

Fourth Sunday in Lent



*March 30, 2025
10:00 am
St. Paul's Eggertsville 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
Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 30, 2025*

Musician: Paul Storfer

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. Amen
- 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.

Opening Hymn: WOV 733

Our Father, We Have Wandered



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



in fool-ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.
com - pas-sion-ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,



But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,
grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.
in glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929–2006

Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612

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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.

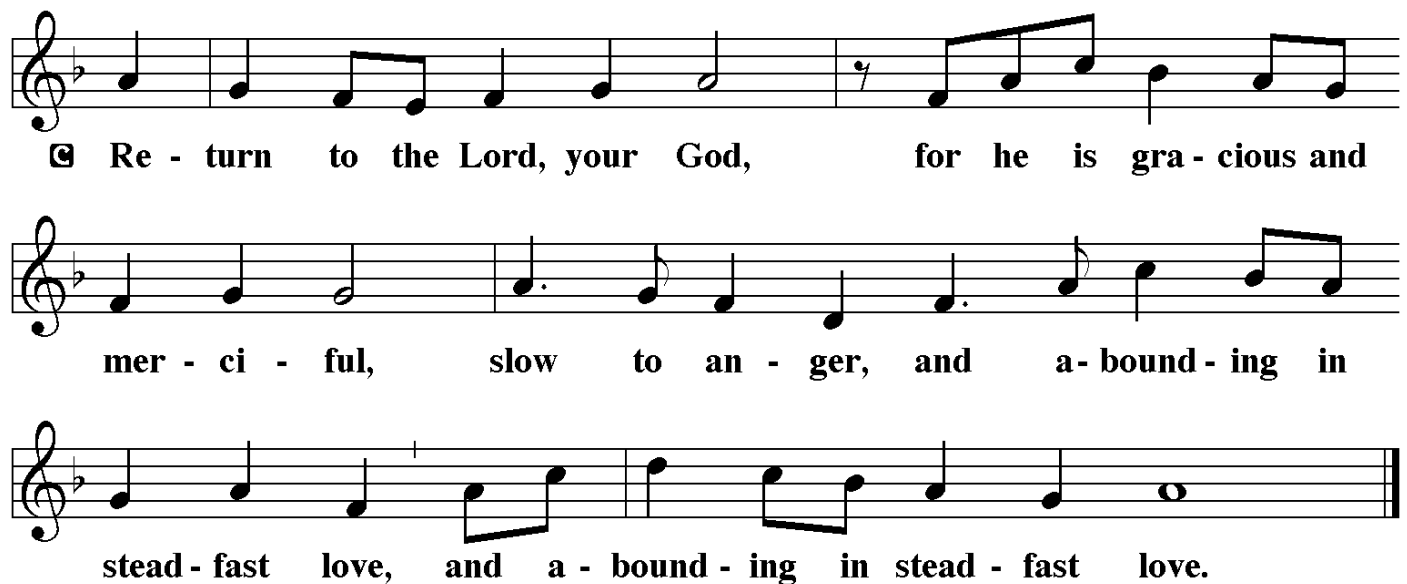
Prayer of the Day

P 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.

Children's Time

Gospel Acclamation



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and

mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in

stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

First Reading: Luke 15:1-7

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls

together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

A This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Luke 15:8-11

So then Jesus told them another parable. 'What woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

A This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.



P The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 15th Chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 15:11b-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.

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

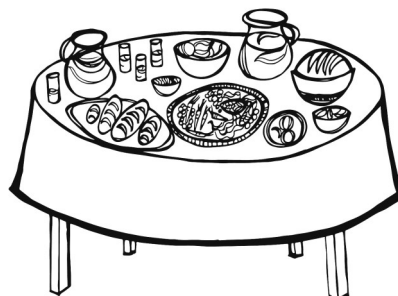
and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough 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



Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807

Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Apostle's Creed

A Let's join to proclaim our faith using the Apostles' Creed:

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 Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need. (Please kneel or sit as you are able.)

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.

A 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.

A 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.

A 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.

A 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,

C receive our prayer.

A 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,

C receive our prayer.

A Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

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 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.



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.
- 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**

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 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.

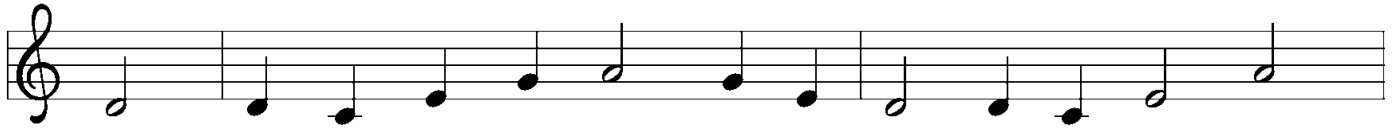
Closing Hymn: LBW 385 (on the following page)

Sending

P Go in peace, full to the brim

C Thanks be to God.

What Wondrous Love Is This



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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 *

- Sunday:** 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
- Monday:** 4:15 pm: Daily Bread Food Truck Meal Share
5:30-9:30 pm: Straight Pepper Diet Meeting at AC
- Tuesday:** 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
- Wednesday:** 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
- Thursday:** 3:00-6:30 pm: Tiger's Den Food Pantry Open
7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal
- Friday:** 7:00-8:30 pm: Traveling and Trudging
- Saturday:** 9:00 am-3:00 pm: Peniel Haitian Church at AC
5:00 pm: Worship and Communion at AC following by Family Fun Night
- Sunday:** 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

Deacons: 3/30: John Schunak; 4/6: Nancy Bartels-Holiman

Ushers: 3/30: Lonny Walter & Gerry Keppel; 4/6: Scott Vahue & Marissa Vahue

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



Easter Plants Order Form

Easter is right around the corner. If you would like to purchase Easter flowers in memory/honor of a loved one, the plants are \$10 each. All checks are payable to: St. Paul's 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>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>\$10 each</u>	<u>In memory/honor of</u>
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Lily

Daffodil

Tulip

Hyacinth

Total: _____





+ 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: *Jordan Dywan*

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

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