

St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield
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East Stroudsburg, Pa. 18301
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Web Site: stpaulscommunitychurch.com
Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield



ST. PAUL'S CALL

JANUARY 2025

Pastor Deb Staniszewski

*WE WELCOME EVERYONE TO JOIN US FOR
PRAYER, WORSHIP &
FELLOWSHIP*



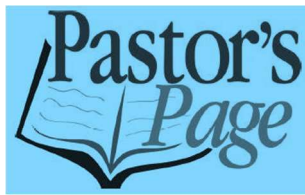
SUNDAY SERVICES
8:30AM AND 10:00AM
Sunday School 9:00 – 9:45am

**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 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.



Greetings Friends!

Every year in the season of Epiphany we hear the story of the Magi who traveled a long distance to meet, worship, and bring gifts to Jesus, the child king. Matthew's gospel tells us, ¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. . . . After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh." (Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11, NIV)

One of the beautiful things about this story, is the willingness of the Magi to wonder and be curious. They're filled with joy at the prospect of meeting this new child king, and when they finally come before him they bow and worship Him.

In God's abundant goodness, God used the Magi's curiosity, dreams, openness, and even nature to reveal His Son Jesus to the Gentiles. When have you had a moment of epiphany, or an "aha!" moment, that filled you with wonder and joy, or led you to share the gift of God's love and kindness with others?

The holidays may be over, with all of our celebrating and parties. But the wonder and joy of the season, and the gifts of love, compassion and kindness of God which we celebrate at Christmas, are here for us to unwrap, and to share with others each and every day.

Your Sibling in Christ,

Pastor Deb

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

Operating Funds

	November <u>2024</u>	Year to <u>Date</u>	Year to Date <u>Budget</u>
CHURCH INCOME			
GENERAL INCOME	\$10,380.02	\$120,527.30	\$104,637.61
BENEVOLENCE INCOME	262.30	2,084.30	3,116.63
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	1,735.00	17,288.66	14,941.63
INTEREST INCOME	42.34	93.79	16.50
INVESTED FUNDS INT. & DIV.	<u>0.00</u>	<u>4,053.46</u>	<u>5,500.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$12,419.66</u>	<u>\$144,047.51</u>	<u>\$128,212.37</u>
CHURCH EXPENSES			
STAFF	\$8,810.40	\$98,523.77	\$103,360.40
BENEVOLENCE EXPENSE			
Benevolence (Synod)	583.34	6,416.67	6,416.63
Seminary Support & Miscellaneous	0.00	255.00	165.00
PARISH ADMINISTRATION	706.59	5,988.22	5,885.00
WORSHIP	792.39	4,178.24	5,188.15
LEARNING	-51.75	770.89	2,475.00
PROPERTY	3,660.63	34,964.34	41,731.25
DEBT PAYMENTS	1,116.00	12,276.00	12,276.00
STEWARDSHIP	0.00	289.53	710.38
OUTREACH	0.00	33.76	687.50
WITNESS	0.00	0.00	715.00
SOCIAL FELLOWSHIP	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,365.58</u>	<u>1,228.37</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$15,617.60</u>	<u>\$165,062.00</u>	<u>\$180,838.68</u>
EXCESS INCOME/(EXPENSES)	<u>(\$3,197.94)</u>	<u>(\$21,014.49)</u>	<u>(\$52,626.31)</u>

Current Cash Accounts

CHECKING ACCOUNTS & PETTY CASH	\$12,648.54	
THRIVENT FINANCIAL	<u>93,749.34</u>	
TOTAL CASH ACCOUNTS		<u>\$106,397.88</u>

Special Funds

SPECIAL FUNDS INCOME			
BENEVOLENCE			
Pantry/Good Samaritan	\$364.00	\$4,323.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Benevolence	0.00	900.00	0.00
INVESTED FUNDS INT. & DIV.	0.00	234.92	0.00
PLAYGROUND FUND	<u>0.00</u>	<u>25.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS INCOME	<u>\$364.00</u>	<u>\$5,482.92</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
SPECIAL FUNDS DISBURSEMENTS			
BENEVOLENCE			
Pantry/Good Samaritan	\$1,466.00	\$4,065.72	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Benevolence	0.00	400.00	0.00
YOUTH	0.00	1,988.02	0.00
PRAISE BAND EQUIPMENT	0.00	1,907.54	0.00
MUSIC	<u>41.58</u>	<u>418.97</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$1,507.58</u>	<u>\$8,780.25</u>	<u>0.00</u>

Special Funds Cash Accounts

CHECKING ACCOUNTS & PETTY CASH	\$12,416.47	
THRIVENT FINANCIAL	<u>5,443.29</u>	
TOTAL CASH ACCOUNTS		<u>\$17,859.76</u>



Happy New Year from Worship & Music!

Special Thanks – To all those who made this Christmas season so special. To all those who decorated the church, shoveled, prepared special music, set up the altar and to the Friday Ladies for their yummy cookies and Faye Jones for her efforts for the Holden Evening Prayer.

Musical Opportunities – Choir meets Thursdays at 6:30pm in the sanctuary. If interested, contact Kathy Ertle. The Praise Team meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm and plays for the Contemporary service at 10am on the 4th Sunday of the month. Please reach out to Chris Matthy if interested.

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- 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 – TBA

Have a Blessed New Year,
Worship & Music Committee

**DECEMBER 2024
FUN EVENING MAKING OUR OWN ADVENT TABLE WREATHS**

Gathering supplies and making our creations!!



ALL FINISHED

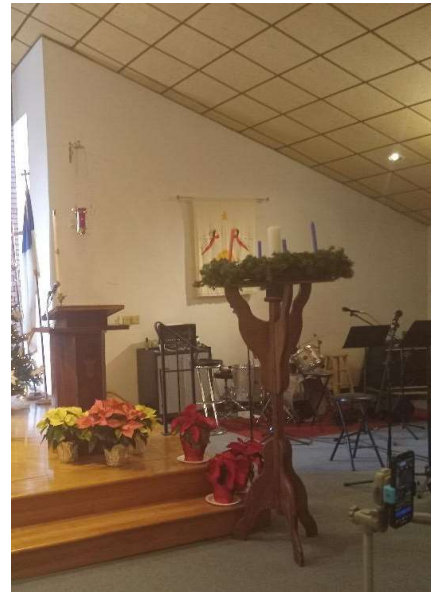


2024

**SALVATION ARMY
ANGEL TREE**



**THANKS TO ALL WHO DECORATED THE CHURCH FOR THE
HOLIDAYS**



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE



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



Red Robin® will give

**20% OF FOOD SALES*
BACK TO**

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF SMITHFIELD**

Show this flyer or simply mention the fundraiser to
your server to have your sales counted.

FUNDRAISER DETAILS

1792 N. 9th St, Bartonsville, PA 18321
December 5, 2024 4PM - 8PM

On December 5th we had a Fund Raiser at the Red Robin and had a great turnout. Thanks to everyone that came out to support St. Paul's. Red Robin also includes everyone who comes to eat between 4pm and 8pm so it was very successful fundraiser for us.

**2024 CHRISTMAS FOOD PANTRY
THANKS TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS FOR YOUR HELP**



**THANK YOU WANDA, FOR
ALL YOU DID FOR THE FOOD
PANTRY IN 2024!**



**Thursday January 9th and 23rd
9:30am – 12:00noon**

Contact Wanda Richardson with any questions.

The food pantry needs: Boxed macaroni & cheese, cereal, jelly and canned Tuna.

Looking for help, contact Wanda or office.

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,

Happy New Year! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas season!

Sunday School will begin again on Sunday, January 12th.

Sunday School class 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 (1-3pm):

January 12th

January 26th

Looking ahead, we will pack Touch of Home in February. We send Touch of Home boxes with snacks and goodies to those in college, in the military services or just away from home – any who needs a Touch of Home! So please submit any new or change of addresses. Thank you!

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.

Always looking for new people

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.



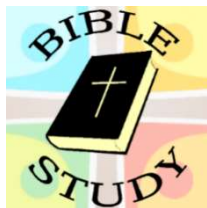
Hank Williams won the beautiful quilt



The Altar Guild is looking for a few new volunteers.

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.



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 Faye with any questions

CELEBRATION HALL RENTALS

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



Celebrate Your Event

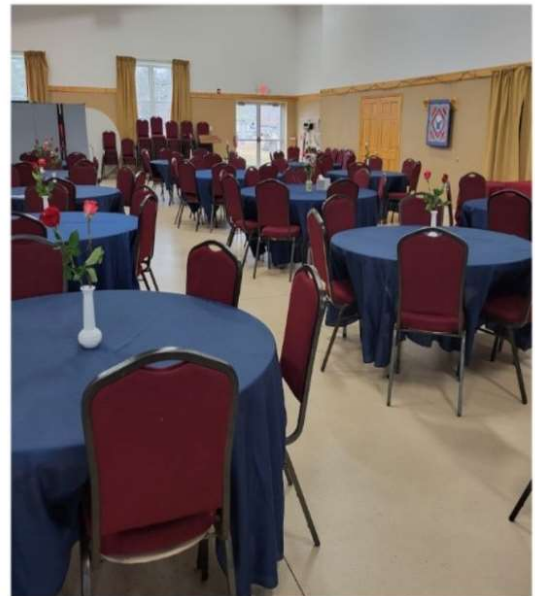


- Full Commercial Kitchen
- Seating: 160 Banquet Style
180 Assembly
- Parking: Up to 75 Vehicles
- Handicap Accessible
- Wi-Fi Ready

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



Sweet 16 Party





Gaining Strength Together: The Journey of NEPA Synod Cohorts

Following the Bishop's Conference in the fall of 2021 with Rev. Doug Hill (author of "Cultural Architecture"), the Synod launched its first Gaining Strength Cohort. This cohort, while initially similar to the cohorts happening across the country in the ELCA, turned out to be quite different. This cohort was comprised entirely of pastors from the NEPA Synod instead of pastors around the country. This gave the cohort the opportunity to develop deeper relationships that could continue to be supported and built up over time and in a mutual context.



While this 1st cohort was finishing in October 2023, a 2nd cohort was launched. The 2nd cohort was the first cohort to include Deacons as well as Pastors. A 3rd cohort was launched in April 2024. While each cohort has its own character based on the individual participants, there are some key similarities. Cohorts meet for a period of 18 months. They have 4 in-person retreats (fall and spring) with Zoom check-in meetings in between the retreats. Each cohort has about 10-14 Rostered Ministers in it.

They work through many of the key principles of "Cultural Architecture" with Pastor Doug facilitating the retreats. Additionally, they discuss the Enneagram, Clifton's Strength Finders, organizational intelligence, cultural transformation, and the state of the church at present. More than that, the retreats provide intentional time to connect with one another and with God. Each day centers on Scripture and provides time for contemplative action. How can we lead congregations if we are not taking the time to practice waiting on and listening to God ourselves?

A few of the current cohort members shared their gratefulness to have time to think about shared values, contemplative action, and their own God-given strengths. Pr. Inge Williams was "also grateful to do some deeper reflection on who I am, as a child of God, knowing that we glorify God by living into our individual gifts and strengths rather than spending energy trying to 'fix' ourselves."

Pr. Samantha Drennan shared three key take-aways she has experienced through the Gaining Strength cohort:

- 1) Seek to maximize strengths rather than focus on shortcomings - since I have begun to do this, I have experienced significant positive changes in my call as well as in my life in general.
- 2) Embrace contemplative action - as we make decisions for ourselves or for our faith communities, we must integrate contemplation and action. Before acting, make time to discern what the Spirit is already doing in, through, and around us.
- 3) Surrendering all outcomes to God - easier said than done sometimes! And, a vital component of the process.

The Synod is grateful that these Rostered Ministers have embraced this opportunity, are willing to be present with one another, and are being bold in leaning into the Spirit in their own lives and places of ministry.

There has been so much interest in participating in these Gaining Strength cohorts that the Synod anticipates launching another 1-2 cohorts in 2025. One of the hopes is that one of the cohorts will bring together congregations who have multiple Rostered Ministers on staff so that they can participate simultaneously. If you are interested in joining one of the upcoming Gaining Strength cohorts, please reach out to DEM Dcn. Kat Tigerman at kat@nepsynod.org.

Submitted by: Deacon Kat Tigerman, NEPA Synod Director of Evangelical Mission

DID YOU KNOW that your Mission Support helps fund areas of the synod like this one and many other important initiatives? Your contributions are making a significant impact and helping others grow in faith, supporting the synod's directions of Growing Young, Gaining Strength, and Going Beyond Death to Life, along with the values of Loving, Healing, and Engaging like Jesus. To learn more, visit godslove.org/missionsupport.

JAN 20, 2025

MARTIN

LUTHER KING JR.

DAY OF PRAYER AND
SERVICE

Starting at 10:00am with worship
followed by opportunities to
participate in various service projects,
and conclude with lunch together.

2354 GROVE ROAD ALLENTOWN, PA

For more information, visit:
godslove.org/MLKday



If you are off that day and would like to help at this event, please register to ensure we have an accurate headcount for lunch.

Sunday JANUARY	Monday 2025	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Choir 6:30pm	3 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	4
5 Epiphany of Our Lord (Jan.6th) 8:30 & 10:00am	6	7 Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm	8 Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30pm	9 Choir 6:30pm	10 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	11
12 Baptism of Our Lord 8:30 & 10:00am Sunday School 9:00 – 9:45am	13	14 Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm	15	16 Finance Meeting 6:00pm	17 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
2 Epiphany 8:30 Service of the Word 10:00am Sunday School 9:00 – 9:45am		Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm	Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30pm	Choir 6:30pm	Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
3 Epiphany 8:30 10:00am Contemporary with Praise Team Sunday School 9:00 – 9:45am Congregational Meeting after 10:00 Service Confirmation St. Johns 1-3		Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm		Choir 6:30pm	Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	