Christmas Eve



December 24, 2023 7:00 pm St. Paul's Eggertsville Campus Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church Christmas Eve: 7:00 pm December 24, 2023



Guest Soloist: Emily Helenbrook

Musician: Paul Storfer

Brief order for Confession and Forgiveness

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.
- C Amen.
- P Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

God of life,

- C you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.
- P Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In + Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.
- C Amen.

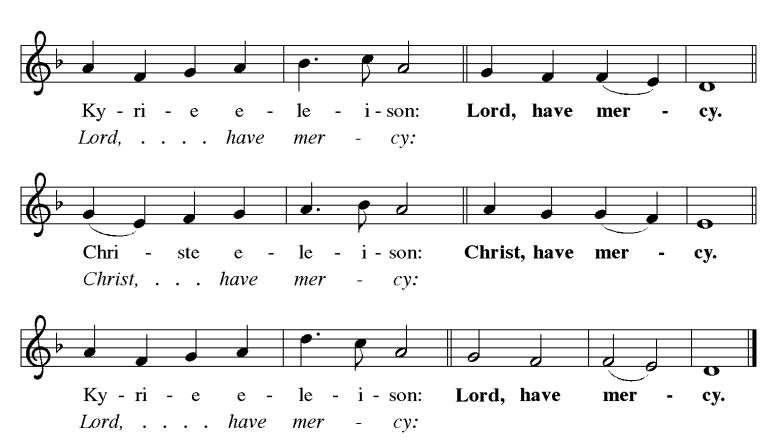
Choral Introit



Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

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.



Kyrie

Prayer of the Day

- P Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

- A This is the Word of the Lord
- C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96 (read responsively)

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad. (Ps. 96:11)

- A Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- C Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.
- A Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.
- C For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.
- A As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.
- C Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.
- A Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- C Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.

- A Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth.
- C Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."
- A Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- C Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.
- A You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.
- A This is the Word of the Lord
- C Thanks be to God.





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 Luke the Second Chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

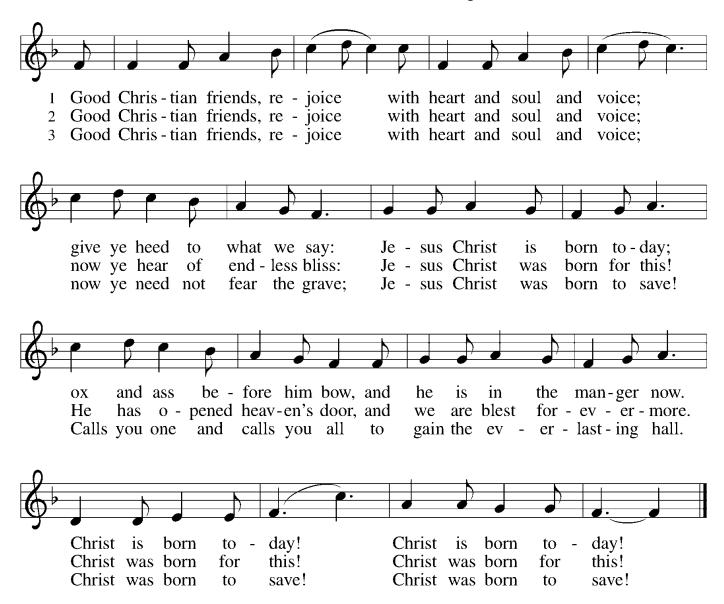
In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" [When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.l

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: LBW 55

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



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, God's 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 Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we pray for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

Glory to you, God, for the angels who sing to the world about Christ's holy birth. Give us a joyful song to sing, so we can bring the good news of peace and salvation to all people. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Glory to you, God, for the stars that shine in the dark of the night. The bigness of space and the beauty of stars help us to wonder about you. Help us to find beauty in all your creation and to care for the earth, seas, and cosmos as you want us to. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Glory to you, God, for the child born to us, Jesus, who teaches us new ways of living and being. Break bonds of oppression, bring reconciliation to warring lands, and establish peace. Help us to dismantle hatred and evil and to recognize you among us, so that your kingdom of justice and righteousness will reign. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Glory to you, God, for Mary's loving care. Lead us to tend to one another in time of need. Share the comfort of your presence with all people tonight who are alone or separated from loved ones due to distance, incarceration, illness, or broken relationships. We pray especially for those on our prayer lists and prayer chain, and those we name before you, either silently or aloud. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Glory to you, God, for the faithfulness of the shepherds in the work you called them to do. Grant rest to any who feel exhausted from their work during this season: retail and restaurant workers, church musicians, administrative staff, and clergy, organizers of charitable-giving events, and service workers doing essential tasks. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Glory to you, God, for the multitude of the heavenly host and our great cloud of witnesses. We rejoice in the lives of those have gone before us in faith and all those who have taught us and shown us that God is with us. Hear us, O God.

- C Your mercy is great.
- A Be with us, O God of mercy and grace, and hear our prayers.
- C Amen.

Offering Music and Prayer

Ways to Give to St. Paul's

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/

- 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



Communion Liturgy based on "I Am the Bread of Life"

- P I AM the bread of Life. You who come to me shall not hunger, And who believe in me shall not thirst. No one can come to me unless the Father beckons.
- C And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up, And I will raise you up on the last day.
- P The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world, And if you eat of this bread, You shall live forever, you shall live forever.
- C And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up, And I will raise you up on the last day.
- P In the night in which he was handed over, our Lord Jesus took a loaf of 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.
- C And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up, And I will raise you up on the last day.

Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, Who has come into the world. And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up, And I will raise you up on the last day.



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

<u>Holy Communion at St. Paul's</u>: 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 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 God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.
- C Amen.

Candlelight Benediction

The Gospel of John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

(The light is passed back through the community. Please leave burning candles upright and light one another's candles down the row. When all the candles are lit, we will sing together.)



Candlelight Hymn: LBW 65: Silent Night

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon virgin mother and child, Holy infant so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace!

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light Radiant beams from thy holy face With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!

Benediction

P And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only Son, full of grace and truth. May this good news, born for you, keep you in God's peace.

C Amen.

(As the lights are turned on please extinguish your candles, taking care not to drip hot wax.)

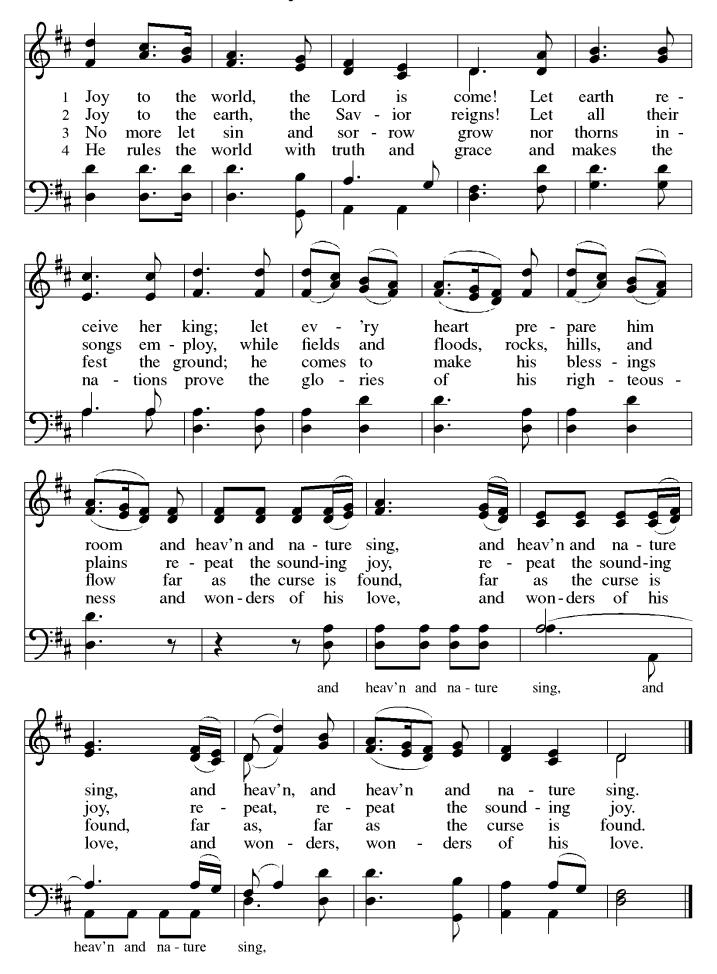
Closing Hymn: LBW 39 (on the following page)

Sharing the Peace and Sending

- P Christ is born! So go in peace and serve the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God!



Joy to the World





Poinsettias are given

to the Glory of the Newborn King



In Memory of:

Mother Rich and Helen Heuer Mom, Dad, Linda, and Sue My beloved husband, Courtney Brown My husband, Ron Ginal Our loved ones Mary Lou Herschlag Raymond Johnson and Barbara Dittenhauser Jack Miller John Pilato, Sr. Our loved ones Glenn Simet William and Dolores Skinner Rita Singer Gladys and Gregory Hodge Laurence H. Woodward Bill and Dolores and David Skinner

In Honor of:

Beloved family and friends

Family and Friends

In Celebration of:

Lizzie and Mike's Wedding Grandchildren: Everett, Emma, and JT Judy Brown's health recovery Lucky #7 The Glory of God

Other Juan Summerville Thankful for blessings

By:

Dad and Debbie The Adimey Family Karen Brown Kathryn Brown Heidi Ginal Jim and Marsha Glose Charles Herschlag Tim, Stacy, and Alice Johnson Sue Miller Betty Pilato Wes and Sharon Ries Sandra Simet Gail and Evan Singer Gail and Evan Singer Hattie Slater The Woodward Family The Wunderlin Family

By:

Mom and Grandma (Kathryn Brown) James and Suzanne Gustafson

By:

Mom and Dad Brown Grandpa and Nonnie Brown Mom (Kathryn Brown) Greg and Sandy Spoth Edward and Margene Weiss

By:

Hattie Slater The Winkler Family

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: December 24-31, 2023

TODAY:	Christmas Eve 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 SPEC 1:00 pm: Ray of Hope 7:00 pm: Worship and Communion at SPEC
Monday:	Christmas
Tuesday:	Church Office Closed
-	10:00 am: No Bible Study Today
	5:00-6:30 pm: Recovery on Main Meeting (NA)
Wednesday	Church Office Closed
	8:00 pm: AA Meeting
Thursday:	Church Office Closed
	6:00 pm: Emotional Sobriety II
Friday:	Church Office Closed
Saturday:	9:00 am-3:00 pm: Peniel Haitian Church at ALC
	5:00 pm: Fierle Wedding Rehearsal
	5:00 pm: Family Blessing Worship and Communion at ALC
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: Family Blessing Worship and Communion
	11:00 am-2:00 pm: Private Party in Parish Hall
	1:00 pm: Ray of Hope
	5:00 pm: Fierle Wedding

Altar Flowers: Are given for the glory of God.

Prayer List: Shut-Ins (* indicates new names or changes added this week)
Ruth Blank: 2330 Maple Road, Apt. 374, Williamsville, NY 14221
Neal DeLeo: Bristol Village, 8455 Clarence Center Road, #105, Clarence Center, NY 14032
Marilyn Emerson: 33 Northfield Drive, Snyder, NY 14226
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
Elaine Masman: Doseberg Campus, Room 120, 2700 North Forest Rd., Getzville, NY 14068
Ralph Mast: 150 Bissel Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14211
Dorothy Menth: Elderwood at Basset Park, 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

Deacons: 12/24: Barbara Walter; 12/31: Barbara Walter *Ushers:* 12/24: Lonny Walter & Gerry Keppel; 12/31: Rick Riddoch & Todd Vahue

Prayer List: In our congregational and extended family: Lorry Goldhawk (Tiger's Den volunteer); Jennifer Hoehn (Sandy Hoehn's daughter); Thomas Maier

Bulletin Prayer List : Names will appear in the <u>printed</u> 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: Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 11, 2024. The book will be The Humans by Matt Haig. At the January meeting we'll replenish the "reading box" with new titles to provoke interesting discussions. In January and February, stormy weather months, please be sure to check your email late on the day of the meeting in case of cancellation, or call me if you have any questions (716-689-6365 or karinej@roadrunner.com.) Thanks for your enthusiastic participation in book club which always enriches, enlightens and broadens my reading horizons. Karin

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: The 2023-2024 Monday Meal Share is underway. If you are interested in volunteering or donating, contact the office at 716-835-0407 or dailybread4007@gmail.com

Tigers Den Food Pantry: The Food Pantry is open to anyone in need in zip code 14226 or by referral. The pantry hours for January are: Thursdays 1/4 and 1/18 from 3:00 pm-6:30 pm; and Saturdays 1/13 and 1/27 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm. Donations for January: spaghetti sauce, canned peaches, and canned pineapple.

Angel Tree: A BIG thank you to all who participated in the 2023 Angel Tree. This was by far the biggest Angel Tree. We were able to provide all the gifts on the wish lists for 45 kids in 20 families along with grocery gift cards to help make their Christmas dinners special. Your participation helped make their Christmas brighter. Peace to all.



Saturday, December 30: 5:00 pm: Family Blessing Service, Worship, and Communion at Amherst Lutheran Campus

Sunday, December 31: 10:00 am: Family Blessing Service, Worship, and Communion at Eggertsville Campus





+ 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

> <u>Directors of Music</u> Paul H. Storfer (SPEC) Adam Schmidt (ALC)

<u>Christian Education Coordinator</u> June Piette

> <u>Youth Ministry</u> Adam Weber

<u>Digital Ministry</u> Andrew Gruszka

Church Office Staff

Heidi Ginal, Adrienne Leary, and Judy Polowy E-mail: office@stpaulseggertsville.com Telephone: (716) 835-0407 Website: www.stpaulseggertsville.com