

*16th Sunday after
Pentecost*



*September 16, 2023
5:00 pm
St. Paul's Amherst Lutheran Campus*

*Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Amherst Lutheran Campus
16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 16, 2023*



Pre-Service Music: Guest Musician: Janet Schmidt

Brief order for Confession and Forgiveness

- P Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✚ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.
- C Amen.
- P Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin. Steadfast and faithful God,
- C you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.
- P Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In ✚ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.
- C Amen.

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death

1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
3 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
4 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.

so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984
Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829

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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.

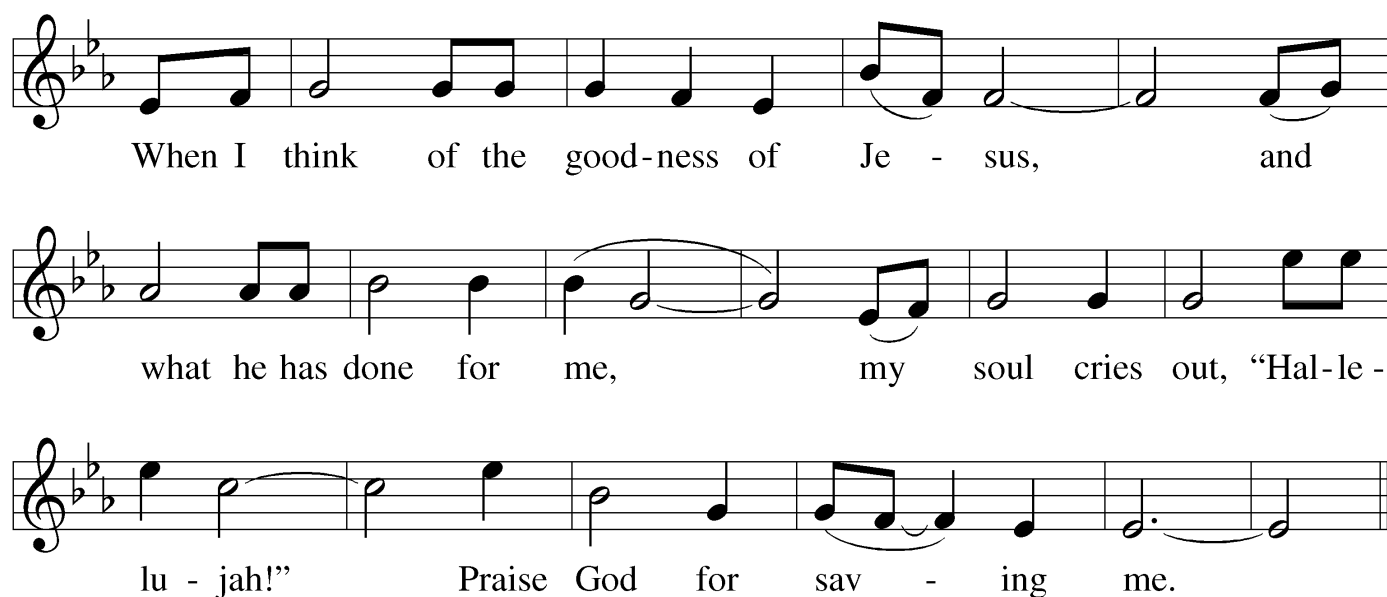
Prayer of the Day

P O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

Praise Song: W&P 117

When I Think of the Goodness of Jesus



Text: traditional

Music: WHEN I THINK OF THE GOODNESS, traditional

Today's Reader: Karin Johnson

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong

they did in harming you.’ Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.” But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

A This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.” So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

A This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Celtic Alleluia



Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

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P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 18th Chapter.
C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow

slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

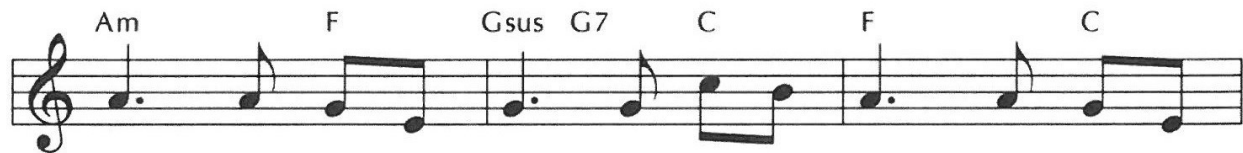


Your Only Son

Lamb of God



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
2 Your gift of love, we cru - ci - fied; we laughed and
3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
scorned him as he died; the hum - ble King we named a
brought me to your side to be led by your staff and



sod, and to be - come the Lamb of God.
fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
rod, and to be called a lamb of God.

Refrain



O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the



ho - ly Lamb of God! O wash me in his pre - cious



blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Apostle's Creed

P 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

P Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors. (Please be seated.)

We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops needed to feed those who hunger. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

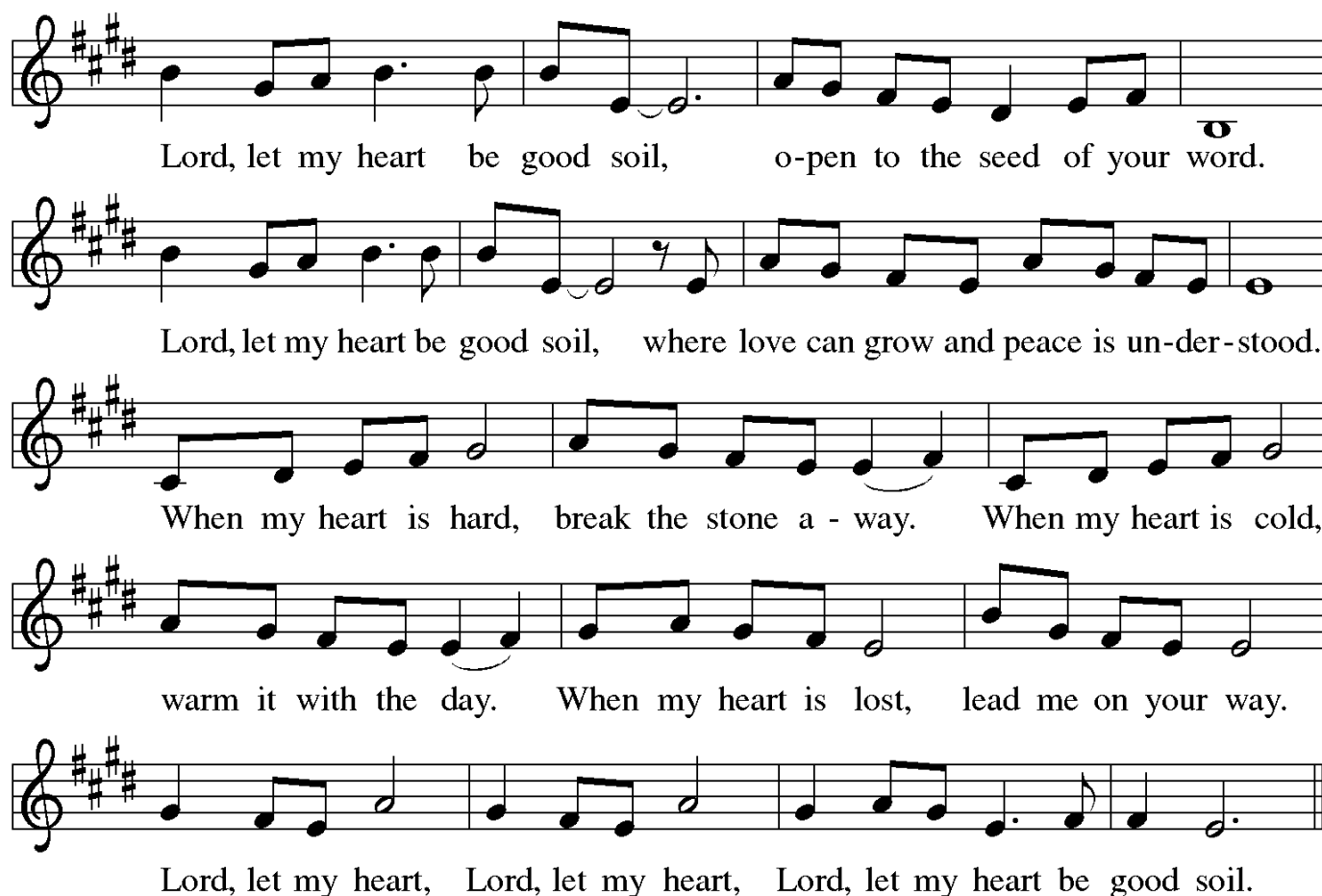
P We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially; for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm's way. Protect all who cry out for mercy, especially the people on our Prayer Lists and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

- P We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. Merciful God,
- C receive our prayer.
- P We give thanks for the saints who died in faith. Show us how to live faithfully, creatively, and lovingly in your church and world. Merciful God,
- C receive our prayer.
- P Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.
- C Amen.

Offering Hymn: W&P 52

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

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: W&P 76

Jesus, Lamb of God

All in All

Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name;

The first system of musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a treble and bass staff. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with the bass staff providing harmonic support. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name.

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and harmony from the first system. It also consists of a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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: TFF 82

Oh, How He Loves You and Me

1 Oh, how he loves you and me.
2 Je - sus he to Cal - v'ry and did go

Oh, how he loves you and me;
his love for this world to show;

he gave his life, what more could he give?
what he did there brought hope from de - spair.

Refrain
Oh, how he loves you; oh, how he loves me;

oh, how he loves you and me!

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 Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

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

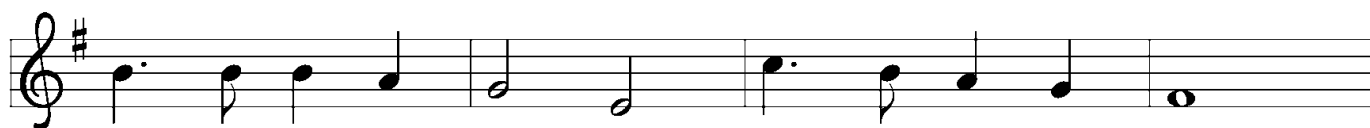
Closing Hymn: LBW 260 (on the following page)

Sharing the Peace and Sending

P Go in peace to serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God.

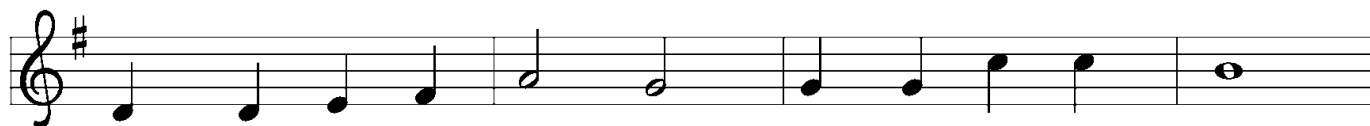
On Our Way Rejoicing



1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;



Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;



Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,



who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

Refrain



On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,



hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.

Music: HERMAS, Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: September 17-24, 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
10:00 am: Sunday School Begins/Backpack Blessing
11:00 am: National Youth Gathering Information Session for students and parents
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope
- Tuesday:** 10:00 am: Bible Study
6:00 pm: Burrito Project
- Wednesday:** 10:00 am: Way To Go Tours
8:00 pm: AA Meeting
- Thursday:** 3:00-6:30 pm: Tiger's Den Food Pantry Open
6:00 pm: Emotional Sobriety II
- Saturday:** 9:00 am-3:00 pm: Peniel Haitian Church at ALC
9:00 am-12:30 pm: Tiger's Den Food Pantry Open
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
10:00 am: Sunday School
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope

Altar Flowers: Are from Larry Fenske in honor of his wife, Rita

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

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

Dave Lampe: Elderwood of Lakeside, Room #314D, 170 West Avenue, Brockport, NY 14420

Ralph Mast: 150 Bissel Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14211

Dorothy Menth: Elderwood at Williamsville, 245 Bassett Rd., #54, Williamsville, NY 14221

Wilma Nantka: Fredonia Place, 201 Reist Street, #238, Williamsville, NY 14221

John Schunak: 193 E. Pinelake Court, Williamsville, NY 14221

David Wolf: Solstice, 6363 Transit Road, #244, East Amherst, NY 14051

Ron Wolfe: 324 Village Park Drive, Williamsville, NY 14221

We offer our sympathy and prayers to the Biegner family in the passing of Pastor Steve's mother.

We offer our sympathy and prayers to the family of Richard Wedekindt.

Prayer List: *In our congregational and extended family:* Sue Arnold (Joan Maef's sister and Robin Miano's aunt); Faith Uro; Gary Schoene, Jr. (Karen Schoene's nephew); Cathy D (friend of Barbara Walter); Lynn Arends; David Gajewski; Ruth Blank; Sharon Biondi; David Stephans; 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; 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 September are: Thursday 9/21 from 3:00-6:30 pm, and Saturday 9/23 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm. Donations for August: soup, cereal, pasta, and spaghetti sauce.*

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! For more information contact Karin Johnson at 716-689-6365 or karinej@roadrunner.com.*

Prayer Team Ministry: *The Prayer Team Ministry is up and running. If you are interested in becoming part of this ministry, once a week you will receive an email with a list of people to pray for and specific requests for that person. We ask that you commit to praying for the names on the email. If you'd like to join us, please contact Heidi at: Heidi@stpaulseggertsville.com*

Daily Bread Food Truck: *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.*



+ 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: Robert Simpson

Treasurer: William Niblock

Secretary: Scott Vahue

<i>Bob Brown</i>	<i>Karlen Chase</i>	<i>David Dahlberg</i>	<i>Susan Epstein</i>
<i>Sara Hannon</i>	<i>Gerri Horton</i>	<i>Janet Schmidt</i>	<i>Vanessa Solomon</i>

Pastors

*Steve Biegner (716-868-1232 - cell); Email: steve@stpaulseggertsville.com
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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