

*August &
September
2025*

The Messenger

St. Paul's Lutheran Church



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Eggertsville & Amherst
Campuses



August &

SEPTEMBER



By the grace of God, the call of the church,
and the consent of the people,

Kristen Lee Arends

will be ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

Saturday, September 6, 2025

~ 4:00 pm ~

Reception and fellowship to follow



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, 4007 MAIN STREET, EGGERTSVILLE

Clergy are invited to vest and process. The color of the day is red.

Watch online at www.youtube.com/@StPaulsLutheranEggertsville

*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)*

God's Work, Our Hands 9/7

**SIGN UP IN GATHERING AREA OR EMAIL
OFFICE@STPAULSEGGERTSVILLE.COM
FOR SIGN UP GENIUS LINKS FOR
GOD'S WORK,
OUR HANDS.**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH



A day of giving back at and around St. Paul's...

Some of the projects that we invite you to take part in-

Front Garden Clean Up

Cleaning/Painting

Park Clean Up

Burrito Project Packs

@ Olin House

Preparing Flower Pots for

Packing Snack Bags for

Make Cards for Shut-ins

Neighbors

AFSC

Pack Bags for TDFP

Building Birdhouses

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH

**9 AM: FELLOWSHIP & BREAKFAST
HOSTED BY DAILY BREAD FOOD
TRUCK**

10 AM: WORSHIP

**10:15 AM: GOD'S WORK, OUR
HANDS PROJECTS**

Summer Greetings to St. Paul's (Pastoral Message)

Many of you were in church July 7th and really enjoyed our Christmas in July service where we helped out the school and Tiger's Den with summer gifts and proclaimed that Jesus is not just born one day, but every day in our lives because of the first Christmas.

We recognize God's "incarnation" every time we gather for worship, share Holy Communion, pray our way through trauma and tragedies, seeing the Holy Spirit guide us.

And some of you may have noticed my beloved Pops (who I labeled The Grinch that day in the sermon) protesting that we were doing this because it wasn't Christmas. Well, despite him being my "straight man" during the sermons sometimes, he actually does have some personal and theological thoughts on why he feels strongly about this, so I asked him to share them.

Dialog is good. Even when I'm right and he's wrong. Lol. Kidding. Dialog brings learning; learning brings depth; depth brings strength; strength brings the ability to share more with the world around us.

So here are his thoughts. Enjoy.

Chick Biegner says "NO" To Christmas in July

Knowing my displeasure of celebrating "Christmas in July" at the worship service on July 7th, Steve invited me to express my opinion in this month's Messenger. I am, therefore, taking this opportunity to do so.

First of all, we all agree that no one knows the date of Jesus' birth.

It was almost certainly not December 25th as the shepherds were out in countryside with their sheep, which is unlikely at that time of the year. But the early Church Fathers realized this was a safe and smart

time to publicly celebrate the important truth of the Incarnation – that God Almighty broke into our human existence with the birth of Jesus –

when the emperor's soldiers were "hung over" or still celebrating the winter solstice. This December 25th date quickly spread over the entire Western Church. (The Eastern Orthodox celebrate on January 6th)

Summer Greeting/Pastoral Message Continued

So what's the big deal?

First of all, there is beauty and meaning in knowing that when we gather at St. Paul's Church each week, are gathered around the same scripture theme and liturgy as are millions of Christians (not just Lutherans) in One, holy, catholic (that is universal) Church.

Secondly, the Church Year is an important tool of the church to protect congregations by giving them a "balanced diet", in which we get to cover ALL of the events of our Lord's life and His teachings and not just the personal "favorites" of the local worship leader. Certainly this is not the case at St. Paul's, but I prefer to celebrate the Christmas season after the season of preparation (Advent) and before we focus on the mission of the church to proclaim God's love revealed in Jesus born of Mary to the whole world (Epiphany).

-Chick Biegner

Thanks Dad. In a world that keeps moving to opposite corners and listening less to those we disagree with, let's have St. Paul's Church be a model for how to dialog, learn, grow deeper and stronger so we can share even more good news with the world!!

-Steve Biegner



Food Ministries: Tiger's Den Food Pantry



TIGER'S DEN
Food Pantry

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the "Christmas in July" tree. Your generosity amounted to \$675.00 in Tops gift cards for the pantry to use to help our families keep food on their tables. Thank you!

Questions have recently been asked concerning the vetting process for people in need who come to the pantry. Because we are part of FeedMore WNY, we are required to abide by the regulations of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the New York State's Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). There are three steps we require:

Before a person/family can receive assistance from Tiger's Den, they must prove their income falls within the USDA guidelines (income guidelines are available on the USDA website and Tiger's Den website). They must provide proof of income (tax return) or proof they already participate in one of the following programs: SNAP, WIC, TANF, Medicaid, or SSI.

Proof the person/family resides within zip code 14226: this is usually a utility bill.
Proof of the number of family members: as claimed on their tax return, or claimed to be eligible for SNAP, WIC, TANF, Medicaid, or SSI.

Once the above requirements have been met, the person/head of household is asked to attest that all the information they provided is correct and sign the TEFAP Attestation of Eligibility form.

(continued on next page)

Food Ministries: Tiger's Den Food Pantry (cont'd.)

Because we are a FeedMore recipient agency, we are also required to assist any person/ family in need who resides outside our zip code once. We provide these individuals with needed essentials and then refer them to the FeedMore website to identify pantries within their own zip code.

We are concerned about the rising food insecurity issues in our zip code, and we are also aware of our responsibility to be good stewards of the donations we receive. After being in existence for eight years, Tiger's Den seems to be doing a pretty good job!!

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Adrienne, 716-835-0407

August pantry hours: 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: paper towels and coffee

September pantry hours: Thursdays 9/4 and 9/18 from 3:00-6:30 pm; and Saturdays 9/13 and 9/27 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm. Donations for September: canned pineapple and juice boxes

**Thank You
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT**

Waiting In Hope Infertility Support Group

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.

The second curriculum begins in September and is "The Heart of Hannah", which is a seven-session study. Feel free to join at any point! It is not required to attend every session.

WHEN & WHERE IS WIH?

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

September 8th
September 22nd
October 6th
October 20th

November 3rd
November 17th
December 1st

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

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE SECOND CURRICULUM?

In this seven-session study on 1 Samuel, Hannah's story of infertility, waiting and pain is similar to our story. This study focuses up to verse 18, where a heart change occurs even before the answer comes. Hannah's heart teaches us a lot about our own heart and pitfalls and guides us to be better from the pain.

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 would like more information, feel free to reach out to Janelle at 716-471-5484!

Burrito Project 9/16

BURRITO PROJECT



NEXT MEETING:

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH

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.

STARTING IN SEPTEMBER

ADULT FORUM

EVERY SUNDAY | 9:00 AM-9:45 AM

SESSION TOPIC: "ANOTHER LOOK AT THE 1619 PROJECT FROM A DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW"

**LED BY: LOIS O'BRIAN &
PASTOR CHICK BIEGNER**



**SIGN UP AT
CHURCH!**

Pinochle-9/3

We hated to think we wouldn't be playing Pinochle in July or August, but the days and weeks have just flown by. Well, we will start again in September playing the first Wednesday of every month.

Our next day for Pinochle is **Wednesday, September 3 at 1:00 p.m.** Everyone is welcome to join us. We can help you get reacquainted with the game if it has "been a long time". Bring a friend. It's not just for members of St. Paul's.

Hope you will consider joining us. If you are interested and want more info, call Heidi at 716 480-9227 or Sara at 716 834-1833.

Comforters- 9/10

COMFORTERS – Wednesday, September 10, 10:00 a.m.

Back after the summer hiatus, the Comforters will resume meeting on the second Wednesday of every month, September 10. We meet upstairs in the parish hall at 10 a.m. We stop at noon for lunch. Bring your own sandwich and drink. Dessert will be provided.

We hope some of you will be able to join us for the first time now that you're retired or have freed up your Wednesday mornings. If you don't knit or crochet you can tie quilts.

You can also help by working at home. If you sew, pick up a kit to make a walker bag. If you knit or crochet, you could make a baptism blanket or prayer shawl.

If you have any questions, Call Sara at 716 834-1833, or Linda at 716 689-3781.

Music Ministries at SPEC — 9/11



We'd love to have you join us in the ***Church Choir at St. Paul's Eggertsville campus,*** under the direction of Mr. Paul Storfer.

No experience or training needed. . . .
Only a willingness to participate and sing!

The next rehearsal is

7 pm on Thursday, September 11

in the SPEC music room. For those singing in the choir during the worship service, please arrive before worship at 9:30 a.m.

New Beginnings for Single Ladies- 9/17



New Beginnings for Single Ladies

St. Paul's has a women's ministry for Single Ladies:
widows, divorced, or never married.

Our purpose is 3-fold:

Social - luncheons, plays, day trips, games

Support - do you need a car ride, a Mr. Fix-it

Spiritual - Pastor Kristen leads women's devotionals

You are welcome.

Wednesday, September 17th at 12:00 noon

St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Gathering Space

4007 Main St.

Eggertsville, NY 14226

Please bring a bag lunch. Coffee & dessert provided.



Visit to Darwin Martin House on Aug. 21

Email: Joan Keptner
keptnersafari@gmail.com

Call: Heidi Ginal
716-480-9227



Family Fun Night at AC



Dinner with Friends
(aka Family Night)

**All are welcome to share “Dinner with Friends”
on the First Saturday of each month after the 5pm service at the Amherst
Campus.**

**We will gather to enjoy a simple meal and enjoy conversation with old and new
friends.**

Pizza and drinks are provided.

**If you are able to bring a side dish (veggies or fruit) or dessert, it would be
greatly appreciated.**

**Simple board games or cards add to the fun so bring your favorite game to
share.**

**If you have any ideas or would like to help, please contact
Stacy Johnson @ stacylj27@gmail.com or text 716-698-5504.**

**October 4th
November 1st
December 6th
January 3rd
February 7th
March 7th
April 4th
May 2nd**

Please watch future Messengers for any changes.



Sunday School



It's so hard to believe that Fall will soon be upon us. I hope you are all enjoying these last few days of summer!

I'm excited to say that Sunday School will be starting up again on **September 14th!** Please have your children bring their backpacks for the backpack blessing on that day!

Weather permitting, we will have Sunday School outdoors that day on the front lawn. We will have a lesson, games and a snack!

As in the past, the children will start out in the sanctuary with their parents.

Children's time with one of our Pastors will take place near the beginning of the service, following that the children will proceed to a 45 min. Sunday School time during the service for children ages 3 – 6th grade. Parents can pick up after worship.

If your child is older than 6th grade and would be interested in coming to help in Sunday school, please know that they are always welcome!

Speaking of helping, I need some volunteer adults to take turns assisting me with some simple things during the Sunday School time that I will have all planned out. You don't have to be a parent to help. Any & all church missionaries are welcome and so appreciated! Please see me if you are interested in helping.

In Peace & Love ~ June



Wheels for Workers



A Busy Summer !

Wheels for Workers has had a busy summer of events and activities. We continue to provide bicycles to Journey's End, Firehouse Church, Buffalo International Institute and others. We are especially proud of the new relationships we have built with Response For Love and The Karen Society(see pictures below)

We have been visible in the Community participating in Assemblymember Conrad's Annual Bike Rodeo, The Subaru 4 Mile Run, Friends of Lynette Bike Ride, Rev Up and Read in Lewiston and the 716 Veterans Hero Ride. We also provided repairs at the Ride For Roswell(quite an endeavor).

A special thank you to all branches of the Buffalo Niagara YMCA who held a bike drive and donated over 100 bikes to us.



Message from the Council

Members and Friends of St. Paul's,

I hope this message finds you well and that you are enjoying the blessings of summer to the best of your ability. Whether you're spending time with family, traveling, or simply finding rest in the slower pace of the season, may this time be filled with renewal and peace.

The Church Council is filled with gratitude and joy as we celebrate the successful calling of Kristen Arends to serve as our second pastor. This milestone is the result of faithful discernment, prayerful conversations, and the Spirit's clear guidance throughout the call process. We are proud of the work done by the Call Committee and thankful for everyone in our congregation who supported this important decision. Kristen's gifts for ministry and her vibrant energy are already a blessing to our church family, and we look forward to the ways she will help lead us into the future.

As always, we thank you for your continued support, prayers, and presence in the life of St. Paul's. May we continue to grow in faith and in service together.

Respectfully,

Robert "Bobby" Simpson
President, Church Council

Upcoming Youth Events

September: Sunday 14th- First Middle School Sunday school- during worship

Sunday 21st- Youth night at Eggertsville location 5-8pm

October: Sunday 12th Middle School Sunday School -during worship

Saturday 19th Youth Night at Eggertsville location 5-8pm

November: Sunday 9th Middle school Sunday school during worship

Sunday 16th Youth Night at Eggertsville location 5-8pm

Book Club 9/11

August Book Club News

When: 2nd Thursday of the month.

Where: Gathering Room at the AC campus, 5125 Main St.

Time: 7:15 pm

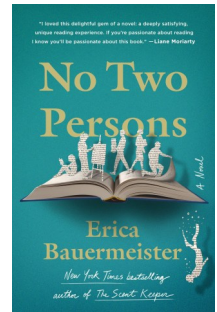
Next Meeting: **Thursday, September 11.**

Here are the books chosen for
September and October.

September Book: No Two Persons by Erica Bauermeister

October Book: The Alienist by Caleb Carr

All are welcome!



For more information contact Karin Johnson.

Phone 716-689-6365, Email karinej42@gmail.com

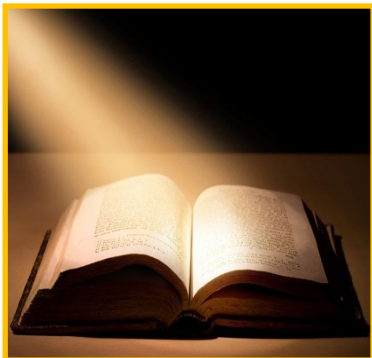
Bible Study starting 9/16

Tuesday Bible Study

Coming in the Fall...

Tuesday 10 am Bible Study
at St. Paul's, Eggertsville (4007 Main St.)
beginning Tuesday, Sept. 16
Jesus, the Jew

- a look at the Jewish Jesus through the lens of scripture.



Western NY Impact Foundation/ DBFT



WESTERN NEW YORK

IMPACT FOUNDATION

Intern Accomplishments: Kaci Gottler

WNY Impact Foundation

This summary highlights the significant contributions and accomplishments of Kaci Gottler during her internship with the WNY Impact Foundation, focusing on her pivotal role in enhancing the digital presence and engagement for both the WNY Impact Foundation and the Daily Bread Food Truck (DBFT) initiative.

WNY Impact Foundation Digital Presence

Kaci's efforts significantly boosted the WNY IF website's visibility and engagement.

- **Website Visits:** The WNYIF website saw **231 visits** in the last 30 days, with a notable increase of **39 visits** in the last 7 days of July.
- **Conversations:** The website generated **4 conversations** recently, contributing to an average of **3-4 conversations** per month.

Daily Bread Food Truck (DBFT) Digital Presence

Kaci played a crucial role in the launch and promotion of the new Daily Bread Food Truck (DBFT) website and its social media channels.

- **Website Visits:** The DBFT website accumulated **186 visits** within the last 30 days, including **31 visits** in the last 7 days.
- **Social Views:** DBFT's social media content garnered **8,688 views** overall in the last 30 days, contributing to brand awareness and community interaction, including work related to the Give 716 initiative.

Western NY Impact Foundation (cont'd.)

DBFT Social Media Engagement

Kaci's strategic management of DBFT's social media accounts significantly boosted brand awareness and community interaction, including work related to the Give 716 initiative.

Instagram

- **Followers:** The DBFT Instagram account gained **716 followers**, a figure notably associated with the "Give 716" initiative.
- **Total Views:** Content generated **7,017 views**, with **92.7%** from non-followers, indicating strong outreach.
- **Top Performing Content:** The "hourly schedule" post achieved **2,400 views**, and the "Josh Allen signed jersey" content received **1,800 views**.

Facebook (June 30 - July 27)

- **Views:** The DBFT Facebook page saw a remarkable **19,355 views** in less than a month (June 30th - July 27th), representing a substantial **+220.9%** increase.
- **Audience Breakdown:** **64%** of views came from non-followers, highlighting effective content sharing.
- **Top Performing Content:** The "matching post" was the most viewed with **3,449 views**, closely followed by the "Josh Allen jersey giveaway" (an initiative developed by Kaci) with **2,549 views**.

Conclusion

Kaci Gottler's internship has been marked by tangible achievements in digital marketing and community engagement for both the WNY Impact Foundation and the Daily Bread Food Truck (DBFT) initiative. Her proactive approach to content creation, social media management, and website optimization, including efforts for the Give 716 campaign, has demonstrably increased online visibility and fostered valuable interactions, making her a highly valuable asset to the team.

Western NY Impact Foundation (cont'd.)



Give 716 Update



GIVE 716 UPDATE!

Thank you so much!!

We were completely overwhelmed by the response to Give716 Day. For those of you who gave, you helped the WNY Impact Foundation raise: \$19,200 for Daily Bread Food Truck and

\$8,000 for Wheels for Workers 716.

This will help both of these organizations go a long way toward blessing the lives of a lot of people in the 716! Thanks again!

August Birthdays

Judith Elliott-August 2

Beverly Kaczynski-August 2

Janet Federick-August 4

Charles Herschlag- August 9

Roslyn Bauman-August 9

Alain Bashore-August 11

Mary Wolf-August 13

William Bulleigh-August 13

Jean Brundage-August 15

Lynn Endres-August 16

Claudia Staines-August 17

Loray Sorto-August 18

Douglas Endres-August 19

Pattie Lowe-August 21

Nancy Bartels-Holiman-August 22

Craig Maefs-August 22

Lucille Kingston-Amos- August 31



September Birthdays

Marita Zieger-September 1

James Slater- September 1

Eileen Moser-September 3

Helen Gibson-September 4

Nancy Heintz-September 6

Kristin DiPasquale-September 6

Kathryn Francis-September 8

Susan Szewczyk-September 9

Cindie Siefert-September 10

Sandra Peters- September 12

Kenneth Regan-September 13

Douglas Wurtz-September 18

James Tanevich-September 19

Karen Braun-September 21

Cheryl Gillen-September 21

Tracy Nieman-September 21

Stephen DiPasquale-September 21

Joyce McWilliams- September 22

Sara Gallagher-September 25

Jack Greenawalt-September 25

James Meyer-September 26

Cynthia Beahan-September 28

Andrea Jarvis- September 30





St. Paul's Lutheran Eggertsville & Amherst Campus

Website: www.stpaulseggertsville.com

Telephone: 716- 835-0407

Email: office@stpaulseggertsville.com

Pastors

Steve Biegner: (cell) 716 - 868-1232 (email) steve@stpaulseggertsville.com

Kristen Arends: (cell) 716-481-8729 (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 - scs@stpaulseggertsville.com

Youth Ministry: Jordan Dywan - youth@stpaulseggertsville.com

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