

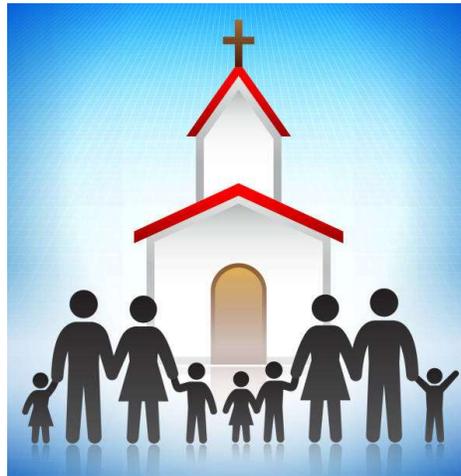
St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield
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Web Site: stpaulscommunitychurch.com
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ST. PAUL'S CALL JANUARY 2024

Pastor Deb Staniszewski

JOIN US FOR PRAYER AND WORSHIP



SUNDAY SERVICES 8: 30am and 10:00AM

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

You can also connect to Facebook by going to our 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.





Winter Greetings Friends!

As the holiday season ends, and we tuck into winter, even preparing for our first snow of the season this week, let us remember that Christ is present here and now, bringing peace, love, and hope into our hearts and into the world throughout the year.

Howard Thurman was an American pastor, author, theologian, and civil rights leader, who was passionate about social justice, and who lived boldly and courageously into his calling as a disciple and follower of Jesus. His poem called “The Work of Christmas”, calls us to love in action, and serving others, not just once a year, but every day, reminding us that we have been baptized into a life of discipleship as Jesus followers, to serve God and others as we bear witness and testify to the love of God we experience in our lives and in the world.

The Work of Christmas

And now the work
of Christmas begins:
when the angels’ song
can no longer be heard
when the manger is empty,
the star gone
when the shepherds are back
on the hillside
and the astrologers have returned
to the East...
the work of Christmas begins...
to find the lost,
to heal the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nation,
to bring peace
among the people,
to make music in the heart.ⁱ

Blessings, as you go out into the world, bearing the light of Christ, doing the work of Christmas all year long!

Your Sibling in Christ,
Pastor Deb

ⁱ The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations, Howard Thurman, 1973, Friends United Press, Richmond IN.



Thank-You, to all at St. Paul's for the wonderful cards, calls, gifts, and treats!! We were surprised and delighted to receive the generous monetary gift from everyone. We appreciate it so much, and have put it to good use already!!!

God's Peace & Love, Pastor Deb & Paul

Happy New Year from Worship and Music!



Epiphany is a season commemorating the [visit of the Magi](#), the [baptism of Jesus](#), and the [wedding at Cana](#) and is celebrated up to the Sunday before Ash Wednesday when Lutherans celebrate the Transfiguration of our Lord.

Popular Epiphany customs include [Epiphany singing](#), [chalking the door](#), [having one's house blessed](#), consuming [Three Kings Cake](#), [winter swimming](#), as well as attending [church services](#).^[15] It is customary for Christians in many localities to remove their [Christmas decorations](#) on Epiphany Eve (Twelfth

Night). A popular carol during this time is We Three Kings. So if you don't feel like some winter swimming, join us on Sundays at 8:30am or 10am and celebrate the Epiphany season!

Volunteers- 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, communion assistant and usher 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 Laura Pride.

Altar Flowers and Bulletins – Sign up on the flower chart on the bulletin board to reserve your altar flowers. Remember or honor a loved one. Bulletin sponsorships are also available. Check out the bulletin board to sign-up. Checks may be given to the Church Secretary.

Next Meeting – Monday, January 8th 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 Lynne Williams, Church Secretary know.

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Worship & Music



Please check your e-mails or call the church office for a voice mail message.

Up-dates will be made early if it is decided that the church will be cancelled or we will only have one service due to weather.



***DECORATING
THE CHURCH
FOR CHRISTMAS***





A NOTE FROM THE STEWARDSHIP TEAM



Thank you for supporting God's ministry in the world, the community, and here at St. Paul's.

We've come a long way in the ten months since Pastor Deb has come to us. Our latest endeavor is to start a functioning stewardship team. Our 2024 campaign will be during January. The first three weeks a member will speak for just a few minutes about their faith life and how they have been inspired or moved by St. Paul's. The fourth Sunday will give you the opportunity to express your continued commitment of time, energy, skills, and treasure.

A brochure is being mailed the last week of December. Many thanks for your graciousness and generosity with your work to serve the local community and world outside our doors. And also important many thanks for your generosity and work we've done much to improve our building and grounds.

Prayers and blessings,

The Stewardship Team, Barbara Edwards, Pastor Deb, and Dana Strohl



JANUARY FOOD PANTRY

Thursday 4th & 18th

9:30am – 12:00noon

Contact Wanda Richardson with any questions.

The food pantry needs: Boxed macaroni & cheese & cereal.

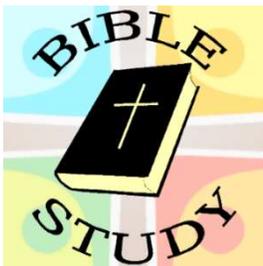
Anything else you would like to donate is appreciated - It must be non-perishable in can, box or bag. Please check the "best by" and expiration dates, we cannot accept anything past the best by or expiration date.

**ST. PAUL'S CHRISTMAS FOOD PANTRY HELPED OVER 60 FAMILIES.
THANKS TO ALL THE PEOPLE THAT HELPED AND DONATED.**



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.**



**Women's
Prayer Group**

**2nd & 4th Sunday of the month
Except Dec, and April just the 2nd week**



Hello Church Youth Families,

Sunday School is held on Sunday mornings from 9-9:45 am. All children from preschool and up are welcome! We meet in the room to the left of the sanctuary.



Sunday School winter break: no Sunday School on 1/7
We will start again on 1/14/2024.

Confirmation class for this month (3-5pm):
January 14th St. Johns 3:00-5:00pm
28th St. Paul's 3:00-5:00pm

Family Movie Night!

To be announced!

Touch of Home

Touch of Home was a success! Sunday School and Confirmation Classes packed and mailed out 17 boxes. Thank you to all of those that donated – your generosity was greatly appreciated!

Blessings always,
Christian Education Team
Alisa Nixon (908) 279-5242
Pastor Deb (570) 350-5115

Touch of Home



FRIDAY LADIES

Friday's 9:00 – 12:00 noon



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.

COFFEE HOUR

Looking for people to host

(helpers available)

SIGN UP SHEET ON BULLETIN BOARD

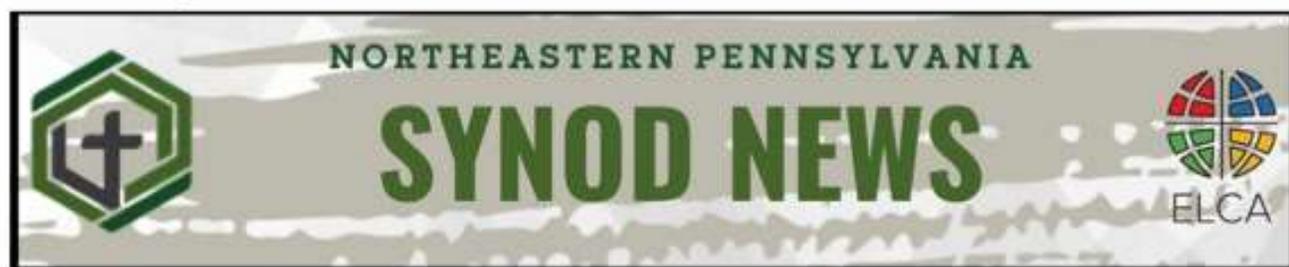


CELEBRATION HALL RENTALS

For information contact

SONJI PATRICK

(CALL OFFICE FOR PHONE #.)



Worship in Collaboration with Oglala Sioux Nation

On November 12, 2023, St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Birdsboro, PA, held their annual Native American worship service in honor of November being Native American Heritage Month. I attended the worship service and wanted to share my experience with you.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church has a partnership with the Oglala Sioux Nation of Native Americans in Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota, one of the poorest communities in the United States, and has been supporting them in many ways with their giving and their prayers.

In the worship service, the English translations used for the liturgy were:

Creator as the name used for God

Creator-Sets-Free as the name used for Jesus

The Chosen One as the name used for Christ

The Great Spirit as the name used for the Holy Spirit

The music for the worship service had a Native American vibe, words, and theme involving the sacredness of nature and life.

Copal incense from Central and Southwestern North America was used during the service as Native Americans used for sacred services.



Pr. Jim Farnsworth's message was dedicated to Native Americans and how the new immigrants treated them to America. He asked that we remember and honor those who have gone before us -- the original inhabitants of this land. He also asked that we have a right relationship with God and each other and that we have a responsibility to repair relations. We reconcile by learning the truth, loving each other, and breaking down barriers with others. He suggested that we learn the history of our area by looking through the eyes of our neighbors and that we are called to be good neighbors.

- Charlotte Gross, Co-Coordinator,
Mission Interpretation Ministry

UPCOMING events



FINDING HOLY FOCUS
IN HUNGERING TIMES
BISHOP'S CONFERENCE 2024
FEBRUARY 6-7, 2024

PRESENTED BY:
NEPA SYNOD

FOR ALL ROSTERED LEADERS AND SYNOD AUTHORIZED LAY MINISTERS

2024



GENEROSITY
EXTRAVAGANZA
TOOLS FOR TODAY

JANUARY 20, 2024



LEARNING MINISTRIES DAY 2024

Trusting God:
Doing a New Thing

JANUARY 27, 2024 (SNOW DATE FEBRUARY 3)
ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH, WYOMISSING, PA

this year

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 2023	1 News Year Day	2	3	4 Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Food Pantry	5 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	6
	7 Baptism of our Lord 10:00am Service Baptism 10:00am	8 Music and Worship 6:30pm	9 Bible Study 11:30am - 12:30pm Council Meeting 7:00pm	10 Praise Team 6:30pm	11 Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm	12 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon
14 2 Epiphany 8:30 & 10:00am Sunday School 9:00-9:45am Women's Prayer Group Confirmation St. Johns 3-5	15	16 Bible Study 11:30am - 12:30pm	17	18 Food Pantry 9:30-Noon Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Finance Meeting 6:00pm	19 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon Movie Night 6:30-8:30pm	20
21 3 Epiphany 8:30 & 10:00am Sunday School 9:00-945am Congregational Meeting after 10am service.	22	23 Bible Study 11:30am - 12:30pm	24 Praise Team 6:30pm	25 Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm	26 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	27
28 4 Epiphany 8:30am 10:00am Contemporary Service w/ Praise Team Confirmation Here at St. Paul's 3-5pm	29	30 Bible Study 11:30am - 12:30pm	31			