

St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield

139 Craig's Meadow Road

East Stroudsburg PA 18301

570-223-9422

E-mail: stpaulscraigsmeadow@verizon.net

Web Site: stpaulscommunitychurch.com

Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield



Pastor Deb Staniszewski

Everyone is Welcome

ST. PAUL'S CALL OCTOBER 2025

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

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.**

JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY: FOR PRAYER, WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

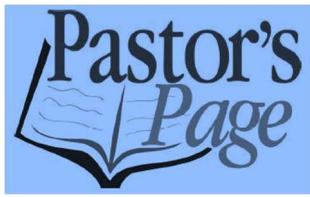
**SUNDAY SERVICES
8: 30AM AND 10:00AM**

LIVE STREAMING AVAILABLE 10:00AM SERVICE.

Connect to Facebook direct or go to our web site FB tab.

A PDF of the 10:00am service bulletin is on the web site.





Greetings Beloved!

One of the things I've heard from people over the years, is that they see St. Paul's Smithfield as a beacon, and a light in the community. So, it wasn't much of a surprise that the term ended up in our mission statement



which says, our mission is

**"To be a beacon of faith guided by the Holy Spirit.
Growing in Christ we share God's grace through witness, love, and service."**

Beacons are used to attract attention to a particular thing or to make something visible. Lighthouses have been used for thousands of years to make coastlines and shallow waters visible so that ships know they're close to shore, and captains can keep their boats, passengers, and crews safe.

In our faith community at St. Paul's, we are a beacon of faith together, pointing to the love of Christ in the world and in one another.

In Matthew's gospel, Jesus says his followers are to be light in the world ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 6:14-16, NIV) So, be blessed as you go out and share the light!

Your Sibling in Christ,

Pastor Deb

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

Operating Funds

	August <u>2025</u>	Year to Date	Year to Date <u>Budget</u>
CHURCH INCOME			
GENERAL INCOME	\$8,477.09	\$74,205.05	\$80,300.08
BENEVOLENCE INCOME	163.00	1,221.00	1,666.72
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	2,861.82	15,579.19	12,800.00
INTEREST INCOME	5.38	1,624.19	2,693.28
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$11,507.29</u>	<u>\$92,629.43</u>	<u>\$97,460.08</u>
CHURCH EXPENSES			
STAFF	\$9,124.53	\$72,746.05	\$75,282.56
BENEVOLENCE EXPENSE	583.33	4,666.66	4,836.64
PARISH ADMINISTRATION	841.24	4,536.45	4,400.00
WORSHIP	916.37	2,637.66	3,689.92
LEARNING	0.00	632.20	1,499.92
PROPERTY	3,279.81	33,346.69	27,856.72
DEBT PAYMENTS	1,229.00	9,593.00	9,374.64
STEWARDSHIP	0.00	271.40	466.64
OUTREACH	0.00	275.00	333.28
WITNESS	0.00	75.00	386.64
SOCIAL FELLOWSHIP	0.00	222.74	766.64
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$15,974.28</u>	<u>\$129,002.85</u>	<u>\$128,893.60</u>
EXCESS INCOME/(EXPENSES)	<u>(\$4,466.99)</u>	<u>(\$36,373.42)</u>	<u>(\$31,433.52)</u>

Special Funds

SPECIAL FUNDS INCOME			
BENEVOLENCE			
Pantry/Good Samaritan	\$305.00	\$2,797.90	\$0.00
Pastor's Discretion	0.00	25.00	0.00
DESIGNATED SCHOLARSHIP	0.00	500.00	0.00
MEMORIAL INCOME	0.00	1,005.00	0.00
INTEREST	0.00	124.38	0.00
COMMUNITY GARDENS	24,155.00*	24,655.00	0.00
PLAYGROUND	26.00	46.00	0.00
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS INCOME	<u>\$24,486.00</u>	<u>\$29,153.28</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
SPECIAL FUNDS DISBURSEMENTS			
BENEVOLENCE			
Pantry/Good Samaritan	\$0.00	\$2,029.63	\$0.00
Pastor's Discretion	250.70	1,134.91	0.00
Postage (Pantry)	0.00	14.60	0.00
Scholarship	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
YOUTH	100.00	100.00	0.00
MEMORIAL FUNDS	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
MUSIC	0.00	56.99	0.00
MAJOR REPAIRS & REPLACEMENT	2,023.00	2,023.00	0.00
GARDENS	24,155.00*	24,155.00	0.00
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$27,528.70</u>	<u>\$31,514.13</u>	<u>0.00</u>

Cash Accounts

Operating Checking Account	\$11,634.28		
Special Funds Checking Account	13,007.12	\$24,641.40	
Operating Funds in Thrivent Financial	\$56,478.85		
Special Funds in Thrivent Financial	5,528.59	62,007.44	
Total Cash			<u>\$86,648.84</u>

*\$24,155 income and expense were a donation. This did NOT come from church funds.



Worship & Music!

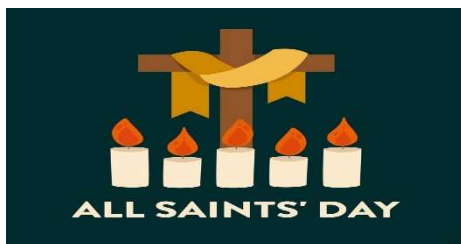
Choir and Praise Team are Back! – If you or someone you know is interested in singing or playing an instrument with either group please get in touch with Kathy Ertle and Chris Matthy.



Quilt Blessing – On October 5th the quilts made by the Friday ladies will be blessed at the 10am service. Come and see the beautiful work the ladies do for baptisms and lap blankets for local organizations.



Blessing of the Animals – Spread the word to your fur moms and dads. Saturday, October 11th at 5pm Pastor Deb will be blessing the animals outdoors by the gazebo. October is the month where we honor St. Francis of Assisi who was known as being the patron saint of animals. Bring your beloved pet on a leash or in a crate for this special blessing.



All Saints Day – All Saints Day is on November 2nd. Please call the office at 570-223-9422 with the name of your loved ones who passed between November 1st of last year and October 31st of this year. Their name will be placed in the bulletin and a candle will be lit in their memory. Please contact Lynne by October 27th.



Remember to Fall Back! – Daylight Savings is on Sunday, November 2nd. Remember to set your clock back on Saturday and get some extra snoozes in!

Next Meeting – Monday, October 6th at 6:00pm. All are welcome!

Wishing you Fall Blessings,

BEE, BUTTERFLY & BIRD GARDEN



PLEASE WALK AROUND IN THE GARDEN AND SEE ALL THE BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS AND WONDERFUL JOB OUR GARDEN GROUP DID.

MONTH OF OCTOBER



HAVE A HEART FOR ANIMALS

In October we acknowledge St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. We would like to take this opportunity to donate pet food and supplies to our local shelter, AWSOM, in preparation for the cold weather. There will be a collection box in the Narthex for your food, cash or supply donations from Sunday October 1st through Sunday October 26th. If you would prefer to donate to another animal organization, please do so in the name of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Any question contact the office to speak to Nancy Fritz.

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR DONATIONS

We collected items for the folks in the community that will be transitioning from Prison to a Rehabilitation Facility.



Next Pantry is Thursday Oct. 2nd

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: November 6th, December 4th

Any changes will be announced.



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."



CONNI'S CAFE

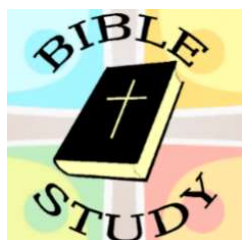
WILL BE MEETING

EVERY 3rd THURSDAY

1:00pm – 3:00pm

Next Meeting

OCTOBER 16th



Every Tuesday in Fellowship Hall

11:30am to 12:30pm.

JOIN US

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.

Feel free to 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.



**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



Hello Church Youth Families,

SUNDAY SCHOOL HAS STARTED

9:00am – 9:45am

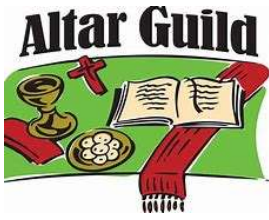
Contact Alisa or Pastor

Blessings always, Christian Education Team

Alisa Nixon (908) 279-5242

Pastor Deb (570) 350-5115

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED !!



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.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE



Sunday Coffee Hour

Help with Funeral
Luncheons



**Contact Jeannette Richardson or Faye Jones
if interested.**



**Contact Wanda Richardson. Faye, Noreen or office
If you would like help with the Food Pantry**

SUNDAY SERVICE



**If you would like to help on a Sunday contact
Kathy Ertle or office. Ushers and Lay Readers**

Contact Pastor direct.

**If you are interested in leading a service on one of
Pastor's Sundays when she is away.**

Sponsor Opportunities Sign up sheets on Narthex Bulletin Board

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.



Altar Flowers

The flower sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. Celebrate a loved one with a fresh flower arrangement from Floral Boutique. Please find someone to share with you if you'd like to. Order forms and checks may be given to Dana Strohl or Lynne Williams.

CELEBRATION HALL RENTALS

Please share with friends. 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/>



What Mission Support Looks Like

A story about our 2025 Churchwide Assembly



Almost a thousand ELCA Lutherans made their way to toasty Phoenix, Ariz., to gather for the 2025 Churchwide Assembly from July 28 to Aug. 2. It was a joyous, thoughtful and busy week. Alongside the normal business of the assembly — considering resolutions, memorials and social statements — voting members were tasked with electing a new presiding bishop and secretary to lead our church for the next six years.

The Rev. Yehiel Curry, who currently serves as the bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod, was elected to serve as our new presiding bishop.

Presiding Bishop-elect Curry has a fascinating vocational story. He started his ministry as a lay mission developer at Shekinah Chapel in Riverdale, Ill., while participating in the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) program in pursuit of ordination. Following his election, he told the assembly, “Perhaps I’m out there in one of you. I never saw myself as good enough. And so, for two years, I said no, and finally said yes to becoming a mission developer. When I said yes, your support, this church’s support, of that ministry meant everything. So if you want to know what your benevolence dollars [including Mission Support] look like, it looks like me. And I want to say thank you. Thank you for your investment.”

The assembly also elected the Rev. Lucille “CeCee” Mills to be our next secretary. Secretary-elect Mills currently serves as assistant to the bishop and interim director for evangelical mission in the ELCA North Carolina Synod. Following her election, she remarked, “I have to echo our newly elected presiding bishop and say, I am the product of you. I am also a TEEM candidate.” Mills celebrated “a new season for our church. I do believe that the reason why I, an African American woman, [can stand] before you, with no degrees in a church that loves to have people who are educated, is because you saw the gifts in me and the possibility and potential in me. ... I celebrate with you that we listen to God’s call and that we will become God’s beloved community.”





Both Presiding Bishop-elect Curry and Secretary-elect Mills celebrated and gave thanks for the support of the whole church, including the impact that the sharing of Mission Support had on both of their ministries. Through Mission Support, synods and the churchwide organization provide vital funding for mission developers, new and emerging ministries, and candidates in the TEEM program, which prepares individuals for ordained ministry in the ELCA, with a focus on emerging ministry contexts such as ethnic-specific, multicultural, rural and inner-city settings. Our next presiding bishop and secretary were both able to answer their new calls in part because of our Mission Support dollars and the investment made in them by the whole church. We all say, Amen.

ELCA MISSION SUPPORT VIDEO

AVAILABLE FOR ALL TO SHARE AT GODSLOVE.ORG/MISSIONSUPPORT

Do you need a way to explain Mission Support to others? This Mission Support video details how your congregational offering supports ministries around the world through our synods and churchwide organization. Of the \$1.6 billion given to ELCA congregations and worshiping communities as regular offerings, most stays with the congregation to fund its vital ministry. A portion — about 5% on average — becomes Mission Support, given by congregations to our synods. Mission Support ensures that synods can find and equip leaders of all ages and deploy an array of ministries, including those of synod companions and those for youth and young adults. Our synods, in turn, give a portion of that Mission Support to our churchwide organization to fund our shared work across the country and around the world. Mission Support is possible only because of your congregational offering. Read more stories about Mission Support at livinglutheran.org/SOFIA.



In gratitude,
Victoria Flood, ELCA Senior Director for Congregation and Synod Support
Nick Kiger, ELCA Director for Mission Support
Karen Kretschmann, ELCA Coordinator for Storytelling Engagement

DID YOU KNOW that your Mission Support helps fund areas of the synod and ELCA 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 lanes of Growing Young, Gaining Strength, and Going Beyond Death to Life, along with the directions of loving like Jesus, healing like Jesus, and engaging like Jesus. To learn more, visit godslove.org/missionsupport.



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

2354 Grove Road
Allentown, PA

October 10 & 11

Friday Oct 10 from 9:00am to 12:00pm

Saturday Oct 11 from 8:00am to 9:00am

Accepted items include Baby Care Kits, School Kits, Personal Care Kits, and Quilts.

godslove.org/2025-lwr-ingathering



2nd Drop Off Location: Christ, Reading Oct 11 at 9:30am or any Friday between 9:00am and 12:00pm

Sunday <i>OCT. 2025</i>	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday 1	Thursday 2	Friday 3	Saturday 4
				Choir 6:30	Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	
5 Pentecost 17 8:30 & 10:00am Sunday School 9:00 – 9:30	6	7 Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm	8 Praise Team 6:30pm	9 Choir 6:30	10 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	11 Blessing of the Animals 5:00pm
12 Pentecost 18 8:30 & 10:00am Sunday School 9:00 – 9:30	13	14 Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm Council Meeting 6:30pm	15	16 Conni's Café 1-3pm Choir 6:30 Finance 6:00pm	17 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Pentecost 19 8:30 & 10:00am Sunday School 9:00 – 9:30		Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm	Praise Team 6:30pm	Choir 6:30	Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Pentecost 20 8:30 & 10:00am Sunday School 9:00 – 9:30 10:00 Service Contemporary w/ Praise Team		Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm		Choir 6:30	Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	