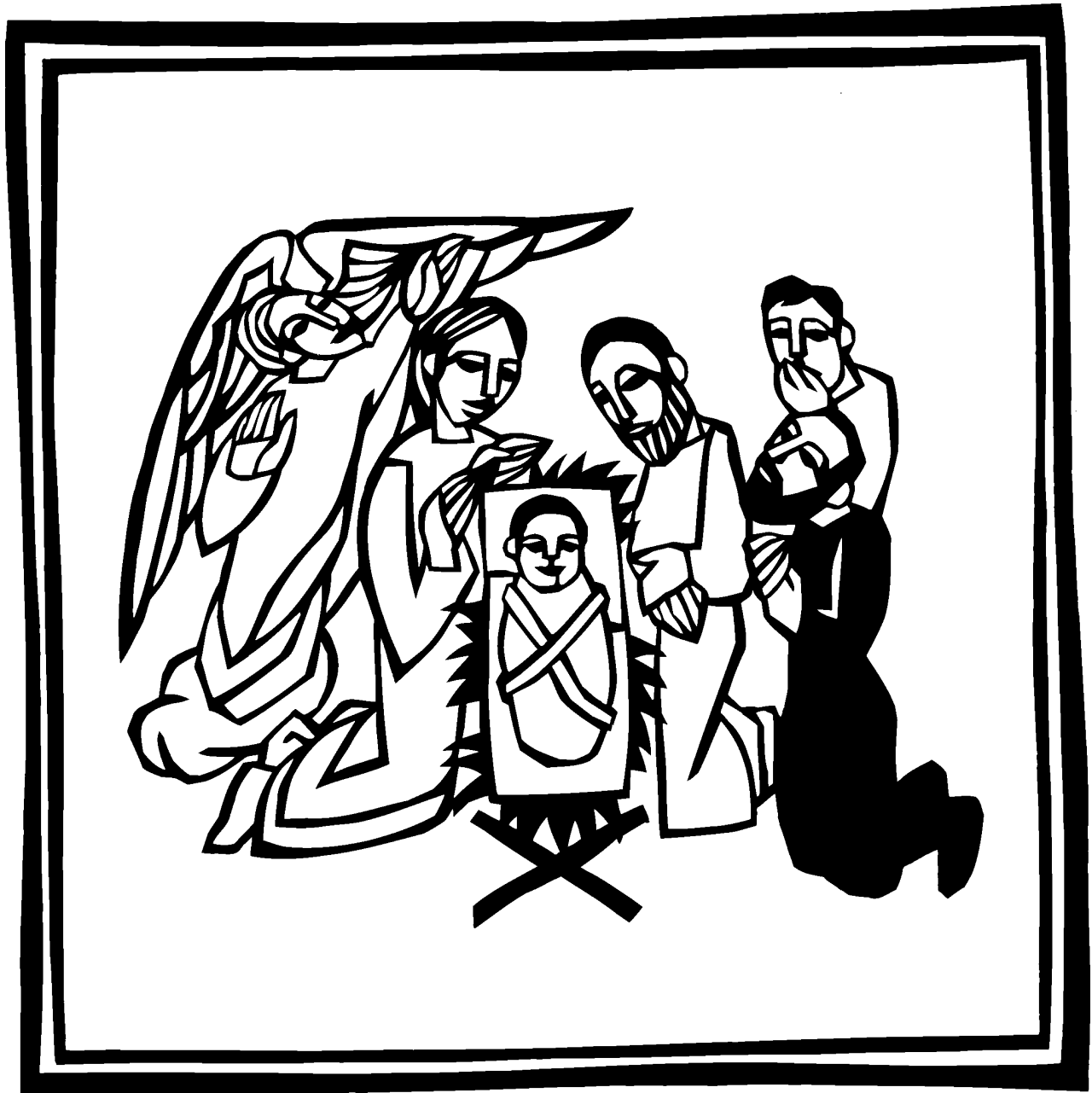


Christmas Eve



December 24, 2025

7:00 pm

St. Paul's Eggertsville Campus

*Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Christmas Eve
December 24, 2025*

*Musician: Paul Storfer
Prelude: On "In Dulci Jubilo"
by J.S. Bach*

*Guest Soloist: Emily Helenbrook
and St. Paul's Choir sing: O Holy Night*



Confession and Forgiveness

(Please stand if you are able.)

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ 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.



Welcome to St. Paul's!

We're happy to worship with you
this Holiday Season...



Do you have:
Prayer requests?
A need to speak to a Pastor?
Questions about joining St. Paul's?

**For this and more,
Scan the QR code above to share
your needs with us!**

O, Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

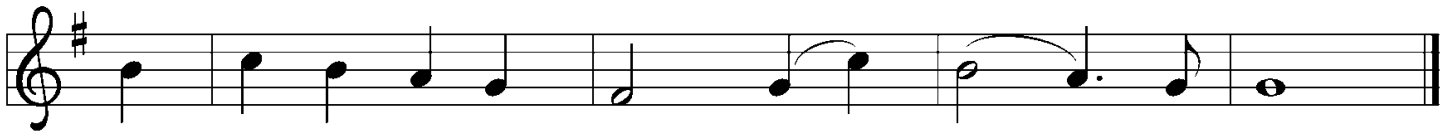


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

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 made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

A This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96 (read responsively)

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad. (Ps. 96:11)

A Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

C Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.

A Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

C For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.

A As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

C Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.

A Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

C Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.

A Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

C Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."

A Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

C Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.

A You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

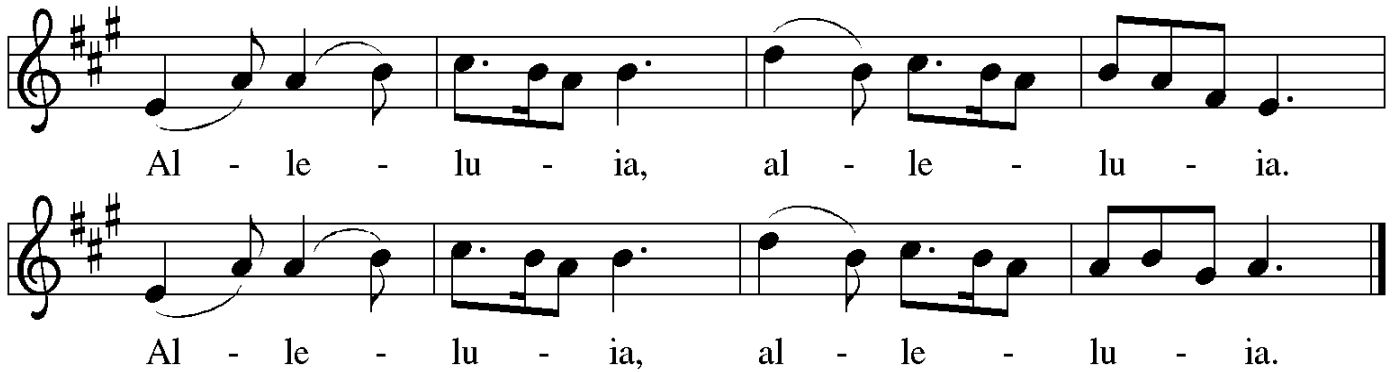
A This is the Word of the Lord

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

Music © 1985 Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, admin. OCP Publications, Inc. 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

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P The Holy Gospel according to Luke the Second Chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the

Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” [When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.



Sermon

Angels We Have Heard on High



- 1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain



Glo

-

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo

-



-

ri - a

in ex - cel - sis

De

-

o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

Music: GLORIA, French carol



Apostle's Creed

A With the whole church, let us proclaim our faith.

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 Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need. (Please kneel or sit as you are able.)

Gathering God, you bring your people from every corner of the earth together before the manger that you have made a throne. Unite the church in love as we rejoice in the news of your coming. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Creating God, you brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Join our voices with the roaring seas, the exulting fields, and the trees of the forest singing for joy on this holy night. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Transforming God, the world trembles amid violence and war. Empower our hands, feet, and hearts with your Spirit to shatter the rod of the oppressor and turn swords into plowshares. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Shepherding God, you lead us to your love in the face of our neighbor. Send us into the world to find your Word made flesh in one another, especially those who are sick or struggling. We pray especially for the people on our Prayer Lists and Prayer Chain, and those we name before you now either silently or aloud. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

- A Nurturing God, you dwell with us in humble places. Sustain housing, food, and clothing ministries in this community, that all find shelter and warmth. Hear us, O God.
- C **Your mercy is great.**
- A Abiding God, you remain at the side of all the departed. Grant all who mourn hope in the resurrection and peace in Christ Jesus. Hear us, O God.
- C **Your mercy is great.**
- A 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.**

Choir Anthem: Mary's Magnificat by A. Carter

Offering Music and Prayer

Ways to Give to St. Paul's:

Options you can use to continue tithing to St. Paul's:

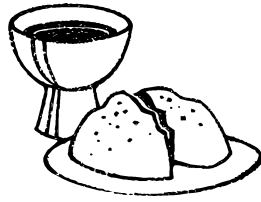
- **In-Person Worship:** Continue to put your envelopes and cash in the plate
- **Giving by Mail:** Please mail your donations payable to St. Paul's, 4007 Main Street, Eggertsville, NY 14226
- **Online:** The St. Paul's website contains a link to Online Giving. The website is: <https://stpaulseggertsville.com/online-giving/>

QR Code:



Give

- P Let us pray,
- 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.



Communion Liturgy based on "I Am the Bread of Life" (WOV 702)

- P I AM the bread of Life. You who come to me shall not hunger, And who believe in me shall not thirst. No one can come to me unless the Father beckons.
- C And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
And I will raise you up on the last day.
- P The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world, And if you eat of this bread, You shall live forever, you shall live forever.
- C And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
And I will raise you up on the last day.
- P In the night in which he was handed over, our Lord Jesus took a loaf of 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.
- C And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
And I will raise you up on the last day.
- Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, Who has come into the world. And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up, And I will raise you up on the last day.

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 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.



Candlelight Benediction

The Gospel of John 1:1-5

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 overcome it.

*(The light is passed back through the community. Please leave
burning candles upright and light one another's candles down the row.
When all the candles are lit, we will sing together.)*



Candlelight Hymn: LBW 65: Silent Night

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child, Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace!

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!

Benediction

P And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory
as of a father's only Son, full of grace and truth. May this good news, born for
you, keep you in God's peace.

C Amen.

*(As the lights are turned on please extinguish your candles,
taking care not to drip hot wax.)*

Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Sharing the Peace and Sending

P Christ is born! God is here! So go in peace and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!



Poinsettias are given
to the Glory of the Newborn King....



In Memory of:

Our Loved Ones
Jack Miller
Ruth Merrill & Rita Zimmer
Janet & Larry Woodward
John Pilato
Bud Schumann
Arthur W. Toale

Dick Elliott
Norm & Eva Carlson
Bob & Louise Lenz
Loved Ones
Art Toale
Paul Converso
Rich & Helen Heuer
Our Immigrant Ancestry
Our Loved Ones

By:

Jim & Marsha Glose
Sue Miller
Mary & Natalie Merrill
Michelle & Steve Biegner
Betty Pilato
Gail Singer
Sandra, Amy, Becky, Leo, Emily,
Mya & Sabrina
Judy, Danielle, Matt, Erin & Tommy
Sonja & Paul Rokitka
Clophos & Jeanette Bulleigh
Alan & Martha Stewart
Lynn & Doug Endres
Marsha Converso
Adimey Family
Bob & Shari Rembold
Wes & Sharon Ries

In Honor of:

Our Parents

By:

Paul & Marsha Converso

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: December 28, 2025-January 4, 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 and Communion: Lessons and Carols
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:** 5:00-6:30 pm: We Can No Longer Blame Others (NA)
- Wednesday:** New Year's Eve
6:30-8:30 pm: Ray of Hope Prayer Group at AC
7:30 pm-12:00 am: Peniel Haitian Church at AC
8:00 pm: AA Meeting
- Thursday:** New Year's Day: Church Office Closed
- Friday:** Church Office Closed
- 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: Family Blessing Weekend
5:45 pm: Dining with Friends (aka Family Night) following 5:00 pm worship service
- Sunday:** 9:00-9:45 am: Adult Forum Returns
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 and Communion: Family Blessing Weekend
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope at AC

Deacons: 12/28: Nancy Bartels-Holiman; 1/4:

Ushers: 12/28: Gerri Horton & Helen Gibson; 1/4: Scott Vahue & Marissa Vahue

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 Striejewski: 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.*

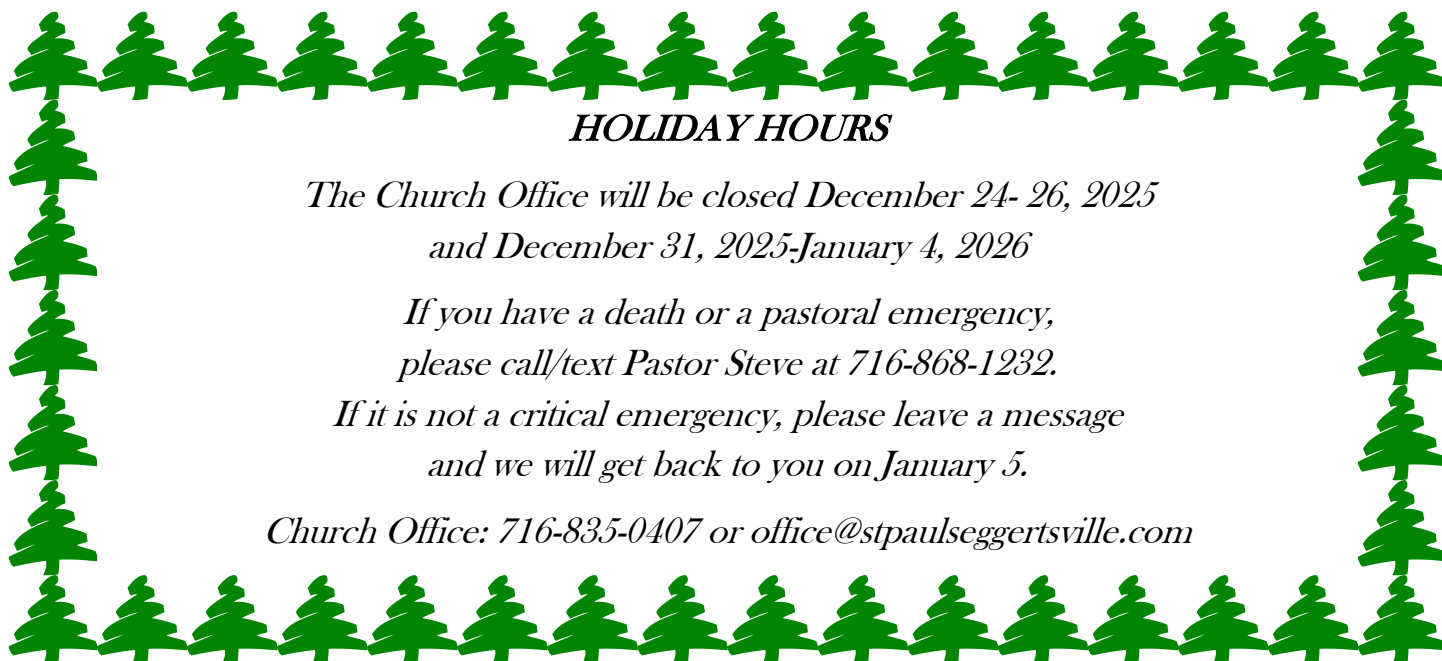
Prayer Team Ministry: *Once a week you will receive an email with a list of people to pray for and specific requests for that person. We ask that you commit to praying for the names on the email. If you'd like to join us, please contact Cody at: Cody@stpaulseggertsville.com*

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

Angel Tree: *Thanks to everyone for making this year's Angel Tree a great success. We provided Christmas gifts and grocery gift cards for 18 families and 39 kids ensuring a joyous and WARM Christmas for them. (21 winter coats and 16 winter boots were donated) To quote Calvin Coolidge, "Christmas is not a time or a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas."*

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.*



HOLIDAY HOURS

*The Church Office will be closed December 24- 26, 2025
and December 31, 2025-January 4, 2026*

*If you have a death or a pastoral emergency,
please call/text Pastor Steve at 716-868-1232.*

*If it is not a critical emergency, please leave a message
and we will get back to you on January 5.*

Church Office: 716-835-0407 or office@stpaulseggertsville.com



*+ 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*

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

EVERY YEAR

My heart and I have an agreement.
Every year we show up here—
here in the sanctuary,
here with the candles and the tall ceilings,
here with the creaky church pews
and the songs of silent nights.

My heart and I have an agreement.
Every year we show up here—
at the end of the year,
after another 12 months
of humanity, of me
trying to
keep it all together,
trying to
keep my head above water,
trying to
keep up appearances.

Every year we show up here.
We drop it all.
We leave it at the door.
We come into this space
and I could swear it feels different.

Maybe it's God.
Maybe it's hope.
Maybe it's love.
But whatever it is,
I need it
every year,
so we show up here.
Tell us again the story of tonight.
My heart needs it.

Poem by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed