

# ST. PAUL'S CALL      APRIL 2023

## **St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield**

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East Stroudsburg PA 18301  
570-223-9422

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Web Site: [stpaulscommunitychurch.com](http://stpaulscommunitychurch.com)

Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield

**Pastor Deb Staniszewski**

**Sunday Service  
8:00am & 10:30am**



## **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.

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

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



Christ is Risen Hallelujah!

As we continue to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, we also reflect at this time of year, on the early days of the church, as Christ's followers, figured out how to live in unity and relationship with one another, and, how to live as people of The Way of Christ in the larger community. Over two thousand years later, we are still growing and working to live harmoniously in community and relationship with each other. What an exciting journey! The scriptures are God's wonderful guide and resource provided for us. The author of Colossians wrote, (from The Message)

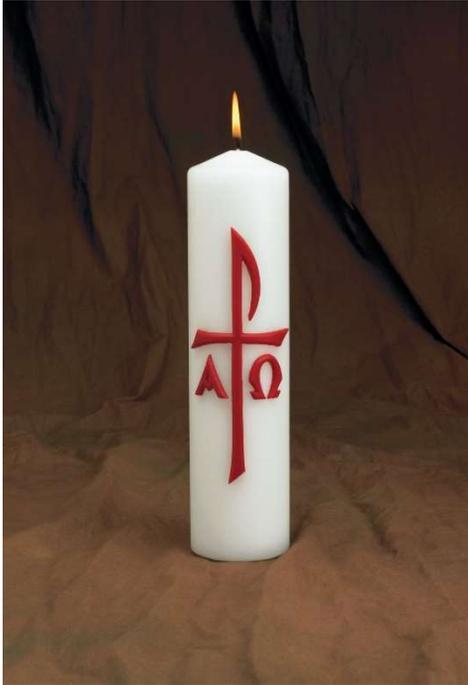
2-14 So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.

15-17 Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. And cultivate thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ—the Message—have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your lives. Instruct and direct one another using good common sense. And sing, sing your hearts out to God! Let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way. (Colossians 3:13-17, The Message)

Every person we meet throughout our day is a child of God, whether we share space with them in our home, in church, or in public. We are called to kindness and loving interaction in all our relationships, especially with that beautiful child of God most cleverly disguised as a difficult person (and to admit that sometimes the difficult person is us)! If we want to experience compassion, kindness, gratitude, forgiveness, and love in our relationships with others, we must be willing to bring those things into the relationship ourselves, and as the author of Colossians writes, we must wear love as our all-purpose garment, and never be without it.

Your Sibling in Christ,

Pastor Deb



## *Greetings from Worship and Music!*

The Paschal or Christ candle is the first candle to be lit with a flame from sacred fire, representing the light of Christ coming into the world. This represents the risen Christ, as a symbol of light (life) dispelling darkness (death). It is the largest candle in the worship space. Paschal candles often reached a stupendous size. The Paschal candle of Salisbury Cathedral was said to have been 36 feet tall. Today, the candle is approximately 36 to 48 inches tall; The candle remains lit at all worship services throughout Easter season which ends on Pentecost Sunday, (or until Ascension Day). The Paschal candle is also lit during baptisms to signify the Holy Spirit and fire that John the Baptist promised to those who were baptised in Christ.

**Thank YOU** - Special thanks to all those who helped during the season of Lent and Holy week. Thank you to all those who prepared soup and supplied desserts and bread and helped clean up. Thank you to Dave Libecap for supplying music for the suppers and services. A shout out to the choir for performing the Holden Evening Prayer. Thanks to all those who attended the Agape Feast and helped strip the altar during Maundy Thursday services. Thanks to Faye Jones and all those who helped prepare the feast. Thank you to Nancy Fritz, Edie Lynne Williams, Dana Strohl, Faye, Laura and Alan Pride for help preparing the altar and bulletins for Good Friday and Easter. Thanks to Alisa and Brooke Nixon for making the Easter Candy to Go a success and Jolie Mrakovcich for her role as the Easter Bunny! And special thanks to Pastor Deb for her guided meditations and enthusiasm and all those who came to Easter services and celebrated the Risen Christ!

**Offering** – On May 7<sup>th</sup>, we will be including the offering in the service. So rather than leaving your offering in the rear of the church the plates will be passed during the service. Additional volunteers are needed to help collect the offering on Sundays. Please see the service assistant sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

**Installation Service of Pastor Deb Staniszewski** – Bishop Christopher deForest will preside at the installation service of Pastor Deb to be held on Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup> service at 10am with a luncheon to follow. It will be a combined service so that all may attend.

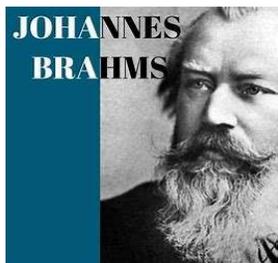
A sign-up for the potluck lunch can be found on the bulletin board. Those who would like to contribute may make a side dish or make a donation towards deli platters and the cake. Cash or checks accepted with the words Installation service in the memo line.

**Altar Flowers and Bulletins** – Commemorate a special date or celebrate a special person with flower arrangements for the altar. Bulletin sponsorships are also available. Check out the bulletin board to sign-up. Checks may be given to the Church Secretary.

**Service Assistants** – Thank you to all those who signed up for the month. Sign-up sheets for the Spring are on the bulletin board. As of May 7<sup>th</sup> we will need additional volunteers as ushers. Your help as an acolyte, greeter, lay reader, communion assistant and ushers is most appreciated.

**Celebration Hall Building Fund** – Please think about making a donation to pay off the mortgage on this wonderful building that serves as a gathering place for the local community. Checks may be made payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield with the words Mortgage Reduction in the note section. Thank you!

### Music in the Mountains



#### **Pocono Concert Chorale Johannes Brahms – *Requiem***

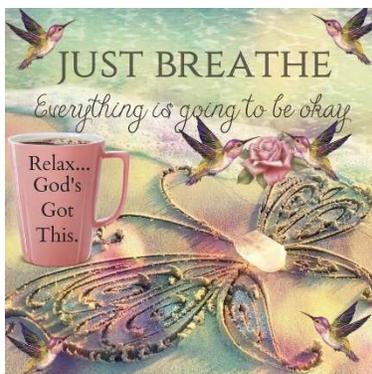
With Christopher Johnson, organist & Daniel Hoy, baritone  
Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2:30pm  
First Presbyterian Church of Stroudsburg  
575 Main St, Stroudsburg

**Share Your Ideas** – We welcome your ideas for worship, music and activities that Worship and Music could introduce to St. Paul's and the community and make your church life more meaningful.

Yours in Christ,  
Worship & Music

**THANK YOU, KATHY ERTLE,**

**FOR ALL YOU DO WITH CHOIR AND FOR ST. PAUL'S SPECIAL OCCATIONS.**



## FOOD PANTRY FEBRUARY

THURSDAYS April 13 and 27th

9:30am – 12:00 noon

Contact Wanda with any questions.



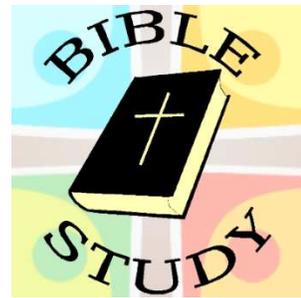
## FRIDAY LADIES

Every Friday 9:00am – 12:00



## COFFEE HOUR

Looking for people to host (helpers available)  
Sundays after the 11:00am Service



Every  
Tuesday from 11:30am –  
12:30 pm.

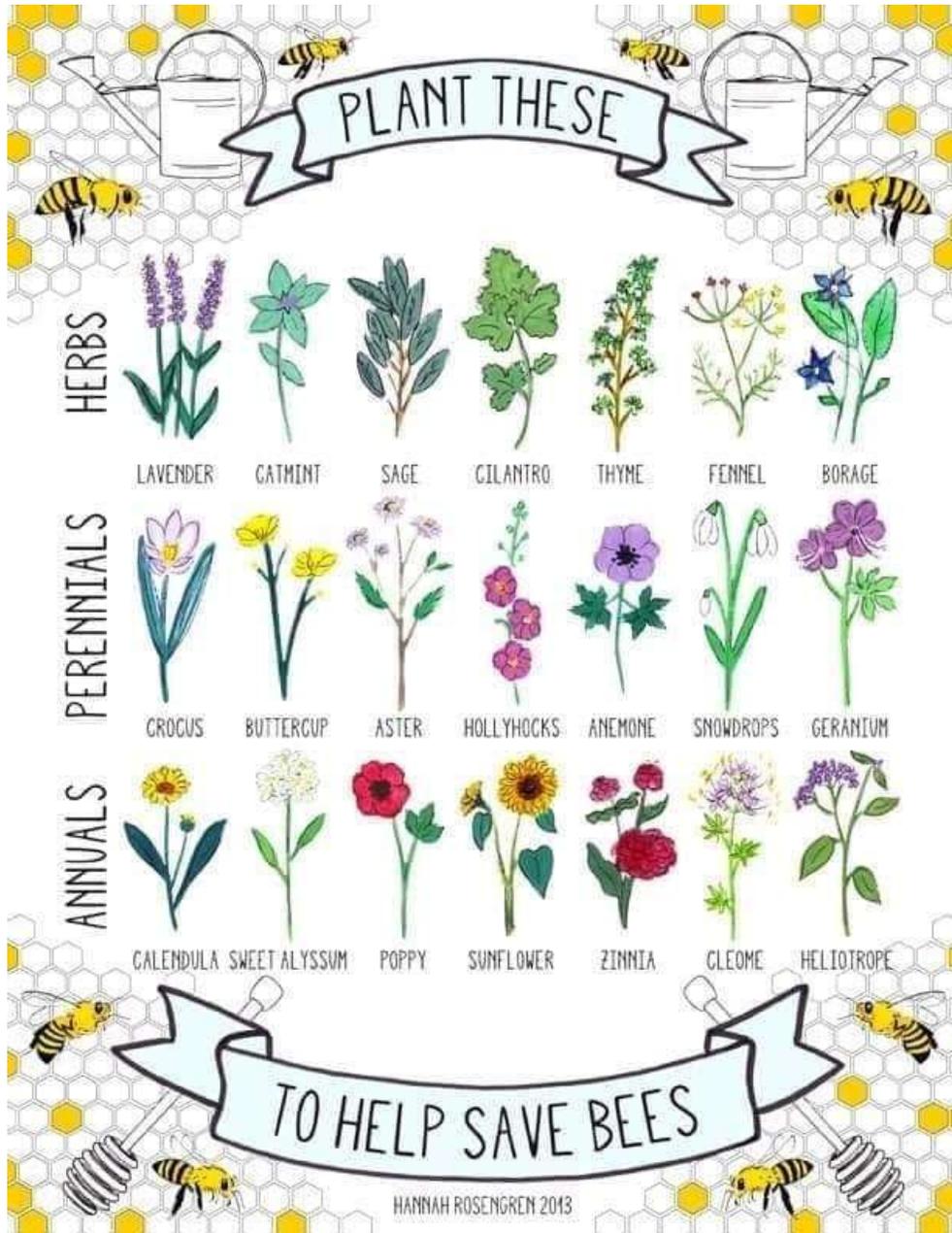
## CELEBRATION HALL RENTALS

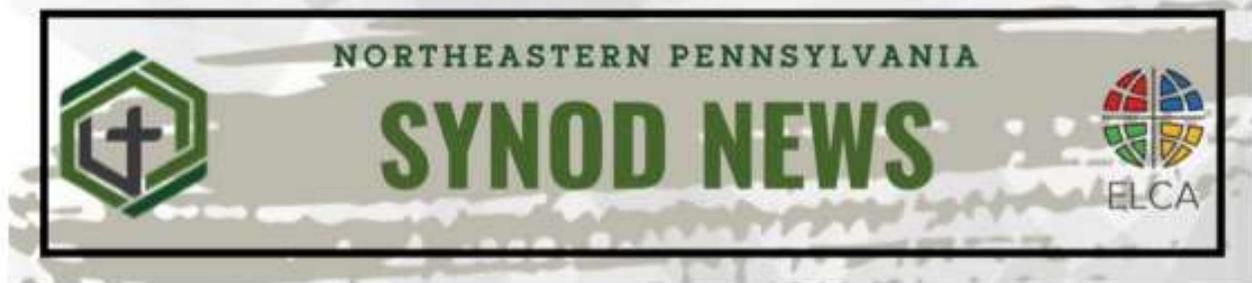
Please call the office for phone number  
or see Sonji Patrick for information.



# Homemade Honey

You can purchase from  
Laura or Alan  
During Sunday coffee hour.





## OUR FAITH IN ACTION

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Bangor had the vision to extend the use of our outdoor grove for our community. When the pandemic hit in 2020, we found that our grove provided a new opportunity to worship together before we opened for indoor worship in late fall. Our vision took on a new reason: to make the grove more accessible and available for more use to complement worship.

The first step identified was building a walkway to make the grove easy to enter and exit. We applied for a grant from the Synod Witness and Service Team Ministry and received it. (We also applied for a special ELCA grant but did not receive the ELCA grant.) As buying supplies became an issue, we needed to apply for a second Witness and Service grant. We received this grant in June of 2022, which enabled us to complete the walkway for our 50th Anniversary picnic and joint worship with Christ Lutheran Church in Mt. Bethel.

Since the completion, we have held several outdoor worship services. We have also added "Faith by Firelight", a monthly gathering for anyone who wants to be in God's beautiful creation, play a few bible trivia games and enjoy s'mores. God has blessed our congregation with this beautiful space, and we keep visioning and planning for ways to make it a safe haven for our community and us. We are thankful that this grant was made possible through mission support given by congregations in our Synod.





JUNE 1-3 2023 AT  
KALAHARI RESORT

## ATTENTION ALL CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS

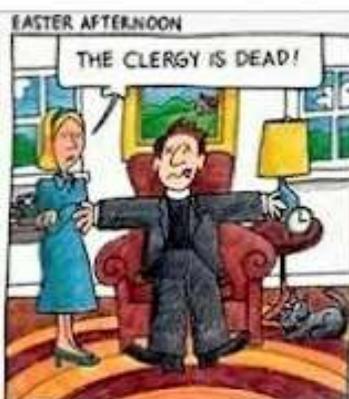
Now is the time to figure out who will be your voting members at the synod assembly! Don't worry, it will be well worth their time and yours! Let's have a record turnout, as we gather together (in person) as a synod for the first time since the Great Disruption of 2020. If you have any questions contact the synod office, and together we'll figure it out together! REGISTER ONLINE at [godslove.org/](https://godslove.org/)

*Did you know that the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod is a Reconciling in Christ organization?*



*We believe that God values and embraces each person as a beloved child, that the Spirit gives a diversity of gifts for the common good, and that Jesus Christ calls us to work for justice.*

## MEMES FOR YOUR EASTER DELIGHT



# APRIL 2023 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Choir 6:30pm	Friday Ladies 9:00am – 12:00noon	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 8:30 & 10:00am <b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	<b>3</b> Office Closed	<b>4</b> Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>	<b>7</b> <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> Friday Ladies 9:00am – 12:00noon	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 8:30 & 10:00am <b>EASTER DAY</b>	<b>10</b> Office Closed Music and Worship 6:30pm	<b>11</b> Council Meeting  Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm	<b>12</b> Praise Team Rehearsal	<b>13</b> Choir 6:30pm	<b>14</b> Friday Ladies 9:00 – 12:00noon	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 8:30 & 10:00am <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Easter Sunday</b>	<b>17</b> Office Closed	<b>18</b> Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm	<b>19</b> Praise Team Rehearsal	<b>20</b> Choir 6:30pm	<b>21</b> Friday Ladies 9:00 – 12:00noon	<b>22</b> Kathleine Doyle Memorial Service
<b>23</b> 8:30 & 10:00am <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Easter Sunday</b> 10:00 am Contemporary Service with the Praise Team	<b>24</b> Office Closed	<b>25</b> Bible Study 11:30am – 12:30pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Choir 6:30pm	<b>28</b> Friday Ladies 9:00 – 12:00noon	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 8:30 & 10:00am <b>4<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday</b> <b>Healing Service</b>						