

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*



*December 17, 2022*

*Welcome to the Amherst Lutheran Campus  
of St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
December 17, 2022*



*Prelude Music*

*Brief order for Confession and Forgiveness*

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of you Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P Most merciful God,

C We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, God forgives you all your sins. That's the good news! So I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

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.

## *Prayer of the Day*

**P** Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

These last days of Advent are traditionally marked by the use of the “Great O Antiphons” beginning today and continuing until December 23. The Western Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.

December 17 - “O Wisdom”

**Prayer:** O Wisdom proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence. **Amen.**

Wisdom (Sophia in Greek) speaks:

The LORD created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

Proverbs 8:22, 27-31

**Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel - verse 2**

**O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
embracing all things far and nigh:  
in strength and beauty come and stay;  
teach us your will and guide our way.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice!**

**Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

December 18 - "O Adonai, Lord"

**Prayer:** O Adonai and ruler of the house of Israel  
who appeared to Moses in the burning bush  
and gave him the Law on Sinai:  
Come with an outstretched arm and redeem us. **Amen.**

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Exodus 3:1-6

**Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel - verse 3**

O come, O come, O Lord of might,  
as to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times you gave the law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.

**Rejoice! Rejoice!**

**Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

December 19 - "O Root of Jesse"

**Prayer:** O root of Jesse, standing as an ensign  
before all peoples,  
before whom all kings are mute,  
to whom the nations will do homage:  
Come quickly to deliver us. **Amen.**

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of  
knowledge and the fear of the LORD. Isaiah 11:1-2

Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel - verse 4  
O come, O Branch of Jesse, free  
your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save,  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

December 20 - "O Key of David"

Prayer: O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel,  
you open and no one can close,  
you close and no one can open:  
Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness  
and the shadow of death. **Amen.**

On that day I will call my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiyah, and will clothe him with your robe and bind your sash on him. I will commit your authority to his hand, and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David; he shall open, and no one shall shut; he shall shut, and no one shall open. Isaiah 22:20-22

Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel - verse 5  
O come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

December 21 - "O Dayspring"

Prayer: O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting,  
Come and enlighten those  
who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. **Amen.**

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." Luke 1:76-79

Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel – verse 6  
O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

December 22 – “O King of the nations”

Prayer: O King of the nations, the ruler they long for,  
the cornerstone uniting all people:  
Come and save us all,  
whom you formed out of clay. **Amen.**

The Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful. Revelation 17:14b

Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel – verse 7  
O come, O King of nations, come,  
O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
refresh the hearts that long for you;  
restore the broken, make us new.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

December 23 – “O Emmanuel”

Prayer: O Emmanuel, our King and our lawgiver,  
the anointed of the nations, and their Savior:  
Come and save us, O Lord our God. **Amen.**

an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." Matthew 1:20b-23

Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel – verse 8

O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel

### *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 As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope. (Please kneel or sit as you are able.)

God our shepherd, let your Spirit move with power throughout the church. Give discernment and wisdom to our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. Take away our fear, so that we serve and love, confident that you are guiding us. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A God our source, awaken us to the beauty of the earth and the marvelous variety of life. Unite humankind in repairing and caring for your creation. Protect creatures and habitats in peril due to rising seas and warming temperatures. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

**A** God our vision, raise up leaders in every nation who dream of freedom and justice for all people. We pray for the work of international organizations that promote peace and human rights, especially Amnesty International. God, in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** God our rescuer, deliver all who are unjustly imprisoned or persecuted. Reconcile nations and peoples in conflict. Rescue all who are overwhelmed with stories of war between nations, mass shootings, racial and gender hatred. Turn the tides Lord. Bless all those who are in the middle of these tragic events and use us to dismantle this hatred and evil and replace these stories with examples of justice, grace, and unity. Help us pray for our enemies. God, in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** God our helper, come to the aid of all who cry out to you. Shelter migrants, refugees, and those fleeing war and famine. Bring relief to individuals and families experiencing hunger, homelessness, or impoverishment. Comfort any who are isolated or lonely. God, in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** God our Emmanuel, you are with us in our life together. We give you thanks for gathering us in worship and fellowship, and we remember those who cannot be present. Watch over those who travel. Heal the sick and speed their recovery, especially the people on our Prayer List and those we name before you either silently or aloud. God, in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** God our hope, you bring life out of death, and you promise to be our God forever. Shine upon the faithful who now rest in the fulfillment of your promise and bring us also into your blessed reign of peace. God, in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

**C** **Amen.**

### *Offering Music and Prayer*

P Let us pray.

C God of grace, we give you thanks for all the blessings you have poured into our lives. Thank you for the opportunities to share those blessings through and beyond St. Paul's. Use the gifts we offer here today and in our planned giving to bless the world with your hope, your presence, and your love. 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.

*Communion Hymn: W&P 36*

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel;  
God with us, revealed in us; his name is called Emmanuel.

*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



*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 Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

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.

*Closing Hymn: LBW 33*

*Sharing the Peace and Sending*

P Let us go in peace to serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: December 18-25, 2022

- TODAY:** 10:00 am: WNY Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV  
10:00 am: In-Person Worship, Sunday School Christmas Pageant, and Communion  
11:00 am: New Missionary Meeting  
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope
- Monday:** 10:00 am: Transition Meeting  
4:30-5:30 pm: Daily Bread Meal Share
- Tuesday:** 10:00 am: Bible Study  
5:30 pm: Burrito Project
- Wednesday:** 8:00 pm: AA Meeting
- Thursday:** 6:00 pm: Alanon
- Saturday:** **Christmas Eve**  
9:00 am-3:00 pm: Peniel Haitian Church Worship  
11:00 am: In-Person Worship and Communion  
5:00 pm: Amherst Lutheran Church Service  
7:00 pm: In-Person Worship and Communion
- Sunday:** **Christmas Day**  
**No Church Unleashed Broadcast Today**  
10:00 am: In-Person Worship "Lessons and Carols" and Communion  
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope

**The Altar Flowers:** are given for the glory of God.

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

Lee Abel: 71 Windsor Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209

Neal DeLeo: Bristol village, 8455 Clarence Center Road, #105, Clarence Center, NY 14032

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

Marilyn Emerson: 364 Burroughs Drive, Amherst, NY 14226

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

Barbara Walter: 37 Laurel Lane, Williamsville, NY 14221

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

***Prayer List: In our and extended family: Robert Lannon (Punta Cana, Dominican Republic);  
Thomas Maier; Ira Striejewske***

*We share our prayers and sympathy with the family of Bertha Efstation, and the family of Mary Lou Herschlag.*

***Congratulations to John and Elyse Maley on the birth of their son Colin John Maley.***

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

***In-Person Worship:*** 10:00 am. Please be respectful of people around you regarding distancing and their comfort levels. 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.

***Amherst Lutheran Church:*** If you cannot make St. Paul's Sunday worship service at 10:00 am, please join Amherst Lutheran's worship service on Saturday at 5:00 pm.

***Tigers Den Food Pantry:*** The Food Pantry is open to anyone in need in zip code 14226 or by referral. The remaining pantry hours for December are: Thursday 12/29 from 3:00-6:30 pm. The pantry **will not be open** on Saturday 12/24. Donations for December: sugar, cooking oil, and mayonnaise.

***Daily Bread Food Truck:*** The Daily Bread Food Truck has started its third season of Monday Meal Share. They will be serving meals between 4:30-5:30 pm in front of St. Paul's to those individuals experiencing food insecurity. We thank all of our volunteers who will make this a most successful mission. For more information, please contact the office at 716-835-0407 or email [dailybread4007@gmail.com](mailto:dailybread4007@gmail.com).

***Lutheran World Relief for Ukraine:*** If you would like to donate, you can go to [donate.lwr.org](http://donate.lwr.org) for additional information and the donation form, or mail your donation to P.O. Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061. You can also call 1-800-597-5972 to make a secure credit card donation.

***Resettlement Mission:*** If you would like to help support the Resettlement Mission, donations of Visa gift cards would help provide for gaps in some of the material needs. Gift cards can be dropped off at the Church Office, or put in the offering plates on Sunday.

## Daily Bread Food Truck: Volunteers in the Spotlight!!

On Monday night we served 140 meals and 90 servings of soup & bread. This is made possible because of a dedicated and enthusiastic team of volunteers. Some volunteers are visible in their contribution and others are not so visible but just as important to our success.

**Our Shoppers** - Each Thursday, Sara Hannon and Betty Pilato receive their shopping list from our chef and plan their shopping schedule at Restaurant Depot, Tops, etc. to ensure the supplies are delivered to the kitchen by noon on Saturday.

**Our Food Gatherers** - Each Sunday morning between 8:30 -9:00 am, Shari & Bob Rembold arrive at Wegman's on Maple Road to receive their contribution of bread, rolls and pastries. Often this includes food contributions from BJ's. Shari coordinates this food gathering with The Food Shuttle of WNY.

**Our Cleaners** - Each Monday evening at 5:00 pm, Seth Golf arrives to assist in the cleanup including proper storage of food, dishwashing, etc. Recently a new missionary at St. Paul's, Robert Miller, stopped by to help. Not a glamorous job but so very important to the safety of our mission.

Please join me in thanking the "behind the scenes" volunteers. For more information, please contact the office at 716-835-0407 or email [dailybread4007@gmail.com](mailto:dailybread4007@gmail.com)



*Save the Date:*

*The Adult Winter Retreat at LCLC will take place Friday, January 13 through Sunday, January 15, 2023. If you are interested in attending, please sign up on the notice in the Foyer.*

*+ 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*

*Bob Brown Susan Epstein Sara Hannon  
Vanessa Solomon Robert Simpson Scott Vahue*

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

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

*Director of Music: Paul H. Storfér*

*Christian Ed Coordinator: June Piette*

*Youth Ministry: Adam Weber*

*Church Office Staff: Heidi Ginal and Adrienne Leary*

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

*Telephone: (716) 835-0407*

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