Early Christmas Eve Service



December 21, 2024 5:00 pm St. Paul's Amherst Campus



New to St. Paul's? We're so glad you're here! Fill out this form so we can get to know you better!

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church Amherst Campus Early Christmas Eve Service December 21, 2024

Musician: Adam Schmidt

Confession and Forgiveness

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.
- C Amen.
- P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. God of mercy,
- C we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful and we cling to false comforts.
- P God of might,
- C we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.
- P God in our midst,
- C we confess that we have sinned. We forget to notice you present with us. We yearn to see you again!
- P Friends, a righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through + Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.
- C Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Week 4: Love

- P As forgiven people, we light the candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy. Today we light the candle of love. Love, the mightiest force in all the world, was gentle enough to inhabit a tiny baby. And this mighty force compelled Jesus to demonstrate his love in his transformative message and sacrificial life. This love reminds us that when all else fails, when night seems eternal, love remains
- C We light the candle of love, because love has come to us. Welcome, love of Christ!

O, Come, All Ye Faithful



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.

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.

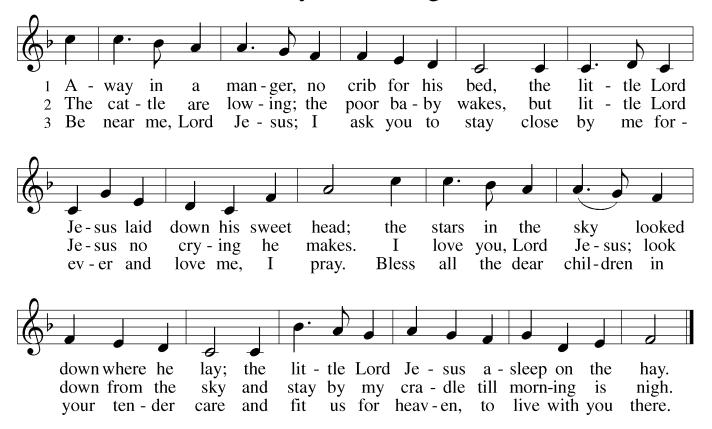
- A This is the Word of the Lord
- C Thanks be to God.

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.

Away in a Manger



Text: North American, anonymous, 19th cent.

Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, North American, anonymous, 19th cent.

- 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!"

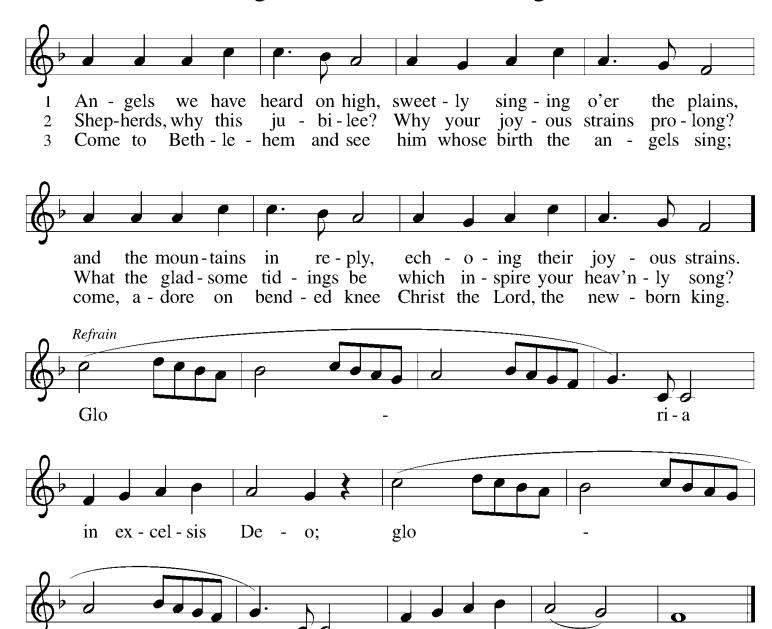
(When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, 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.)

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

Sermon



Angels We Have Heard on High



in ex-cel-sis

De

0.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, The Crown of Jesus Music, 1864

ri - a

Music: GLORIA, French carol

Apostle's Creed

- P With the whole church, let us confess our faith together:
- 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 Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people. (Please be seated.)

Angels sing with praise, and shepherds run with haste. As we glorify and praise you in this place, send us into the world, proclaiming the salvation you have revealed this night. God of grace,

- C receive our prayer.
- P The seas roar, and the trees of the forest sing for joy. As creation resounds with praise, inspire us with awe, reverence, and a renewed care for all that fills the fields, skies, and seas. God of grace,
- C receive our prayer.
- P The nations declare your glory. Uphold the leaders of the earth with your justice and righteousness. Break the rod of the oppressor in every land, and bring peace where there is conflict. God of grace,
- C receive our prayer.
- P The holy family finds shelter around the animals' manger. Draw near to persons experiencing homelessness, those who are alone this holiday season, and all for whom this world makes no room. Wrap all your children in bands of love and mercy. God of grace,
- C receive our prayer.

- P A child is born for us and light shines on the weary. Watch over those who give birth this night and attend to those who are dving. Be present in our joys and in our sorrows. We pray especially for the people on our Prayer Lists and Prayer Chain, and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud. God of grace,
- \mathbf{C} receive our prayer.
- P The heavenly host praises you. With thanksgiving for Mary, Joseph, and all your saints, sustain us in the blessed hope revealed this night. Fashion us by their example into a people zealous for good deeds, sharing your love and mercy with all. God of grace,
- \mathbf{C} receive our prayer.
- P We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- \mathbf{C} Amen.

Offering Hymn: LBW 40 (on the following page)

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: Please mail your donations payable to St. Paul's, 4007 Main Street, Eggertsville, NY 14226
- Online: The St. Paul's website contains a link to Online Giving. The website is: https://stpaulseggertsville.com/online-giving/







What Child Is This



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
- 3 So bring him in cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing? Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing. The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing; Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you; Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

Offering Prayer

- P Let us pray.
- Blessed are you, God of surprising grace. You call us to bold acts of kindness and brave gestures of solidarity. Receive and hallow these offerings of our time and treasure that we share today and in our planned giving. Multiply these gifts so that your reign of plenty and peace may be known by all, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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 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

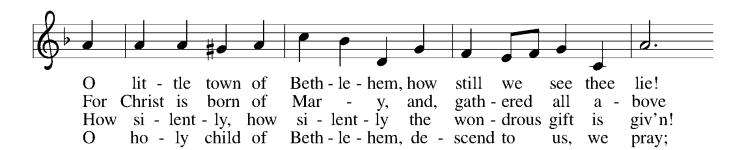
- P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
- Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; 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.

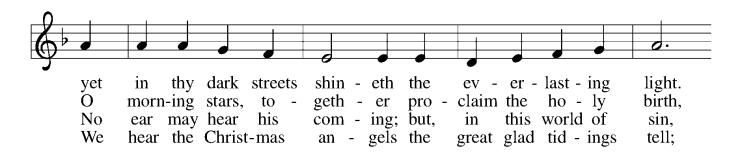
Distribution Hymn: LBW 41

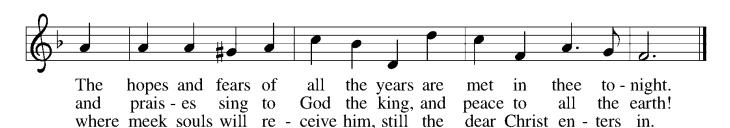
O Little Town of Bethlehem





A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love. bless - ings So God im-parts to hu - man hearts the of cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us





our

Lord Im - man - u - el!

a - bide with us.

come to

us,

oh,

Distribution Hymn: LBW 54

It Came upon the Midnight Clear



- 1 It came up on the mid night clear, that glo rious song of old,
- 2 Still through the clo ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un furled,
- 3 And you, be neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
- 4 For lo! The days are has-t'ning on, by proph-ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold: and still their heav'n-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world. who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow: when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gra-cious king." A - bove its sad and low-ly plains they bend on hov-'ring wing, look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift - ly on the wing; when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still-ness lay to hear the an - gels sing. and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless-ed an - gels sing. the wea-ry road and hear the an be - side oh, rest sing! the world give back the song which now the an - gels and all sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876

Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900

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 Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.
- 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 you 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:

Dale & Mary Johnson

Beloved Sisters: Susan Robbins & Linda Wilson

Marilyn L. Striejewski David H. Striejewski

Bill, Dolores & David Skinner

Jim & Rita Singer

William & Dolores Skinner

Jack Miller

John Pilato, Sr.

Jennifer Glassman

Rich & Helen Heuer

My Jerry

Bob & Louise Lenz

Clophes & Janette Bulleigh

Our Loved Ones

Fred, Helen, Jerry & Elaine Wertz

Arthur, Eleanor & Joan Meyer, Charles Plauman

Jane & Larry Woodward

Rita Zimmer & Ruth Merrill

Eva Carlson

June & Dean Troutman

Grace & Earl Rothenberger

Out Loved Ones

Courtney Brown, My Beloved Husband

Jim & Kathryn Begley

Dear Aunts Jeanette Cleary & Margie Paddock

By:

Karen & Bob Brown

Karen Ann

Deb & Dad, Don & Michele

Deb & Dad, Don & Michele

The Wunderlin Family

Gail & Evan Singer

Gail & Evan Singer

Sue Miller

Betty Pilato

Suzanne & James Gustafson

The Adimey Family

Sandy Hoehn

Bill & Dee Dee Bulleigh

Bill & Dee Dee Bulleigh

Wes & Sharon Ries

Jim & Judy Meyer

Jim & Judy Meyer

Steve & Michelle Biegner

Tom & Mary Merrill

Sonja Fernsted & Paul Rokitka

Barbara & Martin Troutman

Barbara & Martin Troutman

Jim & Marsha Glose

Kathryn Brown

Kathryn Brown, their daughter

Kathryn Brown

In Honor of:

Sue & Jim Gustafson

Rob, Michele & RJ Vishion

All our Service Men & Women

By:

Suzanne & James Gustafson

Bill & Dee Dee Bulleigh

Greg & Sandy Spoth

In Celebration of:

Children and Grandchildren Family—Children & Grandchildren

By:

Karen and Bob Brown Kathryn Brown

Other Thankful for blessings Family Health **By:** Teather Hornung & 1

Heather Hornung & Paul Winkler Shari & Bob Rembold





Come and Join Us for Christmas Eve Services at the Eggertsville Campus: 12/24 at 10:00 am: Child/Family focus with Children's Time and Kid's Choir 12/24 at 7:00 pm: Traditional Service with choir and soloist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: December 22-29, 2024

Unless otherwise noted, all activities will take place at the Eggertsville Campus

Sunday: 9:30 am-1:30 pm: Western New York Church at (AC)

10:00 am: Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV

10:00 am: Worship and Communion

1:00 pm: Ray of Hope at AC

Monday: 4:15-5:15 pm: Daily Bread Food Truck Meal Share

5:30-9:00 pm: Straight Pepper Diet Group Meeting at AC

Tuesday: Christmas Eve

10:00 am: Worship and Communion: Child/Family Focus

5:00-6:30 pm: Recovery on Main (NA)

7:00 pm: Worship and Communion: Traditional Service with choir & soloist

Wednesday: Christmas: Office Closed

8:00 pm: AA Meeting

Thursday: Office Closed Friday: Office Closed

7:00-8:30 pm: Traveling and Trudging (formerly Emotional Sobriety II)

Saturday: 9:00 am-3:00 pm: Peniel Haitian Church at AC

9:00 am-12:30 pm: Tiger's Den Food Pantry Open 5:00 pm: **No Saturday Service at Amherst Campus**

Sunday: 9:30 am-1:30 pm: Western New York Church at AC

10:00 am: Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV

 $10 \hbox{:} 00$ am: Worship and Communion: Lessons and Carols

1:00 pm: Ray of Hope at AC

Prayer List: In our congregational and extended family: Richard Elliott; Bob Schumann; Aaron Torres (friend of Sandy Hoehn); Charles Herschlag; Kathy Greenawalt; Gloria Chaves (Betty Aprile's sister); Jim and Sue Gustafson; Sue Epstein; Rosemond Johnson

Prayer List: Shut-Ins (* indicates new names or changes added this week)

Ruth Blank: Scofield Residence, 3333 Elmwood Avenue, #121, Buffalo, NY 14217

Neal DeLeo: Greenfield Manor, #D110, 5958 Broadway, Lancaster, NY 14086

John Hornung: Brothers of Mercy, 10570 Bergtold Road, Clarence, NY 14031 Jan Isaacs: 6

Bush Gardens, Three Rod Road, Alden, NY 14004

Dave Lampe: 829 N Hurff Drive, Elmwood, IL 61529

Elaine Masman: Doseberg Campus, Room 120, 2700 North Forest Rd., Getzville, NY 14068

Dorothy Menth: Elderwood at Basset Park, 245 Bassett Road, #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

PREVIOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS

In-Person Worship: St. Paul's has two in-person worship services: Saturday evening at 5:00 pm at the Amherst Campus, 5125 Main Street, Williamsville, 14221, and Sunday morning at 10:00 am at the Eggertsville Campus, 4007 Main Street, Eggertsville, 14226. 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.

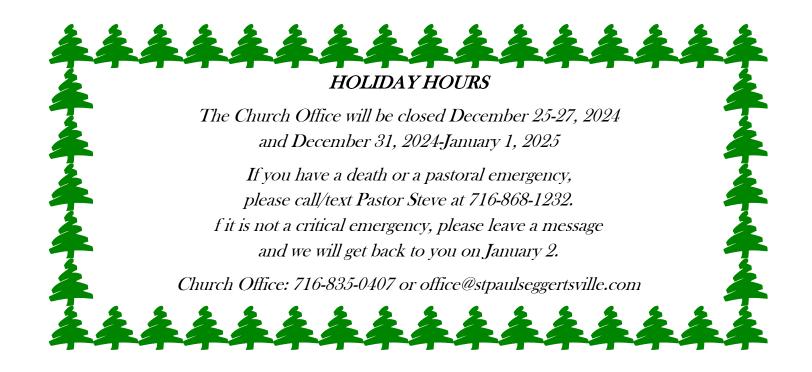
Prayer Team Ministry: Once a week you will receive an email with a list of people to pray for and specific requests for that person. We ask that you commit to praying for the names on the email. If you'd like to join us, please contact Cody at: Cody@stpaulseggertsville.com

Nursery/Nursing Mom's Room: Located downstairs by the Sunday School room. There is a wall TV for streaming the Sunday worship service. Babies 0-24 months are welcome in the nursery and must be monitored by their parent.

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

Daily Bread Food Truck: The 2024 Monday Meal Share is underway each Monday from 4:15-5:15 pm. 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, is associated with St. Paul's Amherst Campus, or by referral. The remaining pantry hours for December are: 12/28 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm. Donations for December: toilet paper, paper towels, and tissues.





+ 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: Robert Simpson Vice-President: Tim Johnson Treasurer: William Niblock Secretary: Scott Vahue

Bob Brown David Dahlberg Susan Epstein Sara Hannon Janet Schmidt Vanessa Solomon Barbara Walter

Pastoral Leaders

Steve Biegner (716-868-1232 - cell); Email: steve@stpaulseggertsville.com Kristen Arends: Email: kristen@stpaulseggertsville.com

Directors of Music: Paul H. Storfer (SPEC) and Adam Schmidt (AC)

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

<u>Youth Ministry</u>: Kristen Arends

<u>Digital Ministry</u>: Andrew Gruszka

<u>Facilities Manager</u>: Jeff Stein

Church Office Staff

Cody Almeter and Adrienne Leary E-mail: office@stpaulseggertsville.com Telephone: (716) 835-0407 Website: www.stpaulseggertsville.com

St. Paul's Eggertsville Campus 4007 Main Street Eggertsville, NY 14226 St. Paul's Amherst Campus 5125 Main Street Williamsville, NY 14221

Worship Service: Sundays at 10:00 am Worship Service: Saturdays at 5:00 pm