Fourth Saturday in Lent



March 29, 2025 5:00 pm St. Paul's Amherst Campus



Are you new to St. Paul's? Do you have a prayer concern? Do you have a question for one of our Pastoral Leaders? Do you have a message for one of St. Paul's Staff? Are you looking for more resources for your spiritual life? If your answer is yes to any of these questions, please scan our QR code to share your needs with us.

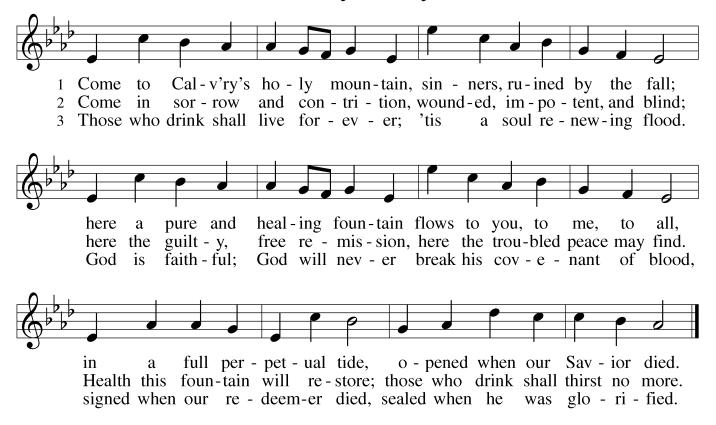
Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church Amherst Campus Fourth Saturday in Lent March 29, 2025

Musician: Adam Schmidt

Brief order for Confession and Forgiveness

- P "Even now, declares the Lord, return to me with all your heart." (Joel 2:12).And so, we return to God as church together and worship in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- C Let's roll up our sleeves and let down our guard.
- P Come in from the storm. Make yourself at home. Pull up a chair to this table of grace!
- C Together, we return to God with all our hearts. So, let's take a deep breath and release the tension of trying to figure out life on our own....
- P We confess, Holy God,
- C We don't return to you fully. We share the pieces of our lives that are convenient. We put on different hats in different rooms. We forget that we are called, invited, and loved with all that we are — including our mess, our beauty, our faith, and our doubt. Forgive us for not fully believing in your grace, and give us hearts that long to return to you.
- P Friends, God sees you. God hears you. God loves you. You are forgiven and claimed with all that you are. Rest in that good news.
- C Thanks be to God, amen.

Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain



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 God of open doors, We often long to come home to you, to love, and to ourselves, but we aren't always sure how to get there. We know that we need you, but the road back to you is heavy with distractions. So if we can dare to be so forward, we pray—reach into the cacophony of our hearts and minds and make yourself known. Quiet everything but your Word for us today. Leave us awestruck. Drown out the distractions. Come as thunder or come as a still, small voice; we don't care which, we just pray that you will come. Turn on the light. Speak through these words. Find the parts of us that are lost. With hope we pray, amen.
- C Amen.

First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

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

Psalm 32 (read responsively)

- A Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!
- C Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!
- A While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.
- C For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
- A Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- C Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
- A You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- C "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.
- A Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."
- C Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.
- A Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.
- A This is the Word of the Lord
- C Thanks be to God.

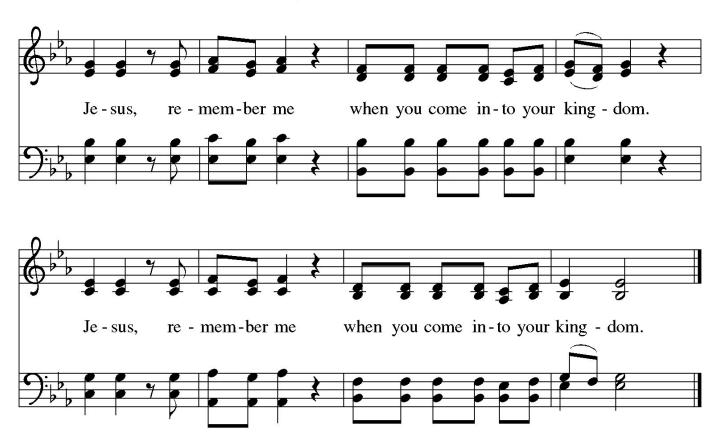
Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

Gospel Hymn: WOV 740



Jesus, Remember Me

- P The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 15th Chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.

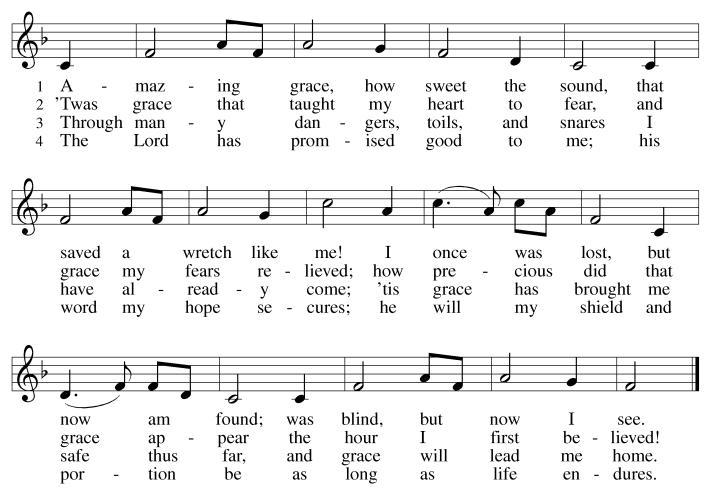
So he told them this parable: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe-the best one-and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

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

Sermon

Sermon Hymn: LBW 448



Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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

Prayer's of the Church

P Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need. (Please be seated.)

God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

P God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

- P God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. God, in your mercy,
- C receive our prayer.
- P God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion.
 We pray especially for the people on our Prayer Lists and Prayer Chain, and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud. Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret.
 Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

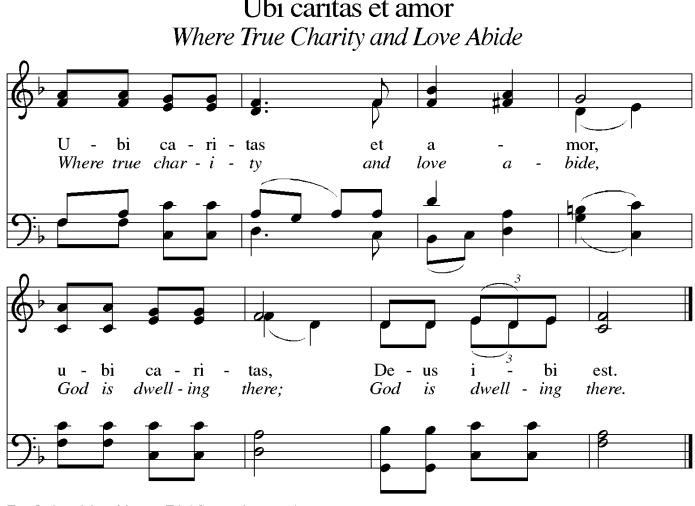
Р God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all. God, in your mercy,

С receive our prayer.

- Р God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died. We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. God, in your mercy,
- С receive our prayer.
- Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love. Ρ in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

C Amen.

Offering Hymn: WOV 665



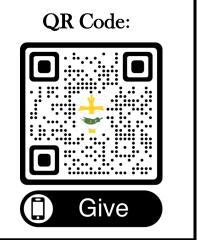
Ubi caritas et amor

Text: Latin antiphon, 9th cent.; Taizé Community; tr. With One Voice Music: TAIZÉ UBI CARITAS, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994 Text and music © 1979 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.

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/



P Let us pray.

C Gracious God, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. Deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others. Bless what we offer here today and in our planned giving so the world may know your hope, your presence, and your love. Amen.

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Great Thanksgiving & Words of Institution

- P Jesus has always been one to invite. He said, "Drop your nets and follow me." He said, "Let the little children come." He said, "Stand up from your mat, you are healed." Jesus has always been one to invite, and that has not changed. So friends, you are invited to this Table. Each and every one of us—with our doubts, our fears, our scars, our joy, our dreams, our hopes, our questions—we are invited to God's table.
- C And here we will be met. Here we will be fed. Here we are given a taste of an expansive life that is full to the brim with love, overflowing with joy.
- P So come. Not because you must, but because you can. Come. You are invited. This Table is for you.
- C God who knows us, we are amazed by you. Your love never runs out, your hope never runs dry, your joy never gives up. We wish that we could be more like you in that way.

P In a world that loves scarcity, your abundance is shocking. In a world that knows fear, your joy is compelling. In a world that knows anxiety, your peace is captivating. We long for these things. And you gave that to us in this meal. We celebrate that on the night that Jesus was handed over, he took bread, blessed it and broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: "This is my body, given for you; Do this in remembrance of me."

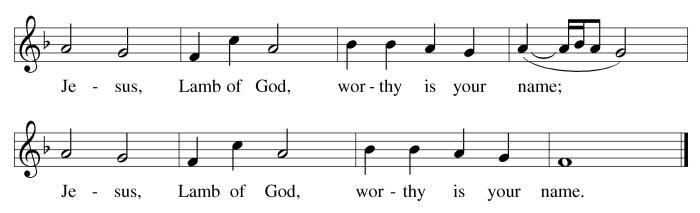
And again, after supper he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for them to drink saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin; Do this in remembrance of me."

God, we are amazed by you. Your love never runs out, so bring that never-ending love here.

Lord's Prayer

- P Together we pray:
- 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

Communion Hymn: W&P 76



Jesus, Lamb of God

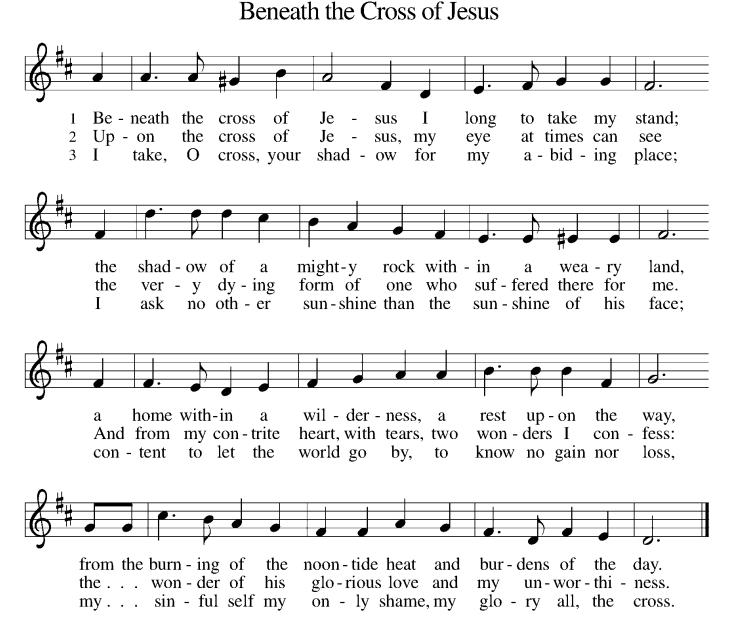
Text: Dennis Jernigan, refrain of "You are my all in all" Music: ALL IN ALL, Dennis Jernigan

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<u>Holy Communion at St. Paul's</u>: 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 107



Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830–1869 Music: ST. CHRISTOPHER, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

Post Communion Hymn: WOV 664



Text: John 13:34–35 Music: NEW COMMANDMENT, anonymous

Communion Blessing

- P The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen us and keep us in his grace.
- C Amen.

Prayer After Communion

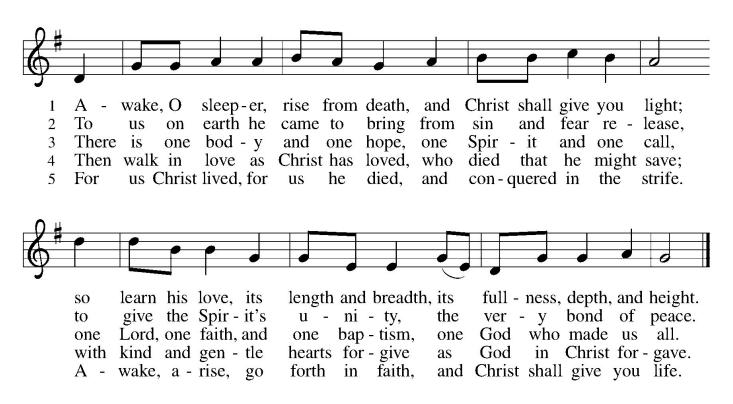
- P Generous God, you have shared your very self with us through this meal and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your overflowing love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.

Benediction

- P As you leave this place, may you be awestruck by the beauty of this world. May you laugh, and may it be contagious. May you overflow with love for those around you. May you be focused on hope and quick to point out joy. And in all of your living, and breathing, and being, may you find yourself full to the brim with God's Holy Spirit, and may it change your life. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Closing Hymn: ELW 452

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death



Sending

- P Go in peace, full to the brim
- C Thanks be to God.

**Worship liturgy and prayers adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. **

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: March 30-April 6, 2025

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

9:00-9:45 am: Adult Forum		
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		
11:00 am-12:30 pm: First Communion Class in Parish Hall		
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope at AC		
4:15 pm: Daily Bread Food Truck Meal Share		
5:30-9:30 pm: Straight Pepper Diet Meeting at AC		
10:00 am: Bible Study		
5:00-6:30 pm: Recovery on Main (NA)		
6:00-9:00 pm: Eggertsville Now Meeting		
7:00-9:00 pm: Lutheran Chorale Rehearsal		
: 12:00 pm: Soup & Psalms		
1:00 pm: Pinochle Group		
6:30-8:30 pm: Ray of Hope Prayer Group		
8:00 pm: AA Meeting		
3:00-6:30 pm: Tiger's Den Food Pantry Open		
7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal		
7:00-8:30 pm: Traveling and Trudging		
9:00 am-3:00 pm: Peniel Haitian Church at AC		
5:00 pm: Worship and Communion at AC following by Family Fun Night		
9:00-9:45 am: Adult Forum		
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		
11:00 am: New Missionary Class		
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope at AC		

Prayer List: In our congregational and extended family: Julia Jarvis (Andrea Jarvis' daughter); Michelle Uro-Ramos (Dave Hornung's daughter); Charles Herschlag; Tim Stanley; Dawn Matuszak; Cindy Milazzo-Schwartz; Bob O'Brian (Mark O'Brian's brother); Aaron Torres (friend of Sandy Hoehn); 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 Joan Maefs: Solstice, 6363 Transit Road, #136, East Amherst, NY 14051 Elaine Masman: Heathwood Assisted Living, 815 Hopkins, Room 251, Williamsville, NY 14221 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.

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.

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 hours for April are: Thursdays 4/3 and 4/17 from 3:00-6:30 pm, and Saturdays 4/12 and 4/26 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm. Donations for April are: peanut butter, jelly, and canned fruit.



Do you have a second grader who would be interested in making their First Communion? Class will be held Sunday, March 30 after the 10:00 am worship service: 11:00 am-12:30 pm. First Communion will take place during the 10:00 am worship service on Sunday, April 6. To sign up, please email: Kristen@stpaulseggertsville.com

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		Lutheran Church!	
Orders are due by April 13			
Please fill out a form for each order			
Check one: Please deliver my plant(s) to a shut-in member I will take my plant(s) home with me after worship			
<u>Plant</u>	Quantity		In memory/honor of
Lily			
Daffodil			
Tulip			
Hyacinth	T	otal:	



+ 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>: Jordan Dywan <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 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