

March
2026

The Messenger

St. Paul's Lutheran Church



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Egbertsville & Amherst
Campuses



2026 Loaves & Fishes Challenge

This Lent, our congregation is joining other Lutheran Churches in a friendly competition to collect cereal and canned meats for local families in need.

From now through Good Friday, please bring your donations to church & place them on the designated table in the entryway at Egbertsville.

If you'd prefer to shop online and have items shipped directly to the church, see Amazon lists below!

\$50 Loaves and Fishes Lenten Challenge Amazon List:
<https://a.co/ogEqbDOq>

\$25 Loaves and Fishes Lenten Challenge Amazon List:
<https://a.co/odsnPKnH>



*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)*

Eggertsville House Building Update

As promised, we wanted to share some updates on the planning progress for the Eggertsville House expansion.

1. We are developing new teams of people to help with the planning and implementation of the new ministry site: Interior design; Communications; Marketing; Daily Bread Mission Growth; Outdoor Landscaping. We'll spend some time in worship on March 7 and 8th explaining and signing up for each team.
2. The Building Team continues to hone the new space with the architect. A VERY exciting process.
3. Now that the Town Planning Board has approved the concept, we have three construction companies looking at the initial drawings to give us bids on their price ranges. That will help us get a range to share with the whole congregation at a congregational meeting in late May to vote on the project. Construction would begin this summer already!
4. The 200th Anniversary Team is planning a fundraising campaign to raise funds to pay for the ministries that will take place through the new space at the Eggertsville house.
5. Some other new ministry potentials because of the unique space: Daemen University student study groups; Saturday/Sunday health groups (running, yoga, stretching) with coffee and food truck after; youth group meeting space/games nights/devotions that matches comfortable coffee house feel; community "soup nights;" open mic nights.

Keep praying for the leadership that is doing the planning, ask/email questions you may have and get ready for an exciting step in the 200 year history of St. Paul's.

Tiger's Den Food Pantry



TIGER'S DEN

Food Pantry

In case you were wondering how Tiger's Den survived the ferocious winter weather in February, this might give you an idea!



Yes, the high winds, snow, and ice finally took down our tent – but in spite of that, Tiger's Den was still able to provide food, paper products, and personal care items to 73 families who braved the February weather. And yes, we plan to purchase a new tent, aka car port, sometime in the spring/summer. Our tents have provided shelter and additional outside space for our families to shop, find a bit of shade, and get out of the snow. Thank you to everyone for their continued support to our pantry. You are what makes the pantry a success.

March hours: Thursdays 3/5 and 3/19 from 3:00-6:30 pm; and Saturdays 3/14 and 3/28 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm.

Donations for March: canned mandarin oranges, mayonnaise, ketchup

Burrito Project 3/17

BURRITO PROJECT



NEXT MEETING:

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

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.

New Beginnings for Single Ladies

NEW BEGINNINGS for Single Ladies

March 18 @ 10:00 A.M.



- * Welcome - New Beginnings was created for all women that are in a new chapter of their lives: whether widowed, divorced, single or uniquely single (your husband may be disabled/alzheimer) We are here to support each other in a positive, uplifting way. . . and to enjoy fun times together!

Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 18 at 10:00 am. Due to the Soup & Psalms at noon, we have to switch times. This month Judi Gersic will be leading the group in Mindfulness exercises. Mindfulness relieves stress and anxiety. It can also improve our focus and concentration. It is also known to have physical health benefits like reducing blood pressure and might improve your immune system.

Please join us in St. Paul's Gathering Space.

Dessert will be provided by Joan K. & Sue Miller. Please bring your own drink. Coffe and tea will be provided.



Email Joan: keptnersafari@gmail.com

Call Heidi: 716-480-9227

Wishing you a wealth of happiness and all the joy your heart can hold!

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Daily Bread Food Truck

Thank you!

The 5th Annual Snowball Golf Classic was a huge success, thanks to many of you!

We were able to raise over \$15,000 for our free meal shares in 2026. Our total expenses for the year are just over \$54,000, so this is a big part of keeping us rolling.

We're also so thankful for your participation in the great fellowship, community and laughter that happened at the Dome. Really fantastic!

We truly appreciate everyone who donated gift baskets, gift cards, money & time to this event. It keeps getting better year after year!



Transition Team March Update

Transition Team - March Update

The Transition Team has been busy continuing to merge our new campuses and look toward the future. Here are a few updates we wanted to share.

Stained Glass: All the small pieces have future homes. Some made by Tom Nantka will be donated to Roswell and Hospice. The large windows will not be removed by us at this time because it would require us to replace the windows. However, the buyers of the building have indicated that there will be a chance for families to take them if and when they plan to remove them. We are still looking for a photographer or an eye for design for a project with the stained glass.

Closing Date: After much work with the state Attorney General and our lawyers, we are in the process of firming up our closing date and should have that information any day now! This does not change our plans to host our last worship service on May 16th and be out of the building by the middle of June.

Inventory: Working with our team and the renters in the building we are getting clarity around items in the building so we know what is our responsibility to re-home.

Team Coordination: Connecting the archives group, finance, office staff, altar guild, and Daily Bread Food Truck to merge our campuses.

Columbarium: The remaining wall insert in the columbarium will be moving to Parkside as the inserts were made by the same designer.

Thank you to all who have been helping to prepare for this move at both campuses.

~Pastor Kristen & the Transition Team (Dave Dahlberg, Doug Wurtz, Heather Hornung-Winkler, Tina Tehaar, and Andrea Jarvis)

Waiting In Hope Infertility Support Group

WAITING *in* HOPE INFERTILITY SUPPORT MINISTRIES

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 March 9th

January 26th March 23rd

February 9th April 6th

February 23rd

**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!

Adult Forum

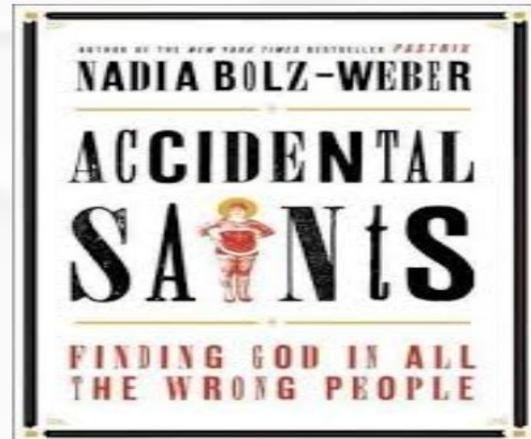
ADULT FORUM

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

LED BY: KARIN JOHNSON

SESSION TOPIC:
"DIVE INTO DIFFICULT
TRUTHS", FIND
COMMON GROUND,
AND LEARN TO LOOK
FOR GOD IN ALL PEOPLE
EVERYWHERE

SIGN UP AT CHURCH!



First Communion

NOW PREPARING FOR

first communion

HAVE A STUDENT WHO MAY BE INTERESTED?

CLASS: SUNDAY, MARCH 8th AFTER WORSHIP
(11 AM - 12 PM)

STUDENTS WILL THEN RECEIVE THEIR FIRST
COMMUNION IN WORSHIP ON
SAT 3/14 OR SUN 3/15

TO SIGN UP: EMAIL KRISTEN AT
KRISTEN@STPAULSEGGERTSVILLE.COM

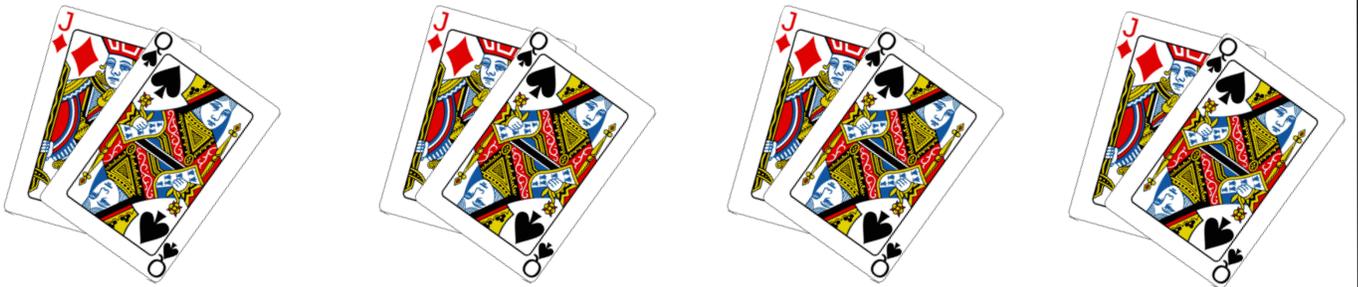
Pinochle-3/4

Pinochle – Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Again, we found new players at the adult retreat in January. We had eight players at our February games. There were lots of laughs and It was a good time for all. Please don't hesitate to join us.

Our next date for playing Pinochle is Wednesday, March 4th after the Lenten "Soup and Psalms"..about 1:00 pm. We play until about 4:00.

Want more info? Call Heidi at 716 480-9227 or Sara at 716 834-1833.



Music Ministries at SPEC- 3/5



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, March 5th at 7 pm

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

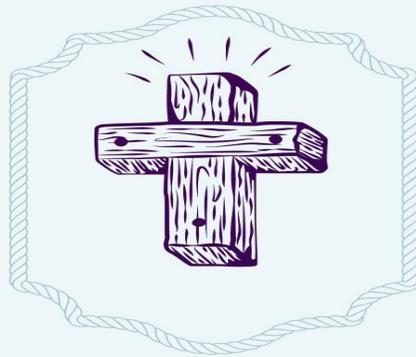
Comforters-3/11

At our February meeting we were happy to welcome Wendy who found us on the internet. Our March meeting will be during Lent so at noon we will go down to the "Soup and Psalms" for lunch and dessert.

We are working on making quilts, lap robes, prayer shawls, baptism blankets and walker bags. In any event, we will start at **10:00** am up in the parish hall. Please join us and find out what you can do to help, or bring your own project to work on.

All are invited. If you have any questions, Call Sara at 716 834-1833, or Linda at 716 689-3781.

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday & Easter Services



Maundy Thursday Service (4/2):
6 pm at Eggertsville

Good Friday Services (4/3):
12 pm & 7 pm at Eggertsville

Easter Vigil Service (4/4):
5 pm at Amherst

Easter Sunday Services (4/5):
7 am & 10 am at Eggertsville

Refugee Resettlement Team News by Margene Weiss



"Ramadan Mubarak". Ramadan Greetings

The Al Shohani family living in Olin House, as well as the Al Hafyan family in Kahle House, have started to observe the holy month of Ramadan.

The first night of Ramadan was observed on Wednesday, February 18 and will continue for one month. It is obligatory for adult Muslims to abstain from food and any beverages from dawn until sundown each day. Muslims devote more time to prayer and acts of charity, striving to improve their self-discipline, reflection and empathy for those less fortunate. The evening meal, *iftar*, is celebrated at sunset, with families and with friends. Ramadan is the month that the book of Quran is believed to have been revealed to the prophet Muhammed.

At the end of the month, Muslims celebrate the festival of Eid al-Fitr and that will be at sunset on or around March 20, 2026 (depending on the sighting of the new moon).

Families and friends gather in homes or at mosques for celebrations and delicious holiday meals. It would be appropriate to say, "*Eid Mubarak*" meaning *Eid Blessings*.

In the Church Family

Jared & Emilie Manhardt welcomed a baby girl, Scarlett, on Sunday, February 8th. Congratulations to the family on this wonderful blessing!



Sunday School

March into spring with our Sunday school kids!

This month First Communion class will be offered on March 8th.

Pizza will be provided and the kids and I will be making bread together.

Those children will then be making their First Communion the following week on March 15th!

Please let me or one of our Pastors know if your child is interested and ready for this wonderful experience during the month of Lent.

In February we had our annual Valentines celebration! The children decorated gift bags that they filled with various items for our shut in members including a suncatcher valentine!

We had other stations set up as well. We decorated cookies, played games and made Valentines for those we love!

Hopefully by the end of this month, we will be seeing more sunlight and warming trends!

In peace & love ~ June



Spaghetti Dinner-3/21



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH, EGGERTSVILLE



SPAGHETTI DINNER

*& Basket Raffle
Fundraiser*



**SATURDAY
MARCH 21, 2026**

**4:00PM - 7:00PM
IN UPSTAIRS PARISH HALL**

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
but you may bring your own wine/beer.

2027 ELCA
YOUTH GATHERING

**IMAGINE
more**

MYLE, THE TABLE,
& YOUNG ADULTS

LCLC Summer Camp Schedule

LCLC SUMMER SCHEDULE

- 1 JUNE 28 - JULY 3
Family Camp & Alumni
- 2 JULY 5 - 10 (5 - 8 for Minis)
Classic I & Mini Camp
- 3 JULY 12 - 17
Classic II & RATS
- 4 JULY 19 - 24
Classic III & RATS
- 5 JULY 26 - 31
Senior High Week
- 6 AUGUST 2 - 7
Night Owls

Faith-filled summer camp has been shown to have a lifelong impact on a young person's connection to their faith and the church.

We at St. Paul's want to make it easy for your family and your kids to experience the wonder of God's love at LCLC this summer.

Use this discount code at registration to receive \$150 off your week at camp!
STPAULSEGG26
www.lclcenter.org

Soup & Psalms (ends 3/25)

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



Wheels for Workers

Wheels for Workers is starting off with a bang with 107 bike repaired and donated in 2026! We continue to work with two Amherst students every Wednesday and we're pleased to host a group of students from the Nichols School.

If you are looking for a new bike or want to sell one, check out the upcoming Bike Swap at Riverworks(see attached picture for info). Wheels for Workers is the charity of choice for this event.

Finally, if you are looking to donate that bicycle that is collecting dust in your garage, we will come and get it and give it a new home.

We are so grateful for the support of St. Paul's and its parishioners!

in association with **WOLFPACK** MULTISPORT

sponsored by **wheels for workers** 716

WNYMBA

WNY BIKE FEST

SUNDAY MARCH 8

10:30 - 4:00PM

Sell a Bike –
Buy a Bike –
Attend a Seminar –
Meet Cool People –
Drink Good Beer –
Go Home Happy!

our valued local partners:

KICKSTAND **Campus** **FREEWHEEL**
TOMS **BERT'S**

RIVERWORKS
Buffalo RiverWorks
359 Ganson Street
Buffalo, New York
(free parking in surrounding lots)

Educational Seminars:
Triathlon Series
= New to Triathlon?
= Aero Swimming
= Nutrition for Endurance Athletes
= Strength Training
Intro to Bike Packing
Intro to Mountain Biking
(learn the basics and where to ride in WNY)
Maintenance & Fix-a-flat
Intro to Bike Racing

Want to Sell a Bike?
Scan the QR Code
Scan for all the Details

participating organizations: Niagara Frontier Bicycle Club | The Buffalo Bicycling Club | Buffalo Triathlon Club | Tonawanda Triathlon Club | Score-This!

participating organizations: Wilson Endurance | CHY Triathlon Club | Rochester Area Triathletes | Western New York Mountain Bicycling Association

Easter Flower Order Form



Easter Plants Order Form

Easter is right around the corner. If you would like to purchase Easter flowers in memory/honor of a loved one, or for yourself, the plants are \$10 each. Pay by cash or check. Please make all checks payable to: St. Paul's Lutheran Church!

Orders are due by March 22

Please plan to bring flowers home with you after the Easter Service

Your name: _____

<u>Plant</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>\$10 each</u>	<u>In memory/honor of</u>
Lily	_____	_____	_____
Daffodil	_____	_____	_____
Tulip	_____	_____	_____
Hyacinth	_____	_____	_____

Total: _____



Book Club- 3/12

March Book Club News

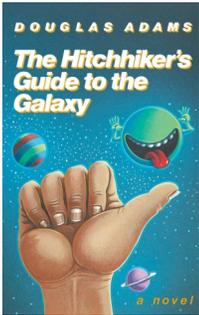
When: 2nd Thursday of the month.

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

Time: 7:15 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 12

March Book: A Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams



April Book: Inland by Te'a Obrecht

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!

March Birthdays

March Birthdays

Karen Vilonen	March 2
Lavon Amos	March 3
Susan Mumma	March 5
Wilma Nantka	March 11
Robert Gromer	March 13
Marcia Gunther	March 13
Donna Keene	March 16
MaryAnn Gettman	March 19
Joel Carter	March 21
Mary Bashore	March 25
Mark Efstation	March 25
John Dona	March 26



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
4007 Main Street
Eggertsville, NY 14226

Amherst Lutheran Campus
5125 Main St.
Williamsville, NY 14221