Third Saturday of Advent



December 14, 2024 5:00 pm St. Paul's Amherst Campus

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church Amherst Campus Third Saturday of Advent December 14, 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 3: Joy

P As forgiven people, we light the candles of Hope and Peace. Today we light the candle of joy. Whether we find ourselves in the dark, cozy realm of nighttime or the blazing brightness of day, God's good message of joy has come to us to cheer our hearts, celebrating the good news of a baby to be born in Bethlehem.



C We light the candle of joy, because joy has come to us. Welcome, joy of Christ!

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



- 1 Re joice, re joice, be liev ers, and let your lights ap pear;
- 2 The watch-ers on the moun-tain pro-claim the bride-groom near;
- 3 The saints, who here in pa tience their cross and suf f'rings bore,
- 4 Our hope and ex pec ta tion, O Je sus, now ap pear;



the ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is eve-ning is near. ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias go forth as he clear. shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more. rise. O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night-ed sphere.



The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw-ing nigh. wait - ing; the The mar - riage feast is gates wide o - pen stand. round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be hold: hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.

A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.

in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.

the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

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.

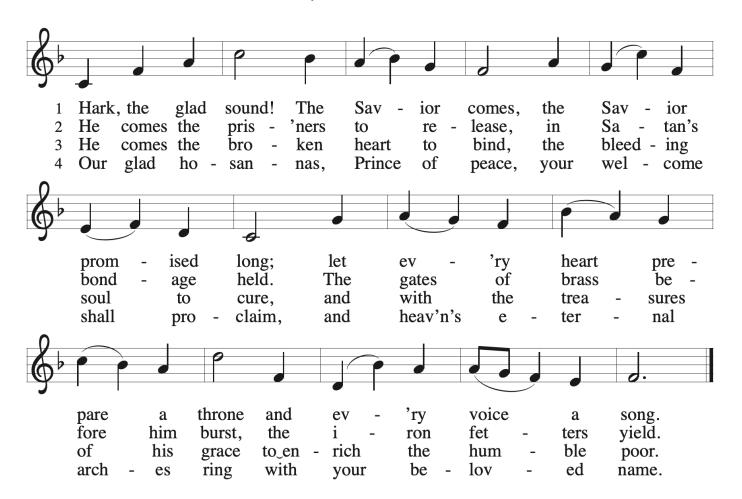
Prayer of the Day

P Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

Praise Hymn: LBW 35

Hark, the Glad Sound!



Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

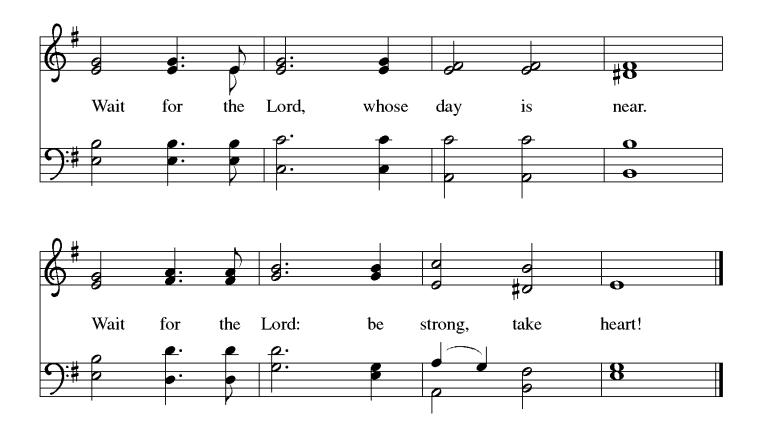
- A This is the Word of the Lord
- C Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6 (read responsively)

In your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Is. 12:6)

- A Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.
- C With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
- A And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.
- C Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.
- A Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.
- P This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Wait for the Lord



Text: Taizé Community

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

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

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

Sermon



In Thee Is Gladness



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 As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence. (Please be seated)
 - God who reforms, fill your church with courage to do your will. Empower your people in taking risks that bear fruit. Raise up leaders who will proclaim the good news. Lord, in your mercy,
- C receive our prayer.
- P God who creates, you hold in balance diverse ecosystems. Encourage efforts to protect wild lands from devastation. Care for animals and people in the path of destructive fires, storms, and other disasters. Lord, in your mercy,
- C receive our prayer.
- P God who leads, this world cries out for true justice. Guide legislatures, judges, and lawyers in actions steeped in love and restoration. Increase the desire to advocate for all who are confronted with discrimination and oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, class, or age. Lord, in your mercy,
- C receive our prayer.
- P God who embraces, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick. We pray especially for the people on our Prayer Lists and Prayer Chain, and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud. Show your compassion and remember your people in love. Lord, in your mercy,
- C receive our prayer.

- P God who abides, you dwell among the people of this congregation. Deepen our relationships with one another, and make us aware of the diverse talents and gifts present here. Lord, in your mercy,
- C receive our prayer.
- P God who consoles, we thank you for the time we have had with loved ones who have died. Comfort us with the promise of everlasting life in you. Lord, in your mercy,
- C receive our prayer.
- P Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.
- C Amen

Offering Hymn: ELW 253

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;

he came down that we may have peace;

he came down that we may have joy;

hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

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/



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

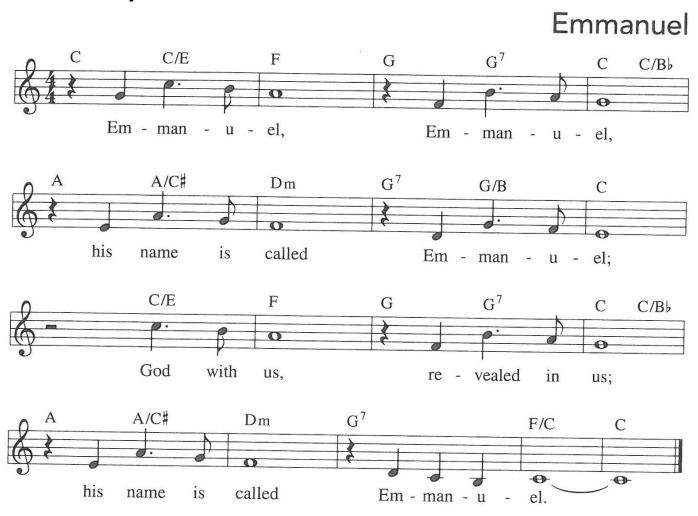
P In the night in which he was handed over, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

Communion Hymn: W&P 36



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: ELW 843

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib er at-ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil-dren with a strong yet gen-tle word;
- 3 Praise the one true love in car nate: Christ, who suf fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris-'ners, turn-ing blind-ness in - to sight. praise the One who drove out de-mons with a pierc-ing, two-edged sword. Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal-ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn-ing sand; Let us sing for joy and glad-ness, see-ing what our God has done.



calm-ing storms and feed - ing thou-sands with the ver - y bread of peace. from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench-ing thirst in ev - 'ry land. Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, Repository of Sacred Music, Part II, 1813

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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, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.
- 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

Sending Hymn: LBW 26 (on the following page)

Sharing the Peace and Sending

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

Prepare the Royal Highway



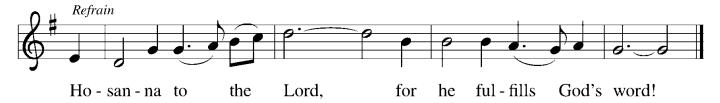
- 1 Pre pare the roy al high way; the King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo ple, see him com ing: your own e ter nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o pen to greet your prom-ised king!
- 4 His is no earth ly king dom; it comes from heav'n a bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap pear! Palm branch-es strew be - fore him! Spread gar-ments! Shout and sing! Your king, yet ev - 'ry trib - ute na - tion its bring. too may His is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto ry: God's prom-ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you! All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing ing: your praise be sound-ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing: So



Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship* Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: December 15-22, 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: Children's Christmas Pageant, Worship and Communion

1:00 pm: Ray of Hope at AC

Monday: 4:30-5:15 pm: Daily Bread Food Truck Meal Share

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

Tuesday: 10:00 am: Bible Study

5:00-6:30 pm: Recovery on Main

6:00 pm: Burrito Project

7:00-9:00 pm: Lutheran Chorale Rehearsal

Wednesday: 6:30-8:00 pm: Ray of Hope Prayer Group

7:00-8:00 pm: God on Tap and Cookie Exchange at AC

8:00 pm: AA Meeting

Thursday: 3:00-6:30 pm: Tiger's Den Food Pantry Open

Friday: 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: Early Christmas Eve Worship and Communion at AC

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

Prayer List: In our congregational and extended family: Aaron Torres (friend of Sandy Hoehn); Thomas Maier; 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.

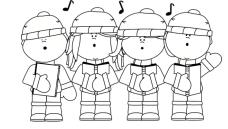
Prayer Team Ministry: Once a week you will receive an email with a list of people to pray for and specific requests for that person. We ask that you commit to praying for the names on the email. If you'd like to join us, please contact Cody at: Cody@stpaulseggertsville.com

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 4:30-5:15 pm. If you are interested in volunteering or donating, contact the office at 716-835-0407 or dailybread 4007@gmail.com. Come join us this Monday evening (12/16) when Gail Cristantello,

one of our Monday night volunteers, and members of the choir at Cornerstone Community Church, will treat us to joyous Christmas caroling beginning at 4:00 pm! If you would like to join the carolers for this joyous gathering, please feel free to come and sing!



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 pantry hours for December are: Thursday 12/19 from 3:00-6:30 pm; and Saturdays 12/14 and 12/28 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm. Donations for December: toilet paper, paper towels, and tissues.

Angel Tree



All Angel Tree gifts must be returned- unwrapped today, Sunday Dec 15th. In need of 4-5 new rolls of wrapping paper also. Thanks to all SP & ALC "Angels" for your great response again this year.

If you have any questions, please reach out to

ou have any questions, please reach out to Cheryl directly. (716)-341-5073



Time for the 2025 Adult Retreat at LCLC

Our adult weekend retreat at Lake Chautauqua

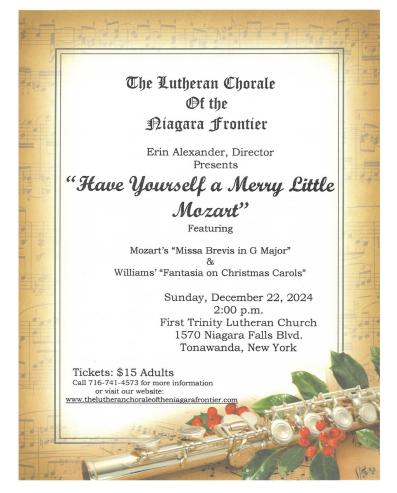
Lutheran Center is on the calendar for January 24th-26th 2025. Come join us for a rejuvenating, faith filled, relaxing weekend as we discover how we are anchored in God's love. The days are filled with fun, laughs, smiles and great fellowship. Mark your calendars and reserve your spot now on the sign up sheet in the back narthex of St. Paul's campus.



Reservations must be made by December 31st. All are welcome... Hope you will consider joining us! Bring a friend, or two-the more the merrier!

If you have any questions, chat with Barb Walter (716)-574-8527.







+ 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