Family Blessing Weekend

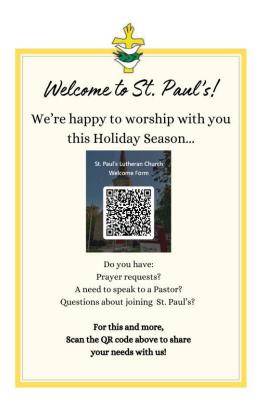


St. Paul's Lutheran Church Amherst Campus, 1/3/26 at 5:00 pm Eggertsville Campus, 1/4/26 at 10:00 am

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church Family Blessing Weekend January 3, 2026

Musician: Adam Schmidt





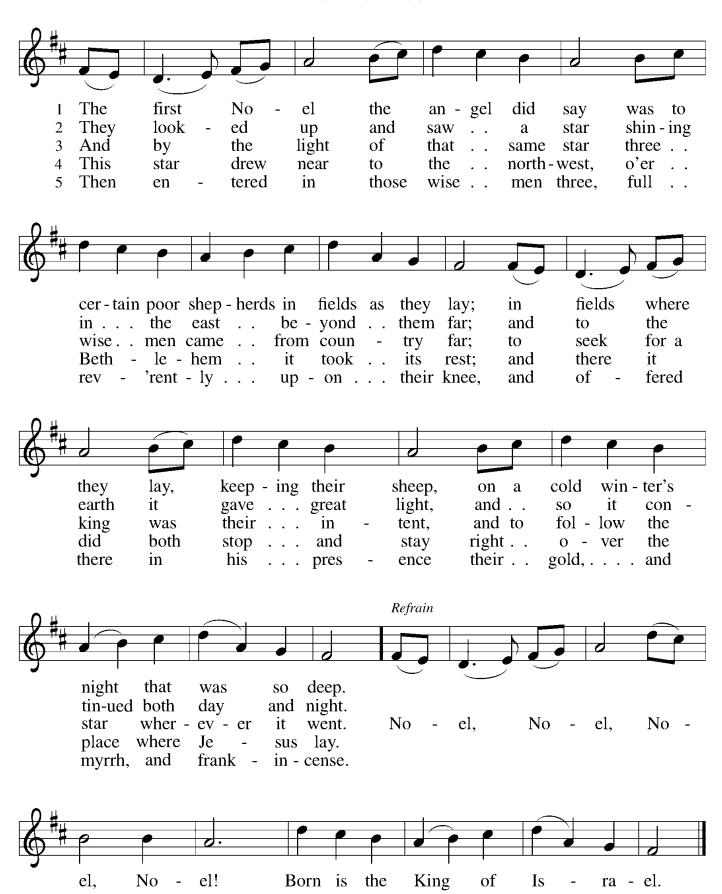
Confession and Forgiveness

(Please stand if you are able.)

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.
- C Amen.
- P Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin. Reconciling God,
- C we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; and our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.
- P God's grace upon grace flows over you. + Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!
- C Amen.

Opening Hymn: LBW 56

The First Noel



Text: English traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

Apostolic Greeting

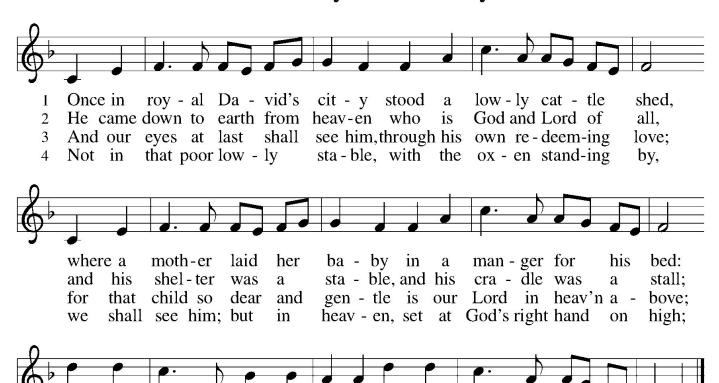
- P The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

- P Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Praise Hymn: WOV 643

Once in Royal David's City



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Christ, her lit - tle

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stars, with glo-ry

place where he

Sav-ior

earth

child.

ho-ly.

gone.

crowned.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895 Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

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his chil - dren on

and meek and low-ly, lived on

chil - dren gath - er round, bright like

Mar - v

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First Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made know as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

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

Psalm 147:12-20 (read responsively)

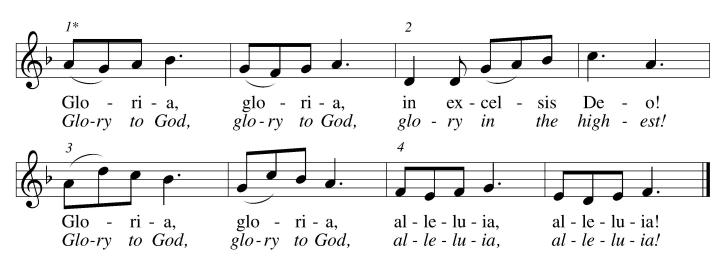
Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion. (Ps. 147:12)

- A Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,
- C who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you.
- A God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- C God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.
- A God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.
- C God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?
- A The LORD sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow.
- C God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel.

- A The LORD has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!
- A This is the Word of the Lord
- C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn: WOV 640





*May be sung as a round.

Text: Traditional

Music: GLORIA 3, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

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- P The Holy Gospel according to John the First Chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 1:[1-9] 10-18

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

[In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

Sermon



Angels, from the Realms of Glory



- 1 An gels, from the realms of glo ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a bid ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
- Sa ges, leave your con tem-pla-tions, bright-er vi sions beam a far;
- 4 All cre a tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa ther, Spir it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth: God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light. seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star. ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, st. 4 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

Apostle's Creed

- P Let's join to proclaim our faith in the Apostles' Creed:
- 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

Prayer's of the Church

P Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need. (Please be seated.)

O God, you reveal yourself wherever two or three are gathered in your name. Be with us now, not only in the infant Jesus and resurrected Christ, but in the beloved people of this assembly. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You reveal yourself in the waters of the womb; in brooks, ponds, and oceans; and in the waters of baptism. Grant us wisdom to tenderly care for the earth as a garden watered by your grace. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You reveal yourself in blessed diversity. Help us to look for you in people near and far, in bodies of all kinds, and in kindred young and old. Let us seek you in many places, praising you in many tongues. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You reveal yourself in new life. Support those beginning a new job, a new relationship, or a new living situation, especially those displaced because of tragedy or loss. We pray especially for the people on our Prayer Lists and Prayer Chain, and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud. Be with all others who need your life-giving touch this day. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You reveal yourself in holy communion. Sustain all who provide food and fellowship in this congregation and in the wider community. Make our tables signs of your welcoming presence among us. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You promise to turn mourning into joy and to comfort those who weep. We remember those who have died and look to being united with them in your glory. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

Offering Hymn: ELW 253

He Came Down



- 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

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/

QR Code:



Offering Prayer

- P Let us pray,
- \mathbf{C} God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these gifts we offer today and in our planned giving for the needs of the world, through Christ our Savior. 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 speak their unending hymn:

Sanctus (spoken)

C Holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

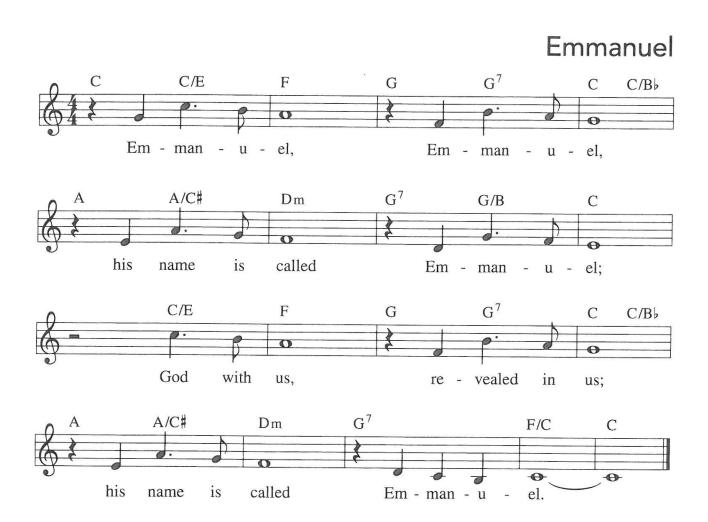
- P In the night in which he was handed over, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.
 - Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, 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:
- 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

Family Blessing and Communion: You are invited to come to the baptismal font and communion. Come with your family, members of your St. Paul's family, or just on your own with your family in your heart, and gather around the font to receive God's blessing in the beginning of this New Year. After the blessing, you may proceed to communion to receive God's grace in the bread and wine. All are welcome to come forward and take part in one or both parts of the blessing. If you have difficulty walking, communion will be brought to you at your seat.

Communion Hymn: W&P 36

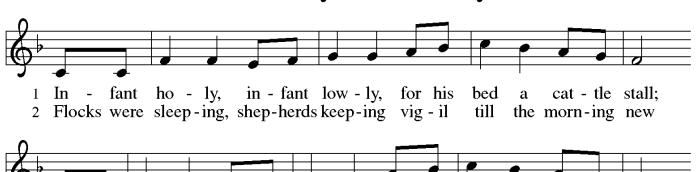


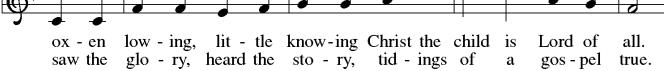
Text and music: Bob McGee
Text and music © 1976 C. A. Music



Distribution Hymn: LBW 44

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly







Swift-ly wing-ing, an - gels sing-ing, bells are ring-ing, tid - ings bring-ing: Thus re-joic-ing, free from sor-row, prais-es voic-ing, greet the mor-row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt. Music: W ZŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol

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 with us, you are here at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to notice the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our live, through Christ born in us.
- C Amen.

Benediction

- P And now as you go on your way, may the Lord 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 651 (on the following page)

Sharing the Peace and Sending

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



Shine, Jesus, Shine

Refrain: Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word
Lord, and let there be light

1. Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth you now bring us
Shine on me, shine on me
Refrain

2. As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story
Shine on me, shine on me

Refrain



ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: January 4-11, 2026

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

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: Worship, Communion, and Family Blessing

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: 1:00 pm: Pinochle Group

6:30-8:30 pm: Ray of Hope Prayer Group at AC

8:00 pm: AA Meeting

Thursday: 7:15 pm: Book Club at AC

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

9:30 am-1:00 pm: Western New York Church at AC

10:00 am: Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV

10:00 am: Worship, Communion, and Sunday School

1:00 pm: Ray of Hope at AC

Prayer List: In our congregational and extended family: Maria Neudecker; Carol Geis; Eileen Knauth; Tammy Thomas; David Wieczorek; 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

Daily Bread Food Truck: The 2026 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 January 2026 are: Saturdays 1/3, 1/10, and 1/24 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm; and Thursdays 1/15 and 1/29 from 3:00-6:30 pm. Donations for January: toilet paper and paper towels.

The Adult Forum: returns today from 9:00-9:45 am in the Fellowship Room.

Bible Study: will resume on Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Room.

Pinochle Group: will meet Wednesday, January 7, 2026 at 1:00 pm in the Gathering Area.

Book Club at Amherst Campus: will meet on Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 7:15 pm. January's book is "A Hologram for the King" by Dave Eggers.

Sunday School: will resume on Sunday, January 11, 2026.

Time to Undecorate

Are you available to stay a little longer after our services 1/3 (at AC) & 1/4 (at Eggertsville) to help us remove holiday decorations from the Sanctuary? We'd really appreciate your help! Thanks!





+ 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

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