

St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield
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Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield

ST. PAUL'S CALL

MAY 2024



Pastor Deb Staniszewski

WE WELCOME

EVERYONE



TO JOIN US

**FOR PRAYER, WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP,
AS WE SHARE THIS JOURNEY OF FAITH
ACTIVE IN LOVE HERE AT ST. PAUL'S.**

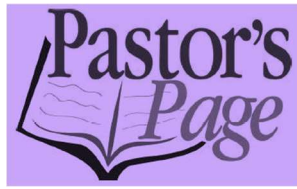
SUNDAY SERVICES 8: 30am and 10:00am

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

**You can connect to FB direct or go to our web site FB tab.
A PDF of the 10:00am service 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.**



May Greetings Friends!

In the gospel of John, Ch. 15:1-4, from the interpretation “The Message” Jesus tells the disciples, “I am the Real Vine, and my Father is the Farmer. He cuts off every branch of me that doesn’t bear grapes. And every branch that is grape bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more. You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken. Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can’t bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can’t bear fruit unless you are joined with me.” (John 15:1-4, MSG)

And so it is that we are children of God, made in God’s image, and brought into community to share God’s message of love in the world.

Sealed with the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ in our baptism, we become branches on the vine. Members of the family of disciples and followers of Christ, who are born to bear the fruit of God’s love for the good of the world, so that others might come to know God’s love in Christ in their own lives.

As a cluster of branches here in this faith community, we’re being tended, watered, nurtured to continue to produce good fruit, and pruned to grow even more sweet grapes!

Thanks be to God, and the Holy Spirit, who, through all of you, and our friends and neighbors in our community are making Great Things Happen here!

Some examples of fruit we’re producing and Great Things that are Happening at St. Paul’s:

- Camp Ministry starts Memorial Day Weekend, at Mountain Vista and Otter Lake campgrounds, please keep our worship leaders Alan and Laura Pride, as well as all the staff and campers at Mountain Vista and Otter Lake campgrounds this summer! May it be a joy filled camp season!
- Our New Indoor Pickle Ball Court has been laid out in Celebration Hall and we are waiting for the net to arrive! If Pickle Ball is your sport, perhaps you would like to help the Wellness Outreach Team with scheduling and looking after the pickle ball players and court! Please send prayers for this Outreach Wellness Ministry.
- Our Mission Trip with TeamEffort is scheduled for July 7-13! Please pray for our Mission Trip Team as we prepare to help our neighbors in need in Altoona, PA!

The response to our Financial Recovery Plan has been amazing so far already!!

- The 170th Birthday Bash plans are underway for October, and we are getting excited about the celebration!
- 7 members/families have pledged \$1,000 each for a total of \$7,000 pledged for the congregation to match for “**Great Things Are Happening**”!!! in 2024. The pledges of \$7,000 + match goal of \$7,000 brings our generosity increase challenge to \$14,000! Wow!! that will go a long way toward bridging the budget gap this year. This fruit that we are starting to grow, will help to ensure that we can continue to do God’s work, ministering to folks in our community and as we continue in our mission of “Expressing our Faith in Action” here at St. Paul’s for years to come!

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow!!!

Pastor Deb



Happy May from Worship & Music!

Special Thanks and Summer Music Opportunities – To Praise Team and choir for supplying music this past year. Choir and Praise Team will be on hiatus as we head into summer. If you're interested in singing or playing an instrument at a Sunday service during the summer months, please let Kathy Ertle know. If you know someone with musical talents that would like some experience playing in front of a group, we'd be happy to have them. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board.

All New – 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.

Flowers – The flower sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. Celebrate a loved one with a fresh flower arrangement from Floral Boutique. Order forms and checks may be given to Dana Strohl or Lynne Williams.

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 and communion assistant 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 Pastor.

Next Meeting – Monday, May 6th 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 Kathy Ertle or the office know.

MAY FOOD PANTRY **Thursday 2nd, 16th & 30th**

9:30am – 12:00noon

Contact Wanda Richardson with any questions.

The food pantry needs: Boxed macaroni & cheese, cereal, peanut butter and jelly.

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 Lutheran Church of Smithfield
Income and Expense Statement (UNAUDITED)

Operating Funds

	March <u>2024</u>	Year to <u>Date</u>	Year to Date <u>Budget</u>
CHURCH INCOME			
GENERAL INCOME	\$11,498.00	\$30,247.70	\$28,537.53
BENEVOLENCE INCOME	237.00	615.00	849.99
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	2,211.50	3,472.72	4,074.99
INTEREST INCOME	6.25	9.23	4.50
INVESTED FUNDS INT. & DIV.	<u>1,395.88</u>	<u>1,395.88</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$15,348.63</u>	<u>\$35,740.53</u>	<u>\$34,967.01</u>
CHURCH EXPENSES			
STAFF	\$9,058.27	\$27,452.90	\$28,189.20
BENEVOLENCE EXPENSE			
Benevolence (Synod)	583.33	1,750.00	1,749.99
Seminary Support	0.00	0.00	45.00
PARISH ADMINISTRATION	398.98	1,958.03	1,605.00
WORSHIP	194.36	868.02	1,414.95
LEARNING	27.77	212.77	675.00
PROPERTY	4,574.00	10,883.72	11,381.25
DEBT PAYMENTS	1,116.00	3,348.00	3,348.00
STEWARDSHIP	0.00	0.00	193.74
OUTREACH	0.00	0.00	187.50
WITNESS	0.00	0.00	195.00
SOCIAL FELLOWSHIP	<u>25.17</u>	<u>94.77</u>	<u>335.01</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$15,977.88</u>	<u>\$46,568.21</u>	<u>\$49,319.64</u>
EXCESS INCOME/(EXPENSES)	<u>(\$629.25)</u>	<u>(\$10,827.68)</u>	<u>(\$14,352.63)</u>

Current Cash Accounts

CHECKING ACCOUNTS & PETTY CASH	\$13,726.76	
THRIVENT FINANCIAL	<u>106,003.74</u>	
TOTAL CASH ACCOUNTS		<u>\$119,730.50</u>

Special Funds

SPECIAL FUNDS INCOME			
BENEVOLENCE			
Pantry/Good Samaritan	\$643.00	\$1,333.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Benevolence	100.00	300.00	0.00
INVESTED FUNDS INT. & DIV.	<u>89.35</u>	<u>89.35</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS INCOME	<u>\$832.35</u>	<u>\$1,722.35</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
SPECIAL FUNDS DISBURSEMENTS			
BENEVOLENCE			
Pantry/Good Samaritan	\$1,835.22	\$2,085.22	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Benevolence	400.00	400.00	0.00
YOUTH	500.00	500.00	0.00
PRaise BAND EQUIPMENT	<u>1,690.03</u>	<u>1,690.03</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$4,425.25</u>	<u>\$4,675.25</u>	<u>0.00</u>

Special Funds Cash Accounts

CHECKING ACCOUNTS & PETTY CASH	\$11,343.73	
THRIVENT FINANCIAL	<u>7,285.74</u>	
TOTAL CASH ACCOUNTS		<u>\$18,629.47</u>

A new way of giving to St. Paul's

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

- Individuals can contribute to the church through Paypal Donations (QR Code, link, etc.).
- Paypal Donations can be made via a contributor's Paypal account and/or through a Debit or Credit Card. The Paypal account is the most efficient for the contributor as there are less keystrokes needed.
- This option would not eliminate the regular contributions from our members such as contributions by check, cash, or ACH automatic withdrawals. This will be in addition to these options.
- The Paypal Donations can be marketed for specific events, put in the bulletin in the event we have visitors and/or members who forgot their checkbook/wallet, specific campaign fundraising, etc.
- Cost would be 1.89% of donation amount plus \$.49 per transaction. Donor has the option to pay the fee during the transaction.
- There are no ongoing expenses for this service. Only pay when the donations are made.
- Ways to donate:
 - Shareable link: https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=K8ZKNHW5V48WS
 - QR Code:



- The above options are live. Give it a shot and you can donate to the church.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Tom McGhee (Pres.)	drtmcghee@gmail.com
Laura Pride (VP)	papride94@gmail.com
Ted Strohl (Co -VP)	destrohl@ptd.net
Tracey Lasslett (Sec.)	tdimperio@lccc.edu
Joy Donnelly	donnell4@ptd.net
Faye Jones	mrspools@ptd.net
Sonji Patrick	sonjipatrick9903@gmail.com
Wanda Richardson	Jacqueline.richardson50@gmail.com

IF NEEDED: PHONE NUMBERS ARE LISTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE NARTHEX OR CALL THE OFFICE.

Attention:

Are you interested in developing closer friendships with others in our
faith family at St. Paul's?

Do you enjoy participating in small group gatherings?

Do you enjoy hosting a handful of friends at your home?

At St Paul's there are many opportunities to build up the Body of Christ. Some of those include, worship, bible study, participation on committees, such as council or worship and music, altar guild or finance, Wednesday Advent services, and more.

We are exploring whether there is interest among folks at St. Paul's for a new opportunity to build relationships, share our faith, and have good conversation. We would like to plan a series of Small Group Gatherings. Small groups allow for deeper conversations, and more intimate interactions between people.

The Small Group Gatherings are usually made up of between 8 -12 people, who meet in one another's homes about once a month. The group may focus on,

**Fellowship and Sharing
Prayer and Praise
Study and Discussion**

This may sound like other gatherings and opportunities for relationship building, but, in a small group where a meal is shared we get to know people much better.

We do not know if this is something you would be interested in or not, but we would like to explore the possibility. The time, meeting frequency, etc would be decided by questionnaire once we discover who is interested in this.

Carol and I, have participated in a number of small groups and found them very helpful in our walk with the Lord. They have been very encouraging, a place of support, and a place to live life loving.

Please contact the church office and leave your name and phone number if you are interested in participating in a small group, or if you would like more information. We look forward to hearing from you and will contact you.

Thank you. The Lord bless you,
Craig and Carol Raughley



Hello Church Youth Families,

Our Sunday School year is coming to an end – its been a great year!

Our last 2 Sunday School classes will be May 5th and May 12th.

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.

Confirmation Class for this month (3-5pm):

May 19th at St. John's

Family Movie Night

Family Movie Night will resume in June with an outdoor movie.
Date to be determined.

All are welcome! Come and join us for pizza, salad and snacks!

Mission Trip

Our Confirmation Class will be going on a Mission Trip in July to Altoona, PA. They will spend a week working on projects to repair and renovate homes for families in need and other service projects to help local residents. We are very excited about this!

Blessings always,

Christian Education Team

Alisa Nixon (908) 279-5242

Pastor Deb (570) 350-5115

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.

Sue Hartmann gave a Temple Talk this month on behalf of the Friday Ladies explaining all the work that goes into making the lap robes and other things they do. She also invited anyone who would be interested in helping and join to come on Friday mornings and enjoy the fun. "Men included"



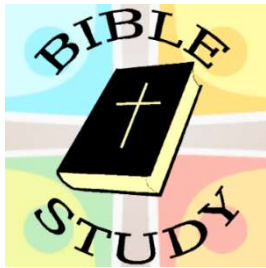


The Altar Guild is looking for a few new volunteers.

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.

April Altar Guild members are:

Nancy Fritz, Edith Lansdowne and Carol Raughley



Every Tuesday

11:30am to 12:30pm.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN

COFFEE HOUR

Looking for people to host

(helpers available)

SIGN UP SHEET ON BULLETIN BOARD

Contact Madeline or Faye with any questions



CELEBRATION HALL RENTALS Please share with friends.
For information contact **SONJI PATRICK** (CALL OFFICE FOR PHONE #.)



Celebrate Your Event



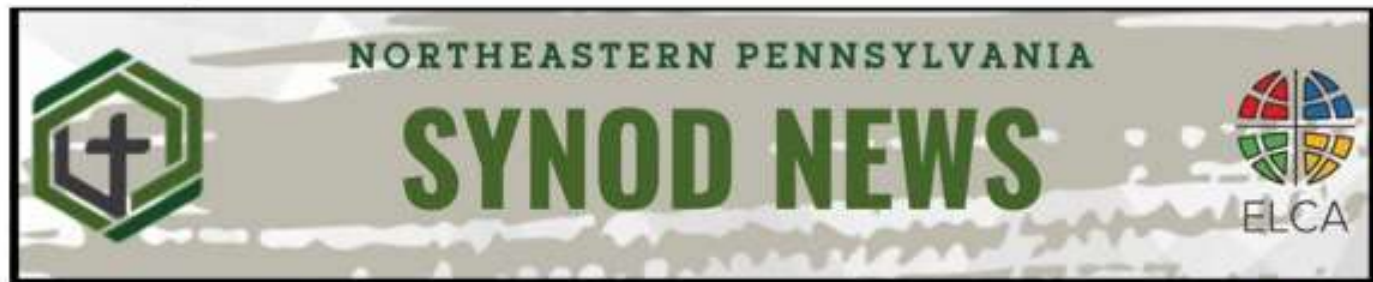
- Full Commercial Kitchen
- Seating: 160 Banquet Style
180 Assembly
- Parking: Up to 75 Vehicles
- Handicap Accessible
- Wi-Fi Ready

- Weddings
- Birthday Parties
- Anniversary Parties
- Banquets
- Meetings
- Workshops



Sweet 16 Party





WE ARE CHURCH
TOGETHER

2024



**TOP
STORY**



STORYTELLING ENGAGEMENT

Experiments in Ministry

A story from the Central States Synod

As you read this story, what connects with you? What experiments are occurring in your synod and congregation?

How often have you heard folks in congregations lament that they just don't have the resources or learning opportunities they need to be strong leaders and vital congregations? The [Central States Synod](#) wondered how it could help address those needs and make access easy. That led to the beginning of the [Ministry Lab](#). The synod envisions the lab as a place to ask questions, learn, work with different "tools" or resources, and experiment to see what works. A lab is not just a depository for resources; it's an active place where one can gather and engage with others.

When visiting congregations, attending conferences or meeting partners, staff and leaders in the Central States Synod diligently listen to folks to identify common needs and areas of growth so that they can equip and support ministry. The goal of the Ministry Lab is to provide **"resources and tools so that we may live out God's purpose, united with Christ, as we walk the way of Jesus."**



The lab has three areas of focus: *good order*, meaning leadership, policies, building use, stewardship and meeting protocol; *means of grace*, including biblical interpretation, worship, communication and welcoming; and *living faith*, such as community engagement, social statements, collaboration and technology. Since the Ministry Lab began in fall 2023, it has offered opportunities focused on Scripture interpretation, ideas for worship and preaching during Advent, and leadership development. People learn through active engagement, not passive observation, so the Learning Lab is always lively. Some opportunities are "one and done" whereas others consist of multiple sessions.



Moving forward, the Ministry Lab is excited to offer an open conversation with the Rev. Susan Candea, bishop of the Central States Synod, about the upcoming ELCA social statement *Civic Life and Faith*, a Collaboration Lab in May and a Communications Lab in the fall. Anyone anywhere can check out and learn from the Central States Synod Ministry Lab. [See what's available now!](#)

Remember that a portion of offerings given to Central States congregations becomes Mission Support for the synod and allows staff and leaders to address congregations' needs and interests through the Ministry Lab, today and into the future.



BEAR CREEK CAMP

Join us for May Play Day
and Family Work Day

MAY PLAY DAY & WORK DAY
Saturday, May 4th

9:00 am - Work Day Begins
11:00 am - May Play Day Begins
Rec hall open (foosball, ping pong, etc.)
Nature center open
Hiking/exploring
Main camp tour

12:00 pm - Free Lunch for All!

1:00 pm - Gathering in the Courtyard
Q&A about BCC Summer Camp

1:00 - 3:00 pm - Activities Continued
Guided hike on Lenape Trail
Camp store open
Rec hall open
Boating

Join us for an open house day at BCC, Saturday, **May 4th from 11am-3pm!** Explore camp, meet staff, boat, hike, craft, and fellowship with our camp community. Cookout lunch is available to all and there is no cost.

Prior to May Play Day, starting at 9:00am, everyone is invited to help with projects around camp as we prepare for summer. All skill levels are welcome and lunch is provided.

Registration for both May Play Day and Family Work Day is available at the link below. Pre-registration is appreciated, but not required.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 2024			1	2 Food Pantry 9:30am – 12:00 noon	3 Friday Ladies 9:00am – 12:00noon	4
5 6th Easter 8:30 & 10:00am Sunday School 9:00-9:45am	6 Music and Worship 6:30pm	7 Bible Study 11:30am – 12:30pm	8 Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30pm	9	10 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	11
12 7th Easter 8:30 & 10:00am Sunday School 9:00-9:45 (Last one for summer) Mothers Day	13	14 Bible Study 11:30am – 12:30pm Council 7:00am	15	16 Food Pantry 9:30am – 12:00 noon Finance 6:00pm	17 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	18
19 Day of Pentecost 8:30 & 10:00am Confirmation Class St. John's 3-5:00am	20	21 Bible Study 11:30am – 12:30pm	22 Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30pm	23	24 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	25
26 The Holy Trinity 8:30am 10:00am Contemporary Service w/ praise team	27	28 Bible Study 11:30am- 12:30pm	29	30 Food Pantry 9:30am – 12:00 noon	31 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	