

**April
2021**

The Messenger

St. Paul's Lutheran Church



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
EGGERTSVILLE

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



**If you are planning on attending In-Person Worship,
PLEASE RSVP BY THURSDAY APRIL 1st**

**- April 1st Maundy Thursday -
6:30 pm Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87259210205>

Meeting ID: 872 5921 0205
One tap mobile
+19294362866,,87259210205# US (New York)

**- April 2nd Good Friday In-Person Worship -
12 pm WNY Church Unleashed on WBBZ
7 pm St. Paul's**

**- April 4th Easter In-Person Worship -
6:30 am Sunrise Service front lawn of St. Paul's
8:00 am St. Paul's (if enough RSVP's)
9:15 am St. Paul's
10:00 am WNY Church Unleashed on WBBZ
10:30 am St. Paul's**

**CELEBRATE AND WORSHIP WITH
US AS WE WAKE TO A BLESSED
AND HAPPY EASTER!**



*St. Paul's is a congregation of the Niagara Frontier Conference of the Upstate New York Synod
Of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)*

A message from Pastor Steve

Dear Friends and Missionaries at St. Paul's,

Grieve. Heal. Reconnect. Three powerful words as we "resurrect" life after a year of this pandemic.

I was talking with Pastor Nate Preisinger (prior pastor at Parkside Lutheran) and he shared that in the weeks ahead, he'll be focusing his church on those three words. I think it's powerful wisdom and wanted to share it with you.

See, just as we all had to move through the bulk of the pandemic in a way/style that was comfortable for each of us, we also have to resurrect new life with similar boundaries. However, I believe that it will be important for each of us to focus on these three words as we do it.

Grieve. Take the time to grieve and remember the things that were lost over this past year. Recognize and honor the lostness of this past year. The people, on a macro and micro level. Hundreds of thousands and close friends and family. Events. Church stuff. Relationships. Health. Whatever it is, it's important to honor it in a way that works for you.

Heal. Part of moving fully through grief is allowing yourself to begin healing. Give yourself permission to start. Start walking into your new normal when you are ready. On your timing. Give yourself the opportunity to return to "normal adaptive behavior." Was your old normal something you want to dive back into? Or is there a new normal that is actually healthier for you? I will share with you that, as many of you know, my winters are usually filled with illness. I have a terrible immune system and am ill more than I'm fully healthy from November through March. However, this year, during a global pandemic, I wasn't sick at all. Mainly because of distance, masks, sanitizer and lack of touching/shaking hands. So in my own healing, I will not be adding "shaking hands with/hugging the pastor" on the way out of church. It's not because I don't love seeing you, but I yearn for healthier winters and can do more ministry when I'm not sick! So what will your healing look like?

Reconnecting. How do you comfortably reconnect to people, places, traditions and patterns of the past? How do you reconnect and find community? Will all the digital interactions stop or were some of them better than what you had before? How do you reconnect with church, mission, ministry, volunteering, serving and sharing compassion?

Grieve. Heal. Reconnect. Let me know if you want to talk about any of these in the days and weeks ahead.

And on a completely different note: WELCOME ABOARD to Andrew Gruszka, our new Director of Digital Ministry. Andrew has been our sound engineer for WNY Church Unleashed and is joining the staff to help us continue, propel and grow our digital media outreach to the community around us and across the country. He'll be at St. Paul's some Sundays running the sound/video room (his sanctuary balcony office), training/managing that team and taking some of our onsite ministries into the digital and global world! What we learned in the pandemic is that St. Paul's has been truly unleashed into the world to share the good news of Jesus. Now Andrew is our staff person that will help make that happen! We will see you at Easter and beyond. Thanks for being an incredible church community!

Be well, healthy and blessed
ps

A message from your Council President

Dear Congregation,

Happy Spring! It is so good to see flourishing plans to attend services in person as the weather improves, more people are vaccinated, and we celebrate this Easter Season. Welcome back whenever you feel comfortable attending. We continue to have socially distanced seating and wear masks. Communion is taken individually or by household group in the pews. As the weather improves, we hope to reinstate coffee hour outside.

We are happy you are with us whether you are at 4007 Main Street or your couch and kitchen tables at home.

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on May 2, 2021 at 10:45am, after church service. You will have the ability to attend in-person at St. Paul's or on Zoom. The Zoom link will be sent out that week. At that meeting, we will give updates on all of our building renovations. We will vote for three council members. Sue Renken-Mintzer is completing her second term. We are grateful for her work and thoughtful contributions. Cheryl Gillen and Vern Stein are completing a second term. We will also be voting on a constitutional amendment as listed below.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment:

C21.05.01. and C21.05. We want to modify C21.05 from, "Endowment funds will consider a percentage of the balance at year-end to be the income for that year. The percentage will be set in the bylaws, but must be between five (5) percent and ten (10) percent." to "Endowment funds will consider a percentage of the balance at year-end to be the income for that year, as needed. The maximum percentage will be ten (10) percent." C21.05.01 should be modified from, "The income percentage shall be six (6) percent of the ending balance each year." to "The income percentage will be as proposed by the Finance Committee and approved by Council at the December meeting."

Please feel free to speak to me or any council members if you have questions. Our names are all listed in the Sunday bulletin.

Debbie Howe, Council President



Please remember that even though the church office is currently still open, we are still abiding by CDC rules. We ask that if you plan on coming into the building for any purpose, you must contact the office staff in advance to let us know of your visit. We respectfully ask you to please not stop by unannounced. Masks are still mandatory at all times in the building and we ask that you remain 6 feet apart as well. The health and safety of our staff, volunteers, and members are priority to us and we want to make sure that we create a safe space for everyone. Thank you!

Haiti



Despite the challenges of Covid and political turmoil in Haiti that cancelled our March medical team's visit (Michelle Biegner and Gail Singer were on that team), ministry continues at Grace Church, School and Medical Clinic. We are thrilled to announce that a major gift came in to help complete the fundraising for the medical clinic building. We have been working on the project's fundraising for over five years and will hopefully see the completion of the build by year's end.

We are also thrilled to announce that this summer we will have
18 more weddings on a warm Saturday in June!

Thank you to Todd Scanlon and Scanlon Jewelers for donating all the wedding rings for the couples.

We'll keep you posted on future mission teams hopefully heading back down in the fall. Thank you to the WNY Impact Foundation Board which continues to quietly work toward caring for and partnering with our brothers and sisters in Haiti to bring the good news of God's love to all people!

We are truly the church unleashed to "reach beyond ourselves!"



Lent at St. Paul's

Adult Forum



Lenten Adult Forum about Race continues

Tuesdays at 7 pm,
Lois O'Brian will be leading an
Zoom Adult Forum discussion based
on the book
Waking up White, by Debbie Irving.
It's not too late to jump in at anytime!
Come join us!

* If you would like to participate in the Forum
but do not have the ability to purchase the
book, please contact the office and we will mail
you a copy.

Bible Study



Come join us every Tuesday at 10 am in the
Fellowship Room at St. Paul's (weather permitting).

After Easter (probably beginning 4/13) we will be
looking at "Last Night I Dreamed" how God spoke
and speaks through dreams

If you would like to attend but would need
to come via Zoom, let Mary Wolf know and
we will work that out.

(Mary's e-mail: stpauls1827@juno.com)

Please remember that according to CDC regulations,
we will be meeting safely socially distanced
and also wearing masks.

Comforters

Comforters will meet
- Wednesday April 7th -
Upstairs in the Dining area next to the
Parish Hall from 10 am—noon.

If you have any questions about participating in
this amazing group, please reach out to the
office at 835-0407.

See you there!

On-line Directory

The St. Paul's Church Directory is now on-line!
It will only be accessible to active members at
St. Paul's and it will only have the information that is
on the current paper copy Directory.

But, now, you will be able to access it online.
You can also download the app on your phone/tablet.
Go to www.instantchurchdirectory.com and click
Member login. You will need to enter the email
address that we have on file. They will send you a
verification email and then you can set up your own
personal password (any password of your choosing).

Once that is done, you will have access to the
directory! You will be able to edit your family
information such as contact information and pictures!

If you have any questions, please email Katie at
katie@stpaulseggertsville.org

WNY Church Unleashed



If you still don't feel comfortable coming to In-Person Worship
OR you just can't make it Sunday morning to St. Paul's,
please remember that you can tune-in to see Pastors Steve, Julius, and Jeremiah
at 10 am every Sunday morning on MeTV (Channel 67 For DIRECTV, Channel 5 for Cable,
Fios, Dish Network, Antenna tuned to 67.1).

The worship service is now called "WNY Church Unleashed."
Join us also for St. Paul's Zoom Coffee 1/2 hour right after worship at 10:40 am.

A link will be emailed out on Fridays.

If you would like to be added to the email updates that go out every week, please email the office at
katie@stpaulseggertsville.org or call 716-835-0407.

In the Church Family

Welcome Baby Jack Robert Thomas
born to Brit and Sean Thomas on March 25th, 2021
Grandson to Tom and Sue Mumma



Congratulations on the Baptism of
Hannah Krawczyk
From Fire Church



Our sincere sympathies go to the Vanderslice/Emerson/Piette families on the loss of
Pastor Willaim A. Vanderslice.

Pastor Bill was an intern here at St. Paul's with Carl Olin back in 1981/82,
where he met and married Marcia Emerson Vanderslice.

Each month, St. Paul's will be sharing important life events that happen within our church family.
Please contact the office with any information that needs to be shared.

New Missionary Sunday

New Missionaries will be welcomed into the St. Paul's Family

On Sunday April 11th during worship.



Will and Shirley Barnes

Michelle and Lauren Biegner

Joel Carter and Joanne Baroli-Carter

Heidi Ginal and Kevin Koestler

Jim and Judy Meyer

Wesley and Sharon Ries

Cortez and Vanessa Solomon

Your money at work

Dear Friends, Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center is truly blessed by friends like you who give to our ministry. Your generous donation will help us continue to reach out and connect with many individuals. Your support is so important to LCLC. In Christ, Lee M. Lindeman, Executive Director

Thank you again so much for your wonderfully generous support of our Leadership Council campaign again for 2021! Take care and best regards, David, Executive Director of Development and Marketing Niagara Lutheran Health Foundation

We are deeply grateful to you for your partnership and faith in United Lutheran Seminary. Your ability to support seminary education is a ministry in its own right, and your ministry in this vein is a blessing to the students, faculty and staff at ULS. Thank you for sharing your compassion and for continuing to support United Lutheran Seminary. Rev. Dr. Angela Zimmann, Vice President for Institutional Advancement

*Dear Pastor Biegner and friends at St. Paul's,
Thank you for your gift of 2,240 pounds of food donations and your gift of \$5,000 to FeedMore WNY that was raised during your first Annual Holiday Needs Drive in December. Because you chose to give, thousands of WNY'ers of all ages can put nutritious meals on their tables. Thank you again for helping us distribute "more food" and do "more good" in WNY.
Sincerely Gaelyn Clay-Adams, Special Events and Volunteer Coordinator.*

Sunday School



Welcome spring!

It is so nice to start seeing signs of life and warmer weather heading our way!
As you know, in-person Sunday School has resumed and is held during the 30 minute in-person worship service at St. Paul's. We meet upstairs in the Parish Hall, as well as streaming live on the St. Paul's Facebook page.

The Sunday School children have been learning the Gospel that is shared in church in a child friendly way. In addition to the lessons, the children have put together bags of needed items to be delivered to the homeless during the Burrito Project Tuesdays. They have also cleaned out the front library box and replaced it with food items for those in need, and made cards for our shut-in members!

On March 21st , I presented our new and exciting "Faith Based" breakout box!

What is a breakout box you ask?

A Breakout Box is similar to an escape room...but in a box. In a Breakout Box activity, children work together and think how to solve the clues given to unlock several locks to "break into" the box. They must solve puzzles and follow directions carefully to succeed. Once they succeed in getting through all of the locks, the box will contain a surprise treasure!

Each Sunday School family is invited to receive our faith based Breakout Box on
Easter Day following the 10:30am service.

Please let me know if your family is interested in sharing this exciting, fun experience!

While the families enjoy these special boxes, the clues and lessons learned will be their form of Sunday School. Families can take their time in solving the clue's and can hold onto the boxes until in-person Sunday School resumes on April 25th! That is the day we will be requesting the breakout boxes and locks are returned. All treasures that were inside the box are for the children to keep!

I am looking forward to sharing this fun new adventure with the children!

Have a wonderful and safe Easter!
He has Risen Indeed!

Peace, love & keep the faith ~ June

Youth Group and Burrito Project

Youth Night

Last month was eventful for the Youth Group. We had an awesome time at Youth Night on the 6th.

Played a few different games and ate a lot of pizza. We also had a great discussion based on Luke chapter 4, the season of Lent, and waiting for Jesus to come.

The next Youth Night will be held on Saturday, April 10th, from 7-9pm.

Games, pizza, and Devos! Grades 6-12 welcome!

Burrito Project

As always, the Burrito Project was a great success.! We handed out 80 burritos, water bottles, chips, and granola bars. We also gave out multiple winter hats, gloves, socks and blankets and bags of toiletries etc. from the Sunday School children. We are hoping for some warmer weather in the upcoming months. All of the left-over winter donations will be handed out next season! We had a few new faces volunteering this past month. One youth approached me halfway through and said, "Adam I love this! It makes me so happy to be able to help those in need. I can't wait to do this again next month." It's comments like that

that make me happy and enjoy the work that we do.

It's always a blessing to help, and to see youth enjoy doing God's work.

The St. Paul's Youth Group participate in the Burrito Project the third Tuesday of every month to prepare homemade bean and rice burritos and lunch bags to be delivered to the homeless, poor, and working poor living on the streets of Buffalo.

We will have a small group in the kitchen making the burritos at 6 pm, and then another small group walking around downtown Buffalo handing out the burritos from 7-8:30 pm (we will be wearing masks and keeping a good distance).

Let Adam know in advance if you are interested!

April donation needs:

-New men's underwear

-Men and Women's deodorant

-Toothbrushes and travel size toothpaste

Next project will be Tuesday, April 20th, from 6-9pm.



Tiger's Den Food Pantry



Are you looking for a challenging, rewarding new experience?

Are you tired of staring at the four walls at home?

Are you so deeply addicted to the soap operas that you need an intervention?

Have you received your complete Covid-19 vaccination shots?

Well, we could use your help!!

The Tiger's Den Food Pantry would like to invite our previous volunteers back, and if you have never volunteered but would like to help out, we could use your assistance. Since the beginning of Covid in March 2020, the same eight adult volunteers and four young people have kept the pantry alive and serving families in need in our area.

If you are interested in volunteering to help us when the pantry is open, be aware you will not be working directly with the families since we still cannot allow them into the pantry.

You will be working alongside other volunteers who have received their Covid vaccination(s) and continue to wear face masks.

For additional details, please give me a call at 837-2439,
and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you, Adrienne Leary

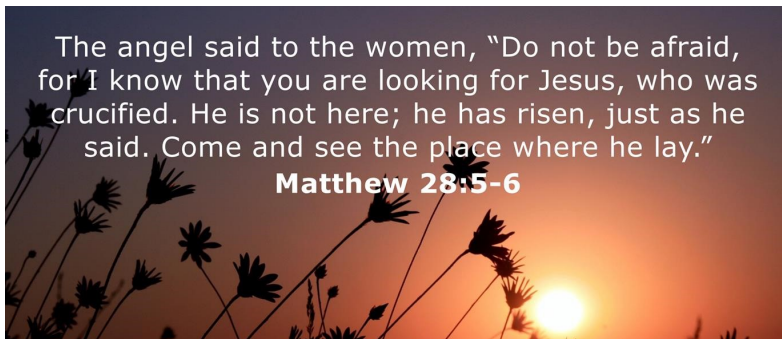
April Pantry Hours: Thursdays: 4/1, 4/15, and 4/29 from 3:00 pm to 6:30 pm

Saturdays: 4/10 and 4/24 from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

April pantry items needed: Canned fruits and canned vegetables

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid,
for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was
crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he
said. Come and see the place where he lay."

Matthew 28:5-6



The Daily Bread Food Truck Mission



The Daily Bread Food Truck and the Tiger's Den Food Pantry have teamed up together to help those hungry in the community. The Daily Bread Food Truck will be offering free meals at St. Paul's to the "Pantry Families" when the pantry is open on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Thursdays, And the 2nd and 4th Saturdays.

The meal-share dates for April are
Thursdays April 1st, 15th, and 29th at St. Paul's from 3-6 pm, and
Saturdays April 10th and 24th at St. Paul's from 9 am-12 pm,

If you would like to sponsor a "giving meal" event or help Hand out meals during our meal-share days. Please contact Katie at 716-835-0407.

!!! EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT !!!

Starting April 12th,
The Daily Bread Food Truck will be parked at the Amherst High School front parking lot loop every Monday from 5-7 pm handing out free hot meals to the community.
If you would like to come and support the Daily Bread Food Truck, donations are accepted.



Cheesy Chick is going to be offering grilled cheese/ mac & cheese from the truck every other Monday starting April 12th (which just so happens to be "National Grilled Cheese Day")! There will be other restaurants involved, as well. More information coming soon!



If you would like to help us on those days, please contact Katie for more information.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
4007 Main Street
Eggertsville, NY 14226

*Remember that things are changing by the day.
Please check your email and/or
Facebook for updates.
If you need to reach us, please contact the office
at 716-835-0407 or email katie@stpaulseggertsville.org.
Stay safe, stay healthy, and know that you are loved.*

** The Gathering Area is now open from 9:30-10:00 am for coffee. We are following the same
NYS Restaurant Protocols which mean that masks must be worn until seated at table.*



716-835-0407
www.stpaulseggertsville.org
Pastor Steve Biegner (716-868-1232 cell)
Administrative Director: Katie Basham
Office/Tiger's Den Food Pantry Coordinator: Adrienne Leary
Youth Director: Adam Weber
Music Director: Paul Storfer