

**January
2022**

The Messenger

St. Paul's Lutheran Church



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
EGGERTSVILLE

Happy New Year!
2022
From all of us at
St. Paul's

WISHING A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO
YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES.

***January is Here! It's 2022!!!
We are grateful! St. Paul's is still open!
We are meeting! We are worshipping!
Look inside to see all of the events
and opportunities going on!***



~NOTE~

***During Sunday worship,
We are asking that everyone be masked and socially
Distanced while seated.***

***If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the
office at 716-835-0407.***



Tune-in to see Pastors Steve, Roger, 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). 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.

**Family Blessing
Service:
January 2, 2022**

**Start the year off
right and let the
waters flow!**

***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 Missionaries and Friends of St. Paul's,

New Beginnings! Each and every turn of the calendar from year to year is a chance for a new beginning. Or that's at least what our culture says. As Christians, each and every DAY is a chance for that new beginning. Each and every worship service that begins with our confessions and includes an announcement of your forgiveness is a chance for a new beginning.

Even you reading this is another chance. A new chance to restart your faith journey...to jump into a new ministry...to remind yourself maybe for the first time today that you are loved! A new beginning. What will yours look like today? Having been reminded that you are a loved child of God, what will that good news allow you to begin this day? Every day?

St. Paul's is a church that is all about new beginnings as of late: new partnerships this year with Amherst Schools, new ways to support our local families, new times and more times for the food truck to share meals, new staff to help us reach beyond ourselves even more, new ministry with Buffalo Haitian community....and the list goes on.

You're going to notice some new beginnings in the Parish Hall area. With our current kitchen being a food certified kitchen for food ministries, we've struggled with sharing that space for the more "normal" church activities that need a kitchen: group lunches, coffee for AA groups, meals for the Haitian church group. So we're going to create a new "Church Kitchen" space upstairs in what used to be a storage room. We're thankful for the creative people on the Lead Action Team and staff of Daily Bread that could envision this project. We'll keep you updated when things are all set to go.

2022 will be filled with new beginnings for us all: some good and some tough. Through all the twists and turns, joys and sorrows, ups and downs, we walk through them with faith that God is with us!

I give thanks for you. I'm praying for you. I'm honored to serve with this community and reach beyond ourselves to share God's love together in 2022.

Be well, safe and blessed,
ps

At St. Paul's



Each month, St. Paul's will be sharing important life events that happen within our church family.

Please pray for the family of Norman Wittholz as they grieve his passing this week.
A future private service will be scheduled .

If you have a special announcement, anniversary, graduation, or even a big birthday that is coming up, please contact the office with any information that needs to be shared.

Comforters!
Come join us !

- Wednesday January 5th -
Bring a bagged lunch and your left over Christmas cookies for dessert!

Upstairs in the Dining area next to the Parish Hall at 10 am

If you have any questions,
please call the office at 835-0407.
See you there!

Men's Group!
Come and join the men of St. Paul's as they gather in fellowship every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month.

If you would like to get involved
OR if you have any questions, please contact
Matt Fricano by email at
italianman2190@gmail.com

Or the office at
katie@stpaulseggertsville.org

Bible Study



We would like to welcome you to the St. Paul's Bible Study group as it continues to plan resuming their weekly meetings in the Fellowship room every Tuesday at St. Paul's at 10 am in the Fellowship Room.

The Advent/Christmas Bible Study is: Dreams and Visions in the New Testament and will continue (weather permitting) into January.

Bring your own beverage -
Timbits will be provided. To allow us to plan for enough hand-outs and snacks, please respond to Mary Wolf (stpauls1827@juno.com) if you plan to attend.

Pinochle Group! Open to all!



- Wednesday January 5th-
1:00 pm
(and will continue to meet on the first Wednesday of each month).

If you are interested in joining, please contact

Sara Gallagher at 716-834-1833
Or
Heidi Ginal at 716-480-9227

A Boom in Baptisms

By Cindy Uken



Steve Biegner, pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Eggertsville, N.Y., and its Fire Church ministry, sits with Bree Mutter on the day of her baptism at Fire Church.

Vishal Ryan Gangaram has been an atheist and, later, a practicing Muslim, but over the Labor Day weekend the 23-year-old was baptized at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Eggertsville, N.Y.

Steve Biegner, pastor of St. Paul, now refers to Gangaram as a “Jesus freak.”

To a certain extent, that is true, said Gangaram, a graduate student at the University at

Fire Church article in Living Lutheran Magazine



Mike and Kristin Mutter had their daughter Bree baptized, and Kristin poured the water. Having a family member or sponsor pour the water was a change made during the pandemic to minimize contact, but Biegner said it has become a special tradition the congregation will keep.

Buffalo. "I believe that Jesus saves people," he said. "I believe that God saved me. I wanted to officially become a Christian. I believe in the Bible and in the Trinity. I do believe that God is real."

Since being baptized, Gangaram believes his "inner voice or conscience has become stronger. I also feel that God ... shows me signs, in many ways and on many occasions, to keep me moving forward, and for that I am grateful."

Gangaram was one of 38 people the congregation baptized between February 2020 and Labor Day 2021, a span that encompasses the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Biegner said the number of baptisms at St. Paul during that time was nearly four times that of an average year. The newly baptized included infants, children, teens and adults.

Fourteen of the baptisms took place at St. Paul's, and 24 were done through Fire Church, a new mission for local first responders that the congregation launched the month before the pandemic was declared.

The baptisms and Fire Church are the result of the congregation putting energy into evangelizing in the community, meeting people where they are. As Biegner explained, "If we've learned one thing at St. Paul's, it is that we have to listen harder to the first word of the Great Commission: 'go.' The church has been ready to do the baptizing, teaching ... but we rarely go. Too often we wait for others to come to us."

To baptize the families of Fire Church, St. Paul went to "their comfort zone, their sanctuary, which is their firehouse," he said. "[That] is a place they already find community, vulnerability, family—a place they share their gifts and where they give and receive grace. We've stopped asking our first responders to come to church and feel uncomfortable, and now we go to their firehouse, barracks and hangar.

"One of [the baptized] was a past fire chief who was just there to help out and watch. He was so moved by the experience that he asked halfway through the baptisms if there was any chance that he could be baptized as well. I tried to get out of God's way and said, 'Heck, yes!' We baptized him with the firehouse chaplain pouring the water."

To accommodate baptisms at the church during the pandemic, St. Paul held services outside when possible or scheduled them inside its clean, well-ventilated sanctuary. Most of the baptisms included family members and sponsors attending via Zoom or FaceTime. To minimize physical contact, Biegner often asked parents to do the pouring of water and laying on of hands.

"We all found this incredibly intimate and beautiful," he said of the last change. "We're keeping the tradition." †

The Promising Community:

Can I Get A Witness?

January 23-25, 2022

Belleville, Illinois (St. Louis)

An in-person seminar for pastors, seminary students, and lay leaders — with an online option

Mary Hinkle Shore

Dean, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

Kathryn Kleinhans

Dean, Trinity Lutheran Seminary

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

www.crossings.org/conference



CROSSINGS
WHERE THE GOSPEL MEETS OUR DAILY LIVES

Adult Winter Retreat

LCLC Adult Retreat

"Give thanks with a grateful heart"..
Our adult weekend retreat at
Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center!!!

It's been almost 2 years since our last retreat so I hope you
will think about joining us for a relaxing, fun filled time!

We will follow CDC/LCLC rules to keep us all safe
(besides our own common sense rules).

We feel ever so grateful to be able to return to this
beautiful place and to enjoy each other's
company/fellowship. I hope you will pray about it and
consider joining us!

We always have a great time!!!

Any questions - call Barb Walter (716-574-8527).
Watch for the sign up board and specific details soon!



January 14-16th, 2022
Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center

Adult Winter Retreat

Adult Retreat Reservation — January 14th-16th 2022

(Please return this to Barb Walter ASAP)

Name (s) _____

Address _____

Cell/Home # _____

E-Mail _____

(Check One) Cost for 2 nights lodging and 6 meals -

Single _____

Double _____

(\$190.00 per person)

(\$170.00 per person)

Rooming with _____ **Total amount enclosed \$** _____

****A non-refundable down payment of \$75/person is due at the church office on or before January 2nd. Please make checks payable to St. Paul's (memo "Adult Retreat). Mail to the church office, place in offering plate OR give to Barb Walter :)**

Important **...Will you be eating dinner Friday night at LCLC? (served at 5:30 pm)

YES

NO

(Please circle one)

Emergency Contact _____ **Phone number** _____

Any food allergies and/or medical conditions we need to be aware of?

Looking forward to spending a wonderful, relaxing, fun-filled weekend with you. If you have any questions, please give me a call at: 716-574-8527.

As always, God's peace be with you!

Barb Walter

Reaching Beyond Ourselves



JERICHO ROAD
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

St Paul's Lutheran Church

December 15, 2021

4007 Main St

Buffalo, NY 14226

Dear Michelle,

Your gift to Jericho Road Community Health Center is making a difference in the lives of families both in Buffalo and beyond! Because of your generosity we are able to help men, women, and children have a better tomorrow by improving health outcomes holistically.



Thank you for St Paul's Lutheran Church's in-kind donation of clothing, toys, toilettes, baby items, and bedding items to our Vive program! We cannot claim the monetary value of your donation, but you may use this receipt as proof of your gift. Jericho Road currently provides quality medical care in the following locations: Buffalo, NY; Sierra Leone; Democratic Republic of Congo; and Nepal. We also offer six community development programs in Buffalo: ESL Initiative, Hope Refugee Drop-In Center, Vive Shelter for asylum seekers, ParentChild+, Priscilla Project, and Financial Education.

Should you wish to learn more about our organization visit us at www.jrchc.org and follow us on social media! We are grateful for your passion and support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Myron Glick

Dr. Myron Glick, Chief Executive Officer

Jericho Road Community Health Center

clothing, toys, toilettes, baby items, and bedding items

184 Barton St, Buffalo NY 14213

St Paul's Lutheran Church

4007 Main St Buffalo, NY 14226

Jericho Road Community Health Center is a 501(c)3 organization as determined by the Internal Revenue Service. Gifts are tax-deductible. No goods or services were provided to the donor in exchange for their financial contribution

HEADQUARTERS: 184 BARTON STREET, BUFFALO, NY 14213
716-348-3000 • 716-348-3002 FAX • WWW.JRCHC.ORG

Demonstrating God's Love

Dear Friends,

Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center is truly blessed by friends like you who give to our ministry. Through gifts such as yours, we are able to provide programs that encourage and nurture the spirit of our guests and campers. Your generous donation will help us continue to reach out and connect with many individuals. Thank you for sharing in LCLC outdoor ministries.

Thank you, St. Paul's!

In Christ, Lee M. Lindeman—Executive Director

Dear Friends at St. Paul's,

This letter is to thank you for your contribution to the Lutheran Foundation of WNY. As you know, the Foundation enables the congregations of the Niagara Frontier to better serve their communities through grants for outreach programs and loans for capital improvements. Your contribution will be added to the Investment Fund and will help to continue the Foundation's ability to support such programs as the Lord of Life Adult and Child Day Care and for 2022, Augustana Lutheran Church's Refugee Driving Program. Thank you for your support of the Foundation's mission and your continued partnership in the philanthropic Lutheran community.

Yours in Christ,

Barbara W.M. Biegner—Treasurer

On-line Directory

The St. Paul's Church Directory is 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

Do you like working with sound?

Technology?

Would you like to start getting more involved?

We are looking to build a team that would be willing to learn how to work the sound and video (AV) equipment.

Contact Andrew at
therecorddjco@gmail.com
Or the office at 716-835-0407



Youth Group and Burrito Project

Youth Christmas Party

Saturday January 8th, 7-9pm at St. Pauls. This event is for everyone in grades 6-12th!
Be ready for some pizza, devotions, and games! AND White Elephant Gift Exchange (max \$10-\$15).
Contact Adam if you have any questions.

Burrito Project

Tuesday January 18th, from 6-8pm at St. Pauls.

If you are ever looking to get involved, this is a great opportunity! We always have a lot of fun making the burritos together in the kitchen at St. Pauls. Also, It is cold out and we are in need of warm gloves to give out, too! Hand warmers are always welcome...but **REALLY warm** gloves are needed!

Here are some pictures of us from our December night of giving!



National Youth Gathering

It's time to start thinking about the National Youth Gathering, which is happening next summer in Minneapolis, MN.

The dates are July 24th-28th (plus a day before or after for travel and sight seeing).

This is an amazing, once in a life time experience.

It's for anyone in grades 9-12th and only happens once every three years, so most people only have one opportunity to go.

Registration opens soon, so let Adam know if you're interested or have any questions!

Merry Christmas,

Adam Weber

Sunday School

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As the new year begins, I wish you all a healthy and joy filled New Year!

I am happy to say that this year's Christmas Pageant was a hit! Though the kids weren't physically in church, we were able to do the pageant via video and link it together with our service on Dec. 19th. If you were unable to attend and would like to watch our Christmas pageant, you can find it on our St. Paul's Facebook page or go to this link. The kids did a great job!

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kqNEECKE6Nn9idCJs_yg0L0-V_NDIy1j/view?usp=sharing

Thank you to Andrew Gruszka for recording and putting this together for us!



Jan. 2nd, we encourage all Sunday school children and families to attend a very special family blessing! Safety protocols are in place, and everyone is masked.

January 9th, I am excited to say that Sunday School will reconvene back downstairs in the Sunday school wing! All ages are welcome! The older kids are also welcomed to join in and help with the younger kids. I also encourage and welcome parents to be involved! Please see me if you are willing to volunteer your time once a month.

We will be taking donations this month of hand & foot warmers, gloves, healthy snack bars, and water bottles to put together blessing bags for the homeless.

Sunday school will continue to be recorded and can be found on St. Paul's Facebook page.

Reminder to parents if you haven't yet had a chance to fill out the survey that was emailed to you in December, please take a moment to fill that out.

Peace & Love ~June

Daily Bread Food Truck Mission

2ND ANNUAL SNOWBALL GOLF CLASSIC "CHIPPING AWAY AT HUNGER"

*WNY's first winter
charity golf scramble!*



THE DOME

8230 WEHRLE DR - WILLIAMSVILLE - 14221

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2022

2PM SHOTGUN START

PEBBLE BEACH GOLF COURSE

DETAILS: FB OR DAILYBREADFOODTRUCK.COM



\$360/FOURSOME

DINNER BY LOCAL GRILLE

Daily Bread Food Truck Mission



The Daily Bread Food Truck has been serving free hot meals at St. Paul's (from the truck) to people suffering from food insecurity every Monday from 4:30-6:00 pm since the beginning of November.

We will continue to do these Monday meal-shares through the winter season.

Also, because of everyone's generosity, the Daily Bread Food Truck was able to help out Amherst Central Schools two times during Winter Break to help children and their families.

Those children that usually receive free (or reduced priced) breakfasts and lunches were able to come and get a meal AND a box of cereal for the week, some milk, and produce!



Daily Bread Food Truck Meal Share Schedule

Monday January 3rd

Monday January 10th

Monday January 17th

Monday January 24th

Monday January 31st

A special thank you to Steven's Spirit of Giving, Carrabba's Italian Grill, SALT Cuisine, Rosina Foods, and Ziggy's Taco's for all of their support this winter so far.

Thank you!

We also thank our staff, Board members, and volunteers for all the support and love you give.

You continue to make this Daily Bread Food Truck Mission work!

If you would like to help volunteer in the kitchen to prep OR to help hand out meals, please contact Katie at 716-835-0407 or email dailybread4007@gmail.com.

Happy New Year!

Tiger's Den Food Pantry



It's been a busy couple of months at Tiger's Den. Throughout November and December, we gave families grocery gift cards to help them buy those special foods we all love to eat during the holidays. We are partnering with FeedMore WNY and the East Aurora Village Cafe, to provide meals such as chicken teriyaki and meatloaf on an ongoing basis.

As always, we are grateful to St Paul's members and others in the community for the amazing continuous support! We truly couldn't do it without you!

For January, we are accepting donations of snack foods (granola bars, pudding or Jell-o snacks, snack cracker such as goldfish crackers, and fruit snacks).

Thank you and Happy New Year!

Tigers Den is open the following days in January:

Thursday, January 6 from 3:00-6:30 pm

Saturday, January 8th from 9:00 am -12:30 pm

Thursday, January 20 from 3:00-6:30 pm

Saturday, January 22 from 9:00 am -12:30 pm

**** ALSO ****

Because of your generosity,

The Annual Holiday Needs Drive held in December was a fantastic success!

We collected approximately 1,000 lbs of food and \$8000 in donations to help out the Tiger's Den Food Pantry and FeedMore of WNY.

These special community outreach programs couldn't be possible without the support of people such as yourself. You mean so much to us and we are so grateful for your love and support!

Thank you!

Nourishing Lives

St. Paul's would like to send a special thank you to all of the volunteers who give their time and amazing talents to the Daily Bread Food Truck and the Tiger's Den Food Pantry.

We would not be able to do the work we do without your love and commitment!



Michele Sciolino, a manager of Tiger's Den. Michele keeps our shelves and donations in good order!



Daily Bread Food Truck Lead Chef Kevin Barron and volunteer Chef Brett Vogel getting dinner ready for Monday Meal-Share night and prepping for the Holiday meal-share for the week after Christmas!



Amherst Staff—Maureen Geibel (with her daughter, Hayden) and David Beck, giving special meals sponsored by Steven's Spirit of Giving.



St. Paul's Members , Hilde Neubauer (left) and Heidi Ginal (right), bundled up and ready to give out dinners and extras on our Monday Meal-Share evenings.



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