

October  
2022

# The Messenger

St. Paul's Lutheran Church



ST. PAUL'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
EGGERTSVILLE



**Sunday, October 2**  
**11:00 am**

Pastor Steve will be available for an informal session to ask questions or comment on the new opportunities coming to St. Paul's.

(Please read Pastor Steve's letter on the following page.)



**Sunday, Oct. 16 at 11:00 am**  
**in the Gathering Area with**  
**Cider and Donuts**

**A "People Bingo" challenge:**

Can you find a church member who's been at St Paul's for over 40 years?

Can you find a church member who's been at St Paul's less than a year?

**Prizes awarded!**

Sponsored by the Cultural Awareness Team



*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,

(This is going to be a bit longer than usual. Buckle up and keep your hands and feet inside the vehicle at all times!)

"Where would you rather be than right here, right now?" - Marv Levy

I was at the stadium a couple Mondays ago and Marv came out and led us in that "cheer." As a longtime Bills fan, it was an epic and sacred moment because things are amazing right now! So fun to be a part of this team as a fan.

But I believe Jesus would say the same things to St. Paul's!! What an incredible time in our 195-year history. We have thrived during the pandemic, shifted and expanded our focus and reach. People have returned to the mission site at 4007 Main to experience Jesus in person again. Worship attendance is thriving. New folks are showing up every single week. The make-up of the congregation is starting to reflect the community: multi-color, multi-gender, and multi-cultural. Sunday school, Youth Group and Confirmation are restarting and adapting to the new post-pandemic issues. Our food insecurity ministries are stronger and more diverse than ever.

Right here! Right now!

And so this new phase and increased ministry potential of St. Paul's will expand in three major ways over the next year: increased space/people; increased staff; renewed leadership.

First, increased space/people. Amherst Lutheran Church (5125 Main St - 2.2 miles away toward Williamsville) has asked to merge with St. Paul's. Their group of vision-oriented leaders want to make a shift in their ministry *before* it's too late and the congregation has moved into "church hospice" mode. This mode has happened to too many churches recently. So, this is a good, pro-active decision. 75% of Lutheran Churches in NY experience worship with less than 40 people per week. The Councils of both churches, along with consultation from Jeff Human (Synod and St. Paul's attorney specializing in church mergers), will be working hard over the next few weeks and months to bring this to fruition. It will allow St. Paul's to increase ministry space, active missionaries, and future financial assets to support growing staff needs and help our ministry to become wider and deeper. This will give St. Paul's a Saturday night worship service option at the Amherst Lutheran site with St. Paul's and other Lutheran Church staff leading the service.

There will be a few times to ask questions and share excitement about this venture. The first one will be this Sunday, October 2nd after church. Several Council members will join me in the sanctuary after church for an informal question and answer session after church. Our hope is that an official affirmation of the merger will take place at our Annual Meeting on December 4th after church. But there will be plenty more information before then.

## *Pastor Steve cont.*

Second, increased staff. This merger will help us increase our pastoral staff to meet our current and future needs. Here's the good news: we have a candidate already!! Instead of "trusting the process" of the church (which I no longer trust that much), we have a pastoral candidate in the works. This candidate is wonderfully gifted and moving into the area with her husband, who is awaiting a call from another local church. We will bring her in during the fall to meet with leadership and congregation, and be here on a Sunday to preach and lead worship as well. If all goes well with approval from Council, affirmation from the congregation and her husband also receiving a call, we hope to have her onboard to start the new year. She is a gift and will be a huge asset to St. Paul's. She will be a co-pastor with me to help lead St. Paul's into the next few years of our important ministry.

Third, renewal. St. Paul's has received a generous grant from the Lily Foundation for a *Congregational Renewal Grant*. These grants are awarded to churches who are doing dynamic ministry in the world and have had long term pastors that need renewal time so that they can come back for the important work ahead. That is exactly where St. Paul's is at! So our renewal time will take place from May 28-Sept 5, 2023. I will be away to rest, renew and reconnect with my family **SO THAT I** can return refreshed to the congregation to finish my career helping St. Paul's become one of the most dynamic, vibrant, and multi-cultural churches in our area. For that time period, I will be away for spiritual reflection, therapy, discernment, travel, play, and very important family time. At the same time, the congregation will have renewal opportunities with new voices preaching, exact fellowship events, new groups building new leaders, times for spiritual gift identification, and more. All of this with Pastor Kristen leading the charge!

The Council and I have been talking about this for four years now. But with the arrival of the pandemic, we tabled it so I could help lead the congregation through those unprecedented times. In those times, we discovered many new and creative ways to be church. However; as Michelle has rightly reminded me, once again my family got "the leftovers" of my energy, presence, and care. This renewal time will help me be healthier at home, healthier at work and healthier in general to lead St. Paul's for the remainder of my career.

Where would I rather be? Right here. And right now!

For these two churches to come together, merge resources and missionaries, increase our worship energy, reach, and space. For increasing our current staff with MORE gifted, spiritual leaders that I trust and love....for time away to recharge and renew....I can't imagine being anywhere else.

Please talk to me with questions, joys, and concerns. Any and all of them.

Together, God has called us to "reach beyond ourselves." Who knew how much fun that would be eh??

Be well, safe and blessed

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# Daytime Missions at St. Paul's



## Adult Bible Study

Tuesdays, at 10:00 am

We meet in the Fellowship Room. We'll be looking at the people and events that are celebrated and commemorated in the calendar of Festivals and Commemorations. These are people and events significant in the life of the Church over the centuries; some of which you may have heard & some which will be totally new.

Join us on Tuesday mornings!

Bring your own beverage; Timbits will be provided.

## The Comforters

meet on the Second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is Oct. 12.

10:00 am – 12:00 pm in the upstairs Parish Hall

The Comforters are a group of people who love to knit, sew or crochet. While having a fun time talking, they create quilts, prayer shawls, baptismal blankets and more!

Some of the benefactors of this ministry have been:

Roswell Cancer Institute

Women's and Children's Hospital

Erie County Home, Nursing Homes, Harvest House Baby

Bring a bag lunch for after the session. A monthly hostess will bring a dessert to share.

*Beautiful things come together one stitch at a time!!*



## Pinochle Club

Meets on the first Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is Oct 5.

1:00 pm in the Gathering Space

We have both serious and social card players! Join us!

If you have any questions, call Sara at: 716-834-1833

or email the office at: [office@stpaulseggertsville.org](mailto:office@stpaulseggertsville.org)



## Other Missions at St. Paul's



### God on Tap Faith, Food & Fellowship

The first meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 4 at 7:00 pm

**TOPIC:** What book of the Bible would you want written?

Pastor Steve will give an overview of what we have in the Bible right now.  
But what's missing?

What topics would you like covered and why?

Hope to see you there!



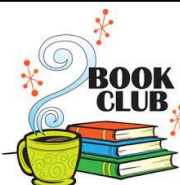
## Let Your Voice Be Heard!

### Join the Sanctuary Choir

Practices are the first Thursday of the month  
at 7:30 pm. under the direction of Mr. Paul Storfer.  
The next practice is Oct. 6.

### Invitation to Amherst Lutheran Book Club

The Amherst Lutheran Book Club is glad to be back after two years of Covid. We meet the second Thursday of the month (except December, July & August) to informally share thoughts and connections to books we read.



**Next Meeting:** Thursday, Oct. 13 at 7:15 pm

**Where:** Amherst Lutheran Church, 5125 Main Street, in the Gathering Space

**Book Selection:** *The Reading List* by Sara Nisha Adams

For information call: Karin Johnson at 716-689-6365

or email [karinej@roadrunner.com](mailto:karinej@roadrunner.com)

# Parish Council

## Report from the Council—Kathryn Francis, MD

There is a saying: “May you live in interesting times”. Change is always difficult but required to evolve and grow. The next few months will be busy for the Council. Pastor Steve has introduced the proposal for a merger with the congregation of Amherst Lutheran Church and the opportunities such a move would provide for St. Paul’s. This is a great opportunity for St. Paul’s. At the same time, we’re also looking at the opportunity to add pastoral staff to allow us to seamlessly cover the upcoming congregational and pastoral renewal next summer. Clearly, there are many questions to be addressed before decisions this important and even more logistics to be organized before everything can be accomplished. The Council will be taking an active role in supporting Pastor and the Leadership Action Team as they work through the details functioning primarily as communication conduits to the congregation. Look to the Council members for information, to answer questions and to receive feedback, comments and/or concerns. As always, thank you in advance for your support.

## In the Church Family

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.

### Congratulations to :



Dan & Kim Klee on the birth of their daughter, Hailey Emma

Robert & Brandon Schulz-Koller on the Dedication of their son, Simon Kohler-Schluz

### Congratulations to :

Mr. Nick & Mrs. Katie (Braisted) Stroczkowski and



Mr. Dennis & Mrs. Maddy (Kuhn) Schulz as they start their new life together!

### Please remember & pray for:



The family of Karen Bryzcki and  
The family of Carol David,  
as they grieve their passing.

## Online 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](http://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!



## ***Church Unleashed***



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).

The worship service is now called "Church Unleashed."

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

## ***Thank you to St. Paul's***

Thank you from **Lutheran Charities** for a donation of \$25.00

Thank you from the **Lutheran Foundation** for a donation of \$100.00

Thank you from the **Niagara Lutheran Health Foundation** for a donation of \$200.00

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A special Thank You to **The Comforters** and the members of St. Paul's:

Knowing that I am being prayed for as I receive my chemo-radiation treatments, is a true gift. My dear sister-in-law, Leslie, added my name to your congregation's prayer list. What joy it was to open the package and discover the lovely prayer shawl! It is so beautiful and I am sure made with love.

Thank you!! Love, Sandy Shaw



### **Do you like working with sound?**

#### **Technology?**

Would you like to start getting more involved?

Our new "Digital Deacon" is 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](mailto:therecorddjco@gmail.com)

Or the office at 716-835-0407



# ***The Daily Bread Food Truck Mission***



Approaching the 2022-2023 season, we are excited to begin on Monday, October 17. We are in a very different environment of having one chef on a limited availability basis. Many thanks to Tony Piette who has created 6 amazing recipes to be prepped and prepared by volunteers.

As we continue to search for additional chefs/cooks, we will be very dependent on volunteers of various talents to make this season a success.

Please consider this mission.

## Restaurant Liaison

This person will reach out to restaurants for meal donations and to bakeries for bread & pastry donations.

Questions to ask yourself – do you know how to: (or would like to learn)

<b>Read a grocery list -</b>	<b>Grocery shopper</b>	<b>Friday or Saturday</b>
<b>Chop, dice, stir....</b>	<b>Food Prep</b>	<b>Sunday or Monday</b>
<b>Follow a recipe</b>	<b>Cook</b>	<b>Monday - 2:30-4:15 (approx)</b>
<b>Portion/Plate Food</b>	<b>Work on Food Truck</b>	<b>Monday - 4:15- 6:00</b>
<b>Smile and converse</b>	<b>Greet and Take Order</b>	<b>Monday - 4:15-6:00</b>
<b>Wash dishes</b>	<b>Cleanup</b>	<b>Monday 5:30 – 6:30 (approx.)</b>

If you said “yes” to any of these questions, we would love to have you join our Mission. For further details contact Leslie Boynton at 716-525-2443

or email: [dailybread4007@gmail.com](mailto:dailybread4007@gmail.com).





## Cultural Awareness Team



The Cultural Awareness Team is back up and running (and always looking for new members!) Feel free to join us as we explore and facilitate new ways to increase and embrace diversity among St. Paul's members and offer a welcoming message to ALL of God's children.

Our team has discussed the importance of being more than just multi color at St. Paul's, instead wanting to be truly multi cultural. Culture is defined as the customs, arts, social norms and achievements of a particular group. We are fortunate at St Paul's to have many different cultures represented among us including people coming from all sorts of church and faith backgrounds. There have been several recent church closings in WNY and we are fortunate that some of those members have come to worship with us, helping to diversify our congregation in new and exciting ways.

You may have noticed lately there are lots of new faces in worship. This is exciting but change can also feel uncomfortable at times. On October 16th the Cultural Awareness Team will sponsor a Coffee and Conversations time after worship to serve as a way to get to know each other better. We know that learning about each other, finding what we have in common, as well as celebrating our differences, can be fun and help us fully live out the mission of the church.

Whether you've attended St. Paul's your whole life or are a new visitor or anywhere in-between - Please plan to come to worship October 16th and stay a bit after to join us for this brief time of fellowship.

For more information please contact: [Michellebiegner@gmail.com](mailto:Michellebiegner@gmail.com)

## Tiger's Den Food Pantry



**The Food Pantry** is open to anyone in need, in the zipcode 14226 or by referral.

The October pantry hours are:  
Thursdays 10/6 and 10/20 from 3:00 pm—6:30 pm  
and Saturdays 10/8 and 10/22 from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm.

### **Donations for October:**

canned beans (all kinds), canned chicken, canned tuna,  
rice (white, brown, jasmine, basmati) and  
coffee & tea.

Thank you for your support of the Tiger's Den Food Pantry.



# *Sunday School*



Happy Fall! Now that we are officially in full swing with Sunday school, I would like to welcome all children ages once again 3 - 5<sup>th</sup> grade to join us for Sunday school during the 10 am service! We always encourage volunteers of all ages to join as well!

Can't make it on a Sunday morning? That's ok come on out to KNAC - Kid's Night At Church! That is provided at Amherst Lutheran Church - 5:00 pm. Much like St. Paul's, there is worship and kids go out after children's time for their lesson, followed by pizza for everyone! This service is led by our METV Pastors on a rotation.

Here are some things we learned about at St. Pauls in September!

The children learned about the lost sheep and the lost coin. They learned how that relates to Jesus's love for us. That no matter how far we stray, Jesus is always there to find us and welcome us right back to his flock! The kids made sheep sock puppets, found hidden lost (chocolate) coins, and had a hidden surprise in a cupcake to celebrate and help remind them of this lesson! Opening day of Sunday school was followed by a delicious ice cream social!

The children also learned about how to show our love to others as Jesus has demonstrated. Through acts of kindness and love, so that everyone can understand that Jesus love is good! The kids made apple trees and each apple had a good idea of how to show God's love.

We ended Sept with a lesson about the rich man and Lazarus. We compared it to an alarm clock and hitting snooze over and over. That's kind of like the rich man hitting snooze on God over and over and not following Him first, instead putting money first and not helping those in need.

When we follow Jesus, we know what the right thing is to do and how to help others and by acting on that we are putting God first! May we never be guilty of hitting the snooze button saying, "Later, Lord." Instead, let us rise up and follow Him!

That was our good news for September!

In peace and love ~ June



# ***KNAC-Kids Night at (Amherst Lutheran) Church***

## **Kids Night at Church**

KNAC happens on the 1st Saturday of each month, beginning October 1, 2022.

All children from 5 years old—10 years old are welcome!

The evening starts at 5:00 pm with our Saturday night worship.

Then we break off to "Sunday School," and some fun.

A main meal will be provided after the session (pizza or subs) and everyone is welcome to bring a side dish or dessert. This year's KNAC nights are:

Oct 1, 2022	Nov 5, 2022	Dec 3, 2022	Jan 7, 2023
Feb 4, 2023	Mar 4, 2023	Apr 1, 2023	May 6, 2023

### **Amherst Lutheran Church**

5125 Main Street

Williamsville, NY 14221

716-632-4185

## ***St. Paul's Tenants***



**AMHERST CENTRAL  
FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER**

### **Mission:**

Partnering with community human service agencies, the Amherst Central Family Support Center will **provide support for families' social, education, mental and physical health needs.**

### **Mission:**

Students learn new subject matter in dynamic ways that spark curiosity and increase motivation. Summit students at St. Paul's will be 18+ years old, learning job skills and trades.



# ***Youth Group and Burrito Project***



**Youth Night:** Saturday, October 8th, from 7-9 PM.

Join us for food, games and a short devotion at St. Paul's.  
Friends are welcome!

**BURRITO PROJECT:** Tuesday, October 18th, from 6-9 PM. We start at St. Paul's making the burritos and then head downtown at 7pm to hand them out. Let Adam know if you are interested in volunteering.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** We are planning a bowling night in October, and a possible Lasertron lock-in in October or November. Dates and other details to follow.

Hope to see everyone soon!



716-835-0407

Email: [office@stpaulseggertsville.org](mailto:office@stpaulseggertsville.org)

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

**Pastor Steve Biegner (716-868-1232 cell)**

**Office Staff:** Heidi Ginal and Adrienne Leary

**Tiger's Den Food Pantry Coordinator:** Adrienne Leary

**Christian Ed Coordinator:** June Piette

**Youth Director:** Adam Weber

**Music Director:** Paul Storfer