

St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield
139 Craig's Meadow Rd.
East Stroudsburg, Pa. 18301
Phone: 570-223-9422

E-mail: stpaulscraigsmeadow@verizon.net
Web Site: stpaulscommunitychurch.com
Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield

ST. PAUL'S CALL

AUGUST 2025

Pastor Deb Staniszewski

Check out our new Instagram:
[st.pauls_smithfield](https://www.instagram.com/st.pauls_smithfield)



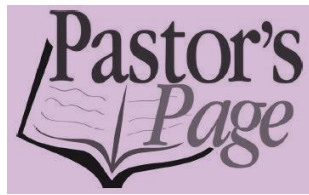
SUNDAY SERVICES
8: 30AM AND 10:00AM

(all service time changes will be e-mailed to you for the month of August)

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.

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.



Summer Greetings,

What an incredible summer it has been! We have been praying for God's direction through the Holy Spirit, and so many new things are happening among us! God said through the prophet Isaiah in chapter 53 verse 19,

“¹⁹ Look! I'm doing a new thing;
now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it?
I'm making a way in the desert,
paths in the wilderness.
(Isaiah 43:19 CEB)

This is an exciting time to celebrate and thank God for all of the “new things” that are going on here in our faith community!

Series of congregational gatherings. This summer, Chris Matthy led us in three fun and fruitful meetings to consider, reflect, and pray on God's mission for us here at St. Paul's through the book of Acts. We shared conversation, food, and fun! Our transformation team have been prayerfully working with the results of the meetings, so be on the lookout for the fruits of this process, our new guiding statements which should be complete by early this fall.

The playground revitalization project! We are so blessed and thankful to have worked together with the Little League Softball parents to clean up the playground last month, and now that the area is clear we're working to update, repair and replace equipment so that families and kids in the community have fun playground to enjoy.

Hike for Betty! Our sister in Christ Tracey D'imperio Lasslett, has decided to dedicate her hike through Scotland to dementia awareness and to raise funds for Conni's Café, the memory café here in Celebration Hall the 3rd Thursday of each month starting September 18, 2025.

Bird, Bee, and Butterfly garden! Our gardeners did an amazing job providing the community, including our wildlife friends in the area with a wonderful garden to enjoy, and spend time surrounded by beauty.

Thanks be to God who is always doing a new thing in and through us! And thanks to all of you who are recognizing and joining in God's healing restorative work in the world, our community, and in your own relationships and hearts.

Your Sibling in Christ,
Pastor Deb

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

Operating Funds

	June <u>2025</u>	Year to <u>Date</u>	Year to Date <u>Budget</u>
CHURCH INCOME			
GENERAL INCOME	\$10,647.23	\$57,413.01	\$60,225.06
BENEVOLENCE INCOME	80.00	878.00	1,250.04
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	2,625.34	11,617.18	9,600.00
INTEREST INCOME	<u>728.86</u>	<u>1,613.05</u>	<u>2,019.96</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$14,081.43</u>	<u>\$71,521.24</u>	<u>\$73,095.06</u>
CHURCH EXPENSES			
STAFF	\$9,434.39	\$54,431.52	\$56,461.92
BENEVOLENCE EXPENSE			
Benevolence (Synod)	583.34	3,500.00	3,627.48
PARISH ADMINISTRATION	482.31	3,333.88	3,300.00
WORSHIP	228.00	1,387.03	2,767.44
LEARNING	71.53	383.39	1,124.94
PROPERTY	4,465.16	28,080.94	20,892.54
DEBT PAYMENTS	1,229.00	7,135.00	7,030.98
STEWARDSHIP	0.00	271.40	349.98
OUTREACH	0.00	275.00	249.96
WITNESS	0.00	0.00	289.98
SOCIAL FELLOWSHIP	<u>13.18</u>	<u>149.56</u>	<u>574.98</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$16,506.91</u>	<u>\$98,947.72</u>	<u>\$96,670.20</u>
EXCESS INCOME/(EXPENSES)	<u>(\$2,425.48)</u>	<u>(\$27,426.48)</u>	<u>(\$23,575.14)</u>

Current Cash Accounts

CHECKING ACCOUNTS	\$11,126.62	
THRIVENT FINANCIAL	<u>66,378.85</u>	
TOTAL CASH ACCOUNTS		<u>\$77,505.47</u>

Special Funds

SPECIAL FUNDS INCOME			
BENEVOLENCE			
Pantry/Good Samaritan	\$300.00	\$2,177.90	\$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	61.22	124.38	0.00
COMMUNITY GARDENS	<u>0.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS INCOME	<u>\$361.22</u>	<u>\$4,332.28</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
SPECIAL FUNDS DISBURSEMENTS			
BENEVOLENCE			
Pantry/Good Samaritan	\$0.00	\$2,029.63	\$0.00
Pastor's Discretion	97.01	447.01	0.00
Postage (Pantry)	0.00	14.60	0.00
MUSIC	<u>0.00</u>	<u>56.99</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$97.01</u>	<u>\$2,548.23</u>	<u>0.00</u>

Special Funds Cash Accounts

CHECKING ACCOUNTS	\$14,440.12	
THRIVENT FINANCIAL	<u>5,628.59</u>	
TOTAL CASH ACCOUNTS		<u>\$20,068.71</u>

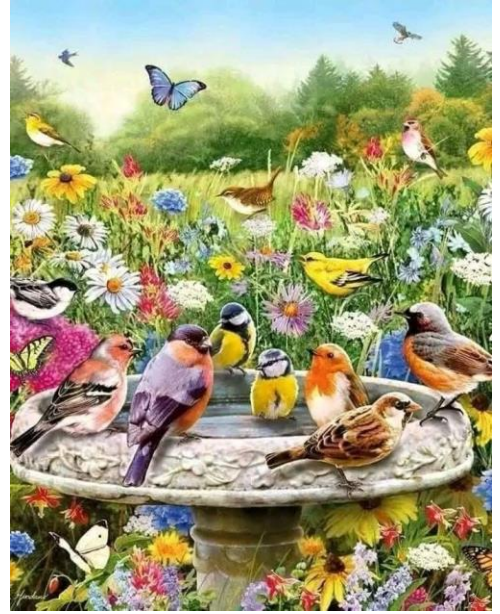
Playground Restoration Workday

Saturday, July 26

THANKS TO THOSE WHO COULD HELP GOOD JOB! Restoring our playground. Included taking down the fence, removing two dead trees, cleaning out the brush, raking the rubber mulch, and removing any broken equipment.



BEE, BUTTERFLY & BIRD GARDEN



GARDEN DEDICATION DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED.

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



MONTH OF AUGUST

**WE ARE COLLECTING DOG ITEMS FOR
CAMP PAPILLION**

**A BOX IS IN THE NARTHEX FOR YOU TO PUT
YOUR DONATIONS.**

www.camppapillon.org Open daily 11am -5pm (no visitors between 1:00 - 2:00 as our residents are eating during this time).

128 Brainerd Lane Stroudsburg, PA 18360 (570) 801-6166



Next Pantry is Thursday August 7th

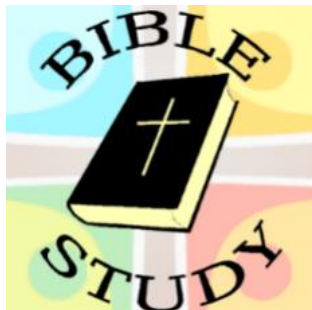
9:30am – 12:00noon

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: August 7th,
September 4th
October 2nd
November 6th
December 4th

Any changes will be announced.



**Every Tuesday
JOIN US**

11:30am to 12:30pm.

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.

Come on Friday and Join in.



**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



Hike for Betty: Fighting Dementia, one step at a time

Tracey Lasslett, a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church is taking the hiking trip of a lifetime to bring attention and awareness to Dementia and how it affects families.

Tracey will be hiking in Scotland between September 9 and 23.

Tracey's mother, Betty, is living with dementia. She was an avid hiker in her time and loves the outdoors. Tracey is honoring her mother by bringing awareness to the needs of families affected with dementia by literally taking a hike!



Between August 4 and September 23, St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield will be accepting donations for the specific purpose of spreading awareness of Dementia including resources and support for families in Monroe County.

You can donate to "Hike, for Betty" Via PayPal where you can donate with a credit card. Make sure to put "Hike for Betty" in the notes section. Or in person at St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield

Join Us



Conni's Cafe

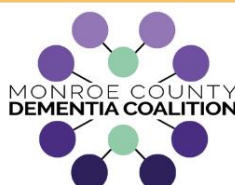


September 18th 1-3pm
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
139 Craigs Meadow Road
East Stroudsburg, Pa 18301
Celebration Hall

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."



Member of the Dementia Friendly PA community network



Hello Church Youth Families,

Sunday School is on break for the summer.

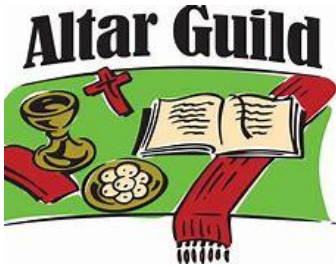
Blessings always,

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.

Musical Opportunities –



If you're interested in singing or playing an instrument during the summer season, just take a moment to sign up on the bulletin board.

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 (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





Nurtured by Community, Sent to Serve: A Candidacy Story

Written by: Heidi Shilanskas, Candidate for Word and Service



Hi! My name is Heidi Shilanskas, and I am a Deacon Candidate at United Lutheran Seminary, serving at Star of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, Pa. I am in my final year of Seminary, preparing to start my internship this fall. I am looking forward to graduating in May of 2026 from ULS and starting my call as a Deacon in Northeast Penn Synod.

I have always been involved in Youth and Family Ministry since my own days as a youth, going to Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) Assemblies and participating in Mission District progressive dinners. As a paid youth worker at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Easton, I took classes out of the Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg (now ULS) on youth ministry and learned from professors and leaders in the field how to look beyond the church walls for service projects for youth. After I got married and had my own

children, I started to look for new ways we could participate in church in a culture that doesn't center congregational ministry the same way it did when I was growing up. As a member of St. Mark's in Bethlehem, I started dreaming of new ways to involve children, teens and their parents in ministry beyond the church, making service in our communities a core element of church life.

My candidacy journey started when Pastor Brandon Heavner suggested I'd be a good candidate for ministry. At first, I scoffed at his certainty, but he was tenacious and after many, many discerning conversations about call and passion, I decided to move forward with candidacy. The next step was meeting with Pastor Rachael Dietz, then Executive Associate to the Bishop and Director of Candidacy. Her warmth and encouragement helped me feel secure in the decision to go to Seminary. Without Pastor Brandon and Pastor Rachael, I would never have dreamed God's call on my life would have included Candidacy and Seminary. I am forever grateful for their faith in me.

For my internship, I plan on implementing some of those dreams. I am looking forward to creating "family style" worship services that are intergenerational and interactive so all members can participate in the liturgy. I am planning Bible studies with a focus on service and using our gifts to serve our neighbors.

I will use social media and online tools to create more opportunities to connect with people. Finally, I am hoping to work more closely with the Bethlehem

Interfaith Group on creating ecumenical services projects with our neighbors who aren't just Lutheran, but Presbyterian, Moravian, Jewish or Muslim, etc. I am excited to find ways to be a part of a wider community of neighbors.

My ministry is centered around Jesus' command to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Diaconal work looks outside



of our church buildings to find the needs in the community and make connections to the resources of time, talent and treasure stored within our walls. As I meet and talk to Deacons across the ELCA, I am inspired by the courage, creativity and experimentation that fosters new and exciting way of reaching God's people outside of the church buildings. I am hopeful that my own work will continue in this

tradition, planting seeds of love in communities desperately in need of joy.

If you are interested in or discerning Candidacy, please contact Pastor Jennifer Heavner at pastor@starofbethlehemlutheran.com

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 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.

God's work. Our hands.

September 7, 2025

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Use the QR code above or visit elca.org to learn more



How will you be observing
GWOH Sunday?



ONE WEEK
AFTER

Learn
more



godslove.org/events

September 14, 2025

The Lutheran Center: 2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of Lutheran Congregational Services! Help make it meaningful by assembling over 100 Flood Clean-Up Buckets and Women's Hygiene Kits for neighbors in need. **You don't have to attend in person to take part.** Congregations and individuals can help by signing up to donate kit items using the QR code or URL, then drop them off on September 14 or contact Heidi Shilanskas (hshilanskas@gmail.com) to arrange a drop-off.

Sunday AUGUST	Monday 2025	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	2
3 Pentecost 8 8:30 & 10:00am 10am service Tracey Lasslett Power Point Presentation On Hike in Scotland for Dementia **During Coffee hour Stacey Burke From synod	4	5 Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm	6 Work Group 6:30 – 7:30pm	7	8 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	9
10 Pentecost 9 Service & Congregational Meeting Schedule Early 8:30 – 9am Meeting 9:15- 10:15 Late Service 10:30 – 11am	11	12 Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm Council Meeting 6:30pm	13	14 Work Group 6:30 – 7:30pm	15 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Pentecost 10 8:30 & 10:00am		Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm		Finance 6:00pm	Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	
24 Pentecost 11 8:30 & 10:00am	25	26 Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm	27	28	29 Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	30
31 Pentecost 12 8:30 & 10:00am			**Stacey Burke from NEPA synod will be giving Presentation "Growing Young"			