



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield
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Pastor Deb Staniszewski

JULY 2023

ST. PAUL'S CALL



St. Paul's Mission Statement

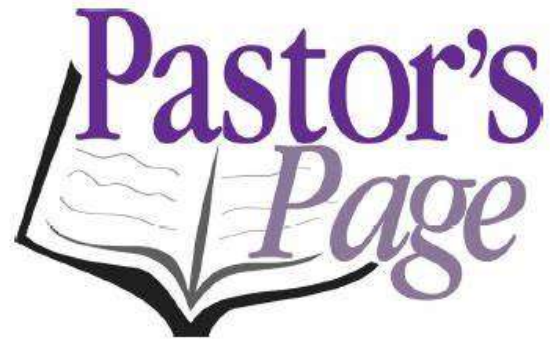
We are a community of faith called to share the good news of Jesus as our model of life.

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.

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

YOU CAN VIEW PAST SERVICES ON OUR FACEBOOK AND WEB SITE.



Summer Greetings!

In his letter to the Philippians Chapter 2, Paul encouraged Jesus followers to be a true community of siblings, when he wrote,

2:1-4 If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care—then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends". (Philippians 2:1-3, MSG)

We will need courage and love to be open, and willing to listen intently to one another, to be vulnerable in sharing our stories and lives with one another, if we hope to be deep-spirited friends.

I'm excited and energized to share that this month in worship and bible study we'll be using a 4 week series designed by the folks at A Sanctified Art called "I've Been Meaning to Ask..."

This series invites us into conversation and listening as we get to know one another more deeply, as we continue to develop and build relationships within our congregation and community.

We will be exploring each of the following four questions, using scripture, resources developed by artists and contributors at A Sanctified Art, and conversation.

The following is from the introduction to the study journal material,

where are you from?

We believe everyone is beloved, shaped from the dust of the earth and the breath of God. Everyone has a story to tell. Our stories are messy and beautiful, painful and hopeful—being written and rewritten over time. *We commit to disrupting our assumptions and staying curious.*

...where does it hurt?

We believe everyone carries hurt and has the capacity to acknowledge the pain of others. We believe God draws close to us in every moment of suffering. *We commit to vulnerability and compassion.*

...what do you need?

We believe everyone has needs, but each of us needs different things at different times. We believe God calls us to care for one another—in seasons of joy, transition, and hardship. *We commit to listening and being present.*

...where do we go from here?

We believe courageous conversations have the power to change and transform us. We believe God bridges connections in unexpected ways. *We commit to continuing the conversation.*

I am looking forward to sharing this worship series with you, as we build and fortify our relationships by engaging in holy curiosity and conversations this summer, and over time

Your Sibling in Christ,

Pastor Deb

Greetings from Worship and Music!

Community Service and Meal – An outside service and community meal with the Praise Team will be held on Wednesday night, August 16th at 6pm. A meal of hot dogs & hamburgers, chips, sodas, watermelon, and a sundae bar is planned. Bring a friend! More information to follow.

Altar Flowers and Bulletins - Celebrate a special person with flower arrangements for the altar. Bulletin sponsorships are also available. Check out the bulletin board to sign-up. Checks may be given to the Church Secretary.

Service Assistants – We need a few more Greeters. Sign-up sheets for the Summer are on the bulletin board. If you are available on the same weeks of each month please sign up for subsequent months. Your help as an acolyte, greeter, lay reader, communion assistant and ushers is most appreciated.

Celebration Hall Building Fund – Please make a donation towards paying off the mortgage on Celebration Hall that serves as a gathering place for the local community. Checks may be made payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield with the words Mortgage Reduction in the note section. Thank you!

Summer Music – If you're interested in playing or singing during the summer, please sign up on the bulletin board on the week you'd like to share your talent during the service. Let Dave Libecap or Kathy Ertle know if you need an accompanist.

Next Meeting – is on Monday, July 31st at 6:30pm. If you have any thoughts about the service or ideas to bring the community to St. Paul's, please share them with a Worship & Music member.

Happy Summer,

Worship & Music



The group will be taking a break July and August and will return in September.

Volunteers Needed!



St. Paul's is joining up with Neola UMC for a Food Fund Raiser at the West End Fair Sunday Aug. 20th -26th.

We are looking for 14 volunteers (2 for each night) to cover 7 evenings 6pm – 10pm.

SIGN UP SHEET ON BULLETIN BOARD



**UP-DATES WILL BE
COMING SOON.**



FOOD PANTRY

July Dates for Pantry Thursday 6th and 20th

9:30am – 12:00noon

Contact Wanda Richardson with any questions.

The food pantry is in need of boxed cold cereal, canned chicken and 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,

Our first Sunday Funday was was successful and such fun! Our July Sunday Funday will be on July 16th from 11:30am-1:30pm.

Vacation Bible School session for this summer will be from August 6th to August 8th from 5-8 pm. Children entering Kindergarten to 5th grade are welcome to attend. Those children entering 6th grade and higher are invited as helpers which are needed! We will also need adult volunteers such as parents and grandparents.

Looking ahead to the fall, we will start youth education with Sunday School and Confirmation Classes. Sunday School will be held on Sunday mornings from 9-9:45 am beginning in September. Confirmation classes will also start in September with more information to follow.

Also starting in September, our youth will have opportunities to participate in worship services, mission trips, service projects and fun recreational outings. More details to follow.

We look forward to a wonderful and fulfilling year with our youth and families!

Please reach out with any questions

Alisa Nixon (908) 279-5242

Pastor Deb (570) 350-5115

Blessings always,
Christian Education Team

JUNE 11th OUTDOOR SERVICE



**SERVICE FOLLOWED BY
A POTLUCK LUNCH IN
CELEBRATION HALL
EVERY ONE HAD A GOOD
TIME.**

Friday Ladies

Friday 9:00am - 12:00am



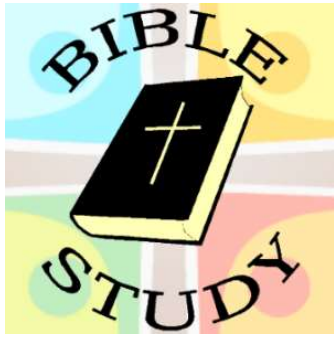
Beautiful Quilt donated by Bonnie will be finished by the Friday Ladies and raffled



6 Lap Robes on their way to Pleasant Valley



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.



BIBLE STUDY

**Every Tuesday from 11:30am to 12:30pm.
Everyone is welcome to come.**



COFFEE HOUR

**Looking for people to host (helpers available)
Sundays after the 10:00am Service**



Homemade Honey

**You can purchase from
Laura or Alan
During Sunday coffee hour.**



**New First Aid Kits are now in the
Office, Kitchen, and Celebration Hall.**

**If you use something just let the
office know so it can be replaced.**



Looking for workers, gardeners anyone that wants to spend quality time with others to help outside the church to pull weeds, plant flowers and spruce up the church property. If interested in joining please contact Lynne in the office.



Big change to the front of the building. Old bushes all pulled out and new bushes and a Red Bud tree put in.

Please take a walk to see the new plants, once the smoke clears we'll have much better pictures !

PLEASE SHARE

Overdose Awareness Day Memorial Drive

DETAILS

Event begins at the Stroudsburg Wesleyan Church with vehicle window painting to honor lost loved ones. Event will feature:

- Speakers
- Vendors
- NARCAN Distribution and Training
- Memorial Photo Slideshow
- Reflection Music
- Candlelight Vigil
- Prayers for Lives Lost
- Pinwheel Dedication Ceremony
- County Proclamation

HOSTED BY

*Rays of Hope for
Addiction*

Did you lose someone to an overdose and want to honor them in our slide show?

Submit pictures and info to the Monroe County Overdose Prevention Coalition Facebook Page or message us using Facebook messenger. Photos and questions can also be sent to email address: raysofhopeforaddiction@gmail.com.



STROUDSBURG
WESLEYAN CHURCH
AUGUST 31ST
5:30 PM



EVERY LIFE LOST
was loved by someone

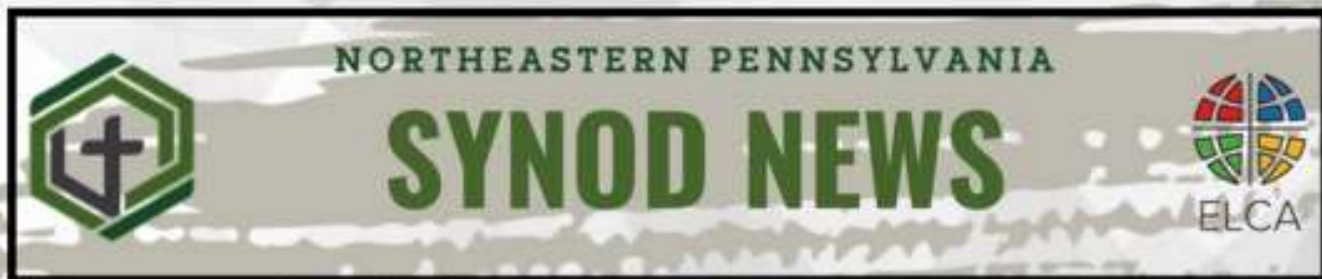
Washable window paint is provided.

Event is outdoors rain or shine.

Stroud Area Regional Police escorted drive through Stroudsburg.



International Overdose Awareness Day
www.overdoseday.com



OF NORTHERN STITCHES, CONTAINER SHIPS, PORT CHAPLAINS AND SEAFARERS: A JOURNEY OF HOPE THRU SIH

BY PASTOR SUSAN TJORNEHOJ, SIH BOARD MEMBER AND SUSTAINER, CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH, BEMIDJI, MN

It is a Thursday morning at Calvary Lutheran Church in Bemidji, MN. Canada is just 107 miles away. The winter morning is brisk, 7 degrees, with a stiff breeze out of the north. This means it feels like way too many degrees below zero. For the 8 to 10 women who are here, cold temps, icy winds, even blowing snow can't keep them home. The call to serve others through the art and craft of quilting is too compelling. Colors surround them, blues and greens, browns and oranges, reds, yellows, floral and stripe, squares and scraps, piecing together discarded fabric into warmth which becomes shawls and tents, blankets, a wedding dress, maybe even a death wrap for those fleeing war or the ravages of climate change. But here in the north, it is simply the joy of community and service.

Today I imagine the journey the quilts will take, from the cold north to a warehouse, into a container bound for a need somewhere in the world. Ukraine or Lebanon? Mali or Burkina Faso? I imagine them loaded onto a train or truck on its way to a port, part of the *Seafarers International House (SIH)* network. Baltimore? Newark? *Seafarers International House (SIH)*, the ELCA seafarers' ministry, has been that intersection where quilters from Bemidji, connect to a port chaplain, a seafarer, a dock worker loading up a container ship bound for somewhere across the Atlantic, through the Panama Canal, to places known and unknown.



For 150 years, hospitality and the welcome of strangers, support for seafarers and newcomers and refugees and immigrants, asylum seekers, this ministry has been a tapestry, a quilt, a piecing together of connection, support and a wayside rest. Perhaps some of the ancestors of these quilting women were assisted by SIH as they disembarked at Battery Park or Ellis Island, bound for a new home in a new land.

This is what interests me on a cold Thursday morning, how the stitches of these women, intersect with a dock worker, a seafarer, a port chaplain, an asylum seeker. This is why I continue to financially support this ministry and serve on its board with great joy, imagining and underwriting the hope, the intersections of strangers around the globe, all uniquely made possible through SIH. 🛖



The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod met in assembly from June 1-3, 2023 at Kalahari Resort in the Poconos. We gathered around Word and Sacrament, Song, Service, friendship, and food. We prayed together, worshipped together, and conducted the business of Christ's church for the first time, in-person, in three years!

In our time together we adopted changes to our constitution from the ELCA, elected a new Secretary, Rev. Ken Melber Jr, elected a new Vice President, Nancy Reichelt, and we adopted three new resolutions concerning money management in congregations, chaplaincy at Diakon home, and land acknowledgment concerning first peoples'. These can be found on the Synod website at www.godslove.org/assembly23



Please call the office for phone number or see Sonji Patrick for contact information.

The Hospitality Committee

Committee meets quarterly to review the operation of Celebration Hall. They take care of advertising the hall as a venue, booking events and acting as on-site stewards during those events. They also oversee the care of the hall including maintenance and cleaning.

Please share with family and friends.



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



JULY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 5 th Sunday of Pentecost 8:30am & 10:00am	3	4 Bible Study 11:30am- 12:30pm	5	6 Food Pantry 9:30am – 12:00noon	7 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	8
9 6 th Sunday of Pentecost 8:30am & 10:00am	10	11 Bible Study 11:30am- 12:30pm	12	13	14 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	15
16 7 th Sunday of Pentecost 8:30am & 10:00am	17	18 Bible Study 11:30am- 12:30pm	19	20 Food Pantry 9:30am – 12:00noon	21 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	22
23 8 th Sunday of Pentecost 8:30am & 10:00am	24	25 Bible Study 11:30am – 12:30pm	26	27	28 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	29
30 9 th Sunday of Pentecost Healing Service 8:30am & 10:00am	31 W&M 6:30pm					