

January
2023

The Messenger

St. Paul's Lutheran Church



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
EGGERTSVILLE



Council President's Report

If you thought November and December were exciting . . .

you may want to buckle up for the new year at St. Paul's. The paperwork for the St. Paul's-ALC merger has been filed with NYS and plans are underway to bridge the transition to a two-campus combined ministry. We used the December Council meeting to bring the Councils from St. Paul's and ALC together as an introduction to each other and to the ALC campus. In January our Council will expand by two members representing ALC. We're now positioned to turn our attention to plans for 2023 which include welcoming and integrating Kristin Arends, further defining her role, and preparing for Pastor Steve's upcoming renewal adventure. Despite the weather, we've been able to continue our outreach missions through WNY Church Unleashed and the Tiger's Den Food Pantry. Thank you for the continued support of the St. Paul's and ALC communities. Please consider how you may contribute to our current and new ministry opportunities by volunteering to participate on committees and maybe even run for Council. — Kathryn Francis, MD



May God Bless you with happiness, health
and peace in the New Year ahead!

Pastor Steve and the Staff at St. Paul's

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....both campuses!!

It's exciting to be able to finally write that in a newsletter article. Both campuses. More missionaries. More space. More opportunities. Less overlap. Less waste. Better stewardship. More Jesus!!!

So what does it mean to be a missionary at St. Paul's? Simple: we reach beyond ourselves to empower people with the good news of Jesus.

Ok, simple to say. But what does it look like? That's where it becomes a tad more complex and a TON more exciting. Because it looks like so many and various things.

It looks like ladies that get together on Wednesdays at St. Paul's to make lap robes and prayer shawls and baptismal blankets. It looks like choir members and musicians that practice all types of music to connect people to God through melody and harmony, both in person and online. It looks like people that dice and chop in a church kitchen to feed folks who are food insecure. It looks like tightening a chain on a bike and replacing an inner tube so that someone soon will be able to bike to work. It looks like people writing checks to support other ministry ventures that they aren't able to be hands-on with. It looks like buying Spark Bibles for your grandkids so they can start to read the stories of Jesus. It looks like you, being and doing what you do, for the sake of the gospel.

It looks like you. Using your gifts and talents. Living into your passions. And pointing others toward the same grace, hope, direction, forgiveness and love that you have received from God.

It looks like Kristina Blanke. Kristina was/is a missionary at St. Paul's Eggertsville in-person, until she moved from teaching at UB and singing in the choir here, to teaching at a college in the Midwest.



Although she moved a couple thousand miles away, she didn't stop being a St. Paul's missionary. She worshipped with us, prayed with us and sang with us online through the LiveStream (even sometimes texting me during the service) and still does today. But more than just worship, she entered into mission at her new school to battle food insecurity there, just like we do here. The pictures are from the beginning set-up of a food pantry for students, no questions asked, that Kristina and her colleagues began to offer grace and love and nutrition to her students. We will be sending her

mission some financial support from the Tiger's Den to help them continue the battle.

That's what being a St. Paul's missionary looks like. Sometimes in Amherst. Sometimes in Iowa. All those things and more.

As we launch into a new year, may you launch into your mission in the world in, through and beyond St. Paul's. May the love that you have experienced from Jesus propel you to share your gifts, talents and presence with the world around you. May God use both our campuses, and all those that come to them, to inspire us to reach beyond ourselves and empower people with the good news of Jesus.

Happy New Year. And Happy New Mission.

Be well, safe and blessed,

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Daily Bread Food Truck



As I write this story, we have completed the first 10 weeks of our 2022-2023 Monday Meal Share mission to provide a hot, nutritious meal to those individuals and families experiencing food insecurity. On our first night, we served 65 meals, our second night increased to 79 meals and on our tenth night we served 140 meals. The need is great! In response to that need, we decided to add a serving of soup (frozen) along with bread, rolls, and pastries provided by Wegman's and B.J.'s. This provides the families with an additional lunch/dinner during the week. To date, we have provided 1,123 meals and 718 servings of soup and bread.

On Monday, December 26 we will be providing our regular hot meal of Halal Lasagna, a second meal prepared by our chefs (frozen), a third meal of chicken meatballs (provided by Rosina), pasta and sauce, and a box cereal. During the Christmas break, these meals are especially important to those families whose children qualify for meal subsidy at Amherst Central Schools.

The need is great but the gratitude we receive is much greater!!

-Jody is one of our regulars and is filled with thankfulness each week.

-A young man who came to WNY from India as a student walked up to the truck and asked if he could volunteer. He said that the previous week we provided him with a meal and he wanted to give back.

-Another woman is going through cancer treatment and struggles with preparing food. She is thankful that she can take a meal home to her family.

-One of our mothers was so happy that we could provide her with a cake provided by Wegman's because one of her daughters was having a birthday that week and could share with her friends. She didn't even care that it was a Buffalo Bills cake and not a birthday cake!!!

-Our very last client last week was a young man who arrived just as we were closing. His wife had recently given birth to their fourth child and when she saw the menu on Facebook she said "That sounds so good". He was going to surprise her.

-Donna sent a card saying "between me being disabled and having my daughter and granddaughter living with me, the meals are totally appreciated and helpful".

Every car that comes through has a story. We listen to their stories and miss and worry about them if they don't show up on any given night. They have become our friends.

We are blessed to be able to serve.

The AlAli Family

Syrian Refugee Update

As you know, the AlAli family of ten have rented St. Paul's Olin house since May, 2022. Their first 6 months' rent was paid by resettlement funds and donations from Westminster Presbyterian Church. November was the first time the family paid the rent with earnings from the eldest three sons dishwashing jobs at Creekview Restaurant and Britesmith Brewery. The whole family is working hard to successfully integrate into our community, for example: Ahmed, the eldest son (21), has purchased a used red Hyundai Sonata with his earnings and seven of eight children are enrolled in Amherst Central schools.

Westminster Presbyterian Church continues to support the family with a dedicated crew of volunteers and their work has included:

- Weekly education tutors in English and math
- Dozens and dozens of medical and dental appointments (both logistics & transportation)
- Navigating the governmental bureaucracy for SNAP and public assistance grants
- Obtaining winter clothes and footwear



Thanks to members of St Paul's for the generous \$20 and \$50 gift cards that have been dropped off at the office. They fill in the gaps. Things are not all smooth sailing, but the family has a good attitude and so far, they have worked hard to address issues as they arise. Thank you so much for this church's support as we move along in this important mission. For more information, contact Ed Weiss at 716-984-1526.

Two Amherst Police officers took some of the boys in the AlAli family for a holiday shopping treat.

Pictured, from left to right are Mohamed, Omar (riding on shoulders), Rashed and Abde. Their mother, Hlalh, shared this photo.

The AlAli Family cont.



The AlAli girls helped make close to 400 spritz cookies. You make spritz pressing the dough through a cookie press, and then you decorate the cookies before you bake them.

The girls mastered the cookie press, and did all the decorating.

Daily Bread Food Truck Monday Meal Share is adding a training mission

You already know about our Monday Meal Share program's impact addressing food insecurity with local families but you may not know it also has become a training program for our Syrian refugee family. Over the years at D'Youville University, I have helped many students gain the basic skills needed to work in a professional kitchen and I am now working to see that Hasan Alali and Hlalh Alibrahim (mom & dad) are able to complete the Sunday prep work needed to cook the Monday meals. My phone's Google translate app makes this all possible. The key is to talk slowly and start with a fully charged battery!

Hasan Alali and Hlalh Alibrahim are learning and earning a salary from the Daily Bread program. Their lessons have included the English terms for kitchen equipment and foods as well as learning how to operate our commercial dishwasher. They are also gaining basic knife skills as they prepare the ingredients for soup stocks, trim meats, and prep vegetables for the next day. Chef Tony has told me how much he appreciates their help and how impressed he is with their progress. Hopefully, the skills they learn, will allow them to earn jobs in local kitchens. For more information, contact Ed Weiss at 716-984-1526.

Sunday School

Happy and Healthy New Year to all!
We are so proud of the kids! They did such a great job with the Pageant!
Thanks to everyone who helped out!



On January 1st, the children will join their parents in the sanctuary for
Family Blessings Sunday!
Regular Sunday school will reconvene on Sunday January 8th.
Blessings and Love!
~ June



Committees



Cultural Diversity Committee

The Cultural Diversity committee will not be meeting this month.

The Archive Committee

Perhaps you've noticed in the *"What's Happening,"* the Archive Committee that meets every Monday evening.

Under the direction of Sara Gallagher, every church document is being organized from the last 200 years.

If interested, call the office at:

716-835-0407



Men's Breakfast

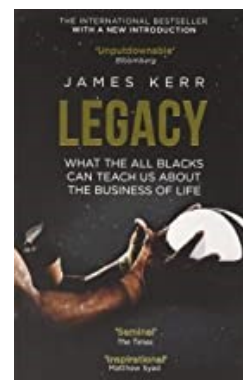


The group will be discussing Chapter 3 and Chapter 4 from the book, *Legacy* by James Kerr. Books are available in the Gathering Space or at amazon.com

Saturday, Jan. 14

**Pastor Steve will be
cooking the breakfast!**

Time: 8:30—9:30 am



Daytime Ministries

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 January 11, 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.



Pinochle Club

Meets on the first Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is January 4.

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



Other Missions at St. Paul's



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 January 5.



Thank you letters to St. Paul's



- Thank you from Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center (LCLC) for a \$500.00 donation
- Thank you from the Niagara Lutheran Health Foundation for a gift of \$100.00

Tiger's Den Food Pantry



We made it through 2022 just a little bit worse for wear, but overjoyed at the generosity of so many during the holiday season. We were blessed with donations of food and gift cards from individuals, families, St. Paul's, Amherst Lutheran Church, and the Amherst Schools. Among the highlights were donations from the Snyder Fire Department, Amherst High School, Amherst Retired Teachers Association, the Eggertsville Hose Company, and the Holiday Needs Drive.

We are exceedingly grateful to everyone who continued to support the pantry during the tough times everyone faced during 2022. From Covid to inflation, the impact on families dealing with food insecurity continued to increase. In December alone, we provided non-perishable food, fresh fruit and vegetables, paper products, and personal care items to more than 75 families.

We also want to thank our dedicated group of volunteers, who have shown up each and every Thursday or Saturday the pantry was open: Sue Miller, Joan Keptner, Sandy Hoehn, and Sue Keppel who are all from St. Paul's; Tim, Stacy, and Alice Johnson from Amherst Lutheran; as well as Carolyn, Deb, Michele, Joan, Alyssa, Susan, Lorry, Declan, Anna, Amelia, Mark, Scott, Jonah, Daniel, Michael, and Thomas.

Hours for January are:

Thursday, January 5 and 19 from 3:00-6:30 pm, and
Saturday, January 14 and 28 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm.

Donations for January are:

soup, pasta, white rice.

Youth & Burrito Project



Burrito Project: Tuesday, January 17.
Come meet at St. Paul's at 6:00 pm and
help make burritos to hand out downtown.

Winter Retreat



Adult Winter Retreat

It may be cold outside, but it's warm and cozy at the LCLC Campground!

It's time to start thinking about our wonderful Adult Retreat.

Ask anyone who has been there & you will see a smile on their face!

January 13—15

Sign up sheets are in the Church foyer.

Any questions, see Barbara or call 716-574-8527

Sure hope you come!

St. Paul's Family

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



We mourn, with the families of:

James Keptner * Bertha Efstation * Mary Lou Herschlag
Please keep them, their friends and loved ones, in your prayers.



We celebrate the birth of:

*Colin John Maley, son of John and Elyse Maley



We celebrate the Baptism of:

*Rowan Elin Hill, daughter of Elise and Huron Hill III

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.

office@stpaulseggertsville.org



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

716-835-0407

Email: office@stpaulseggertsville.org

Website:

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