

October  
2025

# The Messenger

*St. Paul's Lutheran Church*



ST. PAUL'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Eggertsville & Amherst  
Campuses



***Congratulations on your Ordination 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)*

## *God's Work, Our Hands Recap (Pastoral Message)*

8 projects + 6 Thrivent Action Team Grants + 10 leaders + ALL of you =  
God's Work, Our Hands Sunday!

The church can't get much better than it was that first weekend of September. On Saturday, at my ordination we heard about the call of a pastor and the internal working of God on each of our individual lives. Then on Sunday, we got to look outward - reflecting on being God's literal hands and feet in the world.

More things were accomplished in an hour after worship than Pastor Steve and I could have hoped for. We estimated making 20 snack bags for hungry students and they had to keep decorating bags because over 50 were made! Same with the seed packets to benefit the Iroquois National Wildlife Refugee. Same with Burrito Project care packs and Tiger's Den cleaning bags. We had hoped to clean out one area of the front gardens and went almost all the way around the building! We had more cards than we needed for our shut-ins so now the next time someone is sick or in the hospital we'll have a card to bring them too! The Olin house had it's trim painted, and new locks installed AND was vacuumed and cleaned top to bottom.

More, more, and more! The blessings of the weekend overflowed right out of our sanctuary and into the world. One of the questions Bishop Miller asked me during the ordination was "Will you give faithful witness in the world, that God's love may be known in all that you do?" On Saturday, I answered yes to that question, and on Sunday, ALL of St. Paul's said yes, and we went to work.

May you continue to say yes, and be God's hands and feet in all that you do.  
-Pastor Kristen

## *"Thought of the Day"-Chick Biegner*

**"The best things in life are often not things"**  
**- Salada Tea Bag**



# CONFIRMATION IS COMING SOON

**For Grades 6 & Up**

Classes typically help students connect with each other, develop an understanding of what the Lutheran Church believes and prepare to say 'yes' to their baptisms

**Contact Pastor Kristen to get more info!**

[kristen@stpaulsgeggertsville.com](mailto:kristen@stpaulsgeggertsville.com)

## ***Food Ministries: Tiger's Den Food Pantry***



**TIGER'S DEN**  
*Food Pantry*

We want to say a big thanks to all our Amherst School donors who started collecting food as soon as school opened. Their efforts included food drives, homeroom competitions, and collaborating with the Buffalo Bills Foundation and their Huddle for Hunger Campaign. Special thanks to the Girls JV Tennis Team and the Amherst High School Student Council.

With recent changes in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) which took place in September, we have seen an uptick in the number of families in need in our area. Over the last two months, we have had 15 new families apply for Tiger's Den assistance. We expect the impact of these changes to continue and will continue to provide needed resources to those suffering from food insecurity.

**Tiger's Den Hours for October:** Thursdays 10/2, 10/16, and 10/30 from 3:00-6:30 pm; and Saturdays 10/11 and 10/25 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm.

**Donations for October:** spaghetti sauce and crushed or canned tomato products.



# *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 8<sup>th</sup>  
September 22<sup>nd</sup>  
October 6<sup>th</sup>  
October 20<sup>th</sup>

November 3<sup>rd</sup>  
November 17<sup>th</sup>  
December 1<sup>st</sup>

*\*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-10/15*



# New Beginnings *for Single Ladies – Welcome!*

**Sept. Recap:** Pastor Kristen did a reading of women shepherds from Exodus. A discussion followed of lost items being found and what a wonderful feeling that is!

After lunch, we had our first experience at Bunco! We had lots of laughs learning when to ring the bell or move to another table! We look forward to playing again.

**October Activity:** Our very own Karin Johnson is going to lead us on an Autumn one mile walk at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge on Friday, Oct. 24, 2:00 – 4:00 pm. Please text Karin at: 716-860-9549. The cost is free of charge.

We will carpool from the St. Paul's parking lot.

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**Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 15 at 12:00 noon**

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

4007 Main St.

Eggertsville, NY 14226

*Please bring your own bag lunch and drink.*

*Dessert will be provided by Loray Sorto*

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

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



**SIGN UP AT  
CHURCH!**

**BOOKS AVAILABLE IN  
CHURCH OFFICE**

## ***Directory Update Coming Soon***



### **Has your mailing address, email address or phone number recently changed?**

We are in the process of updating the Church Directory and would love to include your new information!

Copies of our current Directory will be available in church for you to review (& update ) the information we have on file for you.

You are also welcome to call the office if you'd like us to make changes to your current information!

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

## ***Music Ministries at SPEC — 10/2***



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, October 2**

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

## ***Comforters-10/8***

**COMFORTERS – Wednesday, October 8, 10:00 a.m.**

We had a wonderful “back to Comforters” meeting in September and we are going to do it again in October on the 8th. 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.

## ***Pinochle-10/1***

**Pinochle – Wednesday, October 1, 1:00 p.m.**

Our next Pinochle games will be on Wednesday, October 1 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.



# ***Family Fun Night at AC-10/4***



## **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](mailto: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*

If you haven't heard, Sunday school is back in full/Fall swing!

Sunday School is for children ages 3 yr. old – 6th grade. There is a nursery located in the downstairs Sunday School area to go to if needed during the service.

The second Sunday of each month, starting on Oct. 12th will be youth Sunday School. Grades 6-12 will be invited to join Jordan Dywan our new youth director!

Welcome Jordan!

During September:

Our first day was September 14th with a backpack blessing, a lesson and some outdoor games and fun!

The children learned that even when we feel sad, upset or lost that Jesus will find us and that God is always there for us!

The children also learned about how important it is to be honest!

Salvation was another theme and the children learned about what that means and how we can help those in need.

Happy October everyone!



Peace & Love ~ June

# *Wheels for Workers*

We have had a very busy September providing bikes to those in need in our community! Our total bikes donated for 2025 is 1,184! We are up to 22 different partners who have received bikes from Wheels for Workers and continue to grow reach in the community.

This month we donated 18 bikes, helmets, and locks donated to the Karen Society of Buffalo and Buffalo Myanmar Association. We also helped kick off the semester with 59 bike repairs at University at Buffalo. We had an awesome time being a part of Party in the Park at Massachusetts Avenue Park! We were proud to host a table and donate a bike for the raffle. Wheels joined the Beyond Balance Wellness Fair with Beyond Support Network and Gerard Place - a fun, intergenerational day full of activities, resources, and presentations around the 8 dimensions of wellness. Lastly, we had a great time at Response to Love Center's 2025 Health Care. Wheels For Workers is always happy to be part of an event that supports and serves the community.

We greatly appreciate the love and support St. Paul's provides to Wheels for Workers. As a way of giving back, a group of volunteers participated in a workday at the church and did some landscaping work along the fence line of the parking lot.



## *Message from the Council*

As we turn the page from summer into fall, we hope each of you found time for rest, renewal, and joyful moments with family and friends. Summer gives us all the chance to pause, to soak in God's creation, and to do the things that refresh our spirits before the busy season ahead.

This fall, there is indeed a lot happening here at St. Paul's. We want to thank each of you for your continued prayers and support as our council and congregation have navigated some significant decisions. Your faithfulness and encouragement mean more than words can express.

With the sale of the Amherst campus now imminent and the plans for the relocation of our columbarium being finalized, we are preparing to move forward with an exciting new chapter. Work on the new community gathering area will soon begin in earnest. This project represents more than just physical space—it is a symbol of our commitment to creating a welcoming, vibrant place where faith is enriched, lives are nourished, and God's love is shared.

As we step into this new season together, we ask for your continued prayers, patience, and participation. May we lean on God's guidance, trusting that He is leading us faithfully into the future.

-Church Council

## *Upcoming Youth Events*

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

Sunday 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 10/9***

### **October Book Club News**

When: 2nd Thursday of the month.

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

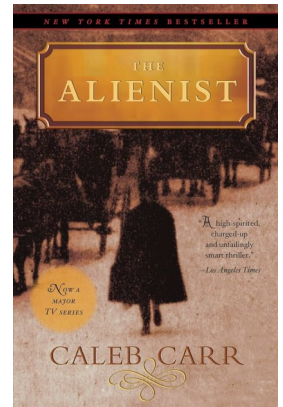
Time: 7:15 pm

Next Meeting: **Thursday, October 9**

Here are the books chosen for  
October and November.

**October Book:** The Alienist by Caleb Carr

**November Book:** Comfort and Joy by Kristin Hannah



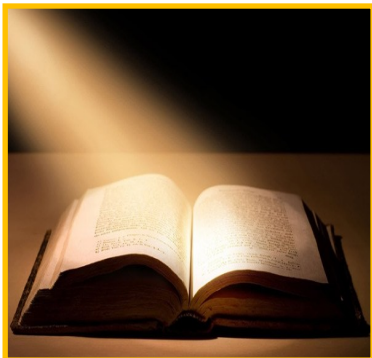
All are welcome!

For more information contact Karin Johnson.

Phone 716-689-6365, or Cell: 716-860- 9549 Email [karinej42@gmail.com](mailto:karinej42@gmail.com)

## ***Bible Study-Tuesdays at 10 am***

### **Tuesday Bible Study**



Tuesday 10 am Bible Study  
at St. Paul's, Eggertsville (4007 Main St.)  
10/7, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28

Jesus, the Jew

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

# BURRITO PROJECT



**NEXT MEETING:**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21**

**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.**

## *Refugee Resettlement-Michelle Biegner*

### Update on Refugee families

We continue to support the Al Hafyan family, living next door at the Kahle house, as they establish roots in our community. We have volunteers helping them secure stable employment, learn English, get to medical appointments and other needs. Of course, as most of us can only imagine there are many challenges and obstacles to moving to a new country when you don't speak the language and need to learn a whole new alphabet to do so. As they continue to work towards their goals we can continue to support them by helping them with household needs such as donations of cleaning supplies, dish and laundry detergent, paper products (toilet paper, paper towels etc.) OR gift cards to Walmart Mart to assist them with these expenses and other needs such as new shoes for school for the children. If you would like to help in this way please leave any donations at the church office or contact Michelle Biegner (716-868-7832) for arrangements.

The family would benefit greatly from a donated cell phone (smart phone) or two. This would help the mother and adult children be able to communicate from home using their wifi and would help the volunteers who need to stay in touch with them. If you might have an old smart phone no longer being used and would consider donating it the family would be very appreciative!

Lastly, the men in Al Hafyan family enjoying painting and gardening. If anyone has work at their home they would be willing to hire them for please let Michelle Biegner know.

**Contact the Office if you have a smartphone  
you'd like to donate! (716)-835-0407  
office@stpaulseggertsville.com**



## ***Refugee Resettlement-Margene Weiss***

Hello,

I would like to share with you that the Al Shohani family moved in Mid September to the Olin House at St. Pauls! The final details all came together in the last couple days. The lease was prepared; Nazar Jabar JERS translated the lease for the family ahead of time, so they understood the terms. Nazar drove the white JERS box truck to the Olin House and lots of guys unloaded household belongings all afternoon. The box truck was completely full, This family from Iraq, has been in Buffalo for one year, in a couple housing situations but JERS has been anxious to move the family into clean, suitable & safe housing.

For the last month, Jeff the facilities director at SP and several volunteers have been working diligently to repaint, repair, hang curtains, clean etc. to get this house ready. Several people were still there until the day before the family moved in, finishing painting, installing carbon monoxide detectors, keypad access, cleaning up. The Olin House looks move-in ready. Nazar arranged for workers to install a wheelchair ramp since Mr. Al Shohani is in a wheelchair.

Raed Al Shohani, the father, told us he was so grateful that this house is available to rent and knows his family will be happy here.

We took Raed, one of the sons Ahmed, and a translator around the building to Tigers Den Food Pantry, to talk with staff about monthly (halal) food availability there. We have talked with them about the Monday mealshare dinners at SP and that they can sign-up.

**As far as other needs, we will see what the family is asking for.**

**Tops Gift Cards**

**Vacuum**


-Margene

*The Burrito Project is  
asking for donations  
of New Winter Hats,  
Scarves and Socks.*

**They will have a collection bin in place  
in the vestibule starting the weekend  
of 9/20!**



## ***October Birthdays***



<b>Mark O'Brian</b>	<b>October 1</b>
<b>David Hornung</b>	<b>October 2</b>
<b>Charles Santa Maria</b>	<b>October 2</b>
<b>Jill Riddoch</b>	<b>October 5</b>
<b>Esther Dona</b>	<b>October 8</b>
<b>Robert Rampino</b>	<b>October 8</b>
<b>Robin Miano</b>	<b>October 8</b>
<b>Paul Rokitka</b>	<b>October 9</b>
<b>Judith Gersic</b>	<b>October 10</b>
<b>Lonny Walter</b>	<b>October 11</b>
<b>Sheila Scanlon</b>	<b>October 15</b>
<b>Richard Ide</b>	<b>October 16</b>
<b>Jeffrey Brzycki</b>	<b>October 17</b>
<b>Anne Held</b>	<b>October 18</b>
<b>Nancy Simon</b>	<b>October 21</b>
<b>Geraldine Horton</b>	<b>October 29</b>
<b>Richard Pearl</b>	<b>October 30</b>
<b>James Hardy</b>	<b>October 31</b>
<b>Heidi Ginal</b>	<b>October 31</b>



**St. Paul's Lutheran Eggertsville & Amherst Campus**

**Website:** [www.stpaulseggertsville.com](http://www.stpaulseggertsville.com)

**Telephone:** 716- 835-0407

**Email:** [office@stpaulseggertsville.com](mailto:office@stpaulseggertsville.com)

**Pastors**

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

Kristen Arends: (cell) 716-481-8729 (email) [kristen@stpaulseggertsville.com](mailto: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](mailto:scs@stpaulseggertsville.com)

**Youth Ministry:** Jordan Dywan - [youth@stpaulseggertsville.com](mailto:youth@stpaulseggertsville.com)

**Facilities Manager:** Jeff Stein - [facilities@stpaulseggertsville.com](mailto: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**