

Welcome Home!

Saint Paul's Lutheran Church

September 2025 Newsletter



Blessing of Backpacks & Rally Day

Join us for Blessing of Backpacks & Rally Day on Sunday, September 7, beginning with worship at 9 AM. Students are invited to bring their school backpacks to worship & receive a special blessing.

Rally Day is where we kick off the Christian education year. Join us in the gym for treats after worship, hosted by Worship Team! Signups for Children's Church (pre-K-3 grades), 4/5 Club (4 & 5 grades) & Confirmation Youth Group (6-8 grades) will be available.

Blessing of Backpacks

9 AM | sanctuary

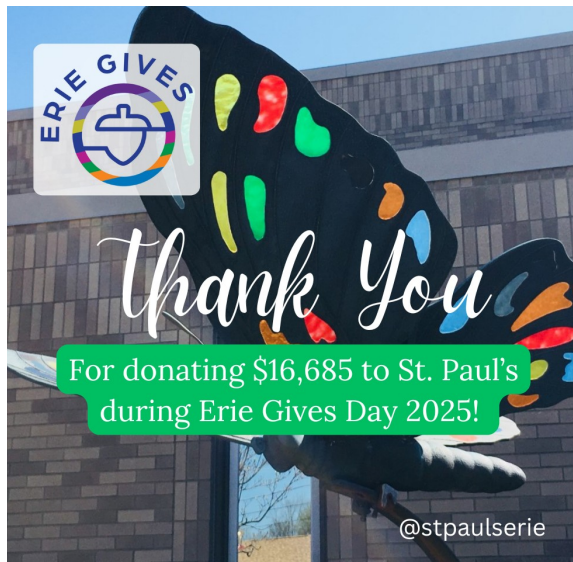
Rally Day

10:15 AM | gym

Sunday, September 7



Erie Gives Day Thank You



We had a very successful Erie Gives Day 2025! A total of \$16,685 from 42 donors was gifted to St. Paul's on August 12!!

Thank you to everyone who donated; your support goes a long way toward continuing our mission in our community and around the globe.

50th Erie County CROP Hunger Walk

The 50th Erie County CROP Hunger Walk is a few weeks away! It is the oldest charitable walk in Erie County. It is on Sunday, September 28, beginning at Presque Isle Beach 1 parking lot, with a motivational registration at 1 PM & the 1-mile or 5.5-mile walk starting at 2 PM. All youth who walk will receive a free t-shirt!

Join St. Paul's team or donate at crophungerwalk.org/splc. You can also sign up or donate before & after worship services in the entryway of St. Paul's.

Make checks out to St. Paul's Lutheran Church with CROP Walk in the memo.

Please

consider your part as the Walk continues to provide life-saving support to help families feed themselves in the future. Questions? Contact Peggy Fuhrman at CROPWalk@stpaulserie.org or 814-833-1761, ext. 325.

BELIEVE THERE IS GOOD IN THE WORLD.

50TH Erie County CROP Hunger Walk

Sunday, September 28 at 1 PM

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-3 PM

814-833-1761

office@stpaulserie.org



Pastor Erik

Pastor Erik Young

814-833-1761, ext. 103

Pastor@stpaulserie.org

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

The Peter Principle

The word *disciple*, when translated from Greek, literally means "an apprentice" – someone who wishes to replicate exactly the work and ways of their teacher. When we look at how Jesus trained his disciples/apprentices, he did so in a way that many refer to as "The Peter Principle" (for seemingly obvious reasons). It is a four-step process that goes like this:

1. I do, you watch.
2. I do, you help.
3. You do, I help.
4. You do, I watch.

As you see, this process is one of mentored imitation. This directly affects us, as our future as a congregation depends in large part on how we are training the next generation (I am not talking age-wise) to do the jobs we currently hold and do. As things stand right now, often the only time someone steps into a position is when the person formerly holding that position has quit or died. If we continue to do ministry-by-attrition we are failing those who have come before us and those who would have otherwise come after us. We must be intentional in our training of others to do our jobs. Think about all that you do around here: Who have you trained to do those things should you decide to go to Antarctica for a six-month vacation? Your church has a void and a problem if there is not someone you can call to do a job you hold. So how do we fix it?

1. Look at your job(s) here and find a person who is capable (skill, passion, etc.) of doing that job. Then ask them to help you do that job.
2. Patiently teach them what needs done to complete that job.
3. Let them do that job with your assistance and partnership.
4. Let them do that job their way. Say thank you. Ask them if they know who they were going to train to do that job with them.

With the start of a new school year, it is time for us all to both learn and teach. Be intentional in your service, seeking what's next for you. By doing this you will be teaching your fellow disciples how important it is to find their passion, use their gifts, and train others to do the same.

-Pastor Erik Young



Community Care Ministries

Food Pantry

We had a fantastic response to the Birthday Cake Kits! Thank you for all your donations. We are stocked for a while with cake kits. The neighbors really loved it! Our July statistics: 14 families & 41 individuals. Our monthly totals seems to be the same or close.

We are going to be completing an inventory of our items in the pantry. Some food items are well-stocked & others we only have a few. Right now, we could use the following:

- Canned pineapple
- Canned peas
- 4-packs of toilet paper
- Single packs of tissues

Drop off all items in the entryway of St. Paul's. Thanks again for your support!

Questions? Contact us at FoodPantry@stpaulserie.org.

Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits Assembly

"God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday is September 7 & your hands would be most appreciated to sort items collected over the summer & get the kits ready to ship. Please meet in the gym following worship. Thank you for supporting Lutheran World Relief's global effort!

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.



Food Pantry Donations Needed



@stpaulserie

- CANNED PINEAPPLE
- CANNED PEAS
- 4-PACKS OF TOILET PAPER
- SINGLE PACKS OF TISSUES

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

Lutheran World Relief

PERSONAL CARE KITS ASSEMBLY

Sunday, September 7
10:30 AM
Gym



@stpaulserie

Congregational Care Ministries

Congregational Sympathy

Congregational sympathy is shared with the family & friends of **Joan Laughery Tidd**, former neighbor & member of St. Paul's, who passed away May 30, 2025.

Sympathy is also shared with the family & friends of **Ted Benson**, another former member & neighbor of St. Paul's, who passed away June 14, 2025.

Congregational sympathy is shared with the family & friends of **Seth A. Schroeck**, nephew of Jill & Karen Kelley, who passed away July 10, 2025.

Sympathy is also shared with the family & friends of **David Hetrick**, brother of Rick Hetrick, who passed away July 30, 2025.

Sympathy from the congregation is shared with the family & friends of **Craig A. Sharrer**, son of Jackie Roward, who passed away August 9, 2025.

Congregational Prayers

Please keep our brothers & sisters in Christ in your daily prayers: **Sue Bax, Amy Chiapa, Liz & Ted Davis, Dan DeCoursey, Debi Firment, Mark & Vicki Fischer, Wayne Gardner, Charlotte Haggerty, Ron Kaffka, Phyllis Kennedy, Jessica Kidd, Becke Moniot, Terry Moyer, Laurie Sanders, Sue Snyder, Al Swab, Russ Wiest, Christie Young, & 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, Nancy DiCola, Debi Firment, Noni Gardner, Dottie Johnson, Elva Mussett, & Sandy Pamin**. Wrap your hearts around those who are alone, broken-hearted, grieving, or anxious.

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

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**.

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 10— Tim Hunter

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

Anniversaries

Sep 5— Gary & Sue Bax, 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

Directory Updates

Floyd & Janet Csir

Springhill Senior Living

2323 Edinboro Road

Suite #260B

Erie, PA 16509

John & Maureen Damico

3929 West 38th St.

Erie, PA 16506

Congregational Fellowship

Breakfast Group

Breakfast Group meets on Monday, September 1 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 next on Thursday, September 18 at 6 PM at TBA.



Well-Watered Disciples at Oliver's Beer Garden in July 2025

Coffee Hour Signups

Interested in hosting a coffee hour after worship on Sunday mornings?! Sign up on the bulletin board in the entryway of St. Paul's.

Questions? Contact Terry Moyer at CookieTrays@stpaulserie.org.



Attendance & Finances

By The Numbers:	July 2025
Avg. Saturday Attendance	20 in-person
Avg. Sunday Attendance	71 in-person 15 online views
July Income	\$21,716
July Expenses	\$34,519
July Difference	-\$12,803
July Budget Income	\$23,900
July Budget Expenses	\$33,134
July Budget Difference	-\$9,234
Year-to-Date Income	\$190,144
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$225,782
Year-to-Date Difference	-\$35,638
Year-to-Date Budget Income	\$193,195
Year-to-Date Budget Expenses	\$219,115
Year-to-Date Budget Difference	-\$25,920
2025 Total Budget Income	\$348,607
2025 Total Budget Expenses	\$374,512
2025 Total Budget Difference	-\$25,905

Faith Formation

Children's Ministry with Bridget

We need YOU! We are looking for Sunday School volunteer teachers for September-December 2025. Sign up on the bulletin board in the entryway of St. Paul's. Questions? Contact Bridget at CDCAssistant@stpaulserie.org.



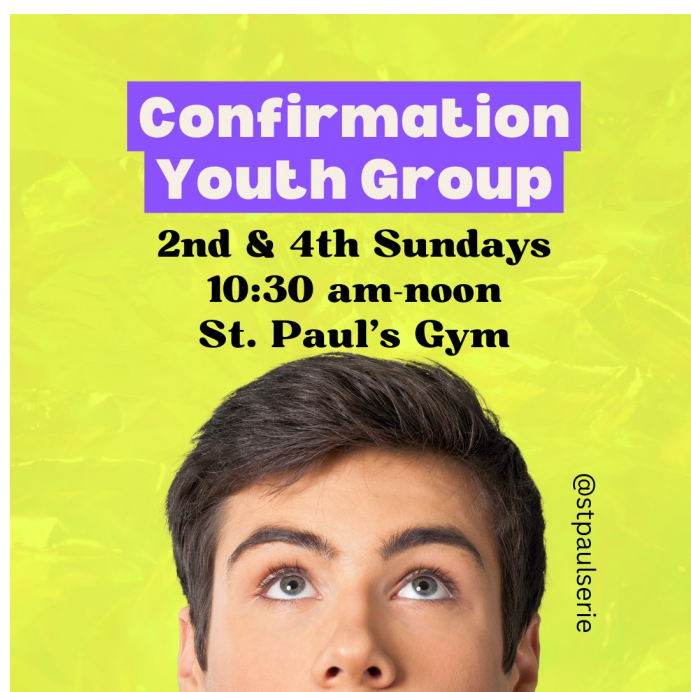
Children's Church will begin on Sunday, September 14 during worship at 9 AM. Pre-K through 3rd graders will begin in worship with their families, exit during the Children's Song, & return to worship to take communion with their families.

Confirmation Youth Group with Pastor Erik

This youth group is aimed at those in middle school & early high school.

Our first meeting will take place as part of the CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, September 28. Bring canned food items to donate & meet up at the Beach 1 parking lot on Presque Isle at 1 PM. Free t-shirts for all youth! Sign up to walk at crophungerwalk.org/splc.

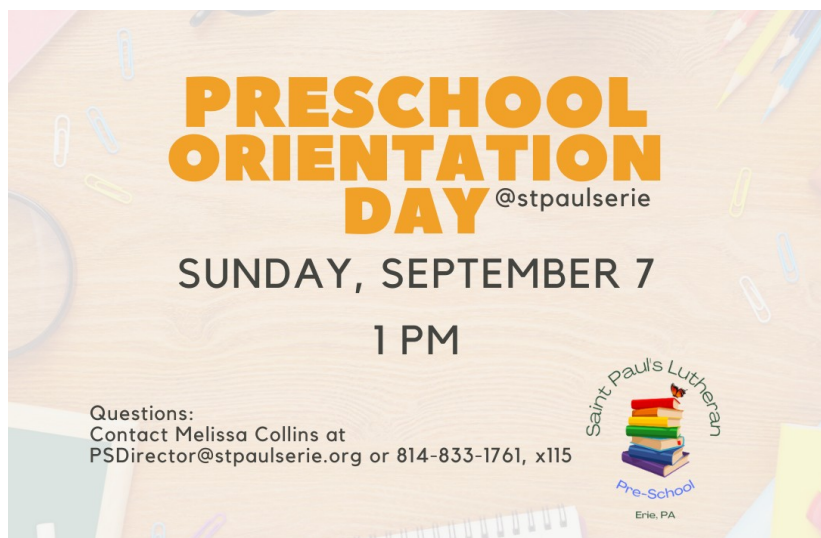
Beginning October 12, this youth group will happen every 2nd and 4th Sunday from 10:30 AM-noon in the gym at St. Paul's.



Preschool Ministries

We are excited to welcome Michelle Kohler to our team. She will be teaching pre-K with Melissa. Michelle is married to Jesse and they have two kids, Brynlee and Parker, who both attended our preschool.

Orientation for enrolled kids is September 7 at 1 PM. Children will be able to meet their new teachers, get book bags & folders. Parents will have the opportunity to ask questions & get all the information they'll need for the year ahead. Monday, September 8 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 & how to play and share with their new friends. We will have picture day Monday, September 22. Going to preschool & 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. 115.

Child Development Center (CDC) Ministries

St. Paul's Child Development Center is proud to announce that they continue to meet the rigorous standards to be a STAR 4 facility & licensed by the PA Department of Human Services!

Questions? Contact us at CDCDirector@stpaulserie.org or 814-833-1761, ext. 124.



September Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>Child Development Center Closed</i> <i>Church Office Closed</i> Labor Day 8:30am Breakfast Group 6:30pm Property Team Meeting	2 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry	3 9:00am Scripture Study 10:00am Staff Meeting 8:00pm Basketball	4	5 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	6 5:00pm Worship
7 <i>God's Work, Our Hands Sunday</i> 9:00am Blessing of Backpacks 9:00am Worship 10:15am Rally Day 10:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am LWR Kits Assembly 1:00pm Preschool Orientation	8 <i>Preschool First Day</i> 5:30pm Security Team Meeting 6:30pm Worship Team Meeting	9 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 5:30pm Faith Formation Team Meeting	10 9:00am Scripture Study 8:00pm Basketball	11 Patriot Day	12 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	13 <i>Pulpit Exchange</i> 5:00pm Worship
14 <i>Pulpit Exchange</i> 9:00am Children's Church 9:00am Worship 10:15am Coffee Hour	15 <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i> 9:45am Children's Chapel 1:45pm Children's Chapel 6:15pm Church Council Meeting	16 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 6:15pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting	17 9:00am Scripture Study 8:00pm Basketball	18 6:00pm Well-Watered Disciples Men's Fellowship Group	19 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	20 5:00pm Worship
21 9:00am Children's Church 9:00am Worship	22 <i>Preschool Picture Day</i> First Day of Autumn 9:45am Children's Chapel	23 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 6:15pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting	24 9:00am Scripture Study 8:00pm Basketball	25 4:00pm Food Pantry Distribution	26 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	27 5:00pm Worship
28 9:00am Children's Church 9:00am Worship 1:00pm 50th Erie County CROP Hunger Walk 1:00pm Confirmation Youth Group (6-8 grades)	29 9:45am Children's Chapel 1:45pm Children's Chapel	30 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 6:15pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting				

Worship Assistants

Date	Event	Ushers	Assist Minister/Reader
Sep 7	13 Pentecost	Wright Team	Joanne Erikson
Sep 14	14 Pentecost	Zech/Chiapa Team	Larry Kessler
Sep 21	15 Pentecost	Curtis Team	Karen Marzka
Sep 28	16 Pentecost	Gardner/Marzka Team	Karen McKenna