

# *Second Sunday of Advent*



*December 7, 2025  
10:00 am  
St. Paul's Eggertsville Campus*

*Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Eggertsville Campus  
Second Sunday of Advent  
December 7, 2025*

*Musician: Paul Storfer*



*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, Verses 1-2*

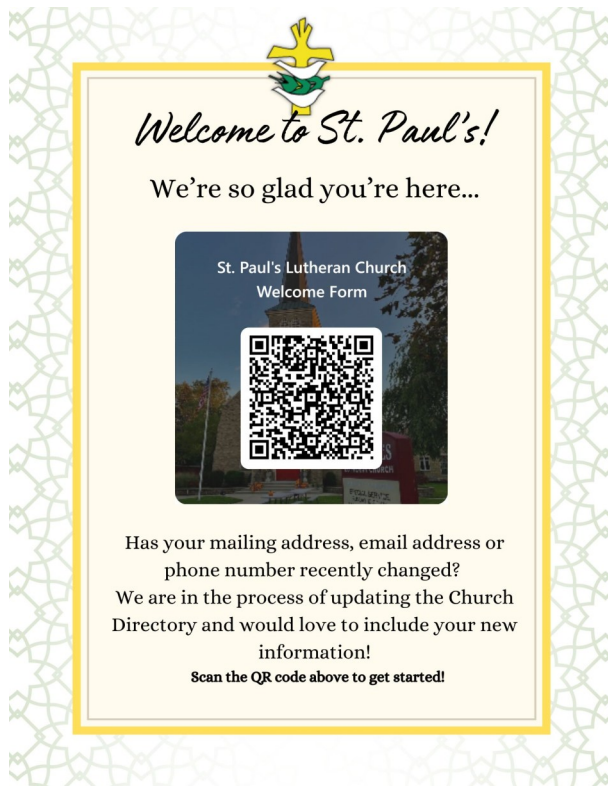
**Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah**



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be 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,

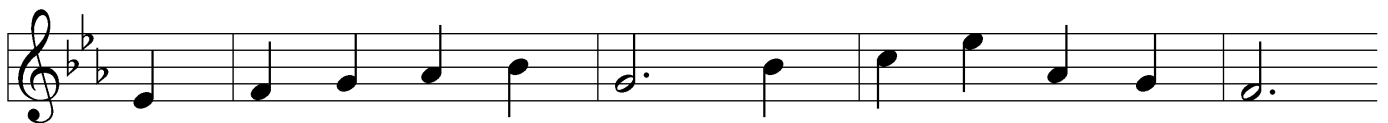
**C** we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can  
provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the  
ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping  
awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony 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: LBW 22*

### The Advent of Our God



1 The ad - vent of our God shall be our theme for prayer;  
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son in - car - nate stoops to be,  
3 Come, Zi - on's daugh-ter, rise to meet your low - ly king,  
4 As judge, on clouds of light, he soon will come a - gain,



come, let us meet him on the road and place for him pre - pare.  
him - self the ser - vant's form puts on to set his peo - ple free.  
nor let your faith - less heart de - spise the peace he comes to bring.  
and all his scat - tered saints u - nite with him on high to reign.

### *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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen

### *First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10*

*Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.*

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

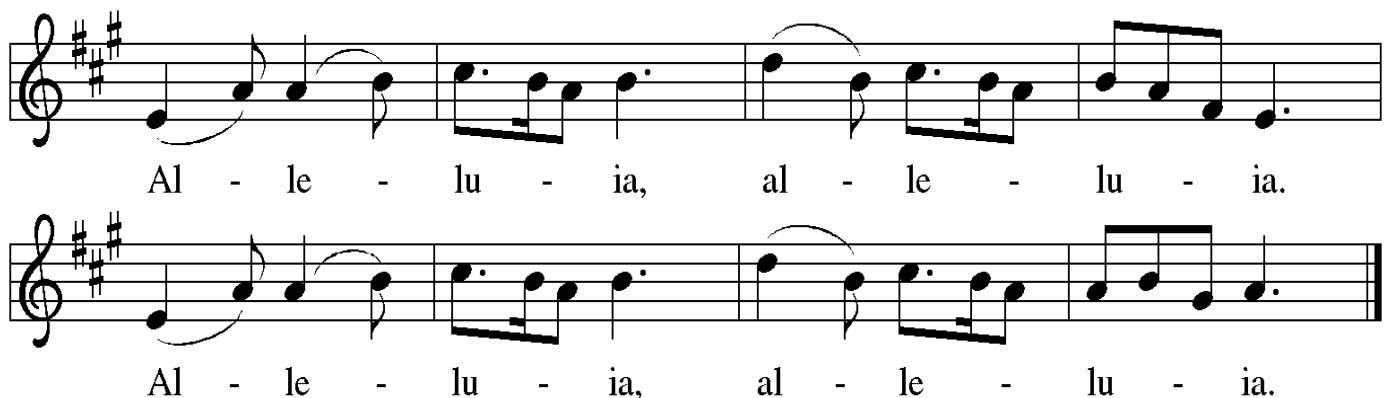
- A This is the Word of the Lord
- C Thanks be to God.

## *Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19*

*May the righteous flourish; let there be an abundance of peace. (Ps. 72:7)*

- A Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;  
C **that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**  
A that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in  
righteousness.  
C **Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the  
oppressor.**  
A May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to  
another.  
C **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water  
the earth.**  
A In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace  
till the moon shall be no more.  
C **Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous  
deeds!**  
A And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled  
with your glory. Amen. Amen.  
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 Third Chapter.  
C Glory to you, O Lord.

***Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12***

*Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.*

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’ ” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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



***Sermon***

## On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's banks the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and hear - ken,  
way for God with - in, and let us all our  
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

## *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*

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.)

With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease. We pray especially for the people on our Prayer Lists and Prayer Chain, and those we name before you now either silently or aloud. Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. God of grace,



**C** hear our prayer.

**A** With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. God of grace,

**C** hear our prayer.

**A** With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith. Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. 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/>

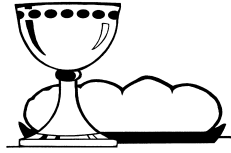
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### *Offering Prayer*

**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.

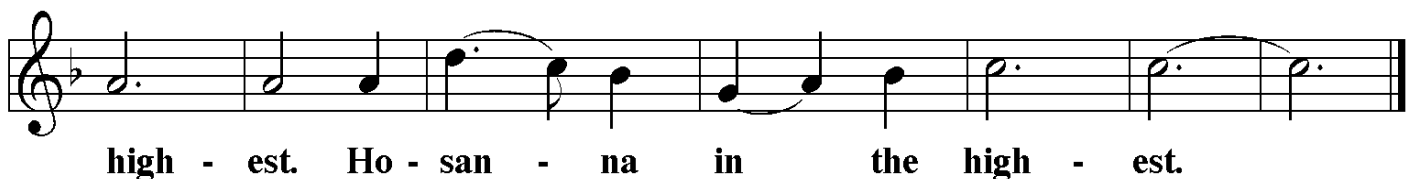
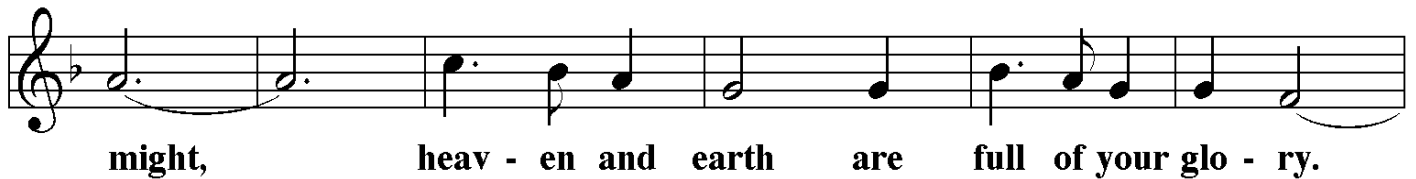
P Lift up your hearts.

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: LBW 29*

### Comfort, Comfort Now My People



1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.  
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
3 Straight shall be what long was crook-ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain!



Com-fort those who sit in dark-ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.  
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the king-dom now is here.  
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign!



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!  
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way!  
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.  
Let the val - leys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him!  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

## *Dismissal*

P Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: December 7-14, 2025

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

- Sunday:** 9:00-9:45 am: Adult Forum (Last Session for 2025, will resume January 4, 2026)  
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, and Sunday School  
10:45 am: Annual Congregational Meeting  
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
- Tuesday:** 10:00 am: Bible Study  
5:00-6:30 pm: We Can No Longer Blame Others (NA)  
7:00 pm: Lutheran Chorale
- Wednesday:** 10:00 am: Comforters Meeting  
6:30-8:30 pm: Ray of Hope Prayer Group at AC  
8:00 pm: AA Meeting
- Thursday:** No Events Planned
- Friday:** No Events Planned
- Saturday:** 9:00 am-3:00 pm: Peniel Haitian Church at AC  
9:00 am-12:30 pm: Tiger's Den Food Pantry Open  
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: Christmas Pageant and Communion  
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope at AC

**Deacons:** 12/7: John Schunak; 12/14: Sara Gallagher

**Ushers:** 12/7: Karen & Bob Brown; 12/14: Michele & Mike Degen

**Prayer List: In our congregational and extended family:** Eileen Knauth; Tammy Thomas; David Wiczorek; Joyce Chace; Elaine Masman; Lavon Amos; Cindy Milazzo Schwartz; David Schunak; 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 remaining pantry hours for December are: Thursday 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.

***Congregational Meeting:*** Today following the 10:00 am worship service. Will vote on the 2026 Budget and the Nominating Committee.



***Come join our Sunday School students as they present their Christmas Pageant during the Sunday 10:00 am worship service on December 14.***



## ***ATTENTION***

***All Angel Tree gifts must be returned by next Sunday Dec 14th.  
Unwrapped please.***

***Thanks to all who participated this year. You're all Angels!***

***Thx - Cheryl***



*\*All Christmas Services will end in candlelight \**

***\*Saturday, December 20, 5:00 pm***

*Early Christmas Eve Service at the Amherst Campus  
featuring special music and liturgical dance*

***\*Wednesday, December 24 at 10:00 am***

*Family Christmas Eve Service featuring special music  
and extended Children's Time*

***\*Wednesday, December 24 at 7:00 pm***

*Traditional Christmas Eve Service*

### **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**

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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](mailto:steve@stpaulseggertsville.com)  
Kristen Arends: (716-481-8728 - cell); Email: [kristen@stpaulseggertsville.com](mailto:kristen@stpaulseggertsville.com)*

**Directors of Music:** *Paul H. Storfer (SPEC) and Adam Schmidt (AC)*  
**Christian Education Coordinator:** *June Piette; Email: [scs@stpaulseggertsville.com](mailto:scs@stpaulseggertsville.com)*  
**Youth Ministry:** *Jordan Dywan; Email: [youth@stpaulseggertsville.com](mailto:youth@stpaulseggertsville.com)*  
**Digital Ministry:** *Andrew Gruszka*  
**Facilities Manager:** *Jeff Stein*

**Church Office Staff**

*Cody Almeter and Adrienne Leary  
E-mail: [office@stpaulseggertsville.com](mailto:office@stpaulseggertsville.com)  
Telephone: (716) 835-0407  
Website: [www.stpaulseggertsville.com](http://www.stpaulseggertsville.com)*

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

*Worship Service: Sundays at 10:00 am*

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

*Worship Service: Saturdays at 5:00 pm*