

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost



July 22, 2023

5:00 pm

St. Paul's Amherst Lutheran Campus

*Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Amherst Lutheran Campus
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 22, 2023*



Guest Pastor: Rev. Randy Milleville

Pre-Service Music: Adam Schmidt

Brief order for Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who greets us in this and every season,
whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors. Merciful
God,

C we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have
squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of
Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

P Righteous God,

C we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked
the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us
and grant us your mercy.

P God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when
we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name
of ✠ Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

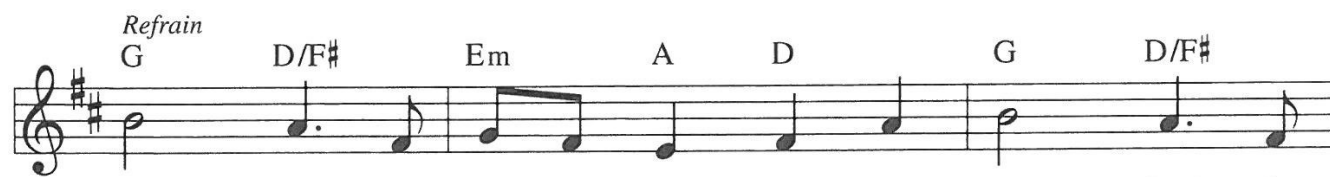
Gathering Hymn: Bring Forth the Kingdom, W&P 22



1 You are salt for the earth, O peo - ple: salt for the king - dom of God!
2 You are a light on the hill, O peo - ple: light for the cit - y of God!
3 You are a seed of the word, O peo - ple: bring forth the king - dom of God!
4 We are a blest and a pil - grim peo - ple: bound for the king - dom of God!



Share the fla - vor of life, O peo - ple: life in the king - dom of God!
Shine so ho - ly and bright, O peo - ple: shine for the king - dom of God!
Seeds of mer - cy and seeds of jus - tice, grow in the king - dom of God!
Love our jour - ney and love our home - land: love is the king - dom of God!



Bring forth the king - dom of mer - cy, bring forth the



king - dom of peace; bring forth the king - dom of jus - tice,



bring forth the cit - y of God!

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 Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

Praise Song: How Majestic is Your Name, W&P 66

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, 2/2 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the staff at various points. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with many notes beamed together. The lyrics are: "O Lord, our Lord, how ma - jes - tic is your name in all the earth! O Lord, our Lord, how ma - jes - tic is your name in all the earth! O Lord, we praise your name. O Lord, we mag - ni - fy your name, Prince of Peace, might - y God, O Lord God Al - might - y."

C C/E F Dm⁷ C/E

O Lord, our Lord, how ma - jes - tic is your

C C/E G⁷ G⁷/B C C/E

name in all the earth! O Lord, our Lord, how ma -

F Dm⁷ C/E C C/E G⁷ G⁷/B C

jes - tic is your name in all the earth! O

F Dm⁷ G Am⁷ G⁷/B C C/E F

Lord, we praise your name. O Lord,

Dm⁷ G Am⁷ G⁷/B C B B/D# Em D D/F#

we mag - ni - fy your name, Prince of Peace, might - y

G G⁷/F C/E F G⁷_{sus} G⁷ C

God, O Lord God Al - might - y.

First Reading: Romans 8:12-25

For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

A This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 86:11-17 (read responsively)

Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth. (Ps. 86:11)

A Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

C I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and glorify your name forevermore.

A For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the pit of death.

C The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my life; they have not set you before their eyes.

A But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

C Turn to me and have mercy on me; give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid. Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame; because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn: Spirit of the Living God, W&P 129

First system of musical notation for the hymn. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written on a treble clef staff, and the bass line is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me,". Chords indicated above the staff are: F, Gm7/Bb, D/A, Gm, F/C, C', and F.

Second system of musical notation. The melody continues on the treble staff, and the bass line continues on the bass staff. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me." Chords indicated above the staff are: F, Gm7/Bb, D/A, Gm, F/C, C7, and F.

Third system of musical notation. The melody continues on the treble staff, and the bass line continues on the bass staff. The lyrics are: "Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me." Chords indicated above the staff are: Bb, F, G7, C, F/C, and C7.

Fourth system of musical notation. The melody continues on the treble staff, and the bass line continues on the bass staff. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me." Chords indicated above the staff are: F, Gm7/Bb, D/A, Gm, F/C, C7, and F.

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 13th Chapter.
C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: "Pulling Weeds is God's Job; Staying Away From Them is Ours"

Sermon Hymn: Love Divine, LBW 315 (on the following page)

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and



heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us thy
 ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; let us all in
 all thy life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re -
 spot - less let us be; let us see thy



hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
 thee in - her - it; let us find thy prom - ised rest.
 turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.
 great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee!



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un -
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in



bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

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 Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

O God, you call your church to announce the gospel of reconciliation and truth both near and far. Guide your church as it seeks your wisdom and shares it, trusting your Spirit bearing witness among us. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You brought forth all creation and called it good. Direct policymakers to protect lands and seas. Bring rain to sun-parched fields and protect areas impacted by natural disasters. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You desire peace among nations and peoples. Guard our neighborhoods from hatred, watch over police officers and firefighters, and teach us to advocate for those who live in fear. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You are gracious and merciful, comforting those who suffer any affliction, especially the people on our Prayer Lists and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud. Sustain your people living with HIV/AIDS, provide shelter for all who are unhoused, and release any who are unjustly imprisoned. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

- A You name each of us as your children. Guide our hospitality ministry to welcome all, our education ministry to equip us for faithful living, and our social ministry to enact the gospel in our community. Hear us, O God.
- C **Your mercy is great.**
- A You send faithful people to proclaim freedom from bondage and to renew your church. Encourage us by the witness of the faithful departed, so that we live into that same hope. Hear us, O God.
- C **Your mercy is great.**
- A Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.
- C **Amen.**

Offering Hymn: WOV 798

Bless the Lord, O My Soul

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Bless the Lord, O my soul; bless the Lord, O my soul;

and all that is with - in me bless God's ho - ly name.

Offering 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

Ways to Give to St. Paul's

Here are a couple of options you can use to continue tithing to St. Paul's:

- **In-Person Worship:** Continue to put your envelopes and cash in the plate
- **Giving by Mail:** If you are not able to attend worship in person, please mail your donations payable to St. Paul's - 4007 Main Street, Eggertsville, NY 14226
- **Online:** On the St. Paul's website is a link to Online Giving which will allow you to donate either via PayPal or credit card. Click the Online Giving button and you will be taken to the site to set up an account, where to direct your donation, and the amount you want to donate. The website is: <https://stpaulseggertsville.com/online-giving/>

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.

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 Hymn: Jesus, Lamb of God, ELW 199

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

Holy Communion at St. Paul's: celebrated every time we gather, and is open to all.

Please approach by the center aisle, receive the bread and the wine, and return to your seat via the side aisle. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. Simply request it from the assisting minister holding the wine. Children are welcome!

Those who receive elsewhere may receive here. Children who do not yet receive may come for a blessing. If you have difficulty walking, communion will be brought to you at your seat.

Distribution Hymn: Blessed Assurance, TFF 118



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di - vine!
- 2 Per - fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi - sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per - fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal - va - tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.
an - gels de-scend-ing bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look - ing a - bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long:



this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

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 We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, 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: Swing Low, Sweet Chariot, TFF 171 (on the following page)

Sharing the Peace and Sending

- P Go in peace to serve the Lord!
- C Thanks be to God.

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot



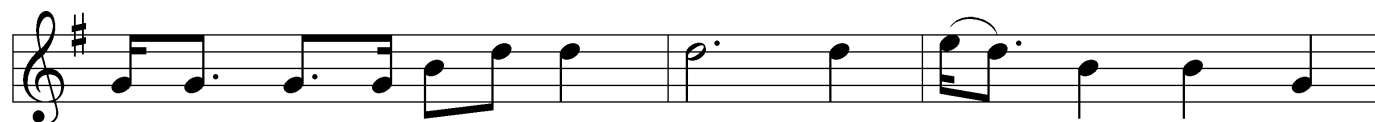
Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, com-ing for to car-ry me home.



Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, com-ing for to car-ry me home.



1 I looked o - ver Jor - dan, and what did I see,
 2 If you get . . . there . . . be - fore . . . I do,
 3 The bright - est . . . day . . . that ev - er I saw,
 4 I'm some - times . . . up, I'm some - times down,



com-ing for to car - ry me home? A band of an - gels
 com-ing for to car - ry me home; tell all my friends I'm
 com-ing for to car - ry me home; when Je - sus washed my
 com-ing for to car - ry me home; but still my soul feels



com-ing af - ter me, com-ing for to car - ry me home.
 com - ing . . . too, com-ing for to car - ry me home.
 sins . . . a - way, com-ing for to car - ry me home.
 heav-en - ly . . . bound, com-ing for to car - ry me home.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: SWING LOW, African American spiritual

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: July 23-30, 2023

TODAY: 9:30 am-1:30 pm: Western New York Church at ALC
10:00 am: Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV
10:00 am: Worship and Communion at Eggertsville Campus
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope

Wednesday: 8:00 pm: AA Meeting

Thursday: 8:00 pm: Alanon

Saturday: 9:00 am-3:00 pm: Peniel Haitian Church at ALC
5:00 pm: Worship and Communion at Amherst Lutheran Campus

Sunday: 9:30 am-1:30 pm: Western New York Church at ALC
10:00 am: Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV
10:00 am: Worship and Communion at Eggertsville Campus
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope

Prayer List: Shut-Ins (indicates new names or changes added this week)*

Lee Abell: 71 Windsor Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209
Robert Baus: 30 Westchester Drive, Williamsville, NY 14221
Evelyn Berger: 644 Campbell Boulevard, Getzville, NY 14068
Neal DeLeo: Bristol Village, 8455 Clarence Center Road, #105, Clarence Center, NY 14032
Jan Isaacs: #6 Bush Gardens, Three Rod Road, Alden, NY 14004
Omar Jenson: The Maplewood, 100 Daniel Drive, Webster, NY 14580
Dorothy Menth: Elderwood at Williamsville, 245 Bassett Rd., #54, Williamsville, NY 14221
David Wolf: Solstice, 6363 Transit Road, #244, East Amherst, NY 14051
Ron Wolfe: 324 Village Park Drive, Williamsville, NY 14221

Prayer List: In our congregational and extended family: Kathy Greenwalt; Neal Okonzak; Augustino Punturiero; Nancy Durkin; David Ihrig; Kurt Parker Venator (Richard Venator's grandson); Elwood & Jaroslava Chase (Karlen Chase's parents); Shaun Woods; Tracy Robinson; Michael Wallace; Rick Schmidt; Laura Sweet; Greyson Knox; Ira Striejewski; Gary Schmidt; Thomas Maier; Joanne Heizmann; Joan Chatham; Jerry Bucklaew; Joe Falletta; Debbie Lingenfelter; Maureen Kraus; Sally O'Connell; Patrick Irving; Jennifer Ryszkiewicz; Don Irving; Gail Adema; Gail Andrews; Dean Honsberger; Suzanne Gustafson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In-Person Worship: St. Paul's has two in-person worship services: Saturday evening at 5:00 pm at the Amherst Lutheran Campus, and Sunday morning at 10:00 am at the Eggertsville Campus. Please be respectful of people around you regarding distancing and their comfort levels. The Sunday 10:00 am worship service is also livestreamed on St. Paul's YouTube page.

Church Unleashed: If you cannot join us for in-person worship, please continue to worship with us as Church Unleashed on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am on WBBZ, YouTube, or Facebook.

Tigers Den Food Pantry: The Food Pantry is open to anyone in need in zip code 14226, anyone associated with Amherst Lutheran Campus, or by referral. The pantry hours for August are: Thursdays 8/3, 8/17, and 8/31 from 3:00-6:30 pm, and Saturdays 8/12 and 8/26 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm. Donations for August: spaghetti sauce, tomato puree, tomato paste.

Daily Bread Food Truck: We have concluded our 2022-2023 Monday Meal Share season. Our 2023-2024 Monday Meal Share will begin again in October. For more information to volunteer or donate, please contact the church office at 716-835-0407 or email dailybread4007@gmail.com.

ALC Book Club: The Book Club meets the second Thursday of each month in the narthex at Amherst Lutheran Campus beginning at 7:15 pm. All are welcome! Book for September 14: *The Last Cuentista (Storyteller)* by Donna Barba Higuera. For more information contact Karin Johnson at 716-689-6365 or karinej@roadrunner.com.

Thank You

Dear Friends, for all of you who have sent your condolences on the passing of Jon, I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart. All the prayers, cards, emails, and concern have meant so much to our family. Even though it is a difficult time for us, we know that Jon is free from disease and rejoicing with our Father in Heaven. Many Thanks again, Dianne Mott



+ 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 David Dahlberg Susan Epstein Sara Hannon
Janet Schmidt Robert Simpson Vanessa Solomon Scott Vahue*

Pastors

Steve Biegner (away for renewal until September)

Kristen Arends (716-481-8728 - cell); Email: kristen@stpaulseggertsville.com

Directors of Music

Paul H. Storfer (SPEC)

Adam Schmidt (ALC)

Christian Education Coordinator

June Piette

Youth Ministry

Adam Weber

Digital Ministry

Andrew Gruszka

Church Office Staff

Heidi Ginal, Adrienne Leary, and Judy Polowy

E-mail: office@stpaulseggertsville.com

Telephone: (716) 835-0407

Website: www.stpaulseggertsville.org