Ninth Saturday after Pentecost



August 9, 2025 5:00 pm St. Paul's Amherst Campus

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church Amherst Campus Ninth Saturday after Pentecost August 9, 2025

Musician: Adam Schmidt





Confession and Forgiveness

- P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin. Merciful God,
- You free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life in you. Amen.
- P You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of + Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.
- C Amen.

All Creatures, Worship God Most High!



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.

al-le - lu - ia,

al-le - lu

ia!

C And also with you.

lu - ia,

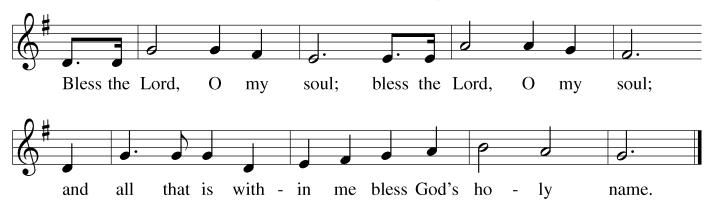
al-le - lu - ia,

Prayer of the Day

- P Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C Amen

Praise Hymn: WOV 798 (repeat three times)

Bless the Lord, O My Soul



Text: Ps. 103:1

Music: PRAISE PSALM 103, traditional

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6

God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

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

Psalm 33:12-22 (read responsively)

Let your lovingkindness be upon us, as we place our hope in you. (Ps. 33:22)

- A Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD! Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage!
- C The LORD looks down from heaven, and sees all humankind.
- A God sits firmly enthroned and watches all who dwell on the earth.
- C God fashions all their hearts and observes all their deeds.

- A king is not saved by the size of the army, nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.
- C The horse gives vain hope for victory; despite its great strength it cannot save.
- A Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O LORD, upon those who wait for your steadfast love,
- C to deliver their lives from death, and to keep them alive in time of famine.
- A Our innermost being waits for you, O LORD, our helper and our shield.
- C Surely, our heart rejoices in you, for in your holy name we put our trust.
- A Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us, even as we place our hope in you.
- A This is the Word of the Lord
- C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

A This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn: W&P 129



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

Gospel: Luke 12:32-40

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.

[Jesus said:] "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

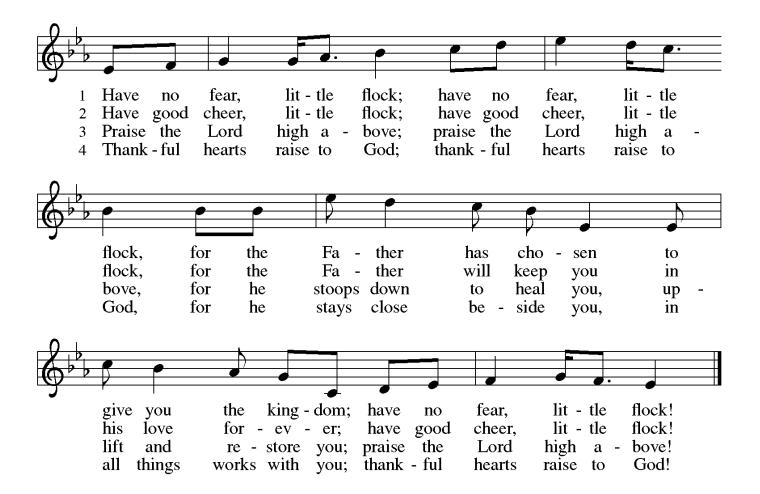
"But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

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

Sermon



Have No Fear, Little Flock



Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jillson, b. 1931, sts. 2–4 Music: LITTLE FLOCK, Heinz Werner Zimmermann, b. 1930

Apostle's Creed

- P With the whole church, let us confess our faith together:
- C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Prayers of the Church

P In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world. (Please be seated.)

Keep the heart of your church set firmly in you so that, with lamps lit and attentive to Christ's call at any time or place, your people are ready to respond with faithful action for the sake of the world. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Worlds were prepared by your word. Speak healing and protection upon the earth, especially where life and habitats are threatened. Guide the work of astronomers and all who teach us about the stars and galaxies. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P You know the actions and deeds of the nations. Turn humanity away from instruments of war and violence. Fashion the hearts of world leaders to work for peace. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Let your lovingkindness be on those in need, especially the people on our Prayer Lists and Prayer Chain, and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud. Assure all who are afraid or experiencing great uncertainty that your promises are sure. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Calm the fears of migrants and refugees who set out, not knowing where they go. Provide shelter, sustenance, protection from harm, and welcome. Bless the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and other means of support and advocacy. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P We celebrate the ancestors in the faith who built their lives on your promises and died having seen them only from a distance. Sustain us in our hope of things not seen. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

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/



Offering Hymn: WOV Page 35



Offering Prayer

- P Let us pray.
- C Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor. May the gifts we offer here and in our planned giving be used for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen



Dialogue and Preface

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give God thanks and praise.
- P It is indeed right and proper that we should at all times and in all places, offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and speak their unending hymn:

Sanctus (spoken)

C Holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

P In the night in which he was handed over, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

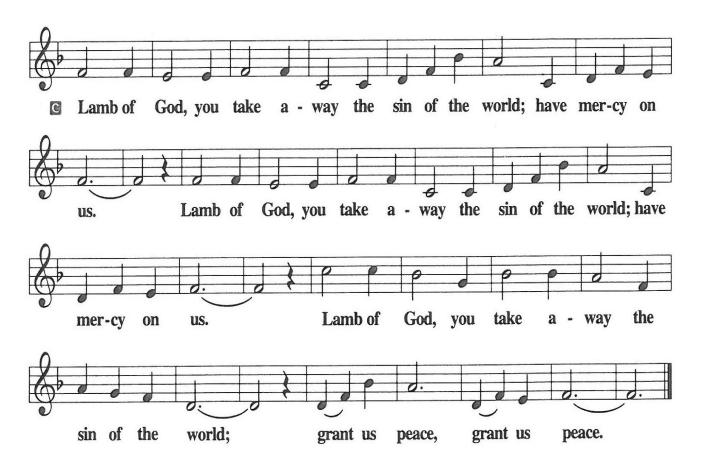
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

- P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
- 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 Hymn: WOV Page 39



Distribution Hymn: LBW 456

The King of Love My Shepherd Is



- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thine unction grace bestoweth; and, oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so, through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never.
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877 Music: St. Columba, Irish tune

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Communion Blessing

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

Prayer After Communion

- P Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.
- C Amen.

Benediction

- P And now as you go on your way, may our Lord Jesus go with you. May he go before you to show you the way, behind you to encourage you, beside you to be your friend, above you to watch over you, and within you to give you peace. Go today celebrating in the name of the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, and all God's children said...
- C Amen

Closing Hymn: ELW 774 (on the following page)

Dismissal

- P Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
- C Thanks be to God.



What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine Leaning on the Everlasting Arms



Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839-1929

Music: SHOWALTER, Anthony J. Showalter, 1858-1924

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: August 10-17, 2025

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

Sunday: 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 and Communion

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

7:00-8:30 pm: Waiting in Hope

Tuesday: 5:00-6:30 pm: We Can No Longer Blame Others (NA)

Wednesday: 6:30-8:30 pm: Ray of Hope Prayer Group at AC

8:00 pm: AA Meeting

Thursday: 3:00-6:30 pm: Tiger's Den Food Pantry Open

Friday: No Events Planned

Saturday: 9:00 am-3:00 pm: Peniel Haitian Church at AC

5:00 pm: Worship and Communion at AC

Sunday: 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 and Communion

1:00 pm: Ray of Hope at AC

Our prayers and sympathy go out to Betty Aprile and her family in the passing of her sister, Gloria Chaves

Prayer List: In our congregational and extended family: Pastor Ray Clifton; John Cole (in need of a kidney donor and a friend of Andrea Jarvis); Lavon Amos; Cindy Milazzo Schwarts; Marian Coco Reilly; David Schunak; Kate Kopasz and Lynda LoTempio (Phyllis Campbell's nieces); Sylvia McLaughlin; Julia Jarvis (Andrea Jarvis' daughter); Sue Epstein

Prayer List: Shut-Ins (* indicates new names or changes added this week)

Neal DeLeo: Greenfield Manor, #D127, 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

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

*Charles Scofield: Fredonia Place, 201 Reist Street, #228, Williamsville, NY 14221

Ira Striejewske: 48 Cornell Avenue, Eggertsville, NY

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

Daily Bread Food Truck: The 2025 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. In order to abide by FeedMore requirements, the pantry days for August have changed. The pantry will be open Saturdays 8/9 and 8/23 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm; and Thursdays 8/14 and 8/28 from 3:00-6:30 pm. Donations for August are: paper towels and coffee.



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". You can ask office@stpaulseggertsville.com for a link to our calendars and 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!

WALK & TALKS

WITH STEVE AND KRISTEN

Dates & Times of Walk & Talks Available:

Steve

AUGUST 16-9 AM AUGUST 19-11 AM AUGUST 26-11 AM

Kristen

AUGUST 11- 6 PM AUGUST 13- 12 PM AUGUST 22-10 AM AUGUST 25- 6 PM

EMAIL OFFICE@STPAULSEGGERTSVILLE.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION!



+ 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

Pastors

Steve Biegner (716-868-1232 - cell); Email: steve@stpaulseggertsville.com Kristen Arends: Email: kristen@stpaulseggertsville.com

Directors of Music: Paul H. Storfer (SPEC) and Adam Schmidt (AC)

<u>Christian Education Coordinator</u>: June Piette

<u>Youth Ministry</u>: Jordan Dywan

<u>Digital Ministry</u>: Andrew Gruszka

<u>Facilities Manager</u>: Jeff Stein

Church Office Staff

Cody Almeter and Adrienne Leary E-mail: office@stpaulseggertsville.com Telephone: (716) 835-0407 Website: www.stpaulseggertsville.com

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

5125 Main Street Williamsville, NY 14221

St. Paul's Amherst Campus

Worship Service: Sundays at 10:00 am Worship Service: Saturdays at 5:00 pm