

17th Sunday after

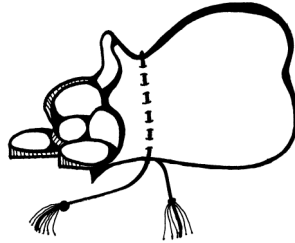


September 23, 2023

5:00 pm

St. Paul's Amherst Lutheran Campus

*Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Amherst Lutheran Campus
17th Sunday after Pentecost
September 23, 2023*



Pre-Service Music: Adam 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.

Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading



Njo - o kwe - tu, Ro - ho mwe - ma, M - fa - ri - ji we - tu.
1 Gra - cious Spir - it, heed our plead - ing, fash - ion us all a - new.
2 Come to teach us, come to nour - ish those who be - lieve in Christ.
3 Guide our think - ing and our speak - ing done in your ho - ly name.

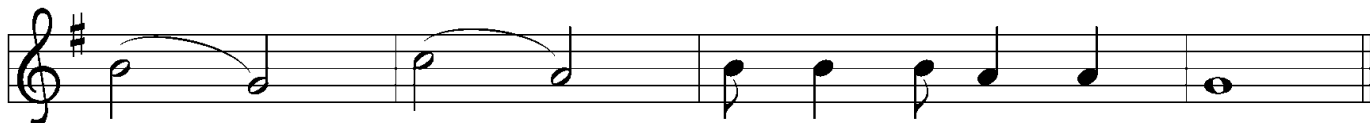


Tu - fu - ndi - she ya mbi - ngu - ni, tu - we wa - tu wa - pya.
It's your lead - ing that we're need - ing, help us to fol - low you.
Bless the faith - ful, may they flour - ish, strength - ened by grace un - priced.
Mo - ti - vate all in their seek - ing, free - ing from guilt and shame.

Refrain



Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.
Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.



Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.
Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

- 4 Not mere knowledge, but discernment,
nor rootless liberty;
turn disquiet to contentment,
doubt into certainty. *Refrain*
- 5 Keep us fervent in our witness,
unswayed by earth's allure.
Ever grant us zealous fitness,
which you alone assure. *Refrain*

Text: Wilson Niwagila; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922

Music: NIOOKWETU, ROHO MWEMA, Wilson Niwagila

English and Swahili text and music © Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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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 Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

Praise Song: TFF 239

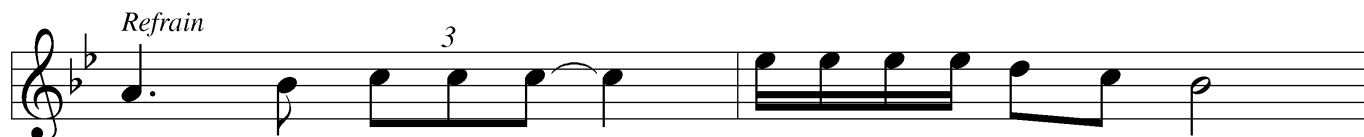
What Shall I Render



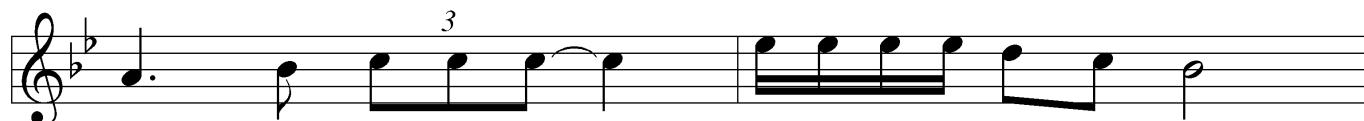
1 What shall I ren - der un - to God for all his mer - cies?
2 All I can ren - der is my bod - y and my soul; . . . that's



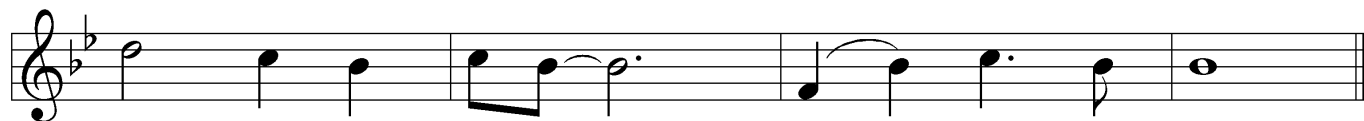
What shall I ren - der, what shall I give?
all I can ren - der, that's all I can give.



God has ev - 'ry - thing; ev - 'ry - thing be - longs to him.



God has ev - 'ry - thing; ev - 'ry - thing be - longs to him.



What shall I ren - der, what shall I give?

Today's Reader: Stacy Johnson

First Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

A This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145:1-8 (read responsively)

The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (Ps. 145:8)

A I will exalt you, my God and king, and bless your name forever and ever.

C Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

A Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness.

C One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.

A I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

C They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.

A They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

- C The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- A This is the Word of the Lord
- C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn: ELW 174

Gospel Acclamation
Celtic Alleluia

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

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

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 20th Chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because

no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

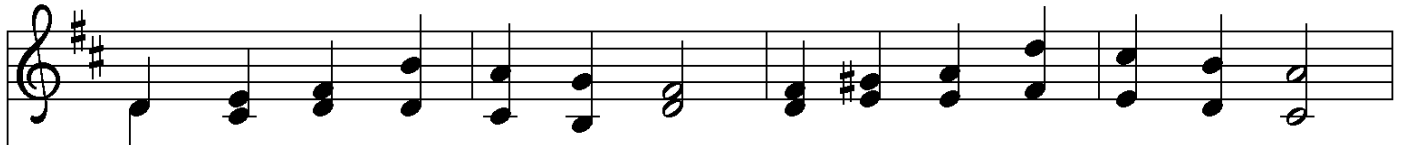
P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon



Take My Life, That I May Be



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



- take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
- take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
- take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
- take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.



- 5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

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.)

God who is gracious and merciful, teach your church to invite and welcome all. Lead us to be grateful for the blessing of community. Challenge your church to choose equity and compassion over judgment. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P God who sends the wind and the sun, you know every worm and bush by name. Help us remember that even the humblest parts of creation are precious to you. Show us how best to care for the earth and its creatures. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P God who is ready to relent from punishing, impart your compassionate wisdom to legislators, judges, members of the military, and law enforcement. Give them courage to serve their communities in times of uncertainty, stress, or exhaustion. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P God who saves, direct your people who are tempted by evil ways. Protect your children from calamity and disaster. Strengthen all who are incarcerated. Encourage all who are in despair or pain of any kind, 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 God who is slow to anger, may we boast about the goodness of Jesus with the confidence of Paul in prison. Inspire us to find abundance in whatever vocation we are called to in the world and in service to our congregation.
Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P God who abounds in steadfast love, we give thanks for the saints called to the kingdom of heaven. United with them in spirit, hold us firm as we labor in this life and look to the life to come. 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 129 (on the following page)

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/>

Spirit of the living God

F Gm⁷/B \flat D/A Gm F/C C⁷ F

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

The first system of music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff contains a melody with notes G4, Bb4, D5, and F5. The bass staff contains a bass line with notes F3, Bb3, D4, and F4. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff: F, Gm⁷/B \flat , D/A, Gm, F/C, C⁷, and F.

F Gm⁷/B \flat D/A Gm F/C C⁷ F

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

The second system of music is identical in notation to the first system, including the treble and bass staves, melody, bass line, and chord symbols.

B \flat F G⁷ C F/C C⁷

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

The third system of music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff contains a melody with notes Bb4, D5, F5, and G5. The bass staff contains a bass line with notes Bb3, D4, F4, and G4. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff: B \flat , F, G⁷, C, F/C, and C⁷.

F Gm⁷/B \flat D/A Gm F/C C⁷ F

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

The fourth system of music is identical in notation to the first system, including the treble and bass staves, melody, bass line, and chord symbols.

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

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.

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 consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, in a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name;". The music features a mix of chords and single notes, with a melodic line that includes a triplet of eighth notes in the final measure.

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

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and bass line from the first system. The lyrics are: "Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name.". The music concludes with a final cadence in the treble clef.

Text: Dennis Jernigan, refrain of "You are my all in all"
Music: ALL IN ALL, Dennis Jernigan

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Distribution Hymn: WOV 671 (on the following page)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks

Refrain F Dm Gm C

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give thanks to the ris - en Lord;

F Dm Gm C F

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give praise to his name.

F Dm B^b C

1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth;
 2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
 3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ;
 4 God has pro - claimed the just re - ward:
 5 Come, let us praise the liv - ing God,

F Dm B^b C *Refrain*

he is the king of cre - a - tion.
 Je - sus has died and has ris - en.
 now we shall live . . . for - ev - er.
 life for all peo - ple, al - le - lu - ia.
 joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - ior.

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 383 (on the following page)

Sharing the Peace and Sending

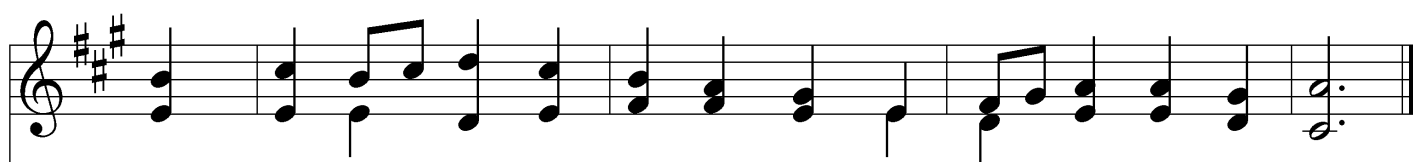
P Go in peace to serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God.

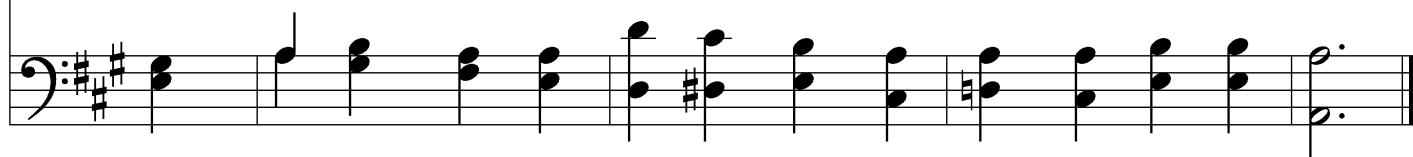
Rise Up, O Saints of God!



1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
3 Rise up, O saints of God! His king - dom's task em - brace;
4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, his word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!



Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: September 24-October 1, 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
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope
- Tuesday:** 10:00 am: Bible Study
- Wednesday:** 11:00 am: Erie County Board of Elections On-site Survey
8:00 pm: AA Meeting
- Thursday:** 6:00 pm: Emotional Sobriety II
- Saturday:** 9:00 am-3:00 pm: Peniel Haitian Church at ALC
4:30 pm: Lutheran Leadership Meeting 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
10:00 am: Sunday School
11:30 am-1:00 pm: Confirmation Class at Parkside Lutheran Church
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope

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: Ashley Woods, Room 8, 400 YMCA Way, Penfield, NY 14526
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

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 October are: Thursdays 10/5 and 10/19 from 3:00-6:30 pm, and Saturdays 10/14 and 10/28 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm. Donations for October: pasta, tomato products, and soup (no chicken noodle or tomato soup).

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

*Bob Brown Karlen Chase David Dahlberg Susan Epstein
Sara Hannon Gerri Horton Janet Schmidt Vanessa Solomon*

Pastors

*Steve Biegner (716-868-1232 - cell); Email: steve@stpaulseggertsville.com
Kristen Arends: Cell: 716-481-8728; 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

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