

ST. PAUL'S CALL MAY 2023

St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield
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East Stroudsburg, Pa.
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Web Site: stpaulscommunitychurch.com
Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Pastor Deb Staniszewski

**Sunday Worship Time
8:30am & 10:00am**



Our 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**



Greetings!

In the book of Acts, just before Jesus ascends, he tells the disciples “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”” (Acts, 1:6-11, NRSV)

The angels ask, “...why do you stand looking up toward heaven?” Why indeed? Jesus has given them all the tools and knowledge they need. He’s also promised that the Holy Spirit will empower them to be witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Although they had been prepared for this new stage of life, and called to share Christ’s gospel of love, it must have been hard to stop looking after him, knowing that things were forever changed. I always wonder what the disciples were thinking as they stood, looking up, not quite willing to get their gaze and their heads down onto the ground where their feet were. Thankfully they had the angels to remind them of their work here on earth, and of Jesus promise to return.

As we continue to celebrate the promise of new life this Easter Season, with our gaze toward Christ and our feet on the ground, I invite you to reflect on some of your experiences of renewal and new life in our faith community at St. Paul’s. Consider sharing your experiences with at least one other person as part of your calling as a disciple to witness and testify to the love of Christ present and alive in the world.

This passage reminds us that in all that we do, and in all our relationships, the Holy Spirit’s presence with us is constant, empowering us to love with open hearts, and to be God’s hands and feet here, and to the ends of the earth.

Your Sibling in Christ,

Pastor Deb

Greetings from Worship and Music!



God's Garden

Poet: Robert Frost

God made a beauteous garden
With lovely flowers strown,
But one straight, narrow pathway
That was not overgrown.
And to this beauteous garden
He brought mankind to live,
And said "To you, my children,
These lovely flowers I give.
Prune ye my vines and fig trees,
With care my flowers tend,
But keep the pathway open
Your home is at the end.

Offering – On May 7th, we will be including the musical offertory and receiving of the offering in the service. At the 10am service we will return to the passing of the plates 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 during the service on Sunday, May 14th at 10am with a luncheon to follow. It will be a combined service so that all may attend. Please RSVP the number attending in your family by email to stpaulscraigsmeadow@verizon.net or call the office at 570-223-9422. We hope you will join us to welcome Pastor Deb and share in fellowship!

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.

Volunteers are needed to set up on Saturday, May 13th at 10am in the Celebration Hall. We'll also need people to help clean up on Sunday. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

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 7th 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 make a donation towards paying off the mortgage on Celebration Hall 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

Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella (Youth Edition)

Friday, April 28th at 7pm

Saturday, April 29th at 7pm

Sunday, April 30th at 2pm

JTL Lambert Auditorium, East Stroudsburg

Music Study Club of the Stroudsburgs' "Celebrate National Music Week" Concert

Friday, May 12th at 7pm

Christ Episcopal Church

205 N 7th Street, Stroudsburg (behind the Stroud Boro Fire Co.)

Water Gap Singers Spring Concert

John Rutter's Requiem The Spring of Thyme

Sunday, May 21st at 4pm

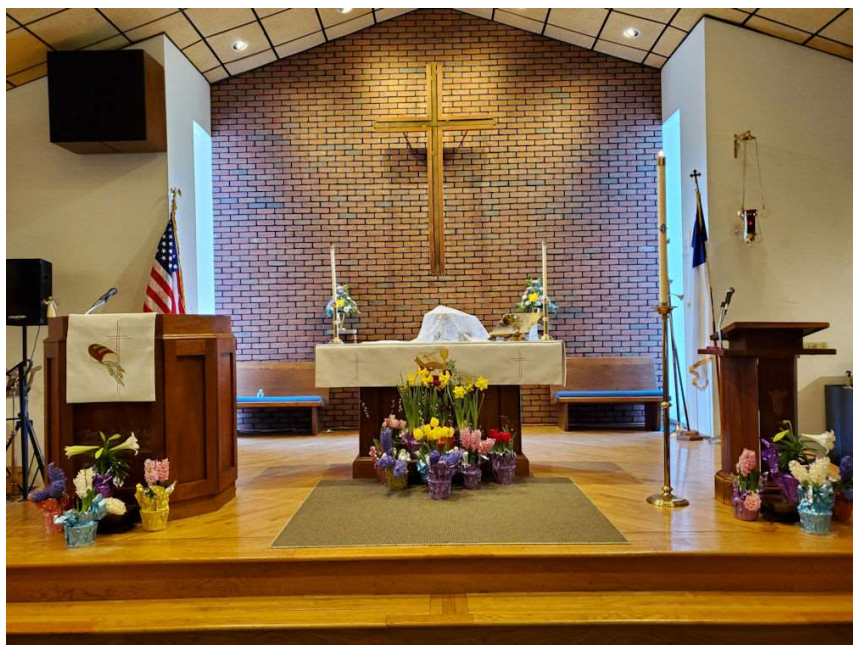
First Presbyterian Church

1 Main St, Blirstown, NJ

Summer Music – If you're interested in playing or singing beginning on June 11th and running through August, please sign up on the bulletin board on the week you'd like to share your talent during the service.

Share 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



Altar at Easter

SHARING MEMORIES AT ST. PAUL'S



EASTER TO GO APRIL 2023





Installation Service for

Pastor Deb Staniszewski

Sunday, May 14th, 2023

10AM Service

*Luncheon to follow in
Celebration Hall*

*RSVP by Tuesday, May 9th –
570-223-9422 or by email to
stpaulscraigsmeadow@verizon.net*



FOOD PANTRY

May Dates for Pantry Thursday 11th and 28th 9:30am – 12:00noon

Contact Wanda Richardson with any questions.

The food pantry needs canned chicken, and boxed cold cereal - and 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.

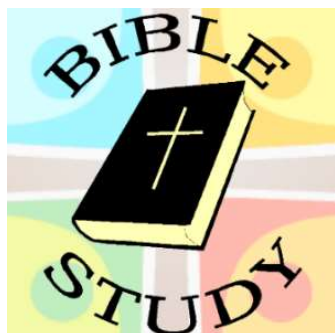
Message about our Food Pantry from Council President Laura Pride.

St. Paul's has run a food pantry ministry for over 30 years. We have never turned anyone in need away without help. Today the need for Food assistance in our community continues to be great. Currently, our pantry is in need of any nonperishable food items. Monetary donations are also needed. We are also seeking church volunteers that have a few hours a month to dedicate to the pantry. Speak to Pastor Deb if you're interested in volunteering. Food donations can be dropped off on Sunday morning or Tuesday- Friday 9:30 am - noon.

Please prayerfully consider how you can best support this ministry today! God Bless You!

Proverbs 19:17- Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.

Proverbs 22:9- The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.



**Every Tuesday from
11:30am- 12:30 pm**

Friday Ladies

Friday 9:00am - 12:00am



Beautiful Quilt donated by Bonnie will be finished by the Friday Ladies and raffled



6 Lap Robes on their way to Pleasant Valley



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)

Sundays after the 11:00am Service

THANKS TO THE LADIES THAT WORK HARD SO WE ENJOY OUR COFFEE HOUR!!



Homemade Honey

You can purchase from

Laura or Alan

During Sunday coffee hour.

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



Sweet 16 Party



Hummingbirds will start arriving in the next two weeks! They will need energy for their migration north, so get those hummingbird feeders ready. And remember that homemade nectar is best: no dyes or flavoring, just water and sugar.

Ruby Throated Hummingbird Migration



E. Swackhamer



PA Department of Agriculture



PA Department of Agriculture



PA Department of Agriculture



PA Department of Agriculture

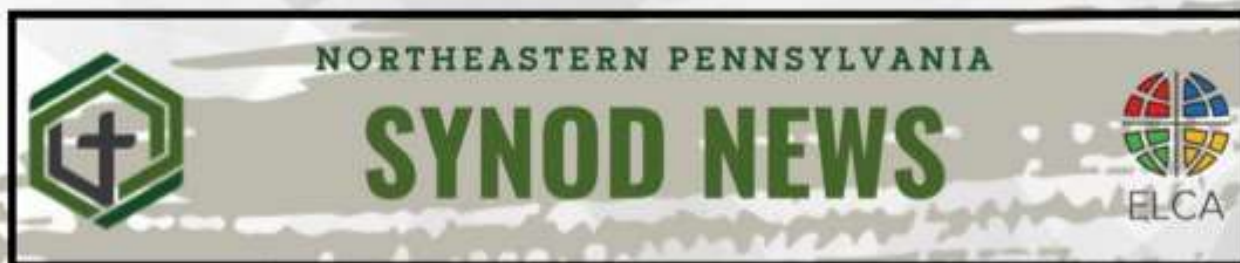
- A. Egg masses
- B. Early nymph
- C. Late nymph
- D. Adult, wings closed
- E. Adult, wings open

Last year they were around the church and praying mantis were out to eat them.

From PennState Extension
Spotted Lanternfly, *Lycorma delicatula*, is a new threat to Pennsylvania and the United States, and experts are still learning how to combat it.

Spotted lanternfly eggs hatching soon:
'Eliminate' them before they spread, officials say

STOMP THEM OUT !!



Wednesday may be a slump day for some, but at the La Crosse LuMin Lutheran Campus it's all about grace through free cookie Wednesday. Want a cookie? Take a cookie! They just give out cookies to make folks' day better – no strings attached. As he's giving out the cookies, it's not unusual for Pastor Ben Morris to be asked, "Where do the cookies come from?" The answer is Lutheran grandmas up in the bluffs and hills made them with real butter and real love. Each week congregations throughout the La Crosse Area Synod drop off 500 cookies to be given away. Pastor Ben says, "It's like manna in the wilderness; there always seems to be enough," and these cookies taste better.

LuMin La Crosse is a place to gather in worship, connect to study, grab a cup of coffee, share a family-style meal, sit in prayer, make bread for the women's shelter, take walks together, and explore places afar in service to others. They advocate for others, share space with multicultural student groups, proudly display the pride flag, and mostly reconnect with humanity and each other. Oh, and give out cookies! Like all ELCA LuMin campus ministry sites across our synods, this ministry happens because congregations share food – yes, cookies – and also through Mission Support that is shared with our synods and churchwide organization to support these vital, transformative, grace-filled ministries with students. Mission Support is just one way campus ministry is funded, so learn more, and pray for local campus ministry by checking out luminelca.org/.

WHY SHOULD I ATTEND?



JUNE 1-3 2023 AT
KALAHARI RESORT

www.godslove.org. We have also set aside more than 90 minutes in the agenda to address resolutions and motions at this meeting - more than any meeting before - with additional time we can make available as needed. **Come as Voting Member from your congregation and make your voice heard.**

The Inspiring Worship and Music. Our talented worship team has been 6 months in the planning for all elements of worship and music at this event - with more in store for this Assembly than ever. Music will be led by the celebrated group "Chasing Daylight," with added highlights from David Scherer (known nationally as "AGAPE"). Also featured will be works of art, dance, poetry, lights and colors, and sights, and sounds to move and uplift from floor to ceiling!

The Speakers, Preachers & Presenters. **Never before have we been able to offer such an impressive line-up** for learning and bringing back ideas and inspirations for you and your congregations: A wide range of hands-on workshops led by local and churchwide experts.

- Joe Davis and David Scherer - nationally acclaimed speakers, recording artists and educators; and featured performers at ELCA Youth Gatherings. They plan to power up our workshops AND main sessions (AKA plenaries) - getting us on our feet, interacting, and understanding better some of the biggest challenges we face today: including engaging with young people; finding new energy in worship and ministry; and having conversations around tough topics, especially racism. T
- Bishop Michael Girlinghouse - author of the new book: *Embracing God's Future without Forgetting the Past*. Drawing on more than 30 years of research and experience - Bishop Girlinghouse will show us how we and our congregations can work through our collective grief without forgetting or devaluing our past. He will offer a practical, step-by-step process for engaging and embracing God's future for each congregation.
- AND SO MUCH MORE!

MAY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 W&M Meeting 6:30pm	2	3	4 Choir 6:30pm	5 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	6
7 5 th Easter Pastor Deb 8:30am & 10:00am 1 st communion	8	9 <i>RSVP</i> <i>Pastor</i> <i>Debs</i> <i>Installation</i> <i>Luncheon</i>	10 Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30pm	11 Food Pantry 9:30am – 12:00noon Choir 6:30pm	12 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	13
14 6 th Easter 10:00am Combined Service <i>Installation</i> <i>Service of Pastor</i> <i>Deb Staniszewski</i> Luncheon to follow. Mothers Day	15	16	17	18 Choir 6:30pm	19 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	20
21 7 th Easter 8:30am 10:00am	22	23	24 Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30pm	25 Food Pantry 9:30am – 12:00noon Choir 6:30pm	26 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	27
28 Pentecost 8:30am 10:00am Contemporary Service with Praise Team & Pastor Deb	29	30	31			