

Welcome Home!

Saint Paul's Lutheran church

October 2026 Newsletter



2026 Annual Meeting

St. Paul's Congregational Annual Meeting is on Sunday, October 18 at 10:15 AM in the sanctuary.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect members to Congregation Council, receive 2026 Annual Ministry Reports, & adopt the 2027 budget.

All annual reports from the various ministries are due by Sunday, October 4. Please email your reports to Office@stpaulserie.org. Thank you!



The meeting will be for the following purposes:

1. To elect members to Congregation Council.
2. To receive St. Paul's 2026 Annual Ministry Reports.
3. To adopt the congregation's budget for 2027.

3108 Sterrettania Rd
Erie, PA 16506



@stpaulserie

Reformation & Confirmation Weekend

Join us the weekend of October 24 & 25 as we celebrate the anniversary of the day Martin Luther is said to have posted his Ninety-five Theses on the door of the Castle

Church in Wittenberg, Germany (October 31, 1517). We remember the work of Martin Luther, all the Reformers, and their contributions to the faith. We will also celebrate with our Confirmation students as they affirm their baptism.

You will find the worship space decorated in red and often, members of the congregation will wear something red because red reminds us of the power of the Holy Spirit coming among God's people.

After Sunday worship, join us for coffee hour in the gym, hosted by Faith, Family & Friends Team.



Trunk-or-Treat

All are welcome to join us for a spook-tacular good time at our 10th annual Trunk-or-Treat on Saturday, October 24 from 6:30-7:30 PM in St. Paul's parking lot.

Come in costume, decorate your car, & hand out treats. Children will travel around St. Paul's parking lot collecting goodies. Rain or shine!



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

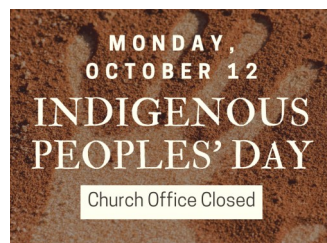


Office Hours:

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

Teaching Children About Giving and Savings

Have you ever wondered how to teach your children about giving and saving? The easiest way to teach anything is to start early, and money is no exception. First of all, do not give your children money from mom's purse or dad's wallet for their piggy bank and offering envelope, as all this will teach them is that mom and dad are ideal ATMs. Give them a set allowance for a set time period for chores and spending and give it to them in "tens." What I mean by that is this: if their allowance is \$1.00, give them ten dimes; \$2.50 is ten quarters; and so on.

You will need four things for this teaching process (besides patience and persistence):

1. **set allowance** -- we will use a weekly allowance of \$2.50 as our example
2. **children's offering envelopes** -- these are available from the church office
3. **savings bank** -- a piggy bank or something like it with hard access
4. **spending bank** -- a coffee can, old purse or wallet, or something with easy access

Now, what to do with it all:

- Sit down with them at a table while you **pay their allowance**, letting them count it out with you. The counting of the ten quarters is more important than the actual money involved, simply because they will eventually learn money, but this will step will ingrain in them percentages for the rest of their life.
- After receiving their allowance, have them get one of **their own offering envelopes** (not yours!) and **place the first of the ten quarters in their envelope**. Make sure to remind them to bring it with them to worship so that THEY can place it in the offering plate.
- After giving their tithe (10% offered back to God), have them put two of the quarters in a **bank for savings**. This is never to be used for any reason, as this will make their transition into saving for their future easier as an adult. Once every other month or so, take them to a local bank to deposit these saved coins into their own savings account. Many banks have a special children's savings account that is interest-bearing and fee-free.
- After giving 10% to charity and also saving 20%, your child is left with seven quarters, which looks like a lot of money. This is **their spending money**, so have them **put it in their spending can/wallet/purse**. Let them spend it when they want on what they want, as long as it fits within the rules of the house. If they really want a purple squirt gun, let them purchase it. And when they want that orange bouncy ball and don't have enough money for it, they will learn about spending money.

All of this is just information unless you as the parent stick to it with them. This teaching process is long one, but a worthwhile one, as it will teach your child the beginning steps in money management, the beginning steps between success and struggle for their future, and most importantly, the beginning steps of being a faithful steward of what God "has first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions – signs of [God's] gracious love."

-Pastor Erik Young

Community Care Ministries

Food Pantry

In August, the Food Pantry served a new high...68 total individuals! We also served 10 new families for a total of 23 families. This month, we are asking for donations of kidney beans, baked beans, cereal, & canned pineapple. Your contributions are a huge help to our pantry!

Also, we are still looking for someone to help us pick up our food order from Second Harvest Food Bank. If anyone has a truck & is available on the fourth Tuesday of the month, we would appreciate your help. Thanks again for your support!!

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Personal Care Kits

After an amazing summer of your generous donations and a busy morning of packing, 105 Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits were completed! This is a St. Paul's record for the LWR Kit project. When they reach the St. Paul's Minnesota warehouse they will be distributed to where they are desperately needed. Thank you! Thank you!



@stpaulserie

October Food Pantry Wish List

- Kidney beans
- Baked beans
- Cereal
- Canned pineapple

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



Packing LWR Kits on God's Work.
Our Hands. Day of Service-
9/13/2026



Patchwork of Love
Tuesdays @ 9 am
CLARE-WOLFE LOUNGE

@stpaulserie

Patchwork of Love Quilting & Knitting Ministry

All are welcome to join our Patchwork of Love team of quilters & knitters. We meet on Tuesdays from 9-11 AM in Clare-Wolfe Lounge. No experience necessary!

Congregational Care Ministries

Sympathy

Sympathy from the congregation is shared with the family & friends of **Dennis Rodland**, nephew of Jackie Roward, who passed away August 25, 2026.

Prayers

Please keep our siblings in Christ in your daily prayers: **Dave & Vanessa Baran, Jeanette Carlstrom, Bob Curtis, Barb Davies, Liz & Ted Davis, Dan DeCoursey, Vicki Fischer, Charlotte Haggerty, 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**.

Anniversaries

Oct 1– Kristin & Kevin Garben

Oct 5– Melissa & Mike Collins

Oct 6– Vanessa & Dave Baran

Oct 18– Amy & Jim Nupp, Ben & Brooke Reitz

Oct 19– Mark & Hannelore Johnson

Oct 21– Karen & Kevin McKenna

Oct 22– Carl & Val Anderson

Birthdays

Oct 1– Cheryl Kwiatkowski, Jude Miglicio, Lois Schultz

Oct 2– Steve Thelin

Oct 4– Kruze Garben, Eric Lang

Oct 8– Ted Firment, Joyce Hager

Oct 12– Joanne Loomis

Oct 14– Scott Chrostowski, Ethan Cunningham, Rick Schau, Greg Swanson

Oct 18– Jane Heineman

Oct 21– Ted Davis

Oct 25– Sam Beilharz

Oct 26– Richard Chrostowski, Denny Walker

Oct 28– Addy Randolph

Oct 29– Nolan Scheuering

Thank You Note

Dear St. Paul's Family,

Just a quick note to thank you for embracing us when we joined 3 short years ago. You were family almost immediately. Continue to lift each other up, find the joy in doing God's work. We have found a lovely church that seems intent on being Jesus for everyone they meet. We will see each other again!

In Peace,

Joe & Nancy Ulrich

Congregational Fellowship

Breakfast Group

Breakfast Group meets on Monday, October 5 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, October 8 at 6 PM at U Pick 6 Public House at 4575 W Ridge Rd in Erie.



Church Council Highlights

From the September 2026 meeting:

- The Annual Meeting presentation was discussed, as well as the best way to present the information to the congregation.
- The budget was presented to Council in preparation for the Annual Meeting.
- Council seats were discussed.
- We will plan for an audit this year.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 20 at 6:15 PM in Clare-Wolfe Lounge.

Online Giving

Have your weekly or monthly contribution debited from your checking or savings account automatically—you'll never have to remember your checkbook again!

Simply scan the QR code. You can also give online at [Give to St. Paul's Lutheran Church \(breezechms.com\)](https://www.breezechms.com).



Attendance & Finances

By The Numbers:	August 2026
Avg. Saturday Attendance	23 in-person
Avg. Sunday Attendance	59 in-person 11 online views
August Income	\$19,476
August Expenses	\$30,757
August Difference	-\$11,281
August Budget Income	\$23,930
August Budget Expenses	\$30,276
August Budget Difference	-\$6,346
Year-to-Date Income	\$224,862
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$246,160
Year-to-Date Difference	-\$21,298
Year-to-Date Budget Income	\$211,588
Year-to-Date Budget Expenses	\$251,094
Year-to-Date Budget Difference	-\$39,506
2026 Total Budget Income	\$358,152
2026 Total Budget Expenses	\$376,316
2026 Total Budget Difference	-\$18,164

Early Childhood Education Ministries

Preschool

Our students had a wonderful first month getting to meet new teachers and friends. We have a lot more to come! We are excited to meet with Pastor Erik once a week for story time and songs. Kids will be learning about the fall season, apples, pumpkins, and more! They will continue to work on social and academic skills through enriched activities. On October 30 at 9:30 AM, kids will sing a few Halloween songs and show off their costumes for families. To see all the fun the children are having, check out St. Paul's Facebook page.

Questions? Contact Melissa Collins at PSDirector@stpaulserie.org or 814-833-1761, ext. 1002.



Faith Formation Ministries



Sunday School

Sunday School is every Sunday morning from 10:15-11:15 AM 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 for those in 6-8th grade. High school students who are already confirmed are also welcome to join us for a review.



Confirmation Youth Group

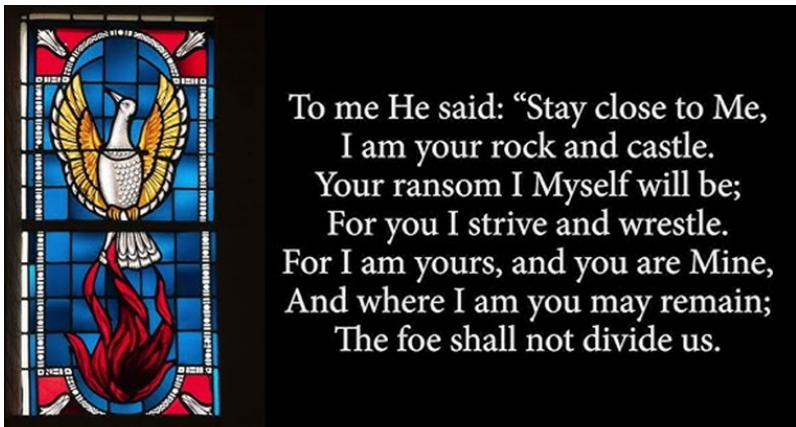
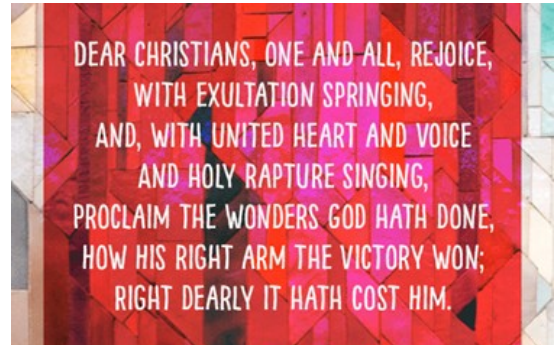
Join us every Monday in the gym & youth room from 6-7:30 PM for youth group! We gather for fun & games, Bible & faith studies, & solid hang out time.

Worship Ministries

Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

Martin Luther's first congregational hymn was designed to explain the gospel message to ordinary people. Written as a ballad in plain language, it quickly spread across Germany. Hundreds of people converted to the faith, simply because of this single hymn.

The lyrics summarize the core doctrine of justification by faith alone. Beginning with our human brokenness, it emphasizes that good works and free will cannot earn salvation. It shifts to God's rescue mission and highlights Jesus' unconditional promise to the believer "Stay close to me...your ransom I myself will be." Luther finishes with Jesus reminding us not to allow any man-made laws to place Satan's chains of sin and death around us once again.



Luther's ballad portrays the theological concept he called the "joyful exchange." The believer gives Christ their sins, guilt and shame. Christ gives the believer His righteousness, glory and eternal life. By claiming human sin as His own responsibility, Christ puts it to death on the cross.

With its catchy tune and easily understood words, traveling musicians quickly circulated the song throughout the country. It ultimately served as a powerful vehicle for bringing the Reformation theology to the masses. Converting hundreds and winning over critics who previously opposed Luther.

-Submitted by Amy Nupp

Choir Rehearsal

Join St. Paul's choir for rehearsals every Sunday morning at 8:15 AM in the sanctuary. No experience necessary; all are welcome! Questions? Contact Andrew Rainbow at MusicDirector@stpaulserie.org.



October Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	3 5:00pm Worship
4 <i>2026 Annual Reports Due</i> World Communion Sunday 8:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 10:15am Adult Study 10:15am Confirmation Class 10:15am Sunday School	5 8:30am Breakfast Group 6:00pm Confirmation Youth Group 6:30pm Property Team Meeting	6 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 6:15pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting	7 9:00am Scripture Study 9:45am Children's Chapel 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting	8 6:00pm Well-Watered Disciples Men's Fellowship Group	9 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	10 5:00pm Worship
11 8:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 10:15am Adult Study 10:15am Confirmation Class 10:15am Sunday School	12 <i>Church Office Closed</i> Indigenous Peoples Day <i>Preschool Closed</i> 5:30pm Security Team Meeting	13 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 5:30pm Faith Formation Team Meeting 6:15pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting 6:30pm Worship Team Meeting	14 9:00am Scripture Study	15 <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	16 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	17 5:00pm Worship
18 8:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 10:00am 2026 Annual Meeting 10:15am Confirmation Class 10:15am Sunday School	19 6:00pm Confirmation Youth Group	20 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 6:15pm Church Council Meeting 6:15pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting	21 9:00am Scripture Study 9:45am Children's Chapel	22	23 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	24 <i>Reformation & Confirmation Weekend</i> 5:00pm Worship 6:30pm Trunk-or-Treat
25 <i>Reformation & Confirmation Weekend</i> Reformation Sunday 8:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 10:00am Coffee Hour 10:15am Adult Study 10:15am Confirmation Class 10:15am Sunday School	26 6:00pm Confirmation Youth Group	27 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 6:00pm ECE Board Meeting 6:15pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting	28 9:00am Scripture Study 9:45am Children's Chapel	29 4:00pm Food Pantry Distribution	30 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	31 Reformation Day 5:00pm Worship

October Worship Assistants

Date	Event	Ushers	Assist Minister
Oct 4	19 Pentecost	Wright Team	Erich Zech
Oct 11	20 Pentecost	Zech/Chiapa Team	Cheryl Moore
Oct 18	21 Pentecost	Curtis Team	Steve Thelin
Oct 25	Reformation &	Gardner/Marzka Team	Joanne Erikson