

St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield
139 Craig's Meadow Rd.
East Stroudsburg, Pa. 18301
Phone: 570-223-9422

E-mail: stpaulscraigsmeadow@verizon.net
Web Site: stpaulscommunitychurch.com
Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield

ST. PAUL'S CALL

AUGUST 2024

Pastor Deb Staniszewski

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



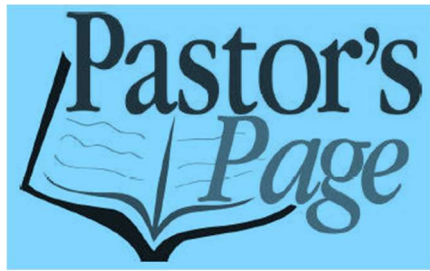
SUNDAY SERVICES 8:30AM AND 10:00AM

**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 Romans in Chapter 12, Paul writes about friendship, and calls us to be true friends who love from the center of our hearts. In the biblical interpretation *The Message*, Paul writes, “9-10 Love from the center of who you are; don’t fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply.....” (Romans 12:9-10 Message)

Summer is often a time for getting together with friends. We may even have the opportunity to spend time at a picnic, wedding, graduation, or summer party catching up with special people we don’t see regularly. Hopefully you will find time to enjoy friends this summer, and praise God for the blessing of friendship.

In reflecting on the blessing of friendship, I want to share a “Blessing for Friendship” Written by John O’Donohue,

May you be blessed with good friends,
And learn to be a good friend yourself,
Journeying to that place in your soul where
There is love, warmth and feeling.

May it transfigure what is negative, distant,
Or cold within your heart.

May you be brought into real passion, kindness,
And belonging.

May you treasure your friends,
May you be good to them, be there for them
And receive all the challenges, truth and light you need.

May you never be isolated but know the embrace
Of your anam cara.¹

Your Friend in Christ,
Pastor Deb

¹ John O’Donohue, “To Bless the Space Between Us”, Convergent Books, New York NY, 2008, P.43

We still need volunteers to sell food, bake sale and help for both the 28th and 29th.

Spots are now open to join us for our sale in Celebration Hall on the 28th.

(Prices will be on a separate e-mail.)

Please invite you friends and neighbors to join us on this day.

Let's make this week-end a success!!!

St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield

170th Birthday Celebration

The year 2024 marks 170 years that St. Paul's Church has been in existence, and we plan to celebrate!

The Birthday weekend celebration will take place on Saturday, September 28th and Sunday September 29th. Save the date!!!

On **Saturday the 29th**, we will hold a **church rummage sale** in Celebration Hall. Vendors and church members may rent spaces to sell their treasures. Lynne Williams in the office is organizing the sale and specifics on time and fees will be announced soon. If you would like to be put on her list of space renters or if you would like to volunteer to help with the sale, please see her.

We would like to invite our friends with Phoenix Martial Arts, Little League Softball, and Boy Scouts Troop 100 to join us with displays and or sales.

We would like to have a **bake sale and possibly sell hot dogs** (or some other easy lunch items) out of the kitchen during the sale. **Food trucks** outside may also be available.

Activities for children are under consideration and will be dependent on the weather and volunteers.

During the sale, we would like to have a display of **St. Paul's Church artifacts and history** in the church and possible **church tours**. The extent of this will depend on **volunteers**. If you would like to be part of organizing a team that can find and display our church history in a meaningful way, please contact Laura Pride at papride94@gmail.com.

On **Sunday, September 30** we will celebrate with a **service of gratitude at 10:00 a.m.** This special service will be attended by the bishop of the NEPA Synod, Bishop Christopher deForest. Pastor Deb and the Worship & Music committee will be working on this special service.

We would like to conclude the birthday celebration with a **Birthday Party Luncheon** in Celebration Hall after the service. Volunteers are needed to set up Celebration Hall after the church sale that Saturday. At this time, it is likely that the luncheon will be potluck. More information to follow.

That's it! It's time to Celebrate St. Paul's, our history, and our future!! Please prayerfully decide how you can be a part of the celebration, because **EVERYONE** can play a part in making this weekend one to remember! **This event is a work in progress and its success will depend on the input and hard work of volunteers.** Volunteer sign-up sheets will be available on Sunday morning July 7 with more information.

Thank you and God bless you all

Laura Pride Council Vice President

Friday Ladies have volunteered to set a table up at our sale to benefit the church.

We will also have tables set up for any donations from our congregation and Friday Ladies will help but we'll need more helpers for setting up, pricing etc.

Worship & Music!



Choir – Choir will be starting up towards the end of August. If you're interested in singing, please let Kathy Ertle know. We welcome all voices. Rehearsals will be held on Sundays following the 10am service. If you have friends looking for singing opportunities, please let them know they are welcome!

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 Williams.

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 Williams.

Volunteers- Summer 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.

Altar Guild – The altar guild is looking for members to help. Assistance is needed for a month at a time. If you want to learn more, please see Nancy Fritz.

170th Celebration – On September 28th there will be an anniversary 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. More details to come. There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin board for volunteers that are able to help on both days and leading up to the events.

Next Meeting – Monday, August 5th 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.

Blessings,

Worship & Music Committee



Thursday
August 8th and 22nd
9:30am – 12:00noon

Contact Wanda Richardson with any questions.

The food pantry needs: Boxed macaroni & cheese, cereal, jelly
And canned Tuna.

Looking for help, contact Wanda or office.

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**

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:



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



Hello Church Youth Families,

Back to School Blessings – August 18th

All children and students of all ages and teachers, aides, staff and administrators are invited to bring their backpacks on August 18th to be blessed for the new school year.

We will also be collecting school supplies including pencils, crayons, markers, pens, glue, glue sticks, paper, folders, binders, etc. during August for donations. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Mission Trip

Our Confirmation Class Mission Trip in July was a great success! Ashley and Brooke spent the week completing painting projects and installing flooring in the kitchen, dining room and living room of a house. Flooring was a completely new skill that they learned and they did a fantastic job. About 70 other youth served during the same week which was an amazing experience both with the amount of work that was completed and also the time spent together worshipping. There was a lot of praise of God and love for Jesus! We were so pleased and inspired by these young ladies' hard work and faith.

We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to the congregation for this opportunity and your support of this Mission Trip. The experience has left a very positive and lasting impression on us all!



Sunday School

Sunday School is on summer break! We will begin again in September. Enjoy your summer!

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.



Welcome to the newest Friday Lady "Lucy"

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.



Friday Ladies have volunteered to set a table up at our sale to benefit the church.

We will also have tables set up for any donations from our congregation and Friday Ladies will help but we'll need helpers for setting up, pricing etc.



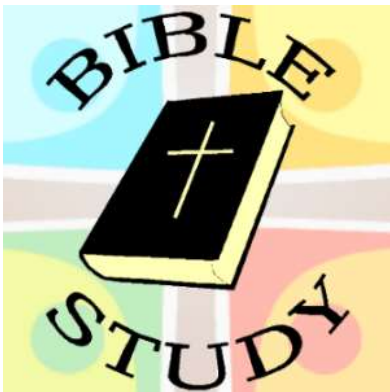
**The Altar Guild is looking
for a few new volunteers.**

**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.**

**This summer Sunday morning
Community Worship Services**



**are being led by
Laura and Alan Pride at
Camp Vista and
Otter Lake.**



**On Break for the Summer
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



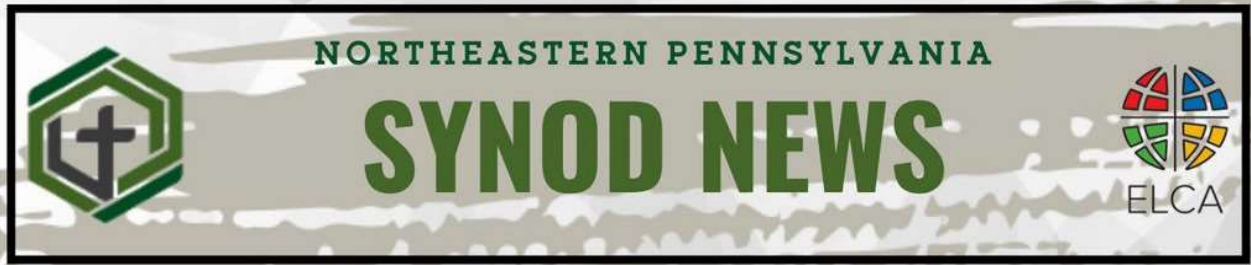
- Full Commercial Kitchen
- Seating: 160 Banquet Style
180 Assembly
- Parking: Up to 75 Vehicles
- Handicap Accessible
- Wi-Fi Ready

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



Sweet 16 Party





Walking Together for a Cause: Celebrating 50 Years of ELCA World Hunger

On Saturday, June 22, 18 faithful folk gathered at Conrad Weiser High School stadium in Robesonia, PA, to walk the track as part of a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of ELCA World Hunger. In spite of the high temperatures, a lot of miles were walked and cycled to earn support dollars to feed hungry people. We had representatives from Grace, Shillington, Trinity, Wernersville, Zion, Spies, Zion, Womelsdorf, Grace, Macungie, Trinity,



Robesonia, New Life,

New Tripoli as well as Pastor Rachael Dietz and Deacon Travis Woodfield from the Northeastern PA Synod office, and Quentin Bernhard from Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania (LAMPa), who updated us on local legislation and advocacy needs as our state budget is crafted. We will have to await totals from the synod office to determine how much we raised, but it was a blessing to be together with a community of compassionate, caring people to contribute to the work of the ELCA

to see that All Are Fed. The Hunger Ministries in the early planning stages for a choir festival, tentatively for May 2025 as part of the 50th anniversary celebration



Submitted by: Rev. Eileen Smith LeVan Co-Convener of the Hunger Taskforce

SoulShop-Part of a New Ministry to Celebrate 75 years

Submitted by Pastor Paul Metzloff

Reformation Lutheran Church in Reiffton is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. As a part of that celebration, our planning committee wanted to begin a new ministry, in light of the facts that we have always worked towards being active and engaged, and also that several of our active ministries ended during and shortly after the COVID pandemic. In our conversations, we realized that many of the families in our congregation had, in some way, been affected by suicide – far more than we would have guessed. Therefore, we decided to begin a ministry focused on mental health and, in particular, suicide prevention and education.

We chose, as our first major initiative, to provide a one-day faith-based suicide education program called SoulShop. With funding from our congregation, a generous Witness and Service grant from the synod, and additional financial and advertising support from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (the group that often organizes the Out of the Darkness Walks), we sponsored this training on May 4th of 2024. Attended by representatives of the congregation, other local congregations, health care professionals, and members of the community, this training was an opportunity to learn more about the stigma surrounding

suicide, how to help those who might be contemplating taking their own lives, and faith-oriented ways for openly discussing this often neglected or avoided subject.

Our trainer from SoulShop was himself a survivor of suicide, and guided the conversation appropriately and empathetically. Several of those who attended were themselves touched by suicide, including a family who had lost a son and brother to suicide. The group read scripture together, prayed together, ate together, and practiced open conversation about mental health in general and suicide in particular. We left with information and resources from both SoulShop and the AFSP, as well as encouragement and inspiration.

If you or your congregation would be interested in hearing more details about the SoulShop training, feel free to contact us at Reformation at 610-779-0534 or mail@reformationlutheran.org. Also, feel free to go directly to the SoulShop website at soulshopmovement.org. Much helpful information can also be found at the AFSP website at afsp.org/chapter/eastern-pennsylvania

[Click here to view photos of the event.](#) You can find information at godslope.org about the grants available from the Witness and Service Team. Your mission support giving makes these grants possible.

Thank you for your continued support!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AUGUST						
				1	2 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	3
4 11th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 & 10:00am	5 Worship and Music 6:30pm	6 Lunchtime Prayer 12:15- 12:45pm Meeting 5:00pm For West End Fair	7	8 Food Pantry 9:30am – 12:00 noon	9 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	10
11 12th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 & 10:00am	12	13 Lunchtime Prayer 12:15- 12:45pm Council Meeting 6:30pm	14	15	16 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	17 Railriders Trip
18 13th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 & 10:00am Blessing of Back- Packs Start of West End Fair good luck to our volunteers	19	20 Lunchtime Prayer 12:15- 12:45pm	21	22 Food Pantry 9:30am – 12:00 noon	23 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	24
25 14th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 & 10:00am	26	27 Lunchtime Prayer 12:15- 12:45pm	28	29	30	31