

December
2020

The Messenger

St. Paul's Lutheran Church



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
EGGERTSVILLE

Please remember that even though the church office is currently still open,
we are still abiding by CDC rules.

While WNY is labeled Orange/Red, we ask that if you plan on coming into the building for any
purpose, you must contact the office staff in advance to let us know of your visit.

We respectfully ask you to please not stop by unannounced.

Masks are still mandatory at all times in the building and

we ask that you remain 6 feet apart as well.

The health and safety of our staff, volunteers, and members are
priority to us and we want to make sure that we create a safe space for everyone.

Thank you!

Holiday Needs Drive



WBBZ—Your Hometown MeTV Station, FeedMore WNY &
WNY Church Unleashed bring you:

WNY'S Holiday Needs Drive
Sunday, December 6: 10 am—4pm

Bring your non-perishable food items, grocery gift cards or
cash donations to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 4007 Main St,
Amherst for a contact-free drop off.

Meet some of our church and TV personalities
while you're here. For more information -
www.wnychurchunleashed.com

Delta Sonic is donating a Super Kiss car wash to the first
100 people who make a \$50 donation

*As this year draws to a close, the staff at St. Paul's would like to wish you and your loved ones a
VERY Safe, Healthy, and Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!*

St. Paul's is a congregation of the Niagara Frontier Conference of the Upstate New York Synod

A message from Pastor Steve

Friends and Missionaries at St. Paul's,

This is a strange article to write. Normally I roll out exactly what is hallowing in Advent and times for Christmas Eve services. This year, we still aren't 100% sure. With the changes in the colors in Erie County, we will have to shift, pivot and roll with the punches in an effort to keep our County and neighbors as safe as possible.

So, here's what we know if we are in Orange/Red:

1. Our Sunday morning routine will stay - 10am - Worship on TV; 10:30am - Zoom Coffee 1/2 Hour; 11am - Outdoor Advent on the front lawn.
2. Christmas Eve WILL be happening in some way, shape or form. Our TV service will be at 5pm that evening. If we can meet in groups of 25, I will schedule outdoor services (15 minutes or so) on the hour at 4, 6, 7 and 8. I will certainly be doing something including lighting some candles and singing Silent Night on the front lawn at 8pm that evening.
3. I would like to have the church open and decorated for Christmas Eve, even if we can't worship. This way, if your family wanted to swing in for a family picture in front of the tree you could still do that. We'll talk through timing and protocols for that as it gets closer.

And here's the final thing I know for sure: God's got this! Through all the highs and lows of the pandemic, through all the changes to our patterns and traditions, a little child came into the world, is here with us now and is coming again. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Nothing!!

So light your lights, hang your decorations, blast that Christmas music at home and we will get through this together!

Thank you for your continued support of this mission and your understanding and flexibility in these crazy times!

Be safe. Be healthy. Be blessed!

ps

In the Church Family

~ Life events that happened in the month of November ~
November 15th : We celebrated the baptism of Myles Phillips.

Please pray for Robin Comeau as she grieves the loss of her mother, and to Deborah Howe, Cheryl Gillen, Gail Singer, and Pam Wunderlin as they all grieve the loss of their fathers.

Please email us in the office with: baptisms, weddings, funerals, Confirmations, etc.
We'll make sure to add it in each month!

Outdoor Advent Service



Advent Season is HERE!

**Each Sunday in Advent, starting November 29th and continuing through
Christmas Eve,**

St. Paul's will be joining together at 11:00 am for a special Advent event.

**In lieu of lighting the Advent Wreath inside during worship, we will be
lighting blue spruce Christmas trees on the front lawn.**

Please come and join us for this special Advent celebration!

WNY Church Unleashed

*Although In-Person Worship and gatherings have been cancelled at this time due to restrictions,
Please remember that you can tune-in to see Pastors Steve, Julius, and Jeremiah
at 10 am every Sunday morning on MeTV (Channel 67 For DIRECTV, Channel 5 for Cable, Fios,
Dish Network, Antenna tuned to 67.1).*

*The worship service is now called "WNY Church Unleashed."
Join us also for St. Paul's Zoom Coffee 1/2 hour right after worship at 10:30 am.
A link will be emailed out on Fridays.*

*If you would like to be added to the email updates that go out every week, please email the office at
katie@stpaulseggertsville.org or call 716-835-0407.*

Family Blessing

We are excited to be planning the Annual St. Paul's Family Blessing Service.

This will be a drive-through event at St. Paul's on January 3rd.

Times are still yet to be determined and more information will be announced as we move
nearer to the new year.



Youth Group and Burrito Project

Youth Night

Saturday December 5th, 7-9 pm

As of today, Youth Group is tentatively scheduled. Things may change due to NY State mandates. Families will be contacted directly for more information.

Burrito Project

The St. Paul's Youth Group is still participating in the Burrito Project the third Tuesday of every month to prepare homemade bean and rice burritos and lunch bags to be delivered to the homeless, poor, and working poor living on the streets of Buffalo.

We will have a small group in the kitchen making the burritos at 6 pm, and then another small group walking around downtown Buffalo handing out the burritos from 7-8:30 pm (we will be wearing masks and keeping a good distance).

Let Adam know if you are interested!

Next project will be Tuesday December 15th from 6-8:30 pm



Please remember that the cold season is upon us. Also, that there are so many people here in Buffalo that live on the streets. During our burrito deliveries, we bring winter weather clothing to give out.

And believe me, not only are they needed....but they are very appreciated.

So, if you cleaned your closets out during this pandemic and found extra blankets that could be donated...we would appreciate it!

Also, we are in need of gloves, warm socks, hats, scarves, hand warmers, and mittens.

Do Good with Burritos

Come into the Chipotle

at

1759 Sheridan Dr. in Tonawanda on Saturday December 19th from 4-8 pm to show support to WNY Impact Foundation's Buffalo Burrito Project.

Tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that 33% of the proceeds will be donated to The Burrito Project.

New! Order online for pickup

Use code 4VFRLMB before checkout in 'promo' field.

Orders placed on Chipotle.com or through the Chipotle app for pickup using this unique code will be counted towards the fundraiser.

*orders online must be placed for pickup at the same time/location of the fundraiser.

Adult Winter Retreat Update

Dearest Friends,

As I write this letter to you, I am looking out at a beautiful autumn day in the middle of November! (70 degrees!!!!) It is hard to believe I have to tell you that when everything seems wonderful as I enjoy this gorgeous afternoon, that things are not all well and good! The turmoil of this pandemic continues to weigh upon us. It is with a very heavy heart that I must tell you that we will be "postponing" our fun winter retreat at LCLC in January 2021. Safety is first and foremost the main issue. BUT.... the good news is we will be back together in January of 2022!!! Our dates are saved for us and we will enjoy one another then - safely and happily. I pray that you are all well and safe. Continue to enjoy the incredible gift of our "Church Unleashed" on TV each Sunday morning How blessed we are to have that connection with one another each week (along with Zoom "coffee time")! With that I suggest to you to let go of what is past.... be grateful for and enjoy what remains and look forward to whatever is on the way in 2021! Go be that Light that Pastor Steve always encourages us to be. Let your smile change the world. Don't let the world change your smile!! Please stay in touch with one another. God's peace and love be with you!

Missing you all very much!

Hugs, smiles, love and prayers always, Barb Walter

*Remember that things are changing by the day.
Please check your email and/or Facebook for updates.
If you need to reach us, please contact the office
at 716-835-0407 or email katie@stpaulseggertsville.org.
Stay safe, stay healthy, and know that you are loved.*

Haiti! - Or Bust!

Once a upon a time, in a far away place, before we ever heard of Corona as a bad thing, we were celebrating the season of Lent at St Paul's! My Lenten project was a fun little idea called Change for a Change in Haiti. My how things have changed!

Building on this \$52.68 - thank you- I am moving forward!

Hoping and praying optimistically, Michelle Biegner, Katie Braisted and I are joining a medical/missionary trip to Haiti in March! I know, God willing and Covid allowing of course!!

It has come to our attention that Nora and Leon Gerson, our Haitian hosts, have a 2002 Toyota that is nearing death. Over the rough terrain of Haiti, it's used for virtually everything from taxi to ambulance to moving livestock and supplies. Due to the coin shortage (ok, I know that is really a stretch, but still...) I am now asking for any left over stimulus money you didn't need or any other paper or check donation you are able to make. Hopefully we can deliver this gift in person, but if we cannot safely go, I will forward the funds to them. You can leave your contribution in church if you are attending, or send it directly to me. I will send them altogether in the spring. Please feel free to make checks out to me,

Gail Singer, or to The Caribbean Children's Foundation.

Any questions, ideas or thoughts on making this successful, I'd love to hear them!

Again, thanks-

Gail Singer

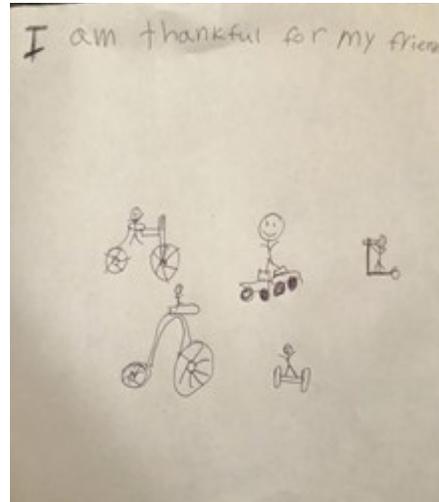
358 Reist St

Williamsville, NY 14221

evansmom@roadrunner.com

Sunday School

As we leave November with our thankful hearts, let's remember that even during tough times we have so many blessings to be thankful for! I want to thank our family who sent in some pictures of things they are thankful for! I am thankful for all of you and I miss you!



For December Sunday school we are looking for families who are interested in helping to decorate our 4 outdoor Advent trees. If you are interested, please contact myself or Pastor Steve!

Stay safe and well! Christmas Blessings to you all!

Love, Peace & Joy ~ June

More at St. Paul's

Bible Study

Of the Father's Love Begotten -
an Advent Bible Study based on this carol written
in the 5th century AD.

We'll meet Tuesdays, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22 - 10 am at
St. Paul's (with masks and safely socially distant!)

If you would like to attend but would need to
come via Zoom, let Mary Wolf know and we'll
work that out.

(Mary's e-mail: stpauls1827@juno.com).

It's that time of year again! We are going to offer
dedications for loved ones, celebrations,
or memorials.

Please contact the office at St. Paul's
(716-835-0407 or katie@stpaulseggertsville.org)
if you would like to purchase one.

Your dedication will be listed in the Christmas Eve
Worship Bulletin.

\$10 for a 6" pot of red poinsettias.
After Christmas Eve, if you choose to do so, your
plant may be donated to area shut-ins.
Make sure to let the office know when you write
your dedication.



The Daily Bread Food Truck Mission



The Daily Bread Food Truck and the Tiger's Den Food Pantry have teamed up together again to help those hungry in the community.

For the month of December,

The Daily Bread Food Truck will be offering free meals at St. Paul's to the "Pantry Families" on Saturday mornings, and also to those hungry in our community the following Sunday afternoons at Windermere Elementary School.

Saturdays December 12th and 26th at St. Paul's from 9am-12:30 pm

And

Sundays December 13th and December 27th at Windermere Elementary School from 5pm-6pm.

If you would like to sponsor a "giving meal" event, please contact the office at St. Paul's (835-0407)

Tiger's Den Food Pantry

Merry Christmas from all of us at Tiger's Den.

We want to thank everyone who contributed to the pantry in November by providing grocery gift cards. Because of you, we were able to provide these gift cards to 75 families. Our families were so happy to receive this special gift so they could choose what they wanted for their giving thanks celebrations. We would especially like to thank the Amherst Retired Teachers Association members who donated gift cards and funds to help us prepare for Christmas.

When I started to write this note for the December Messenger 2020, I found the note I wrote for the 2019 December Messenger. So much has changed in a year. In December 2019, we served 92 families – some in emergency situations – some new to the United States – but all in need. With the onset of Covid-19 in March 2020, the number of families in need has continued to fluctuate, and we are now helping about 70 families each month. With the return to "Orange Zone" restrictions, Tiger's Den will continue to be an essential part of ensuring families facing food insecurity know they are not alone.

We are very thankful for our volunteers who give of their time and care to help our clients feel welcome, and to all of our donors who give us not only food to sustain our families, but also the "extras" – paper products, personal care products, and clothing.

The December pantry hours are: Thursday 12/3 and 12/17 from 3:00-6:30 pm. Because the fifth Thursday in December falls on New Years Eve, the pantry will **not** be open. Instead, the pantry will be open Wednesday 12/30 from 3:00-6:30 pm. The pantry will also be open Saturday 12/12 and 12/26 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm.

Donations for December: paper towels, toilet paper, toothpaste, and healthy snacks.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
4007 Main Street
Eggertsville, NY 14226



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716-835-0407
www.stpaulseggertsville.org

Pastor Steve Biegner (716-868-1232 cell)
Administrative Director: Katie Nagel-Santillo
Youth Director: Adam Weber
Music Director: Paul Storfer