

*21st Sunday after
Pentecost*

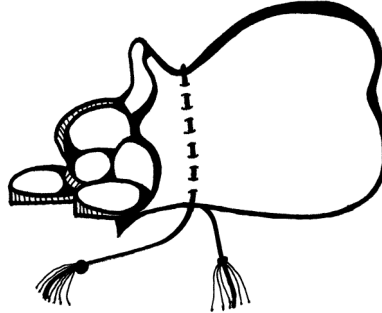


October 21, 2023

5:00 pm

St. Paul's Amherst Lutheran Campus

*Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Amherst Lutheran Campus
21st Sunday after Pentecost
October 21, 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.

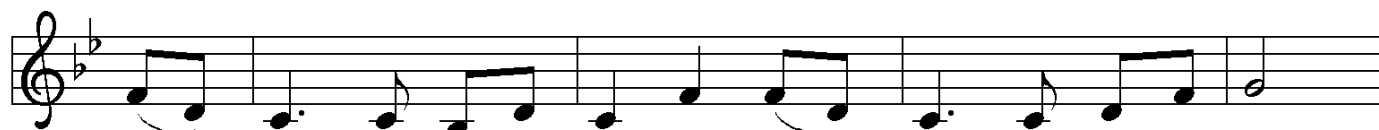
O God beyond All Praising



1 O God be-yond all prais - ing, we wor-ship you to - day
2 The flow'r of earth - ly splen - dor in time must sure - ly die,
3 Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can-not re - pay;
its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to you, the Lord most high;
that we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,
but hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown—
and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,



at bless-ings with - out num - ber and mer - cies with - out end:
though small in mor - tal stat - ure, to heav - en's gar - den grown:
we'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still:



we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,
for Christ, your gift from heav - en, from death has set us free,
to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,



we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.
and we through him are giv - en the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

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.

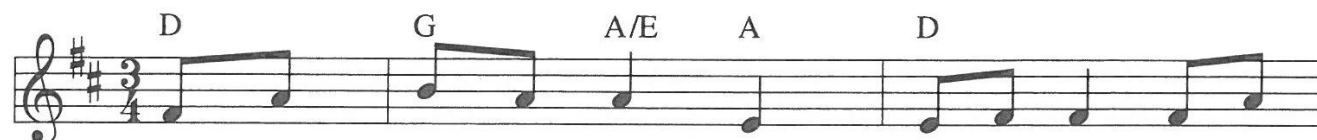
Prayer of the Day

P Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

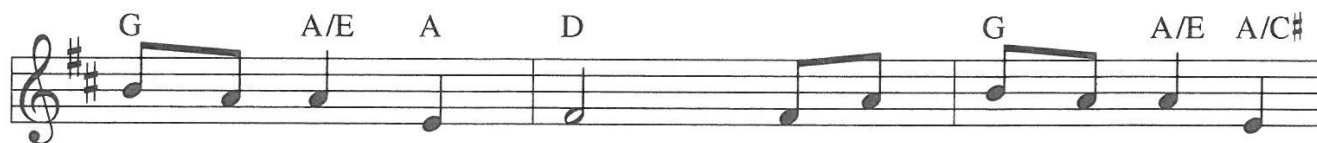
C Amen

Praise Song: W&P 154

We will glorify



1 We will glo - ri - fy the King of kings, we will
2 Lord Je - ho - vah reigns in maj - es - ty, we will
3 He is Lord of heav - en, Lord of earth, he is
4 Hal - le - lu - jah to the King of kings, hal - le -



glo - ri - fy the Lamb; we will glo - ri - fy the
bow be - fore his throne; we will wor - ship him in
Lord of all who live; he is Lord a - bove the
lu - jah to the Lamb; hal - le - lu - jah to the



Lord of lords, who is the great I AM.
righ - teous - ness, we will wor - ship him a - lone.
u - ni - verse, all praise to him we give.
Lord of lords, who is the great I AM.

Today's Reader: Janet Schmidt

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the LORD has anointed to end Israel's exile. The LORD makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this LORD as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the LORD claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed: I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

A This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

First Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you

became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

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 22nd Chapter.
C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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

Sermon



We Give Thee but Thine Own



- 1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
3 Hearts still are bruised and dead, and homes are bare and cold,
4 To com - fort and to bless, to find a balm for woe,



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
and lambs for whom the Shep - herd bled are stray - ing from the fold.
to tend those lost in lone - li - ness, is an - gels' work be - low.

5 The captive to release,
the lost to God to bring,
to teach the way of life and peace—
it is a Christlike thing.

6 And we believe thy word,
though dim our faith may be:
whate'er we do for thine, O Lord,
we do it unto thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.

Music: HEATH, Mason and Webb, *Cantica Lauda*, 1850

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 Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. (Please be seated.)

Faithful God, your Spirit animates the church throughout the world and binds believers near and far into the body of Christ. Equip us for the work of faith, and enlarge our hearts for the labor of love. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Creating God, the sea roars, the earth rejoices, and the heavens are glad at the wonder of all you have made. Bless the work of ecologists and conservationists and all those who safeguard the riches of creation. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Powerful God, bring peace and understanding to our world where we are overwhelmed with stories of war between nations, mass shootings, racial and gender hatred. Turn the tides Lord. Bless all those who are in the middle of these tragic events and use us to dismantle this hatred and evil and replace these stories with examples of justice, grace, and unity. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Caring God, your arms enfold all who are lonely, oppressed, despairing, sick, and suffering. We pray especially for the people on our Prayer Lists, those named in our prayer chain, and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud. Pour out your abundant mercy on all whom this world has neglected, abandoned, and forgotten, that they may know your joy. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, all our life belongs to you. When earthly idols threaten to lead your church astray, remind us that you alone are the source of our eternal hope. Direct the work of church treasurers, councils, and all who manage financial matters. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Everlasting God, the saints of every age have sung your praise and shared your word. We give you thanks for their witness and pray that we may join them as citizens of your unending kingdom. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

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.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

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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 Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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 consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The bottom staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat. The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style with a mix of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

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

The second system of musical notation consists of two staves, continuing the melody from the first system. It features the same key signature and clefs. The melody concludes with a final cadence. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

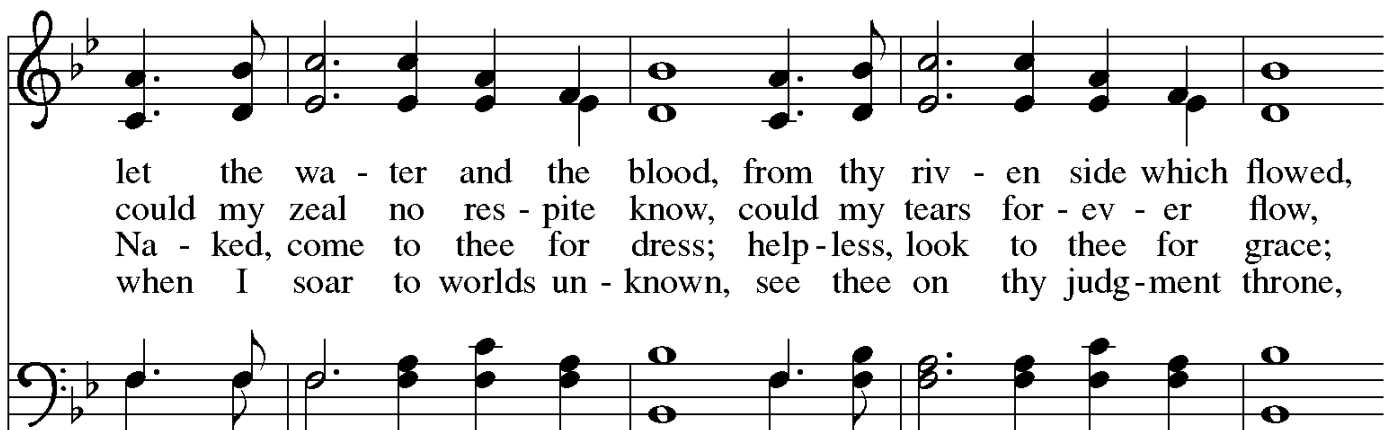
Holy Communion at St. Paul's: celebrated every time we gather, and is open to all.

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.

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

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 262 (on the following page)

Sharing the Peace and Sending

P Go in peace to serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God.

Savior, Again to Your Dear Name

1 Sav - ior, a - gain to your dear name we raise
2 Grant us your peace up - on our home - ward way;
3 Grant us your peace, Lord, through the com - ing night;
4 Grant us your peace through - out our earth - ly life,

with one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise;
with you be - gan, with you shall end the day;
for us trans - form its dark - ness in - to light.
our balm in sor - row, and our stay in strife;

once more we bless you ere our wor - ship cease,
guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
Keep us from harm and dan - ger till the dawn;
then, when your voice shall bid our con - flict cease,

then, low - ly bend - ing, wait your word of peace.
that in this house have called up - on your name.
your eve - ning pres - ence prom - ise to your own.
call us, O Lord, to your e - ter - nal peace.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: October 22-29, 2023

- TODAY:** 8:50-9:30 am: Adult Forum
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, Communion, and Sunday School at Eggertsville Campus
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope
- Tuesday:** 10:00 am: Bible Study
5:00-6:30 pm: Recovery on Main Meeting (NA)
- Wednesday:** 8:00 pm: AA Meeting
- Thursday:** 6:00 pm: Emotional Sobriety II
- Friday:** 6:00-10:00 pm: Bison Boosters Meeting
- Saturday:** 9:00 am-3:00 pm: Peniel Haitian Church at ALC
9:00 am- 12:30 pm: Tiger's Den Food Pantry Open
5:00-8:00 pm: Private Party in Parish Hall
5:00 pm: Worship and Communion at ALC
- Sunday:** 8:50-9:30 am: Adult Forum
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, Communion, Confirmation, and Sunday School at Eggertsville Campus
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

*Ruth Blank: 2330 Maple Road, Apt. 374, Williamsville, NY 14221

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

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: Cameron Kissel-haug; Bob Sielski; Thomas Maier; John and Rosemarie Burgholzer; John Schunak; October is Loss of Pregnancy/ Baby Awareness Month, and we pray especially for those families experiencing such a loss

Bulletin Prayer List Update: Now that the Prayer Team is up and operating, we are changing the way names on the Congregational and Extended Family List are managed. Names will appear in the printed Bulletin for three weeks and then be moved to the Prayer Team list for continuing prayers. In this way, we will be able to continue praying for each person and provide specific requests for each one. If you are interested in becoming part of the Prayer Team, please see below.

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.

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. 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: We are happy to announce that our 2023-2024 Monday Meal Share will began on October 16! We are successful in this mission thanks to our volunteers and donors. For more information, please contact the office at 716-835-0407 or dailybread4007@gmail.



Tigers Den Food Pantry: We are in desperate need of non-expired canned fruit and vegetables, pasta, cereal, soup (not chicken noodle or tomato), paper products, and personal care items. Tiger's Den is experiencing an increase in the number of families we help each month. The first two times we were open in October, we provided food and other items to 55 families, which in the past has been the count for an entire month. If you can help with donations, please call the office to arrange a drop-off, or donations can be made when the pantry is open (the preferred option). The pantry is open each month the first, third, and fifth Thursday from 3:00-6:30 pm, and the second and fourth Saturday from 9:00 am -12:30 pm. The next time the pantry is open is Saturday, October 28 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm. Thank you so much for all you do to help us.

Paint Night Fundraiser for Haiti



All Proceeds to benefit Caribbean Children's Foundation
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
1080 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14209
Call 716-886-2400
or email: info@holytrinitybuffalo.org
Come and join us!!

Friday, Oct. 20, 2023

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

\$30.00

All Supplies Provided

Register by Oct. 13



The
Refugee
Partnership

The Refugee Partnership of WNY is in urgent need of household items to help our newest neighbors set up housekeeping. Items such as linens, towels, cleaning supplies, toiletries, kitchen supplies and more are collected by the five member agencies and distributed in

Welcome Kits to families to assist in defraying the expense of resettlement. A list of the items included in a Welcome Kit is available at Saint Paul's website and on the Bulletin Board in the Gathering Area. We will be collecting items during the months of October and November to complete as many kits as we are able. Please review the list and as you are shopping in the weeks ahead consider picking up a few items on the list to help welcome those seeking refuge here in Western New York. I will update the list as items are collected so we know what we have and what is still needed. Thank you in advance for your support of this effort. Please see me if you have any questions. Hilde Neubauer or call the Church Office (716-835-0407)

To see what goes into a Welcome Kit, visit: tinyurl.com/44drtkzr



*+ 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

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