

January
2026

The Messenger

St. Paul's Lutheran Church



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Eggertsville & Amherst
Campuses

JANUARY

Grace and peace in this New Year missionaries at St. Paul's!

As we move into another year in the mission expansion at St. Paul's, we wanted to take a little bit of time to share more information about what teams are leading the charge and what they are focused on.

Church Council: Robert Simpson* (President), Tim Johnson (VP), Janet Schmidt (Secretary), Bob Brown, Sue Epstein*, Barb Walter, Dave Dahlberg, Vanessa

Solomon, Sara Hannon, Bill Niblock (Treasurer)-not an elected council member). This group has been a part of St. Paul's since the beginning 199 years ago! They are the group of people that have the "general oversight of the life and ministry" of St. Paul's. They are elected by the congregation to three-year terms to make sure we keep in line with our vision and financial plans. ***Term ends in May 2026.**

Lead Action Team: (Leslie Boynton, Scott Cassety, Vern Stein, Bobby Simpson). This group works with the pastors behind the scenes to do the background planning and details make the staff and Council's job easier. They manage both Vision Plan and project details.

Daily Bread Food Truck: (Leslie Boynton, Hilde Neubauer, Ed Weiss, Tony Piette). This team manages the planning and oversight for our free meal shares, catering and offsite food truck events. They also are the hands on leaders and chefs. We will need MORE folks jumping on this team and we hope to expand our physical footprint and meal opportunities in Eggertsville.

Tiger's Den Food Pantry: (Adrienne Leary, Deb Davern - Amherst Schools rep) - This team manages all pantry activities and volunteers for our once a week pantry that is currently serving almost 100 families per month.

*St. Paul's is a congregation of the Niagara Frontier Conference of the Upstate New York Synod
Of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)*

Food Ministries: Tiger's Den Food Pantry

WNY Impact Foundation: (Scott Vahue, Leslie Boynton, Chick Biegner, Scott Jones, Vern Stein). This board runs our non-profit 501(c)3 arm of ministry. Its mission is To connect people that want to make an impact in the world to the needs of WNY and beyond. The board meets annually (and via email throughout the year) to provide oversight for several of our ministries: Grace Ministries in Haiti; Daily Bread; Wheels for Workers; Noah's Helping Hands.

AC Transition Team: (Dave Dahlberg, Heather Hornung-Winkler, Andrea Jarvis, Tina Tehaar, Doug Wurtz, and Pastor Kristen) This team will be working hard to deal with the sacred closure, sale and move of the Amherst Campus and its belongings. They will soon be providing an update as to the final service schedule and the future plans for the evening weekend service.

200th Anniversary Team: (Adrienne Leary, Heidi Ginal, Mary Bashore, Scott Fierle Margene Weiss, Mary Wolf, Chick Biegner) This team is planning an incredible year-long celebration of 200 years of ministry. Later this year, they will share the full plan and dates of the exciting events that will celebrate the sacred moment and aspects of St. Paul's mission.

Construction Team: (Bobby Simpson, Lead Action Team and others). This team will oversee the expansion on the Eggertsville Campus. The team is still being built but currently working with architects from Gordon Jones and Associates to put together details and plans that will be shared with the congregation to vote on in the spring of 2026.

Kristen and I hope this is helpful for you see, not only the incredible reach of St. Paul's, but the people that are making it happen. Please be praying about ways you can support these teams by offering your gifts and talent or consider joining another ministry happening at or through St. Paul's.

We know this for sure...the need for God's love, grace and presence in the world is growing. Thanks be to God for St. Paul's standing in that need.

Be well, safe and blessed–

Ps

Help Needed Removing Holiday Decorations

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!

Tiger's Den Food Pantry



Tiger's Den was overwhelmed by the generosity and kindness of so many people and organizations in December. Donations of food, paper products, personal care items, and gift cards were amazing. Following are a few of the organizations who generously donated: : St. Paul's congregation, St. Benedict's and St. Joseph University, Wegmans, Tops, Whole Foods, Amherst School organizations, Eggertsville Hose Company, Snyder Fire Department, North Amherst Fire Company, Mighty Taco, and all of the individuals who took the time to help those in need.

In **2025**, Tiger's Den assisted **2,784** individuals, which amounted to **923** households. According to FeedMore WNY calculations, these numbers equate to **25,056** meals provided.

January 2026 pantry hours: 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, paper towels, and tissues.

Following are a couple of pictures of the volume of donations recently.



Sunday School

Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a wonderful & joyful Christmas!

January 4th is Family Blessing Sunday, and we encourage families to be a part of this to have a blessing together for the new year!

Sunday school resumes on January 11th.

The children did such a wonderful job on the Christmas Pageant! Here are some pictures for you to enjoy!

Wishing you all a Very Happy & Healthy New Year!

~ June





BURRITO PROJECT



NEXT MEETING:

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

AT 6 PM AT THE EGGERTSVILLE CAMPUS!

If you or your young adult is interested in shopping, making burritos and/or delivering the finished product, please sign up on the Burrito Project sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area at Church.

The Burrito Project is asking for donations of New Winter Hats, Scarves and Socks.

Please leave donations in the labeled collection bin in the entryway at either campus!



New Beginnings for Single Ladies-1/14

Let's celebrate the New Year together

NEW BEGINNINGS *For Single Ladies - Welcome*

Next Meeting: Wednesday, Jan. 14 at 12:00 noon
January Activity - Chair Yoga!!

Marsha C. has arranged with a yoga instructor to come to our meeting. Please wear comfortable clothes. In the middle of winter, what a great way to stretch those stiff muscles and joints!

December Recap: Thank you to Sue Miller for arranging such a fun Christmas gathering. Thank you to Pastor Kristen in telling us a modernization of the Mary & Elizabeth story, followed by a Christmas Joy activity. Afterwards we played silly games, then the opening of the white elephant gifts. Sue even turned that into a game! There was lovely music provided by Judi Gersac, lots of laughs and a very good time by all.



L - R Marsha, Sue, Tracy, Debby,
Judi, Sandy, Pastor Kristen



Try drawing a snowman on top of your head!!

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

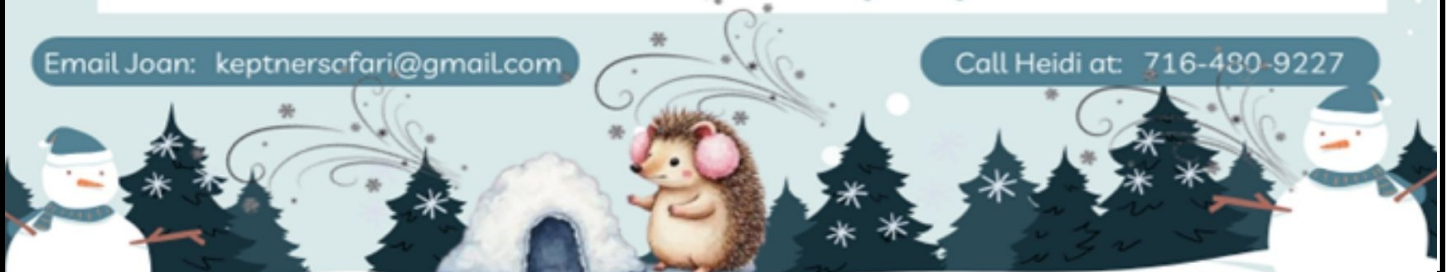
4007 Main St., Eggertsville, NY 14226

Please bring your own bag lunch and drink.

Dessert will be provided by Tracy Nieman.

Email Joan: keptnersefari@gmail.com

Call Heidi at: 716-480-9227



Waiting In Hope Infertility Support Group



WHAT IS WIH?

WAITING IN HOPE MINISTRIES (WIH) is a national non-profit support ministry that exists to encourage, support and embrace those struggling through the grief of difficulty conceiving, known as infertility, miscarriage, adoption, and waiting through the process. We support, encourage, equip and point women and couples to the only hope of Jesus within their waiting and struggle to conceive or grow their family.

The next curriculum begins in January and is "God is in our Waiting", which is a seven-session study. Feel free to join at any point! It is not required to attend every session.

WHEN & WHERE IS WIH?

Every other Monday from 7:00PM-8:30PM* in the Gathering Space at St. Paul's Lutheran Church (4007 Main Street, Eggertsville, NY 14226).

January 12th

January 26th

February 9th

February 23rd

March 9th

March 23rd

April 6th

**Most sessions last an hour, but we allow for extra time after!*

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE SECOND CURRICULUM?

Does God care about my waiting? In pain and waiting we ask the "why God?" questions. This seven-session study focuses on the attributes of God, which moves us toward understanding and healing. In learning who God is, we see that He is more than our circumstances and He is more than enough to handle our hard questions about Him and our pain.

This is an open support group with anonymity. We want you to feel safe, trusted, and not alone. This is for YOU. So come comfy with a blanket, drink and snacks, or whatever else you'd like!

HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

If you would like more information, feel free to reach out to Janelle at 716-471-5484!

5th Annual Snowball Golf Tournament-2/1

5TH "ANNUAL" SNOWBALL GOLF CLASSIC

"CHIPPING AWAY AT HUNGER"

THE DOME
8230 WEHRLE DR.-WILLIAMSVILLE-14221
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026
2 PM SHOTGUN START



Daily Bread
FOOD TRUCK AND MISSION



\$400/FOURSOME-MEAL & 2 DRINK TICKETS INCLUDED
TO REGISTER: DAILYBREADFOODTRUCK.COM

Adult Forum (starts back up 1/4)

ADULT **FORUM**

EVERY SUNDAY | 9:00 AM-9:45 AM

SESSION TOPIC: "ACTS, AS IT RELATES TO COMMUNITY"

LED BY: PASTOR CHICK BIEGNER



SIGN UP AT
CHURCH!

Comforters-1/14

Our next Comforters meeting is **Wednesday, January 14th at 10:00 am.**

Please join us and help in making lap robes, prayer shawls, Confirmation shawls. Baptism Blankets, walker bags or quilts. Or just come and visit with us. Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. upstairs in the parish hall. at 1:00 p.m.

Want more info? Call Sara at 716 834-1833

Pinochle-1/7

Pinochle – Wednesday, January 7th at 1:00 p.m.

Join us on Wednesday, for Pinochle!

Bring a friend. It's not just for St. Paul's folks.

Want more info? Call Heidi at 716 480-9227 or Sara at 716 834-1833, or talk to Barb, Chick, Frank, Cheryl or Sue.

Ask someone to throw it to you.

Music Ministries at SPEC– 2/5



We'd love to have you join us in the
Church Choir at St. Paul's Eggertsville campus,
under the direction of Mr. Paul Storfer.

No experience or training needed. . . .
Only a willingness to participate and sing!

The next rehearsal is

Thursday, February 5th at 7 pm

(*No rehearsal in January)

in the SPEC music room. For those singing in the choir during the worship service, please arrive before worship at 9:30 a.m.

Family Fun Night (Dinner with Friends) at AC- 1/3

DINNER WITH FRIENDS (AKA FAMILY NIGHT)

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

All are welcome to share "Dinner with Friends" on the First Saturday of each month after the 5pm service at the Amherst Campus. We will gather to enjoy a simple meal and enjoy conversation with old and new friends.

Pizza and drinks are provided.

If you are able to bring a side dish (veggies or fruit) or dessert, it would be greatly appreciated.

Simple board games or cards add to the fun so bring your favorite game to share.

If you have any ideas or would like to help, please contact Stacy Johnson @ stacylj27@gmail.com or text 716-698-5504.

January 3rd
February 7th
March 7th
April 4th
May 2nd



Please watch future Messengers for any changes.

Angel Tree



Thanks to everyone for making this years 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."

Wheels for Workers



WHEELS FOR WORKERS JANUARY 2026 REPORT

Drum Roll Please!!

We are pleased to announce that we have surpassed our 2024 number of donated bikes! To date, we have donated 1,637 bikes!! Thank you to all the volunteers, partners, and supporters who made 2025 such a great success!



New Partners

Wheels for Workers partnered with Go Bike, "How We Roll" and 26 other local non-profits as well as the Buffalo News, Explore and More, Wegmans, and the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program to provide 100+ bikes to needy children in our community.

We also provided bikes to The Boys & Girls Club of the Northtowns for the first time adding them to our growing community partner list!

Wheels for Workers (continued)



Let It Snow!!We were able to clear the bikes off the parking lot just before the snow arrived. We appreciate all the support St. Paul's provides to Wheels for Workers as we continue to make a difference in our community

Thank you to St. Paul's

The Lutheran Foundation of Western NY reached out to express their gratitude for St. Paul's \$170 donation. These funds will be used to help support agencies such as RIDE (The Refugee Driver Immigration Program), St. Timothy's Child Care Center on Grand Island, and the Lord of Life Adult Day Care Center.

We received another letter of thanks from the Niagara Lutheran Health Foundation. They wanted to thank the congregation for the gift toward the 2025 Leadership council campaign. These gifts are instrumental in the foundation's success,

Huge thanks to everyone who is continuously reaching beyond ourselves at St. Paul's!

Book Club– 1/8

January Book Club News

When: 2nd Thursday of the month.

Where: Gathering Room at the ALC campus, 5125 Main St.

Time: 7:15 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 8

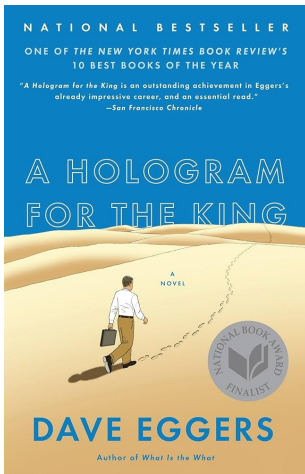
January Book: A Hologram for the King by Dave Eggers

All are welcome.

For more information contact Karin Johnson. Phone/Text

Home: 716-689-6365 or

Cell: 716-860- 9549. Email karinej42@gmail.com



Bible Study-Tuesdays at 10 am

Tuesday Bible Study:

10 am in the Fellowship Room. Bring your own beverage, Timbits (and other goodies) provided.

"What was spoken by the Lord through the prophet..." Prophecies and their fulfillment in and through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, especially from the Gospel of Matthew.

Join us for a look at Old and New Testament and how they fit together!

January Birthdays

January Birthdays

Ellen Herdman-January 3

Richard Heuer-January 5

DeeDee Bulleigh-January 5

Elizabeth Aprile-January 7

John Schunak-January 7

Helen Weber-January 8

Anne Allen-January 9

Leslie Boynton-January 10

Linda Wilger-January 10

Lisa Priebe-January 14

Elaine Masman-January 17

Linda Schunak-January 18

Suzanne Rampino-January 19

Ralph Mast-January 21

Richard Riddoch-January 25

Billie Sue Goll-January 27

Janet Schmidt-January 27

Theresa Tubbs-January 28





St. Paul's Lutheran Eggertsville & Amherst Campus

Website: www.stpaulseggertsville.com

Telephone: 716- 835-0407

Email: office@stpaulseggertsville.com

Pastors

Steve Biegner: (cell) 716 - 868-1232 (email) steve@stpaulseggertsville.com

Kristen Arends: (cell) 716-481-8728 (email) kristen@stpaulseggertsville.com

Directors of Music:

Paul H. Storfer (EC)

Adam Schmidt (AC)

Office Staff: Cody Almeter, Adrienne Leary

Daily Bread Food Truck Coordinator: Leslie Boynton

Tiger's Den Food Pantry Coordinator: Adrienne Leary

Christian Ed Coordinator: June Piette - scs@stpaulseggertsville.com

Youth Ministry: Jordan Dywan - youth@stpaulseggertsville.com

Facilities Manager: Jeff Stein - facilities@stpaulseggertsville.com

Digital Ministry: Andrew Gruszka

St. Paul's Eggertsville Campus

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