

# *Fourth Sunday of Advent*



*December 22, 2024*

*10:00 am*

*St. Paul's Eggertsville 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  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 22, 2024*

*Musician: Paul Storfer*

*Confession and Forgiveness*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ 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 also  
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!

## Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on  
3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's  
4 Oh, come, blest Day-spring, come and cheer our spir - its by your  
5 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times once gave the law  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save  
ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,  
heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re-joice! Re - joice!  
and death's dark shad-ows put to flight.  
and close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt.  
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

### *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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

### *Children's Time*

#### *First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a*

*The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.*

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

#### *Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55*

*You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52)*

A My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

C for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed:

A you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

C You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.

A You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,

C casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.

- A You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.  
C You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,  
A the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.  
A This is the Word of the Lord.  
C Thanks be to God.



## Gospel Acclamation

### *Celtic Alleluia*



*Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.*

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

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

***Gospel: Luke 1:39-45***

*Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.*

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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

***Sermon***



## My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness



- 1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!
- 2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.
- 3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.  
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—  
The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat

Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

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## *Apostle's Creed*

**A** 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*

**A** As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence. (Please kneel or sit as you are able.)

God our uniter, increase communication and cooperation in our relationships with those of other traditions and religions. Root your church in the radical message of your incarnation, and enable us to pursue your justice in the world. Lord, in your mercy,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** God our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Awaken in us a renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities. Form us into faithful stewards of what you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** God our sovereign, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored. Lord, in your mercy,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** God our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are there. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened, anxious, depressed, and ill, especially the people on our Prayer Lists and Prayer Chain, and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud. Lord, in your mercy,



**C** receive our prayer.

**A** God our guide, shepherd the leadership of this congregation. Bless the council and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community. Lord, in your mercy,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** God our life, you remember the promises you have made to your people. In gratitude for those who have died, we praise you for your faithfulness throughout history. Lord, in your mercy,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**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:** 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/>

QR Code:



**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.

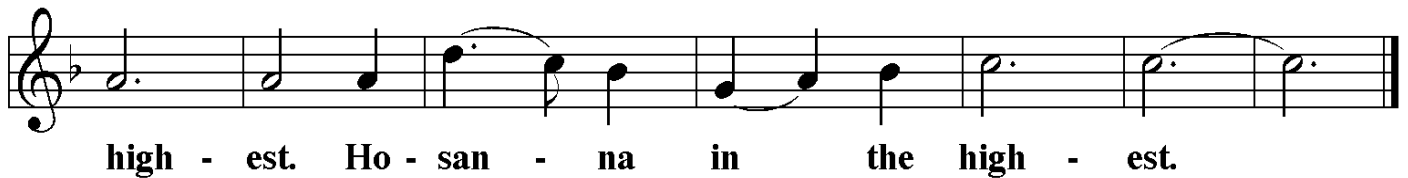
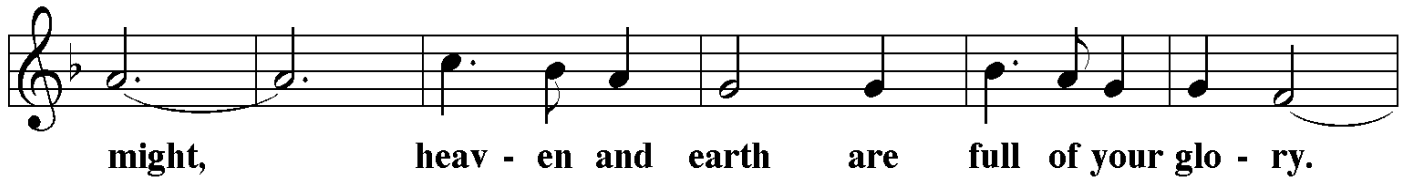
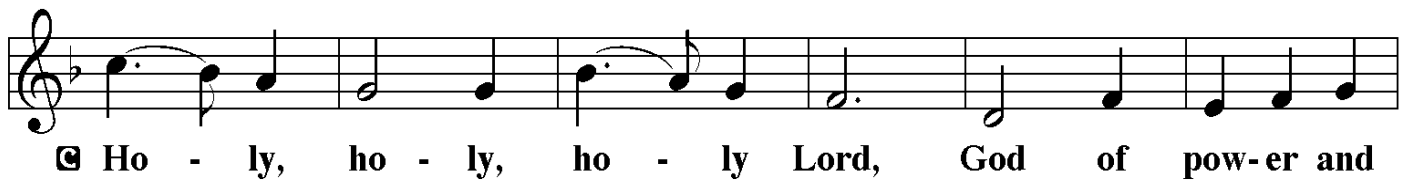
P Lift up your hearts.

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:



### *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, 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

## *Closing Hymn: WOV 630*

### Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

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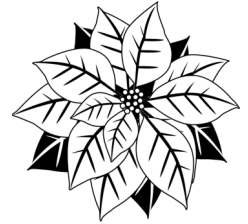
## *Sharing the Peace and Sending*

P Go in peace to serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God.



*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*

***In Honor of:***

*Sue & Jim Gustafson*  
*Rob, Michele & RJ Vishion*  
*All our Service Men & Women*  
*Our Wonderful Grandchildren*

***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*

***By:***

*Suzanne & James Gustafson*  
*Bill & Dee Dee Bulleigh*  
*Greg & Sandy Spoth*  
*Greg & Sandy Spoth*



*Poinsettias are given  
to the Glory of the Newborn King....*



*In Celebration of:*

*Children and Grandchildren  
Family—Children & Grandchildren*

*By:*

*Karen and Bob Brown  
Kathryn Brown*

*Other:*

*Thankful for blessings  
Family Health*

*By:*

*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  
10:00 am: Worship and Communion: Lessons and Carols  
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope at AC

**Deacons:** 12/22: Barbara Walter; 12/29: John Schunak

**Ushers:** 12/22: Robin Miano & Sharon Adimey; 12/29: Karen & Bob Brown

**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.

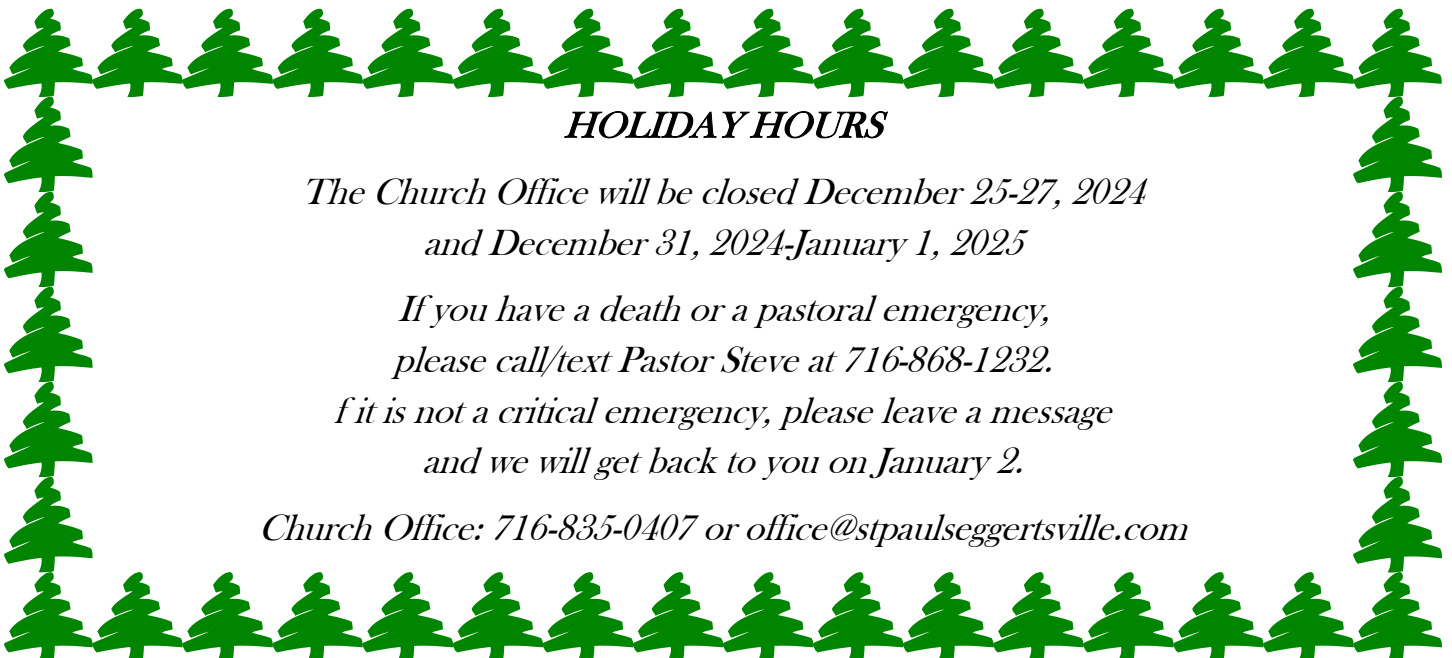
***Prayer Team Ministry:*** Once a week you will receive an email with a list of people to pray for and specific requests for that person. We ask that you commit to praying for the names on the email. If you'd like to join us, please contact Cody at: [Cody@stpaulseggertsville.com](mailto:Cody@stpaulseggertsville.com)

***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](mailto: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: Saturday 12/28 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm. Donations for December: toilet paper, paper towels, and tissues.



### ***HOLIDAY HOURS***

*The Church Office will be closed December 25-27, 2024  
and December 31, 2024-January 1, 2025*

*If you have a death or a pastoral emergency,  
please call/text Pastor Steve at 716-868-1232.*

*If it is not a critical emergency, please leave a message  
and we will get back to you on January 2.*

*Church Office: 716-835-0407 or [office@stpaulseggertsville.com](mailto:office@stpaulseggertsville.com)*





*+ 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](mailto:steve@stpaulseggertsville.com)  
Kristen Arends: (716-481-8728 - cell); Email: [kristen@stpaulseggertsville.com](mailto:kristen@stpaulseggertsville.com)*

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

**Christian Education Coordinator:** *June Piette*

**Youth Ministry:** *Kristen Arends*

**Digital Ministry:** *Andrew Gruszka*

**Facilities Manager:** *Jeff Stein*

**Church Office Staff**

*Cody Almeter and Adrienne Leary  
E-mail: [office@stpaulseggertsville.com](mailto:office@stpaulseggertsville.com)  
Telephone: (716) 835-0407  
Website: [www.stpaulseggertsville.com](http://www.stpaulseggertsville.com)*

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

*Worship Service: Sundays at 10:00 am*

*St. Paul's Amherst Campus  
5125 Main Street  
Williamsville, NY 14221*

*Worship Service: Saturdays at 5:00 pm*