



SAINT PAUL'S MESSENGER

Lent-Easter 2024

HOLY WEEK

Wednesday, March 27th

6^{PM} "The Final Words from the Cross"
Potluck & Study - *St. Peter's Episcopal*

Maundy Thursday, March 28th

7^{PM} Worship - *Dansville Presbyterian*
Vigil - *St. Peter's Episcopal*

Good Friday, March 29th

12^{PM} Cross Walk - *Church Park*
(Weather Location *Dansville Presbyterian*)
7^{PM} Worship - *St. Paul's Lutheran*

EASTER

Easter Sunday, March 31st

7^{AM} Ecumenical Sunrise Svc.
Church Park Gazebo

9^{AM} *St. Peter's UCC*

9^{AM} *St. Paul's Lutheran*

10:30^{AM} *Dansville Presbyterian*

10:30^{AM} *St. Peter's Episcopal*

Covid 19 Update

After almost 4 years of avoiding infection, Pastor Eric had a round of covid in February; he's on the mend but this is a reminder that covid is still around. We have been fortunate to have had minimal infections in the congregation. Please remain current on your vaccines for covid, influenza, and as indicated, RSV and pneumonia. Be sure to continue good practices of handwashing and sanitizing. To that end, we will be sure sanitizer is available in church. Please practice masking as needed, especially if you're in a large crowd. Remember our church has members who are especially vulnerable as a result of age or underlying medical conditions.

After four years, we are wiser and better protected from covid. Still, it pays to stay vigilant.

Pastor's Pen

For some reason, I find much to love about the more penitential seasons of Advent and Lent. Of course I love Christmas and Easter, and especially Pentecost and All Saints. Penitential seasons are often associated with gloom and doom, and we have plenty of language in our worship that could be understood as reinforcing that sensibility. Yet if we look at them as opportunities to get our spiritual houses in order, that lets us view them as positive seasons instead of writhing in gloom. That is what I love most about them. They're a fresh start.

This is especially true of Lent. For those of us in the northern hemisphere, it happens close to the beginning of Spring, which is no accident. "Lent" comes from the Old English "lencten," which indeed means "springtime." It also is related to "lengthen," referencing the lengthening of daylight we experience in the northern hemisphere this time of year. I don't know about you, but experiencing more daylight puts me in a better mood. It also puts me in the mood to tidy up the house. I can't be alone in this, since "spring cleaning" is well known. Lent invites us to do the same thing for our spirits. We examine our lives, identify the built-up gunk of sin, and get to work cleaning it up and reorganizing our lives with God's help.

A bout of covid may have kept me from beginning Lent with you, but with three Sundays and Palm Sunday to go, I look forward to sharing this refreshing season with you. In the meantime, let us each remember to engage in daily prayer, daily Bible reading, and acts of reconciliation. Remember also that we have our Wednesday study with our neighbor churches, this year focusing on the "Final Words from the Cross," in addition to worship to support our Lenten journey.

Finally, I want to suggest to you that it is okay to celebrate spiritual progress. When we clean and organize a room in our homes, we can be glad we did the work even as we must stay vigilant to keep things in order (especially if we have children!). Similarly, when we reach a spiritual milestone as a result of getting our spiritual house in order, we should be sure to celebrate. Thank God for the achievement. Rejoice in a refreshed life. And stay vigilant with regular prayer, Bible reading, fellowship, and acts of service to maintain our newfound spiritual fitness. This will make for not just an uplifting and productive Lent, but uplifting and productive spiritual lives going forward.

"So then, with endurance, let's also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let's throw off any extra baggage, get rid of the sin that trips us up, and fix our eyes on Jesus, faith's pioneer and perfecter. He endured the cross, ignoring the shame, for the sake of the joy that was laid out in front of him, and sat down at the right side of God's throne." – Hebrews 12:1-2 (Common English Bible)

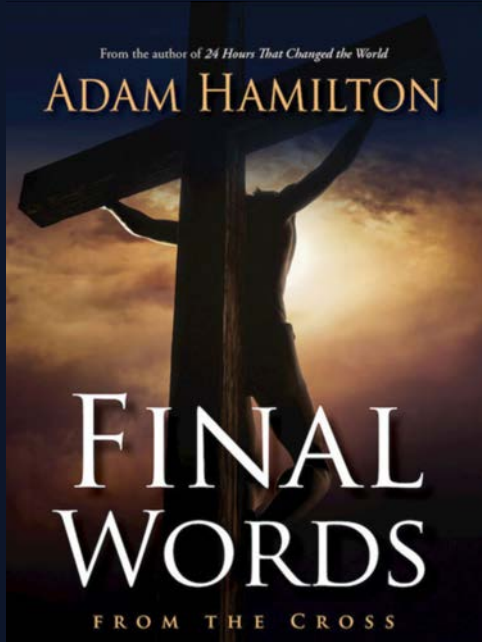
– Pr. Eric

Need to chat? Office hours are by appointment.
Just call Pastor Eric at (585) 447-3623 or
email him at pastor@stpaulsdansville.org.

Ecumenical

Potluck & Study Wednesdays at 6PM St. Peter's Parish Hall

You're welcome to bring a dish to pass.



IN OUR PRAYERS

The Backus Family	Kay Howe
Jan Blum	Rose Jacob
Ginger Buck	Mary Sahrle
Rodney Button	Bill Shaver
Lois Costanza	Joyce Sliker
Jerome Fazackerley	David Smith
Michael K.	Jim Wagner
Jeannie M.	The Wall Family
Merlyn Hann	

Daily Devotions

Lenten Devotions from Luther Seminary, visit:
<https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/lenten-devotional/>

or scan this code with your phone:



Daily Devotions from Forward Movement, visit:
<https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/fdd>

or scan this code with your phone:



HOPE
COMMUNITY
LUNCHEON



March 23
April 27
11:30-1

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
25 Clara Barton St.
Dansville, NY 14437

New Options for Children

Saint Paul's now has a fresh option for a multimedia Sunday School experience you can use wherever you have an internet connection. SparkHouse is a Lutheran resource with a proven track record of Christian education for children and youth. They offer a number of curricula for weekly lectionary-based Sunday school, confirmation, and building Christian identity.

We are launching with their YouTube channel, SparkHouse Family, which offers fun, easy programming to help young people learn about God, their place in the church, and how to live and love.



Not only can this be accessed via the large, flatscreen television newly located in the Sunday School wing, but you can access the material wherever you have an internet connection!

We welcome volunteers to read in worship, assist with communion, and serve as ushers and counters. If you want to help out, let a council member know or sign up at the bulletin board in the hallway.



Mar. - Apr. 2024

FAMILY LAUNDROMAT
20 FRANKLIN ST. DANSVILLE, NY

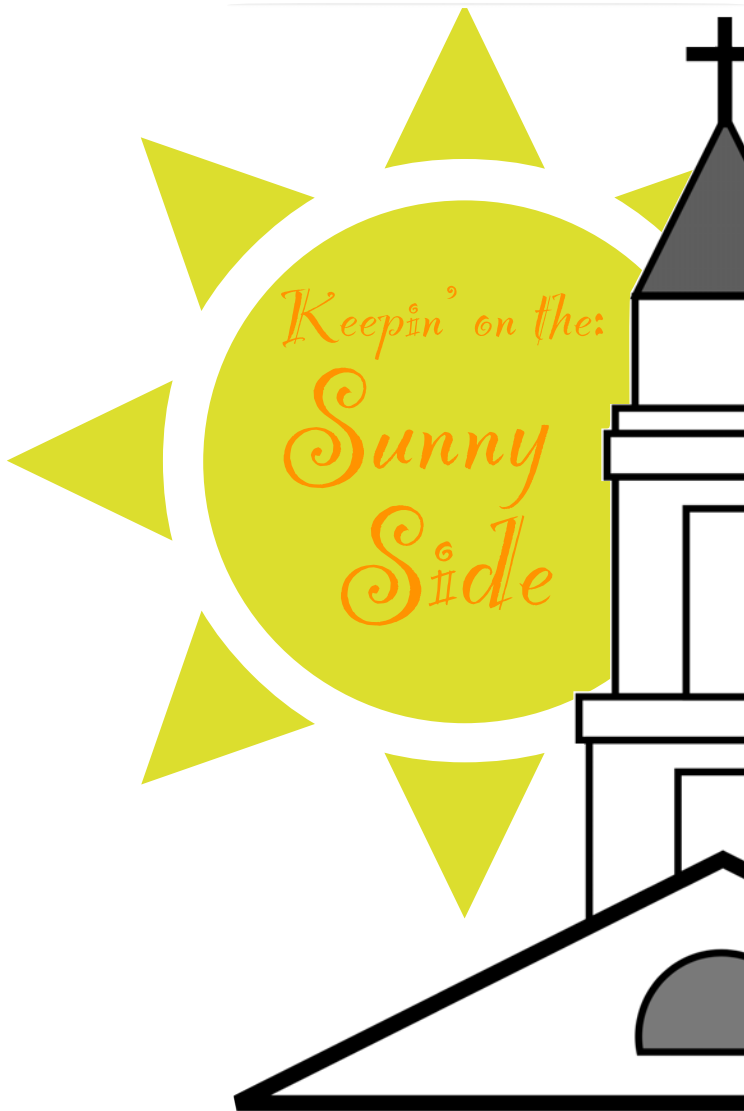
Sat., Mar. 2	8-11 am
Mon., Mar. 4	3-6 pm
Sat., Mar. 16	8-11 am
Mon., Mar. 18	3-6 pm
Sat. Apr. 6	8-11 am
Mon. Apr. 8	3-6 pm
Sat. Apr. 20	8-11 pm
Mon. Apr. 22	3-6 pm

LAST ADMISSION 10:45 & 5:45.

- ✦ Soap and quarters provided
- ✦ Attend two events per month
- ✦ Individuals: wash & dry 3 loads
- ✦ Families: wash & dry 5 loads

Laundry Love™ is a mission of St. Paul's Lutheran Church with support from the local community.
www.stpaulsdansville.org (585) 335-5260

Laundry Love is funded with a combination of denominational grants and individual donations. It is a growing ministry with monthly expenses of \$500 or higher. Please consider supporting this ministry with your own contribution, and/or volunteering to work at least one session per



CONGREGATION BEGINS CAMPAIGN TO REPAIR, PREVENT WATER DAMAGE.

In response to a series of leaks into the Sanctuary, Council had the steeple fully inspected. It has been found to be in need of new roofing and flashing. Further delay could leave the steeple and the rest of the building subject to structural problems.

Council recommended to the Congregation a course of action to repair the steeple, which was approved.

The plan is to:

- Rent a 120' lift (approx. \$7000)
- Replace roofing and flashing, with other repairs as needed (approx. \$13,000).

Up to \$15,000 will be borrowed from investments, to be repaid over 3 years at 3% interest.

\$6,350.67 will come from insurance.

Of course, the more we donate, the more we raise, and the less we will need to borrow and the faster we can pay it back! If just 20 members gave \$21 per month for the next 36 months, we would raise more than enough to cover costs.

Please consider making a pledge or other donation to the St. Paul's building fund.

January-March Birthdays

Penny Leven - 1/10
Cindy Gates - 1/22
Trinity Robin - 2/9
Arthur Leven - 2/21
David Smith - 2/24
Heather Robin - 2/25

John Buck - 2/26
Anabella Faulds - 3/4
Gerri Long - 3/12
Glenn Gates - 3/17

*If you want a birthday included,
please contact the office.*

2024 Annual Meeting Review

The 2024 Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, January 28th. Reports were received and the 2024 budget passed. The following pages feature the written reports received, apart from detailed financial information for the sake of brevity. Detailed finance reports from the Treasurer and Financial Secretary, along with line-by-line spending and budget information were provided at the Annual Meeting, and is available upon request. Feel free to contact the Pastor, Council Secretary, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary if you have questions.

AGENDA

- I. Establishment of Quorum & Call to Order
- II. Recess for Worship
- III. Worship
- IV. Reconvene for Business
- V. Approve Minutes of 2023 Annual Meeting & Special Meeting
- VI. Adoption of 2024 Operating Budget
- VII. Steeple Roof and Lift Quote - Council recommends to the Congregation to repair the steeple roof/sash and to rent a 120' lift in the amount up to \$15,000 and use the insurance money of \$6,350.67. The \$15,000 will be borrowed from Thrivent mutual fund account and said amount to be repaid in 3 years plus 3% interest.
- VIII. Nominations & Election of Council Officers Ballot if necessary
Nominees: Robert Whiteman
Additional Position
- IX. Receipt of 2020 Annual Reports
 - a. Pastor
 - b. Council President
 - c. Financial Secretary
 - d. Treasurer
 - e. Enduring Gift Fund

 - f. Property
 - g. Music
 - h. Statistics
- X. Adjourn Sine Die
- XI. Thanksgiving for the Word & Lord's Prayer

Annual meeting minutes January 29, 2023

Establishment of a Quorum & Call to Order - At 9:00 am Pastor Eric Thompson called the meeting to order and established that there was a quorum of 20 members.

Recess for Worship

Worship

Reconvene for Business at 9:29 am

Approve Minutes of 2022 Annual Meeting - Motion by Joan Brydges, second by Henry Robin to approve the 2022 Annual Meeting minutes. 20 - aye, 0 - nay

Adoption of 2023 Operating Budget - Gerri Long, Financial Treasurer, reviewed the recommended 2023 Budget. Motion by Nancy Smith, second by Rodney Button to adopt the 2023 Operating Budget presented by Gerri Long. 20 - aye, 0 - nay

Nomination and Election of Council Officers

Eligible for a second term Paul Button - Paul accepts to serve his second term. 20 - aye, 0 - nay

Need a second person - There were no nominations and it was determined the seat would remain vacant.

2022 Annual Reports

a. Pastor

b. Council President - Bob Whiteman gave a verbal report about some Council members meeting at St. Timothy's to discuss a possible joint call committee. He stated that Council would continue the possibility and call Pastor Jon Diebler to come and speak to the congregation about our possibilities.

c. Financial secretary

d. Treasurer

e. Enduring Gift Fund - Tina Button gave a verbal report

f. Property

g. Music

h. Statistics

Motion by Joan Brydges, second by Nancy Smith to accept the reports. 20 - aye, 0 - nay

IX. Adjourn - 9:42 am - Motion to adjourn by Paul Button, second by Rodney Button. 20 - aye, 0 - nay
Thanksgiving for the Word and Lords Prayer

Special Congregational Meeting Minutes July 9, 2023

I. Call to Order & Opening Prayer by Bishop Lee Miller at 10:07 am

II. Established Quorum (20% of average attendance) 17 members were in attendance so that was more than a 20% of average attendance.

III. Adopt Agenda - Motion to adopt the agenda was made by Joan Brydges, second by Rodney Button. 17 - aye, 0 - nay

IV. Options for St. Paul's - Bishop Miller stated that it is Synod's role to support congregations. He has been in office for 2 years. Intern Lisa has been at St. Timothy's and their Council will go through the Call process and their need is for a $\frac{3}{4}$ time Pastor.

If St. Paul's continues with the Episcopal relationship, Council has stated that they would like Lutheran liturgy to continue. Bishop Miller also stated that Synod would bless either relationship.

Discuss St. Paul's options

Enter into a relationship with St. Timothy's Lutheran Church

Continue relationship with Reverend Eric Thompson

Concerns: St. Timothy's service time is 9:30 am so it would be likely we would have a different start time.

$\frac{1}{4}$ time would equal 11 hours

Concern that Intern Lisa has been called by St. Timothy's and St. Paul's was not asked to share in the call process. She will be ordained in 2 weeks. Base salary for a new Pastor is \$64,770 plus housing, medical and pension. Gerri Long is concerned about the cost of $\frac{1}{4}$ time Pastor. Our current weekly budget is \$55,000 and our expenditures are estimated at \$85,000.

Ann Myers, Nancy Faulds and Heather Robin stated that this vote is being pushed on members and there has not been enough information given to them for a vote.

Motion by Bill Pfunter to carpool to Geneseo for service. There was no second for this motion therefore it did not go forward for a vote.

Saturday services were discussed but Sue Collier stated she would not be able to play on Saturdays.

A 3rd option was mentioned. Work with a facilitator to meet in the Fall and try to see if St. Timothy's is open to sharing with St. Paul's.

A 4th option would be to have Supply Pastors every Sunday.

At 10:54 am Nancy Smith made a motion to end the discussion and vote, second by Marilyn Robin. 14 - aye, 1 - Nay

V. Vote by paper ballot - ballots were handed out. Bishop and Bob Whiteman counted ballots. St. Paul's congregation affirms the Pastoral relationship with Reverend Eric Thompson - 14 votes

St. Paul's congregation would like to enter into a relationship with St. Timothy's Church - 4 votes

The vote was in favor of continuing our Pastoral relationship with Reverend Eric Thompson

VI. Adjourn with Lord's Prayer Motion to adjourn by Henry Robin, second by Joan Brydges at 11:02 am.

Pastor

2023 was a year of vital ministry. Laundry Love served hundreds of individuals even as we found new support for this ministry in the wider community. We deployed Thrivent Action Cards to meet local and regional needs. We made care kits to serve a variety of needs and seasons. We hosted concerts. Bible Study became cemented as a Wednesday event on our block. Easter and Christmas attendances were robust, especially compared to recent years.

It was also a year of discernment for St. Paul's as you considered options for pastoral ministry. This is a very important discernment! That I am here reflects your decision, for which I am grateful. If anyone feels we lost any time in 2023 thinking strategically and creatively together for the future of St. Paul's, I trust we can make up for lost time this year.

St. Paul's congregation continued to step up to make all these things happen by volunteering and offering material support for these ministries. All of this shows that St. Paul's is a church that continues to outperform its size even as many traditional Protestant churches face extreme headwinds. I am grateful for the volunteers, staff, and leaders who make our common life at St. Paul's possible. I am grateful also for those who faithfully attend, either in person, or online, that contribute to our community prayer and praise. Above all, I am grateful for the grace of God that abides with us as we go forward. For all the challenges in the lives of churches and the wider world that we hear of almost every day, I am optimistic for St. Paul's mission and ministry in 2024 and beyond.

— *Pastor Eric Thompson*

Council President

I would like to thank the many people who oversee our programs to keep St. Paul's going. This past year we

have been able to get the two big trees removed, The church was washed on the outside after many years of accumulation of grime and the foundation was repointed. We also explored sharing clergy with St. Timothy's in Geneseo, but opted to continue with Pr. Eric.

This coming year we need to have some repairs done on the church Steeple and some painting on the outside entrance doors and a couple of windows that are not trimmed in aluminum.

— *Bob Whiteman*

Enduring Gift Fund

The market value of the fund was \$71,973.84 as of 12/31/23. The fund has increased in value \$3,879.15. The Thrivent money market account has \$17,455.85 and in the Enduring Gift "Other Income" account, \$458.67.

The Enduring Gift Fund Committee met in September to discuss the possibility of awarding grants. A gift was received and with the market improving, it was decided that the Committee would advertise and award grants in November. \$3,000 was given to 3 community outreach programs.

The Enduring Gift Fund Committee will meet in early February to review the policies and decide whether grants will be given in 2024. The date will be announced and members are welcome to join the meeting.

Donations to the Fund can be made through wills, life insurance, charitable gift annuities, memorials, real estate, stocks, bonds, and in your weekly offering envelopes.

Should you have questions regarding the Fund or making a donation, please feel free to contact a committee member. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the Enduring Gift Fund.

Respectfully submitted by the Enduring Gift Fund Committee.

— *Marchia Santangelo, Cindy Wagner, Marilyn Robin, Tina Button*

Treasurer

In 2023, we spent \$10,548.87 more than we received no contributions. We did not need to borrow from Thrivent to help with cash flow. Memorials, undesignated donations, and an insurance payment helped with cash flow. Rent from the parsonage also helps with cash flow.

Other than salaries and benefits, our large expenditures continue to be for utilities and snow removal. In 2023, these expenditures were much lower than budgeted mainly due to the warmer weather, less snow, and the fact that the church is rarely open except for Sunday services and necessary committee and Council meetings.

The church was power washed this summer and two large diseased trees removed. A rear entrance door has been purchased but not yet installed. The cement blocks around the base of the entire church building have been re-grouted. A steeple leak caused staining of the sanctuary ceiling. An insurance appraiser was out to inspect the leak and a check has been sent by our insurance agency for repair. Proposals and quotes have been requested from various contractors. The elevette continues to be serviced by Bison Elevator under a monthly contract.

The parsonage driveway and church parking spaces were sealed by Hober Enterprises. All parsonage expenses (taxes, repairs and insurance) are paid by the rent we receive.

Through the generosity of our members, donations were made to the following organizations outside of our regular budget.

- Dansville Community Food Pantry - \$220 + food donations from a Thrivent Action Project.
- Lutheran World Relief - 54 personal care kits - a Thrivent Action project
- 124 winter "survival" kits given to Catholic Charities, Livingston County Sheriff, Noyes Memorial Hospital,
- Geneseo Parish Outreach and Dansville Police Dept. - a Thrivent Action project
- Upstate NY Synod's General Assembly World Hunger drive - "Be Generous" - \$553
- Upstate Ny Synod's World Hunger drive - \$827

The Laundry Love mission continues to grow. The first weekend in January or 2024 saw 39 families take advantage of this mission. Donations have been received from numerous civic clubs, St Peter's Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Diocese, the DAMA thanksgiving service, and numerous individuals. We do thank the 3 individuals who are not members of our church who are assisting An Myers with this mission.

The 2024 budget reflects the following:

- A tithe of 10% of total expected contributions to the Upstate NY Synod.
- Increased pay rates for the Sexton and Secretary.

If all 2024 revenues/expenses are as expected, it is anticipated the church will need to use \$32,277 from our Thrivent accounts. But, I do have faith (as I do every year) that contributions will increase and we will continue to find ways to conserve and reduce the expected budget deficit as 2024 unfolds.

— Gerri Long

The proposed budget of \$83,877 was approved in the Annual Meeting on January 28, 2024. Detailed copies of both the 2023 financial report and the 2024 approved budget are available upon request.

Property

Henry Robin and I mowed the lawn as well as raked leaves to keep the grounds looking good. Benjamin Tree Service removed 2 large trees from our property which will hopefully keep the leaves at a minimum in the coming years.

Farrell's Lawns Service removed snow during the year but stated they would not be able to continue this service in 2024. Pastor and I met with Pat Caldwell in late November and he will be removing the snow from our sidewalks.

The steeple roof has been the culprit of the leak in the Sanctuary. A contractor has looked at the area and has provided a quote for the congregation to vote on. Also a leak has started in the narthex. The contractor has included this work in his quote. Along with the cost of the contractor I have submitted a quote for a 120 foot lift that the contractor will need to reach the damaged areas.

Richard Dantz installed a baseboard heater in a Sunday School room. A solenoid in the radiators was broken and to fix it would mean to shut down the boiler and drain all of the pipes. It was decided to install the baseboard heater as the quickest and cheapest solution. He also installed dust to dawn lights on the outside of the Church.

Finger Lakes Real Estate Rehabbers power washed the Church and Bob Whiteman and I will try to find a company to paint the outside of the Church this Spring. Dave Weakly repaired the foundation this fall. Also the small section of black top was sealed by Hober.

Bob Whiteman has purchased a door with a frame to replace the fire door on the first level next to the Sunday School rooms. We will replace the door when the weather is warmer.

At the Parsonage, the black top was sealed by Hober. Bob and I met with a contractor to repair the front steps and have not yet received a quote. The renter stated that the washing machine, dryer and stove needed to be repaired. Luckily they were repaired for under \$245.

There are many more projects than need attention and hopefully some of them will be completed in the new year.

—*Paul Button*

Worship & Music

The Choir continued providing anthems for services throughout 2023. Even with our very small group we have been able to prepare anthems with a wide variety of musical styles and composers. For Easter and Reformation, we added trumpets to the services with Penny and Heather, and new trumpet player Harper also played on a prelude. We also welcomed the brass quintet for the Christmas Eve service, and they always add much joy.

I continue to thank God for the choir members and for their commitment to the services and making beautiful music. Of course, thanks also to Susan Collier who supports the anthems and the service music with her terrific accompaniment talents. Wishing all a blessed 2024.

—*Marilyn Robin*

Statistics

Year	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Baptized Members	125	122	119
Confirmed Members	98	95	92
Average Sunday Attendance	20	19	20

Saint Paul's Lutheran Church

21 Clara Barton St.
Dansville, NY 14437
(585) 335-5260
stpaulsdansville.org
fb.com/stpaulsdansville

PASTOR

The Rev. Dr. J. Eric Thompson
(585) 447-3623
pastor@stpaulsdansville.org

STAFF

Sue Collier, Organist/Pianist
Marilyn Robin, Choir Director

COUNCIL

Bob Whiteman, President
Joan Brydges, Vice-President
Tina Button, Secretary
Geraldine Long, Treasurer
Paul Button, Property
Rodney Button



The Quotable Luther

“Be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly, for he is victorious over sin, death, and the world.”

– Letter to Philipp Melancthon, August 1521



Saint Paul's Lutheran Church
21 Clara Barton Street
Dansville, New York 14437

