Third Sunday in Lent



March 23, 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 Third Sunday in Lent March 23, 2025

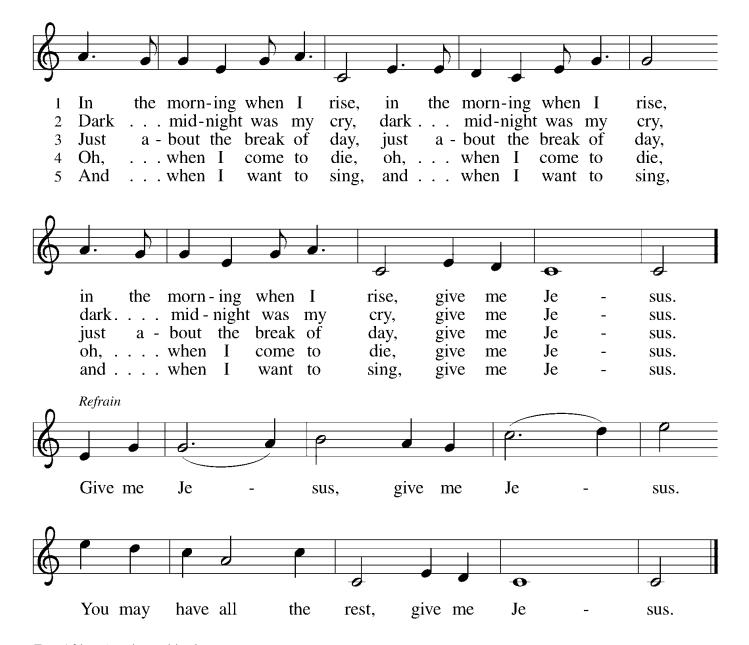
Musician: Paul Storfer

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.
- 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 777

Give Me Jesus



Text: African American spiritual

Music: GIVE ME JESUS, African American spiritual

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 fig trees and foxes, of today and tomorrow, we would like to ask that you scoop us up. Pick us up like a great gust of wind. Startle us awake like a first love. Light a fire in us like tomorrow depends on today. Do all of this to get our attention and then turn us toward you. We are a scattered people, God. The world is moving faster than we can keep up. So we pray—scoop us up. Catch our eye. Open our ears. Capture our attention. We are here. We long to be close to you.

C Amen.

Children's Time

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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

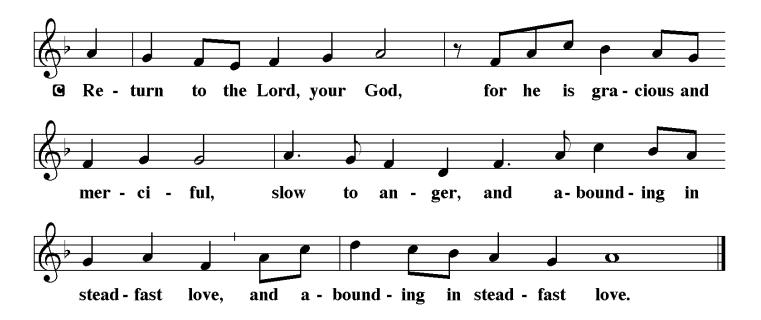
Psalm 63:1-8 (read responsively)

O God, eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you. (Ps. 63:1)

- A O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
- C Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.
- A For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.
- C So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.
- A My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
- C when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.
- A For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
- C My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.
- A This is the Word of the Lord
- C Thanks be to God.



Gospel Acclamation





- P The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 13th Chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

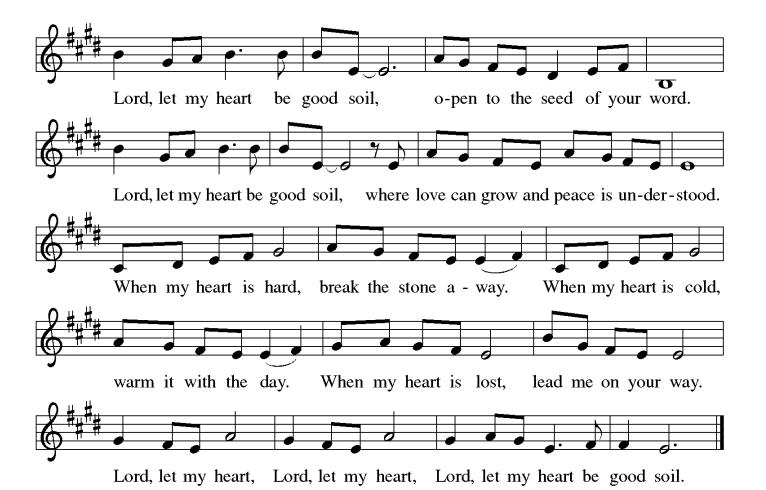
At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. [Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

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

Sermon

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil



Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950 Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Holy Baptism



Presentation

P In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Sponsors present the candidate:

P Sponsors, who do you present for Baptism?

Response: We present Zoey Elizabeth Mirabella for Holy Baptism.

The presiding minister addresses the parents:

P Travis and Amy, in Christian love you have presented Zoey for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring her to the services of God's house, and teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and the Creed. As she grows in years, you should place in her hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for her instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of her Baptism and in communion with the Church, she may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ.

Do you promise to help Zoey grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: We do.

The presiding minister addresses sponsors:

P Sarah and Connor, do you promise to nurture Zoey in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of her baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: We do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

- People of God, do you promise to support Zoey and pray for her in her new life in Christ?
- C We do.

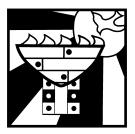
Prayer's of the Church

A Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy,

- C receive our prayer.
- A We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy,
- C receive our prayer.
- A We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy,
- C receive our prayer.
- A We pray for those in need, called to receive your 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. Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. God, in your mercy,
- C receive our prayer.
- A We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy,
- C receive our prayer.

- A We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended. May their witness inspire our own. 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.



Thanksgiving

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give him thanks and praise.
- P Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things. By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that Zoey who is here baptized may be given new life. Wash away her sin by this cleansing water and bring her forth as an inheritor of your glorious kingdom. To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen

Renunciation

- P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize.
- P Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?
- C I renounce them.
- P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
- C I renounce them.
- P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
- C I renounce them.

Profession

- P Do you believe in God the Father?
- C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- C 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.

- P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
- C 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



Baptism

P Zoey, you are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Laying on of Hands

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon Zoey: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.
- C Amen

Signing with the Cross

P Zoey, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Amen



Giving of the Light

A Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Welcome

- P Through Baptism, God has made Zoey a new member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.
- C We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow missionary in God's church, child of the same heavenly Father, and a worker with us in the kingdom of God. Amen

(Congregation joins in singing: Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so; little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me, yes Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.)

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.
- 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

- 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 327 (on the following page)

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. **

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



- 1 Rock of A ges, cleft for me, let me hide my-self in thee;
- 2 Not the la bors of my hands can ful fill thy law's de mands;
- 3 Noth-ing in my hand I bring; sim-ply to thy cross I cling.
- 4 While I draw this fleet-ing breath, when mine eye lids close in death,



blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed, let the wa - ter and the know, could my tears for - ev - er could my zeal res - pite no flow. dress; help-less, look Na - ked, come to thee for to thee for grace; to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg-ment throne, when I soar



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r. all for a - tone; thou must save, and thou sin could not a - lone. foul, I the foun-tain fly; wash me, Say - ior, or I die. to my - self Rock of ges, cleft for me, let me hide in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740-1778

Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784-1872

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: March 23-30, 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, Sunday School, and Baptism of Zoey Mirabella

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)

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

Wednesday: 12:00 pm: Soup & Psalms

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

6:15-9:00 pm: Brewing Community

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

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

1:00 pm: Ray of Hope at AC

Deacons: 3/23: Barbara Walter; 3/30: John Schunak

Ushers: 3/23: Gerri Horton & Helen Gibson; 3/30: Lonny Walter & Gerry Keppel

Prayer List: In our congregational and extended family: 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 remaining hours for March are: Thursday 3/27 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm. Donations for March: cereal and pasta.

Soup and Psalms: Join us on Wednesdays during Lent beginning at 12:00 pm in the Gathering Area.



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

MISSING GOD ON TAP?

Please join us for:

Brewing

Buffalo's Premiere Lutheran Beer Brewing & Sampling Event!



Brewing Night- Thursday, March 27 from 6:45 pm- 9:00 pm

Sampling Night- Thursday, May 1 from 6:45 pm- 9:00 pm

Come out and see how brewing and Christian Community go hand and hand! Evenings led by Pastor Steve and Flying Bison's Special Guest Tim Herzog.

Limited spots available. Sign up at the Church or email Steve at Steve@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 Kristen Arends: (716-481-8728 - cell); Email: kristen@stpaulseggertsville.com

<u>Directors of Music</u>: 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 St. Paul's Amherst Campus 5125 Main Street Williamsville, NY 14221