

*Ninth Sunday
after Pentecost*



*July 26, 2026
10:00 am
St. Paul's Lutheran Church*



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 *Ninth Sunday after Pentecost* *July 26, 2026*

Musician: Paul Storfer



Confession

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, whose compassion endures forever.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin to God. Compassionate God,

C we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

P Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

C Amen.

I Love to Tell the Story



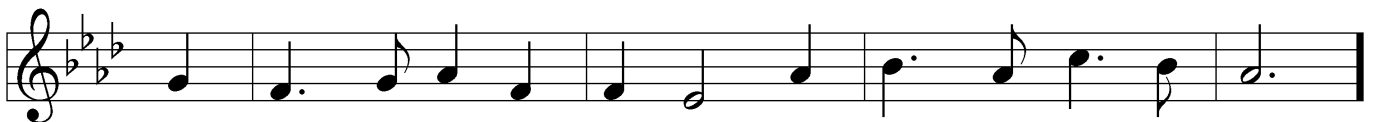
1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst-ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

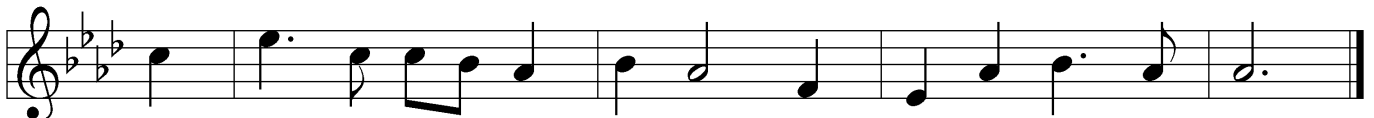


it sat - is - fies my long-ings as noth - ing else would do.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain



I love to tell the sto - ry; I'll sing this theme in glo-ry



and tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

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 Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C Amen.

First Reading: Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things

present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:129-136 (read responsively)

When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. (Ps. 119:130)

A Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

C **When your word is opened it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.**

A I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

C **Turn to me and be gracious to me, as you always do to those who love your name.**

A Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

C **Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.**

A Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

C **My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching.**

A This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 13th Chapter.
C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

[Jesus] put before [the crowds] 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."

He told them another parable: "**The kingdom of heaven is like** yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"**The kingdom of heaven is like** treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, **the kingdom of heaven is like** a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, **the kingdom of heaven is like** a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "**Yes.**" And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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

Sermon



Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia, al -

D F#m G D G

1 Seek ye . . . first the king - dom of God and its
2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and
3 We do not live by bread . . . a - lone, but by

le - lu - ia, al - le -

D Em A⁷ D F#m

righteous - ness, and all these things shall be
you shall find; knock and the door shall be
ev - 'ry word that pro - ceeds from the

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

G D G D Em A D

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
mouth . . of . . . God. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

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

Prayers of the Church

A Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. (Please kneel or sit as you are able.)

God our wisdom and our song, we pray for bishops, candidacy committees, those preparing for seminary, those awaiting call as deacons or pastors, and all who seek to lead your disciples in any way. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A God our breath and our heartbeat, help us to recognize signs of your presence among us. Protect and support diverse ecosystems, from national parks to family farms, from ranches to wild places. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders hear all their peoples' stories with compassion and curiosity, and remind us of your love from which we can never be separated. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A God our intercessor and our lawgiver, dismantle the barriers to care and recognition of all who live with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty. We pray especially for the people on our Prayer Lists and Prayer Chain, and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

- A God our redeemer, may we trust your love above and beyond all else that distracts, annoys, frightens, exhausts, or divides us. God of grace,
- C hear our prayer.
- A God who seeks, finds, and saves, for our community's part in the ongoing gift of creation, and for the riches of faith and hope which came before, we give you thanks. God of grace,
- C hear our prayer.
- A Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.
- 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/>

Last Week's Digital and Service Offerings: \$9,447.39

Budgeted Weekly Service Offering: \$7,488.00

QR Giving Code:



- P Let us pray,
- C Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered here today and through our online giving. You have set a table before us, nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus. Amen.



Dialogue and Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

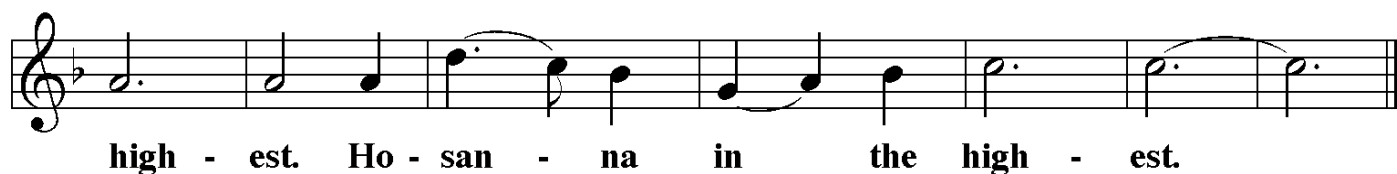
P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and proper that we should at all times and in all places, offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and sing their unending hymn:



Words of Institution

P In the night in which he was handed over, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all 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 for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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 Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

P And now as you go on your way, may the Lord go with you. May he go before you to show you the way, behind you to encourage you, beside you to be your friend, above you to watch over you, and within you to give you peace. Go today celebrating in the name of the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, and all God's children said...

C Amen.

Closing Hymn: WOV 722 (on the following page)

Sharing the Peace and Sending

P Go in peace, serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God.



Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

Haleluya! Pelo tsa rona

Refrain— sung twice each time



Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa ro - na, di tha -
Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our



bi - le ka - o - fe - la. Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa
hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your



ro - na, di tha - bi - le ka - o - fe - la.
prais - es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness.



1 Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,
2 Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,

Repeat stanza, then sing refrain



I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hun - ger.
strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joy - ful gos - pel.

Text: South African; tr. *Freedom Is Coming*, 1984
Music: HALELUYA! PELO TSA RONA, South African
Tr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: July 26-August 2, 2026

Sunday: 10:00 am: Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV
10:00 am: Worship and Communion
Monday: 7:00-8:30 pm: Waiting in Hope Meeting
Tuesday: 5:00-6:30 pm: We Can No Longer Blame Others (NA)
Wednesday: 8:00 pm: AA Meeting
Thursday: 3:00-6:30 pm: Tiger's Den Food Pantry Open
Friday: No Events Planned
Saturday: 9:00 am: Tentative starting time to help build the Tiger's Den shelter
2:00 pm: Buffalo Hindu Meeting in Parish Hall
Sunday: 10:00 am: Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV
10:00 am: Worship and Communion

Deacons: 7/26: Sara Gallagher; 8/2: Barbara Walter

Ushers: 7/26: Gerri Horton & Helen Gibson; 8/2: Mike & Michele Degen

Prayer List: In our congregational and extended family: Mark Silsby; Claudia Staines; Maurice Saxton; Cindy Milazzo Schwartz; Sue Epstein

Prayer List: Shut-Ins (* indicates new names or changes added this week)

Roslyn Bauman: Greenfield Manor, 5953 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

Charles Scofield: Fredonia Place, 201 Reist Street, #61, Williamsville, NY 14221

David Wolf: Solstice, 6363 Transit Road, #244, East Amherst, NY 14051

PREVIOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS

In-Person Worship: St. Paul's has one worship service on Sunday morning at 10:00 am at 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

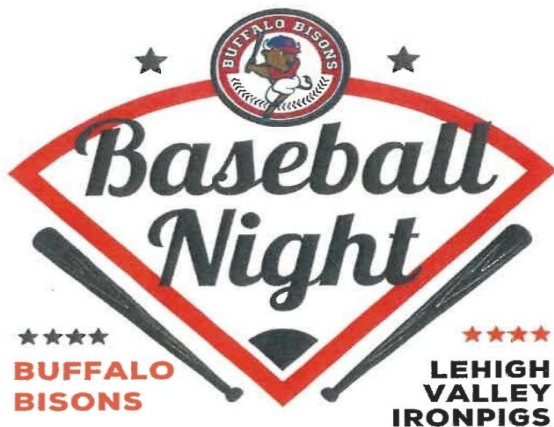
Tigers Den Food Pantry: The Food Pantry is open to anyone in need in zip code 14226, or by referral. The remaining pantry hours for July are: Thursday 7/30 from 3:00-6:30 pm. Donations for July: spaghetti sauce and pasta.



Tiger's Den could use your help: After several years of tents and carports that could not withstand Buffalo weather, we decided to look for a more permanent solution to cover the outside area we use for the pantry. If you know which end of a hammer is used to hammer a nail or which screwdriver is used on a Phillips head screw or what an Allen wrench is, then we could use your help. Our Arcadia 20' x 9.5' Cedar Wooden Carport kit was delivered and we could use your help building it. We expect it will take two days to build, and are looking at the weekend of August 1-2. If you can help us "raise the carport," please contact Adrienne Leary at 716-835-0407 for additional information.



The Daily Bread Food Truck could use your help: They are looking for two people from 3:00-4:00 pm every Monday to help carry food from the Gathering Area and/or kitchen out to the truck parked next to the church. The food will be distributed that afternoon beginning at 4:15 pm, and you are also welcome to stay if you want to help with the "meal share." If you are interested, please call Leslie Boynton at 716-525-2443



@ SAHLEN FIELD

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21ST

6:35 PM Game Time

How to Get Your Tickets...

Buy **ONLINE** at www.WNYLutheranCharities.org

or

Buy with **PayPal** – Use the QR Code

Note the # of Individual Tickets and/or Tickets w/ Concessions
& Any Seating Preferences (group, who with)

or Mail in a Check with the Form Below.

**** Tickets Must be Purchased Together to be Seated Together ****



COST:

Individual Tickets: \$15

Tickets WITH Discounted Concessions: \$25
(includes 1 hot dog & small soda)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

Tuesday, August 18th!

Tickets will NOT be mailed.

Pick them up on game day from Jessica,
the Office Administrator,
after 5 PM to the right of the Swan Street entrance
to the ballpark
near the tree grove @ Washington Street.

Lutheran Charities Bisons Night RSVP: DUE IN the OFFICE by 10 AM, August 18th

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

of individual tickets _____ x \$15 ea. = _____

of tickets WITH discounted concessions _____ x \$25 ea. = _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Mail Form with Payment to: Lutheran Charities, 6540 Main Street, Williamsville NY 14221

250 FOR 250

*Celebrate America's 250th by
Supporting Our Students!*

As our nation marks 250 years, we're honoring the milestone with a goal that reflects the spirit of community: Collecting 250 school supply items for Amherst Central School students.

You can purchase any of these items on Amazon (or Amazon gift cards to be used for listed items) and have them sent to the Church, (4007 Main St., Eggertsville, NY 14226) OR you can purchase from local stores and leave items in designated bin in Main Entrance hallway.

Items Requested:
Locker Ladders ; amazon link-
https://www.amazon.com/dp/B086S2JVKD?lv=shuf&redirect=true&social_share=cm_sw_r_cso_sms_apin_shpd_FW967JVRFS84V7KWXC9D&channelId=704&ref=cm_sw_r_cso_sms_apin_shpd_FW967JVRFS84V7KWXC9D&pipRedirect=mhFallback&th=1

Polyester folder with prongs and pockets any color
(Needs to have pockets and prongs)

1 1/2 inch binders
2 inch binders
dry erase markers thick
dry erase markers thin

THANK YOU



*+ 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: Tim Johnson
Vice-President: Vanessa Solomon
Treasurer: William Niblock
Secretary: Janet Schmidt and Sara Hannon
Mona Baskin Bob Brown David Dahlberg
Ginger Davis Wendy Fortune Barbara Walter*

Pastoral Leaders

*Steve Biegner (716-868-1232 - cell); Email: steve@stpaulseggertsville.com
Kristen Arends: (716-481-8728 - cell); Email: kristen@stpaulseggertsville.com*

Director of Music: Paul H. Storfer

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