

Welcome Home!

Saint Paul's Lutheran church

June/July 2026 Newsletter



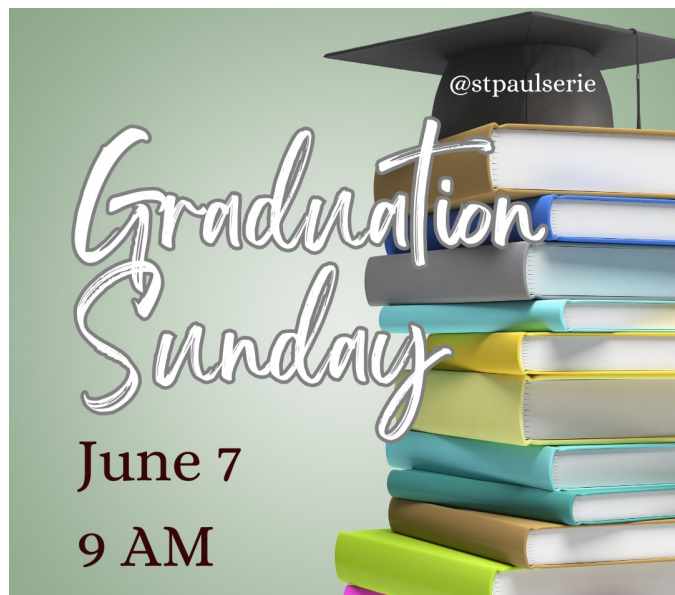
Quilt Blessing & Dedication

Join us for our quilt blessing & dedication on June 6 & 7 at both worship services. You will find the latest batch of quilts adorning the sanctuary at St. Paul's.

Celebrate the dedication of our 10,000th quilt that the Patchwork of Love quilting group completed since they began this ministry!! Many thanks to our talented ecumenical Patchwork of Love quilters & knitters!



Graduation Sunday



Graduation Sunday is Sunday, June 7 at 9 AM. We will be honoring & celebrating St. Paul's recent graduates. Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry will also be gifting each graduate a quilt of their choosing.

Best wishes & congratulations to all our graduates! Join us for coffee hour after worship in the entryway, hosted by Church Council.

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Personal Care Kits

We are collecting for LWR Personal Care Kits again this summer! Last summer, we completed 84 kits for families in need.

Items needed for kits: (1) dark colored lightweight bath-size towel (between 20"x40" & 52"x27"); (1) adult-sized toothbrush in original packaging (multi-packs maybe used); (1) metal nail clippers; (2) bath-size bars (4-5 oz) in original wrapping; (1) sturdy comb.

Please leave your gifts in the designated container in the entryway of St. Paul's & include ONLY the items listed. We will assemble & pack the kits in September.

Lutheran World Relief

PERSONAL CARE KITS

DROP OFF DONATIONS
IN THE ENTRYWAY OF
ST. PAUL'S.

Items Needed for Kits*:

- (1) dark colored lightweight bath-size towel
- (1) adult-sized toothbrush in original packaging
- (1) metal nail clippers
- (2) bath-size soap bars in original wrapping
- (1) sturdy comb

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*Individual items or entire kits can be donated.

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.

Wednesday Scripture Study, 9 AM



Office Hours:

Mon-Thu 9 AM-1 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

The Baptismal Font

What does a baptismal font mean to you? To some it is just an object used once in a lifetime. Some call it a fishbowl without the fish. The baptismal font often has too little meaning in the Lutheran church, especially since it is so central to what we believe as Christians. Some of the last words of Jesus in the book of Matthew are: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

Why do we look at the baptismal font as just a "nice piece of furniture" -- that is if we look at it at all? Maybe it's because we haven't given it a central place in our worship facility. ELCA.org speaks about the placement of the baptismal font in the following paragraph: *"The placement of a baptismal font speaks powerfully of the centrality and importance of baptism. A font located at the entrance of the worship space is an obvious statement and reminder that baptism is entry into the Church. If water is kept in the font, people have the opportunity of dipping their finger in the water and making the sign of the cross as a baptismal reminder when they enter and leave the worship space. It is helpful to provide adequate space around the font for people to gather. Some newer churches have allowed enough space around the font for the entire assembly to gather at the time of Baptism. A large paschal candle, lighted initially at the Easter Vigil, stands next to the font throughout the year and is lighted for every baptism and every funeral."*

When we place the font up in the front of the church near the altar, an area in which few people go, you aren't going to pay that much attention to it. To quote some realtor-friends of mine: "Location, location, location!" In other words, where something is will directly affect its value. How are we to make the power of the baptismal font and its reminder more available to us? Maybe we need to move it to a place where it "gets in everyone's way." You have to pay attention to that which you have to walk past. You are then tempted to dip your fingers into the water, as it is right there next to you. And before you know it, you are taking your wet fingers and making the sign of the cross on your forehead as a reminder of who claimed you.

Or maybe we don't want to be reminded of who claimed us and how that needs to affect our lives daily. We had better be on the safe side and just leave the baptismal font where it is so that we don't end up changing the world.

Word of the Month:

font (fɒnt): a basin for holding baptismal water in a church; a receptacle for holy water -- a stoup; an abundant source -- a fountain. The word's origin is Middle English, from Old English, from Late Latin for fountain.

-Pastor Erik Young



Community Care Ministries

CROP Hunger Walk

SAVE THE DATE for the 51st CROP Walk held at Presque Isle Beach 1 parking lot on Sunday, September 27, with registration at 1 PM & the walk starting at 2 PM. Please plan on joining St. Paul's Team for a 5.5 mile walk or a 1 mile walk. If you are not able to walk, bring a lawn chair & cheer for the walkers. All are welcome & appreciated!

The Erie Walk is number 5 in the country and number 1 out of more than 50 walks in PA! St. Paul's family & the Erie community are certainly generous & motivated in combating food insecurity.



Food Pantry

We are so grateful for the congregation's donations to the Pantry. Thank you!! In April we served 15 families. That may not sound like a lot of neighbors, but in the 11 counties that Second Harvest provides food for, they served 22,000 families! So we are just a portion of the people who use the pantries in PA to supplement their food supply. We feel fortunate that we can help those neighbors who come to our pantry.

This summer we could use: reusable grocery bags (like the ones you can buy); applesauce cups; fruit/Jello cups; and Little Debbie snacks. We are going to give these foods out over the summer as the kids will be home from school and they make great snacks! Thanks again for all your help!

Questions? Contact us at FoodPantry@stpaulserie.org.

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.

Sock Drive

We've now donated over 940 pairs of new socks to St. Patrick's Haven in Erie, courtesy of St. Paul's Sock Drive! St. Patrick's Haven is very appreciative & shared that the socks are absolutely needed, "especially with the cold and wet weather." The generosity of our congregation is remarkable!



Summer Food Pantry Wish List

- Reusable grocery bags
- Applesauce cups
- Fruit/Jello cups
- Little Debbie snacks

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

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Congregational Care Ministries

Prayers

Please keep our siblings in Christ in your daily prayers: **Vanessa Baran, Jeanette Carlstrom, Ellen Cooper, Barbara Davies, Liz & Ted Davis, Dan DeCoursey, Betty Farver, Vicki Fischer, Charlotte Haggerty, Rick Hetrick, Christa & Ron Kaffka, Judy Matthews, Becke Moniot, Terry Moyer, 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 teachers.**

Angler's Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, who did choose fishermen as your Apostles, and did twice grant them a miraculous catch, look with favor on those who fish, that their labors may not be in vain.

May they remember to spend as much time fishing for people for your kingdom as they do for the elusive trout, that in time they may see themselves gathered into your heavenly net. Grant them enjoyment of your natural world, and the peace of God in the wild. Grant their quarry sufficient cunning to challenge their skills.

This we ask of the Heavenly Father in your holy name. Amen.

Anniversaries

Jun 2– Heather & Mike McLaughlin
 Jun 6– Richard & Diane McGarvey
 Jun 7– Vicki & Nate Leopold
 Jun 12– Sandy & Paul Smith
 Jun 14– Kevin & Beth Kuric, Denny & Marsha Walker
 Jun 16– Jessica & Thomas Kidd, James & Jennifer Randolph
 Jun 18– Amy & Gabe Chiapa, Keri & Darryl Schmidt
 Jun 23– Kristen & Mike Burillo
 Jun 26– Mark & Vicki Fischer, Megan & Andrew Rainbow
 Jun 27– Matt & Leslie Scheuering
 Jun 28– Michael & Bonnie Jones
 Jul 1– Debbie & Dan DeCoursey
 Jul 2– Laurie & Rich Chrostowski, Dennis & Elaine Renz
 Jul 17– Cindy & Jim Dohanic
 Jul 22– George & Debbie Farantz, Ted & Debi Firment
 Jul 27– Greg & Kelly Zimmerman
 Jul 28– Mark & Becky Holcomb, Sue Ellen & Paul Wojciechowski

Birthdays

Jun 4– Cheryl Moore
 Jun 7– Wyndham Ross
 Jun 8– Michael Jones
 Jun 9– Jack Martin, Kelly Zimmerman
 Jun 10– Janet Simeon
 Jun 11– Ruthy May
 Jun 12– Dave Baran, Linda Turi, Nancy Ulrich
 Jun 14– Maria Stroul
 Jun 16– Karen Laufer
 Jun 18– Kristin Garben
 Jun 20– Peggy Bowser, Grayson Shaffer
 Jun 21– Beth Kuric, Jackie Roward, Katy Uhlman
 Jun 22– Phyllis Kennedy, Karen Madsen

Jun 23– Judy Matthews
 Jun 26– John Erikson, Lou Kwiatkowski, Blakely Nornhold, Brynn Nornhold
 Jun 27– Vicki Leopold
 Jul 2– Elaine Dively
 Jul 4– Alex DiLuzio, Paul Smith, Marsha Szymanowicz
 Jul 5– Ron Till
 Jul 8– James Randolph
 Jul 9– Karen Kelley
 Jul 10– Mark Baker, Joanne Erikson
 Jul 11– Kathy Ebner
 Jul 13– Leighton Scheuering
 Jul 15– Ethan Bechtold
 Jul 16– Ron King
 Jul 17– Pam Zech
 Jul 18– Sue Laska, Terry Moyer
 Jul 20– Russ Wiest
 Jul 21– Karen Thompson
 Jul 24– Tara Maciulewicz
 Jul 28– Stella Beilharz
 Jul 30– Aspy Simmons

Fellowship



Congregational Fellowship

Breakfast Group

Breakfast Group meets on Monday, June 1 & July 6 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, June 11 at 6 PM at Voodoo Brewing Co at 101 Boston Store Pl. in Erie & Thursday, July 9 at 6 PM. Location TBA.



Church Council Highlights

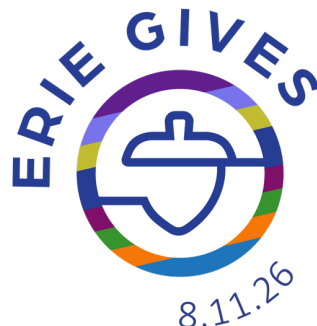
From the April 2026 meeting:

- The Personnel Team created an Organizational Chart & Staff Evaluation Forms/Procedures to be implemented in August & reevaluated in 6 months. Many thanks to Kelly Zimmerman and her team for these documents.
 - The Christian Education Task Force has been renamed "Reformed Faith: Re-rooted, Renewed, and Reimagined." Sunday School & adult learning will be restructured. Children's sermons will return. This is based on information taken from the surveys. Thank you to Larry Kessler and his team for all the time they have devoted to this project.
 - The Worship Team reviewed Lent & Easter services. Many thanks to Andrew Rainbow and Pastor Erik for a beautiful season of worship.
- Next meeting: Tuesday, June 16 at 6:15 PM in Clare-Wolfe Lounge.

Erie Gives Day

Save the date for Erie Gives Day on Tuesday, August 11! Every donation of \$25+ will have a portion of that gift matched by the Erie Community Foundation.

On August 11, simply go to www.eriegives.org or call at 814-454-0843 (8 AM-8 PM).



Attendance & Finances

By The Numbers:	April 2026
Avg. Saturday Attendance	21 in-person
Avg. Sunday Attendance	115 in-person 19 online views
April Income	\$27,145
April Expenses	\$31,361
April Difference	-\$4,216
April Budget Income	\$29,650
April Budget Expenses	\$31,147
April Budget Difference	-\$1,497
Year-to-Date Income	\$127,552
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$126,159
Year-to-Date Difference	\$1,393
Year-to-Date Budget Income	\$114,673
Year-to-Date Budget Expenses	\$127,259
Year-to-Date Budget Difference	-\$12,586
2026 Total Budget Income	\$358,152
2026 Total Budget Expenses	\$376,316
2026 Total Budget Difference	-\$18,164

Faith Formation Ministries



Confirmation Youth Group with Pastor Erik

Join us every Monday in the gym & youth room from 6-7:30 PM for youth group!

We will gather for fun & games, Bible & faith studies, & solid hang out time.

Confirmation Camp

Current confirmation students should sign up for Confirmation Camp at Camp

Lutherlyn from June 14-19. You can expect a week of the normal camp life (canoeing, crafts, hikes, ropes course, campfires, etc.) with confirmation education spread through the days there. Please register at

<https://lutherlyn.campbrainregistration.com/>



Lawn & Garden Care Ministries

Thanks to all the folks who volunteered to clean up our gardens on 5/9 and 5/17! Our property is looking great because of all your hard work!



The gardeners from 5/9 were Dave & Jan Schlabach; Cindy Dohanic; Joanne Erikson; John Erikson; Frank Young; Gretchen Andrews, her daughter, Laura, and her grandson, Jaxon.

The gardeners from 5/17 were Joanne Erikson, John Erikson, Pastor Erik, Karen Marzka, Jan & Dave Schlabach, Barb Graham, Lisa Daugherty, Joe & Nancy Ulrich, and the Girl Scouts & their leaders. We appreciate you all!

We've been awarded Presque Isle Garden Club's Garden of the Month!!

Date	Mower
Jun 4	Lang
Jun 11	Erikson
Jun 18	Reitz
Jun 25	Barber & Barber
Jul 2	Erikson
Jul 9	Lang
Jul 16	Erikson
Jul 23	Reitz
Jul 30	Barber & Barber

Preschool Ministries

Preschool finished another amazing year with a wonderful group of kids and families. We implemented new activities and family events that the parents enjoyed.

Thank you so much to everyone for the baskets and cookie donations. We really appreciate the continued generosity and support for the preschool program. Thank you to Kyle & Paige (Logan's parents) for donating the hotdogs and grilling them for this year's zoo picnic.

Preschool classes are all filled and we are looking forward to September with new faces and lots of fun. Questions? Contact Melissa Collins at

PSDirector@stpaulserie.org or 814-833-1761, ext. 1002.



June Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Summer Office Hours Begin 8:30am Breakfast Group 6:00pm Confirmation Youth Group 6:30pm Property Team Meeting	2 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry	3 9:00am Scripture Study	4	5 NWPA Synod Assembly 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	6 NWPA Synod Assembly Quilt Blessing & Dedication 5:00pm Worship
7 Graduation Sunday Quilt Blessing & Dedication 8:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 10:00am Coffee Hour	8 5:30pm Security Team Meeting 6:00pm Confirmation Youth Group	9 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 5:30pm Faith Formation Team Meeting 6:30pm Worship Team Meeting	10 9:00am Scripture Study 10:00am Staff Meeting	11 6:00pm Well-Watered Disciples Men's Fellowship Group	12 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	13 5:00pm Worship
14 Confirmation Camp Flag Day 9:00am Worship	15 Confirmation Camp	16 Confirmation Camp 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 6:15pm Church Council Meeting	17 Confirmation Camp 9:00am Scripture Study	18 Confirmation Camp	19 Confirmation Camp Juneteenth 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	20 5:00pm Worship
21 Father's Day First Day of Summer 9:00am Worship	22	23 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 6:00pm ECE Board Meeting	24 9:00am Scripture Study	25 4:00pm Food Pantry Distribution	26 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	27 5:00pm Worship
28 9:00am Worship 10:00am Coffee Hour	29	30 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry				



June Worship Assistants

Date	Event	Ushers	Assist Minister/ Reader
Jun 7	2 Pentecost	Wright Team	Karen Marzka
Jun 14	3 Pentecost	Zech/Chiapa Team	Larry Kessler
Jun 21	4 Pentecost	Curtis Team	Karen McKenna
Jun 28	5 Pentecost	Gardner/Marzka Team	TBA

July Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:00am Scripture Study 10:00am Staff Meeting	2	3 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	4 Independence Day 5:00pm Worship
5 9:00am Worship	6 8:30am Breakfast Group 6:00pm Confirmation Youth Group 6:30pm Property Team Meeting	7 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry	8 9:00am Scripture Study	9 6:00pm Well-Watered Disciples Men's Fellowship Group	10 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	11 5:00pm Worship
12 9:00am Worship	13 5:30pm Security Team Meeting 6:00pm Confirmation Youth Group	14 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 5:30pm Faith Formation Team Meeting 6:30pm Worship Team Meeting	15 <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i> 9:00am Scripture Study	16	17 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	18 5:00pm Worship
19 9:00am Worship	20 6:00pm Confirmation Youth Group	21 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 6:15pm Church Council Meeting	22 9:00am Scripture Study	23	24 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	25 5:00pm Worship
26 9:00am Worship	27 6:00pm Confirmation Youth Group	28 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 6:00pm ECE Board Meeting	29 9:00am Scripture Study	30 4:00pm Food Pantry Distribution	31 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	

July Worship Assistants

Date	Event	Ushers	Assist Minister/ Reader
Jul 5	6 Pentecost	Wright Team	TBA
Jul 12	7 Pentecost	Zech/Chiapa Team	Karen Marzka
Jul 19	8 Pentecost	Curtis Team	TBA
Jul 26	9 Pentecost	Gardner/Marzka Team	TBA