

Second Saturday of Advent



December 9, 2023

5:00 pm

St. Paul's Amherst Lutheran Campus

*Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Amherst Lutheran Campus
Second Saturday of Advent
December 9, 2023*



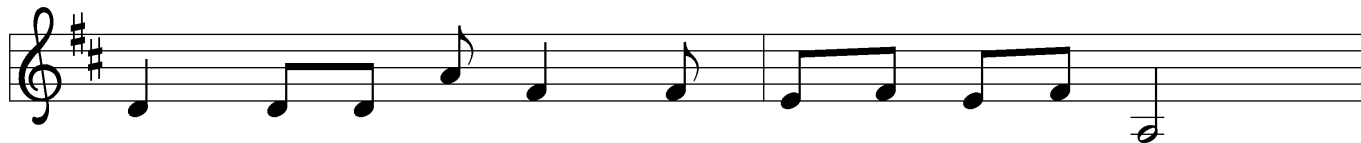
Pre-Service Music: Adam Schmidt

Brief order for Confession and Forgiveness

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.
- C Amen.
- P Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.
- C God for whom we wait, as church together, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.
- P God's love is unleashed into this world for all of us. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven and through the grace of Jesus, you are set free from the burdens of fear and shame.
- C Amen.

All Earth Is Hopeful

Toda la tierra



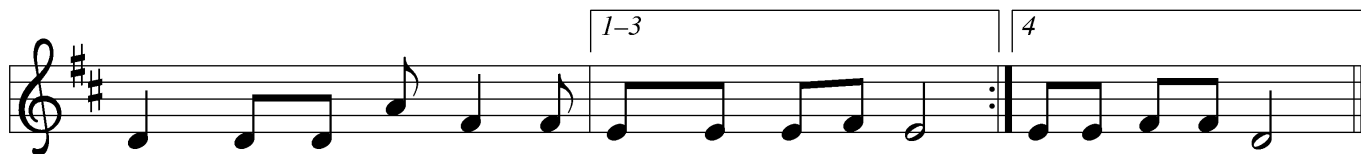
To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co_a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
"A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

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 Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

C Amen

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Hymn: ELW 262, sing twice

Wait for the Lord

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Text: Taizé Community

Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

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Today's Reader: Bob Rembold

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

A This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13 (read responsively)

Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God. (Ps. 85:13)

P You have been gracious to your land, O LORD; you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

C You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.

P I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

C Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.

P Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

C Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

P The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

C Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.

A This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark the First Chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

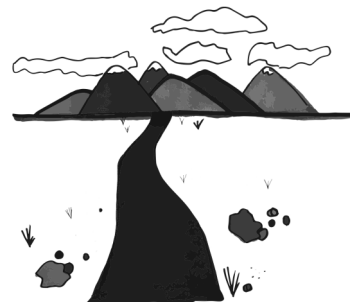
The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,' " John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon



O God, Our Help in Ages Past



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
soon bears us all away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1678–1727

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, 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

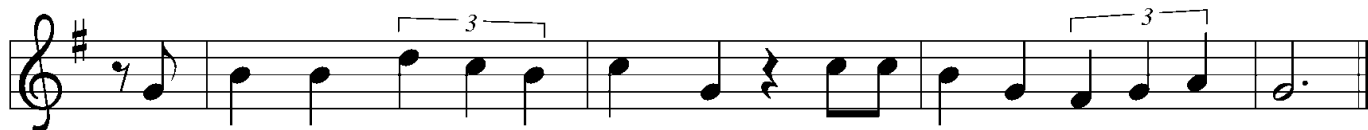
Prayers of the Church

- P** With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration. (Please be seated.)
- Send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach your church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed. Merciful God,
- C** receive our prayer.
- P** Reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and blossoming wilderness roads. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal. Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures. Merciful God,
- C** receive our prayer.
- P** 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. Merciful God,
- C** receive our prayer.
- P** Comfort your people with tender words of love and healing. Surround all who are grieving, all who know depression or anxiety, or all who feel lonely or forgotten, especially the people on our Prayer Lists and Prayer Chain, and those we name before you now either silently or aloud. Be a steadfast presence when all else feels uncertain. Merciful God,
- C** receive our prayer.
- P** With you a thousand years is like a day. Bless the memory of the saints from ages past and the anticipation of saints yet to be born. Inspire us to live with faith as we await your new heaven and new earth. Merciful God,
- C** receive our prayer.
- P** Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.
- C** Amen.

He Came Down



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

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 36

Emmanuel

C C/E F G G⁷ C C/B \flat

Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el,

A A/C \sharp Dm G⁷ G/B C

his name is called Em - man - u - el;

C/E F G G⁷ C C/B \flat

God with us, re - vealed in us;

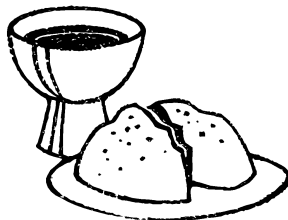
A A/C \sharp Dm G⁷ F/C C

his name is called Em - man - u - el.

Text and music: Bob McGee
Text and music © 1976 C. A. Music

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.



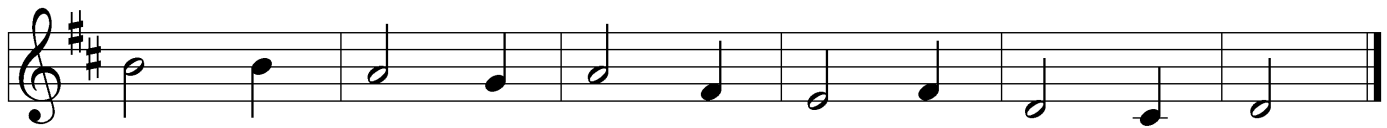
On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's banks the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and hear - ken,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

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 Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.
- C Amen.

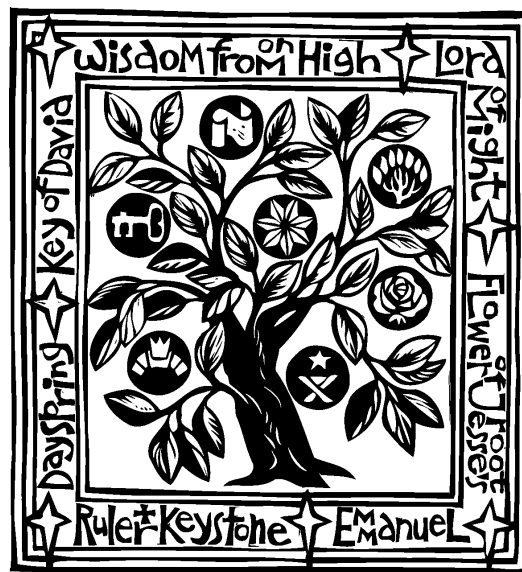
Benediction

- 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: ELW 246 (on the following page)

Sharing the Peace and Sending

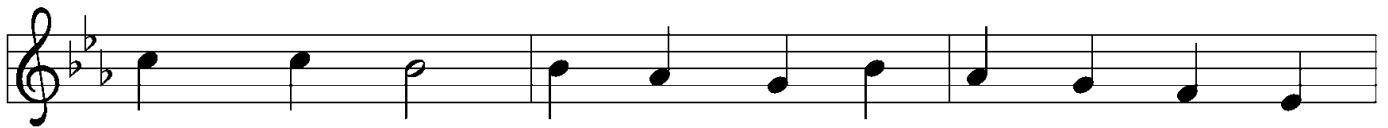
- P Go in peace to serve the Lord!
- C Thanks be to God.



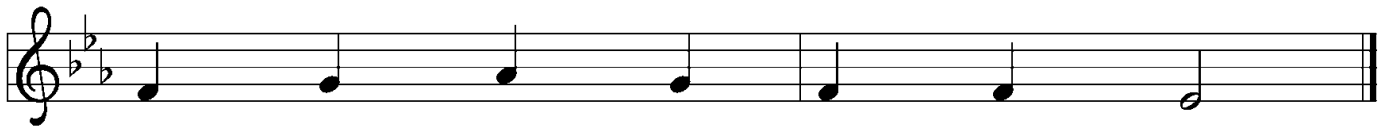
Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!



1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is near," we
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther



hear it say. "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,
let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling,
down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of sor - row,
wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mer - cy
and the Son with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it



all you chil - dren of the day!"
shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
one and all, to be for - giv'n;
and with words of love draw near.
while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: December 10-17, 2023

- TODAY:** 8:50-9:30 am: Adult Forum (Today is the last day of Adult Forum, and we will restart January 14th.)
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 followed by Annual Congregational Meeting
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope
- Monday:** 4:30-5:30 pm: Daily Bread Food Truck Meal Share
- Tuesday:** 10:00 am: Bible Study
5:00-6:30 pm: Recovery on Main Meeting (NA)
7:00 pm: Church Council Meeting
- Wednesday:** 10:00 am: Comforters Meeting
8:00 pm: AA Meeting
- Thursday:** 6:00 pm: Emotional Sobriety II
- Saturday:** 8:30 am: Men's Breakfast
9:00 am-3:00 pm: Peniel Haitian Church at ALC
4:00-8:00 pm: Private Meeting in Parish Hall
5:00 pm: 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: Worship, Communion, and Children's Christmas Pageant
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope

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

Prayer List: In our congregational and extended family: Jennifer Hoehn (Sandy Hoehn's daughter); Stephen Hehr (Jan Isaacs' friend); Thomas Maier; Rick Pierce; Bob and Judy Sielski

Bulletin Prayer List : 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: 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 December are: Thursday, 12/7 and 12/21 from 3:00 pm-6:30 pm; and Saturday 12/9 and 12/23 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm. Donations for December: pasta, granola bars, cooking oil.

THANK YOU! to everyone who contributed to the Welcome Kit collection for the Refugee Partnership during October and November - we collected 19 boxes of household necessities as well as two televisions and several lamps. These gifts will help our newest neighbors set up housekeeping in their new homes and help stretch limited resources to cover other pressing needs.



Time to start planning ahead!!


Sunday, December 10: Following 10:00 am service at SPEC, the Congregational Meeting will be held at the Eggertsville Campus

Sunday, December 17: 10:00 am service: Children's Christmas Pageant at SPEC

Saturday, December 23: 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Eve Service at ALC

Sunday, December 24: 10:00 am Christmas Eve Service at SPEC

7:00 pm: Christmas Eve Service at SPEC

 Our adult winter retreat at
Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center
will be held:
January 19 - 21. 2024

The Winter Retreat is now filled
to capacity.

For those that are registered,
more information will be coming.

Any questions, see or call Barb Walter
716-574-8527





IT'S ANGEL TREE TIME. Under the tree is a box for gift cards or cash which will be secured each Sunday. ***Gifts must be returned by Dec. 10th.*** Please attach the TAG to the gift so we can sort them by family. If you'd like to participate but don't like to shop, we've got "shopping angels" to help. Do ***NOT*** wrap the gifts. We will provide wrapping paper to the parents so they can be part of the gift giving. The families are chosen by the Amherst Middle school social workers. Any questions. see Cheryl Gillen(716-341-5073)"



Children's Christmas Pageant

Sunday

December 17, 2023

10:00 a.m.



*+ 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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