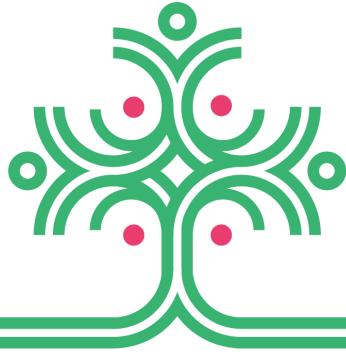


First Sunday of Lent



the good news is...

so good, it catches
us by surprise

February 22, 2026

10:00 am

St. Paul's Eggertsville Campus



Welcome to St. Paul's!

We're glad you're here!

Scan the QR Code Below to check in



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!

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Eggertsville Campus

First Sunday of Lent

February 22, 2026

Guest Musician: Billy Brandau

Confession and Forgiveness (Please stand if you are able.)

P We worship in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

C Amen

P If God threw a party, all would be invited.

C If God hosted a dinner, there'd be a seat saved for each of us.

P If God prepared a banquet,

C a cheer would go up when you arrived.

P This is the good news: God is throwing a party. God is hosting a dinner. God is preparing a banquet, and all are invited.

C Let us worship this **invitational God**.

P Family of faith, if someone declines our invitations again and again, in our human ways, we tend to stop inviting them. We get the hint. We assume they'd rather be elsewhere. But with God, things are different. No matter how many times we overlook or ignore God's outstretched hand, God will never stop reaching for us. So, with that good news in mind, let us go to God in prayer. Gracious God,

C you invite all of us to your table: the faithful and the doubting, the restless and the hopeless, the addicted and the lonely, the lost and the confused. You invite all of us, regardless of who we are or where we've been, but we often fail to do the same. When given the opportunity, we are guilty of casting judgment on our neighbors. We draw lines, assume the worst, create cliques, and accept exclusion. Forgive our harmful ways. This Lent, show us how to love others the way you love us. With hope we pray, amen.

P Friends, no matter how many times we mess up, no matter how many times we lose our way, no matter how many times we decline God's invitation, God will never stop inviting us to the table. There is and always will be a seat saved for you. There is and always will be love and grace for you. You are forgiven and set free to forgive and love others in the exact same way, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

C Thanks be to God, amen.

Opening Hymn: LBW 99

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days



1 O Lord, through-out these for - ty days you prayed and kept the fast;
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your faith - ful - ness en - dured;
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and fixed your mind a - bove;
4 Be with us through this sea-son, Lord, and all our earth-ly days,



in - spire re - pen - tance for our sin, and free us from our past.
lend us your nerve, your skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
so teach us to de - ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
that when the fi - nal Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan, b. 1930
Music: CAITHNESS, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1635

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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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 Holy One, it is easy to see the mustard plant and forget to marvel at the seed. It is easy to taste good wine and not appreciate it. It is easy to miss the holy that is in our midst. So as we turn to your text today, we pray, surprise us. Speak to us. Move through us. Draw us closer to your good news. We wait with bated breath.

C Amen.

Children's Time

First Reading: Matthew 13:31-32

He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

A This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 34:1-10 (read responsively)

A I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

C My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.

A O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

C I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.

A Look to him, and be radiant, so your faces shall never be ashamed.

C This poor soul cried and was heard by the LORD and was saved from every trouble.

A The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him and delivers them.

C O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.

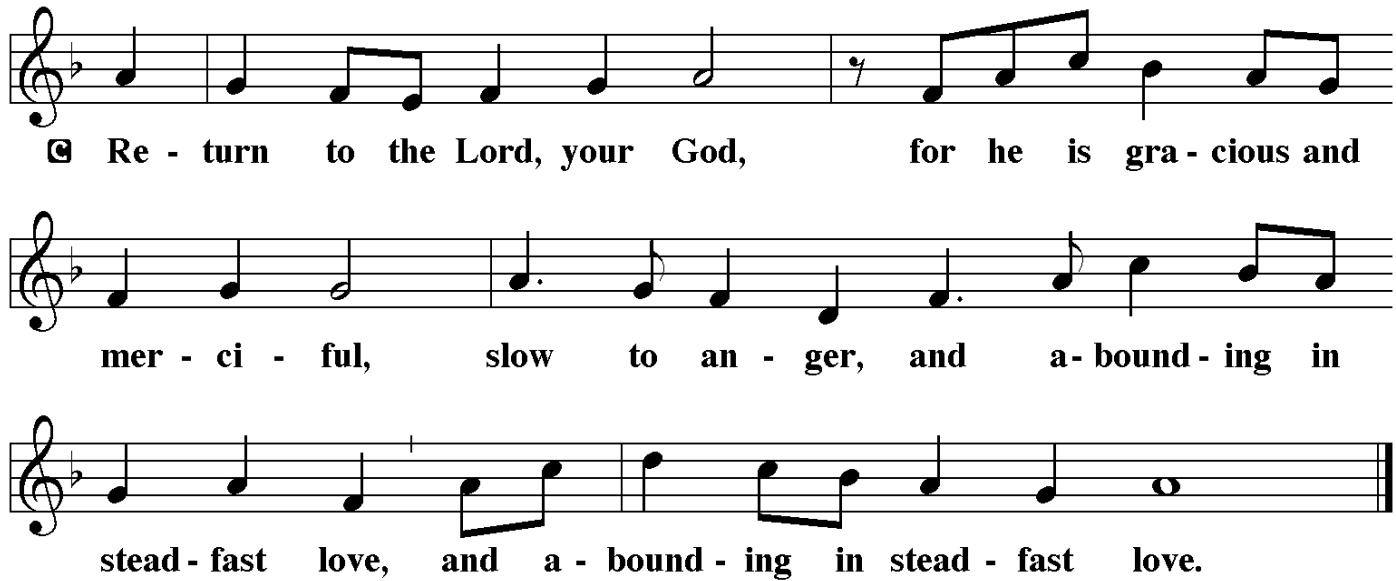
A O fear the LORD, you his holy ones, for those who fear him have no want.

C The young lions suffer want and hunger, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

A This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



C Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

P The Holy Gospel according to John the 2nd Chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet." So they took it. When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

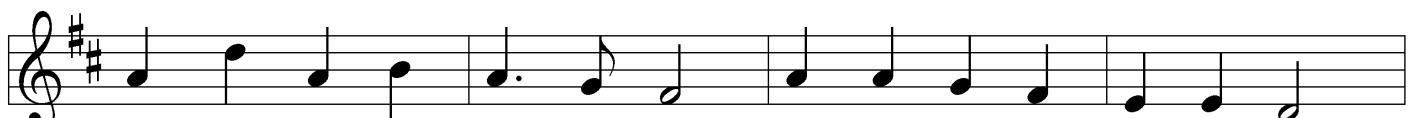
Sermon

Hymn of the Day: LBW 90

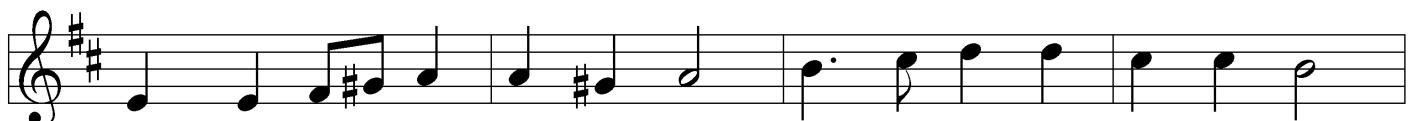
Songs of Thankfulness and Praise



1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Proph - et, Priest, and King su - preme;
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole pal - sied limbs and faint-ing soul;
4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,
and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;
man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;
grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;



branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;
man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:
that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,



an - them be to thee ad - dressed,
an - them be to thee ad - dressed,
an - them be to thee ad - dressed,
and may praise thee, ev - er blest,
God in flesh made man - i - fest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885

Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702, adapt.

Apostle's Creed

A Together we say what we believe using the words of the Apostle's 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

A Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs. (Please kneel or sit as you are able.)
God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and hatred. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated. 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 all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

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 Giving Code:

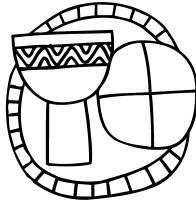


Last Week's Service Offerings: \$ 15,172.00

Budgeted Weekly Service Offering: \$7,488.00

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.



Dialogue and Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And Also with you.

P Jesus has always been one to invite. He said, “Drop your nets and follow me.” He said, “Let the little children come.” He said, “Stand up from your mat, you are healed.” Jesus has always been one to invite, and that has not changed. So friends, you are invited to this Table. Each and every one of us—with our doubts, our fears, our scars, our joy, our dreams, our hopes, our questions—we are invited to God’s table.

C And here we will be met. Here we will be fed. Here we are given a taste of an expansive life that is full to the brim with love, overflowing with joy.

P So come. Not because you must, but because you can. Come. You are invited. This Table is for you.

C God who knows us, we are amazed by you. Your love never runs out, your hope never runs dry, your joy never gives up. We wish that we could be more like you in that way.

P In a world that loves scarcity, your abundance is shocking. In a world that knows fear, your joy is compelling. In a world that knows anxiety, your peace is captivating. We long for these things. And you gave that to us in this meal.

We celebrate that on the night that Jesus was handed over, he took bread, blessed it and broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: “This is my body, given for you; Do this in remembrance of me.”

And again, after supper he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for them 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 in remembrance of me.”

God, we are amazed by you. Your love never runs out, so bring that never-ending love here. Together we pray:

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 Loving Christ, thank you for the bread that nourishes our bodies. Thank you for the cup that quenches our thirst. Thank you for this community, which reminds us who we are. Thank you for this Table that brings us together. Thank you for the music that lifts our spirits. Thank you for the promise that at this Table, and every table, you will be there. May this holy meal nourish us to go out into the world speaking of your good, good news. With joy and hope we pray.

C Amen.

Benediction

P As you leave this place, when you meet anger, speak with love. When you meet fear, speak with hope. When you meet pain, speak with gentleness. But no matter what, speak this good news. For the good news of the gospel is love and justice for all. It is joy that surprises, and grace that transforms. The good news of the gospel is alive in the world, so go forth speaking. For if we won't, then who will? Thanks be to God for this good, good news. And all God's children' said:

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: LBW 259

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing



1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,



let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.



Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der-ness.
Ev - er faith-ful, ev - er faith-ful to your truth may we be found.
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end-less day.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt.

Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian, 18th cent.

Sharing the Peace and Sending

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: February 22—March 1, 2026

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

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

Monday: 4:15 pm: Daily Bread Food Truck Meal Share
5:30-9:00 pm: Straight Pepper Diet Meeting at AC
7:00-8:30 pm: Waiting in Hope

Tuesday: 10:00 am: Bible Study
5:00-6:30 pm: We Can No Longer Blame Others (NA)
7:00 pm: Lutheran Chorale

Wednesday: 12:00 pm: Soup and Psalms
6:30-8:30 pm: Ray of Hope Prayer Group at AC
8:00 pm: AA Meeting

Thursday: No Events Planned

Friday: 7:00 pm-12:00 am: Lasertron Lock-In

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, Sunday School, and Baptism
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope at AC

Deacons: 2/22: Barbara Walter

Ushers: 2/22: Robin Miano & Sharon Adimey; 3/1: Gerri Horton & Helen Gibson

Prayer List: In our congregational and extended family: Maurice Saxton; Deb Davern (Tiger's Den volunteer); Norma Hornung; Christine Vranich; Kathryn Brown; Judy Brown; Edna Mann; Barbara Fisher; Cheryl Shepker; Maria Neudecker; David Wieczorek; Lavon Amos; Cindy Milazzo Schwartz; 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
Jack Gallagher: Amberleigh, 2330 Maple Road, #183, Williamsville, NY 14221
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
Sylvia McLaughlin: 44 Sherwin Drive, Tonawanda, NY 14150
Wilma Nantka: Fredonia Place, 201 Reist Street, #238, Williamsville, NY 14221
Charles Scofield: Fredonia Place, 201 Reist Street, #228, Williamsville, NY 14221
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 remaining pantry hours for February are: Saturday 2/28 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm. Donations for February: coffee, tea, and juice.

First Communion: If you have a student who would be interested in making their First Communion, class will be held on Sunday, March 8 from 11:00 am-12:00 pm. Students will make their First Communion during worship on Saturday, March 14 or Sunday, March 15. Please email Pastor Kristen at kristen@stpaulseggertsville.com if you are interested in participating.

**EVERY WEDNESDAY,
(STARTING 2/25 AND ENDING
3/25), WE WILL GATHER AT
ST. PAUL'S AT 12 PM AND
ENJOY SOUP AND PSALMS
TOGETHER. WE ARE ASKING
THAT SOMEONE BRING ONE
VEGETARIAN AND ONE MEAT
SOUP TO EACH GATHERING.
PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE
GATHERING AREA IF YOU
ARE ABLE TO DO SO!**

Soup &

PSALMS





ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

LASERTRON LOCK-IN

6-12th Grade
Open to all youth! Invite your friends, family, and all looking for an evening of fun and joy!

FEB 27-28
9:00pm-6:30am

\$70
6 Hours of Laser Tag, Krazy Darts, Pizza, Pop, Snacks, Arcade Games, Group Building, Transportation, Billiards, Worship, and More!

More Information & Registration [HERE!](#)

MUST Register by: 2/19

DROP OFF: St. Paul's, 4007 Main St, Buffalo, NY 14226
PICK UP: Lastertron, 5101 N Bailey Ave, Buffalo, NY 14226



SPAGHETTI DINNER

& Basket Raffle Fundraiser

Saturday, March 21st 4:00-7:00pm

Your free will donation supports our youth group with LCLC camperships and travel to the 2027 Youth Gathering!

• •

Good food. Good fun. Great cause.

Non-alcoholic beverages will be served. BYO wine or beer.



+ 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