

St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield
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East Stroudsburg, Pa. 18301
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Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield
Instagram: [st.pauls_smithfield](https://www.instagram.com/st.pauls_smithfield)
Web Site: stpaulscommunitychurch.com



**ST. PAUL'S
CALL
April 2026**

**JOIN US FOR
PRAYER, WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP**

SUNDAY SERVICE 9:30AM



SPECIAL UPCOMING SERVICE TIMES

Maundy Thursday 6:00pm

Good Friday 6:00pm

Easter Sunday 9:30am

OUR MISSION:

**To be a beacon of faith guided by the Holy Spirit.
Growing in Christ, we share God's grace through witness,
love, and service.**

**Sunday Service will be live streamed on our Facebook:
[St Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulslutheranchurchsmithfield)**

Bulletin is on our website: stpaulscommunitychurch.com

Message from Pastor Chris Matthy

I like old cars, but especially the ones I grew up with in the '50's and '60's. My grandmother told me that when I was about 4 years old I could stand on the corner and identify every car that went by. I have enjoyed even older, like when I got to ride in the rumble seat of a relative's Model A Ford around the back streets of Austin, TX. Yes, I like them -- but I wouldn't want to be driving one of those land-yachts today. Our cars are quieter, ride smoother, have heat and ac, are far easier to drive, and get more miles per gallon than was ever dreamed of back then.

The changing landscape also has meant saying goodbye in recent years to Plymouths, Oldsmobiles, and Mercurys, and further back Ramblers, Edsels, Packards, Desotos and more, while Volkswagons, Toyotas, Hondas, Subarus and more have been welcomed into our driveways. The world changed, and we changed with it -- and, we like it.

Many of us also have fond memories of the church of the past. In the boom of the '50's and '60's, my home congregation was taking in 80 new members *per week!* I remember an Easter service worshipping in an overflow basement by the new-technology of remote black and white tv. Cut to the chase -- we're not in Kansas anymore. The world changed radically, and the church has been trying to keep up. Some of us may mourn the losses, but as theologian Leonard Sweet says,

"A community of faith that is on the move and in mission is less focused on restoring yesterday than on restarting tomorrow. You can't restore the past. You can restart the future by reclaiming and rediscovering and revitalizing the past." (Jesus Human p.101)

Personally, I like being the church of today. I like the effort and excitement that went into launching our new Prayer Ministry. Yes, we have had such things in the past, but now we are reclaiming it with a new sense of vision. I think St. Paul's is developing a healthy sense of being a community in mission. Change is not always easy, and sometimes even painful, but overall I like being an Easter people in our world today.

Congregation Council members

Dave Libecap	dilbecap@ptd.net	President
Ted Strohl	destrohl@ptd.net	
Faye Jones	mrspools@ptd.net	
Jacqueline Richardson	jacqueline.richardson50@gmail.com	
Joy Donnelly	donnell4@ptd.net	
Sonji Patrick	sonjipatrick9903@gmail.com	Vice President
Tracy D'Imperio	tdimperio@lccc.edu	Secretary

Finance Don Carr & Dana Strohl

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

Operating Funds

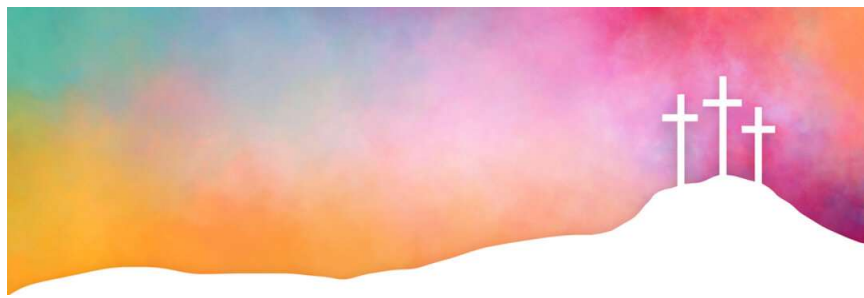
	February <u>2026</u>	Year to Date <u>Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>
CHURCH INCOME			
GENERAL INCOME	\$9,268.00	\$15,442.26	\$15,613.34
BENEVOLENCE INCOME	190.00	295.00	283.34
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	3,108.17	4,159.17	2,750.00
INTEREST INCOME	<u>.88</u>	<u>1.94</u>	<u>10.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$12,567.05</u>	<u>\$19,898.37</u>	<u>\$18,656.68</u>
CHURCH EXPENSES			
STAFF	\$3,488.62	\$13,167.24	\$14,032.68
BENEVOLENCE EXPENSE	166.67	333.34	333.34
PARISH ADMINISTRATION	671.37	1,034.92	775.00
WORSHIP	101.15	401.65	846.66
LEARNING	0.00	0.00	166.68
PROPERTY	5,792.68	11,525.40	6,846.70
DEBT PAYMENTS	939.00	1,878.00	1,900.00
STEWARDSHIP	0.00	0.00	33.34
OUTREACH	0.00	0.00	50.00
WITNESS	0.00	0.00	16.66
SOCIAL FELLOWSHIP	<u>0.00</u>	<u>372.91</u>	<u>83.34</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$11,159.49</u>	<u>\$28,713.46</u>	<u>\$25,084.40</u>
EXCESS INCOME/(EXPENSES)	<u>\$1,407.56</u>	<u>(\$8,815.09)</u>	<u>(\$6,427.72)</u>

Special Funds

SPECIAL FUNDS INCOME			
BENEVOLENCE			
Pantry/Good Samaritan	\$410.00	\$173.00	\$0.00
MEMORIAL INCOME	0.00	250.00	0.00
INTEREST	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS INCOME	<u>\$410.00</u>	<u>\$423.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
SPECIAL FUNDS DISBURSEMENTS			
BENEVOLENCE			
Pantry/Good Samaritan	\$0.00	\$45.81	\$0.00
MEMORIAL FUND EXPENDITURES	<u>111.78</u>	<u>111.78</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$111.78</u>	<u>\$157.59</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>

Cash Accounts

Operating Checking Account	\$15,541.98		
Special Funds Checking Account	<u>11,230.29</u>	\$26,772.27	
Operating Funds in Thrivent Financial	\$32,586.02		
Special Funds in Thrivent Financial	<u>5,549.48</u>	<u>\$38,135.50</u>	
Total Cash			<u>\$64,907.77</u>



WORSHIP & MUSIC

Holy Week & Easter – We will be observing Maundy Thursday on April 2nd at 6pm with the stripping of the altar. Good Friday's service will be on April 3rd at 6pm and Easter will be celebrated on April 5th.

- Palm Sunday, March 29th 9:30am
- Maundy Thursday, April 2, 6pm
- Good Friday, April 3, 6pm
- Easter, April 5, 9:30am

Camp Ministry – Our camp ministry will be starting up on Memorial Day weekend and running through Labor Day. If you're interested in participating or would like more information on what it entails, please let the office know. We will be making up a schedule soon.

Service Assistants Schedule – The service assistants schedule through May is posted on the bulletin board. We have added a new position of Worship reader to assist the Lay leader on Sundays. If you're interested in volunteering over the summer, please contact Kathy Ertle, Lynne Williams or Dana Strohl.

Next meeting – April 13th at 6pm. We welcome all. If you want to share any ideas please reach out to Kathy Ertle, Chris Matthy or the office.

Happy Easter! Worship & Music Committee

Blessings, Worship & Music Committee



VISION TEAM

Part Two of the prayer ministry was launched at the worship service on Sunday, March 29. Part One included gathering names of those who are interested in participating in prayer ministry and how they are willing to participate. Part Two will allow various levels of participation, including sending prayers, being part of the ministry, and receiving prayers.

Further information and links to participate will be sent via email the first week of April. The forms that can be completed online have also been copied so that you can complete them on paper. A box to submit the paper forms and prayer requests has been placed in the narthex.

At our next meeting, April 27th, we plan to be working with the asset mapping that we did as a congregation in August.



Always doing a great job for us.

Always looking for volunteers.

Contact Ted Strohl





Next Pantry is Thursday

April 2nd

9:30am – 12:00noon

The food pantry needs:

Peanut butter and jelly, cereal, spam, and canned fruit.

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.

Future Pantry Dates: May 7th, June 4th



Hello Church Youth Families,

With the change in our church service time to 9:30 am, Sunday School will be held from 10:45 am to 11:15 am. All children from preschool and up are welcome!

Touch of Home

We packed Touch of Home packages and it was a great success! The Sunday School packed 21 boxes at the end of March and we have already started receiving thank you messages. All of the many donations were greatly appreciated! Thank you so much to the congregation for the support of this service project.



Blessings always, Alisa
Nixon (908) 279-5242



Brooke, Ashley and I planted up the planters in front of the church this afternoon. I still want to find some pansies to finish up the planters. So it's a work in progress!

The forecast looks good temperature wise. And it looks like it will rain this week so hopefully they will be happy!

Thank you, Alisa

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.



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.

CELEBRATION HALL RENTALS Please share!

For information contact Sonji Patrick 1-917-817-4895



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



April 16th



**Celebration
Hall**

The Memory Café is a place to meet with others living with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI), Alzheimer's or other related dementias and their Care Partner in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

**RSVP: Barbara Van Nortwick
570.236.3380**

It's a place to talk with others and to learn,
"You are not alone."



Phoenix Martial Arts Society / St. Paul's Celebration Hall

Days & Times

Tuesdays and Thursdays

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM 6-12 yrs, 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM 13 yrs+ (Adult)

Please feel free to contact us at 570-982-4999

[Phoenix Martial Arts Society](#) | [East Stroudsburg PA](#) | [Facebook](#)



**CHAMPION FORCE
ATHLETICS**

Champion Force Athletics / St. Paul's Celebration Hall

Making a Difference Through Youth Cheerleading Programs

<https://www.facebook.com/CFAEastStroudsburg> CFA Site-

<https://championforce.com/>



NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Listening, Healing, and Engaging Through Podcast Ministry



Mission Support makes it possible for the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod to support creative ministries that reach people in new ways and respond to real needs in our communities. One recent example is a podcast project developed by Pastor Kim Truebenbach called *Condemned Happy*, supported through a Witness & Service Grant.

The project began with conversations between Pastor Kim and young adults who were wrestling with difficult experiences related to faith and religious communities. Many of these individuals carried deep questions or painful memories connected to their spiritual upbringing. Recognizing a need for compassionate listening and honest conversation, Pastor Kim began exploring how a podcast could create space for people to share their stories and reflect on faith, healing, and hope.

Through recorded conversations and storytelling, the podcast offered listeners a place where experiences could be shared without judgment. Rather than providing quick answers or trying to “fix” complex situations, the project focused on something deeply pastoral: listening. In doing so, it embodied the synod’s commitment to love, heal, and engage like Jesus, offering a reminder that sometimes the most faithful response we can offer one another is presence, understanding, and compassion.

The project also reflects several of the synod’s ministry lanes. By engaging conversations that resonate with younger generations who often encounter faith discussions online, the podcast reflects the synod’s commitment to Growing Young, meeting people where they are and listening to the questions and experiences shaping their lives today. Using accessible digital tools and online platforms, the ministry also demonstrates Gaining Strength, experimenting with new forms of communication that allow the church to connect with people beyond traditional settings.

At the same time, the project reflects the spirit of Going Beyond Death to Life, walking alongside individuals who have experienced spiritual hurt or who feel disconnected from church communities. By creating space for reflection and conversation, the podcast invites listeners to rediscover hope, trust, and the possibility of healing in their relationship with faith.

Technology made it possible for the conversations to reach a wide audience. Episodes were recorded through simple online tools and shared across podcast platforms and YouTube, places where many younger adults already spend time learning and engaging with ideas. According to podcast analytics, the episodes were downloaded more than 260 times, with listeners across the United States and internationally, demonstrating how digital ministry can connect people in unexpected ways.

While the podcast created an online space for conversation, its impact was also personal and relational. Pastor Kim noted that several young adults in her extended family began reaching out more frequently for conversation and support, knowing they would be met with openness and compassion. These relationships became opportunities for deeper listening and pastoral care, strengthening trust and connection in meaningful ways.

For Pastor Kim, the work became a reminder that faith is often lived out through small but significant acts of presence. Listening carefully, honoring someone's story, and creating space for honest conversation can become powerful expressions of God's love at work in the world.

Projects like this are made possible through Mission Support, which allows the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod to encourage creative ministry, support leaders exploring new ways of sharing the Gospel, and walk alongside people seeking healing, hope, and community. Through ministries like this podcast, we continue to live out our calling to love, heal, and engage like Jesus, trusting that even simple conversations can open doors to deeper understanding and renewed faith. Those interested in exploring the conversations can find the *Condemned Happy* podcast on YouTube, where the episodes remain available to listen and share.

DID YOU KNOW that your Mission Support helps fund areas of the synod and ELCA like this one and many other important initiatives? Your contributions are making a significant impact and helping others grow in faith, supporting the synod's lanes of Growing Young, Gaining Strength, and Going Beyond Death to Life, along with the directions of loving like Jesus, healing like Jesus, and engaging like Jesus. To learn more, visit godslove.org/missionsupport.



June 4-6, 2026

Split Rock Resort • Lake Harmony, PA
 Registration Opens: April 7
 Registration Closes: May 11

39th NEPA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Grounded in Ephesians 3:14–21, the 2026 Synod Assembly theme **IMAGINE** invites us to trust the God who can do far more than we can ask or imagine. As we gather in June, the synod will also prayerfully discern and elect a bishop for the next six-year term.

How You Can Help

Synod Assembly voting will be conducted by paper ballot this year, and volunteers are needed to help distribute and count ballots. To learn more or volunteer, visit the Assembly webpage.

godslove.org/assembly2026



THE REV.
CeCee Mills
 ELCA Representative

APRIL 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
			1	2 Food Pantry 9:30am – 12:00 noon Maundy Thursday 6:00pm	3 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00 noon Good Friday 6:00pm	4
5 Easter Sunday 9:30am	6	7 Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm	8	9 Choir 6:30pm	10 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00 noon	11
12 2nd Easter Sunday 9:30am Sunday School 10:45 – 11:15	13	14 Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm	15	16 Choir 6:30pm	17 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00 noon	18
19 3rd Easter Sunday 9:30am Sunday School 10:45 – 11:15	20	21 Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm	22 Praise Team 6:30pm	23 Finance 6:00pm Choir 6:30pm	24 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00 noon	25
26 4th Easter Sunday Contemporary Service 9:30am Sunday School 10:45 – 11:15	27 Vison Team Meeting 6:30pm	28 Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm	29	30 Choir 6:30pm		