

February  
2024

# The Messenger

St. Paul's Lutheran Church



ST. PAUL'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Eggertsville & Amherst  
Campus

hello  
February

*Lent Begins with Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14*

## LENTEN LUNCHES & DEVOTIONS

Wednesdays, 12:00 pm - 12:45 pm



Please consider bringing a pot of soup  
for one of the weeks.  
Sign up sheet is in the Gathering Space.

### Psalms of Prayer

**Feb 21:** Psalm 22:23-31 - "The poor shall eat and be satisfied" - SCB

Prayer focus: Ministries & people that battle hunger

**Feb 28:** Psalm 19 - "The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart" - PK

Prayer focus: Those who work for justice

**March 6:** Psalm 107 - "You deliver the people from their distress" - SCB

Prayer focus: those we know of that are troubled

**March 13:** Psalm 51 - "Create in me a clean heart O God" - PK

Prayer focus: ELCA missions & St. Paul's ministries

**March 20:** Psalm 31 - "Into your hands O Lord I commend my spirit" - SCB/PK

Prayer Focus: all who grieve

*St. Paul's is a congregation of the Niagara Frontier Conference of the Upstate New York Synod  
Of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)*

## *A message from Pastor Steve*

Dear friends and missionaries at St. Paul's,

31 - On January 21<sup>st</sup>, we had 31 different people/groups/homes/phones live streaming the 10am worship service. One of those was our 20 folks at the LCLC Winter Retreat. Another was a family of seven who had a sick child at home. One was in the Chicago area. At least one was in Florida. In fact, we may have had more people live streaming than in person!

Oh how Covid has changed us. Many ways tragically.... but a few of them for the good! Like this news from that Sunday.

We've starting doing "Sermons in a Minute" (retelling a whole sermon in just one minute .... and no I'm not going to start doing that on Sunday mornings, except maybe for home Bills games) through Church Unleashed and the social media savvy people on our team shared them on Facebook, TikTok and other platforms. In just the first two sermons alone, 367 new people visited the YouTube page and watched a worship service for the first time.

Digital Worship, Evangelism and Fellowship are here to stay. And they are reaching people!

That's why I wanted to share some exciting news with you. Due to some of the unique ministry options that St. Paul's is a part of, especially due to the gifts of our digital minister Andrew, we have been invited to be part of a new venture called The Narthex! This two-year project is a grant funded by the Lily Foundation. It will involve six congregations at first and then add 24 more in the second year. We shall come together to enhance congregational potential to reach people that would never darken the door of a brick and mortar church, as we share the good news of Jesus Christ. We will have a full evaluation of current ministry offerings and suggestions for additional ones with help from a consulting crew called The Unstuck Group. All the while, the original six churches will be sharing ideas and learning from one another.

I am looking for two or three people that would be passionate and excited about this venture to join us as a Digital Ministry Team for the year to work with The Unstuck Group. Please talk to Pastor Kristen, Andrew or me if you have interest.

Twenty six years ago, I started writing "ps from ps" devotions on this brand new platform called: e-mail. It went out to 17 people that were bold enough to get their own AOL address on this thing that Al Gore created called: the world wide web. And now look where we are??

## ***Pastor Steve Cont.***

What does God have in store next? How can we continue “reaching beyond ourselves” with digital ministries that we might not even fully understand? The answer is: I have no idea. But I’m willing to explore it!! Because the good news of Jesus is too important to keep to ourselves.

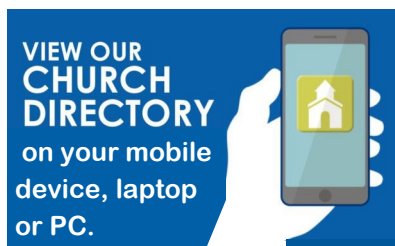
Enjoy the rest of Biegnier Winter...we’re roughly 60% done! Stay warm and safe. I’ll see you in person or.... online!

Still in One Peace  
ps



*Love is Patient  
Love is Kind  
Love Never Fails*

## ***The Online Directory***



The online directory will only be accessible to active members at St. Paul’s & it will only have the information that is on the current paper copy Directory.

You can download the *Instant Online Directory* app on your phone/tablet.

You will need to enter the email address that we have on file.

Or go to: [www.instantchurchdirectory.com](http://www.instantchurchdirectory.com) and click Member login.

They will send you a verification email and then you can set up your own personal password of your choosing. Once that is done, you will have access to the directory!

You will be able to edit your family information such as contact information and pictures. If you have any questions, please email the office at:

[office@stpaulseggertsville.com](mailto:office@stpaulseggertsville.com)

# ***Tiger's Den Food Pantry***



We want to express our sincere appreciation to Starfish Ministries, St. Joseph's University Church, the St. Vincent de Paul Society at Christ the King Church, and St. Benedicts Church for their continuing generous support of Tiger's Den Food Pantry. In 2023, these churches provided monetary donations, weekly donations of non-perishable food items, quarterly food drives, special donations of school supplies, and so much more. We continue to thrive and grow as a pantry with the help of everyone, regardless of theology!

As we continue on the path of assisting people and families experiencing food insecurity in our area, we will work with the Daily Bread Food Truck and the Burrito Project to expand our outreach efforts.

## **The Food Pantry is open on the following days in February:**

Thursdays: February 1, Feb. 15 and Feb. 29 from 3:00 pm—6:30 pm

Saturdays: February 10 and Feb. 27, from 9:00 am—12:30 pm

## **Donations needed for February**

Canned fruit, paper towels and facial tissues



## ***Daily Bread Food Truck & Kevin Guest House***



The Daily Bread Food Truck's mission is to provide hot nutritious meals to individuals and families in our community experiencing food insecurity.



The Daily Bread is volunteer based and relies on donations from individuals & area businesses.

We have been very fortunate, thanks to our volunteers, to expand our season. This includes the Monday night meal share (4:30—5:30 pm) as well as the Kevin Guest House. We anxiously await the completion of our remodeled kitchen at SPEC.

## ***Thank you to St. Paul's Food Ministries***



January 12, 2024

Dear St. Paul's Members,

On behalf of the Amherst Central School District, I want to acknowledge and thank you for your dedication during the 2022-23 school year to provide meals to our community through the Daily Bread Food Truck. We were amazed and humbled to learn that over a period of 27 Mondays you had provided 3,031 hot meals to the community. Additionally, you gave 1,237 servings of soup and bread, as well as snacks and fresh vegetables donated by other community partners.

Within our community, families continue to face food insecurity and hardships due to the economy, the ongoing pandemic effect and other factors. You provide them a welcome respite. Your commitment to provide a meal share on Thursdays and Saturdays for our Tiger's Den Food Pantry families and the Monday night distributions at your church extend your service to our community even further.

This school year, in addition to the Monday Meals, your organization provided meals during our holiday breaks and we are grateful. Your work has blessed our school community in so many ways.

Thank you,

Anthony J. Panella, Superintendent



## *Ministries*



Sunday mornings 8:50 am - 9:30 am.  
Great conversation & dwelling in God's word together.  
Newcomers Welcome!!

## *Bible Study*



### **Tuesday Bible Study: 10:00 am in the Fellowship Room**

Bible Study will wrap up our look at the Light of Christ spreading on Feb. 6 and 13.

Our Lenten Study beginning Feb. 20 will be,  
"The Biblical Stations of the Cross in Art and Music."

All are welcome.

Bring your own beverage; Timbits or other goodies are provided.

## *Book Club at the Amherst Campus*

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, February 8, 2024

**Time:** 7:15 pm

**Where:** 5125 Main Street  
Williamsville, NY 14221

**Featured book:** *Lost Autumn*  
by Mary-Rose MacColl

**For info call:** Karin (716) 689-6365

**Bring a suggestion for the book box.**



## *Kevin House Meal update*

As the St. Paul's kitchen finishes its makeover, the Kevin House will receive its February meal prepared by Campobello's Restaurant.

Thank you to Ed and Marjene Weiss for their kindness in delivering the meals to the Kevin Guest House.

## *The Comforters*

The Comforters will meet on Wednesday, February 14 at 10:00 a.m. upstairs in the Parish Hall.

All are welcome. If you don't knit or crochet you can still help. If you can tie, you can help.



If you would like to make things to help us without attending the meetings (perhaps you work during the day), we would love that. You can choose to make lap robes, baptism blankets, confirmation shawls, or prayer shawls. They can be knit or crochet.

We can provide the yarn. Call Sara at 716 834-1833 to get started.

We stop at noon for lunch. Bring your own sandwich and drink.

Dessert will be provided.

Hope to see you there!

## *Pinochle Group*



Pinochle meets on the first Wednesday of the month.

The next card play is **February 7, at 1:00 p.m.**

We will be meeting at the Eggertsville Campus.

We have both serious and social card players! Join us!



If you have any questions, call Sara at: 716-834—1833

Even if you haven't played in a long time, we will refresh the game for you!

## *Burrito Project*



Every Tuesday, a different Lutheran congregation makes burritos and distributes them to people who are hungry in downtown Buffalo.

St. Paul's Youth Group supports this ministry on the third Tuesday of every month. We are always looking for volunteers to meet at 6 pm and help prepare & distribute 100+ burritos. If interested in becoming a part of the Burrito Project, contact Adam at: Aweber308@yahoo.com

The next meeting is Tuesday, February 20 at 6.00 pm at SPEC.

## Music Ministries

We'd love to have you join us in the  
**Church Choir at St. Paul's**, under the direction  
of Mr. Paul Storfer.



No experience or training needed. . . . Only a willingness to participate and sing!

The next practice is Thursday, February 1 at 7:00 pm in the SPEC music room.

Each Sunday before Worship, please come by 9:30 a.m.

For more information/register, please email: [office@stpaulseggertsville.com](mailto:office@stpaulseggertsville.com)



The ALC campus is looking for musicians for any and all levels  
to add to the music worship on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. If you or  
anyone you know, that might be interested, email Janet at:  
[Jeschmidt48@gmail.com](mailto:Jeschmidt48@gmail.com)

## Confirmation Classes - Schedule

Confirmation classes: Here are the dates and locations for the remainder of the year.

February 4 .....Parkside

March 3 .....St. Paul's, Eggertsville

April 7 .....Parkside

May 5 .....St. Paul's, Eggertsville



## Prayer Team Ministry

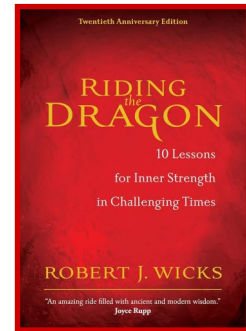
If you would like to request prayers for a loved one or friend  
contact Heidi at: [Heidi@stpaulseggertsville.com](mailto:Heidi@stpaulseggertsville.com)

We ask that you include the reason for the prayers and your contact  
number, so we may do follow-ups on your needs. Thank you.





## ***Men's Breakfast - February 17***



Copies of the book,  
***Riding the Dragon***  
will be available at St. Paul's

## ***It's Back!! The Winter Golf Classic - Feb. 4***



### **A couple reminders:**

- All gift cards and baskets should be handed into the office by Feb. 1
- Volunteers should be at The Dome by 12:30 pm on Sunday, Feb. 4
- Players: Shot gun start at 2:00 pm
- Address: 8230 Wehrle Drive, Williamsville, NY 14221

# *Sunday School*



Happy February! In Sunday school we are looking forward to our traditional “bring a friend” Sunday on February 11<sup>th</sup>! We will be meeting in the upstairs Parish Hall after children's time in the sanctuary. We will be creating Valentines, decorating heart cookies and sharing God's love by putting together a bag full of treats for a neighbor. We will talk about the Golden Rule and love thy neighbor!

Last month (in January) we talked about a New Year and a fresh start. How sometimes resolutions are hard to keep. But we also know that God has the power to help us no matter what. That through baptism we are led to Jesus and are so blessed!

We also talked about windows! How light shines through so we can see better. That is kind of like how Jesus shined God's light through him to help us see the way better! We too can let God's light shine through us onto others!

We ended January with Jesus teaching us to fish for people and how we need to be equipped to do that with knowing the Bible, patience, love and following Jesus. We made invitations for our friends to join us on Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> for our Valentines theme of sharing God's love with all!

In peace and love,

~ June



## *Adult Retreat at LCLC*

As expected, God made sure that all of the pieces fell into place to make the 2024 Annual Retreat at Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center a huge success. Despite a snowy drive down, the participants arrived safely and quickly settled in for a cozy weekend of fellowship, devotions, laughs, good food, hikes, skiing, games and worship. A small group made the trek over to the Chautauqua Institute for a horse-drawn wagon ride around the beautiful grounds followed by time to browse in the wonderful book and gift shop and... time to enjoy a cup of hot chocolate.

The serenity and beauty of Lake Chautauqua was the perfect setting to reflect and give thanks for all our blessings. We learned that our lives are like a puzzle, but God knows exactly where each piece goes. The retreaters worked together to create 50 warming “gift bags” for the homeless to be distributed by the Burrito Project. Supplies, such as warming blankets, hats, socks, mittens, personal care items and snacks, were purchased thanks to the generosity of a Thrivent grant. One of the many highlights of the weekend was our ability to join in Sunday’s worship service via live streaming (made possible thanks to John and David Schunak... our personal IT team!)

A special thanks to Barb Walter for her creative, thorough planning for our “puzzle perfect” weekend! It’s not too early to be thinking about next year’s retreat... Join us next January for a faith filled, rejuvenating, restful, and rewarding weekend!



# ***Lutheran Youth***

New Year, Same Mission.

Lutheran Youth has been having a blast running events, building community, and serving youth throughout WNY in the past couple of weeks. The Senior High Winter Retreat at LCLC, Big Birthday Bash Lock-in, and Ice Skating at Canalside were just some of the great times we gathered in Fellowship in January.

Thankfully, we have more fun events ahead!

## **Winter Fun at Chestnut Ridge:** (February 10, 10 am - 4 pm)

Join Lutheran Youth as we spend a day sledding, hiking, and playing in the snow!

Open to **all youth grades 3rd - 12th**, this is a great event to get youth out and into community with one another. Join us for plenty of supervised activities, lunch, and making Winter Care Kits for the people experiencing homelessness. More information and registration can be found on our website.

## **LASERTRON Lock-in:** (Feb. 16th -17th)

Calling **all 6-12th graders** in WNY! Grab your friends and bring back this fan favorite.

We are going to have an action-packed night filled with fun, teamwork, and friendly competition. So get your rest and grab your friends as we are staying up ALL NIGHT! **Registration closes on February 2nd at 11:59 pm.**

## **4th-8th Grade Winter Retreat at LCLC:** (March 1-3rd)

A Camp Classic with new life. LY and LCLC partner together to foster a joy filled and community driven camp experience with tons of games, play, and silliness to share! Sign up at <https://www.lclcenter.org/year-round-events> and reach out to LCLC's office or LY with any questions.

*Want to always know what's next???* Email [lutheranyouthwny@gmail.com](mailto:lutheranyouthwny@gmail.com) to join our email list, follow **lutheranyouthwny** on Instagram for updates, and check out our website **lutheranyouthwny.org** for all further details and registration links.



# Lutheran Youth



Ice Skating at Canalside  
With Zion



Snowball fight at  
LCLC Winter Youth Retreat.



Worship at St. John's Birthday Lock-in



Baking Cakes at the Birthday Bash!



## *Family Fun Night at ALC*

### Family Fun Night

For January Family Fun Night, we enjoyed an Epiphany Party as we celebrated the visit of the Magi and the baptism of Jesus. We learned about traditions such as chalking our doors and feasting on King cake.



The next **Family Fun Night** will be on **Saturday, February 3rd** after the 5pm service. If you are able, please bring a side dish or dessert to share.. The main dish and drinks will be provided. All are invited to share a meal and fellowship. Please feel free to bring games ( board or card) that you may want to share with the group.

## *February Birthdays*

Ginger Davis.....Feb. 1

Suzanne Gustafson ..... Feb. 6

Janet Ide.....Feb. 11

Michele Degen ..... Feb. 16

Bette Breeser ..... Feb. 20

Jeff Human..... Feb. 21

Timothy Stanley..... Feb. 22

Bill Niblock..... Feb. 23

Jeffrey Mols ..... Feb. 26

## *Music for the Season*

The choir  
has been  
performing  
for 86  
years.



It is one of  
the oldest  
Lutheran  
choirs in  
the country

The world renown Concordia à Capello Choir will be performing on Saturday, March 2 at First Trinity Lutheran Church, 1570 Niagara Falls Blvd., Tonawanda, NY 14150. All the music is from the tradition of concert choral music and the performance is designed to appeal to all ages. Admission is free, but a good will offering is appreciated. If you are interested in being a host family for a student or 2, call: David Werth (716) 628-2318 .



**St. Paul's Eggertsville & Amherst Campus**

**Telephone:** 716-835-0407

**Email:** office @stpaulseggertsville.com

**Website:** www.stpaulseggertsville.com

**Pastors:**

Steve Biegner: (cell) 716 - 868-1232

Kristen Arends: (email) kristen@stpaulseggertsville.com

**Directors of Music:**

Paul H. Storfer (SPEC)

Adam Schmidt (ALC)

**Office Staff:** Heidi Ginal, Adrienne Leary & Judy Thomas

**Tiger's Den Food Pantry Coordinator:** Adrienne Leary

**Christian Ed Coordinator:** June Piette

**Youth Ministry:** Adam Weber

**Digital Ministry:** Andrew Gruszka

**Facilities Manager:** Jeff Stein

**St. Paul's Eggertsville Campus**  
4007 Main Street  
Eggertsville, NY 14226

**Amherst Lutheran Campus**  
5125 Main St.  
Williamsville, NY 14221

*God is love, and whoever abides in love  
abides in God, and God abides in him.*

1 John 4:16