Fourth Saturday in Lent

the good news is...

protection & care for the vulnerable

March 14, 2026
5:00 pm
St. Paul's Amherst Campus

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Amherst Campus
Fourth Saturday in Lent
March 14, 2026

Musician: Adam Schmidt

On Sunday, we celebrate the First Communion of: Luke, Matthew, and Sarah Swierczynski; Dylan, Ryan, and Riley Burow; Simon Spoth; Jack and Evan DiVico; and Addy Hannon

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: WOV 745

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death

1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
3 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
4 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.

so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984
Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829

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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, sometimes the simplest of your commands are the hardest for us to hear. You say, "Love your enemy." "Turn the other cheek." "Care for the widow and the orphan." And we want to know: How? When? Where? Today as we turn to your word, open up space in us to simply hear your truth for what it is. Open up space in our hearts to dream new dreams, to imagine new realities, to draw closer to you and closer to love. With hope for a better tomorrow, we listen, we pray. Amen.

C Amen.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 24:17-22

You shall not deprive a resident alien or an orphan of justice; you shall not take a widow's garment in pledge. Remember that you were a slave in Egypt and the Lord your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this. "When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be left for the alien, the orphan, and the widow, so that the Lord your God may bless you in all your undertakings. When you beat your olive trees, do not strip what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow. "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow. Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I am commanding you to do this.

A This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146:1-10 (read responsively)

A I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

C Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

A When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

C Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;

A who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

C The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

A The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

C The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

A The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

A This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn: WOV 740

Jesus, Remember Me

Text: Luke 23:42; Taizé Community
Music: REMEMBER ME, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
Text and music © 1981 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 19th Chapter.
C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 19:13-15

Then children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them, but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

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

Sermon

Sermon Hymn: LBW 448

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

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.)

God, our shepherd, we pray that you guide the church. Lead Christians in our community and across the globe in right paths for your name's sake. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P God our provider, we cry out for this planet and the life it holds. Rescue endangered animals and plants, preserve threatened ecosystems, and save creatures from natural disasters. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P God our sovereign, we plead for your peace on earth. Bring an end to war and violence, and raise up leaders in governments, courts, businesses, schools, and community organizations who seek goodness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P God our healer, we call to you in our need. Uplift all who are made to feel unimportant, and transform the hearts of all infected by bigotry and prejudice. Care for all in special need this day, 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 God our friend, we praise you for the diversity of people among us. Awaken us to share and receive the gifts we each possess, and stir up a spirit of understanding, celebration, and welcome for all. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P God our home, we thank you for all who have died and completed their baptismal journeys. Grant us faith to live until we too dwell in your house forever. 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: ELW 653

Where True Charity and Love Abide

Ubi caritas et amor

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor, De - us i - bi est.
Where true char - i - ty and love a - bide, God is dwell-ing there.

1 We are gath - ered by the one love of Christ Je - sus;
2 Since we are all one in the Lord, as we gath - er,
3 All sur - round - ed by the blest saints, we shall see you

let us lift our voic - es to God and be joy - ful.
let us be watch - ful that no strife still di - vide us.
face to face in glo - ry and light, O Christ Je - sus.

In ho - ly won - der let us love the liv - ing God,
Con - ten - tion, en - vy, ill will, spite— may these all cease;
With ho - ly joy far be - yond thought we shall be full,

and may our hearts ev - er be one in faith - ful love.
with us, a - bid - ing in our midst, is Christ our God.
from age to age, world with - out end, for - ev - er - more.

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: $4,387.00
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 76

Jesus, Lamb of God

Post Communion Hymn: WOV 664

A New Commandment

Text: John 13:34–35
Music: NEW COMMANDMENT, anonymous

Distribution Hymn: LBW 479

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -

guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
trust re-move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887
Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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 778: O Christ the Same (on the following page)

Sharing the Peace and Sending

P Go in peace, serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God.

O Christ the Same

1 O Christ the same, through all our sto - ry's pag - es—
2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin - ners, shar - ing
3 O Christ the same, se - cure with - in whose keep - ing

our loves and hopes, our fail - ures and our fears;
our in - most thoughts, the se - crets none can hide;
our lives and loves, our days and years re - main;

e - ter - nal Lord, the king of all the a - ges,
still as of old up - on your bod - y bear - ing
our work and rest, our wak - ing and our sleep - ing,

un - chang - ing still a - mid the pass - ing years:
the marks of love in tri - umph glo - ri - fied:
our calm and storm, our plea - sure and our pain:

O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,
O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en—
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,

who spread the skies and set the stars a - blaze;
O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing power;
for all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;

O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,
O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en:
O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows,

we bring our thanks for all our yes - ter - days.
we bring our thanks for this the pres - ent hour.
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: March 15-22, 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, First Communion, and Baptism of Henry Spitzer
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: 10:00 am: Bible Study
5:00-6:30 pm: We Can No Longer Blame Others (NA)
6:00 pm: Burrito Project
7:00 pm: Church Council Meeting
7:00 pm: Lutheran Chorale

Wednesday: 10:00 am: New Beginnings
12:00 pm: Soup and Psalms
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

Friday: No Events Planned

Saturday: 9:00 am-3:00 pm: Peniel Haitian Church at AC
4:00-7:00 pm: Spaghetti Dinner & Basket Raffle Fundraiser
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, and Sunday School
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope at AC

Prayer List: In our congregational and extended family: *Martha Szczerbinski; Sondra Howe; Claudia Mols; Maurice Saxton; Norma Hornung; Christine Vranich; 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 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: cereal, fruit juice, and diced tomatoes.*

Soup and Psalms: *Every Wednesday during Lent (ending 3/25/26) beginning at 12:00 pm, you are invited to participate in sharing soup and psalms with other St. Paul's missionaries.*

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 Eggertsville.

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/0gEqbD0q

$25 Loaves and Fishes Lenten Challenge Amazon List:
https://a.co/0dsnPKnH

Holy Week Services

Saturday, March 28: Palm Weekend Service at 5:00 pm at AC

Sunday, March 29: Palm Weekend Service at 10:00 am

Thursday, April 2: Maundy Thursday Service at 6:00 pm

Friday, April 3: Good Friday Services at 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm

Saturday, April 4: Easter Vigil Service at 5:00 pm at AC

Sunday, April 5: Easter Services at 7:00 am and 10:00 am

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!

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+ 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@stpaulseggertsvlle.com*
Youth Ministry: *Jordan Dywan: youth@stpaulseggrtsville.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