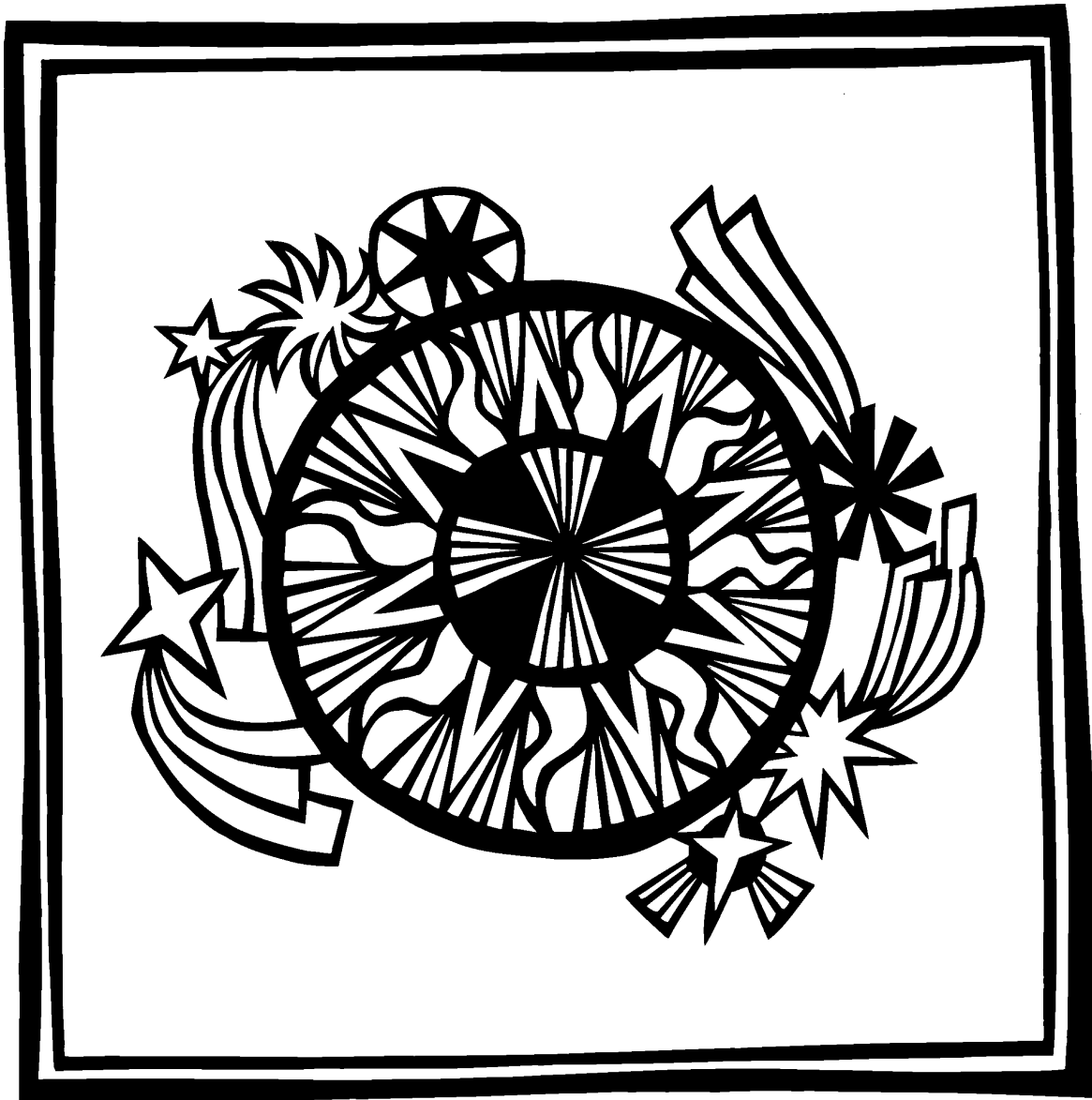


*Second Sunday  
of Christmas*



*January 2, 2022*

*Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church*  
*Second Sunday of Christmas—Family Blessing Service*  
*January 2, 2022*



***Prelude Music***

*Welcome to a time of blessing for you and your family! Later in the service, you are invited to come forward with your family, masked, to the baptismal font and to receive communion. Come with your family, members of your St. Paul's family, or just on your own with your family in your heart and gather around the font to receive God's blessing in the beginning of this New Year. After your time at the font, you may proceed to communion to receive God's grace in the bread and wine. All are welcome today to come forward and take part in one or both parts of the blessing.*

***Brief order for Confession and Forgiveness***

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, Love from the beginning, Word made flesh, Breath of heaven.
- C Amen.
- P Let us confess our sinfulness before God and one another, trusting in God's endless mercy and love. (Please kneel or sit as you are able.)
- Merciful God,
- C we confess that we are not perfect. We have said and done things we regret. We have tried to earn your redeeming grace, while denying it to others. We have resisted your call to be your voice in the world. Forgive us, loving God. Give us your righteousness, the strength to put aside our failures, and the courage to try again. Amen.
- P Dear people of God, hear the good news: Christ the Savior is born! You are loved and forgiven in the name of ✝ Jesus, who has come among us. You are freed from proving that you deserve to be loved, because God's love is given to you as the most precious gift of all. Rejoice in this love and share it with the world.
- C Amen.

### *Apostolic Greeting*

**P** The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

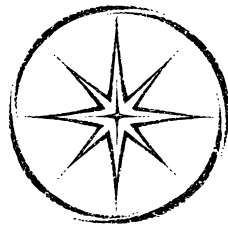
**C** **And also with you.**

### *Salutation and Prayer of the Day*

**P** Let's pray †

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**



### *First Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14*

*In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made know as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

**A** The Word of the Lord

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

P The Holy Gospel according to John the 1st Chapter

C Glory to you, O Lord.

*Gospel: John 1:[1-9] 10-18*

*John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.*

[In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.] He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

*Sermon: "What are we searching for", Pastor Steve Biegner*



## *Apostle's Creed*

- A Let's join to proclaim our faith in the Apostles' Creed:
- C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

## *Prayers of the Church*

- A Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. (Please kneel or sit as you are able.)  
  
Holy God, you make your presence known to the church in every land. Give to us a desire and will to support the diverse work of the church throughout the world. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.
- A Generous Creator, in you all things came into being and without you not one thing exists. We praise you for the snow and rain that water the earth. Move us to care for the well-being of the work of your hands. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.
- A Savior of the nations, you gather in your care people of every age and ability, from lands near and far. Inspire the leaders of the nations to work for peace within their countries and in all the world. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.
- A Saving God, provide for your people who begin this new year in need. Grant shelter to those who are homeless, comfort to all who are lonely, and a strong sense of your presence to those who are sick, especially the people on our Prayer List and those we name either silently or aloud. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.
- A Word of truth, your good news of salvation is proclaimed among us. Bless all who proclaim your word in this community, especially teachers, pastors, deacons, musicians, and lectors. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.

- A Gracious One, your light shines in the darkness and it is not overcome. We thank you for the witnesses who have testified to your light. May their lives continue to inspire us. Hear us, O God.
- C **Your mercy is great.**
- A Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C **Amen**

### *Ways to Give to St. Paul's*

With our return to in-person worship, we thought we would let you know about a couple of options you can use to continue tithing to St. Paul's:

- **In-Person Worship:** Continue to put your envelopes and cash in the plate
- **Giving by Mail:** If you are not be able to attend worship in person, please mail your donations payable to St. Paul's - 4007 Main Street, Eggertsville, NY 14226
- **Online:** On the St. Paul's website is a link to Online Giving which will allow you to donate either via PayPal or credit card. Click the Online Giving button and you will be taken to the site to set up an account, where to direct your donation, and the amount you want to donate. The website is: <https://stpaulseggertsville.com/online-giving/>

### *Offering Music and prayer*

- P Let us pray.
- C **Giver of every good thing, we set before you the gifts that you have already given to sustain our lives and to share with others. Help us to be good stewards of the earth and all that is in it, and let our lives be a testimony to the abundant feast you prepare for all who hunger. Amen.**

### *Dialogue and Preface*

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right and proper that we should at all times and in all places, offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and speak their unending hymn:

### *Sanctus (spoken)*

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

### *Words of Institution*

P In the night in which he was handed over, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

### *Lord's Prayer*

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

***Holy Communion at St. Paul's: celebrated every time we gather, and is open to all.***

*Please approach by the center aisle, receive the bread, take the wine and return to your seat via the side aisle. \*Or remain in your seat and use the elements you picked up on the way into church. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. Simply request it from the assisting minister holding the wine. Children are welcome! Those who receive elsewhere may receive here. Children who do not yet receive may come for a blessing. If you have difficulty walking, communion will be brought to you at your seat.*

***Communion Blessing***

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you  
in his grace.

C Amen.

***Prayer After Communion***

P Emmanuel, God with us, you grace us with life and breath and give us bread for the  
journey. Send us out in service to this world that you love, telling the amazing news of  
your coming to be Savior and Lord of all.

C Amen.

***Benediction***

P And now as you go on your way, may the Lord go with you. May he go before you to  
show you the way, behind you to encourage you, beside you to be your friend, above you  
to watch over you, and within you to give you peace. Go today celebrating in the name of  
the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, and all God's children said...

C Amen.

***Sharing the Peace and Sending***

P May you be unleashed, unleashed into the world, as we go in peace and serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God.



*Having somewhere to go is **Home***  
*Having people to care about is **Family***  
*Having both is a **Blessing***



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: January 2-9th, 2022

- TODAY:** 10:00 am: WNY Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV  
10:00 am: In-Person Worship, Communion, Annual Family Blessing Service  
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope
- Monday:** 4:30-6:30 pm: Daily Bread Food Truck Meal-Share at St. Paul's
- Tuesday:** 10:00 am: Bible Study
- Wednesday:** 10:00 am: Comforters Meeting  
1:00 pm: Pinocle Group starts  
8:00 pm: AA Meeting
- Thursday:** 3-7:00 pm: Tiger's Den Food Pantry is open  
7:00 pm: Alanon
- Saturday:** Youth Group Christmas Party  
9:00-3:00 pm: Peniel Haitian Church Worship
- Sunday:** 10:00 am: WNY Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV  
10:00 am: In-Person Worship  
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope

***Prayer List: In our congregational family: (\* indicates new names or changes added this week)***

Neal DeLeo: Brothers of Mercy, 10570 Bergtold Road, Clarence, NY 14031

Richard Elliott: 34 Pino Alto Court, Williamsville, NY 14221

Claire Franke: Elderwood, 225 Bennett Road, #223, Cheektowaga, NY 14227

Chad Israel and Hayley Israel

David Lampe: 73 Crescent Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14214

Dorothy Menth: 2330 Maple Road, Apt. 383, Williamsville, NY 14221

Alison Silsby: 4360 Peet Street, Middleport, NY 14105

Betty Venator: PO Box 386, Williamsville, NY 14221

David Wolf: P.O. Box 198, Clarence Center, NY 14032

***Prayer List: In our and extended family:*** Kevin Dennis (friend of Scott Vahue), Judy Brown (daughter of Kathryn Brown and sister of Bob Brown), Lanny Repman and Norm Kreuzer (friends of Sharon Ries); Aurora Miano (Robin and Joseph Miano's granddaughter); Ira Striejew-ske; Thomas Maier

***Deacon Schedule:*** Barbara Walter

***Usher Schedule:*** Scott and Mimi Fierle

## **ST. PAUL'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***In-Person Worship:*** 10:00 am. Reservations are not required. In accordance with NY State mandates and because of the increase of the Covid variant in our area, we are asking everyone to wear a face mask while in the building at **all times** regardless of vaccination status. The Sunday 10:00 am worship service is also being livestreamed on St. Paul's YouTube page.

***WNY Church Unleashed:*** If you cannot join us for in-person worship, please continue to worship with us as WNY Church Unleashed on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am on WBBZ, YouTube, or Facebook.

***Tigers Den Food Pantry:*** The Food Pantry is open to anyone in need in zip code 14226 or by referral. The Pantry hours for January are: Thursdays 6th and 20th from 3:00-6:30 pm and Saturdays the 8th and 22nd from 9:00 am–1:00 pm. Donations for January are “snacks” such as granola bars, fruit snacks, crackers such as Goldfish crackers, and Jell-o/Pudding snack packs.

***Daily Bread Food Truck:*** The Daily Bread Food Truck is continuing their “give one” season and is parked in the St. Paul's driveway next to the flag pole each Monday night giving hot meals out from 4:30-6:00 pm. If you would like to help give out food during our Meal-Share night, please contact Katie in the office at 716-835-0407. Thank you!

***Haitian Church:*** Welcome to the Peniel Haitian Church. They are now worshipping at St. Paul's every Saturday from 9am-3pm.



*+ St. Paul's Mission +*

*To empower others with the Good News of Jesus Christ.*

*We do that by: Seeking Connections, Enriching Faith, Nourishing Lives,  
and Demonstrating Love in God's Name.*

*St. Paul's Congregation Council*

*President: Kathryn Francis*

*Vice-President: David Schunak*

*Treasurer: William Niblock*

*Secretary: Gerri Horton*

*Janelle Andersen   Susan Epstein   Matt Fricano  
Nick Hazlett   Debbie Regan-Howe   Robert Simpson*

*Pastor Rev. Steve Biegner (868-1232 - cell)*

*E-mail: [steve@stpaulseggertsville.org](mailto:steve@stpaulseggertsville.org)*

*Director of Music: Paul H. Storfer*

*Christian Ed Coordinator: June Piette*

*Youth Ministry: Adam Weber*

*Parish Administrator: Katie Basham*

*E-mail: [katie@stpaulseggertsville.org](mailto:katie@stpaulseggertsville.org)*

*Telephone: (716) 835-0407*

*E-mail: [office@stpaulseggertsville.org](mailto:office@stpaulseggertsville.org)*

*Website: [www.stpaulseggertsville.org](http://www.stpaulseggertsville.org)*