

Fourth Sunday in Lent

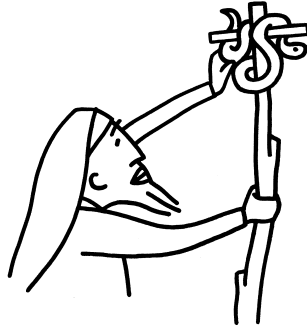


March 10, 2024

10:00 am

St. Paul's Eggertsville Campus

*Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Egbertsville Campus
Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 10, 2024*



Musician: Paul Storfer

Brief order for Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

C Amen.

P Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy God,

C we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

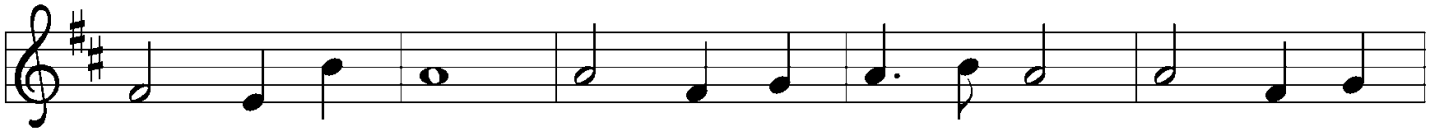
P Friends, hear about God's grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through Jesus Christ. So your sins are forgiven in the name of Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

My Faith Looks Up to Thee



- 1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
- 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
- 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
- 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
trust re-move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887

Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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.

Open our eyes, Lord

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, often beamed together. Chords are indicated by letters above the staff. The lyrics are written below the staff.

O - pen our eyes, Lord; we want to see

Je - sus, to reach out and touch

him, and say that we love him.

O - pen our ears, Lord, and help us to

lis - ten. O - pen our eyes,

Lord, we want to see Je - sus.

Prayer of the Day

P O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

First Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

A This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (read responsively)

You deliver your people from their distress. (Ps. 107:19)

A Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good, for God’s mercy endures forever.

C Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,

A gathering them in from the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

C Some were fools and took rebellious paths; through their sins they were afflicted.

A They loathed all manner of food and drew near to death’s door.

C Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD and you delivered them from their distress.

A You sent forth your word and healed them and rescued them from the grave.

C Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people.

A Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

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

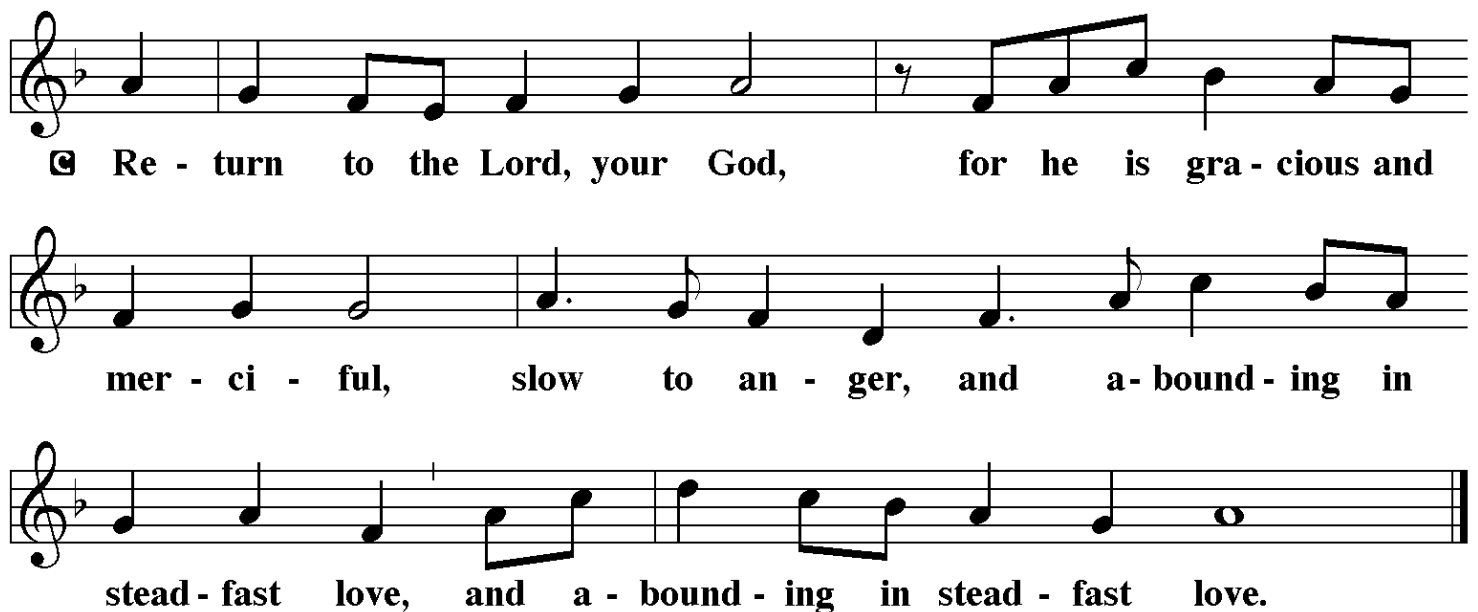
Second Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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

Gospel Acclamation



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.



P The Holy Gospel according to John the Third Chapter.
C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 3:14-21

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

[Jesus said:] "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

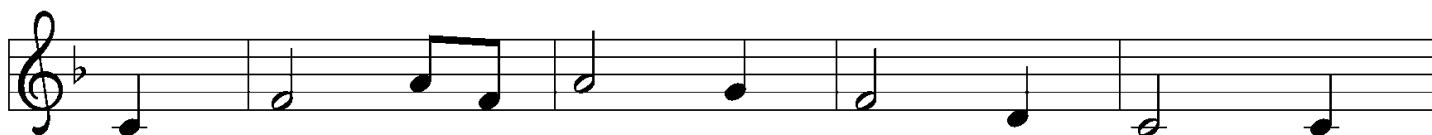
"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

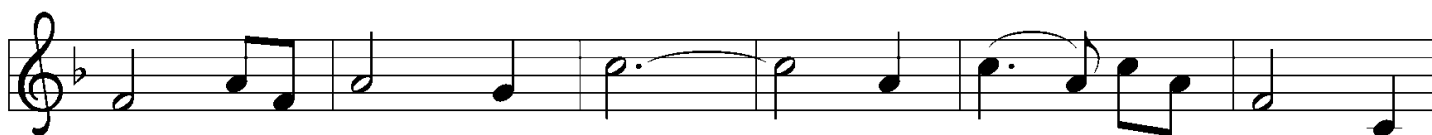
P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Apostle's Creed

P Let's join to proclaim our faith together using the words of 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 promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need. (Please kneel or sit as you are able.)

Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church and foster cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialog. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Creating God, your love enlivens. Restore balance to the earth's fragile habitats. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife. Cleanse oceans and rivers. Make us good stewards of the earth. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Righteous God, your love liberates. We give thanks for those who courageously witness to your liberating love. Free all people from the evils of racism, religious strife, and hatred. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Merciful God, your love heals. Care tenderly for all whose loved ones perished from pandemic disease in every nation. Strengthen health care workers, first responders, and caregivers. Relieve all who live with chronic illness and pain, especially the people on our Prayer Lists and Prayer Chain, and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Incarnate God, your love enlightens. Open our hearts and minds to fresh understandings of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one another. Teach us to pray for our enemies. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Abiding God, your love saves. Those who died in the faith are made alive in Christ. We give thanks for your promise that we also will be raised to newness of life. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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

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

Holy Communion at St. Paul's: celebrated every time we gather, and is open to all. Please approach by the center aisle, receive the bread and the wine, and return to your seat via the side aisle. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. Simply request it from the Assisting Minister holding the wine. Children are welcome! Those who receive elsewhere may receive here. Children who do not yet receive may come for a blessing. If you have difficulty walking, communion will be brought to you at your seat.

Communion 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, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

C Amen.

Benediction

P And now as you go on your way, may our Lord Jesus 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

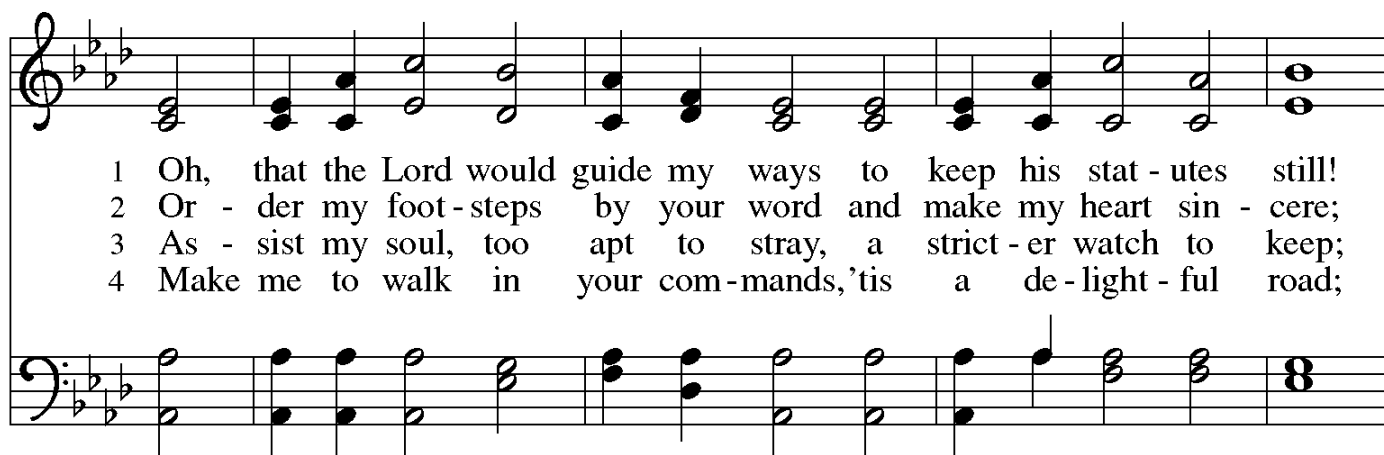
Closing Hymn: LBW 480 (on the following page)

Sharing the Peace and Sending

P Go in peace to serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God.

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
2 Or - der my foot - steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in your com - mands, 'tis a de - light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: March 10-17, 2024

- Sunday:** 8:50-9:30 am: No Adult Forum—Will restart April 7
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
11:00 am: First Communion Training
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope
1:00-4:00 pm: Private Party in Parish Hall
- Monday:** 4:30-5:30 pm: Daily Bread Food Truck Meal Share
- Tuesday:** 10:00 am: Bible Study
1:30-3:30 pm: GriefShare Meeting
5:00-6:30 pm: Recovery on Main Meeting (NA)
7:00 pm: Church Council Meeting
7:00-9:00 pm: Lutheran Chorale Rehearsal
- Wednesday:** 10:00 am: Comforters
12:00 pm: Lenten Soup & Psalms
6:30-8:00 pm: Ray of Hope Prayer Group
8:00 pm: AA Meeting
- Thursday:** 3:00-6:30 pm: Tiger's Den Food Pantry Open
6:00 pm: Emotional Sobriety II
7:15 pm: ALC Book Club
- Saturday:** 8:30 am: Men's Breakfast
9:00 am-3:00 pm: Peniel Haitian Church at ALC
5:00 pm: Worship and Communion at ALC
- Sunday:** 8:50-9:30 am: No Adult Forum—Will restart April 7
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, First Communion, and Sunday School
11:00 am-1:00 pm: Family Fun Day
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope

Altar Flowers: Are given for the glory of God.

Deacons: 3/10: Barbara Walter; 3/17: John Schunak

Ushers: 3/10: Mike & Michele Degen; 3/17: Ben Brown & Jeff Mols

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

Douglas Endres: 26 Sovereign Court, Getzville, NY 14068
John Hornung: Brothers of Mercy, 10570 Bergtold Road, Clarence, NY 14031
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
Marion Niblock: Beechwood Rehab, 2235 Millersport Highway, #714, Getzville, NY 14068
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
Jane Woodward: Brothers of Mercy Rehab, 10570 Bergtold Road, Clarence, NY 14031

Prayer List: In our congregational and extended family: Sandy Simet; Thomas Maier; Chad Israel; Sarah and Brian Maloney

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, March 14, beginning at 7:15 pm in the Gathering Room at Amherst Lutheran Campus. All are welcome! The book for March is American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins. Contact me if you have any questions (716-689-6365 or karinej@roadrunner.com.)

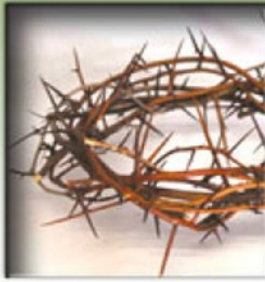
Prayer Team Ministry: Once a week you will receive an email with a list of people to pray for and specific requests for that person. We ask that you commit to praying for the names on the email. If you'd like to join us, please contact Heidi at: Heidi@stpaulseggertsville.com

Daily Bread Food Truck: The 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 March have been adjusted to conform to FeedMore WNY requirements. March hours are Saturday 3/23 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm; and Thursdays 3/14 and 3/28 from 3:00-6:30 pm. Donations for March: flour, sugar, and cooking oil.

Lenten Lunches and Devotions: Wednesdays from 12:00-12:45 pm. Psalms of Prayer: **March 13:** Psalm 51- "Create in me a clean heart" Pastor Kristen, Prayer focus: ELCA missions and St. Paul's ministries. **March 20:** Psalm 31- "Into your hands O Lord I commend my spirit" Pastor Steve and Pastor Kristen, Prayer Focus: all who grieve. Please consider bringing a pot of soup for one of the weeks. The Sign Up sheet is in the Gathering Area.

Holy Week Schedule



Palm Sunday
Sat/Sun
March 23/24

Stripping of
the Altar

Sat @ALC
5:00 pm

Sun@ SPEC
10:00 am

Maundy
Thursday
March 28

Pot Luck
Dinner

@SPEC
6:30 pm

Good
Friday
March 29

Solemn
Services

@SPEC
12:00 noon
and
7:00 pm

Holy
Saturday
March 30

Easter
Vigil

@ALC
5:00 pm

Easter
Sunday
March 31

Sunrise
Service

@SPEC
6:00 am

2nd Service
10:00 am

People experiencing
homelessness walk an
average of 10 miles a
day. Clean socks are
critical to foot health.



*"So if I, your Lord and
Teacher, have washed your
feet, you also ought to wash
one another's feet."*
John 13:14

Donations of new socks
can be dropped off at
church. Or donations
made online for bulk
purchases.



St. Paul's will be
collecting new
pairs of socks for
the homeless
throughout Lent.
There will be a
donation box in
each church.

MARCH
17

St. Patrick's Day
FAMILY FUN
Pot Luck

*Come celebrate St. Patrick's Day
with us on March 17th from 11-1pm. Games,
snacks/drinks, and a service project to benefit
the homeless in our area.*

*Please sign your family up on the bulletin board
in the gathering area or text Sara H.
(716) 310- 3542 by March 10th!*



*+ 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 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: (716-481-8728 - cell); Email: kristen@stpaulseggertsville.com*

Directors of Music

*Paul H. Storfer (SPEC)
Adam Schmidt (ALC)*

Christian Education Coordinator

June Piette

Youth Ministry

Adam Weber

Digital Ministry

Andrew Gruszka

Church Office Staff

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