

*Second Saturday
in Lent*



the good news is..

great love for
God & neighbor

February 28, 2026

5:00 pm

St. Paul's Amherst 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
Amherst Campus
Second Saturday in Lent
February 28, 2026*

Musician: Adam Schmidt

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.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 335

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

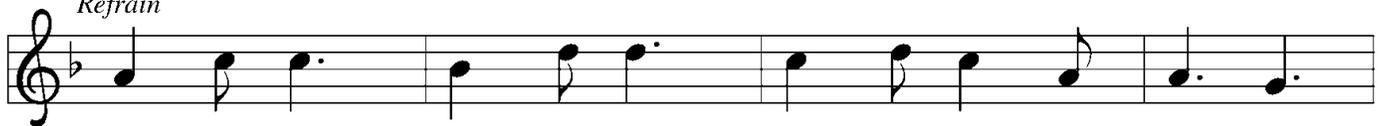


1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

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 Good news God, speak louder than the news updates. Speak louder than our mental distractions. Speak louder than our anger and louder than our fear. God, speak loudly to us today, because we long to hear your good news once more. With hope we pray, amen.

C Amen.

First Reading: Matthew 25:35-40

...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’

A This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103:1-13 (read responsively)

A Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

C Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—who forgives all your iniquity,

A who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

C who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

A The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

C He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

A The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 7th Chapter.
C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 7:36-50

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and when he went into the Pharisee's house he reclined to dine. And a woman in the city who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair, kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner." Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." "A certain moneylender had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven loves little." Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" But he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ.



Sermon

What Wondrous Love Is This



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Apostle's Creed

P 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

Prayers of the Church

P Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs. (Please be seated.)

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss, especially 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.

P Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new missionaries in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

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

C Amen.

Offering Hymn: W&P 19: Bless His Holy Name

E_b *E_bdim⁷* *B_b⁷/F* *B_b⁷* *E_b* *B_b⁷/F* *E_b⁷/G*

Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is with -

A_bsus₂⁴ *A_b* *A_bm⁷* *Cm⁷/G* *G_bdim* *B_b⁷/F* *B_b* *E_b* *A_b/E_b* *E_b*

in me, bless his ho - ly name.

Cm⁶ *B_b⁷* *Dm⁷(_b5)* *E_b*

He has done great things, he has done great things,

E_b⁷ *E_b/G* *A_b* *Fm⁷(_b5)* *E_b/B_b* *B_b⁷* *E_b*

he has done great things: bless his ho - ly name!

E_b *E_bdim⁷* *B_b⁷/F* *B_b⁷* *E_b* *B_b⁷/F* *E_b⁷/G*

Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is with -

A_bsus₂⁴ *A_b* *A_bm⁷* *Cm⁷/G* *G_bdim* *B_b⁷/F* *B_b* *E_b* *A_b/E_b* *E_b*

in me, bless his ho - ly name.

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:

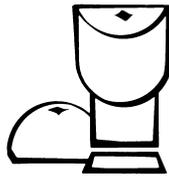


Last Week's Service Offerings: \$ 2,766.00

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 Hymn: W&P 61

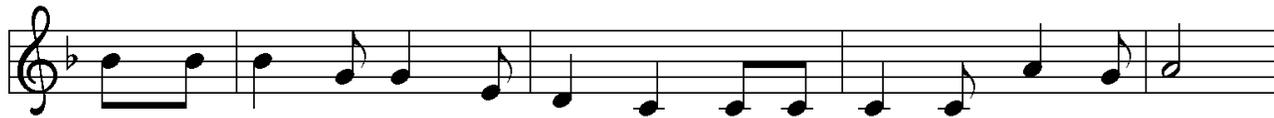
Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy

Santo, santo, santo, santo

Refrain/Estribillo



San-to, san - to, san - to, san - to, san-to, san - to_es nues - tro Dios,
Ho - ly, ho - ly is our God,



Se - ñor de to-da la tie - rra. San-to, san - to_es nues - tro Dios.
God, the Lord of earth and heav - en. Ho - ly, ho - ly is our God.



San-to, san - to, san - to, san - to, san-to, san - to_es nues - tro Dios,
Ho - ly, ho - ly is our God,



End/Fin

Se - ñor de to-da la his - to - ria. San-to, san - to_es nues - tro Dios.
God, the Lord of all of his - t'ry. Ho - ly, ho - ly is our God.



Que a-com-pa - ña a nues - tro pue - blo, que vi - ve en nues - tras lu - chas,
Who ac - com - pa - nies our peo - ple, who lives with - in our strug - gles,



del u - ni - ver - so en - te - ro el ú - ni - co Se - ñor.
of all the earth and heav - en the one and on - ly Lord.



Ben - di - tos los que en su nom - bre el e - van - ge - lio a - nun - cian,
Blest are they who in the Lord's name an - nounce the ho - ly gos - pel,



Refrain/Estribillo

la bue - na y gran no - ti - cia de la li - be - ra - ción.
pro - claim - ing the good news that our lib - er - a - tion comes.

We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus



1 We are bap-tized in Christ Je - sus, we are bap - tized in his death;
2 In the wa - ter and the wit-ness, in the break-ing of the bread,
3 Glo-ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo-ry be to Christ the Son,



that as Christ is raised vic - to - rious, we might live a brand new life.
in the wait - ing arms of Je - sus, who is ris - en from the dead,
glo-ry to the Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er three and ev - er one;



And if we have been u - nit - ed in a dread-ful death like his,
God has made a new be - gin - ning from the ash - es of our past;
as it was in the be - gin - ning, glo - ry now re - sounds a - gain



we will all be re - u - nit - ed, for he lives.
in the los - ing and the win - ning we hold fast.
in a song that has no end - ing. . . . A - men.

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: WOV 699

Blessed Assurance



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di - vine!
- 2 Per - fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per - fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal - va - tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
an - gels de-scend-ing bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look - ing a - bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long:



this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

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: March 1-8, 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, Sunday School, and Baptism of Hayden Calandra
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:** 9:30 am-12:00 pm: Way To Go Tours
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
1:00 pm: Pinochle Group
6:30-8:30 pm: Ray of Hope Prayer Group at AC
8:00 pm: AA Meeting
- Thursday:** 3:00-6:30 pm: Tiger's Den Food Pantry Open
7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal
- Friday:** No Events Planned
- Saturday:** 9:00 am-12:00 pm: Confirmation Class at St. Paul's
9:00 am-3:00 pm: Peniel Haitian Church at AC
5:00 pm: Worship and Communion at AC, followed by Dinner with Friends (Family Fun Night)
- 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
11:00 am-12:00 pm: First Communion Class
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope at AC

Prayer List: In our congregational and extended family: Maurice Saxton; Deb Davern (Tiger's Den volunteer); Norma Hornung; Christine Vranich; Barbara Fisher; Cheryl Shepker; Maria Neudecker; David Wiczorek; 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 pantry hours for March are: 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, and ketchup.*

First Communion: *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





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*

Pastors

*Steve Biegner (716-868-1232 - cell); Email: steve@stpaulseggertsville.com
Kristen Arends: Email: kristen@stpaulseggertsville.com*

Directors of Music: *Paul H. Storfer (SPEC) and Adam Schmidt (AC)*
Christian Education Coordinator: *June Piette: scs@stpaulseggertsville.com*
Youth Ministry: *Jordan Dywan: 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