

All Saints Evangelical Lutheran Church

S6065 South Park Avenue
Hamburg, New York 14075
716-649-6266
WEB SITE: www.allsaintshamburg.org
E-MAIL: allsaintshamburg@gmail.com



Rev. David Menz, Pastor
Rev. Paul Mertzlufft, Pastor Emeritus
Office Administration, Louise Peters
Beth Cheney, Editor



*The Pastor's
Pen*

June 2025



I now find myself writing my last front page for a newsletter. I must confess that this is one chore that I will not miss in my retirement!

It is hard to find the words to make my parting prayer for all of you. I thank the Lord for the joys we have shared in our journey together, for helping us all grow stronger and wiser. I also thank our Lord for the privilege of being with you as your pastor these last seventeen years at All Saints, seven of them shared with First.

I pray that you continue courageously in the ways of truth and service. May God bless each task you undertake for the sake of the people beyond your walls. May the Holy Spirit make you strong and faithful, diligent in your care for one another and bold in your witness to the gospel.

I am confident that God, in his own good time, will raise up a pastor for you after your own heart, someone who can guide you along the path set before you, whatever shape your future ministry may take. I also hope you will be as open and loving with your new shepherd as you have been with me and my family, so that you, your pastor and Jesus will love and struggle and work together to care for one another and proclaim the gospel in word and deed to the glory of God.

The coming of my retirement from active ministry stirs up many feelings for me. I hope we can look back on our time together with gratitude for the many friendships I have made, of our achievements together and forgiveness for our failings. As I look back at my ministry with you, I can only think of the things that I should have done and didn't, of much more I could have done, or done differently. With all my faults and failings, I can only take comfort in

Jesus' words in Luke 17.10: "So you also, when you have done all that is commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'"

We have to separate ourselves from one another for a time, to make the transition from one period of ministry to another, but our friendships will abide and I am sure we will run into one another shopping, etc.

May the presence of our Lord and Savior and the love and grace of God fill our hearts and help us to look forward in trust and hope to the next stage in our growth as God's people.

Your shepherd and co-worker in Christ,

Pastor Dave

Worship Notes

June is a very busy month this year, filled with festivals.

- † **June 1 – Seventh Sunday of Easter/ Ascension Sunday** We bring to conclusion the Easter season and also celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord which took place on 29 May.
- † **June 8 – Pentecost**, we celebrate the festival of the Holy Spirit. Wear red today if you have it.
- † **June 15 – The Holy Trinity.** Trinity Sunday marks the change to the second half of the Church Year.
- † **June 15 – Tina & Dana Dueringer Scholarship and Memorial Fund Scholarship awards** at All Saints during the 11:00 am Service.
- † **June 29 – The Commemoration of St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles and Martyrs.** This festival is also Pastor Dave's last Sunday before his retirement. There will be no service at First this day. Both congregations will worship together at 11:00 am at All Saints. A reception will follow the worship service.
- † **Hymn Suggestion Box**
As the choir once more goes into the period of summer rest, the Hymn Suggestion Box will be on the table in the narthex. Give us your favorite hymns and they will be plugged into the hymn lists for our Sunday services during the summer. Thank you.

† **SECC – FUN GROUP**

The next meeting of the Fun Group of the Southern Erie County Cooperation will be held at All Saints on Thursday, June 19 at 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings. Please bring a snack. Thank you.

† **Grace Lutheran's Picnic** will be held on 6/22/25 at Chestnut Ridge Park Shelter #1. Church service will begin at 11 a.m. with lunch to follow. ALL ARE WELCOME!

† **Food for Thought**

History teaches us the harsh lesson that to sin by silence when we should speak out helps no one but the oppressors. Pastor Martin Niemoller (1892-1984) was a Lutheran pastor in Germany. Initially, he was a supporter of Hitler, believing a strong leader was needed to restore order and honor to Germany following the chaos after World War I. His views changed when he was imprisoned in a concentration camp for speaking out against Nazi control of churches. He wrote the poem *First They Came* in 1946 as a kind of confession.

First they came for the Communists

And I did not speak out

Because I was not a Communist.

Then they came for the Socialists

And I did not speak out

Because I was not a Socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists

And I did not speak out

Because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews

And I did not speak out

Because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me

And there was no one left

To speak out for me.





You are Invited!

On June 29th we will celebrate with Pastor and his family his last service at All Saints as he prepares to retire. We will share the service with our yoked sister church First Lutheran Church, Blasdell. We will invite all to attend Pastor's retirement reception, immediately following the church service in the fellowship hall.





Congratulations to Anne Spear Mayer and Beth Cheney for being honored at the Annual Lutheran Awards Banquet with the Magi Award from the Lutheran Foundation. The Magi Award recognizes individuals for their dedication, altruism and support of local ministries, social services and community programs.

Ann and Beth also thank the All Saints family members who attended the banquet to honor them.



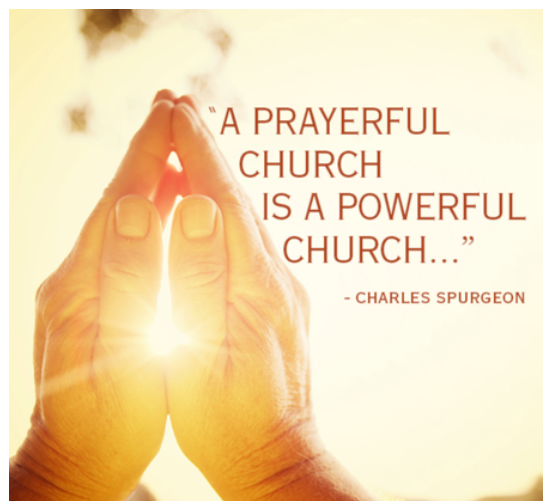
Schedule of Volunteers June 2025

	June 1	June 8	June 15	June 22	June 29
Deacon	Ron Heintz	Martha Muck	Beth Cheney	Barbara Kurasch	
Ushers		Frank Wald & Volunteer			
Reader	Sandi Menz	Ron Heintz	Barbara Kurasch	Martha Muck	Jim Wasmund
Altar Guild	Gail Hellert	Gail Hellert	Donna Pavel	Donna Pavel	Joanne Mauer
Cleaning	Beth Cheney	Joan Fabian	Martha Muck	Bev Blette	Beth Cheney
Counting		Barbara Kurasch and Bev Zier			
Mowing	Mark Marcin	Will Blette	Jim Mayer	Ted Cheney	Jim Mayer
	Ted Cheney	John Blette	Frank Fabian	Bryan Sullivan	Will Blette
	Frank Fabian	Frank Wald	Gary Mosier	Mark Marcin	John Blette

If you cannot serve at your scheduled time, please arrange for a substitute.

SECC News

- Grace Lutheran's Picnic will be held on 6/22/25 at Chestnut Ridge Park Shelter #1. Church service will begin at 11 a.m. with lunch to follow. Everyone bring a dish to pass, Grace will provide hamburgers and hot dogs. After lunch and games will be a basket auction. You are welcome to bring a basket if you want. All four churches are invited to join in the picnic.
- First Lutheran's 100th Anniversary will be held on 9/7/25 at 11 a.m. A luncheon at Ilio DiPaolo's will be held afterwards. Tom Bednarz will let us know details at the next meeting.
- Sandwich Sunday will be held on 8/10/25. Congregations will make sandwiches each in a baggie with the ingredients written on the bag. Beth Cheney will pick up sandwiches on 8/10 after each church's service and deliver the sandwiches to the Hamburg Hotel Homeless Families and the Friends of the Night that day.
- Pastor Dave's retirement service will be held on 6/29/25 at 11 a.m. at All Saints. Both Grace and Good Shepherd will send volunteers to help with the reception to follow the service. Beth will get details and send along to everyone for the reception volunteers.
- Eight Days of Hope. Corky, from Grace church spoke about dates for volunteering. Dates for Buffalo are 7/19-7/26. Register online at Eight Days of Hope website to volunteer. The group will be working on the East side of Buffalo this year cleaning up and painting the exterior of homes in need. Need to sign up at least two weeks prior to 7/19.
- Contemporary Christian Revival Concert is planned for 9/27/25 at First Lutheran. Tom Bednarz from First is working with Ryan Lotocki, WNY Lutheran Youth Leader to plan the concert. Tom's vision to have many bands come and play Christian music with a Christian service in between the bands. He has a friend who also has technology to share on TVs at alternate locations and maybe on social media. If each church can ask if there are any people who would love to sing Christian music and share their talents, let Tom know if anyone is interested. Tom's phone number is 716-445-8736 or Tom's wife, Jenny at 716-445-8745. Please share this information with your congregation.
- Next SECC Meeting will be held on 6/19/25 at 6:30 p.m. at All Saints.





Save the Date

September 7, 2025

FOR THE **100th Celebration** OF THE
BEGINNING OF

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

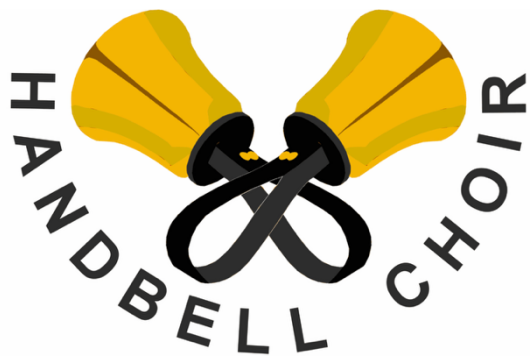
Blasdell, New York 14219

**There will be an 11:00 am Celebration Service at FIRST,
followed by a Luncheon at Ilio's Restaurant
716-825-3192**

The cost will be determined in the next few weeks. If interested in attending, please call FIRST to make a reservation for the luncheon. The price will be confirmed and you can mail a check to FIRST.

All Saints will not have a church service at All Saints on 9/7. We will be joining First Lutheran at their church at 66 Arthur Avenue, Blasdell at 11:00 a.m. Please plan on attending the service so that we may share and celebrate with First on their 100th Anniversary!



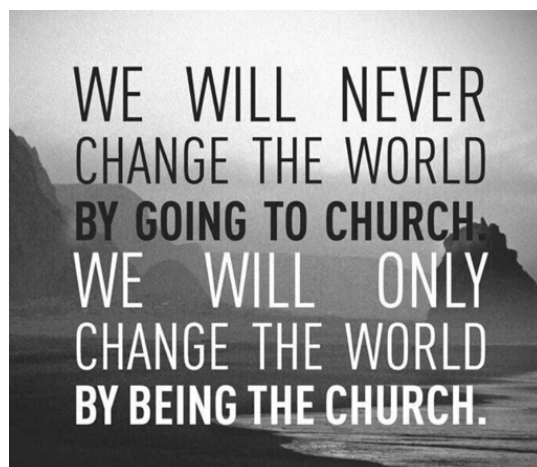


Are you interested in learning how to play handbells? We will be starting up a new bell choir. You do not need to read music to play bells, but if you do that's great. Please see Peter Van Scozza or Beth Cheney if you are interested. We would love for you to join us!!



The Cleaning Committee needs **HELP!** It only takes a few hours once a month to help keep our church clean. If you are interested in joining the cleaning committee, please see Beth Cheney or Bev Blette. *Thank you!!*

Due to insurance/liability concerns the free lending medical equipment will no longer be available. Sorry for the inconvenience. Beth Cheney



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the July/August Newsletter is **June 15th**.
Please have all articles in by this time.
Thank You! Send to Beth Cheney
@ bwc143@verizon.net

From Ann Spear Mayer:

If you have a special day during the month of June that you would like to express in flowers on the altar, please let Louise Peters know (716-826-5406).

Attention All God's Grass Guys: Jim Wasmund will substitute for you if needed. His cell phone number is 716-449-8181. Also please mark your schedule August 31, Jim Mayer is going to cover that date. My bad, I missed it. THANK YOU Jim & Jim!

Transforming All Saints

Updates on the changes coming in 2025

The Discernment Group began gathering opinions and information from the congregation. Each week over the summer, a personal witness statement and question accompany the bulletin. Time to reflect on the question and write an answer has been included in the service.

- A notebook will be kept in the narthex so that members can look at all the answers received.
- Each question will generate a Word Cloud, in which the words most often used in answers are largest. Word Clouds are on display in the Fellowship Hall.
- As each Guiding Principle is completed, the concluding activity will be a list of what the Group has learned. Members will be asked to rate their agreement or disagreement.

In September, as the composition of the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) begins, there will be additional activities planned, including a series of survey questions to collect hard data and formulate answers. Once we have given thought to who we are and how we will respond to God's call, we will form a writing committee to assemble the MSP, which will be posted online for potential ministers to review.

Please remember: If you would like to play a role in this process, please contact one of your Council members.

Council Highlights

April 2025

- Pastor Menz introduced us to our Transition Pastor, Pastor Serena Mollenkopf-Grill. Pastor Serena will be responsible for locating substitute pastors to conduct Sunday services, as well as handling any pastoral emergencies. She will dedicate 20 hours each month to All Saints; current plans are for her to be in the office on Thursday mornings. In September, she will visit so that the congregation can meet her.
- Decision was made to support St. Paul's Rebuilding Fund with a special offering envelope.
- A resignation letter was received from Joanne Mauer, Treasurer. She will continue until the end of December to train a replacement. Chris Lotocki has offered to take over as Treasurer.
- First Lutheran's 100th anniversary service will be held on 7 September 2025. We are invited.
- We are waiting for the weather to break before repairing the ice damage on the windows in the alcove behind the altar. Three new exit signs were installed and the summer mowing schedule is out.
- The approved revised constitution has been sent to Synod.
- The Discernment Group has planned activities throughout the summer that will provide information and feedback to be used in composing the Ministry Site Profile.
- SECC Fun group meeting produced a long list of activities and collaborations. Beth will update in newsletter.
- Ballot for the 14 May 2025 Annual Meeting was finalized.



Where do we find joy in worship?



What are we excited about?



What is our reason for existence?



FINANCE REPORT

APRIL 2025

BANK BALANCES

CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$ 10,422.48
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	\$ 4,629.10
TOTAL	\$ 15,051.58

MONTHLY
ACTIVITY

	ACTUAL	1/12 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
CURRENT RECEIPTS SPECIAL GIFTS	\$ 12,396.00	\$ 12,793.00	\$ (397.00)
CURRENT EXPENDITURES	\$ 12,549.00	\$ 12,793.00	\$ (244.00)
DIFFERENCE	\$ (153.00)	\$ -	\$ (153.00)

YEAR TO
DATE

CURRENT RECEIPTS SPECIAL BUDGET GIFTS	\$ 40,078.00	\$ 51,172.00	\$ (11,094.00)
CURRENT EXPENDITURES	\$ 42,825.00	\$ 51,172.00	\$ (8,347.00)
DIFFERENCE	\$ (2,747.00)	\$ -	\$ (2,747.00)

The members of All Saints Family have prayed for the following people for the last 30 days. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

- † Al Goodberry
- † Mary Ann Moeller
- † Chris Enser
- † Don Nagel
- † Kim Flagg
- † Family of Jonathan Hubert
- † Family of Margaret Fischer
- † Jim





June Birthdays

Karen Fitch	6/8
Thomas Graser	6/9
Madelynn Augustyniac	6/10
Christine Lotocki	6/13
Jennifer Hibbard	6/15
Pamela Beth Marcin	6/16
Allison Cline	6/18
Paul M. Mertzlufft Jr.	6/20
Heather Armstrong	6/24
Brendan Menz	6/28
Bethany Fabian	6/29
Evelyn Blette	6/30

Lutheran Charities of WNY will be holding their Annual Golf Classic on Monday, June 30th. As part of the event there will be a basket raffle. They're asking for our help. So, I'm willing to put together baskets made with your donations. I've put a list of ideas to inspire us on a table in the narthex and will display finished baskets. I need your donations by Sunday, June 22nd. Any questions, see Judy Westphal. Thank you!



June Anniversaries

Rev. Paul & Wyn Mertzlufft	6/1/57
Rev. David & Sandi Menz	6/7/80
<i>Happy 45th Anniversary</i>	
Megan & Ben Hopewell	6/30/18
Jordan & Jennifer Hibbard	6/10/17

Join Us This Summer for the

27TH ANNUAL LUTHERAN CHARITIES GOLF CLASSIC

DATE: MONDAY, JUNE 30TH

PLACE: *Exclusive Use of the*

PENDELTON CREEK GOLF CLUB
 4385 Tonawanda Creek Road
 North Tonawanda, NY 14120
 (716) 694-0366

COST: **\$150 PER GOLFER**
 Includes lunch, golf and cart fees, 1-hour open bar and buffet dinner.
Non-Golfing Guests: \$50
 Includes 1-hour open bar and buffet dinner.

SCHEDULE:

11 AM	Registration
	Lunch
	Driving Range Open
Noon	Shotgun Start
4-5 PM	Open Bar
5 PM	Dinner & Awards

REGISTER & PAY ONLINE!

Visit:
www.wnylutherancharities.org

or Contact Us at:
 Lutheran Charities of WNY
 6540 Main Street
 Williamsville, NY 14221
 (716) 632-2623
info@wnylutherancharities.org
 or
 See Your Golf Committee Representative

**CONTESTS
PRIZES & AWARDS**

Closest to the Pin
Longest Drive

First Place Trophies
Scramble Format

HELP YOUR SCORE!
Buy Mulligans & Strings

TRY YOUR LUCK!
50/50
Basket Raffle
with "Big Ticket" Items

GOLF WITH A PURPOSE

100% of proceeds from our annual golf classic supports our mission to care for and support individuals, families and communities by building valuable connections to create synergy and empowerment. This is achieved by underwriting grant funding for various service agencies throughout Western New York that provide education, food, health care, social support and more to our at-risk and neediest neighbors.

Together We Build



Together We Serve

*St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Blossom has served the Elma
and the surrounding communities since 1862.*

On May 13, 2023 the sanctuary suffered a total loss due to a fire.

*The congregation is poised to **Rise from the Ashes**
and begin construction on a new sanctuary, welcome center and community spaces.*

*Your generous and joyful giving will help the St. Paul's family begin construction
in the Fall of 2025. Every gift is prayerfully appreciated.*

Contact:
Lisa Breidenstein, President
(716) 868-1084
Pastor Jonathan Haseley
(716) 807-1370

St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Blossom
360 Main Street
Elma, NY 14059



TO SERVE AS A SOURCE OF LOVE, HOPE, AND
TRANSFORMATION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST
IN BLOSSOM AND BEYOND.

March 9, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Mother's Day weekend 2023, our church, St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Blossom, in Elma, NY, was devastated by a fire that left our sanctuary in ruins. The loss was immense, and our hearts were heavy with much grief. In the face of this trial, we have witnessed an outpouring of love, support, and prayers from our community and beyond. This outpouring of encouragement and generosity has been a beacon of hope for us during this difficult time. It is in this spirit of unity and compassion that we reach out to you today, seeking your support as we embark on the journey of rebuilding our church.

Our congregation has always been more than just a building; it is a vibrant community of faith, hope, and love. The flames may have taken our physical structure, but they could not extinguish the spirit of our mission or the strength of our fellowship. We are committed to moving forward with renewed vigor, eager to continue our ministry and mission with the same fervor that has characterized our journey thus far.

The road to rebuilding is both a challenge and an opportunity—a chance to create a new space that will better serve our community and fulfill our calling to share the Gospel. We envision a church that not only meets our needs but also extends our outreach, embraces new ministries, and stands as a symbol of resilience and hope.

To make this vision a reality, we humbly ask for your support. Your donation, whether large or small, will be a testament to the strength of our shared faith. Contributions can be made by check (payable to "St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Blossom") and sent to the church's address listed below. All gifts will be deeply appreciated.

We are hopeful and confident that, with your support, we will not only rebuild but also enhance our ability to serve others and spread Christ's love far and wide. Thank you for considering our request and for your continued prayers and support. May God bless you abundantly as we move forward together in faith and mission.

In Christ's service,

Rev. Jonathan Haseley
Pastor

Mrs. Lisa Breidenstein
President

Mr. Bob Breidenstein
Rebuild Chairman

716-668-4320

360 Main Street, Elma, NY 14059

stpaulsblossom.org

**Watch for special
envelopes in the
bulletin for your
donation to St. Paul's
rebuilding fund.**



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S 6065 South Park Avenue
Hamburg, NY 14075



June 2025 Newsletter