Fifth Sunday in Lent



April 6, 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 Fifth Sunday in Lent April 6, 2025

Musician: Paul Storfer

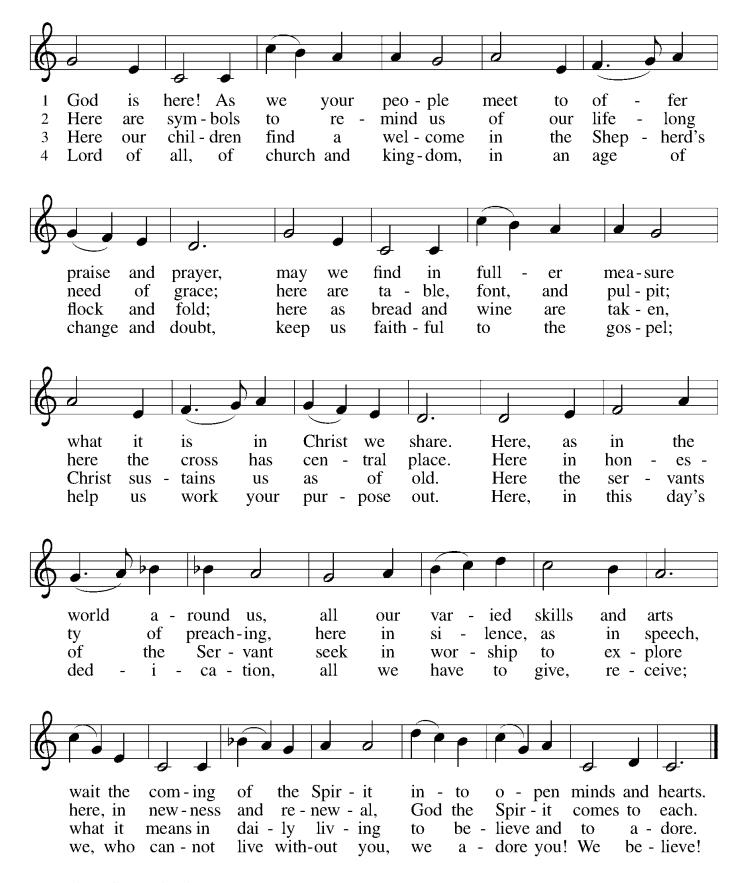
Please join us in celebrating the following young people making their First Communion today: Mya Blackwell, Andrew Dowse, Girard Mecca, Rhys Mosgeller, Anand Prabhu, and Jonae Wallace

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 719

God Is Here!



Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000 Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991 Text © 1979 and Music © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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 Holy God, sometimes my waking is a prayer. Sometimes the song I have stuck in my head, rumbling around on repeat, is a prayer. Sometimes the way I talk to the children and the way I hug the dog is a prayer. Sometimes the way I take my phone out to get a picture of the sunset or of the people I love—that is a prayer. Other times, prayer is moments like this—heads bowed, eyes closed, hearts quiet for just a moment. And in all of it, I trust you to hear me. Help me to hear you in return. Gratefully we pray, amen.
- C Amen.

Children's Time

First Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.

[Paul writes:] If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

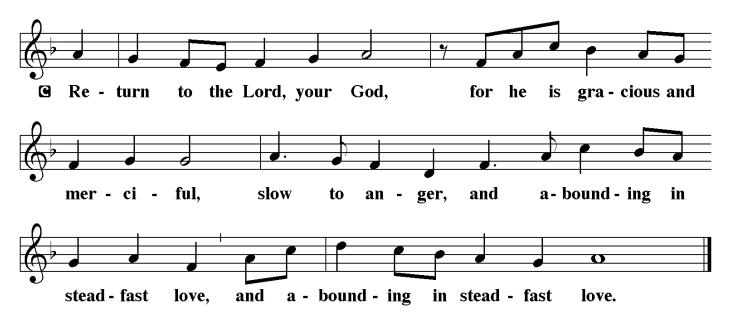
- A This is the Word of the Lord
- C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 126 (read responsively)

Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. (Ps. 126:5)

- A When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.
- C Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."
- A The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.
- C Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negeb.
- A Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.
- C Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.
- A This is the Word of the Lord
- C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



- P The Holy Gospel according to John the 12th Chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 12:1-8

Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

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

Sermon





Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–1681; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978 Music: LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN, Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent.

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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.

Girard, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized in Christ?"

Response: I do.

The presiding minister addresses the parents:

P Justin and Jackie, in Christian love, Girard has accepted the Holy Spirit's call to Holy Baptism. Do you promise to help Girard continue to grow in the Christian faith and life as he worships among God's faithful people, learns the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, and in his study of Holy Scripture?

Response: We do.

The presiding minister addresses sponsors:

P Jamie and Alison, do you promise to nurture Girard in the Chrisitan faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, and live in the covenant of his Baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: We do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

- P People of God, do you promise to support Girard and pray for him in his 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.

The church declares your praise, O God. Guide us in the example of Isaiah's imagination, Paul's transformed identity, and Mary's faith and devotion; that our lives, too, may be poured out in love as we trust in your promises. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A The earth declares your praise, O God. Make a way for the planet's future in the sea and the wilderness, the mountains and plains, the tundra and wetlands. Repair habitats and sustainable ecosystems on, above, and beneath the ground. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A The nations declare your praise, O God. Where religious differences divide, bring together those who worship you in the name of Jesus Christ and those who call to you with different names. Guide interreligious dialogue, that faith may unite rather than divide communities. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A The people declare your praise, O God. Restore those whose hope has been dampened through a health diagnosis, job or home loss, divorce, or death. Bring healing to those in need, especially the people on our Prayer Lists and Prayer Chain, and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud. May all who weep now sing songs of joy again. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A The gifts of the Spirit declare your praise, O God. We thank you for artists who proclaim the gospel. Inspire music, poetry, and images that proclaim the new thing you are doing. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A The communion of saints declares your praise, O God. Giving thanks for those who have died, we trust in the one who has made them his own: Christ Jesus, our crucified and risen Savior. 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 Girard who is here baptized may be given new life. Wash away his sin by this cleansing water and bring him 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.

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

Giving of the Light

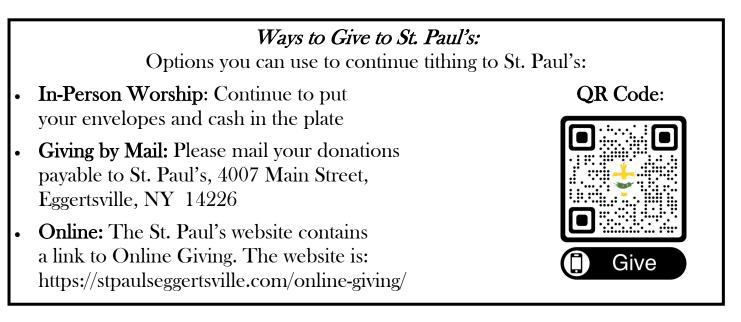
A Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.



Welcome

- A Through Baptism, God has made Girard 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, yes Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.)



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

<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.

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

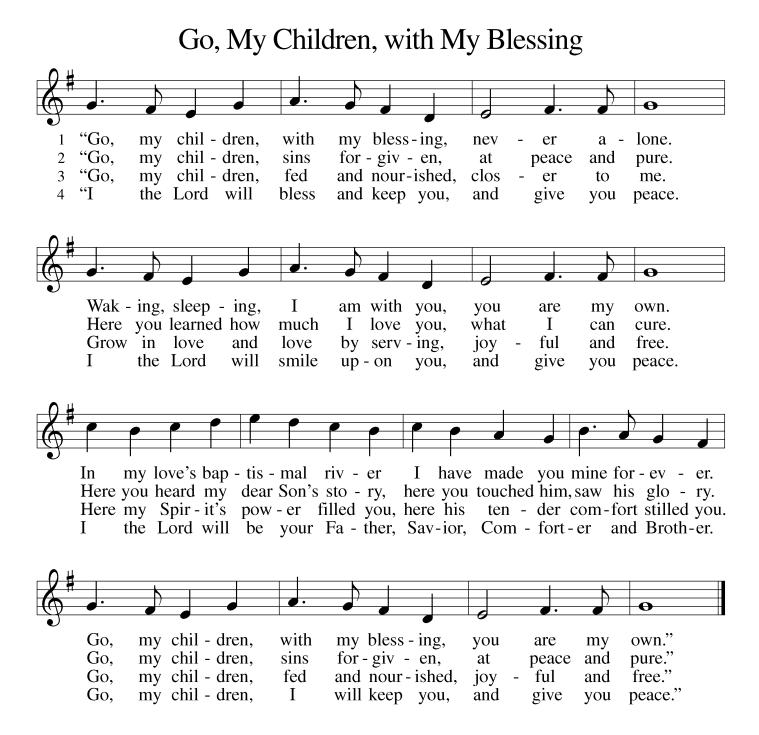
- P As you leave this place, may you be awestruck by the beauty of this world. May you laugh, and may it be contagious. May you overflow with love for those around you. May you be focused on hope and quick to point out joy. And in all of your living, and breathing, and being, may you find yourself full 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: WOV 721 (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. **



Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919 Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: April 6-13, 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 First Communion	
	10:00 am: Baptism of Girard Mecca	
	11:00 am: New Missionary Class	
	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 pm: Church Council (Zoom Meeting)	
	7:00-9:00 pm: Lutheran Chorale Rehearsal	
Wednesday: 10:00 am: Comforters		
	12:00 pm: Soup & Psalms	
	6:30-8:30 pm: Ray of Hope Prayer Group	
	8:00 pm: AA Meeting	
Thursday:	7:15 pm: Book Club at AC	
Friday:	7:00-8:30 pm: Traveling and Trudging	
Saturday:	8:30 am-12:00 pm: Men's Breakfast and Spring Clean-up	
	9:00 am-12:30 pm: Tiger's Den Food Pantry Open	
	9:00 am-3:00 pm: Peniel Haitian Church at AC	
	5:00 pm: Palm Weekend: Worship and Communion at AC	
Sunday:	Palm Weekend	
	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	
	1:00 pm: Ray of Hope at AC	
	5:00 pm: Private Function in Parish Hall (Noel)	

Deacons: 4/6: Nancy Bartels-Holiman; 4/13: Martin Troutman *Ushers:* 4/6: Scott Vahue & Marissa Vahue; 4/13: Jim Tanevich & Robin Miano

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 14068
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.

NEWANNOUNCEMENTS

Book Club Meeting at Amherst Campus: Thursday, April 10 at 7:15 pm; April's book is <u>Exit</u> <u>West</u> by Mohsin Hamid. (Please note the change from the March listing.) May Book: <u>Orange is</u> <u>the New Black</u> by Piper Kerman. All are welcome! For more information contact Karin Johnson. Phone 716-689-6365 or Email karinej42@gmail.com

Tigers Den Food Pantry: The Food Pantry is open to anyone in need in zip code 14226, is associated with St. Paul's Amherst Campus, or by referral. The 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. April donations: soup (other than chicken noodle or tomato) and fruit juice.

Soup and Psalms: Join us for Soup and Psalms every Wednesday at 12:00 pm through April 9.



Palm Weekend:	Saturday, April 12, 5:00 pm at Amherst Campus (AC) Sunday, April 13, 10:00 am at Eggertsville Campus (EC)
Maundy Thursday:	Thursday, April 17, 6:00 pm: Potluck Dinner at EC
Good Friday:	Friday, April 18, 12:00 pm: Tenebrae Service at EC Friday, April 18, 7:00 pm: Tenebrae Service at EC
Easter Vigil:	Saturday, April 19, 5:00 pm at AC
Easter:	Sunday, April 20 at 8:00 am at EC Sunday, April 20 at 10:00 am at EC
	**There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the children following both Sunday Services **



+ 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

> <u>Church Office Staff</u> Cody Almeter and Adrienne Leary E-mail: office@stpaulseggertsville.com Telephone: (716) 835-0407 Website: www.stpaulseggertsville.com

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