

St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield
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East Stroudsburg, Pa. 18301
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Web Site: stpaulscommunitychurch.com
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ST. PAUL'S CALL

JULY 2024

Pastor Deb Staniszewski

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



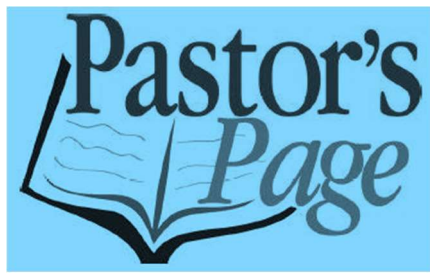
SUNDAY SERVICES 8: 30am and 10:00am

**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.**



Greetings Beloved,

Summer is here! Most of us will spend more time outside, some will take vacations, day trips, or have special events on their calendars. Here at church, we usually slow down a bit in summer. In the liturgical church year, this season after Pentecost is known as Ordinary Time, and it is a time after Lent and Easter, and before Advent. Ordinary Time is a time of contemplation, and an opportunity for us as followers of Jesus to reflect on our faith journey, and how we bring our calling as disciples into our lives everyday.

As we continue observing the season of Ordinary Time this summer, I invite you, for the upcoming eight weeks of July and August to take time out, to reflect, and pray, alone and with others. Perhaps this summer would be a good time to find a prayer partner or to form a prayer group. I'll be posting weekly prayer times when you are welcome to join me here at the church to pray in community.

We're an active congregation, it's even in the words of our mission statement, which invites and welcomes all into "sharing this journey of faith active in love." As a faith community, let's use this Ordinary season to reflect and pray, asking God to show us how to proceed on this "journey of faith active in love" in our lives as a faith community, and then listening for how God responds.

Scripture reminds us of the importance of prayer and contemplation, and that while we are quiet in prayer and contemplation, we are doing some of the most important work that can be done as disciples of Jesus, we're reaching out to talk to God, and waiting on the Lord in faith.

"6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.."(Philippians 4:6, NRSVUE)

"25The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him." (Lamentations 3:25, NRSVUE).

I invite you to spend at least an hour a week in the spiritual practice of prayer and contemplation this summer, below are 8 prayer topics, one for each week, that you may wish to use in your prayer and contemplation time....

1. Praise and Thank God for all the ways that God's love and grace have blessed and transformed you as individuals and as a faith community. Ask God for the words and willingness to articulate that witness into powerful testimony. What might you say if you describe an experience you have had with the Holy One?
2. When have you felt nudged or called by God toward or away from something in your life? Ask God to guide you into what God is calling you to. How is God speaking to your heart about what God has in mind for us as a faith community?
3. Where have you seen or felt God's presence recently? Ask God to reveal the people among us in our faith community with the vision and energy to help and lead us.
4. Pray for the church, the Body of Christ as a whole, and the faith community at St. Paul's Smithfield. Ask God to unify Christ's followers everywhere in healthy relationships with one another and the wider community.
5. Pray for an open heart, and the willingness to respond to God's calling, and do God's will. Ask God for a soft heart and open mind.
6. Pray for one another in this faith community and pray for whatever is going on in the lives of our siblings in Christ and their families. Ask God for compassion, understanding, and the ability to listen.
7. Pray for the people that God wants to bring into the faith community at St. Paul's. Ask God for an open heart to welcome with joy all who come into our faith community.
8. Pray that God will show us what to do and will send and gather people who will work effectively in healthy relationship with one another. Ask God to give us eyes to see and ears to hear God's vision for us.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield

170th Birthday Celebration

The year 2024 marks 170 years that St. Paul's Church has been in existence, and we plan to celebrate!

The Birthday weekend celebration will take place on **Saturday, September 28th and Sunday September 29th**. Save the date!!!

On **Saturday the 29th**, we will hold a **church rummage sale** in Celebration Hall. Vendors and church members may rent spaces to sell their treasures. Lynne Williams in the office is organizing the sale and specifics on time and fees will be announced soon. If you would like to be put on her list of space renters or if you would like to volunteer to help with the sale, please see her.

We would like to invite our friends with Phoenix Martial Arts, Little League Softball, and Boy Scouts Troop 100 to join us with displays and or sales.

We would like to have a **bake sale and possibly sell hot dogs** (or some other easy lunch items) out of the kitchen during the sale. **Food trucks** outside may also be available.

Activities for children are under consideration and will be dependent on the weather and volunteers.

During the sale, we would like to have a display of **St. Paul's Church artifacts and history** in the church and possible **church tours**. The extent of this will depend on **volunteers**. If you would like to be part of organizing a team that can find and display our church history in a meaningful way, please contact Laura Pride at papride94@gmail.com.

On **Sunday, September 30** we will celebrate with a **service of gratitude at 10:00 a.m.** This special service will be attended by the bishop of the NEPA Synod, Bishop Christopher deForest. Pastor Deb and the Worship & Music committee will be working on this special service.

We would like to conclude the birthday celebration with a **Birthday Party Luncheon** in Celebration Hall after the service. Volunteers are needed to set up Celebration Hall after the church sale that Saturday. At this time, it is likely that the luncheon will be potluck. More information to follow.

That's it! It's time to Celebrate St. Paul's, our history, and our future!! Please prayerfully decide how you can be a part of the celebration, because **EVERYONE** can play a part in making this weekend one to remember! **This event is a work in progress and its success will depend on the input and hard work of volunteers.** Volunteer sign-up sheets will be available on Sunday morning July 7 with more information.

Thank you and God bless you all

Laura Pride Council Vice President



Happy July from Worship & Music!

Summer Music – If you're interested in singing or playing an instrument at a Sunday service during the summer months, please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. 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.

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- Summer 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.

Altar Guild – The altar guild is looking for members to help. Assistance is needed for a month at a time. If you want to learn more, please see Nancy Fritz.

Next Meeting – Monday, July 1st 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.

Blessings,
Worship & Music Committee

**We
welcomed
beautiful
Baby Ada
June 23rd**



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

Operating Funds

	May <u>2024</u>	Year to <u>Date</u>	Year to Date <u>Budget</u>	
CHURCH INCOME				
GENERAL INCOME	\$10,101.00	\$51,651.70	\$47,562.55	
BENEVOLENCE INCOME	143.00	1,063.00	1,416.65	
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	1,298.00	6,029.10	6,791.65	
INTEREST INCOME	5.45	20.45	7.50	
INVESTED FUNDS INT. & DIV.	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,395.88</u>	<u>2,500.00</u>	
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$11,547.45</u>	<u>\$60,160.13</u>	<u>\$58,278.35</u>	
CHURCH EXPENSES				
STAFF	\$7,570.49	\$44,063.10	\$46,982.00	
BENEVOLENCE EXPENSE				
Benevolence (Synod)		0.00	2,333.33	2,916.65
Seminary Support & Miscellaneous		75.00	75.00	75.00
PARISH ADMINISTRATION	447.40	2,850.17	2,675.00	
WORSHIP	220.00	1,515.86	2,358.25	
LEARNING	79.95	292.72	1,125.00	
PROPERTY	2,421.83	16,355.12	18,968.75	
DEBT PAYMENTS	1,116.00	5,580.00	5,580.00	
STEWARDSHIP	0.00	0.00	322.90	
OUTREACH	0.00	0.00	312.50	
WITNESS	0.00	0.00	325.00	
SOCIAL FELLOWSHIP	<u>72.39</u>	<u>167.16</u>	<u>558.35</u>	
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$12,003.06</u>	<u>\$72,232.46</u>	<u>\$82,199.40</u>	
EXCESS INCOME/(EXPENSES)	<u>(\$455.61)</u>	<u>(\$13,072.33)</u>	<u>(\$23,921.05)</u>	

Current Cash Accounts

CHECKING ACCOUNTS & PETTY CASH	\$10,241.33		
THRIVENT FINANCIAL	<u>106,003.74</u>		
TOTAL CASH ACCOUNTS			<u>\$116,245.07</u>

Special Funds

SPECIAL FUNDS INCOME				
BENEVOLENCE				
Pantry/Good Samaritan		\$505.00	\$2,249.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Benevolence		100.00	500.00	0.00
INVESTED FUNDS INT. & DIV.	0.00	89.35	0.00	
PLAYGROUND FUND	<u>0.00</u>	<u>25.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS INCOME	<u>\$605.00</u>	<u>\$2,863.35</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	
SPECIAL FUNDS DISBURSEMENTS				
BENEVOLENCE				
Pantry/Good Samaritan		\$0.00	\$2,085.22	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Benevolence		0.00	400.00	0.00
YOUTH	1395.00	1,895.00	0.00	
PRaise BAND EQUIPMENT	<u>161.35</u>	<u>1,851.38</u>	<u>0.00</u>	
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$1,556.35</u>	<u>\$6,231.60</u>	<u>0.00</u>	

Special Funds Cash Accounts

CHECKING ACCOUNTS & PETTY CASH	\$10,440.60		
THRIVENT FINANCIAL	<u>7,285.74</u>		
TOTAL CASH ACCOUNTS			<u>\$17,726.34</u>



Thursday

July 11th and 25th

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.

**A new way
of giving to
St. Paul's**

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:



COUNCIL MEMBERS **PHONE NUMBERS ARE LISTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE NARTHEX OR CALL THE OFFICE**

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



Hello Church Youth Families,

Mission Trip

Our Confirmation Class will be going on a Mission Trip July 7th 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!

Family Movie Night to be announced.

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

Sunday School

Sunday School is on summer break! We had a great year and look forward to starting up again in the fall. Enjoy your summer!

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.



For the month of June
8 Lap Robes were given out.
6 – White Stone
1 – Baptism
1 – For a Wedding

Friday Ladies received \$250.00
from Trivent thanks to Ruth Ann.



**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.**

**July Altar Guild members are:
Nancy Rance and Nancy Fritz**



**DO YOU LIKE TO SAVE WHEN
YOU SHOP?
WANT TO STRETCH YOUR
GROCERY BUDGET ?**

**JOIN US THIS SUMMER
For Couponing Classes**

WHERE?

**St. Paul's Lutheran Smithfield
139 Craig's Meadow Rd
East Stroudsburg PA 18301**

WHEN?

Fridays from 11:00 -12:00 noon.

June 28th

July 12th & 26th

August 9th & 23rd

**Its Free Just Show up!!
Learn how to Save \$\$\$\$
all you need is a smart phone.**

**Class given by Debbie Sasso in the bottom class room of the
church.**

Kids are Welcome

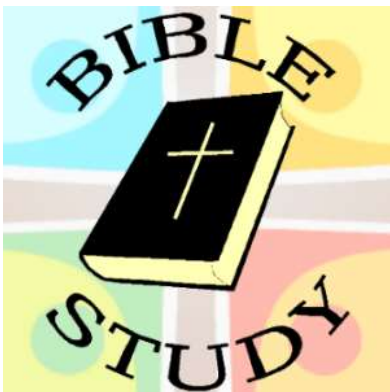
If you have questions, Call the church office at 570-223-0422

Monday & Wed.- Fri. between 9:00am – 1:00pm

**You can also leave a voicemail message, or e-mail church at
stpaulscraigsmeadow@verizon.net**

This summer Sunday morning Community Worship Services

**are being led by
Laura and Alan Pride at
Camp Vista and
Otter Lake.**



On Break for the Summer

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

RAILRIDERS TRIP

Pastor Woody is arranging a Railriders baseball game for our Church. The game will be on August 17 (Friday). The game starts at 6:05 PM and the gates will open at 4:05 PM.

Chauncy Leopardi the actor who played Squints in the Sandlot will be doing a meet and greet. There is also a Squints Bobblehead give away happening for the first 2,500 fans.

The tickets are \$12.00 each. The cutoff date is Sunday, August 4.

Please leave a message at the church (570-629-1992) OR E-mail Sherry. I will then give the information to Pastor Woody.

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



Celebrate Your Event



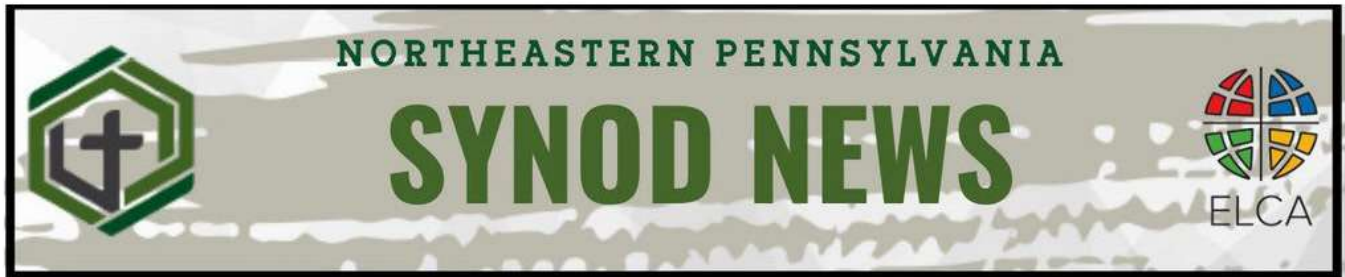
- Full Commercial Kitchen
- Seating: 160 Banquet Style
180 Assembly
- Parking: Up to 75 Vehicles
- Handicap Accessible
- Wi-Fi Ready

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



Sweet 16 Party





Celebrating Success!

The Conclusion of the 37th Synod Assembly



On Saturday, June 8, over 376 Lutherans gathered in person and virtually to participate in the 37th Northeastern PA Synod Assembly. The theme, "Hungry for Life Together in Christ," celebrated the 50th anniversary of ELCA World Hunger and highlighted the hunger ministries that congregations are implementing within their communities. Pastor Eileen Smith LeVan, who co-chairs the NEPS Hunger Team along with her husband, Brian, presented how our congregations are improving hunger issues through ministries like food pantries, community gardens, and weekly food distributions. The ELCA representative, Marie Anne Sliwinski, Senior Director for Building Resilient Communities, expressed how Lutheran Disaster Response, AMMPARO, God's Work Our Hands, and our synod are helping individuals not only in our country but around the world through mission support and volunteer work. Deacon Kat Tigerman introduced six congregations in Reading discerning themselves to be the first pilot 6261 community. "Our small sterling congregations are making the effort to talk, share, and consider the future," says Bill Knox of Hope Lutheran, Reading. Many shared how their congregations are growing in friendship, community, and faith. Members of the Assembly also gave \$2,365 towards ELCA World Hunger. The three resolutions passed by the synod assembly can be found at godslove.org/assembly2024. Congratulations to Jim Doxsey, Rev. Dana Heckman-Beil, and Amy Mietelski on their election to the Synod Council! The Assembly also elected the following voting members to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, AZ: Bishop Christopher deForest, Nancy Reichelt, Mark Stana, Seth Noggle, Betty Jane Schaefer-Hassler, Ron Mordosky, Jackie Williams, Stephanie Druckenmiller, Rev. Brian Beissel, Deacon Dawn Talley, Rev. Tom Scornavacchi, Rev. Lauren Applegate, Rev. Chris Druckenmiller, Rev. Ken Melber, Jr., Don Boyer, Stephen Hikes, Jean Sandberg, Rev. Nelson Quinones, Amanda Melber, Alicia Wood, Elizabeth Leibenguth, and Maria Marcano. To rewatch the excitement, visit the assembly webpage.



Submitted by: Stacey Burke (she/her) Communications & Growing Young Coordinator

Witness and Service Team Grants are a Hugh Help!

Submitted by Georgia Suranofsky

During the assembly, we learned that over 2/3 of those congregations attending the in-person event, have either a food or garden ministry! Here is just one story about an amazing food ministry.

The Mifflin Community Food Ministry (MCFM) was created in 2002 to provide a local, community-based source of food to those persons and households in the Governor Mifflin School District experiencing hardship or need, giving them sustenance and aid in the way of food and clothing on a temporary basis one a month.

I was told by Janet Reese, Board Member and one of the MCFM founders, that this food ministry is set apart by their lack of involvement with state or federal programs which in turn allows them for the past 22 years to pray with clients, distribute information on what is happening at their churches and invite the clients, share the gospel and inspirational materials with the families.

4 local churches including St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran-Mohnton, New Life of Shillington, Calvary United Methodist and Zion Evangelical Congregational Church are the sponsors of the ministry Zion is the host church where donations are collected, stored and then distributed. Community donations supply most of the non-perishable food and paper products

distributed to MCFM clients. 8 local churches and several organizations also provide non-perishable food, volunteer distribution tasks and money.

Food distributions prior to Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas include grocery store gift cards for clients’ use to buy perishable items and clients receive a gift also. In tears, 1 woman told the President of the food ministry, “I have never received a Christmas gift.”

Last year, the community food ministry experienced a dramatic increase in the average number of households served per month going from 84 over 100. The number climbed in December 2023. This was the busiest month ever, serving 149 households representing 482 people.

Gail Colahan, a member at St. John’s Evangelical in Mohnton remembered the grants that are available through the Witness and Service team and applied. The grant was approved for use this year and is providing meat and produce for the 12 monthly distributions.

The Mifflin Community Food Ministry would not be successful without God’s helping hand and the wonderful support received from volunteers, organizations, and churches that donate their time, money, and food,” When we all share the burden of trying to make a community a better place, it lightens the load.



Take a minute to view some photos of the ministry by [clicking on this link](#).

You can find information on the [synod website](#) about the grants available from the Witness and Service Team. Your mission support giving makes these grants possible.

Thank you for your continued support!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 2024						
	1 Worship and Music 6:30pm	2	3	4	5 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	6
7 6th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 & 10:00am Youth trip to Altoona	8	9	10	11 Food Pantry 9:30am – 12:00 noon	12 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	13
14 7th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 & 10:00am	15 Brookmont 11:00am Worship	16 Council Meeting 6:30pm	17	18	19 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	20
21 8th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 & 10:00am	22	23	24	25 Food Pantry 9:30am – 12:00 noon	26 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	27
28 9th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 & 10:00am	29	30	31			