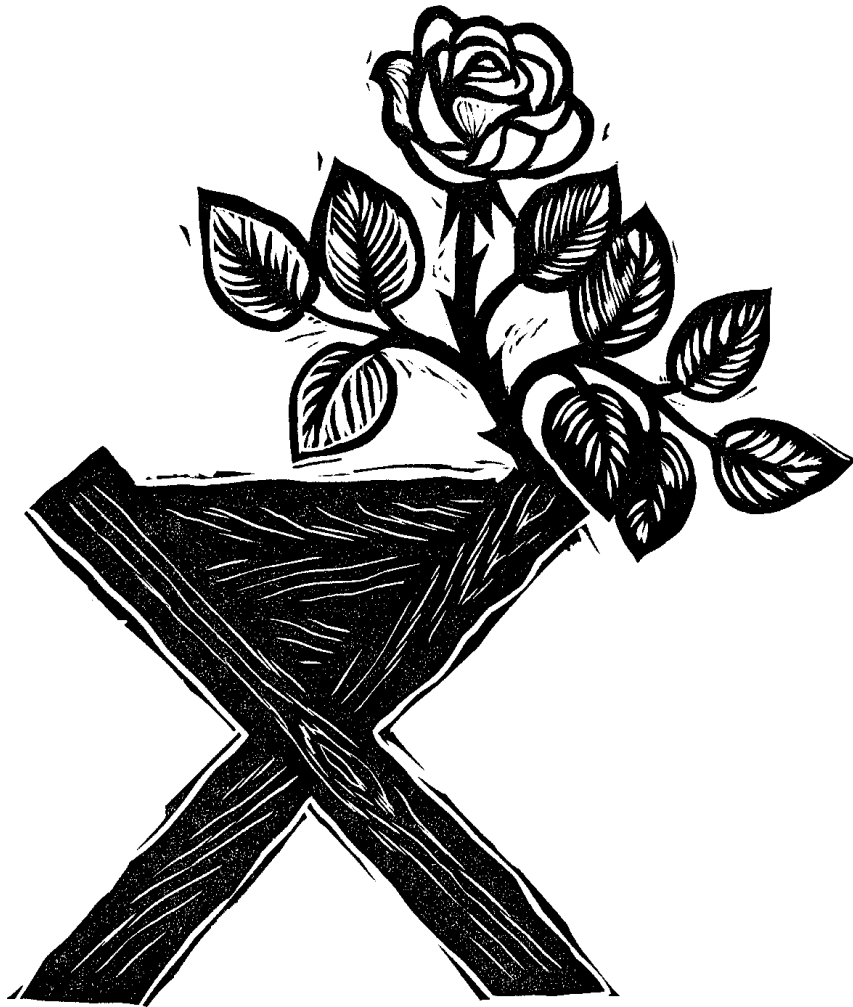


# *Lessons and Carols*

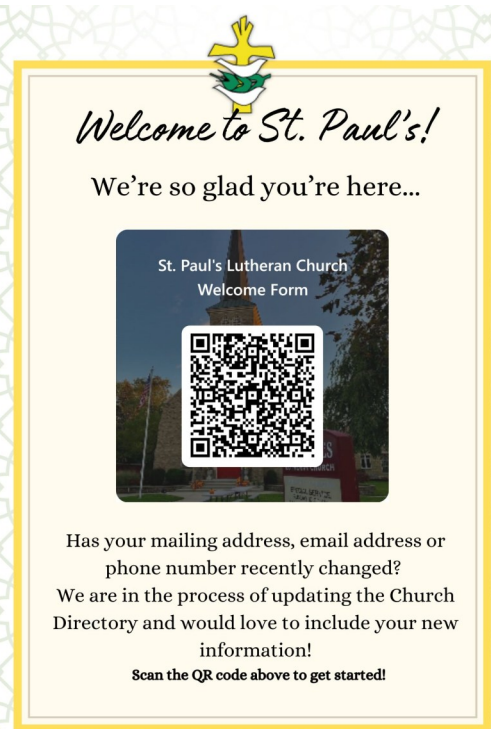
## *First Sunday of Christmas*



*December 28, 2025*  
*10:00 am*  
*St. Paul's Eggertsville Campus*

*Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Eggertsville Campus  
Lessons and Carols  
First Sunday after Christmas  
December 28, 2025*

*Musician: Paul Storfer*



*The Christmas Proclamation*

On the twenty-fifth day of December, unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth, God then formed man and woman in his own image.

- Several thousand years after the flood, God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant;
- Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;
- Thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt;
- Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the Judges;
- One thousand years from the anointing of David as king;
- In the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel;
- In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad,
- The seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome;
- The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;
- The whole world being at peace.

Jesus the Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit, and nine months having passed since his conception, was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary. And that day was the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

*Gathering Song: Joy to the World (LBW 39)*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love.

*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.

*Opening Prayer*

P O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, 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: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18*

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

A This is the word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*All Things Bright and Beautiful WOV 767*

Refrain

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

- 1 Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,  
God made their glowing colors, God made their tiny wings. *Refrain*
- 2 The purple-headed mountains, the river running by,  
the sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky. *Refrain*

*Second Reading: Micah 5:2-5a*

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

A This is the word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*O Little Town of Bethlehem (LBW 41)*

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!



### *Third Reading: Luke 1:26-38*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

A This is the word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



### *Angels From the Realms of Glory (LBW 50)*

- 1 Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Once you sang creation's story; now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King.
- 2 All creation join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three-in-One.  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the new-born King!

#### ***Fourth Reading: Matthew 1:18-25***

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

A This is the word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

#### ***Jesus, Name above all Names (sing 2 times)***

Jesus, name above all names  
Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,  
Emmanuel, God is with us,  
Blessed Redeemer, living Word.



#### ***Fifth Reading: Luke 2:8-20***

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.

A This is the word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



*Go Tell it on the Mountain (LBW 70)*

**Refrain:** Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth. *Refrain*

*Sixth Reading: Matthew 2:13-23*

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

A This is the word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*Sermon: Pastor Imani Olear*

*What Child is This (LBW 40)*

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!
- 2 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

*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.
- God of grace, you show us mercy not according to our worthiness, but according to the abundance of your steadfast love. Grant us the courage to go into the world and do likewise. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.
- A God of abundance, the sun and moon praise you and the shining stars sing of your love. Where we have desecrated your creation, make us into a healing balm for what we have broken. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.
- A God of righteousness, when leaders fail to fulfill their calls to enact justice, you suffer alongside us. Propel those in power to see you reflected in the faces of all they serve. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.
- A God of life, you claim us as your own and care for us as Christ's siblings. Pour out your compassion in every place your people suffer, and protect them in the palm of your hand. 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 God of compassion, you nurture children as the apple of your eye. As you sheltered your son Jesus from Herod's grasp, shelter all children in danger. As you comforted Rachel, comfort all who have lost children to violence. Hear us, O God.
- C **Your mercy is great.**
- A God of love, you console those who weep for lost beloved ones. Even as we mourn, we offer thanks for those who have gone before us, trusting in your comfort and protection. 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.**

### *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/>

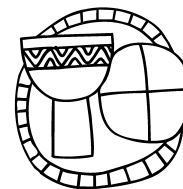
QR Code:



- 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

## *The Communion*

- 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.



## *Seventh Reading: John 1:1-5,14*

- P 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. 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.

## *Angels We Have Heard on High (LBW 71)*

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains:  
Glo- -ria in excelsis Deo! Glo- -ria in excelsis Deo!

- P In the night in which he was handed over, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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 sins. Do this for the remembrance of me.
- 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.*

### ***The Communion Blessing and Prayer***

P The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

C Amen.

P Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

C Amen.

### ***Benediction***

P Almighty God, Father, Newborn Son +, and Holy Spirit bless us now and forever.

C Amen.



## 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 at AC followed by Family Night
- 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  
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 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 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](mailto: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.

***Dinner with Friends (aka Family Fun Night):*** will be held Saturday, January 3, 2026 following the worship service at the Amherst Campus.

***The Adult Forum:*** will return on Sunday, January 4, 2026 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.





*+ 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*