

*March
2023*

The Messenger

St. Paul's Lutheran Church



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
EGGERTSVILLE



5 Key Updates



1. With the merger complete, we are already seeing growth in worship attendance at BOTH campuses.



2. Pastor Kristen is getting onboard quickly, but please remember that she is 3/4 full time so she'll be only here three weekends a month.



3. The pastors will be switching up responsibilities at SPEC each Sunday and each will be at ALC one Saturday a month. As we have said from the beginning of the merger process, we will still have two other worship leaders on staff to lead those other Saturday services.



4. As we move toward the renewal time for St. Paul's and Pastor Steve, we will be planning Impact Daycamps, special events, trainings and gatherings for the congregation to grow deeper in our relationships with God and one another. For example: we are bringing back the summer picnic in July!



5. The Council and Lead Action Team are still very available and open to any questions about the completed merger, staffing or the renewal time. There are no bad questions!

*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 Kristen



Welcome to Lent. A season of 40 days modeled after Jesus' time in the wilderness. Often, we frame the time Jesus spent in the wilderness as difficult, scary, and full of temptations. But the wilderness doesn't have to be that way. It was, also, a time that Jesus spent in prayer; holding tight to the creator who promises to be with us. It was a time and a place that launched his ministry, that helped him figure out his next steps. Where Jesus said "no" a lot, in order that he might say "yes" to God and to us.

As a church community we are going to be taking time these next few weeks to explore what we, as individuals and we as a church, can do less of and what we can do more of. We will have space to write those things down in the entryway of St. Paul's (SPEC) and ALC; and to share our journeys with one another.

One of the things we are going to say "yes" to together is prayer. We will name specific people in various aspects of our lives like elected leaders, our ministry partners, front line workers, service industry workers (like my favorite hair stylist!) and people in education. Each week you can add names to the board and we will pray for them during our worship services.

We will say "yes" to spending some time in God's word. You can do that through the devos that Mary Wolf has written for us, available in booklets or through our Facebook page. We will, also, do that during our Soup & Psalms gatherings on Wednesday afternoons. Ellen Davis writes in her book ***Pain and Praise: The Psalms as Common Prayer*** that "The Psalms give us words for all the moods in which we come before God: adoration, exultation, gratitude; but also rage, despair, fear". Come at noon for soup and conversation. We'll explore, read, pray, and wander through a Psalm together.

Let this season of Lent be for all of us missionaries at St. Paul's, a time of prayer and a time to say "yes" to things that matter to God, the one who says "yes" to us.

~Pastor Kristen

Soup & Psalms with Pastor Kristen



Every Wednesday during Lent,
join Pastor Kristen for **Soup & Psalms** at the St. Paul's
campus in Eggertsville. Please sign up in the
Gathering Space at either campus.

You may, also, call the office at (716) 835-0407

or email: office@stpaulseggertsville.org if you plan on attending.

Daily Bread Food Truck



The Daily Bread Food Truck continues its ministry of serving meals on
Mondays, from 4:30—5:30 pm. If you have a desire to help those in
need, the DBFT has many positions to suit your talents. Please email
Leslie at: leslie1223@roadrunner.com

Report from the Parish Council

Lent is a time for reflection and anticipation. Council is no exception. Our number has expanded to include representation from our ALC brethren. We've successfully executed our merger with ALC due to the efforts of many of you including, but not limited to, the Transition Team, our Treasurers, office staff, Facilities staff, and our lawyer Jeff Human. These folks have been working out the myriad details a business venture of this size and scope requires. Council would, also, like to acknowledge & thank the Archive Committee who have taken on the task of reviewing and organizing all the historical documents at St. Paul's and developing a standard procedure for document retention and retrieval. This merger would not have been as smooth as it was without the support of these folks as well as both congregations. The Council is grateful to everyone! We now look to our next venture which involves preparation for Pastor Steve's renewal leave this summer. It's a time for him to unplug and recharge. But it is just as important for all of us to do our own renewal by engaging with Pastor Kristen, supporting her with our ongoing ministries and remaining open to new opportunities for of each us to step up and offer our skills as missionaries to our common cause.

~Kathryn Francis, MD

Tiger's Den Food Pantry



February turned out to be quite the month, with lots of cold, and snow, and ice! In spite of all this, Tiger's Den received a great addition in February from a grant through FeedMore WNY.



We now have our very own dairy refrigerator for milk products. If you happen to be down near the pantry, you can't miss the large unit by the pantry hallway. Beginning sometime in the spring, as part of this grant, we will start receiving deliveries of milk from local dairies which we will then be able to give to our pantry families. With the price of eggs and milk becoming more and more expensive, over the past several months we

purchased milk and eggs from local groceries to provide to our families.

This was made possible through your generous monetary donations.

Thank you so much!!

We, also, added three new families in February, and expect more will be added in March. We are very grateful you are part of the food ministry here at St. Paul's, and the help you provide to families suffering food insecurity.

The pantry hours for March are:

Thursdays: 3/2 and 3/16 from 3:00-6:30 pm

Saturdays: 3/11 and 3/25 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm.

Donations for March are:

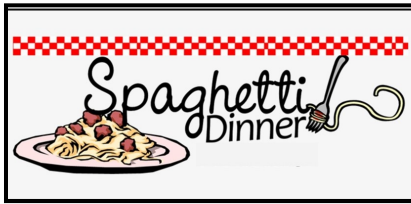
Cans of fruit, especially pineapple

Canned & dried beans

Crackers & granola bars



Youth Group Spaghetti Dinner: March 18



The Youth Group will be putting on their
Annual Spaghetti Dinner on March 18.

Time: 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm Free Will Offerings

This is the Youth Group's fundraiser for the year.

All are welcome, so spread the word to family and friends

Desserts and baskets for a basket raffle are needed! Thank you.

Online Directory

VIEW OUR
CHURCH
DIRECTORY
on your mobile
device, laptop
or PC.



The St. Paul's Church Directory is online!

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.

Now, you will be able to access it online.

You can, also, download the app on your phone/tablet.

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!

Go to: www.instantchurchdirectory.com and click Member login.

If you have any questions,
please email the office at office@stpaulseggertsville.org

Women's History Month - Wear White 3/19



The early suffragettes wore white during their marches. This was to make them stand out from the men who wore black daily.

White cloth was inexpensive, so many more were able to march.

On **Sunday, March 19** the Cultural Awareness Committee is encouraging all women to wear white to church. This is to recognize the efforts of countless women who worked tirelessly to get the 19th Amendment passed and those still striving today.

Sunday School & First Holy Communion Mtg.

The Sunday school kids had a wonderful time on Bring a Friend Sunday!
We had some games, craft/gifts to give to a neighbor to share God's love
and decorate your own cupcakes!

Thank you to all who volunteered and helped!



In March the kids will be learning about temptation and the miracles Jesus did to help others! We will be learning about Lent and what Communion represents. If your children are asking questions about Communion, Pastor Steve will be offering a get ready for your First Communion class immediately after Sunday school on March 12th. The kids will be making their own communion bread with my daughter Emilie and will receive their First Communion the following week on March 19th!



Sunday School & “Change for Change”



During Lent we will be introducing ***Change for Change***! It is our Lenten campaign to help people with outstanding medical bills. (The Niagara Frontier Conference of Churches is partnering with RIPMedicalDebt.org)

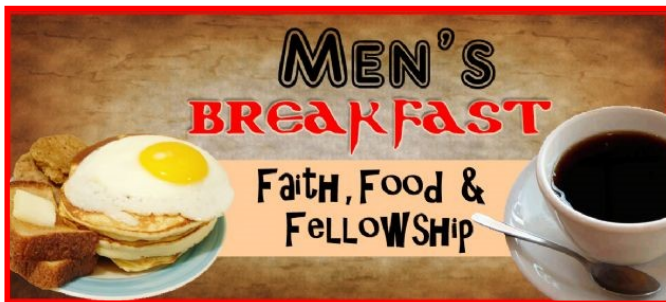
We would like the kids to bring up some change for the children’s sermon to get them involved in helping others!

Any questions feel free to contact myself or one of the Pastors.



Peace & Love ~ June

Men’s Breakfast



Date: Saturday, March 11

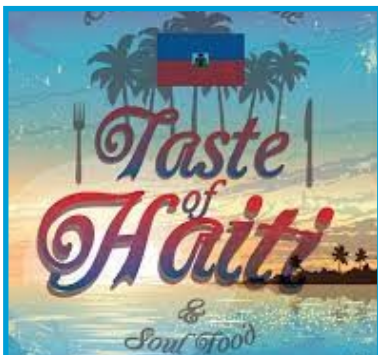
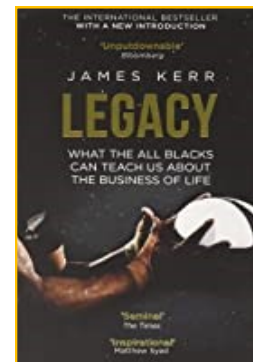
Time: 8:30—9:30 am

Pastor Steve will be cooking the breakfast!

The group will be discussing Chapter 7 and Chapter 8 from the book, *Legacy* by James Kerr.

Books are available at the public library
or at amazon.com

All are Welcome to join in any month!



Saturday, March 4 @ the Amherst Campus

Time: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

The Peniel Haitian Church is inviting St. Paul’s for an authentic Haitian meal. You’ve seen the name in the bulletin. What a wonderful opportunity to meet the congregation & learn of the Haitian culture. Plus enjoy a fabulous meal!

Sign up sheets are at both campuses.

Daytime Ministries



Adult Bible Study

Tuesdays, at 10:00 am

New Course of Study for Lent: "Forgiveness, Then and Now"

This new topic will begin on February 28.

We'll be looking in the Old & New Testament and in the Church today.

Join us every Tuesday mornings in the Fellowship Room.

Bring your own beverage; Timbits (or other goodies) will be provided.

Pinochle Club

Meets on the first Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is March 1.

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



The Comforters

meet on the Second Wednesday of the month.

The next meeting is March 8, 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.



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 March 2.

Youth & Burrito Project



The next meeting of the Burrito Project will be: Tuesday, March 21.

Come meet at St. Paul's at 6:00 pm

And help make burritos to hand out downtown.

Archive Committee



*Karl Wilhelm

Do you recognize the names below?

Do you know who their descendants might be?

The Archive Committee has found beautifully framed Confirmation & Baptismal Certificates, all from the late 1800's. We would like to reunite these items with their rightful owners.

Please call the office at 716-835-0407 if you can help us.

*Edward Frank Duermeyer

*Estella/Stella Wolf

*George Wolf & Eva Werkle Wolf

*Anna Muck

Cultural Awareness Corner

March is Women's History Month. It is fitting and exciting that we at St. Paul's are celebrating Kristen Arends as our congregation's first called female pastor. We are blessed to have Pastor Kristen on board. Please take time to welcome and get to know Kristen and her family.

Did you know in 2020 the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) celebrated 50 years of women being ordained; 40 years of women of color being ordained and 10 years of ordaining LGBTQIA people? On this anniversary the ELCA came out with a statement saying, in part "We lament that women have been barred from serving and have been bullied, dismissed and excluded. We, also, celebrate the gifts and service that women have brought to our church and our world as pastors." The struggle of women in our culture, including in our church, is recognized fully by the ELCA. Our church is committed to systemic changes that foster abundant, flourishing life for all persons within both church and society.

Did you know the ELCA is led by a female bishop? In 2013, Elizabeth Eaton was elected as the first female presiding bishop of the ELCA. Ordained in 1981, she was re-elected in 2019 and remains our bishop today.

There are many resources about the history and work of women in the ELCA both as ordained leaders and lay people. Please go to elca.org for more information and links to resources.

Book Club for Black History/Women's Month



Meet Sundays March 5, 12, 19, 26 and April 2 at 9am - 9:45am.

Selections from the complete collection of Zora Neale Hurston's short stories *Hitting a Straight Lick with a Crooked Stick* by Zora Neale Hurston edited by Genevieve West, Amistad (HarperCollins) 2020.

We will read one story per week and talk about whether we liked it or not, how it makes us feel, black/white relationships in the stories and anything else the story makes you want to talk about. No lectures, no analysis. This format allows participants to pick and choose which Sundays they wish to attend the group.

If you are interested in background material on Zora Neale Hurston, there is a little bit of it in the introduction in this collection. Feel free to bring that up for discussion, too, if it interests you. Hurston was a significant figure in the Harlem Renaissance. She was also part of the Great Migration. The short stories were written between 1921 and 1938. We will be reading stories chronologically from throughout that period.

St. Paul's was able to get 12 copies of the book from the Buffalo Public Library. The church will, also, have some copies available for a purchase price of \$15.00.

Lois O'Brian will lead the discussion. Please call or text her at 716-380-1630 to sign up. Include your name in your text, please. You can, also, email her at lois.obrian@gmail.com. Additionally, there will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the gathering room. Please indicate on the sign up sheet, if you would like us to get you a copy of the book.

The story selected for our first session, **March 5**, is "*Drenched in Light*".

St. Paul's Family

Congratulations to John "Blue" Hannon & Adrienne Leary, recipients of the 13th Annual Lutheran Awards!



Blue Hannon will receive the **Dr. Ralph W. Loew Award**. This award is given to the person who exemplifies community service to all of WNY. Blue started **Wheels for Workers 716** that repairs and distributes bikes so that refugees/those in need may have transportation for work. Last year Blue & his committee gave out over 400 bicycles.



Adrienne Leary is the recipient of one of the **Magi Awards**. This award is given to those individuals who have given service to their church. Adrienne began the **Tiger's Den Food Pantry** and volunteers countless hours helping in the pantry, as well as the church office.

Please join us in wishing a very Happy Birthday to our March missionaries!



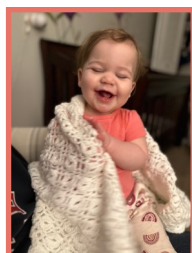
March 2 - Karen Vilonen
March 3 - Lavon Amos
March 5 - Susan Mumma
March 11 - Wilma Nantka
March 13 - Robert Gromer
March 13 - Marcia Gunther
March 16 - Donna Keene
March 21 - Joel Carter
March 25 - Mark Efstation



Thank you to the Comforters



This is Violet Gyder.
She is the daughter of Jacob & Alexandria (Tubbs) Gyder.
Violet was Baptized at St. Paul's in April 2022.



Violet would like all of the Comforters to know that she doesn't cuddle just ANY blanket.
The only blanket that she LOVES is the one given to her on her Baptism.
Violet thanks the Comforters for their wonderful work.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Telephone: 716-835-0407

Email: office @stpaulseggertsville.org

Website: www.stpaulseggertsville.org

Pastors:

Steve Biegner (716) 868-1232 cell

Kristen Arends (716) 481-8728 cell

Directors of Music:

Paul H. Storfer (SPEC)

Adam Schmidt (ALC)

Office Staff: Heidi Ginal, Adrienne Leary & Judy Polowy

Tiger's Den Food Pantry Coordinator: Adrienne Leary

Christian Ed Coordinator: June Piette

Youth Ministry: Adam Weber

Digital Ministry: Andrew Gruszka

Facilities Manager: Jeff Stein

An Irish Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face
and Until we meet again,
May the good Lord hold you
in the Palm of his Hand.

