



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield**  
**139 Craig's Meadow Rd**  
**East Stroudsburg, Pa.**  
**Phone 570-223-9422**  
**E-mail: [stpaulscraigsmeadow@verizon.net](mailto:stpaulscraigsmeadow@verizon.net)**  
**Web Site: [stpaulscommunitychurch.com](http://stpaulscommunitychurch.com)**  
**Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield**

**Pastor Deb Staniszewski**

# **AUGUST 2023**

## **ST. PAUL'S CALL**



### **St. Paul's Mission Statement**

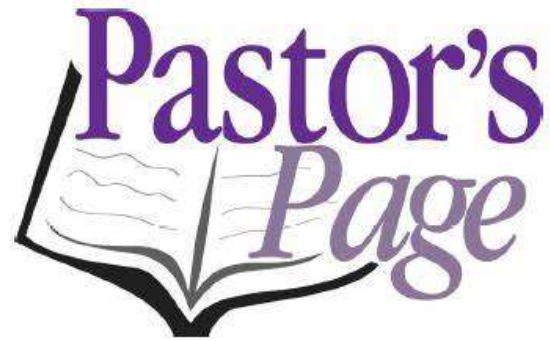
**We are a community of faith called to share the good news of Jesus as our model of life.**

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

**You can also connect to Facebook by going to our web site.**



Summer Greetings!

Prayer is one of the ways that we communicate with God, who is always present with us, and who resides within our very hearts through the Holy Spirit. The apostle Paul, wrote in his final comments to the church in Thessalonica, “<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup> but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup> abstain from every form of evil.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-22)

We’ve been talking over the past few weeks about getting to know one another better through having deeper conversations, listening intently, and asking thoughtful, caring questions. Conversation is one of our main channels of communication with others, and just as our relationships grow and strengthen with others through conversation, our relationship with God also grows as we practice communication and conversation through prayer and meditation.

There are many ways to pray, and we may find that we have all different kinds of conversations with God. We can recite The Lord’s Prayer at any time during our day, as it was given to us by Jesus when his disciples asked him how to pray. We can also create our own prayers, and when we don’t have words of our own, there are many other wonderful prayers, already written that we may pray, including The Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, The Lorica of St. Patrick, the Psalms, and The Serenity Prayer just to name a few. Our prayers may also be a casual conversation with God, like we’re talking to a friend, or they may be just a couple of words. Two of the shortest and greatest prayers are, Thank-you God! and God please help!

Whatever words we use, or don’t use (because silence is also prayer), when we pray, we’re reaching out, and connecting intentionally with God. When we open these lines of communication with God, our hearts and minds are opened to see and experience the love, joy, power, compassion, forgiveness, and care of God, who hears and answers our prayers. If you’re new to prayer, try it. Ask God for help. If you have a prayer practice, keep it up. Ask God for help. God delights when we reach out.

We now have a prayer room at St. Paul's, first door on the right, behind fellowship hall. Next time you're in church, walk back and check it out. Pop your head in, or walk right in and sit down, turn on the battery candles, take your shoes off and stay a while.....We're Creating the prayer space as a faith community, for the entire community, so please accept this invitation to make yourself at home here anytime. Come to pray, reflect, meditate, or to just be.

The One Who Loves You Completely is always available for conversation. Invite your friends, invite your prayer group.....all are welcome here.... See the bulletin, weekly email blast, or call the office for weekly drop-in hours.

Prayer will be the topic of our Tuesday 11:30 am bible study for September.

Your Sibling in Christ, Pastor Deb

**Pastor Deb celebrated her birthday with us last month and we all enjoyed her Birthday Cake after service.**



## *Greetings from Worship and Music!*



**Community Worship and Meal** – An outside service and community meal with the Praise Team will be held on Wednesday night, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. A meal of hot dogs & hamburgers, chips & beverages will follow. Spread the word. Flyers are available from the Secretary's office or feel free to post on Facebook. Bring a friend for a night of fun!

**Summer Music** – There are a few more Sundays to showcase your talents. If you're interested in playing or singing, please sign up on the bulletin board on the week you'd like to share your talent during the service. Let Dave Libecap or Kathy Ertle know if you need an accompanist.



**Altar Flowers and Bulletins** – Give the gift of a flower arrangements for the altar and share it with a loved one. Bulletin sponsorships are also available. Check out the bulletin board to sign-up. Checks may be given to the Church Secretary.

**Service Assistants** – We need a few more volunteers. Sign-up sheets for August & September are on the bulletin board. If you are available on the same weeks of each month please sign up for subsequent months. Your help as an acolyte, greeter, lay reader, communion assistant and usher is most appreciated.

**Fall Music Program** – Rehearsals for Praise Team and Choir will be starting up again. If you're interested in joining please reach out to Chris Matthy for Praise Team. They play on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. Choir rehearses Thursday nights at 6:30pm and sing at the 10am service beginning after Labor Day. Rehearsals will be starting at the end of August. For information call Kathy Ertle at 570-656-0659.

**Next Meeting** – is on Tuesday, September 5th at 6:30pm. If you have any thoughts about the service or ideas to bring the community to St. Paul's, please share them with a Worship & Music member.

Enjoy your Summer!  
Worship & Music



**The group will be taking a break  
July and August and will return  
in September.**

**Wednesday**  
**August 16<sup>th</sup> 6pm**  
**Community**  
**WORSHIP & PICNIC**

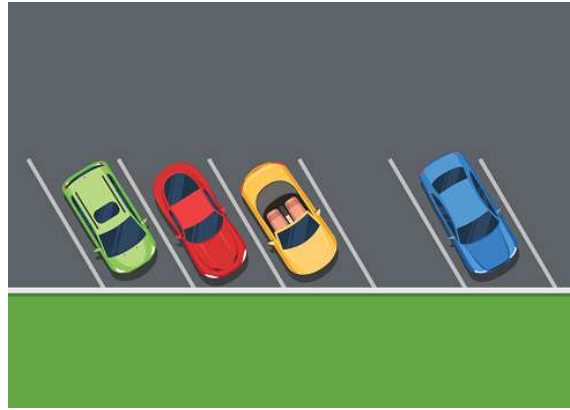
**Praise Team, Hot Dogs & More!**

**Bring a Chair!**

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**  
**139 Craig's Meadow Rd E Stbg.**  
**Red Bldg Behind Country Kettle**



**LOOKING FOR HELPERS TO SET-UP, MEAL SERVICE AND CLEAN UP SIGN-UP SHEET IN NARTHEX OR CALL THE OFFICE.**



## **We're Paving the way....for new church growth and saying goodbye to the potholes!**

*Our parking lot is going to be repaired!* The Congregation Council has accepted a contract for \$15,350.00 for this work. The work will take a few days and will be completed during the next few weeks. To help fund this project Council has stopped the fund drive to pay down on the Thrivent Financial mortgage. Instead, they're requesting that any contributions that would have been donated for mortgage reduction now be donated toward the parking lot repairs. The balance needed will be withdrawn from our accumulated savings currently invested with Thrivent.

**Over the last several months you have paid an additional \$9350.00 against our mortgage balance. *Thank you.* At this time, we receive enough money through regular giving to cover the monthly mortgage payment.**

The funding thermometer will again be present in the sanctuary to show the monies being raised to meet our goal.

**We thank you for any donation you may be able to make toward this new and important project.**

... Freely you have received; freely give.  
Matthew 10:8

# WE NEED 4 more Volunteers !!

## Volunteers Needed!



St. Paul's is joining up with Neola UMC for a Food Fund Raiser at the West End Fair Sunday Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup>.

We are looking for 14 volunteers (2 for each night) to cover 7 evenings 6pm – 10pm.

**SIGN UP SHEET ON BULLETIN BOARD**



“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



September 10  
2023

UP-DATES WILL BE COMING  
SOON.

## FOOD PANTRY

August Dates for Pantry

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> 9:30am – 12:00noon

**Contact Wanda Richardson with any questions.**



The food pantry is in need of cereal and canned chicken.

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.



Hello Church Youth Families,

**It's time for VBS!**

Vacation Bible School will be held on August 6<sup>th</sup> to August 8<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 pm. Children entering Kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to attend. Those children entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade and higher are invited as helpers which are needed! We will also need adult volunteers such as parents and grandparents.

**Family Movie Night!**

We will be holding a Family Movie night on August 11th from 6:30-8:30 pm in Celebration Hall. Come and join us for a movie and snacks! All are welcome!  
Movie will be "Breakthrough".

**Sunday School and Confirmation Classes**

Sunday School will be held on Sunday mornings from 9-9:45 am. Confirmation classes will also start in September on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month from 3-5 pm.

Also starting in September, our youth will have opportunities to participate in worship services, mission trips, service projects and fun recreational outings. More details to follow.

We look forward to a wonderful and fulfilling year with our youth and families!

Please reach out with any questions

Alisa Nixon (908) 279-5242

Pastor Deb (570) 350-5115

Blessings always,  
Christian Education Team





**AUGUST  
6-8  
5-8 PM**

# **St. Paul's VBS**

- STORIES**
- SNACKS**
- GAMES**
- CRAFTS**

**139 CRAIG'S MEADOW ROAD  
EAST STROUDSBURG, PA 18301**

**AGE: GRADES K-5**

**OLDER KIDS WELCOME AS HELPERS**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO  
REGISTER :**

**CALL (570)223-9422**

**OR GO TO OUR WEBSITE:**

**STPAULSCOMMUNITYCHURCH.COM**

## Friday Ladies

Friday 9:00am - 12:00am



**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.**

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

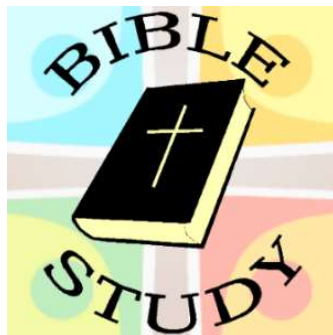




**The Altar Guild is looking for a few new volunteers.**

**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.**



## **BIBLE STUDY**

**Every Tuesday from 11:30am to 12:30pm.  
Everyone is welcome to come.**

## **COFFEE HOUR**

**Looking for people to host (helpers available)**

**Sundays after the 10:00am Service**



**SIGN UP SHEET ON BULLETIN BOARD**

**See Madeline will any questions.**



## Homemade Honey

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

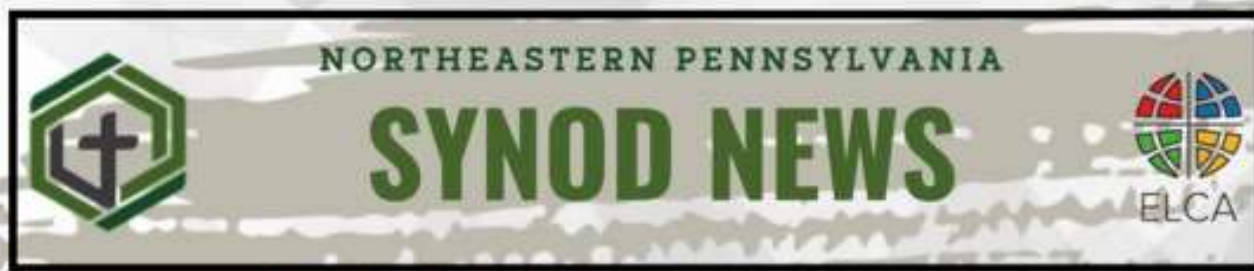


First Aid Kits are now in the  
Office, Kitchen, and Celebration Hall.

If you use something just let the  
office know so it can be replaced.



We're always looking for workers, gardeners anyone that wants to spend quality time with others to help outside the church to pull weeds, plant flowers and spruce up the church property. If interested in joining please contact Lynne in the office.




**OCT 3&4**  
*Parish Secretary*  
**SEMINAR**  
**Caring for You & Me in 2023**  
*Heritage Hotel,  
 Lancaster, PA.*

<https://nepasynod.org/parish-secretary-seminar/>

**"God's work. Our hands." Sunday**





**Sept. 10  
 2023**

**RACIAL JUSTICE TRAINING FOR ROSTERED LEADERS**

As per "Resolution: Anti-Racism Education Emphasis" submitted to the 2022 Synod Assembly and passed at the July 2022 meeting of the Synod Council, all NEPA Synod rostered leaders (pastors and deacons) and synodically authorized lay leaders are required to have Anti-Racism Training at least every 3 years, at the same cost as Boundary Training. To help meet this requirement, the Synod Racial Justice Team has scheduled two training events for Fall 2023, for those who were not able to attend one of the Winter 2023 sessions. **\*\*Lay Leaders are also welcome to attend.\*\***

**Tuesday October 17, 2023**

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Office  
 2354 Grove Rd, Allentown, PA 18109

**Saturday October 21, 2023**

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Trinity Lutheran Church  
 527 Washington St, Reading, PA 19601

**For more information visit the Synod website and click "events"**



GROWING YOUNG



GAINING STRENGTH



BEYOND DEATH TO LIFE



## 2023 Mission Support Memo

### The eHarmony of Prison Reentry

### STORYTELLING ENGAGEMENT

*As you read this story, what questions arise?  
How might you share this story with others in your  
ministry setting?*

*A story from our Grand Canyon Synod*

Over 600,000 people are released from prison every year, and as they struggle to rejoin society, they face barriers to connecting with reentry service providers. We are honored that so many of our synods and congregations are active in prison ministry; yet they know the challenge of finding reliable and effective resources to support folks once they've been released.

Our synods are supporting reentry ministry: the Metropolitan Chicago Synod helped start the work and the Grand Canyon Synod has launched the innovative online resource the Inside Out Network (ION), a one-of-a-kind platform that helps returning citizens connect with the support they need for a successful reentry. The Grand Canyon Synod has made a strong commitment, awarding ION an "Adapting, Connecting, Transforming and Sustaining" grant so it can help people access ministries and service providers.

ION is a bit like eHarmony: returning citizens and service providers can find each other and exchange messages, even before release, to make sure returning citizens get the support they need as soon after release as possible. What started as a prison ministry from an ELCA church in the Chicago area is now operating in Illinois and Arizona and launching soon in Oregon, with 6,400 returning citizens and 443 service providers and ministries enrolled. ION is always free to returning citizens, and service providers participate free of charge for a year before paying a modest annual fee.

With the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, ION has gone into Arizona prisons to train staff on using the platform. This has led to inmates enrolling before their release; reports indicate that as release approaches, they are less anxious, seeing ahead of time what help will be available.

ION values its partnerships with ministry and is currently developing a Reentry Congregational Initiative, gathering insights from faith communities that intentionally minister to returning citizens. Many ELCA congregations work in this area, and we welcome any insights they might provide by completing this survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SLFWMLS>). ION intends to develop a guidebook called "Effective Reentry Ministry for Ordinary Congregations"; its valuable "Spiritual Survival Guide for Prison and Beyond" can be read or downloaded free of charge from the ION website at [insideoutnetwork.net/resources](https://insideoutnetwork.net/resources).

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**



## August 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3 Food Pantry 9:30am – 12:00noon	4 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	5
6 10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost  8:30am & 10:00am  VBS 5-9pm	7    VBS 5-8pm	8 Bible Study 11:30am- 12:30pm  VBS 5-8pm	9	10	11 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon  Movie Night 6:30pm - 8:30pm	12
13 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost  8:30am & 10:00am	14	15 Bible Study 11:30am- 12:30pm	16 Community Service and Meal 6:00pm	17 Food Pantry 9:30am – 12:00noon	18 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	19
20 12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost  8:30am & 10:00am  West End Fair 1 <sup>st</sup> Night	21	22 Bible Study 11:30am- 12:30pm	23	24	25 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	26    West End Fair Final Night
27 13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost  8:30am & 10:00am	28	29 Bible Study 11:30am – 12:30pm	30	31 Food Pantry 9:30am – 12:00noon  Choir 6:30pm		