

Welcome Home!

# Saint Paul's Lutheran Church

May 2026 Newsletter



## Ministry Board Meeting

St. Paul's next quarterly Ministry Board Meeting is on Tuesday, May 5 at 6:30 PM in the gym. All ministry team members, leaders, & council members should plan on attending. This is your opportunity to share & plan with all the other ministries at St. Paul's.

MINISTRY  
**BOARD  
MEETING**

TUESDAY, MAY 5  
6:30 PM  
ST. PAUL'S GYM

## Pentecost Worship



Pentecost is on May 24, but we observe it at both worship services that weekend (Saturday at 5 PM & Sunday at 9 AM). Red, as the color of fire, is used for Pentecost because we remember the tongues of fire descended on the crowd in Jerusalem. You will find the sanctuary decorated in red & often folks will wear something red to worship!

## Ascension Day Worship

The Erie Lutheran Conference invites you to attend Ascension Day Worship on Thursday, May 14 at 7 PM at Luther Memorial Church at 225 West 10th St in Erie. NWPA Bishop Papson will be preaching.

If you are interested in joining the Conference-Wide Choir, please contact Cantor Bryan Timm at [BTimm@LutherMemorialOnline.org](mailto:BTimm@LutherMemorialOnline.org).

## Alleluia! God has gone up with a shout!

*Erie Lutheran Conference*  
**Ascension Day Worship**

14 May 2026 @ 7:00pm  
Luther Memorial Church & Academy  
225 West Tenth Street  
Erie, PA 16501

The Rt. Rev'd. Kristen Papson, IIII Bishop of NWPA Synod, Preaching

For information about the Conference-Wide Choir  
Contact Cantor Bryan Timm, F.A.I.O.: [BTimm@LutherMemorialOnline.org](mailto:BTimm@LutherMemorialOnline.org)

Festive Reception to Follow

## St. Paul's Lutheran Church

3108 Sterrettania Road

Erie, PA 16506-2658

[www.stpaulserie.org](http://www.stpaulserie.org)

**Saturday Worship Service, 5 PM**

**Sunday Worship Service, 9 AM**

All Sunday worship videos are livestreamed at

[www.facebook.com/stpaulserie](http://www.facebook.com/stpaulserie)

and available at

[www.youtube.com/user/stpaulslutheranerie](http://www.youtube.com/user/stpaulslutheranerie).

**Wednesday Scripture Study, 9 AM**



SCRIPTURE  
Study  
WEDNESDAYS  
9 AM  
CLARE-WOLFE  
LOUNGE & ONLINE  
All are welcome!  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84633242142>

**Office Hours:**

**Mon-Thu 9 AM-3 PM**

814-833-1761

[office@stpaulserie.org](mailto:office@stpaulserie.org)



**Pastor  
Erik**

**Pastor Erik Young**

814-833-1761

[Pastor@stpaulserie.org](mailto:Pastor@stpaulserie.org)

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

### Statistics<sup>i</sup> on "Why I Came To Church"

Research conducted by *Church Growth, Inc.* of Monrovia, California, supports the notion that the *oikos*<sup>ii</sup> process is at work today. Over forty-two thousand laypeople were asked the question, "What or who was responsible for your coming to Christ and your church?" One of the following eight responses was given. Here are the results:

Evangelistic crusade or TV show	< 0.5 %
Special need	1-2%
Visitation	1-2%
Church program	2-3%
Walk-in	2-3%
Sunday School	4-5%
Pastor	5-6%
Friend or relative	75-90%

Please note that out of 100 people in worship, only 5 or 6 are here because of the pastor; yet at least 75 of those 100 are here because of you. What are you doing to continue to reach out to your family, friends, coworkers, classmates, and neighbors? Who is God calling you to reach out to today?

*-Pastor Erik Young*

<sup>i</sup>Source: *The Master's Plan for Making Disciples* (second edition), Win Arn and Chip Arn, 1998 Baker Books, pg. 45-46

<sup>ii</sup>The ancient Greek word *oikos* (ancient Greek: οἶκος, plural: οἶκοι; English prefix: eco- for ecology and economics) refers to three related but distinct concepts: the family, the family's property, and the house.



## Community Care Ministries

### Food Pantry

The Food Pantry wishes to thank our congregation for their generosity! Our shelves are packed, for now, anyway! We continue to welcome new neighbors to the pantry. In March we had six new families. We have very involved volunteers, which is wonderful, however we need a couple people who would be willing to take the donations from the entryway and put them up in front of the Food Pantry on a weekly basis. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, contact us at [FoodPantry@stpaulserie.org](mailto: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 840 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!

### World Hunger Campaign

We really appreciate the congregation's participation in our Easter egg sale. The two "chicks" sold \$266 worth of chocolate, etc. We send all of our proceeds from this sale, the Valentine Good Gifts and the Christmas ornament Good Gifts to ELCA's World Hunger program to help those families at home and around the world. Again, thank you!



## Pentecost Flower Orders

This year, we will be decorating the sanctuary with red flowers for Pentecost. This is a wonderful way to remember friends & loved ones. Potted geraniums are \$10 each.

To place an order, please return the completed form on the right, with proper remittance, to the church office or offering plate by Sunday, May 10. Order forms are also available in the entryway of St. Paul's at the information station. Thanks!



### Decorating for Pentecost at St. Paul's

For Pentecost, we remember friends & loved ones with flowers for the sanctuary. Potted geraniums are \$10 each. To place an order, please return the completed form, with proper remittance, to the church office or the offering plate by **Sunday, May 10**.

#### PLEASE PRINT

\_\_\_\_\_ Plant(s) in memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

#### And/or:

\_\_\_\_\_ Plant(s) in honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of plants ordered \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10 = \_\_\_\_\_

#### And/or:

I/We would like to give \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Decorations Fund at St. Paul's.

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

## Congregational Care Ministries

### Congregational Sympathy

Congregational sympathy is shared with the family & friends of **Mary Lyons**, mother of Julie Boam, who passed away March 28, 2026.

Sympathy is also shared with the family\* of **Vera Joy Kuric**, granddaughter of Beth & Kevin Kuric, who passed away shortly after birth on April 8, 2026.

### Congregational Prayers

Please keep our siblings in Christ in your daily prayers: **Kris Balinski, 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, & Gary**. Pray for those who are dealing with cancer, financial hardships, & facing illness or surgery.

Continue to 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**.

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

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

### Anniversaries

May 2– Al & Linda Swab

May 8– Sandy & Tom Pamin

May 11– Kathy & Jeff Maries

May 18– Aaron & Allie Wakley

May 19– Mark & Linda Turi

May 20– Don & Lori Buzzard

May 23– John & Ellen Cooper

May 26– David & Jan Schlabach

May 28– Kris & Vince Balinski

### Birthdays

May 2– Linda Swab, River Hubbard

May 3– Pam Brady, Greg Zimmerman

May 5– Maureen Damico, Jan Schlabach, Pati Swanson, Ryan Zimmerman

May 8– Karen Martin

May 9– Christa Kaffka, Elliot Rainbow

May 10– Charlotte Rainbow

May 11– Debbie Dravec

May 13– Violet Gould

May 14– Wayne Gardner

May 17– Dane Crncic

May 18– Sam Gross

May 19– Debi Firment, Garrett Fuhrman

May 21– Ansel Miglicio

May 22– Mark Turi

May 23– Mary Hetrick, Ken Thompson

May 24– Diana Bernatowicz, Cindy Dohanic, Joe Douglas

May 25– Nancy Price, Karen Zahratka

May 28– Dottie Johnson

May 31– Sandy Pamin

### Congregational Thank You Notes

*Dear St. Paul's Lutheran Church,*

*We deeply appreciate the socks! It helps keep our guests' feet warm & dry. Happy Easter!*

*Blessings,*

*Shelby*

*St. Patrick's Haven Board*

*Sisters of St. Joseph of NWPA*

*I would like to thank the following groups & families that hosted the Fellowship Coffee Hours from September 2025 – May 2026 and they are Faith, Family & Friends Team; the Worship Team; the Property Team; Stephanie Reagle, Joe Lauria and their children Lorelai & Baker; and Joe & Sue Lang. You all did a great job hosting your groups scheduled coffee hour and it was appreciated by everyone that attended the coffee hours.*

*There will be a new Fellowship Coffee Hour sign-up sheet for September 2026 – May 2027 in the narthex by the end of May. If anyone is interested in hosting a coffee hour, feel free to sign up. If anyone has any questions in regards to hosting the coffee hour, feel free to contact Terry Moyer.*

*Terry Moyer*

*Congregational Care/Faith, Family & Friends Ministry*

\*Parents of Vera Joy:

Justin & Elena Kuric

5523 Roche Dr.

Columbus, OH 43229

## Congregational Fellowship

### Breakfast Group

Breakfast Group meets on Monday, May 4 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, May 14 at 6 PM at The Brewerrie at Union Station at 123 W 14th St in Erie.



## Graduation Sunday

Graduation Sunday is coming up on June 7 & we would like to recognize all our graduates during 9 AM worship.

If you have a student graduating from high school, trade school, college, graduate school, etc., please share their accomplishments, future plans, & a current picture with us at [Office@stpaulserie.org](mailto:Office@stpaulserie.org) no later than Sunday, May 31. Thanks!



## Attendance & Finances

By The Numbers:	March 2026
Avg. Saturday Attendance	28 in-person
Avg. Sunday Attendance	92 in-person 20 online views
March Income	\$40,033
March Expenses	\$30,453
March Difference	\$9,580
March Budget Income	\$28,830
March Budget Expenses	\$32,516
March Budget Difference	-\$3,686
Year-to-Date Income	\$100,407
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$94,798
Year-to-Date Difference	\$5,609
Year-to-Date Budget Income	\$85,023
Year-to-Date Budget Expenses	\$96,112
Year-to-Date Budget Difference	-\$11,089
2026 Total Budget Income	\$358,152
2026 Total Budget Expenses	\$376,316
2026 Total Budget Difference	-\$18,164

## NWPA Synod Assembly



NWPA Synod Assembly is coming up on June 5 & 6 at Thiel College in Greenville, PA. To attend, please sign up at

[Assembly Registrations 2026](#)

## Child Development Center (CDC) Ministries

We are hiring! We are looking for energetic, nurturing, & creative individuals to join our team. Interested? Send resume to [CDCAssistant@stpaulserie.org](mailto:CDCAssistant@stpaulserie.org).

Questions about hiring or our program? Contact us at [CDCDirector@stpaulserie.org](mailto:CDCDirector@stpaulserie.org) or 814-833-1761, ext. 1004.



## Faith Formation Ministries

### Children's Ministry



This is the final month for Children's Church (pre-K through grade 5) this school year. We could still use a few more teachers for May. Please sign up on the Children & Youth Ministries' bulletin board in the entryway of St. Paul's.

### Confirmation Camp

Camp Lutherlyn is our local ELCA camp and is located in Prospect, PA. Confirmation Camp is 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/>

### 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.



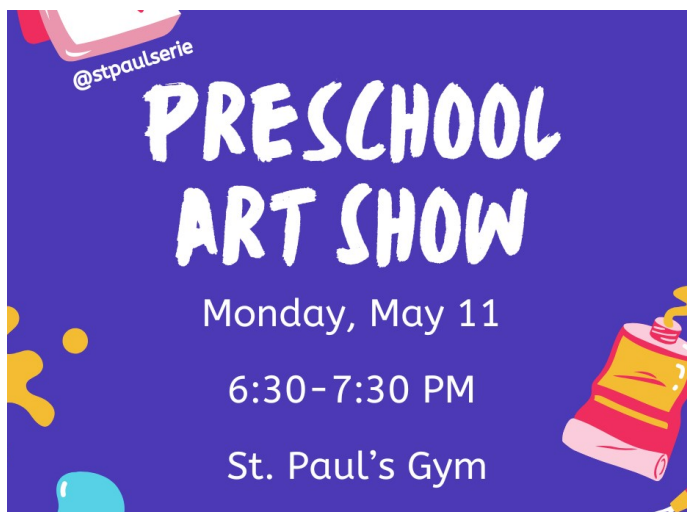
## Lawn & Garden Care Ministries

Join us for Spring Garden Cleanup on Saturday, May 9 from 9 AM-12 PM! Bring your garden gloves & any equipment you want to use.

If you can't spend all Saturday morning, come for as long as you can! This is a wonderful opportunity for students who need service hours.



## Preschool Ministries



All are invited to join our preschool students and their families to celebrate the end of the school year with an art show and raffle baskets. The reception is in St. Paul's gym on Monday, May 11 from 6:30 – 7:30 PM.

As we prepare for the art show, we are looking for cookie donations and raffle basket items. Please label clearly & drop off all donations in the church kitchen by Thursday, May 7.

Questions? Contact Melissa Collins at [PSDirector@stpaulserie.org](mailto:PSDirector@stpaulserie.org) or 814-833-1761, ext. 1002.

## Worship Ministries

### Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing

We live in a world where everything moves fast. Our lives are more and more automated, and our attention is pulled in so many different directions. Singing hymns and songs together in church is one of the most powerful ways we can still feel connected today. It is an opportunity to stop the noise and simply be.

Congregational singing fosters a deep sense of community with one another. Lifting our voices to praise and worship God is a powerful way to push back against the pace of modern life. We can get lost in moments of song. It is a chance to step out of the rat race and truly experience one another—and experience God. Corporate worship is not passive. It is active, and singing is one of the clearest ways we participate in worship together.

Congregational singing is not performance. It is not about technique. It is not about perfection. It is not about getting all the right notes—or, for the "I couldn't carry a tune in a bucket" folks out there, even any of the notes! It is about breathing together and lifting our praise, worship, and prayers to God. Our musical tradition is rich: our hymns can be deeply theological, and our songs can be overwhelmingly emotional expressions of faith—both heart-wrenching and joyful.

Our shared song reminds us, if only for a little while, that we are not alone. We are part of a faith community made up of all different ages, backgrounds, points of view, and life experiences. In these precious moments, we are one Church.

Next time you are in worship and the introduction to a hymn or song begins, take a big breath and, as John Wesley directs, "sing lustily and with a good courage." Let the lyrics become your prayer, and embrace the opportunity to be fully present—together.

-Submitted by Andrew Rainbow

## May Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	<b>2</b> 5:00pm Worship
<b>3</b> 8:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Children's Church 9:00am Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	<b>4</b> 8:30am Breakfast Group 9:45am Children's Chapel 6:00pm Confirmation Youth Group 6:30pm Property Team Meeting	<b>5</b> 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 6:30pm Ministry Board Meeting	<b>6</b> 9:00am Scripture Study 10:00am Staff Meeting	<b>7</b> National Day of Prayer	<b>8</b> 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	<b>9</b> 9:00am Spring Garden Cleanup 5:00pm Worship
<b>10</b> Mother's Day 8:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Children's Church 9:00am Worship	<b>11</b> 9:45am Children's Chapel 1:45pm Children's Chapel 5:30pm Security Team Meeting 6:00pm Confirmation Youth Group 6:30pm Preschool Art Show	<b>12</b> 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 5:30pm Faith Formation Team Meeting 6:30pm Worship Team Meeting	<b>13</b> 9:00am Scripture Study	<b>14</b> 6:00pm Well-Watered Disciples Men's Fellowship Group 7:00pm ELC Ascension Worship Service	<b>15</b> Newsletter Articles Due Preschool Last Day 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	<b>16</b> 5:00pm Worship
<b>17</b> 8:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Children's Church 9:00am Worship	<b>18</b> 6:00pm Confirmation Youth Group	<b>19</b> Election Day 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 6:15pm Church Council Meeting	<b>20</b> 9:00am Scripture Study	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	<b>23</b> 5:00pm Worship
<b>24</b> Pentecost 8:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Children's Church 9:00am Worship	<b>25</b> Child Development Center & Church Office Closed Memorial Day 6:00pm Confirmation Youth Group	<b>26</b> 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 6:00pm ECE Board Meeting	<b>27</b> 9:00am Scripture Study	<b>28</b> 4:00pm Food Pantry Distribution	<b>29</b> 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	<b>30</b> 5:00pm Worship
<b>31</b> Trinity Sunday 8:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Children's Church 9:00am Worship						

## Worship Assistants

Date	Event	Ushers	Assist Minister/ Reader
May 3	5 Easter	Wright Team	Joanne Erikson
May 10	6 Easter	Zech/Chiapa Team	Larry Kessler
May 17	7 Easter	Curtis Team	Karen McKenna
May 24	Pentecost	Gardner/Marzka Team	Cheryl Moore
May 31	Holy Trinity	Wright Team	Wayne Gardner