

Saint Paul's Lutheran Church

Welcome Home!

September 2026 Newsletter

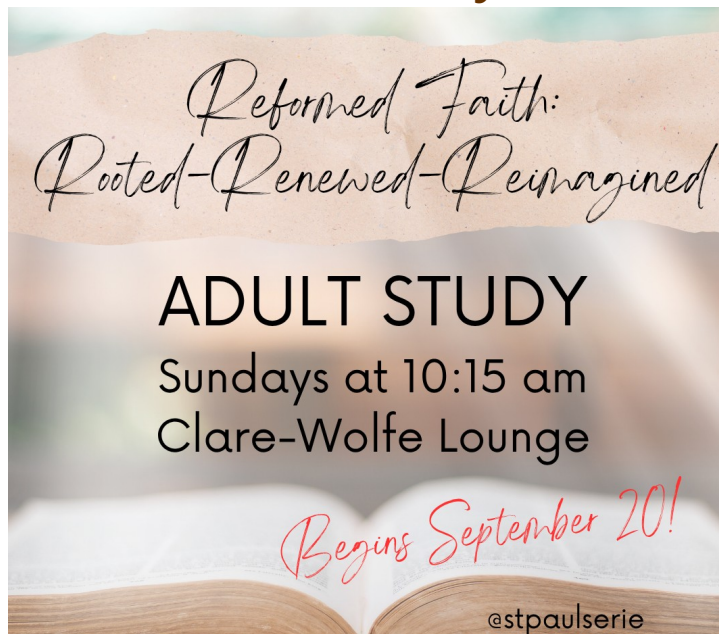


Rally Day 2026

Launch into the Christian Education year with St. Paul's Rally Day on Sunday, September 13 at 10:15 AM in the gym. Join us for coffee hour, ministry fair, LWR service project, Sunday School info, & quilt giveaway!



Brand New Adult Study



Join us every Sunday morning, beginning September 20, at 10:15 AM in Clare-Wolfe Lounge for adult study. We begin the Fall 2026 season with a multi-week study using Daniel Erlander's *Baptized, We Live*. This is a beautifully simple, deeply Lutheran exploration of baptism as the defining identity, vocation, and daily rhythm of Christian life.

Erie County CROP Hunger Walk

The 51st Erie County CROP Hunger Walk is Sunday, September 27, starting and ending in the Beach 1 parking lot (Runners' Pavilion) at Presque Isle State Park. Registration begins at 1 PM & the Walk kicks off at 2 PM. Walkers can choose from either a 1-mile or 5.3-mile loop route. More details about the Walk as we get closer to the big event.

Online registration is now open. Just go to www.crophungerwalk.org/eriepa. Once you and/or your team are signed up online it is very easy to solicit sponsors using that format. Questions? Contact Gabe Chiapa at CROPWalk@stpaulserie.org.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

3108 Sterrettania Road

Erie, PA 16506-2658

www.stpaulserie.org

Saturday Worship Service, 5 PM

Sunday Worship Service, 9 AM

All Sunday worship videos are livestreamed at

www.facebook.com/stpaulserie

and available at

www.youtube.com/user/stpaulslutheranerie.

Sunday Christian Education, 10:15 AM

Wednesday Scripture Study, 9 AM



Office Hours:

Mon-Thu 9 AM-3 PM

814-833-1761

office@stpaulserie.org



Pastor Erik

Pastor Erik Young

814-833-1761

Pastor@stpaulserie.org

Pastor's Office Hours: Mon-Wed 9 AM-1 PM

Reformed Faith: Rooted-Renewed-Reimagined

Multigenerational Christian Education for 2026-27

Save the date of Sunday, September 13th, as we will be launching into Fall with a Parish Rally Day in the gym beginning at 10:15am. There will be food & drink, ministry fair, Lutheran World Relief service project, Sunday School information, and one lucky person will go home with a handmade quilt created by our Patchwork of Love Quilting Group.

**Every Sunday Morning:
Worship 9-10am
Christian Education 10:15- 11:15am**

Children:

I'm excited to let you know that this year we will be offering Sunday School classes for those children preschool through 5th grade following worship, beginning September 20th. Our classes focus on retelling Bible stories that teach us about God's love for us and help us get to know God and God's son, Jesus. Each Sunday School session will open with a time for music, followed by the classroom interaction of teachers and students, where we experience faith in community.

Middle/High School:

In addition to our regular Monday night Youth Group (6-7:30pm, which focuses on Bible application in our daily lives as disciples), we will have a catechism-specific Sunday morning youth study during the allotted Christian Education time. This class is how we begin the confirmation journey for young people, as well as a great "I-get-it-now!" review for those high schoolers* who are already confirmed.

Adults:

Just like our Wednesday morning (9-10am) Lectionary Study, our Sunday morning adult study will take place in the Clare-Wolfe Lounge. We begin this season with a multi-week study using Daniel Erlander's *Baptized, We Live*. Kevin Kuric & Larry Kessler will lead us through this beautifully simple, deeply Lutheran exploration of baptism as the defining identity, vocation, and daily rhythm of Christian life. Erlander frames baptism not as a past event but as a present reality – God's ongoing claim on us, shaping how we live in community, resist evil, and embody Christ's love in the world.

*High schoolers:

On the day you were confirmed you were named an adult in this faith community. Therefore, you are encouraged and invited to bring your brains, your heart, and your passions to this adult study in lieu of the Catechism Revisited youth class.

We invite your whole family to come and grow with us beginning with our Rally Day event on Sunday, September 13th. All of this Christian Education will begin on September 20th and run from 10:15-11:15am every Sunday morning (immediately following our 9am worship).

Serving the world beside you,

-Pastor Erik Young

Community Care Ministries

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry continues to be successful and our neighbors are appreciative of our help. In July, we served 20 families (63 individuals). For September, we could use more tissues (a hot item), bar soap and/or men's & women's shower gel, and soup. Hard to believe it'll be soup season soon!!

Also, we continue to need folks to help with our food pick up. We need muscle! We pick up our order on the last Tuesday of the month at 11 AM. If you can help us, contact us at FoodPantry@stpaulserie.org. Thanks again for all of your hard work & donations. We greatly appreciate it!

Lutheran World Relief

PERSONAL CARE KITS ASSEMBLY

**Sunday,
September 13
10:30 AM
Gym**



@stpaulserie

Patchwork of Love Quilting & Knitting Ministry

Join our Patchwork of Love team of quilters & knitters! We meet on Tuesdays from 9-11 AM in Clare-Wolfe Lounge.



September Food Pantry Wish List

- Tissues
- Soap (bars or shower gel)
- Soup

Drop off all items in the entryway of St. Paul's.

@stpaulserie

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Personal Care Kits

Sunday, September 13 is ELCA's God's Work. Our Hands. Day of Service & your helping hands would be greatly appreciated in the gym after worship to pack & box LWR Personal Care Kits. This is occurring in conjunction with St. Paul's Rally Day festivities.



Patchwork of Love

Tuesdays @ 9 am
CLARE-WOLFE LOUNGE

@stpaulserie

Congregational Care Ministries

Sympathy

Sympathy from the congregation is shared with the family & friends of **John N. Wassell**, brother of Karen Marzka, who passed away July 19, 2026.

Congregational sympathy is shared with the family & friends of **Betty Lou Farver**, longtime member of St. Paul's, who passed away August 8, 2026.

Prayers

Please keep our siblings in Christ in your daily prayers: **Dave Baran, Vanessa Baran, Jeanette Carlstrom, Bob Curtis, Barb Davies, Liz & Ted Davis, Dan DeCoursey, Vicki Fischer, Charlotte Haggerty, Rick Hetrick, Christa & Ron Kaffka, Judy Matthews, Becke Moniot, Terry Moyer, Frank Young, Pam Zech & Gary**. Pray for those who are dealing with cancer, financial hardships, & facing illness or surgery.

We pray for those who are homebound or in nursing homes:

Ann Anderson, Vince Balinski, Debi Firment, Noni Gardner, Dottie Johnson, & Sandy Pamin. Wrap your hearts around those who are alone, broken-hearted, grieving, or anxious.

We continue to pray for those who are close to us who serve in the military, including their families: **Dylan Green**, as well as friends of St. Paul's— **Samuel Arthur, Luke Goodwin, Brennan Madara, Natalie Ramish-Long, Benjamin Sperring, Brody Swab, Jordan Swab, Christopher Tinsman, Allison Ward, & Zachary Zehner**.

Bless our teachers everywhere & pray for St. Paul's **Child Development Center, Preschool, & Sunday School teachers**.

We keep our college students in prayer as they study and prepare for their future vocations: **Corinne Bechtold, Sam Beilharz, Sophie Beilharz, Andrew Collins, Jacob Gross, Sebastien Jones, Xavier Jones, Drew Kwiatkowski, Ethan Leopold, Connor McLaughlin, Ellie Schau, Hannah Schmidt, & Kaleb Young**.

Congratulations



Congratulations to Sam Barber & Erin Cope upon the birth of their daughter, **Androniki Constance**, on July 13, 2026.

Congratulations to Claire (Barber) & Alex Grant upon the birth of their son, **August Lee**, on August 9, 2026.



Thank You Notes

I think you people are amazing! Your quilts are a wonderful way to help others and share the love of Christ with the world. You LIVE your faith and the community benefits. How refreshing for these times.

- Timothy Olszewski

Anniversaries

Sep 5– Dane & Lisa Crncic
 Sep 6– Becky & Jim Jones
 Sep 8– Mark & Bonnie Baker
 Sep 16– Scott & Sara Beilharz
 Sep 19– Katy & Leif Uhlman
 Sep 22– Sam Barber & Erin Cope, Pat & Vince Kernick
 Sep 27– Larry & June Kessler
 Sep 30– Kristyn & Nate Ross

Birthdays

Sep 2– Liz Davis, Karen McKenna
 Sep 3– Lois Gilbert, Eli Simmons
 Sep 4– Loretta Swanson, Sherry Waller
 Sep 7– Linda Latva
 Sep 8– Jake Douglas
 Sep 9– Megan Bechtold, Mike Parry, Henry Rainbow
 Sep 11– Kim Frey, Kristyn Ross, Mary Timashenka
 Sep 12– Dick Bernatowicz, Bonnie Jones
 Sep 13– Wesley Ross
 Sep 15– Tim Fuller
 Sep 17– Al Swab
 Sep 18– Michelle Fuller
 Sep 23– Joe Berger, Zachariah Mills, Sharon Patterson, Elaine Renz
 Sep 24– Nick Barber, Bob Curtis, Ben Reitz
 Sep 25– Marsha Grace, Diane McGarvie
 Sep 28– Rick Davies
 Sep 29– Ethan Nornhold
 Sep 30– Linda Shoemaker

Congregational Fellowship

Breakfast Group

Breakfast Group meets on Monday, September 7 at 8:30 AM at Perkins at 4403 Peach St. in Erie. All are welcome & responsible for their own meals.



Well-Watered Disciples Men's Fellowship Group

Well-Watered Disciples meets on Thursday, September 10 at 6 PM at ippa Pizza (Flagship City Food Hall) at 508 State St in Downtown Erie.



Erie Gives Day Thank You

We had an amazing Erie Gives Day 2026! A total of \$20,745 from 45 donors was gifted to St. Paul's on August 11!!

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously! Your support goes a long way to continuing our mission in our community and around the world.



Attendance & Finances

By The Numbers:	July 2026
Avg. Saturday Attendance	18 in-person
Avg. Sunday Attendance	73 in-person 13 online views
July Income	\$20,965
July Expenses	\$32,308
July Difference	-\$11,343
July Budget Income	\$21,430
July Budget Expenses	\$31,897
July Budget Difference	-\$10,467
Year-to-Date Income	\$205,386
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$216,297
Year-to-Date Difference	-\$10,911
Year-to-Date Budget Income	\$187,658
Year-to-Date Budget Expenses	\$220,818
Year-to-Date Budget Difference	-\$33,160
2026 Total Budget Income	\$358,152
2026 Total Budget Expenses	\$376,316
2026 Total Budget Difference	-\$18,164

Early Childhood Education Ministries

Preschool

We are excited to welcome everyone back to a fun and exciting school year. Orientation for enrolled kids is September 13 at 1pm. Children will be able to meet their new teachers, get book bags and folders, and parents will have the opportunity to ask questions and get all the information they'll need for the year ahead. Monday, September 14 is first day of school.

During this first month of school, we will be teaching the kids a lot of important skills to help have a great year. They will learn the routine of preschool and how to play and share with their new friends. We will have school pictures on September 23.

Going to preschool and being away from home is a big adjustment for the kids. We would love prayers for the children as they begin this new chapter. Questions? Contact Melissa Collins at PSDirector@stpaulserie.org or 814-833-1761, ext. 1002.



@stpaulserie
**PRESCHOOL
ORIENTATION
DAY**

**SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 13**

1 PM



Faith Formation Ministries



Sunday School

Sunday School is every Sunday morning from 10:15-11:15 AM, beginning September 20, for children preschool through 5th grade. Our classes focus on retelling Bible stories that teach us about God's love for us and help us get to know God and Jesus. Each Sunday School session will open with a time for music, followed by the classroom interaction of teachers and students.

Youth Study (Confirmation Class)

This catechism-specific Sunday morning youth study is offered from 10:15-11:15 AM and is geared to those in 6-8th grade. High school

students who are already confirmed are also welcome to join us for a review of catechism.

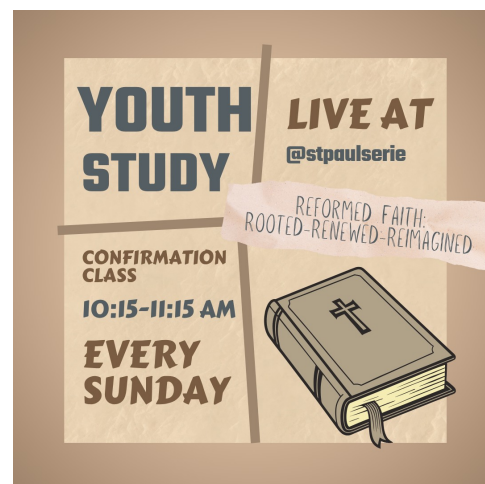
Confirmation Youth Group

Join us every Monday in the gym & youth room from 6-7:30 PM for youth group! We gather for fun & games, Bible & faith studies, & solid hang out time.

2027 ELCA Youth Gathering Info Session

Youth Gathering info session with Pastor Erik is on Sunday, September 13 at 6 PM in the sanctuary of St. Paul's. Interested youth & parents are warmly invited! We will talk about the basic information that you need to know about the Gathering, getting our group ready, things you might need to do, deadlines, fundraising, and a lot of Q&A.

Visit www.elca.org/gathering for more information.



Interested youth & parents from
St. Paul's & other ELC congregations
are warmly invited to attend.

Youth Gathering Info Session

**Sunday, September 13
6 PM**

St. Paul's Sanctuary



Worship Ministries

Erie Lutheran Conference (ELC) Pulpit Exchange

The weekend of September 19 & 20, ELC pastors will be guest preaching & presiding at fellow ELC churches.

We are excited to welcome Faith Lutheran's Pastor Jean Kuebler on Saturday, September 19 at 5 PM and Luther Memorial's Pastor Jay Mitchell on Sunday, September 20 at 9 AM.

Join us for coffee hour on Sunday after worship in the entryway, hosted by Faith, Family & Friends Team.



ELC
Erie Lutheran
Conference
Erie, PA

PULPIT EXCHANGE

SEPTEMBER 19 & 20
@stpaulserie

Faith Lutheran's Pastor Jean Kuebler Saturday 5 PM
Luther Memorial's Pastor Jay Mitchell Sunday 9 AM



COFFEE HOUR

Sunday, September 20
10 AM
Entryway

Hosted by Faith,
Family & Friends Team.

Join St. Paul's choir for rehearsals every Sunday morning, beginning September 6, at 8:15 AM in the sanctuary.
No experience necessary; all are welcome!

Questions? Contact Andrew Rainbow at
MusicDirector@stpaulserie.org.



Choir Rehearsal

Begins
Sep 6

SUNDAY
8:15 AM
SANCTUARY

@stpaulserie

September Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 6:15pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting	2 9:00am Scripture Study 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting	3	4 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	5 5:00pm Worship
6 8:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Worship	7 <i>Church Office Closed</i> Labor Day 8:30am Breakfast Group 6:00pm Confirmation Youth Group 6:30pm Property Team Meeting	8 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 5:30pm Faith Formation Team Meeting 6:15pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting 6:30pm Worship Team Meeting	9 9:00am Scripture Study	10 6:00pm Well- Watered Disciples Men's Fellowship Group	11 Patriot Day 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	12 3:30pm Rally Day Setup 5:00pm Worship
13 God's work. Our hands. Day of Service 8:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 10:15am Rally Day & Coffee Hour 10:30am LWR Kits Assembly 1:00pm Preschool Orientation 6:00pm 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering Info Session	14 <i>Preschool First Day</i> 5:30pm Security Team Meeting 6:00pm Confirmation Youth Group	15 <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i> 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 6:15pm Church Council Meeting 6:15pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting	16 9:00am Scripture Study	17	18 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	19 <i>ELC Pulpit Exchange</i> 5:00pm Worship
20 <i>ELC Pulpit Exchange</i> 8:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 10:00am Coffee Hour 10:15am Adult Study 10:15am Confirmation Class 10:15am Sunday School	21	22 First Day of Autumn 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 6:00pm ECE Board Meeting 6:15pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting	23 9:00am Scripture Study	24 4:00pm Food Pantry Distribution	25 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	26 5:00pm Worship
27 8:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 10:15am Adult Study 10:15am Confirmation Class 10:15am Sunday School 1:00pm Erie County CROP Hunger Walk	28 6:00pm Confirmation Youth Group	29 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 6:15pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting	30 9:00am Scripture Study			

September Worship Assistants

Date	Event	Ushers	Assist Minister/ Reader
Sep 6	15 Pentecost	Wright Team	Greg Zimmerman
Sep 13	16 Pentecost	Zech/Chiapa Team	Karen Marzka
Sep 20	17 Pentecost/ Pulpit Exchange	Curtis Team	Larry Kessler/ Bob Curtis
Sep 27	18 Pentecost	Gardner/Marzka Team	Kevin Harper