

*Ninth Sunday after
Pentecost*



July 29, 2023

5:00 pm

St. Paul's Amherst Lutheran Campus

*Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Amherst Lutheran Campus
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 29, 2023*



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.

Come, All You People

Uyaimose



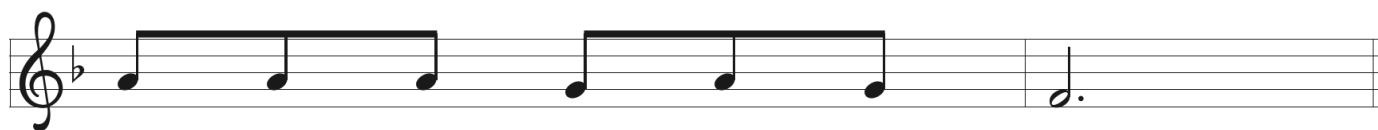
U - ya - i - mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;
1 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;
2 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;
3 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;



u - ya - i - mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;
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come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;
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come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;
come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;
come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;



u - ya - i - mo - se Zvi - no.
come now and wor - ship the Lord.
come now and wor - ship the Lord.
come now and wor - ship the Lord.

Text: Alexander Gondo; tr. I-to Loh, b. 1936, alt.

Music: UYAIMOSE, Alexander Gondo

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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 Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

Praise Song: Open Our Eyes Lord, W&P 113

O - pen our eyes, Lord; we want to see

Je - sus, to reach out and touch

him, and say that we love him.

O - pen our ears, Lord, and help us to

lis - ten. O - pen our eyes,

Lord, we want to see Je - sus.

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?”

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

A This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:129-136 (read responsively)

When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. (Ps. 119:130)

A Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

C **When your word is opened it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.**

A I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

C **Turn to me and be gracious to me, as you always do to those who love your name.**

A Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

C **Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.**

A Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

C **My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching.**

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39

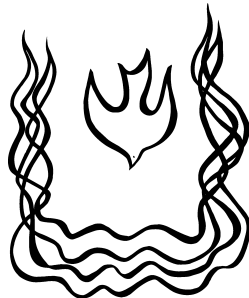
These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.



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

F Gm⁷/B^b D/A Gm F/C C⁷ F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me,

F Gm⁷/B^b D/A Gm F/C C⁷ F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me.

B^b F G⁷ C F/C C⁷

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

F Gm⁷/B^b D/A Gm F/C C⁷ F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me.



P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 13th Chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Sermon Hymn: Seek Ye First, WOV 783

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia, al -

1 Seek ye . . . first the king - dom of God and its
2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and
3 We do not live by bread . . . a - lone, but by

le - lu - ia, al - le -

righ - teous - ness, and all these things shall be
you shall find; knock and the door shall be
ev - 'ry word that pro - ceeds from the

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
mouth . . of . . . God. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

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.

Almighty God, we pray for the church and all servants of the gospel. Equip rostered and lay ministers to proclaim that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Form confirmands and catechumens into disciples. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Gracious God, we pray for the well-being of creation. Safeguard the environment, clean polluted rivers and lakes, preserve the mighty tree and the tiny mustard seed, and send advocates for sustainable practices. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Compassionate God, we pray for the nations. Instill in all who govern the ability to discern between good and evil, free those who are oppressed, and protect those facing danger. Promote peace across the world and in our towns and neighborhoods. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Merciful God, we pray for all in any need. Protect those fleeing from war, shelter any who are in poverty, clothe the naked, soothe all who grieve, and heal the sick, especially the people on our Prayer Lists and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Holy God, we pray for this congregation, both those gathered today and those absent from our assembly. Grant safety to travelers and refreshment and safety for children attending summer camps or community programs. Give direction to any experiencing life transitions. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Eternal God, we give thanks for your saints who now rest from their labors. Inspire us by their witness to treasure the gospel, and continually nourish us with your grace. 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, likely Soprano and Alto. It is in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first system covers the first line of the hymn, and the second system covers the second line. The score ends with a double bar line.

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: ELW 797

Blessed Be the Name

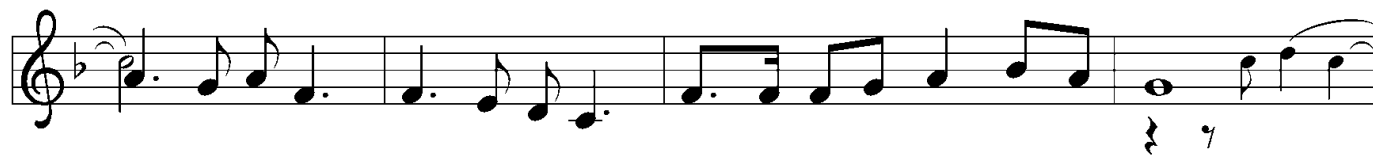
Heri ni jina



- 1 He - ri ni ji - na, he - ri ni ji - na, he - ri ni ji - na la Ye - su.
2 Twe-nde kwa Ye - su, twe-nde kwa Ye - su, twe-nde kwa Ye - su mbi-ngu-ni.
1 Bless-ed be the name, bless-ed be the name, bless-ed be the name, Je-sus' name.
2 Let us go to Je-sus, let us go to Je-sus, let us go to Je - sus in heav'n.



- He - ri ni ji - na, he - ri ni ji - na, he - ri ni ji - na la Ye - su. A-mi-ni!
Twe-nde kwa Ye - su, twe-nde kwa Ye - su, twe-nde kwa Ye - su mbi-ngu-ni.
Bless-ed be the name, bless-ed be the name, bless-ed be the name, Je-sus' name. Be-lieve!
Let us go to Je-sus, let us go to Je-sus, let us go to Je - sus in heav'n.



- Al - le - lu-ya, al - le - lu-ya. He - ri ni ji - na la Ye - su. A - mi - ni!
Al - le - lu-ya, al - le - lu-ya. Twe-nde kwa Ye - su mbi-ngu - ni.
Al - le - lu-ia, al - le - lu-ia. Bless - ed be the name, Je-sus' name. Be-lieve!
Al - le - lu-ia, al - le - lu-ia. Let us go to Je - sus in heav'n.



- Al - le - lu-ya, al - le - lu-ya. He - ri ni ji - na la Ye - su.
Al - le - lu-ya, al - le - lu-ya. Twe-nde kwa Ye - su mbi-ngu - ni.
Al - le - lu-ia, al - le - lu-ia. Bless - ed be the name, Je-sus' name.
Al - le - lu-ia, al - le - lu-ia. Let us go to Je - sus in heav'n.

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: Bring Forth the Kingdom, W&P 22 (on the following page)

Sharing the Peace and Sending

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

Bring forth the kingdom

Leader D G/D D D/F# All G D/F# A D

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!

Leader G D/F# G A D All G D/F# A D

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!

Refrain G D/F# Em A D G D/F#

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

Em A D G D/F# G A D

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

G D/F# Em/G A D G D/F# A D

bring forth the cit - y of God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: July 30-August 6, 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: 1:00 pm: Staff Meeting
8:00 pm: AA Meeting

Thursday: 3:00-6:30 pm: Tiger's Den Food Pantry Open
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
*Wilma Nantka: Fredonia Place, 201 Reist Street, #238, 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.



+ 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

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Telephone: (716) 835-0407

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