

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

Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield

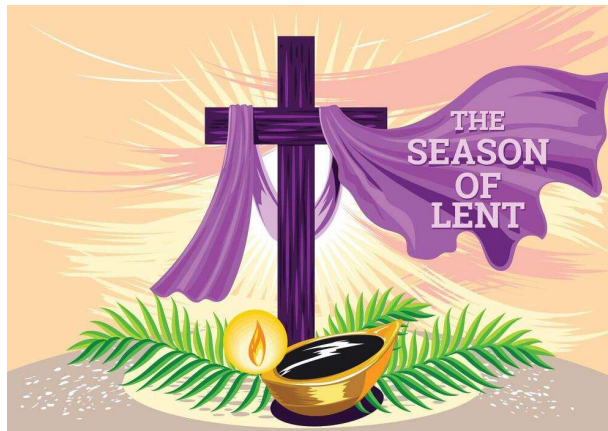
Instagram: [st.pauls_smithfield](https://www.instagram.com/st.pauls_smithfield)

Web Site: stpaulscommunitychurch.com



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

**JOIN US FOR
PRAYER, WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP
SUNDAY SERVICE 9:30AM**



SPECIAL UPCOMING SERVICE TIMES
See "Worship and Music"

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

Every fall for the past seven or eight years I have planted 100 daffodil bulbs. And these are excellent bulbs from a well-known Connecticut nursery, so they perform from the first year. As you can imagine, the spring display gets better every year. So I'm looking out these days on a foot or more of snow on top of those bulbs and wondering, will I ever see my flowers this spring? At the very least, I figure it will be a delayed display this year.

I'm sure more than a few of you have similar feelings about St. Paul's these days. Some of us may even feel this is déjà vu all over again, as Yogi Berra is said to have opined. We remember what it felt like going through a pastoral vacancy, compounded with Covid. But we also should remember that we survived. Our leaders were faithful and strong; our ministries continued without interruption; we even installed a new organ, as Pr. Thomas reminded us this past week. If anything, we are better equipped and more confident in our abilities to be God's people at work in this place.

Christians wouldn't go through the discipline of Lent if we didn't know that it ends up at resurrection. We are not only drawn *to* the cross; we are drawn *through* the cross to the joy of life springing out of death. Indeed, it is God's promise that life *does* spring from death, in my garden, in our lives, and in the church.

Right now, if I listened closely, I probably could hear my daffodils thinking about springing to life. I hope as we live and grow together in these days we can see a vision of what God continues to call us to be tomorrow, and in the days after that.

Installation of Congregation Council members



Dave Libecap
President

dilbecap@ptd.net

Ted Strohl

destrohl@ptd.net

Faye Jones

mrspools@ptd.net

Jacqueline
Richardson

jacqueline.richardson50@gmail.com

Joy Donnelly

donnell4@ptd.net

Sonji Patrick
Vice President

sonjipatrick9903@gmail.com

Tracy D'Imperio
Secretary

tdimperio@lccc.edu

Finance Don Carr & Dana Strohl

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

Operating Funds

	January <u>2026</u>	Year to Date <u>Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>
CHURCH INCOME			
GENERAL INCOME	\$6,174.26	\$6,174.26	\$7,806.67
BENEVOLENCE INCOME	105.00	105.00	141.67
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	1,051.00	1,051.00	1,375.00
INTEREST INCOME	1.06	1.06	5.00
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$7,331.32</u>	<u>\$7,331.32</u>	<u>\$9,328.34</u>
CHURCH EXPENSES			
STAFF	\$9,678.62	\$9,678.62	\$9,576.52
BENEVOLENCE EXPENSE	166.67	166.67	166.67
PARISH ADMINISTRATION	363.55	363.55	387.50
WORSHIP	300.50	300.50	423.33
LEARNING	0.00	0.00	83.34
PROPERTY	5,732.72	5,732.72	3423.35
DEBT PAYMENTS	939.00	939.00	950.00
STEWARDSHIP	0.00	0.00	16.67
OUTREACH	0.00	0.00	25.00
WITNESS	0.00	0.00	8.33
SOCIAL FELLOWSHIP	<u>372.91</u>	<u>372.91</u>	<u>41.67</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$17,553.97</u>	<u>\$17,553.97</u>	<u>\$15,102.38</u>
EXCESS INCOME/(EXPENSES)	<u>(\$10,222.65)</u>	<u>(\$10,222.65)</u>	<u>(\$5,774.04)</u>

Special Funds

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

Cash Accounts

Operating Checking Account	\$4,148.55		
Special Funds Checking Account	<u>10,809.88</u>	\$14,958.43	
Operating Funds in Thrivent Financial	\$42,474.24		
Special Funds in Thrivent Financial	<u>5,661.26</u>	<u>\$48,135.50</u>	
Total Cash			<u>\$63,093.93</u>



Worship & Music

Remember to Spring Forward! – It's time to set your clocks ahead. March 8th is daylight savings so remember to set your clocks ahead one hour for church on Sunday!

Lenten Soup Suppers & Series – March 4, 11, and 18 beginning at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall, we will be enjoying Lenten soup suppers followed by a Bible series led by Laura Pride based on Philippians 4: 1-9 Prayer as a practical tool for mental and spiritual health. We'll focus on understanding what God wants for us regarding our prayer lives. We will be reading, listening, writing, drawing and enjoying fellowship together. Join us and bring a friend!

Easter Flowers – Daffodils, Tulips, Lilys, and Hyacinths are available for \$14.00 payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Orders are due March 16th. If you'd like to donate them to the garden we will happily plant them for you.

Holy Week & Easter- Dates and Worship times– Palm Sunday is on March 29th and we will celebrate it with the Procession of palms and the reading of the Passion according to Matthew. 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, 6p
- Easter, April 5, 9:30am.

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 – March 2nd at 6pm. We welcome all. Meetings are generally the first Monday of the month. If you want to share any ideas please reach out to Kathy Ertle, Chris Matthy or the office.

Blessings, Worship & Music Committee

The Prayer Lifeline

Philippians 4: 1-9

Prayer as a practical tool
for mental and spiritual
health.

**Focus to examine Phillipians 4: 1-9 to understand what God wants for us regarding our prayer lives. We will be reading, listening, writing, drawing and enjoying fellowship together. Join us!*



FELLOWSHIP HALL
WEDS, MARCH 4, 11 & 18

SOUP 6PM
VESPERS & BIBLE STUDY 6:45PM

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH OF SMITHFIELD

139 CRAIG'S MEADOW RD, EAST STROUDSBURG, PA 18301

FMI, 570-223-9422



Thriving
Together
in Faith and Love

VISION TEAM

Prayer Chain Form from Vison Team are in the Narthex on table.

If you are unable to attend church and wish to be on the prayer chain, please call the office and a copy of form will be mailed to you.



Always doing a great job for us.

Always looking for volunteers.

Contact Ted Strohl



Next Pantry is Thursday

March 5th

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: April 2nd, 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 will be packing Touch of Home packages in late February. Please submit or update addresses of college students, military personnel or young adults to received packages. And any donations are greatly appreciated!

Blessings always, Alisa Nixon (908) 279-5242

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.

Join Us

Conni's Cafe



March 19th
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."

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



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](tel:570-982-4999)

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

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

Feeding Body and Soul at Hope's Table

Written by: April Mulvey, Synod Authorized Outreach Ministry (SAOM) leader at Hope's Table

Hope's Table: 601 N Front St Reading, PA 19601

Every Tuesday the doors open around 4:30 in the afternoon. During those chilly winter months, our guests are greeted by Sara, who pours each a cup of hot chocolate. Anita is back in the kitchen, where the aromas of the night's dinner are wafting through the hallway. Scott is preparing his music and Judy is either mingling with our guests or helping Anita. As I am preparing the table for worship, I am talking with everyone and listening to the chatter in the room. Before dinner is served, I go around the room asking everyone for prayer requests and the guests fill me in on the happenings of the week. Welcome to Hope's Table.

My journey to serving at Hope's Table is slightly unconventional. I did not grow up in the church. In fact, the first time I attended a church service (outside weddings and funerals) I was sixteen years old because I grew up in a dysfunctional family system. My first exposure was when my grandmother took me to her church. I grew up in a home that did not show the love and compassion of the Gospel of Christ, and I carried that into my adult years. I ended up in a 12-Step recovery program, but I was still missing "something."

That "something" was the God piece in my life and it was not until I got involved in a church and with people who loved me unconditionally, and told me God loved me even more unconditionally, did my life drastically change to the path that put me where I am today being the SAOM leader at Hope's Table. My background in life allows me to relate to the guests that walk into the doors of Hope's Table in ways that are truly personal and empathetic, and I can connect with them and their needs in times of pastoral care because I know some of the struggles they endure. I relate to the brokenness, the loneliness, the desperation, because I was once there too, but the power and love of God have done miraculous things! It put me back together.



That is part of my hope for Hope's Table. We are not *just* a food ministry. We not only feed the body, we nourish the soul as well. We come together, even if it for only one hour a week, and break bread together, and although we are not defined as a "congregation" by the ELCA, we are a community of the *ekklesia*. Church, since the pandemic, may need to be redefined and ministries like Hope's Table help pave the way for that re-definement.



If someone is curious about how to get involved with Hope's Table, my best advice would be to come and check us out! Show up! Come and see us in action on Tuesday. Come and sit with our guests and get to know them. Come and volunteer to serve dinner and then we can get you scheduled for service work. Come and see just how blessed we are to be in their presence.

position and work in unison, or the grander machine does not work. It is not just about one single church or ministry; there is a grander picture at play—like a drop in a bucket of water that sends ripples over the surface. There is much, much more to leadership than the worship at Hope's Table. The decisions we make do not just affect us. They affect the synod, and the ELCA, as a whole.

Having support from the synod has left an immense positive effect on me throughout this whole journey. In those moments when I may doubt myself, or not believe in myself, the synod staff have all uplifted me and given me support. The synod has also supported the mission of Hope's Table as vital to the community, proving once again, that God's people are seen and their needs are heard; that they are not ignored except on a Sunday morning. This continues to demonstrate that my service is properly placed.

I am excited to serve as Hope's Table's SAOM leader and the possibilities and doors that will open for us. I am also excited to be attending the Fresh Expressions National Gathering 2026 at the end of February with other colleagues from NEPA Synod in Ocala, Florida. It is proving to be an inspiring year. I have big dreams for Hope's Table! And why should I? I serve an even bigger God who has done amazing things.



Three Gatherings Across the Synod - Each event runs 8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. with three speakers focused on its theme.

Learning Ministry Days



Register at godslove.org/LMD26



Mar 7, 26 - *“How Do We Lift Every Voice: Exploring Worship, Music and Family Ministries”* (Atonement Lutheran, Wyomissing)



Apr 25, 26 - *“How Can We Walk Together: Mental Health and Spiritual Wholeness”* (Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, Emmaus)



Sept 19, 26 - *“Who Do We Trust: Truth, Scams and AI”* (Zion United Lutheran, Brodheadsville)



Sunday March	Monday 2026	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 2 nd Lent SERVICE 9:30am Sunday School 10:45 – 11:15	2 Worship & Music 6:00pm	3 Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm	4 Lenton Soup & Lessons 6:00pm	5 Food Pantry 9:30am – 12:00noon Choir 6:30pm	6 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00 noon	7
8 3 rd Lent SERVICE 9:30am Sunday School 10:45 – 11:15	9 Vison Team Meeting 6:00pm	10 Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm Council Meeting 7:00pm	11 Lenton Soup & Lessons 6:00pm	12	13 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00 noon	14
15 4 th Lent SERVICE 9:30am Sunday School 10:45 – 11:15	16	17 Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm	18 Lenton Soup & Lessons 6:00pm Praise Team 7:30pm	19 Conni's Café 1-3:00pm Finance Meeting 6:00pm Choir 6:30pm	20 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00 noon	21
22	23	24	25	26		28
29 5 th LENT Contemporary Service 9:30am Sunday School 10:45 – 11:15	30 Vison Team Meeting 6:00pm	31 Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm		Choir 6:30pm	Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00 noon	
29 Palm Sunday 9:30am Sunday School 10:45 – 11:15	30	31				