



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield

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East Stroudsburg PA 18301

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Web Site: stpaulscommunitychurch.com

Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield

JANUARY 2023

ST. PAUL'S CALL

COME WORSHIP WITH US!!

- January 1st 1st Sunday of Christmas
January 8th Baptism of Our Lord
January 15th 2nd Sunday after Epiphany
January 22nd 3rd Sunday after Epiphany
January 29th 4th Sunday after Epiphany



ALL ARE WELCOME!!

CONGREGATIONAL 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 AVAILABE ON FACEBOOK

FOR THE 10:00AM SUNDAY SERVICE.

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

MORE NEWS FOR ST. PAUL'S WILL BE E-MAILED OUT TO EVERYONE SOON !!!



Happy New Year and welcome to the season of Epiphany from Worship and Music!

Epiphany is the perception of the essential nature or meaning of something.

We **celebrate Epiphany** to honor the Three Wise Men who sought Christ to acknowledge His birth, welcome Him with the most expensive gifts of the time, and reveal His coming.

New Pastoral Candidate – On Sunday, January 8th there will be a meet and greet from 8:30-10:15 to meet the pastoral candidate. The candidate will conduct a combined service at 10:30am and a vote to accept the candidate will take place following the service. All are encouraged to come out to meet the candidate.

Annual Congregational Meeting – Sunday, January 22nd following the 10:00 am service.

Christmas – Special thanks to all who attended and participated in Advent and Christmas Services. Special thanks to Laura Pride for leading the Advent Zoom series. We want to thank all those who helped to decorate the church including Dick and Marylee Rehm who made the wreaths, Nancy Fritz, Jeannette Richardson, the Pride family, Laura Biddulph, Lynne Williams and to Brooke Nixon and Jolie Mrakovcich for setting up the nativity scene. Our appreciation to Chris Matthy and his family for the beautiful Christmas paraments in memory of Chris Sandra Matthy. We also want to thank Dave Libecap, Chris Matthy, Madeline McCarron, Laura Pride, Jolie Mrakovcich, May Ertle and the choir for their gift of music and all those who served as readers and greeters and we want to especially thank Pastor Thomas for his words and leading us in favorite carols.

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 or Dana Strohl.

Service Assistants – Thank you to all those who signed up for the month. Sign-up sheets for February and March will soon be on the bulletin board. Your help as an acolyte, greeter or lay reader is most appreciated.

Celebration Hall Building Fund – For those who would like to make a donation to offset the mortgage on this wonderful building that serves as a gathering place for the local community please make your check payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and write on the note Mortgage Reduction.

Share Your Ideas – We welcome your ideas for worship, music and activities that Worship and Music could introduce in the New Year to spread the word of St. Paul's to the community and make your church life meaningful.

Yours in Christ,
Worship & Music



REV. JAMES THOMAS PASTOR

Welcoming a new pastor is an exciting time, a new beginning for both the congregation and the new minister. I have gleaned these suggestions from a variety of sources. To maximize this new beginning, it is important to prepare spiritually, cognitively, and emotionally for a new chapter.

There are a few things you can do to prepare personally and congregationally to follow a new spiritual leader:

Prepare to welcome your new pastor

1. Open your hearts and decide that you are going to love the pastor.
2. Invite church members individually to send cards and encouragement to the incoming pastor.
3. Embrace the uniqueness of your pastor. The new pastor has a distinct personality, a unique set of spiritual gifts, a communications style, and a diverse set of experiences. When the Spirit leads a church to a new pastor, the Spirit seldom leads a church to a person just like the previous pastor. To compare your new pastor to any other is to disrespect the Spirit's role in guiding you to your new pastor in the first place.
4. Give your pastor permission to fail. The best pastors don't succeed 100% of the time.

Say goodbye to Pastor Thomas in a healthy way

7. Show love, regard, and even grief. This is one of the best things you can do for the new pastor.
8. Say thank you and goodbye to Pastor Thomas.
9. Express appreciation in ways that are consistent with what you have done in the past.
10. Do not invite Pastor Thomas to return for weddings, funerals, or baptisms. This establishes your new pastor as everyone's pastor from the beginning.

Make things move-in ready

7. Make sure the pastor's office is clean and ready.

Continue the welcome during the entry period

8. Give gift cards to several of your favorite restaurants or places when you shop in the community. Place them in a basket so that they may be all presented at once.
9. Give the pastor and family a welcome reception on the first Sunday.
10. Continue to remember your new pastor and family in your daily prayers.

Help the new pastor become familiar with the congregation

11. Introduce yourself to the pastor repeatedly! You have one name to learn; your pastor has many names to learn. Once your new pastor arrives, make sure to offer your name in each greeting for the first few weeks. Learning names is important for pastors.
12. Wear name tags. Even if name tags are not a tradition, the congregation can wear them for a few weeks to help the pastor learn names.
13. Provide an up-to-date list of all church committees and officers.
14. Provide the new pastor with a tour of where things are kept inside the church and perhaps a floor plan of the facilities.
15. Orient the new pastor to information systems and the way records are kept.
16. Make sure the pastor has a list of home bound or nursing home members, a list of those struggling with long term illness, and a list of those still in grief over recent deaths in the family. Better yet, take the pastor for an introduction to each of these households.
17. Have an appropriate person offer to go with the pastor for introductions and support if there are particularly urgent pastoral situations (a member near death or the family of a member who has just died).

Help the new pastor connect to the community

18. Provide local media with information about the new pastor.
19. Introduce your new pastor to other clergy in the community. Provide information on any ecumenical activities or associations.
20. Introduce the new pastor to public and community leaders.

Most importantly, pray for the new pastor. And let her know that you are praying

Our Advent Wreath



Brooke setting up the Manger.



New Christmas Paraments from Chris Matthy and family.

New Years Day Baptism.



SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

Generosity and Vitality in the **NOW** Normal

A Stewardship Extravaganza

January 21, 2023 | Trinity, Lansdale



Generosity And Vitality In The NOW Normal
Sponsored by the Southeastern PA and Northeastern PA
Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Saturday, January 21, 2023
8 A.M. To 4 P.M.

Trinity Lutheran Church
1000 W. Main St., Lansdale, PA 19446

An In-Person Only Event
Cost: \$40 per person (includes lunch)
FREE for SEPA/NEPA Synod seminarians and first-call
pastors

Engage with outstanding church leaders in plenary
presentations and question-and-answer sessions.



Keynote:

Ryan Burge: "The Nones:
From The Overlooked
Category to Impossible
to Miss in Less Than
Fifty Years"

Register Now!

Join us!

LEARNING MINISTRIES DAY

January 28, 2023

WWW.GODSLOVE.ORG/
LEARNINGMINISTRIESDAY



SAVE
THE
DATE

SYNOD
ASSEMBLY
2023

JUNE
1-3

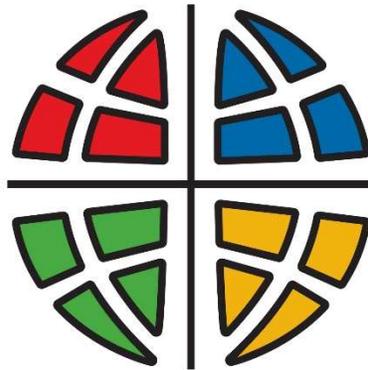


ELCA

A Fresh Look for the ELCA

The ELCA has released refreshed branding featuring a cleaner look and a modified color scheme. Learn more at elca.org/Resources/ELCA-Branding. The new logos should be used in digital media including websites, email, and social media. Printed materials may be used until they are depleted.

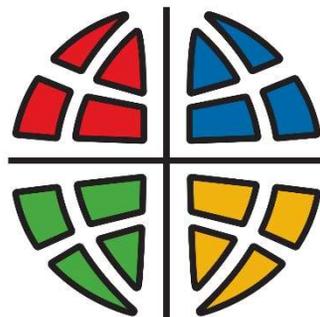
**THE NEW LOGO'S FROM THE ELCA WEB SITE
RESOURCE BRANDING.**



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ELCA



ELCA

SHARE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

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



JANUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
News Year Day 1st Christmas 10:00 Service Lessons and Carols with Baptism Pastor Thomas	Office Closed	Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm	Praise Team rehearsal 6:30pm	Choir 6:30pm	Epiphany Friday Ladies 9:30am – 12:00noon	
8	9	10		12	13	14
Baptism of Our Lord Fellowship time to meet Candidate 8:30am -10:30am 10:30am Service	Office Closed Music & Worship 6:30pm	Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm Council Meeting		Food Pantry 9:30am– 12:00noon Choir 6:30pm	Friday Ladies 9:30am– 12:00noon	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
2nd Epiphany 8:30am-10:00am Pastor Thomas	Office Closed	Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm	Praise Team rehearsal 6:30pm	Choir 6:30pm	Friday Ladies 9:30 – 12:00noon	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
3rd Epiphany 8:30am Pastor Thomas 10:00am Praise Team w/Contemporary Service Annual Congregational Meeting	Office Closed	Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm		Food Pantry 9:30am – 12:00noon Choir 6:30pm	Friday Ladies 9:30 – 12:00noon	
29	30	31				
4th Epiphany Pastor Thomas 8:30am-10:30am Healing Service	Office Closed	Bible Study 11:30am – 12:30pm				