

St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield
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Web Site: stpaulscommunitychurch.com
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ST. PAUL'S CALL

JUNE 2024

Pastor Deb Staniszewski



**WE WELCOME
EVERYONE TO JOIN US
FOR PRAYER,
WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP THIS SUMMER**



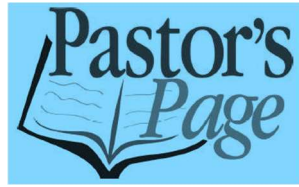
SUNDAY SERVICES 8: 30am and 10:00am

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

**You can connect to FB direct or go to our web site FB tab.
A PDF of the 10:00am service is on the 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.**



Greetings Friends!

In his letter to the Philippians, Paul talked about reliance upon God in all things, and about the importance of prayer, in his letter to the Philippians, Paul wrote, (Phil 4:5-7, MSG)⁴⁻⁵ Celebrate God all day, every day. I mean, revel in him! Make it as clear as you can to all you meet that you're on their side, working with them and not against them.....⁶⁻⁷ Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life." (Philippians 4:5-7, MSG)

What a promise we have in our Lord, that in all circumstances, we can live in the confidence of God's grace without anxiety or fear. Let that sink in. Christ is present right here, right now, whatever is going on in our lives, and we can rest, assured in that. We are called to testify to this truth in our own lives, and it's interesting, that even researchers studying people's health, have come up with quantifiable results that concur.

I recently read an opinion piece entitled, "*Living on a prayer? How attending worship can improve your physical and mental health.*" Written by Dr. Phil McGraw and Dr. John Whyte.

They noted, "Faith, spirituality and a sense of purpose all have a beneficial effect on one's emotional, physical and mental health. This connection is well-established by researchers. Belief in a divine plan for one's life can foster optimism and hope – attitudes that can boost mental and physical health, according to an analysis of more than 40 studies. Spiritual practices, such as prayer, can reduce stress and anxiety. ¹"

They go on to write, "In a study of more than 1,700 older adults, researchers at Duke University Medical Center found that those who practice religion had better immune function than those who didn't. The findings persisted even when researchers adjusted for other factors that could impact immune system function, such as depression or chronic illness."²

Studies or no studies, as followers of Christ, and children of God, we know from experience, that no matter what is going on in or around us in life, God in Christ is the love and wholeness at the very center of our lives, providing peace and hope in us, body, mind, and soul.

Your Sibling in Christ,

Pastor Deb

¹ "Living on a prayer? How attending worship can improve your physical and mental health." Written by Dr. Phil McGraw and Dr. John Whyte. (<https://www.msn.com/en-us/health/wellness/living-on-a-prayer-how-attending-worship-can-improve-your-physical-and-mental-health/ar-AA1dv97C?ocid=msedgntp&pc=SMTS&cvid=9a89e83452c54e819b41b300208be2cd&ei=82>)

² ibid



Welcome to Summer from Worship & Music!

Outdoor Service June 9th – To kick off the summer season we will have a combined service at 10am on Sunday, June 9th outdoors by the gazebo. Please bring a chair. There will be some provided, if needed. A picnic lunch with hotdogs will be held in Celebration Hall following the service. Please bring a side dish or dessert and enjoy some time with friends. If rain, the service will be held in Celebration Hall. Set up will be on Saturday afternoon at 2pm. Text Kathy Ertle at 570-656-0659 if you are able to help. Thanks!

Brookmont Service – If anyone would like to attend and visit with the residents at Brookmont Nursing Home in Effort, we will up-date the next service date that pastor will have.

Summer Music Opportunities – If you're interested in singing or playing an instrument at a Sunday service during the summer months, please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. If you know someone with musical talents that would like some experience playing in front of a group, we'd be happy to have them.

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.

Flowers – The flower sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. Celebrate a loved one with a fresh flower arrangement from Floral Boutique. Order forms and checks may be given to Dana Strohl or Lynne.

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 Pastor.

170th Celebration – Save the Date! On September 28th there will be a birthday celebration for St. Paul's with a yard sale to raise funds and historical talk about the church. On Sunday, September 29th there will be a special service with the Bishop and past pastors who have served at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Detail to come.

Next Meeting – Monday, July 1st 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 Kathy Ertle or the office know.

Our Praise Team will be taking a summer break.

Thanks to all of you and we look forward to your return.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield
Income and Expense Statement (UNAUDITED)

Operating Funds

	April <u>2024</u>	Year to <u>Date</u>	Year to Date <u>Budget</u>
CHURCH INCOME			
GENERAL INCOME	\$11,303.00	\$41,550.70	\$38,050.04
BENEVOLENCE INCOME	305.00	920.00	1,133.32
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	1,258.38	4,731.10	5,433.32
INTEREST INCOME	5.77	15.00	6.00
INVESTED FUNDS INT. & DIV.	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,395.88</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$12,872.15</u>	<u>\$48,612.68</u>	<u>\$46,622.68</u>
CHURCH EXPENSES			
STAFF	\$9,039.71	\$36,492.61	\$37,585.60
BENEVOLENCE EXPENSE			
Benevolence (Synod)	583.33	2,333.33	2,333.32
Seminary Support	0.00	0.00	60.00
PARISH ADMINISTRATION	444.74	2,402.77	2,140.00
WORSHIP	427.84	1,295.86	1,886.60
LEARNING	0.00	212.77	900.00
PROPERTY	3,049.57	13,933.29	15,175.00
DEBT PAYMENTS	1,116.00	4,464.00	4,464.00
STEWARDSHIP	0.00	0.00	258.32
OUTREACH	0.00	0.00	250.00
WITNESS	0.00	0.00	260.00
SOCIAL FELLOWSHIP	<u>0.00</u>	<u>94.77</u>	<u>446.68</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$14,661.19</u>	<u>\$61,229.40</u>	<u>\$65,759.52</u>
EXCESS INCOME/(EXPENSES)	<u>(\$1,789.04)</u>	<u>(\$12,616.72)</u>	<u>(\$19,136.84)</u>

Current Cash Accounts

CHECKING ACCOUNTS & PETTY CASH	\$12,013.41	
THRIVENT FINANCIAL	<u>106,003.74</u>	
TOTAL CASH ACCOUNTS		<u>\$119,730.50</u>

Special Funds

SPECIAL FUNDS INCOME			
BENEVOLENCE			
Pantry/Good Samaritan	\$411.00	\$1,744.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Benevolence	100.00	400.00	0.00
INVESTED FUNDS INT. & DIV.	0.00	89.35	0.00
PLAYGROUND FUND	<u>25.00</u>	<u>25.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS INCOME	<u>\$536.00</u>	<u>\$2,258.35</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
SPECIAL FUNDS DISBURSEMENTS			
BENEVOLENCE			
Pantry/Good Samaritan	\$0.00	\$2,085.22	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Benevolence	0.00	400.00	0.00
YOUTH	0.00	500.00	0.00
PRAISE BAND EQUIPMENT	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,690.03</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$4,675.25</u>	<u>0.00</u>

Special Funds Cash Accounts

CHECKING ACCOUNTS & PETTY CASH	\$11,381.95	
THRIVENT FINANCIAL	<u>7,285.74</u>	
TOTAL CASH ACCOUNTS		<u>\$18,629.47</u>

JUNE FOOD PANTRY

Thursday 13th and 27th

9:30am – 12:00noon



Contact Wanda Richardson with any questions.

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

A new way of giving to St. Paul's

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

- Individuals can contribute to the church through Paypal Donations (QR Code, link, etc.).
- Paypal Donations can be made via a contributor's Paypal account and/or through a Debit or Credit Card. The Paypal account is the most efficient for the contributor as there are less keystrokes needed.
- This option would not eliminate the regular contributions from our members such as contributions by check, cash, or ACH automatic withdrawals. This will be in addition to these options.
- The Paypal Donations can be marketed for specific events, put in the bulletin in the event we have visitors and/or members who forgot their checkbook/wallet, specific campaign fundraising, etc.
- Cost would be 1.89% of donation amount plus \$.49 per transaction. Donor has the option to pay the fee during the transaction.
- There are no ongoing expenses for this service. Only pay when the donations are made.
- Ways to donate:
 - Shareable link: https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=K8ZKNHW5V48WS
 - QR Code:



- The above options are live. Give it a shot and you can donate to the church.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

PHONE NUMBERS ARE LISTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE NARTHEX OR CALL THE OFFICE

Tom McGhee (Pres.)	drtmcghee@gmail.com
Laura Pride (VP)	papride94@gmail.com
Ted Strohl (Co -VP)	destrohl@ptd.net
Tracey Lasslett (Sec.)	tdimperio@lccc.edu
Joy Donnelly	donnell4@ptd.net
Faye Jones	mrspools@ptd.net
Sonji Patrick	sonjipatrick9903@gmail.com
Wanda Richardson	Jacqueline.richardson50@gmail.com

Attention:

Are you interested in developing closer friendships with others in our faith family at St. Paul's?

Do you enjoy participating in small group gatherings?

Do you enjoy hosting a handful of friends at your home?

At St Paul's there are many opportunities to build up the Body of Christ. Some of those include, worship, bible study, participation on committees, such as council or worship and music, altar guild or finance, Wednesday Advent services, and more.

We are exploring whether there is interest among folks at St. Paul's for a new opportunity to build relationships, share our faith, and have good conversation. We would like to plan a series of Small Group Gatherings. Small groups allow for deeper conversations, and more intimate interactions between people.

The Small Group Gatherings are usually made up of between 8 -12 people, who meet in one another's homes about once a month. The group may focus on,

**Fellowship and Sharing
Prayer and Praise
Study and Discussion**

This may sound like other gatherings and opportunities for relationship building, but, in a small group where a meal is shared we get to know people much better.

We do not know if this is something you would be interested in or not, but we would like to explore the possibility. The time, meeting frequency, etc would be decided by questionnaire once we discover who is interested in this.

Carol and I, have participated in a number of small groups and found them very helpful in our walk with the Lord. They have been very encouraging, a place of support, and a place to live life loving.

Please contact the church office and leave your name and phone number if you are interested in participating in a small group, or if you would like more information. We look forward to hearing from you and will contact you.

Thank you. The Lord bless you,
Craig and Carol Raughley



Hello Church Youth Families,

Mission Trip

Our Confirmation Class will be going on a Mission Trip in early July to Altoona, PA. They will spend a week working on projects to repair and renovate homes for families in need and other service projects to help local residents. We are very excited about this!

Family Movie Night

Family Movie Night will resume in June.
The tentative date is June 28th.

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

Sunday School

Sunday School is on summer break! We had a great year and look forward to starting up again in the fall. Enjoy your summer!

VBS

Vacation Bible School is in the planning stages – more information to follow.
Volunteers welcome!

Blessings always,

Christian Education Team

Alisa Nixon (908) 279-5242

Pastor Deb (570) 350-5115

FRIDAY LADIES

Friday's 9:00 – 12:00 noon

The ladies make lovely lap robes that they share with hospitals, nursing & retirement homes plus our newly baptized babies go home with one. They are always appreciated and if you know of someone that might need one, please let Edie know.

Always looking for new people
Come on Friday and join in.

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.

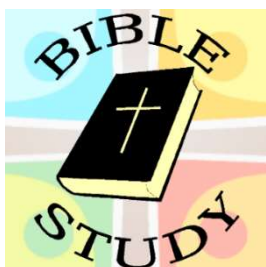


The Altar Guild is looking for a few new volunteers.

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.

April Altar Guild members are:

Carol Raughley & Laura Pride



Every Tuesday

11:30am to 12:30pm.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN

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 Please share with friends.
For information contact **SONJI PATRICK** (CALL OFFICE FOR PHONE #.)



Celebrate Your Event



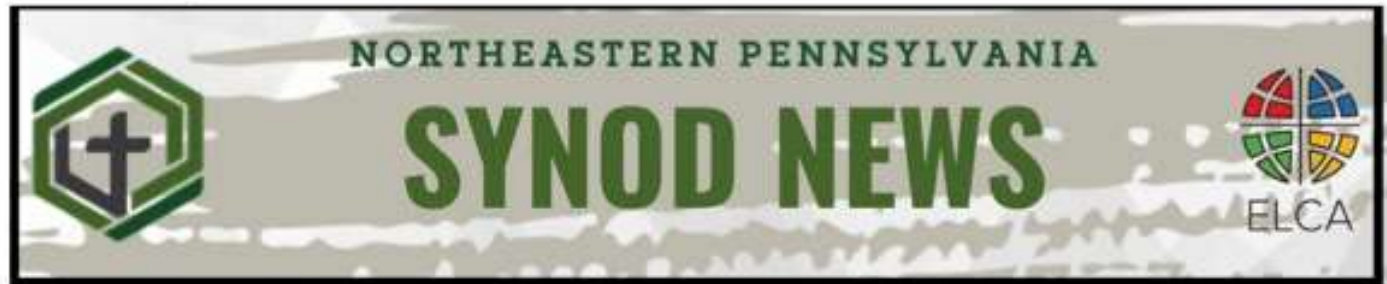
- Full Commercial Kitchen
- Seating: 160 Banquet Style
180 Assembly
- Parking: Up to 75 Vehicles
- Handicap Accessible
- Wi-Fi Ready

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



Sweet 16 Party





Worship & Art: A Congregation's Journey

A few years ago, Calvary Lutheran Church, Laureldale, set out on a journey to be as inclusive as possible. This journey led the congregation to install state-of-the-art cameras (for streaming worship), three 85-inch monitors (for reading the liturgy and music), and a new sound system (that would enable everyone to hear and engage during worship). This was the beginning of the trek to become the congregation God was calling them to be!

The people of Calvary knew they could do more to engage in worship or worshipful experiences so they asked, "How can we engage more of our bodies in worship?" They pondered, brainstormed, and listed ways they could inclusively engage their bodies in worship and Christian life. They decided that creating together would align with their values of inclusivity. This came to fruition through their first collective art project. They began with a Lenten collage that created a dark scene with the tomb of Jesus. The congregation loved the project so much that they asked for more. The next project was for Easter, which included a prominent cross and a rainbow collage surrounding and illuminating the cross. The congregation is currently working on a Pentecost piece that includes a centralized bird erupting from rings of fire. The congregation is in conversation with an art organization to place their piece on display for the wider community to enjoy.



Lenten



Easter



Follow Calvary Lutheran Church, Laureldale on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/calvarylutheranlaureldale> to stay up to date!

New Outreach Ministry is Found at POP's Treasures

POP's Treasures was established by Prince of Peace Evangelical Church in Bangor to create a location where the community/congregants can donate gently used items /clothing. Presented in a "boutique style" store front where the visitors can see creative displays and purchase said items at a fair price.



The outpouring of community involvement has far exceeded our initial plan. The community supports us with items, and they also attend monthly during the sale days. We have had several new members at the church since the boutique was opened May of 2023. Our attendees support us in other posts on Facebook, letting the community at large know of our location. We are constantly reminded how they feel that this is a wonderful program. We also have individuals who come in our doors that ask to help volunteer.

We applied for and received a Witness and Service Ministry Team Grant to help with the costs to prepare a location on our property and purchase a connex container. The container is used to repurpose and store inventory. Items not sold at the boutique, are then stored until we have our spring or fall rummage sale. Items not sold there are donated to a clothing collection box and other organizations. Currently we utilize the 2 back rooms of the church, along with part of the fellowship hall during the days of our sale, which in total in 7 hours for both days.



While our program was set up to respond at the end of the fiscal year. As we hear of a need, we act in trying to make it happen if we can. It is difficult to say how many attend during the sale days. However, recently we provided a free clothing and houseware day that was attended by 200 individuals.

We currently have provided 3 meals at Safe Harbor, a transition shelter for the homeless. We have donated children's toys, and a stroller to the foster care program. There were also monetary donations to a local youth program, animal shelter, Portland food pantry (PUMP), and the purchase of animals from ELCA Good Gifts.

You may wonder if your congregations could do the same. Yes! If the organizers have the faith it will work, be willing to make changes and to realize that there are many paths to take to make it work. Success can be measured by outreach to the community and the programs it helps. We have been blessed beyond our wildest hopes and dreams. If you would like more information, please contact Jackie Horn at baskets@epix.net.

****Visit the synod website at [www. https://nepasynod.org/](https://nepasynod.org/) to find out how to apply for a Witness and Service Grant.**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 2024						1
2 2nd Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 & 10:00am	3	4 Bible Study 11:30am – 12:30pm	5	6	7 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	8 NEPA Synod Assembly
9 3rd Sunday after Pentecost Combined 10:00am Outdoors followed with picnic lunch	10	11 Bible Study 11:30am – 12:30pm Council 7:00am	12	13 Food Pantry 9:30am – 12:00 noon	14 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	15
16 4th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 & 10:00am Fathers Day	17	18 Bible Study 11:30am – 12:30pm	19	20 1 st Day of Summer	21 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	22
23 5th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 & 10:00am Baptism 10:00am service	24	25 Bible Study 11:30am- 12:30pm	26	27 Food Pantry 9:30am – 12:00 noon	28 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon Movie Night	29
30 6th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 & 10:00am Healing Service						