First Sunday of Advent



November 30, 2025 10:00 am St. Paul's Eggertsville Campus Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church Eggertsville Campus First Sunday of Advent November 30, 2025

Guest Musician: Billy Brandau





Opening Prayer

P And so, we begin the story all over again, days away from a foretold birth. And waiting. Hoping. Longing. But as we wait, moments of darkness draw closer too. Worries. Doubts. Wondering.

As Christ followers who live on this side of God breaking in, we are given a gift to battle the hardest of times. The light of the world. "A light that shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it." In this Advent season, may we allow that light to grow once more. Every week. Every day. Every moment. To see God's longing for us even more clearly. And to watch for the Messiah.

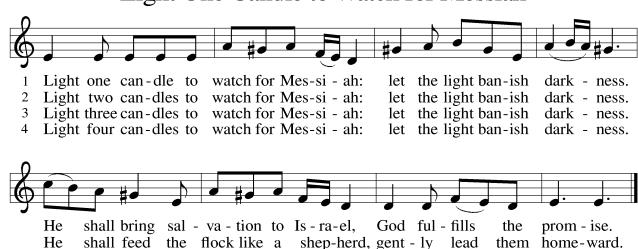
Advent Hymn: WOV 630, Verse 1

He

He

Lift

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights

your heads and lift high the gate-way for

shep-herd, gent - ly

lead

the King

them

of

be

home-ward.

glo - ry.

shin - ing!

Confession and Forgiveness

(Please stand if you are able.)

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.
- C Amen.
- P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Long-expected God,
- We confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.
- P God judges us not as we deserve, but instead with surprise, love and forgiveness. Church, you are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, so get ready to welcome the Savior; + in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Opening Hymn: ELW 253

He Came Down



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;

he came down that we may have light;

he came down that we may have peace;

he came down that we may have joy;

hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

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.
- C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

- P Stir up your power, Lord Christ. We long for your presence. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen

Children's Time

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

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

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

Gospel Acclamation Celtic Alleluia



Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

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- P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 24th Chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] "About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore 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

Hymn of the Day: WOV 627

My Lord, What a Morning







- 1 You will hear the trum-pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

+

Holy Baptism

Presentation

P In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Sponsors present the candidate:

P Sponsors, who do you present for Baptism?

Response: We present Flora Josephine Lorenz for Holy Baptism.

The presiding minister addresses the parents:

P Christopher and Maria, in Christian love you have presented Flora for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring her to the services of God's house, and teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and the Creed. As she grows in years, you should place in her hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for her instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of her Baptism and in communion with the Church, she may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ.

Do you promise to help Flora grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: We do.

The presiding minister addresses sponsors:

P Tom and Tania, do you promise to nurture Flora in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of her baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: We do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

- People of God, do you promise to support Flora and pray for her in her new life in Christ?
- C We do.



Thanksgiving

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give him thanks and praise.
- P Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things. By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that Flora who is here baptized may be given new life. Wash away her sin by this cleansing water and bring her forth as an inheritor of your glorious kingdom. To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen

Renunciation

- P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize.
- P Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?
- C I renounce them.
- P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
- C I renounce them.
- P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
- C I renounce them.

Profession

- P Do you believe in God the Father?
- C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- C 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.

- P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
- C 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



Baptism

P Flora, you are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Laying on of Hands

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon Flora: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.

C Amen

Signing with the Cross

P Flora, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Amen



Giving of the Light

A Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Welcome

- P Through Baptism, God has made Flora a new member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.
- C Flora, we welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow missionary in God's church, child of the same heavenly Father, and a worker with us in the kingdom of God. Amen

(Congregation joins in singing: Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so; little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me, yes Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.)

Prayers of the Church

A In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation. (Please kneel or sit as you are able.)

God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing, and those affected by HIV and AIDS as we remember World AIDS Day. We pray especially for the people on our Prayer Lists and Prayer Chain, and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud. Surround all with care and consolation. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

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/



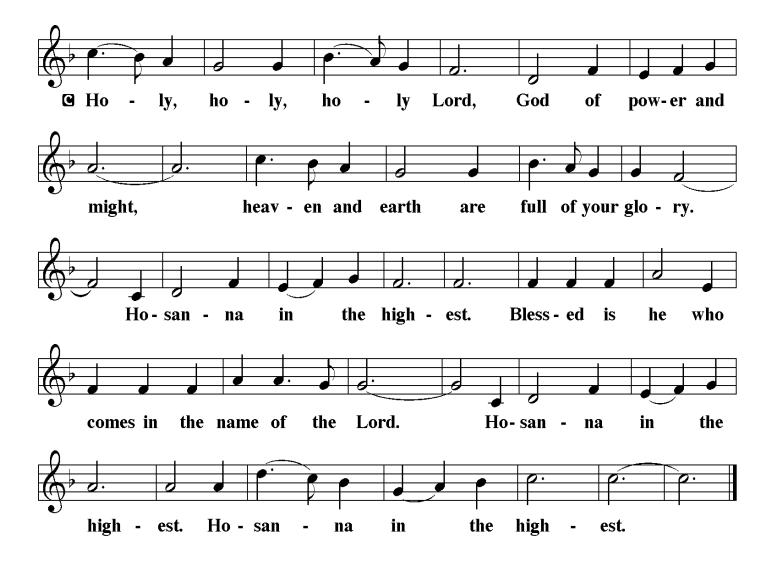
Offering Prayer

- P Let us pray.
- C God of life, you have blessed us with every good gift. Through our offerings today and in our planned giving, open us to share all that we have been given and to love the world in Jesus' name. 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 sing their unending hymn:



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:
- C 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 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 God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.
- 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

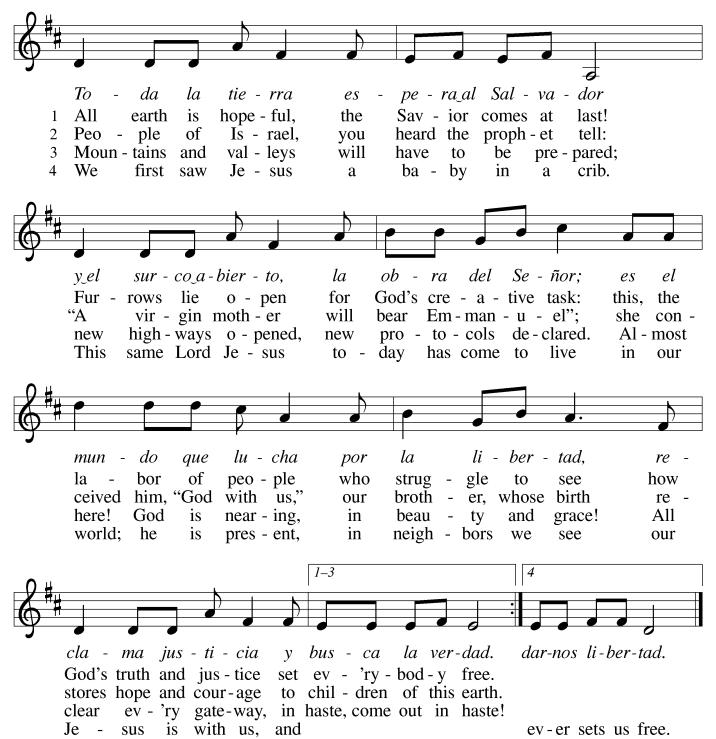
Closing Hymn: WOV 629

Dismissal

- P Go in peace to serve the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

All Earth Is Hopeful

Toda la tierra



ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: November 30-December 7, 2025

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

Sunday: 9:00-9:45 am: Adult Forum

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, Communion, Sunday School, and Baptism of Flora Lorenz

11:00 am: Decorate Sanctuary for Christmas

1:00 pm: Ray of Hope at AC

Monday: 4:15 pm: Daily Bread Food Truck Meal Share

5:30-9:00 pm: Straight Pepper Diet Meeting at AC

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

Tuesday: 10:00 am: Bible Study

12:00 pm: 200th Anniversary Meeting

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

7:00 pm: Lutheran Chorale

Wednesday: 1:00 pm: Pinochle Group

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

2:00-8:00 pm: Holiday Remembrance Service

7:30 pm: Choir Rehearsal

Friday: No Events Planned

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

5:00 pm: Worship and Communion at AC followed by Family Fun Night

Sunday: 9:00-9:45 am: Adult Forum

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, Communion, Sunday School, and Baptism

10:45 am: Annual Congregational Meeting

1:00 pm: Ray of Hope at AC

Our sympathy and prayers go out to the family of Dorothy Menth. Visitation will be held at St. Paul's on Thursday, December 4 at 10:00 am, followed by the funeral at 11:00 am

Deacons: 11/30: Sara Gallagher; 12/7: John Schunak

Ushers: 11/30:Robin Miano & Sharon Adimey; 12/7: Karen & Bob Brown

Prayer List: In our congregational and extended family: Eileen Knauth; Tammy Thomas; David Wieczorek; Joyce Chace; Elaine Masman; Lavon Amos; Cindy Milazzo Schwartz; David Schunak; Kate Kopasz and Lynda LoTempio (Phyllis Campbell's nieces); Sylvia McLaughlin; Sue Epstein

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

*Joyce Chace: Brookdale, 6076 Main Street, Williamsville, NY 14221

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

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 14226

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. The pantry hours for December are: Thursdays 12/4 and 12/18 from 3:00-6:30 pm, and Saturdays 12/13 and 12/27 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm. Donations for December: spaghetti sauce, crackers, and granola bars.



Angel Tree 2025

Once again we're partnering with the Amherst school social workers to provide assistance for families who need a little extra help this time of year. You may select a tag and purchase the item and return it by Dec 14th. Attach the tag and place the gifts, UNWRAPPED, under the tree. We also need a few rolls of new wrapping paper. The parents enjoy wrapping the presents themselves. There will be a box for gift cards under the tree. If you don't like to shop, "angels" will do the shopping for you. Any questions, Cheryl 716-341-5073

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A Congregational Meeting will be held on:

Sunday, December 7th

(following the 10:00 am worship service)

to vote on the 2026 Budget and Nominating Committee



Annual Poinsettia Dedications

Poinsettias are \$11 per plant

Dedications for Poinsettias will be noted in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Please indicate how you wish the dedication to read on the form below. Please return order form with cash or check payable to St. Paul's by mail or on the offering plate.

ABSOLUTE Deadline for orders is December 12th
Poinsettia(s) (\$11 each)
Please deliver my plant to a shut-in member
after Christmas
Poinsettias are Given to the Glory of the Newborn King
in memory of
by
OR
in honor of
by



+ 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: Janet Schmidt
Bob Brown David Dahlberg Susan Epstein
Sara Hannon Vanessa Solomon Scott Vahue Barbara Walter

Pastoral Leaders

Steve Biegner (716-868-1232 - cell); Email: steve@stpaulseggertsville.com Kristen Arends: (716-481-8728 - cell); Email: kristen@stpaulseggertsville.com

<u>Directors of Music</u>: Paul H. Storfer (SPEC) and Adam Schmidt (AC)

<u>Christian Education Coordinator</u>: June Piette; Email: scs@stpaulseggertsville.com

<u>Youth Ministry</u>: Jordan Dywan; Email: youth@stpaulseggertsville.com

<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 St. Paul's Amherst Campus 5125 Main Street Williamsville, NY 14221

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