

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

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Web Site: stpaulscommunitychurch.com
Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield

ST. PAUL'S CALL

JUNE 2025

Pastor Deb Staniszewski

Check out our new Instagram:
[st.pauls_smithfield](https://www.instagram.com/st.pauls_smithfield)



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

**SUNDAY SERVICES
8:30AM AND 10:00AM**

LIVE STREAMING AVAILABLE 10:00AM SERVICE.

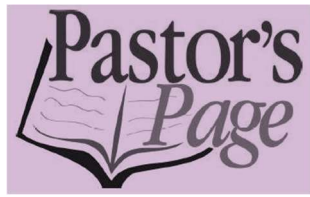
Connect to Facebook direct or go to our web site FB tab.

A PDF of the 10:00am service bulletin 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.





Romans 8:27 says, “ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.”

We can have peace and joy in the midst of change knowing that God, through his Holy Spirit is directing our path. It takes willingness to pause, and to pray, willingness to pause and be present in the moment, willingness to trust. Because God is trustworthy and faithful, we can trust that God’s plan for us is good.

Every season has its own rhythm, and this summer we’re following a lively beat! There’s a lot going on in our faith community, as we discern our path forward together with God, and explore the questions, “What is God Up To at St. Paul’s?,” Who are we together as a faith community?”

To help us in our discernment process, we have temple talks, and monthly congregational meetings scheduled throughout summer.

In discerning, it’s important to look at where we are. While we have spent some time discussing the things that have been challenging recently at St. Paul’s, it’s equally important to Praise God for this community, and to recognize and celebrate, the many Spirit Led ways we follow Jesus and express our faithfulness in serving God and our neighbors. Here are just a few,

On Pentecost, Ashley Tully and Brook Nixon affirmed their Baptism in the rite of Confirmation.

Two weeks ago, we baptized Gabriel, Brielle, and Skylar at our 10:00am service.

On the 22nd of June, we will hear about the “Memory Café” which is starting in Celebration Hall this fall. We have been asked not only to provide space for the project, but to participate and help support folks with dementia and their care givers. What a cool opportunity for ministry!

The new wildlife garden is beautiful, and all are welcome to come in sit on the bench and take some time to enjoy creation. Or, maybe you know someone who would like to have a wedding or renew their wedding vows under the amazing arbor.

Be watching for changes in the playground area as well, as we’re in the process of gathering a team to take the fence down and start updating and upcycling the space, so that children from around our community have a safe space and place to play!

We are in the second year of our financial renewal plan, to help bridge our budget deficit, and our goal to “Fill the Coffee Pot” is 20% fulfilled, meaning we have raised \$1,600 so far!

Finally, we started a series of temple talks in May when Alisa shared what brought her to St. Paul’s and what continues to bring her here. Be on the look-out for more, and if you feel moved to share your story, let me know and you can share some of your faith story at a worship service this summer.

We’re leading worship at the camps again this summer, and bible study is continuing by request of the group.

Finally, you can now join us on Instagram at [st.pauls_smithfield](#)!

These are some, just some of the joyful things we have to celebrate in our faith community this summer, and some of the places where we're growing and thriving!

Please continue praying for our faith community, for all of the folks God wants to send to St. Paul's, and for us to continue to be willing to follow the Holy Spirit's leading into God's mission for us as a community of Disciples in the name of Jesus.

God is on the move!!!

Your Sibling in Christ,

Pastor Deb

A message regarding building fund envelopes

Going forward all donations given in the **building fund envelope** will be applied to the **building envelope line** in the budget. This is how these donations were handled until a few years ago when we decided to pay down our mortgage. For the last three years donations received in this envelope have been applied to mortgage reduction. Because of our current financial situation, Council has approved that building envelope donations again be applied to the building envelope line, as an offset to our regular mortgage payments.

If you prefer that your donations be applied to the mortgage principal, make a notation on your check or envelope that this is your preference.

Any questions, please reach out to Dana Strohl, Don Carr, or Pastor Deb.

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

Operating Funds

	April <u>2025</u>	Year to <u>Date</u>	Year to Date <u>Budget</u>
CHURCH INCOME			
GENERAL INCOME	\$9,644.86	\$36,496.76	\$40,150.04
BENEVOLENCE INCOME	144.00	655.00	833.36
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	997.60	5,529.22	6,400.00
INTEREST INCOME	<u>5.51</u>	<u>879.18</u>	<u>1,346.64</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$10,791.97</u>	<u>\$43,560.16</u>	<u>\$48,730.04</u>
CHURCH EXPENSES			
STAFF	\$8,969.99	\$36,315.35	\$37,641.28
BENEVOLENCE EXPENSE			
Benevolence (Synod)	583.33	2,333.33	2,418.32
PARISH ADMINISTRATION	356.56	1,923.61	2,200.00
WORSHIP	278.98	1,159.03	1,844.96
LEARNING	0.00	111.86	749.96
PROPERTY	4,124.57	19,720.27	13,928.36
DEBT PAYMENTS	1,229.00	4,677.00	4,687.32
STEWARDSHIP	271.40	271.40	233.32
OUTREACH	275.00	275.00	166.64
WITNESS	0.00	0.00	193.32
SOCIAL FELLOWSHIP	<u>0.00</u>	<u>83.97</u>	<u>383.32</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$16,088.83</u>	<u>\$66,870.82</u>	<u>\$64,446.80</u>
EXCESS INCOME/(EXPENSES)	<u>(\$5,296.86)</u>	<u>(\$23,310.66)</u>	<u>(\$15,716.76)</u>

Current Cash Accounts

CHECKING ACCOUNTS & PETTY CASH	\$ 6,509.40	
THRIVENT FINANCIAL	<u>75,656.89</u>	
TOTAL CASH ACCOUNTS		<u>\$82,166.29</u>

Special Funds

SPECIAL FUNDS INCOME			
BENEVOLENCE			
Pantry/Good Samaritan	\$320.00	\$1,657.90	\$0.00
Pastor's Discretion	25.00	25.00	0.00
MEMORIAL INCOME	0.00	1,005.00	0.00
INTEREST	0.00	63.16	0.00
COMMUNITY GARDENS	<u>0.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS INCOME	<u>\$345.00</u>	<u>\$2,751.06</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
SPECIAL FUNDS DISBURSEMENTS			
BENEVOLENCE			
Pantry/Good Samaritan	\$1,657.64	\$2,029.63	\$0.00
Pastor's Discretion	0.00	350.00	0.00
Postage (Pantry)	0.00	14.60	0.00
MUSIC	<u>0.00</u>	<u>56.99</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$1,657.64</u>	<u>\$2,451.22</u>	<u>0.00</u>

Special Funds Cash Accounts

CHECKING ACCOUNTS & PETTY CASH	\$13,494.63	
THRIVENT FINANCIAL	<u>5,567.37</u>	
TOTAL CASH ACCOUNTS		<u>\$19,062.00</u>

Worship & Music



Garden Dedication – Sunday, July 20th we'll be having a dedication of our Bee, Butterfly and Bird garden. We'll be having a planting day on Saturday, May 31st. Please check out the flyer for details. We hope you'll come out to support our gardeners!

Baptisms – Also, on June 1st we will be celebrating the baptisms of Gabrielle and Skylar.

Praise Team – Will be going on summer hiatus. If you're interested in being part of the Praise Team experience, contact Chris Matthy.

Choir – Choir will be singing Who You Say I Am on June 8th, a contemporary piece in honor of Brooke Nixon and Ashley Tully on their confirmation! Choir will resume rehearsals towards the end of August. We'd love to have you join us!

Summer Musical Opportunities - If you're interested in singing or playing an instrument during the summer season, just take a moment to sign up on the bulletin board. If you know of anyone who would like some performing experience, please feel free to add them to the list on one of the available Sundays. Please let Dave Libecap or Kathy Ertle know if you need an accompanist.



Concerts – There are a number of concerts during the summer.

Music on Mondays – at the Dansbury Depot on Mondays at 7pm. Bring a chair. Free will offering for the musicians.

Shawnee Inn - has free concerts on Tuesday nights out on the lawn by the Pavilion. Check out their website for announcements. Bring a lawn chair. Donations for the performers are gratefully accepted.

Concerts in the Square – Thursdays from 6-8pm starting on June 12th through August 21st on Courthouse Square in Stroudsburg.

Beacon Hill Summer Concert series - Thursday, June 12, 5:00 pm, by the Early Music ensemble Vox Luminis on tour from Belgium, will be held at the First Presbyterian Church (575 Main St, Stroudsburg, PA 18360. **No reservations needed.** As usual, there is no admission fee; rather a suggested donation of \$20 adult, \$10 senior, \$5 student at the door. The Program includes two works by Carissimi on the biblical "Historia" (stories) of Jephtha and Abraham and Isaac.

2025 Pocono Summer Chorus - to benefit Meals on Wheels will be holding their concert on Wednesday, July 23rd at 7pm at St. John's Lutheran Church at 9 N. 9th St, Stbg.

Music on the Mountain Songfest – Tuesday, August 5, 2025 a choral festival featuring a concert at 7:00pm at St. John's Lutheran Church, 9 N. 9th St., Stbg. Admission to the concert is free, tickets are not needed.

Alaska Pete's Restaurant – Have dinner and listen to the piano music of our very own Dave Libecap. Weekends.

If you know of any concert or theater events that you'd like others to know about, please contact Kathy Ertle or the office to be included in future newsletters.

Check the bulletin board for sponsorship opportunities!

Next meeting – Monday, June 2nd at 6pm

,Blessings!

Worship & Music Committee

BEE, BUTTERFLY & BIRD GARDEN





Next Pantry is Thursday July 3rd

9:30am – 12:00noon

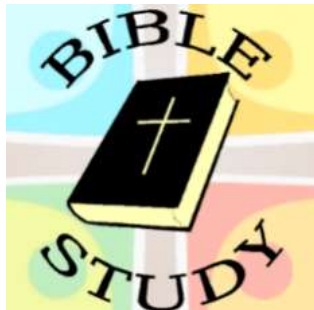
The food pantry needs: Peanut butter and jelly, cereal, spam and canned fruit.

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:

- August 7th,**
- September 4th**
- October 2nd**
- November 6th**
- December 4th**

Any changes will be announced.



Every Tuesday 11:30am to 12:30pm.
JOIN US



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.



Come on Friday and Join in.

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.

This months Friday Ladies Quilt donations

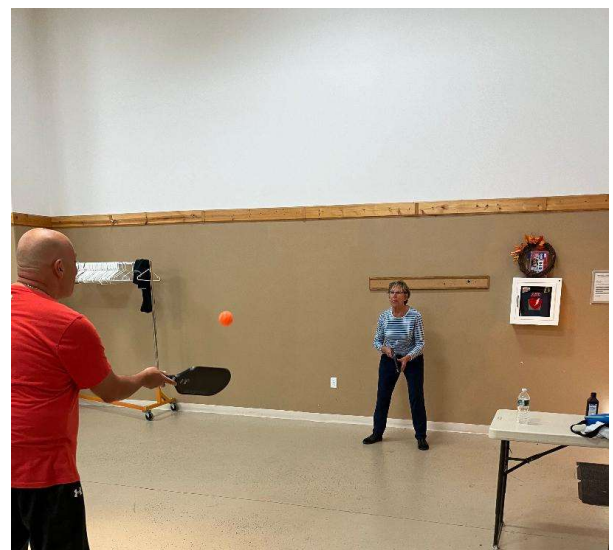
- 2- Baptism's**
- 6- Cancer Center**
- 6- Pleasant Valley Manor**
- 6- Sapphire Healthy Rehab Ctr.**



Come join us for Pickleball in Celebration Hall!
Beginners and more experienced players welcome.

Download the app TeamReach and use the code STPAULS. Once in the app you can look at the calendar for times.

ANY questions text or call Laura Biddulph.
570-369-0359





Hello Church Youth Families,

Confirmation June 8, 2025 Day of Pentecost

Join us for Affirmation of Baptism

Brooke Nixon and Ashley Tully

Sunday School is on break for the summer.

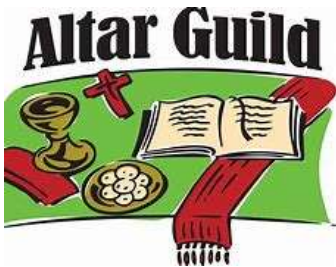
Blessings always,

Christian Education Team

Alisa Nixon (908) 279-5242

Pastor Deb (570) 350-5115

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED !!



Please see Nancy Fritz or leave your name in the office.

No experience necessary you will be instructed and helped as much as you need. Assistance is needed for a month at a time.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE



Sunday Coffee Hour

Help with Funeral
Luncheons



**Contact Jeannette Richardson or Faye Jones
if interested.**



**Contact Wanda Richardson. Faye, Noreen or office
If you would like help Thursday Food Pantry**

SUNDAY SERVICE



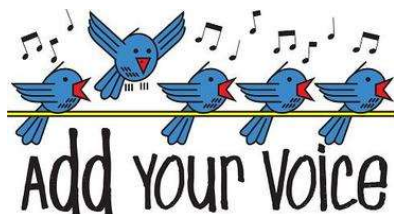
**If you would like to help on a Sunday contact
Kathy Ertle or office. Ushers and Lay Readers
Contact Pastor direct.**

**If you are interested in leading a service on one of
Pastor's Sundays when she is away.**

ALSO

**A few dates are open for our Camp Ministry Worship Leader
June 22nd, July 17th, August 11th and 31st.**

Musical Opportunities –



If you're interested in singing or playing an instrument during the summer season, just take a moment to sign up on the bulletin board.

Sponsor Opportunities – Sign up sheets on Narthex Bulletin Board

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.



Altar Flowers

The flower sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. Celebrate a loved one with a fresh flower arrangement from Floral Boutique. Please find someone to share with you if you'd like to. Order forms and checks may be given to Dana Strohl or Lynne Williams.

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





Bishop's Staff Changes for 2025

To view the full "Strategic Intent" document in detail, visit godslove.org/2025-strategic-intent

Written by: Bishop Christopher deForest of the Northeastern PA Synod

"Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2)



Our gracious God is in our midst, transforming all of us, as St. Paul writes in his epistle to the Romans. In fact, Chapter 12 of that amazing letter has been our guide, not just for this upcoming Synod Assembly, but also for the past year of being church together. As the Holy Spirit does this work of transformation on us – our church, our communities, our very selves – we recognize more than ever our need to live and work together; in fact, to become more connected than ever before.

To this end, in this past year we have been guided by this statement of purpose – Connecting congregations for life-giving mission and ministry: so they can love like Jesus, heal like Jesus, and engage like Jesus – growing young, gaining strength, and going beyond death to life.

Strategic Goals



1. Ensure and encourage that every congregation can be in partnership with other congregations of their choice, centered around mission and ministry in their communities for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ and grounded in our Lutheran tradition, commonly expressed in our three Values and Lanes.



2. Empower and encourage the roles of all believers in this NEPA Synod, especially lay persons and with particular focus on younger people, to live out their baptismal callings and to love and serve God together in this church and their communities.



3. Make it possible for every congregation in this synod to have a pastor, a deacon, and a licensed lay minister.



4. Strengthen and secure the opportunities for rostered ministers and licensed lay ministers to serve congregations in this synod – faithfully, healthfully, and safely.



5. Reduce the need for congregations to close.



6. Engage and encourage all people – especially those who have been marginalized, harmed, or under-represented – to live and serve and lead well in this synod.



7. Train, inform, onboard, communicate, track and evaluate better, to better achieve these goals.



8. Evaluate and revise our governing documents, structures, and policies to better achieve these goals.



9. Align the roles, responsibilities, goals and evaluation of the bishop and bishop's staff to better achieve these goals and create a more efficient and satisfactory working environment.



10. Engage and encourage individuals, congregations, and partners to deepen their support of these goals – through the sharing of their time, talents, and resources.

Bishop's Staff – New Roles and Changes

Lead Servant for Leader Support: This service area includes support for rostered ministers (pastors and deacons), active and retired; licensed lay ministers (LLMs); candidates discerning calls to lay or rostered ministry; and leaders serving roles as officers and council members in congregations. **Search begins May 16.**

Lead Servant for Congregation Support: This service area includes support for our current congregations, especially those in transition (in search of a new rostered leader). We will also conduct a search for this Lead Servant; however, the roles will be transitioned with care over time, as we work with our current seven Associates of the Bishop and our Committee of nine Mission District Deans to maintain strong and ongoing support. **Search begins May 16.**

Lead Servant for Growing Young and Emerging Ministries: This service area includes support for ministries to youth, young adults and families; and the new and existing special ministry communities designated as "Synod Authorized Worshipping Communities" (SAWCs) and "Synod Authorized Outreach Communities" (SAOMs). This Lead Servant will help us take our "Growing Young" initiatives into new ministries and new directions. **Search begins May 16.**

Lead Servant for Gaining Strength and 6261: This service area includes support for our rostered minister development groups known as "Gaining Strength Cohorts"; and our 6261 Ministry Communities. **This Lead Servant role will be filled by our current Director for Evangelical Mission, Deacon Kat Tigerman.**

Each of these Lead Servants will be the "go-to" person on staff for each service area.
They will work alongside:

Director of Operations: With support from administrative staff, this role will be responsible for human resources, onboarding new staff, evaluation processes, calendar, facility needs, staff meetings, and inner-staff communication. This will include the creation of an electronic planning platform and "dashboard" system for keeping track of key goals and metrics. **Eric Gombert will continue in this role.**

Director of Communications: Reporting to the Director of Operations, this role will continue to coordinate all our internal and external communications. **Stacey Burke is continuing in this role.**

Administrative Coordinators and Contract Support: Reporting to the Director of Operations, our two Administrative Coordinator positions will continue: **Laurie Christman as Leadership Support Coordinator; and Debbie Skinner as Mission Support Coordinator.** Pastor Jira Albers will continue as our part-time LLM Coordinator. We will be adding a third, part-time administrative support for 6261 and LLM. And we will continue to work with as-needed support from Pastor Doug Hill for our Gaining Strength Cohorts; and Pastor Dave DeRemer as a 6261 Coach.

In depth details are available in the "Strategic Intent" document found at [godslove.org/2025-strategic-intent](https://www.godslove.org/2025-strategic-intent).

If you have additional questions, please call or email Bishop Chris deForest at (610) 266-5101, bishopd@nepsynod.org, or contact our Director of Communication, Stacey Burke, at (610) 266-5101, stacey@nepsynod.org.

And stay connected to our monthly SYNOD NEWS or our synod website, www.godslove.org

Sunday JUNE	Monday 2025	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 7th the Sunday of Easter 8:30 & 10:00am 10am 3 Baptisms	2 Worship & Music 6:00pm	3 Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm	4	5 Work Group 6:30- 7:30pm Choir 6:30pm	6 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	7
8 Day of Pentecost 8:30 & 10:00am 10am Confirmation for Brooke & Ashley	9	10 Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm Council Meeting 6:30pm	11	12	13 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	14
15 The Holy Trinity 8:30 & 10:00am No Communion at either service. Father's Day !!	16	17 Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm	18	19 Finance 6:00pm Work Group 6:30 – 7:30pm	20 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon First Day of Summer	21
22	23	24		24	26	27
Pentecost 2 8:30 & 10:00am 10am Temple Talk about Dementia Café		Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm			Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	
29 Pentecost 3 Service & Congregational Meeting Schedule Early 8:30 – 9am Meeting 9:15- 10:15 Late Service 10:30 – 11am	30					