
Rev. James Thomas Pastor**

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

Go direct to Facebook or Web Site home page and select FB tab



Message from our Council President
Laura Pride

Dear Church Family,

I would like to bring you all up to date on some church happenings. It's been a while since I added something to the newsletter. I will try to remedy that. But you know...life gets busy! Please know that St. Paul's is always at the top of my priority list. Feel free to reach out to me at any time. Don't forget that our council members are also a great resource for church information. Their names and phone numbers are on this newsletter. Don't forget to check for information on our website and Facebook page.

There is a flagpole outside of Celebration Hall. The flagpole was erected by one of our scout leaders and dedicated to the memory of Mr. Michael Flaherty. Michael was a husband, father, Scout Leader, baseball coach and a dedicated community member. The dedication of the flagpole occurred on September 11 and was attended by the Flaherty family and friends, community leaders, church members, and first responders. Who are "our" scouts, you say? They are Pack 100/103, of course! St. Paul's holds their Boy Scouts of America Charter and is proud to provide them with the use of our church property on Mondays and Wednesdays. They are a great group and a dedicated partnership with our congregation to further help our community.

I mentioned several weeks ago to continue praying for our church Call Committee because they had received a candidate profile and were preparing to begin the interview process. Well, that interview took place late last month, and it went very well. But unfortunately the candidate decided to withdraw their application. We are assured that it was due to a personal issue, and that the candidate was very pleased with our congregation and the interview. So, we are once again, waiting. It is surely disappointing. Yes, we have been hoping to call a new permanent pastor for over 5 years, but we are not alone. Many congregations in our own Mission District are also hoping for a candidate. So we will press on. Pastor Thomas is not leaving us until we call a new Pastor. I believe our time will come. Remember, change is constant, but so is the love of God.

I want to thank everyone in the congregation who volunteers in ministry who...well...just makes St. Paul's run better! It takes all of us (Council, Worship & Music, Lynne and Dana in the office, and countless volunteers) to keep the church functioning on Sunday's and every other day of the week. We couldn't do it without ALL of you!

We will pray our brother Gary Beresk up to heaven on Saturday morning (10/8). There will be a visitation at 10:30 followed by a memorial service at 11:00. A light repast will follow in the social hall. Gary was a good and faithful servant. He used his hands (as a volunteer with Lutheran Domestic Disaster Relief and countless church property maintenance projects) as Jesus taught us. He raised four good sons with Susan. He was well loved. Susan and their sons continue to be in our prayers.

Enjoy Autumn, dear church family. Please continue to pray with and for us and each other! See you all on Sunday!

In His Service,
Laura Pride



Happy October from Worship and Music!

Stirring and stirring and stirring my brew. Ooo, ooo.
Stirring and stirring and stirring my brew. Ooo, ooo.
Tip-toe, tip-toe, tip-toe, boo!

It's that time of year, crisp fall days for apple picking, pumpkin gathering and to celebrate the harvest. It's also a great time to bring friends and family to St. Paul's or view the services livestreamed on the church Facebook page.

Service Assistants – Sign-up sheets for the fall 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.

Music – Choir meets on Thursdays at 6:30pm in the sanctuary and sings on Sundays at the 10am service. If you know someone who likes to sing, please see Kathy Ertle. Praise team performs on the 4th Sunday of the month and is led by Chris Matthy. Please join us in song!

Coming in October – In celebration of Health Literacy month, Enid Rank will join us at the 10 o'clock service on October 16th to speak about the Parish Nursing program and share her passion with us. We hope you and your friends will join us for this informative temple talk.

All Saints Day Tribute – Please share the names of your loved ones who have passed between November 1st of 2021 and October 31st of 2022 to be listed in the bulletin and have a candle lit in their name on All Saints Sunday, November 6th. Please contact Lynne Williams at 570-223-9422.

Blessings,

Worship and Music Committee

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday



**Sept. 11
2022**

Flag pole Dedication Boy Scout Pack 100

**In memory of Mr. John Flaherty
and his service to our
Community.**

Luncheon in Celebration Hall

**This day is an opportunity to
celebrate who we are as the
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America – one church,
freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.**



**GOD'S WORK
OUR HANDS
SUNDAY
September 11, 2022**





SEPTEMBER 4th BAPTISM

**Pokrinchak
and
Jimenez
Family**



**Presentation of baby quilt
made by our Friday Ladies**



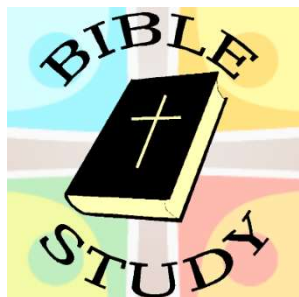


**SEPTEMBER 18th
BAPTISM
Doughty
and
King
Family**



**Presentation of baby
quilt made by our Friday
Ladies**





BIBLE STUDY GROUP

**Study group meet in the fellowship hall
every Tuesday 11:30am – 12:30pm**

**Bring your own lunch if you can stay and eat
with the group.**

FRIDAY LADIES

9:30am – 12:00noon

Aways busy making these beautiful lap robes.

**They share there work with the nursing homes,
cancer center and St. Paul's baptism's**



**Quilt fundraiser for the Food Pantry
tickets are now on sale after 10:00am service.**



**Thomas the Tank Engine
and Friends quilt made by
Edie, and a cute little clown
doll.**



COMMUNITY GARDEN

Dicks working hard to get vegetables for us. It has been a dry season and the critters haven't help. Let's see how he makes out for the fall harvest.



FOOD PANTRY

**Thursday October 13th and 27th
9:30am – 12:00noon**

**Pantry is in need of Cereal and Jelly
Baskets are now in front of the altar for any your food donations.
The 1st Sunday of the month we will continue with our Pantry
Sunday for any monetary donations.**

Thanksgiving is just around the corner, we will let you know what the Pantry will need, Jackie is already planning ahead.

Wanda Richardson has been helping and learning all about the Pantry. She will be taking over in the future when Jackie takes a well deserved retirement.



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



**You can purchase a homemade jar
of honey during coffee hour.
By Alan and Laura**

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



SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA



What's happening in NEPA Synod? X

Bishop Conference 2022...

Synod Assembly 2023...

Going Beyond...

Stronger Together...

Growing Young...

Learning Ministries Day 23...

<http://>



Visit Godslove.org
for up-to-date
happenings
around the synod



*Synod
Assembly*

**GO BEYOND
WITH US
IN-PERSON!!**

**KALAHARI
POCONOS**

**JUNE
1-3
2023**

**GOING BEYOND
2023**

**WORSHIP
Play**

**CONNECT
Lead**



*The Northeastern Pennsylvania
Synod Presents:*



**BISHOP'S
CONFERENCE**

2022

Featuring



November 14 & 15

Americus Hotel
555 Hamilton St
Allentown, PA



* 2023 Update on Portico Health Rates & Plan Changes

ELCA-Primary health contribution baseline rate will increase 3%, the same rate increase as last year, which was the lowest in eight years.

The 3% increase also applies to sponsored members receiving the ELCA Medicare-Primary health benefit Standard option. ELCA-Primary Gold+ option deductibles will increase to \$1,500 for member only, \$2,250 for member and child(ren) and \$3,000 for member and spouse or member, spouse, and child(ren). Coinsurance, out-of-pocket limits and prescription drug cost-share will not change.



* Prepare for 2023 Annual Enrollment

As you prepare to make selections in October, keep these things in mind: Sponsoring employers (congregations and organizations) will select the option they will offer their employees Oct. 3-14. Your registered EmployerLink user can access the 2023 Decision Guide and their Custom Comparison Report to help determine 2023 costs and options. Note: any organization that does not make a selection will be assigned Silver+ (A) to offer their plan members the ability to choose the coverage that works best for them. Sponsored members, watch for an email from Portico with specific information about 2023 Annual Enrollment, including when your selection period will be open.



Save the Date!



OCTOBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1						
2 <i>17th Sunday after Pentecost</i> Pastor Bartha 8:30am & 10:00am w/communion	3 Office closed	4 Bible Study 11:30am – 12:30pm	5 Praise Team 6:30pm	6 Choir Rehersal 6:30pm	7 Friday Ladies 9:30am – 12noon	8 Gary Beresk Memorial Service
9 <i>18th Sunday after Pentecost</i> Pastor Matthy 8:30am & 10:00am w/communion	10 Office closed	11 Bible Study 11:30am – 12:30pm	12	13 Food Pantry 9:30-12:00noon Choir Rehersal 6:30pm	14 Friday Ladies 9:30am – 12noon	15
16 <i>19th Sunday after Pentecost</i> Pastor Thomas 8:30am & 10:00am w/communion Guest Speaker	17 Office closed	18 Bible Study 11:30am – 12:30pm	19 Praise Team Rehersal 6:30pm	20 Choir Rehersal 6:30pm	21 Friday Ladies 9:30am – 12noon	22
23 <i>20th Sunday After Pentecost</i> Pastor Thomas 8:30am w/communion 10:00am Contempory Service w/communion Praise Team 30 <i>21st Sunday After Pentecost</i> REFORMATION SUNDAY Healing Service 8:30am & 10:00am w/communion	24 Office closed 31 Office closed Halloween	25 Bible Study 11:30am – 12:30pm	26	27 Food Pantry 9:30-12:00noon Choir Rehersal 6:30pm	28 Friday Ladies 9:30am – 12noon	29