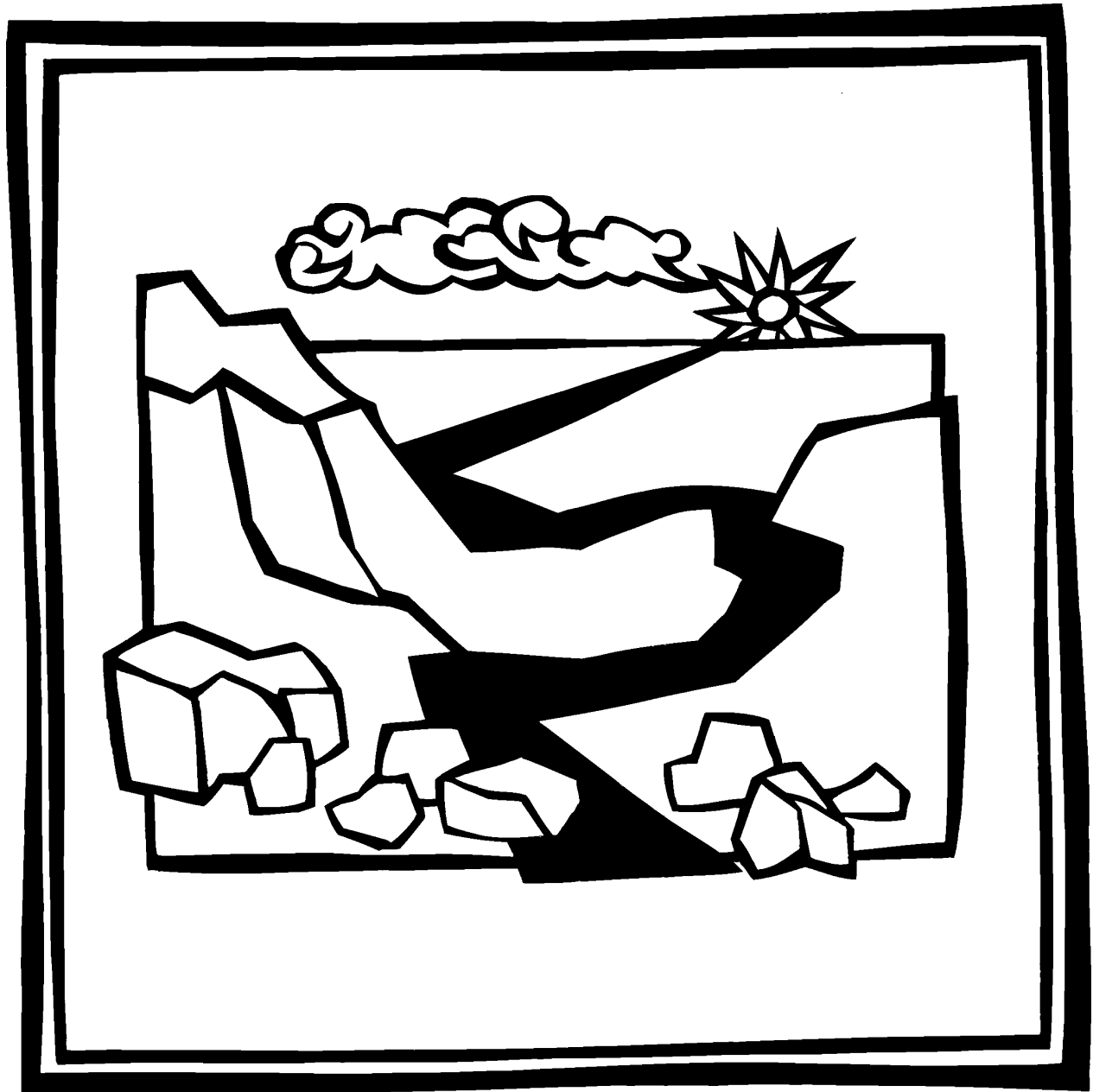


Second Sunday of Advent



*December 8, 2024
10:00 am
St. Paul's Eggertsville Campus*

*Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Egbertsville Campus
Second Sunday of Advent
December 8, 2024*

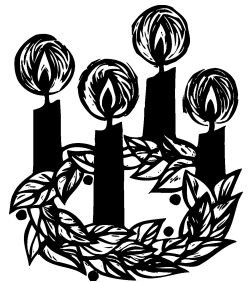
Musician: Paul Storfer

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 2: Peace

- P As forgiven people, we light the candle of Hope. We light the candle of hope, because hope has come to us. And today we light the candle of peace. When we are overwhelmed with conflict without or within, the peace of Christ may be found. We welcome the peace of Christ, present among us and available to all.
- C We light the candle of peace, because peace has come to us. Welcome, peace of Christ!



Opening Hymn: LBW 26

Prepare the Royal Highway



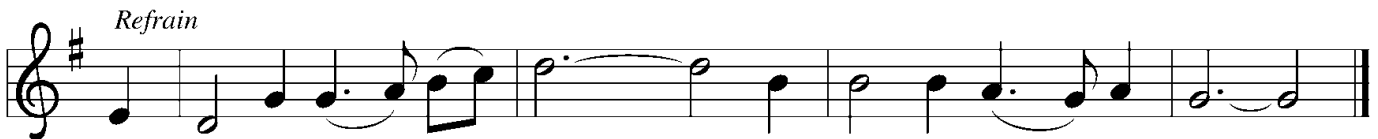
1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



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 na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule 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:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

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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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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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: Malachi 3:1-4

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

A This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Luke 1:68-79 (read responsively)

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us. (Lk. 1:78)

A Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set them free.

C You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David.

A Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us,

C to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.

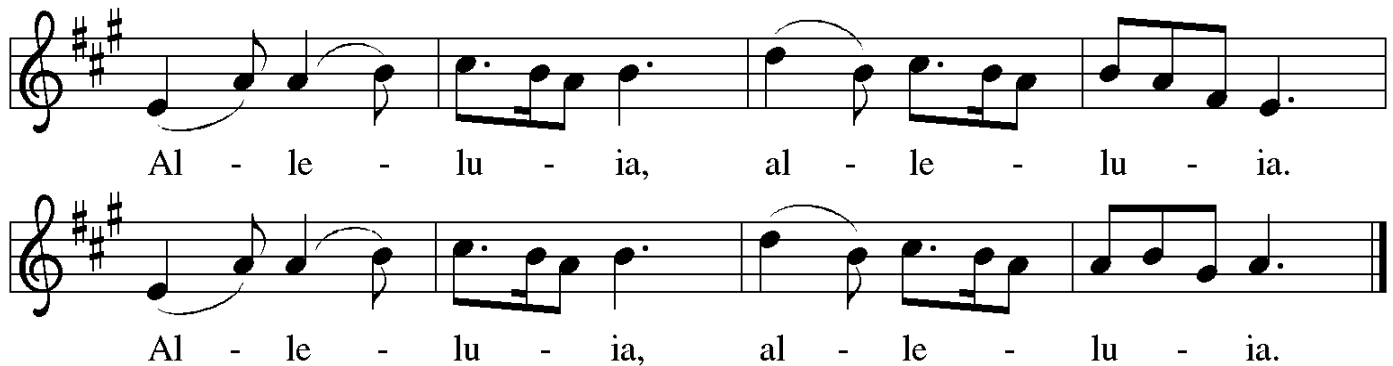
A This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

C free to worship you without fear, holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.

- A And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
C to give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.
A In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
C to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
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
Music © 1985 Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, admin. OCP Publications, Inc. 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.
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- P The Holy Gospel according to Luke the Third Chapter
C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 3:1-18

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' "

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.

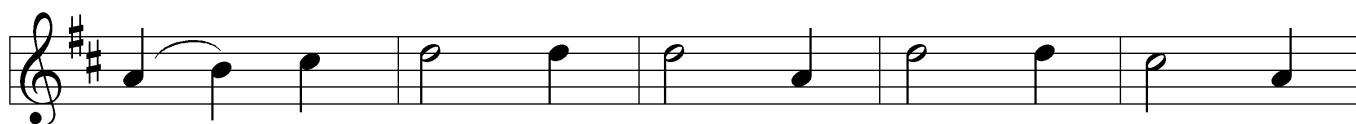


Sermon

On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's banks the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and hear - ken,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

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.)

Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have made, and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering, especially the people on our Prayer Lists and Prayer Chain, and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud. Provide comfort and strength, and nurture sustained wholeness for the future. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence. Enrich our seasonal preparations, and bless the efforts by worship committees, music ensembles, staff, clergy, and lay leaders as they work in the weeks ahead. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A Reassuring God, we remember those who have died and rest in you. Guide us in deep gratitude for their life, and allow us to learn from their faithful witness. 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.

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:



Offering Music and Prayer

P Let us pray.

C 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 sing their unending hymn:

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

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 629 (on the following page)

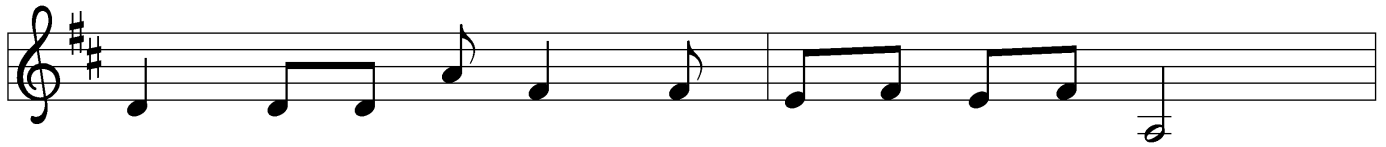
Sharing the Peace and Sending

P Go in peace to serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God.

All Earth Is Hopeful

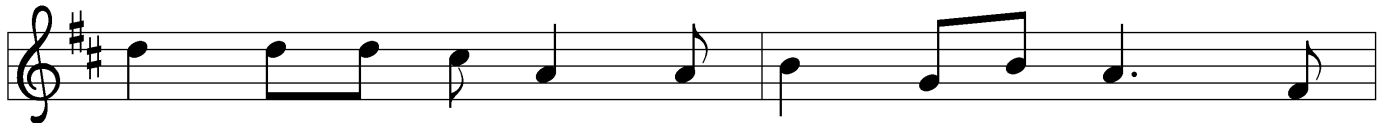
Toda la tierra



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: December 8-15, 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, Communion, and Sunday School, followed by Annual Congregational Meeting to vote on the 2025 Budget
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
- Tuesday:** 10:00 am: Bible Study
5:00-6:30 pm: Recovery on Main
7:00-9:00 pm: Lutheran Chorale Rehearsal
- Wednesday:** 10:00 am: Comforters Meeting
12:00 pm: Staff Meeting
6:30-8:00 pm: Ray of Hope Prayer Group
8:00 pm: AA Meeting
- 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: Worship and Communion at AC (Normal Advent Service)
- 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

Deacons: 12/8: Nancy Bartels-Holliman; 12/15: Sara Gallagher

Ushers: 12/8: Ellen Herdman & Jim Tanevich; 12/15: Mimi & Scott Fierle

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 dailybread4007@gmail.com. The DBFT is in need of volunteers to help with our Wegman's Sunday morning food pick up. We work along with the Western New York Food Shuttle to distribute donated prepared food, veggies/fruit and bread received from Wegman's. All donations are distributed with our Monday Food Truck meals. We need additional support to pick up at the Wegman's Alberta Drive location at 7:45 am and then do an additional pick up at the Wegman's Sheridan Drive location immediately after. All product is then brought back to the church kitchen.

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.

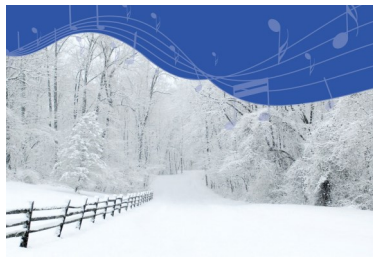
Angel Tree 2024



Once again we're partnering with the Amherst Middle school social workers to provide assistance for families who need a little extra help this time of year. You may select a tag and purchase the item and return it by Dec. 15th. Attach the tag and place the gifts, UNWRAPPED, under the tree. The parents enjoy wrapping the presents. There will be a box for gift cards under the tree.

If you don't like to shop, "angels" will do the shopping for you.

Any questions, Cheryl 341-507



The Amherst Symphony Orchestra (ASO) will be performing "Winter Storm Warning" today, Sunday, December 8 from 3:00-5:00 pm at Amherst Middle School, 55 Kings Highway, Snyder, NY, 14226. The repertoire will include: Jingle Bells for Kids, music from "Frozen," the Skater's Waltz, and much more. The ASO is a supporter of Tiger's Den Food Pantry.

Join Us at Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center for a

FAMILY RETREAT

FRI JAN 10TH TIL SUN. JAN 12

Explore LCLC in the wintertime and spend some quality faithful time with your loved ones! Snowball fights, sledding, hot chocolate bar, craft and game time will all be a part of this magical weekend where we seek Jesus by following the stars like the wise men!

IF INTERESTED REACH OUT TO KRISTEN OR THE OFFICE.
COST WILL VARY DEPENDING ON ROOM CHOICES.
RSVP BY 12/20! KRISTEN@STPAULSEGGERTSVILLE.COM



The Peniel Haitian Church at the Amherst Campus is once again sponsoring a coat drive for Haitian families in need. All donations can be placed in the large



Adult Retreat at LCLC
Anchored in God's Love
Fri. Jan 24 - Sun. Jan 26



Through small group discussions, worship together and cocktail hour, explore what it means to be anchored in God's love with other St. Paul missionaries and friends. Enjoy some time away for respite & renewal. This retreat is designed for adults and led by Barb Walters. If you are interested in attending, please sign-up on the sheet in the Church Vestibule.

The Lutheran Choral
Of the
Niagara Frontier

Erin Alexander, Director
Presents

*“Have Yourself a Merry Little
Mozart”*

Featuring

Mozart’s “Missa Brevis in G Major”
&
Williams’ “Fantasia on Christmas Carols”

Sunday, December 22, 2024
2:00 p.m.

First Trinity Lutheran Church
1570 Niagara Falls Blvd.
Tonawanda, New York

Tickets: \$15 Adults

Call 716-741-4573 for more information
or visit our website:

www.thelutheranchorageoftheniagarafrontier.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
Kristen Arends: (716-481-8728 - cell); Email: 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
Telephone: (716) 835-0407
Website: 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