

*November
2025*

The Messenger

St. Paul's Lutheran Church



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Egbertsville & Amherst
Campuses



Happy Halloween! And Thanksgiving! Celebrate Stewardship & Welcome to Advent!

It can feel like we rush from one thing to the next in these late fall/early winter months. But the season of Advent (Potluck on Nov 23rd, official beginning on Nov 30th) invites us to pause, and to wait. Pastor Steve and I invite you to pause and breathe in each season as it is. Start right now. Take joy in the silliness of Halloween, eat the candy, cheer on the weird costumes. And then turn toward Thanksgiving. Take stock, practice recognizing the gifts that God has given you, whether it be people, resources, or creation. Pray about how you might extend that gratefulness outward toward Christ and the church.

With these seasons come asks. Requests for food at the Tiger's Den and Daily Bread Meal Shares are increasing, our Angel Tree will be up soon. And on November 9th, we celebrate Commitment Sunday. We will take the time to consider what gifts you have that you can share with the St. Paul's community. We are place that offers so much to others and we are only able to do that through the regular giving of our missionaries. Generosity is a spiritual practice, one that can feel easy or difficult. Wherever you are, we hope that we can support you in that practice as we all grow together.

In Christ through all the seasons,
Pastor Kristen

*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)*

Advent

ADVENT

at St. Paul's

2025

**SUN
11/23**

ADVENT POTLUCK & KICK OFF

Bring a dish to pass or just your empty belly and we'll enjoy a meal after worship. All ages are welcome and we will share in an Advent devotion together. Sign up at the welcome center.

ADVENT-IN-A-BOX

These at-home devotional kits designed to help you keep your heart centered on Christ and explore the season of Advent. They can be done with loved ones or individually. Activities, prayers, scripture, and reflections are included. Sign up on by the welcome center or email office@stpaulleggertsville.com.

Boxes will be ready by our Advent Kick Off.

**11/30-
12/24**

**11/30
& 12/6**

CHURCH DECORATING

Help decorate our sanctuaries after worship!

Food Ministries: Tiger's Den Food Pantry



TIGER'S DEN

Food Pantry

And so it is November!! We are looking forward to sharing the Thanksgiving holiday with our families. Through our grants with FeedMore WNY, we will once again have frozen turkeys (to include halal turkeys) available for our families. Although not all our families celebrate Thanksgiving with the same traditions, we will help all of them celebrate a time of giving thanks.

In October, we welcomed 12 new families to Tiger's Den, and provided 75 families with much needed food, personal care items, and paper products. We expect our numbers to continue to increase as changes in the SNAP program begin to impact more families in our area. Inflation impacts everyone, so if you are aware of someone in our area (14226) who may be experiencing food insecurity, please let them know Tiger's Den Food Pantry is here to help them through this challenging time.

The hours for November are: Thursdays 11/6 and 11/20 from 3:00-6:30 pm, Saturdays 11/8 and 11/22 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm; and we have added an additional date on Wednesday, 11/26 from 3:00-6:00 pm.

Donations for November: flour, sugar, and cooking oil.



Ottawa Food Bank
La Banque d'Alimentation d'Ottawa

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!

New Beginnings for Single Ladies-11/19

GIVE THANKS WITH A FULL HEART

New Beginnings for Single Ladies

October Recap: The group met at St. Paul's on Oct. 15 for our monthly luncheon. Many thanks for the delicious apple nut bars made by Loray Sorto. On Friday, Oct. 24, Karin Johnson arranged a walk at Reinstein Park in Cheektowaga. We had our own tour guide who shared his knowledge on the history, trees, insects and fish in the park. He led us to a large wasp nest (!) and beaver lodge, showing us the workings of the beaver's teeth/skull.



**Next Meeting: Wednesday, Nov. 19 at 12:00 noon
St. Paul's Gathering Space.**

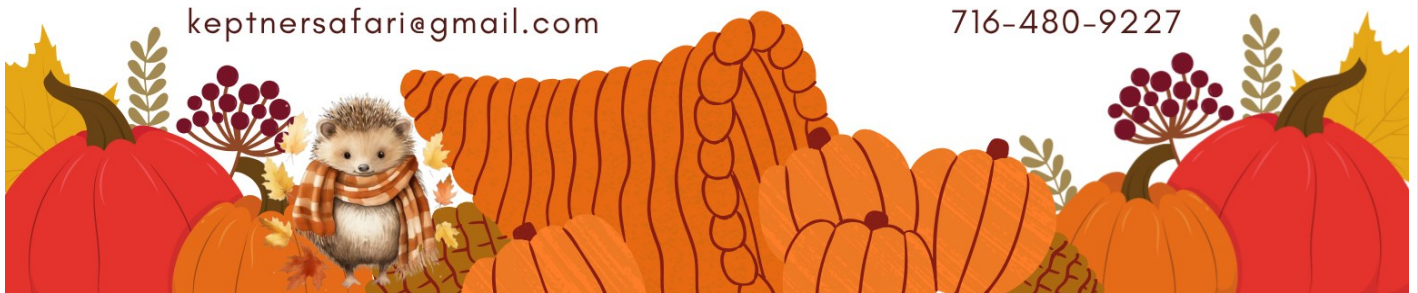
The theme for our next meeting is "relaxation before the holidays." We will continue getting to know each other better in talking about gratitude.

Meeting/Service activity TBD.

Please bring a bag lunch and drink. Dessert will graciously be provided by Karin Johnson. Coffee, tea and hot chocolate available.

Email: Joan Keptner
keptnersafari@gmail.com

Call: Heidi Ginal
716-480-9227



Adult Forum

ADULT FORUM

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

SESSION TOPIC: "ACTS, AS IT RELATES TO COMMUNITY"

LED BY: PASTOR CHICK BIEGNER



**SIGN UP AT
CHURCH!**

Finance Committee Update

Finance Committee Update: October 5th, 2025.

On Sunday October 5th, the finance team provided a brief update for the congregation, and we wanted to follow that up with a quick note for those who were not present for worship. One of the roles of the Finance Committee is to keep the congregation informed on the financial performance of St. Paul's. We are coming off the summer months, where service offerings historically tend to be down, with folks out of town and engaging in summer activities. Typically, in September we see a rebound in service offerings, as we head into the fourth quarter. This past summer we did see a lower level of service offerings over the June – August timeframe, \$10K below the summer of 2024. Additionally last month, we were \$6K below September '24 service offerings. So, where this lands us as we head into the fourth quarter, is that YTD Service offerings are running behind last year. The church is approximately \$26K or 13% below our September YTD budgeted figure. That said, church leadership continues to do an outstanding job of managing expenses, which are below budget despite some elevation in utility expenses and bathroom repairs. However, with the revenue short fall we are running a deficit year to date.

So, at this point the “alarm bells” for the Finance Committee are not going off, but we felt that it was prudent to create awareness with the congregation. The church does remain in a strong financial position, but the Finance Committee does feel that it is important that our recurring revenues cover our recurring expenses. At a recent meeting we compared it to how we each manage our personal financial situation – Your paycheck/monthly income should be sufficient to cover your monthly expenses.

All of that said, this church supports a multitude of ministry activities and Steve and Kristen do a fantastic job of highlighting these each week before the offering. The impact we collectively are making for people in need is real and would not be possible without your Time, Talents and Treasures.... So, a big thank you!!! For St. Paul's to continue to be effective with our ministry outreach, we need the “infrastructure” – the physical building, the people, and the platform – which are directly supported by your service offerings.

So again, the finance team wanted to create some awareness of where we stand year to date, as we head into the fourth quarter. As we ramp up our annual Stewardship campaign over the next month, we will have some additional updates.

Comforters-11/12

COMFORTERS – Wednesday, November 12, 10:00 a.m.

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.

In October the Comforters provided a baptism blanket for Alexandra Kaczor's baptism on October 5. Confirmation shawls were made and presented to Marlee Magin and Leah Skinner at their confirmation on October 26. Sheridan Surgical was given a supply of walker bags to give to customers when they purchased walkers.

Come join us and see how you can help...knit or crochet a lap robe, prayer shawl, baptism blanket or confirmation shawl...tie quilts...sew a walker bag. We do it all.

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

Pinochle-11/5

Pinochle – Wednesday, November 5, 1:00 p.m.

Dad joke #26: What's the best way to catch a fish?

We play Pinochle, and there is always a "dad" joke here and there. What else is there to do when the cards are being shuffled? Join us on Wednesday, November 5 at 1:00 p.m.

Bring a friend. It's not just for St. Paul's folks.

Want more info? Call Heidi at 716 480-9227 or Sara at 716 834-1833, or talk to Barb, Chick, Frank, Cheryl or Sue.

Ask someone to throw it to you.

Music Ministries at SPEC — 11/6



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, November 6

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

Family Fun Night (Dinner with Friends) at AC-11/1



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.

November 1st

December 6th

January 3rd

February 7th

March 7th

April 4th

May 2nd

Please watch future Messengers for any changes.



Sunday School

Sunday School

As the holidays will soon be upon us, November is the month we will be starting to get ready for our Christmas Pageant!

Please let me know if your child would like to be in the Christmas pageant as we prepare for this exciting time of year!

~ In October the children learned a lot about prayer. We talked about our faith and how it doesn't need to be huge to do great things! If we are struggling with our faith we can always recharge it through prayer, reading the bible and coming to church!

We talked about remembering to thank God through prayer for all of our blessings! and to remember to say thank you to others that do so much for us! We made Thank you cards for our Pastors and workers in the church that help us!

As well as being thankful we also talked about other things to pray about. To pray for family, teachers, leaders of our country, those who are sick and for ourselves. The children learned that sometimes we need to be patient for God's response but to also be persistent in prayer! The children learned that God is ALWAYS listening and ALWAYS cares about our well being and wants us to come to Him in prayer.

~ In Thanks and Love ~ June



Wheels for Workers



WHEELS FOR WORKERS REPORT



Wheels for Workers continues to have an outstanding year fulfilling its mission of donating bikes to those in need in WNY! To date we have donated over **1,400 bikes!** These bikes are not only helping our community, but every bike we give a new life to stays out of the landfill.

We continue to increase the number of community partners we work with. These partners are critical to our success because they ensure our bikes get into the hands of their clients providing us access to communities we wouldn't be able to reach otherwise. In September and October alone we delivered bikes to the Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School, Buffalo Myanmar Association, East Side Bike Club, Firehouse Church, Jami Masjid Buffalo Mosque, Journeys End, Karen Society of Buffalo and Response to Love.

Wheels for Workers also fixed 59 students bikes at three University of Buffalo campuses.



Buffalo Academy of Science Buffalo Myanmar Association Response To Love

Angel Tree



ANGEL TREE COMING NOVEMBER 15TH!

Book Club– 11/13

November Book Club News

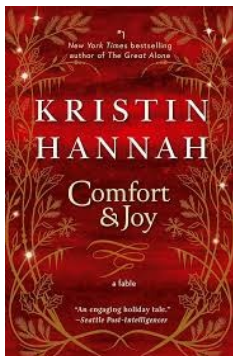
When: 2nd Thursday of the month.

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

Time: 7:15 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 13

Book: Comfort and Joy by Kristin Hannah



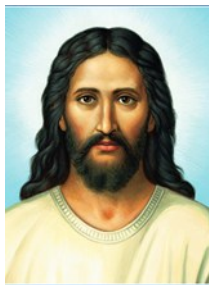
January Book: A Hologram for the King by Dave Eggers

The book club does not meet in December.

All are welcome.

For more information contact Karin Johnson. Phone/Text Home: 716-689-6365 or
Cell: 716-860- 9549. Email karinej42@gmail.com

Bible Study-Tuesdays at 10 am



10 a.m. in the Fellowship Room

No meeting on Election Day (Nov. 4)

Wrapping up “Jesus the Jew” on Nov. 11 & 18



“What Was Spoken by the Prophet” begins Nov. 25
(through Advent and beyond in the Gospel
according to Matthew!)

BURRITO PROJECT



NEXT MEETING:

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH

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.



Daily Bread Food Truck



Daily Bread Food Truck

What can we do?

We can express our gratitude for our many blessings by serving others! There are countless ways to contribute. Volunteer your time to help prepare and serve meals, or simply share a moment of conversation with those who visit. Every act of kindness, no matter how small, nurtures a sense of community and brings comfort to those in need. Whether you're raising awareness or offering a helping hand, your involvement leaves a lasting impact on the lives of others. The Daily Bread Food Truck invites everyone to join us in our mission to nourish and uplift our neighbors. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our amazing volunteers! They provide not only meals that sustain the body but also conversations that uplift the souls of those they serve. Their compassion truly makes a difference beyond what they may realize.

A Voice of our Volunteers!

My name is Heidi Ginal, and I have been volunteering at the Monday night Daily Bread Meal Share for 5 years. It is true that when you volunteer you receive more joy than you give. I have made wonderful friends with my co-workers, but probably the best has been making friends with the clients. When someone holds your hand with tears in their eyes, or you hear the squeals of joy from children receiving a basket of cookies, it's a feeling that warms your heart. I have learned their names and birthdays, food allergies, and car troubles. Most of all, I have learned human dignity when a young father opened his wallet and said, "All I have is \$2.00, but I want to give it back to the food truck. Please allow me to do this." There is a beautiful light burning in each one of us. All you have to do is take the time to see it. I am so grateful for being a part of the Daily Bread Food Truck.

Daily Bread Food Truck (Continued)

Messages like the following stay in our hearts forever, and we love what we do!

A Voice from the Church Office!

Cody had a great conversation with a wonderful lady who called a couple of weeks ago... She said her reason for calling was to relay how much the Daily Bread Food Truck meals have meant to her over the years. She gushed about how delicious the soups are and how she can tell that a lot of planning/thought goes into each meal served. She talked about how, with rising food prices, this one meal (and sometimes fresh baked goods/ fruits/vegetables) really bridges the gap for some weeks in her household. She wanted our volunteers to know what a good job they are doing, what a great thing it is, and how valued and appreciated everyone is.

A Sample of the 2025 Facebook Testimonials!

9/29: Meatloaf was so moist and delicious

9/22: Fantastic meal, thank you!!!

6/15: Thank you so much for all you do!

5/12: Meal was fantastic. Thank you for all the extras!

3/10: Beautiful meal... as usual! Thank you!!

2/24: Excellent meal, Thank You

We are excited about the 2025- 2026 Daily Bread Food Truck season. We expect to serve and support even more people than last year. If you are interested in learning more about what we have to offer, please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Steve, Leslie Boynton, the church office, or any of our volunteers.



Lutheran Youth Events



LY a program of
Lutheran Charities
of Western New York

Grades K-5

FALL FEST

NOVEMBER 8TH

1pm-3pm

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
1080 Main Street Buffalo, NY 14209

Celebrate the fall season with friends,
food, crafts, games, and more!

Please RSVP:
bit.ly/LY118



LY a program of
Lutheran Charities
of Western New York

GRADES 6-12

UGLY SWEATER PARTY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19TH
5:30PM-8:30PM

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
1080 MAIN STREET BUFFALO, NY 14209

Break out your ugliest sweater and
celebrate the start of winter break with
friends and festive activities!

Please RSVP:
bit.ly/LYUglySweater



Confirmation

Confirmation Ministry is Beginning!

For Grades 6 & Up

Confirmation classes help students connect with each other, develop an understanding of what the Lutheran Church believes, & provide opportunities to live out and practice their faith, all in preparation to say 'yes' to their baptisms. Students will take classes for 2-3 years. Interested? Contact Pastor Kristen to get signed up! kristen@stpaulseggertsville.com

Confirmation Class Schedule



2025 - 2026 SCHEDULE

Fall Retreat
Nov 15, 2025
8:30a - 1:00p

- Holy Trinity - Buffalo
- Continental Breakfast and Lunch included
- Cost: \$0.00

Service Project
Jan 11, 2026
1:00p - 4:00p

- Details to be announced

Experience
Mar 6, 2026
6:00p - 8:00p

- Details to be announced

Spring Retreat
May 1-3, 2026
7:00p - 11:00a

- Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Camp
- Sat. Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner; and Sun. breakfast included
- Cost: TBD

Scan the QR code to see
Confirmation updates



Refugee Resettlement Team

**DO YOU HAVE A
COUCH YOU ARE NO
LONGER USING?**

**Our new refugee
family is in need of
a couch!**



**PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL THE
CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU HAVE ONE
YOU'D LIKE TO DONATE.**

**(716)-835-0407
office@stpaulseggertsville.com**

Thank you to St. Paul's

The Lutheran Foundation of WNY reached out to express their gratitude for St. Paul's donation, which will be used toward outreach and capital improvement.

The Niagara Lutheran Health Foundation also wrote a letter of thanks to St. Paul's for their donation to the 2025 Leadership Council Campaign.

St. Paul's continues to "reach beyond ourselves" and give back to the community in such wonderful ways!

November Birthdays

Mildred Adams-November 1

James Aprile-November 4

Vern Stein-November 7

Shirley McNamara- November 7

Anthony Piette-November 7

Gerard Keppel- November 16

Dean Davis-November 16

Betty Pilato-November 18

Miriam Fierle-November 23

Lynn Gulick-November 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 - facilities@stpaulseggertsville.com

Digital Ministry: Andrew Gruszka

St. Paul's Eggertsville Campus

4007 Main Street

Eggertsville, NY 14226

Amherst Lutheran Campus

5125 Main St.

Williamsville, NY 14221