

July
2025

The Messenger

St. Paul's Lutheran Church



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Eggertsville & Amherst
Campuses



Why on earth would we ever celebrate Christmas only ONCE a year? The good news that God has become incarnate (tangibly shown up!) in our world is too good to only celebrate mid-winter.

So, let's do it again in July!

And with Christmas at St. Paul's comes our Angel Tree, where so many of you pick up gift tags to help bless so many families in need. You help them see God showing up!

This summer, we'll do it again with locker ladders and food gift cards. The social work staff at the Amherst Family Support Center have started to raise donations of locker ladders for Amherst students with significant financial barriers who may have special needs and/or struggle organizing their schedule and needed class supplies. When students are unorganized, take the wrong books from their lockers or are delayed to class, their learning is impacted negatively. Locker ladders have historically helped students to better organize their supplies and books and set them up for success in school. You can take a gift tag for one of these lockers and purchase locally or buy on the Amazon link-https://www.amazon.com/dp/B001977S8U?ref=fed_asin_title&th=1 to have delivered straight to St. Paul's. You can also grab a gift card for \$25 for Tops to help out Tiger's Den families.

Either way, bring them all back or have them delivered by July 6th when we will celebrate Christmas in July. And as always, thanks for continuing to show our local families in need that God continues to show up!



St. Paul's is a congregation of the Niagara Frontier Conference of the Upstate New York Synod
Of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

Pastor's Annual Report for 2025

(Context - given during the meeting where we vote on selling the Amherst Campus and adding space to Eggertsville Campus)

SB: Well, here we are again, on another park bench, with another cup of coffee.

KK: Coffee is the third sacrament in the Lutheran Church. A life giving force!

SB: And time for us to reflect on and report about another year of ministry at St. Paul's.

KK: Yes, it's so great when you write these reports up as dialogs. You're so very creative and funny and great to work with and creative and funny. (Steve wrote this and made me say that!)

SB: Well, St. Paul's deserves a tad bit of humor. This meeting and the past few weeks have been tough.

KK: Ministry is not always easy. I've just appreciated the community wrestling with the hard stuff together.

SB: St. Paul's especially, but the Church in general, is one of the last places left that we can, and should, talk about the hard stuff and agree to disagree on certain issues, decisions and actions.

KK: But we can always agree that our role in the Kingdom is to stay focused on reaching beyond ourselves and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ for Eggertsville and beyond.

SB: Absolutely. We had another full year of that. 12 baptisms. 6 kids taking Communion for the first time. And 6 young adults confirming their faith.

KK: Don't forget the 8 funerals and 5 weddings. Speaking of weddings, did you know that

LL: neither of us are scheduled to do a wedding inside or outside of church in 2026?

SB: Just noticed that last week. It's another sign that the role of church in culture is changing. Now that Cousin Louis can get ordained in the Universal Life Church for \$30 and do a wedding, churches are needing to redefine how we connect with people.

KK: That's a lot about what these votes are about isn't it?

SB: For sure. Those votes. Wheels for Workers. Adding the Kahle House to house more refugees. Daily Bread. Tiger's Den. New additions of support groups for people going through hard things like infertility struggles.

KK: We can't keep doing the same old thing as church.

SB: Just doesn't work as well anymore.

KK: But we also need to celebrate what got us here!

SB: Absolutely. As a huge history buff, I'm super excited for the 200th Anny coming up.

KK: Yeah, your dad finally bugged you enough to get that team together and even you had to admit that we should have started that earlier.

SB: Sort of. Don't tell him though.

KK: That celebration is going to remind us a lot of why God placed St. Paul's here and why God still needs us here.

SB: It's clear on a daily basis, as our incredible staff works so hard to make this church remain open and welcoming to everyone who needs to know that they are unconditionally loved by God.

KK: Absolutely, and our digital ministry continues to grow and share that message as well. The addition of "God on the Go" and our weekly digital content has made sharing God's love online even easier.

SB: For sure. Since the Covid, many churches stopped the efforts in digital ministry but St. Paul's doubled down! And now we'll be doubling down with two "official" pastors this summer. First time ever in 200 years.

KK: Yeah I'm super excited to make things official. Now we can both wear full robes and stoles again every Sunday.

SB: (Steve stays silent and stares forward)

KK: Well at least we can wear Bills stoles on Opening Sunday.

SB: (Steve stares forward with a goofy happy smile)

KK: OK, so wanna keep doing this for another summer at LCLC and new Daycamps, a fall full of Sunday School and Adult Forums, a winter full of Advent gatherings and Advent retreats in a box and a spring full of Lenten Soup and Psalms and family gatherings?

SB: Seems like a plan. Where else would you rather be than

KK: Right here, right now.

SB: So let's - Be good. Do good. God bless. Go B...

KK: (interrupts) Steve, wrong mission statement.

SB: Oh, that's right.

BOTH: Be good. Do good. Reach beyond ourselves with the good news of Jesus. Go St. Paul's.

Food Ministries: Tiger's Den Food Pantry



TIGER'S DEN
Food Pantry

Summer has arrived, and with that so have the children who are enjoying their summer vacation. The pantry continues to grow as the issue of food insecurity continues in our area. In May, we provided non-perishable food items, fresh vegetables, paper products, and personal care items to 79 families. And June looks to be as busy as May. During the last two months, Tiger's Den has welcomed 16 new families in need of our support. Thank you so much for your continued donations to help us keep our pantry shelves stocked.

Pantry hours for July: Thursdays 7/3, 7/17, and 7/31 from 3:00-6:30 pm;
and Saturdays 7/12 and 7/26 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm.

Donations for July: granola bars, juice, and crackers

Message from The Council

I'm pleased to share with you an exciting and joy-filled update from our most recent Church Council meeting, held on June 24th. At this meeting, your Church Council took a significant and heartfelt step forward in the process of officially calling Pastor Kristen to serve as our Second Pastor here at St. Paul's.

After thoughtful discussion and prayerful consideration, the Council unanimously—and exuberantly—voted to bring before the congregation a formal vote to approve Pastor Kristen's call. This decision reflects not only the Council's deep appreciation for the many gifts Pastor Kristen brings but also our shared sense of gratitude for her presence and her dedication to this congregation.

Pastor Kristen has worked tirelessly and faithfully throughout her time with us. Her leadership, her compassion, and her spirit have been an inspiration to many. It is truly moving to see how God has been working through her and among us during this time of discernment.

We are proud and honored that Pastor Kristen desires to make St. Paul's her home, and we look forward to the congregational meeting where the next step in this journey will take place. More details on that meeting will be shared with you shortly.

Please continue to keep this process, Pastor Kristen, and the entire church family in your prayers as we follow where the Spirit leads.

Walk & Talks with Steve & Kristen



WALK & TALKS

WITH STEVE AND KRISTEN

Remember your old walkie talkie? I always had fun with mine for about five minutes. Because it would go all crackly and I couldn't understand what my friend was saying and we'd give up because the connection wasn't clear enough. So, forget the walkie talkie, and the rotary phone, and facebook messages, and the text messages and let's meet up FACE TO FACE! Steve and I have both blocked out time through June, July and August to host "Walk & Talks". Below this image, you will find links to our calendars and you can sign up for a time to go on a 45 minute walk (or run if you're with Steve). There are multiple weekday and weekend options, and you can go for a one-on-one or small group. Let's connect with one another, the neighborhood, and God, without the crackly connections. Over and out.

EMAIL OFFICE@STPAULSEGGERTSVILLE.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION!

Update On The Congregational Meeting

UPDATE ON THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON JUNE 22, 2025

At the meeting Sunday morning, both Motions passed. St. Paul's will move in the weeks and months ahead to (a) look to sell the Amherst Campus property and (b) begin an expansion project for increased space to battle food insecurity and build relationships in the Eggertsville neighborhood.

We are so thankful for all those who came out the meeting and listening sessions. We know that there is great excitement and deep grief surrounding these moves. We've heard your concerns and the Council and staff will be keeping what we've learned in mind as we move forward.

While there will be some work beginning over the summer on the Columbarium plans and design phase of the new project, most of the work and more updates will come in the fall. Until then, everything at the Amherst Campus will remain as is and we look forward to continuing to worship together on Saturday nights.

Here are a couple architectural renderings of the potential new space that we forgot to share at the meeting on Sunday. They are draft images and a Building Team will soon be established to firm up plans that will help St. Paul's fulfill the mission to reach beyond ourselves with the good news of Jesus Christ.

The congregation will be meeting in the future again to (a) approve the final price and purchaser of the Amherst Campus property and (b) approve the final plans for the Eggertsville expansion.



Summer Greeters Needed

LOOKING FOR A FUN
WAY FOR YOUR
FAMILY TO STAY
CONNECTED WHILE
SUNDAY SCHOOL IS
ON A BREAK FOR
SUMMER?

Be a St. Paul's
GREETER!

LOOKING FOR FAMILIES TO GREET PEOPLE AS THEY ENTER FOR
WORSHIP AND HELP DURING COMMUNION AT WORSHIP
SIGN UP ON BULLETIN BOARD AT CHURCH

WNY Impact Foundation/DBFT

GIVE 716 DAY!

"Give 716 day was created as a joint effort between the Buffalo Bills Foundation and the Buffalo Sabres Foundation in response to the urgent needs our nonprofit community is facing as a whole. Give 716 day will take place starting on July 15, 2025 at 7:16 pm and culminate on July 16, 2025 at 11:59 pm. Our goal is simple, raise money and awareness for local nonprofits in one epic day!"

The Western New York Impact Foundation will be participating in this event to raise donations to improve the lives of others in our community through the missions of the Daily Bread Food Truck and Wheels for Workers. We have set a goal of \$10,000 in donations to accomplish repairs to the food truck and the purchase of bike repair parts.

Stay tuned for more details.

www.wnyimpactfoundation.com



Burrito Project- 7/15



Our next Burrito Project Meeting is:

Tuesday, July 15th at 6 pm at the Eggertsville Campus!

If you or your young adult is interested in shopping, making burritos and/or delivering the finished product, please sign up on the Burrito Project sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area at Church.

Outdoor Worship & Summer Gathering 7/20

OUTDOOR WORSHIP & SUMMER GATHERING SUNDAY, JULY 20TH 10 AM

**OUTDOOR PAVILLION AT
ST. JOHN'S WILLIAMSVILLE
(6540 MAIN STREET
WILLIAMSVILLE, 14221)**

The Congregational Meeting will take place at 11 am and we will vote on calling Kristen as a Pastor at St. Paul's!

After the meeting, we hope you will join us for a meal! Hamburgers, Hot dogs and drinks will be provided. If you are able to bring a side dish or dessert to share, that would be wonderful! (Please Sign up in Church or see SignUpGenius below to sign up to bring something!)



New Beginnings for Single Ladies- 7/16

New Beginnings *for Single Ladies – Please join us!*

June Recap: The first meeting of *New Beginnings* was held on June 18 with a wonderful turnout of 12 ladies. It was decided that we will meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, plus have a planned activity during the month. Some ideas were: Darwin Martin House, Botanical Gardens, the Casino, hiking, kayaking, dinners and theatre. The calendar will be finalized at the July meeting. Our group is 3-fold: Social, Spiritual and Service (women helping women).
And of course, lots of laughter!

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 16th at 12:00 noon
St. Paul's Lutheran Church

4007 Main St.

Eggertsville, NY 14226

Please bring your own bag lunch.

Dessert and lemonade will be provided.



Email: Joan Keptner
keptnersafari@gmail.com

Call: Heidi Ginal
716-480-9227

Waiting in Hope-Infertility Support Ministry

WAITING *in* HOPE INFERTILITY SUPPORT MINISTRIES

WHAT IS WIH?

WAITING IN HOPE MINISTRIES (WIH) is a national non-profit support ministry that exists to encourage, support and embrace those struggling through the grief of difficulty conceiving, known as infertility, miscarriage, adoption, and waiting through the process. We support, encourage, equip and point women and couples to the only hope of Jesus within their waiting and struggle to conceive or grow their family.

There are a total of six curriculums, with the first starting in June 2025. The first curriculum is “The Guide to Waiting in Hope”, which is a six-session study. Feel free to join at any point! It is not required to attend every session.

WHEN & WHERE IS WIH?

Every other Monday starting in June from 7:00PM-8:30PM* in the Gathering Space at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church (4007 Main Street, Eggertsville, NY 14226).

June 2nd
June 16th
June 30th

July 14th
July 28th
August 11th

**Most sessions last an hour, but we allow for extra time after!*

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE FIRST CURRICULUM?

We focus on the question “How do you wait in hope during infertility and pain?”. Relevant topics include myths, relationships and marriage, personal reflection, group notes, and resources to help further the healing process. This is an open support group with anonymity. We want you to feel safe, trusted, and not alone. This is for YOU. So come comfy with a blanket, drink and snacks, or whatever else you’d like!

HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

If you are interested in becoming a group leader or would like more information, feel free to reach out to Janelle at 716-471-5484!

Waiting in Hope-Infertility Support Ministry



Wheels on The Loose!

This Summer is shaping up to be a busy one for Wheels For Workers 716. We have a number of events throughout WNY. In June and July, we are supporting the Ride for Roswell, Assemblymember Bill Conrad's Bike Rodeo, and Sherilann's Bicycle Rodeo.

The YMCA and Friends of Lynette Ride are graciously conducting bike drives for us.

We have two new partners the Response to Love Center and the Firehouse Church Buffalo. We also continue to provide bikes for Journey's End, Buffalo International Institute, Jewish Family Services, Catholic Charities and others. A special thank you to St. Paul's for hosting Dare to Repair on June 17th. We had an amazing time teaming up with The Tool Library at Tuesday's Dare to Repair Cafe! Huge thanks to everyone who came out and made this free community event such a success!(see pictures below.

We recently redesigned our website wheelsforworkers.org. It includes a calendar of events and lots more information. please take a look!

Thank you for all you support!



Invitation to LCLC



~Explore God's WILD WONDERS at Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center~

Sign up today!

LCLC is a place for kids to learn and grow as independent people but also as faithful people! All cabins have indoor plumbing and bunk beds and well-trained counseling staff stay in the cabins with campers. Outdoor ministry has been proven to create lasting impacts on faith formation. Plus, it's super fun! Swimming, sailing, silly games, & lasting friendships are all part of the package. If you have any questions about camp, please reach out to Pastor Steve or Kristen! Camps are available for all young people completing grades 1-12.

~CAMPERSHIPS AVAILABLE~

St. Paul's will support your family with a \$150 scholarship that we will pay directly to camp. Email Kristen to let us know what week your child is registered for. Full camperships through LCLC are also available!

~PROGRAMS~

NEW Family Camp!: July 13-18. Half or full weeks are available.

Mini Camp: July 20-22, grades 1-3, a half-week introduction to camp and Pastor Steve is on site!

Youth Camp: Three weeks available throughout the summer. For grades 3-8. This is your chance to try a little bit of everything!

Confirmation Camp: July 13-18, program especially designed for confirmation students.

Senior High Week: July 27-Aug 1, especially designed for High School Students with topical workshops led by youth leaders

Night Owls: August 3-8, the camp day shifts to explore camp in the dark, almost Pastor Kristen will be on site!

More information and registration at: www.lclcenter.org

**THE FOLLOWING
MINISTRIES/
GROUPS ARE ON
PAUSE FOR SUMMER:**

- THE COMFORTERS**
- PINOCHLE**
- CHOIR**
- BIBLE STUDY**
- BOOK CLUB**
- FAMILY FUN NIGHT**
- ADULT FORUM**
- SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**THEY WILL RESUME
MEETINGS IN
SEPTEMBER!**

PLEASE EMAIL THE OFFICE AT OFFICE@STPAULSEGGERTSVILLE.COM
OR CALL (716)-835-0407 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Refugee Resettlement Update

Dear church Family,

We just wanted to say thank you from the bottom of our hearts, for everything you've done for us. Your kindness, patience, and support have meant so much to us and all our family. You didn't just help us learn English—you made us feel welcome, seen, and cared for. Learning a new language is hard, but you made it feel possible. Every lesson, every smile, every word of encouragement gave us hope and strength. You never made us feel like outsiders. Instead, you opened your arms and treated us like family. We will never forget how you gave us your time and your hearts to help us. You made a difference in our lives, and we are truly grateful. May God bless you for all the love you shown to us. ☺

With love and thanks
(Alali Family)

July Birthdays

July Birthdays



Lawrence Fenske	July 4
Gerald Braun	July 6
John Eggleston	July 6
Karen Schoene	July 9
Vanessa Solomon	July 11
David Gettman	July 12
Rick Vilonen	July 13
Jerry Tubbs	July 22
Robert Brown	July 27
Hilde Neubauer	July 28

Happy Birthday to Our July Missionaries!



St. Paul's Lutheran Eggertsville & Amherst Campus

Website: www.stpaulseggertsville.com

Telephone: 716- 835-0407

Email: office@stpaulseggertsville.com

Pastoral Leaders

Steve Biegner: (cell) 716 - 868-1232

Kristen Arends: (email) kristen@stpaulseggertsville.com

Directors of Music:

Paul H. Storfer (EC)

Adam Schmidt (AC)

Office Staff: Cody Almeter, Adrienne Leary

Daily Bread Food Truck Coordinator: Leslie Boynton

Tiger's Den Food Pantry Coordinator: Adrienne Leary

Christian Ed Coordinator: June Piette

Youth Ministry: Jordan Dywan

Facilities Manager: Jeff Stein

Digital Ministry: Andrew Gruszka

St. Paul's Eggertsville Campus
4007 Main Street
Eggertsville, NY 14226

Amherst Lutheran Campus
5125 Main St.
Williamsville, NY 14221