

June
2026

The Messenger

St. Paul's Lutheran Church



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

JUNE



Congregational Meeting- June 7

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JUNE 7TH
AFTER 10 AM WORSHIP

WE WILL VOTE ON EGGERTSVILLE
HOUSE, NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS
AND APPROVE ANNUAL REPORTS

QUESTIONS?

office@stpaulseggertsville.com

(716)-835-0407

*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)*

Pastor's Annual Report

Pastor's Annual Report for 2026:

(Context - given during the meeting where we vote on proceeding with the expansion and renovation of the Eggertsville Campus, shared live while waiting for the votes to be counted)

SB: Well, here we are with another cup of coffee waiting for votes to be counted again.

KK: This is the 199th year of St. Paul's making big decisions.

SB: Yeah I wonder how those votes went over the years: to start this place in the first place, to settle in Eggertsville and to launch other churches from this place.

KK: Yes, and the ones to build the Parish Hall, then build it all over again when it burned and another vote to move the church back away from Main St.

SB: Remember the vote last summer that called you to be a pastor of St. Paul's.

KK: Vaguely, I may have blacked out a little.

SB: Being the church sure is filled with exciting times. What have been some of the exciting moments in your first year as an official pastor of the church?

KK: Oh boy. Probably just being able to come into work every day and work with you! (Guess who wrote the script this year??). No really, so many favorite moments but I love working with the two teenagers that confirmed their faith and every one of the 16 baptisms were amazing. And we've got more in the works!

SB: I've loved seeing our community grow and change with the addition of 22 new missionaries. But I think the most profound and humbling work we did was walking with the 23 families that had funeral at and through St. Paul's.

KK: Yes, some of those were our own missionaries and some were folks that had no church connection at all. That's where it's great to be able to proclaim Easter to people who might be hearing that good news for the first time.

SB: I almost forgot about the two weddings as well! One at the church and one in a bar.

KK: Why do so many of your sacred church moments happen in bars? (Gives Steve a weird look)

SB: I just go where the good Lord needs me.

KK: Good Lord is right.

SB: (tells baptism of drunk guy story)

SB: Well anyways, let's refocus. What other big sacred moments didn't happen in local taverns?

KK: Well we said an official goodbye to the Amherst Campus. What a bittersweet process that was.

SB: For sure. Even though we say "the church is not a building," they sure do play an important

Pastor's Annual Report (continued)

role in our faith journey.

KK: But this wasn't just an ending, that building and community will leave a legacy through the expansion and renovation right here in Eggertsville.

SB: I know. Between that and the planning of the 200th anniversary, there's a lot more excitement coming up!

KK: Don't forget about bringing a new family into the Olin House and continuing to work with the family in the Kahle House for one more year. And the pantry growing so much. New Beginnings starting up. Wheels expanding. And a new food truck coming in the fall.

SB: Yeah, none of that happens because of two pastors. It only could work because of the dozens of committable (wait what's that say), oh committed missionaries we have here.

KK: Yeah, I love how busy this place is. Way beyond the cool Sunday stuff with music and Sunday School and livestreaming. Are we still doing Church Unleashed? I thought that was planned for six weeks?

SB: Yeah, that's when Covid was going to last that long but here we are 6 years into it. The station tells us that we have about 1,500 homes watching each Sunday.

KK: That's so many people hearing about the good news of God's love for them! I know I feel like a celebrity when I'm out sometimes because people will let me know that they watch.

SB With so many people watching, I guess I should work a little harder on those sermons huh?

KK: Well, like we've said, St. Paul's is a busy place. I'm looking forward to the celebrating what is to come with our anniversary but also the development of leaders for ministry.

SB: Or right! Remember those surveys we had folks fill out?

KK: Yeah! This summer I'm looking forward to revisiting that to get people plugged into outreach opportunities, caring for folks at home, supporting our staff, and increasing our welcome.

SB: We did those worship service surveys too!

KK: You're right! We'll be getting to work developing what that second service is gonna look like. And beginning to develop programming for the Eggertsville House.

SB: Yes! Like the young adult storytelling project – that we didn't get a grant for.

KK: We didn't get it this time. But there's always next year!

SB: Yeah, next year. And the year after and the year after and the year after.

KK: Maybe for another 200 years after!

SB: Maaaybe. Who knows what ministry will look like in another 200 years. But we know that God remains the same. So let's keep

Pastor's Annual Report (continued)

BOTH: Reaching beyond ourselves, empowered with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

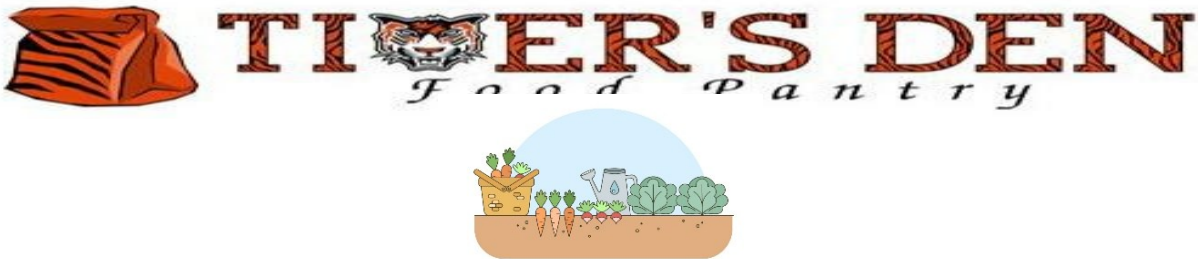
KK: Making connections.

SB: Enriching faith.

KK: Nourishing lives.

BOTH: and Demonstrating God's love out in the world.

Tiger's Den Food Pantry



Tiger's Den – how does your garden grow?? Our resident gardener, Mr. Gordon Crock, is back again this year to prepare our garden for a wonderful summer of fresh vegetables.

Although only one bed of vegetables has been planted – those hardy vegetables that could withstand a couple of freezing temperatures – the additional beds will be planted as the weather continues to improve. We thank Mr. Crock for his dedication to helping us bring fresh vegetables to our pantry families.

As the school season draws to a close, the number of donations made to the pantry drops off. We ask that you remember that with children at home for the summer vacation, we can still use non-perishable food items to help families during the summer months. As always, thank you for caring for those facing food insecurity and your support is greatly appreciated.

June pantry dates: Tiger's Den will be open Thursdays, June 4 and June 11 from 3:00-6:30 pm, and Saturdays June 13 and June 27 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm.

Donations for June: macaroni and cheese, and healthy snacks.

Wheels for Workers

We had an amazing start to our busy season here at Wheels for Workers 716. We participated in the Ken-Ton Bike Rodeo and delivered 34 bikes to the Response to Love Center on May 7th. On Saturday May 16th, we partnered with St. Joseph's University Parish on their annual bike drive. Together, we collected over 100 bikes that will be refurbished and put back into our community. On Monday May 18th, we had the privilege of kicking off the slowroll season here at Saint Paul's. A huge crowd officially started the cycling season and got to see what Wheels for Workers and Saint Paul's are all about. The next day we hosted Dare to Repair and had lots of folks come and fix a variety of things that ultimately stayed out of the landfill.

If you are in need of a new bike. Bert's Bikes is giving \$25 off a new bike if you donate your old one to Wheels for Workers. The promotion will run through mid-June

To date, we have donated over 700 bikes to those in need.

Thank You to everyone at St. Paul's for your continued support of Wheels for Workers!



Transition Team

Updates from Your Transition Team

Our final worship service at Amherst was bittersweet, yet spirit and grace filled. Thank you to all who came out to worship with us! It was wonderful to gather with Amherst worshippers past and present and from near and far. Thanks also to our worship leaders, musicians, our readers, and all who helped with the reception afterwards.

And now we continue the hard work of moving items out of the building. Initial dates that anyone can help label items for garbage, for moving, or for giving away are:

Sunday, June 7th 1-4pm & Wednesday, June 10th 3-6pm

More dates will be announced by email depending on how much gets done during the beginning of the month.

VOLUNTEERS & TRUCKS NEEDED

June 14th 1-4pm

We all showed up at Eggertsville for a big clean back in May and now in June we gather at Amherst! We will be moving items from Amherst Campus to Eggertsville and loading up a big dumpster. Many hands (especially strong ones) will be needed. Please let the office or Pastor Kristen know if you can attend.

ITEMS TO GIVE AWAY

There are a number of items that we will be looking to find homes for. The office will have an ongoing updated list and we will send that out via Monday emails. Be on the lookout for a stove and fridge, metal shelves, printer, large wooden cabinet, mini-fridge, large metal file cabinet, and various household items.

Eggertville House FAQs

- 1. Why was Eggertsville House chosen as a name?** – Eggertsville House was the name of a historic building at Main and Eggert where local people gathered for a variety of reasons over its 100+ years. Our hope for the expansion space is to make the entire community feel welcome to gather for food, friendship and fellowship without feeling like they are in a traditional church space.
- 2. Will there be local marketing to help the community understand what the space is for?** – Yes, we will be developing marketing teams for both inside the church family to keep everyone updated and externally to share information with news outlets, social media and other community groups.
- 3. Will there be a ramp for accessibility and will it be covered?** – Yes there will be a ramp and it will not be covered. The building team looked at both covering or heating the ramp, but when trying to keep costs down, but those options were eliminated. The expansion will be on the same level as the Gathering Area.
- 4. How are we staffing the Eggertsville House?** – The staffing will be a partnership between St. Paul’s and the Daily Bread Food Truck. Daily Bread will manage and staff any Wednesday – Sunday that includes food and coffee offerings. St. Paul’s will manage and staff Monday & Tuesday groups, and afternoon/evening programming that isn’t a Daily Bread Meal Share.
- 5. Are we fundraising at all for this project?** – Not at this time. As was approved at the 2025 congregational meeting, the proceeds of the sale of the Amherst Campus will go to expand and renovate the Eggertsville site. However, in the fall of 2026, we will be launching a fundraising campaign called “Future Foundations” to go alongside our 200th anniversary. These funds will go toward a variety of projects that will be introduced at that time.
- 6. Do we need to do the expansion and renovation at the same time?** – Yes, as it is the most cost-effective way to move through both projects.
- 7. Will the community be able to rent the space out?** – Absolutely. This would be added to our options (with fees) for rental spaces. But the hope for the space is to launch new St. Paul’s related and community ministries using the space for relationship building, battling food insecurity, fellowship and worship.
- 8. Will the elevator be improved?** – It is not addressed in the current project. However, updating the elevator and adding a “dumb waiter” to the commercial kitchen to improve volunteer safety are part of the Future Foundations campaign in the fall.
- 9. When will we start the project?** – As soon as possible! We will have a groundbreaking scheduled for late June or early July.
- 10. Will any times in the space be reserved just for St. Paul’s missionaries?** – While the main purpose of the space is to reach out to new people, we will most likely reserve Mondays and Tuesdays for strictly St. Paul’s groups (i.e. Bible Study, New Beginnings, Soup and Psalms, etc).
- 11. What are we actually voting on during the congregational meeting June 7th?** – Since the congregation decided in June 2025 to use the proceeds of the sale of the Amherst Campus to expand the space in Eggertsville for new ministries, we are now coming back to affirm that decision and put a cap on the spending. So, we aren’t voting to “build or not build.” We are voting on the shape and cost ceiling of the project.

Summer Camp for Kids in K-5

2026

Main Street Day Camp

**Kids
Entering
Grades
K-5**

**2 Weeks Available:
August 17th-21st
August 24th-28th**

**Cost:
\$200
per week
multi-child discounts
available**



**Scan the
QR Code
to Register!**

**Need More Information?
Visit: <https://sjlcamherst.com/daycamp>
or Call 716-632-6557**

Sponsored By:



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 is "Fear or Faith: Resting in God's Faithfulness" 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* at St. Paul's Lutheran Church
(4007 Main Street, Amherst, NY 14226)

May 4 th	June 29 th
May 18 th	July 13 th
June 1 st	July 27 th
June 15 th	

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

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE NEXT CURRICULUM?

Will I choose fear or faith to guide me? Infertility is a rollercoaster of circumstances continually jolting us. This seven-session study is a practical exercise in identifying and stepping out of the effects of unhealthy fear, teaching women to actively choose to trust a trustworthy God. When we move past our fears and choose faith we can rest in God's faithfulness because it's who He is.

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!

BURRITO PROJECT



NEXT MEETING:

TUESDAY, JUNE 16

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.

Burrito Project



The Burrito Project would like to extend a heart felt thank you to everyone who donated to their Winter drive.

For the warmer months, these supplies are requested:

- Individual small sunscreens
- Hygiene wipes
- Individual Gatorade/electrolyte packets
- Individual Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Dried fruit/nuts/trail mix packets
- Cotton socks
- Small tissue packs

Please leave donations in entryway bin marked "Burrito Project"



Bible Study

The Tuesday Bible Study is on hiatus for the summer. We'll return on **September 15 at 10 am** with "A Day in the Life of a Disciple" - a look at those 12 whom Jesus called from scripture and tradition. Mark your calendar and join us!

Pinochle- 6/3

PINOCHLE IN JUNE

Our next day for Pinochle is Wednesday, June 3 at 1:00 p.m. The group has grown since we started in 2024 and we always have a good time – lots of laughs. All are welcome. We can help you get reacquainted with the game if it has “been a long time”. Bring a friend. It's not just for members of St. Paul's.

We will not meet in July or August but we'll resume playing again in September – the first Wednesday after Labor Day, which is September 9th.

Hope you will consider joining us. If you are interested and want more info, call Heidi at 716 480-9227 or Sara at 716 834-1833.

Music Ministries at SPEC-Choir Rehearsal 6/4

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, June 4 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 - 6/10

COMFORTERS MEEETING IN JUNE

Our next meeting is Wednesday June 10, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. upstairs in the parish hall. Feel free to join us. We will have lunch at noon. Bring your own sandwich and drink. Dessert will be provided.

We will not meet in July or August. In September our meeting will be the second Wednesday after Labor Day – September 16. In the meantime you might want to keep busy at home making a walker bag, lap robe, baptism blanket or prayer shawl.

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



Ushers Needed & Drivers for DBFT Food Pick-up

**INTERESTED IN
BECOMING AN USHER
AT CHURCH?**

We'd love to have you!

PLEASE EMAIL TODD VAHUE FOR MORE INFORMATION
TVAHUE@GMAIL.COM



ARE YOU AN EARLY BIRD?

The Daily Bread Food Truck is looking for drivers to pick up donated food from Wegmans early Sunday mornings for distribution during the Daily Bread Food Truck Monday Meal Share. Pickup is 8:00 AM on Sunday mornings at the Alberta Drive and Sheridan Drive Wegmans locations. If you are interested in helping this mission please use the signup sheet in the Gathering Area at the Eggertsville campus or in the Narthex at the Amherst Campus and a Daily Bread Food Truck volunteer will contact you with details. If you have questions please contact Leslie Boynton, Tim Johnson or Shari Rembold.

Grieving a loss?

Find hope and healing after
the death of a loved one.

Join us at
GriefShare[®]

Thirteen Week Session

When May 6 thru July 29, 2026
11 am – 1 pm

Where: Abiding Savior Church
1534 Ruie Rd.
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

For more information:
Contact: Karen Hirnle
716-694-2514

Lutheran Charities of WNY

\$

Who Wants a Chance to

WIN COLD HARD CASH

Proceeds support the mission of

Ticket Cost: \$20



THREE PRIZES AVAILABLE
to Win:
\$1,000 or \$500 or \$250

Winning Tickets will be
Drawn June 29th
at the Charity Golf Classic!

To Purchase Tickets, Call or Email
Barbara Biegner
(716) 741-4573 / chicknbarb@verizon.net

\$

Dinner with Friends (Family Fun Night) at AC



Thank you for all the many enjoyable evenings that we gathered to break bread together at the Amherst Campus and build relationships.

There were hundreds of slices of pizza, many, many delicious desserts, games, service projects and great conversations enjoyed by all.

The format may have changed over the years from Kids Night at Church (KNAC) to pizza night but the heart stayed the same.



Dinner with Friends (Family Fun Night) at AC



"This is the power of gathering: it inspires us delightfully, to be more hopeful, more joyful, more thoughtful: in a word, more alive."

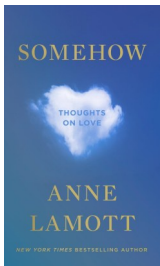
— Alice Waters

Book Club- 6/11

June Book Club News

When: 2nd Thursday of the month.

Where: *NEW* Gathering Area at Eggertsville Campus, 4007 Main St.



Time: 7:15 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 11

Book: Somehow: Thoughts on Love by Anne LaMott

September Book: The Rose Code by Anne Quinn

Book Club does not meet in July or August!

All are welcome. Come to discuss or just to listen.

For more information contact Karin Johnson.

Phone/Text Home: 716-689-6365 or Cell: [716-860-9549](tel:716-860-9549).

Email karinej42@gmail.com

Sunday School

I can't believe how fast our Sunday School year has gone!

Our last Day of Sunday School for this season will be June 7th.

In May the children learned about Jesus being - The Way, The Truth and The Life! That He is our guide through life and to follow His ways in Faith!

For Mother's Day, the children decorated flowers pots for their mom and added some wildflowers in the pots!

The children also learned about how Jesus prayed for us, to continue His work here on earth. To come together in Unity to be His disciples to help show others the way! We talked about how we can pray and share His light and love with those around us!

May God's light shine on each of you throughout the summer months!

News about Sunday School restarting in the Fall will come in our August Newsletter.

Thank you for bringing your kids to Church/Sunday school!

There is a table set up near the front doors of the church with some coloring pages, word searches, snacks, and books for the children during the summer months!

In Peace & Faith ~ June

June Birthdays

JUNE BIRTHDAYS



WESLEY RIES	JUNE 1
DOROTHY WALTER	JUNE 4
SHARON HOFFMAN	JUNE 4
JOHN HORNUNG	JUNE 5
CHRISTINE SANTA MARIA	JUNE 5
EVAN SINGER	JUNE 5
SYLVIA MCLAUGHLIN	JUNE 7
SANDRA SIEGEL	JUNE 9
DEBORAH KELSCH	JUNE 9
SUE EPSTEIN	JUNE 9
PAUL RUSHTON	JUNE 16
TOM DEPCZYNSKI	JUNE 19
DEBORAH OGDEN	JUNE 20
LOIS O'BRIAN	JUNE 22
ELIZABETH HEUER	JUNE 24
CHARLES BIEGNER	JUNE 26
MARY MINDEL	JUNE 26
EDWIN GIBSON	JUNE 26
SONJA FERNSTED	JUNE 28
BARBARA BIEGNER	JUNE 30



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

4007 Main Street, Eggertsville, NY 14226

Website: www.stpaulseggertsville.com

Phone Number: 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

Director of Music: Paul H. Storfer

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

