

# Saint Paul's Lutheran Church

Welcome Home!

## October 2025 Newsletter



## 2025 Annual Meeting

St. Paul's Congregational Annual Meeting is on Sunday, October 12 at 10:15 AM in the sanctuary.

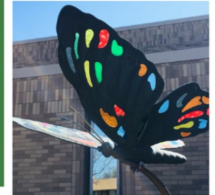
The purpose of this meeting is to elect members to Congregation Council, receive 2025 Annual Ministry Reports, hear preliminary financial reports for 2025, & adopt the 2026 budget.

All annual reports from the various ministries are due by Sunday, October 5. Please email your reports to [Office@stpaulserie.org](mailto:Office@stpaulserie.org). Thank you!

## Annual Meeting Notice

Sunday, October 12  
10:15 AM  
Sanctuary

Saint Paul's  
Lutheran Church



The meeting will be for the following purposes:

1. To elect members to Congregation Council.
2. To receive St. Paul's 2025 Annual Ministry Reports
3. To hear preliminary financial reports for the year 2025.
4. To adopt the congregation's budget for 2026.

3108 Sterrettania Rd  
Erie, PA 16506



@stpaulserie

## Pizza & Pumpkins Party



@STPAULSERIE

# Pizza & Pumpkins Party





Scan QR code to sign up!



Saturday,  
October 18  
11 AM  
Gym

All are welcome to join us for Pizza & Pumpkins Party on Saturday, October 18 at 11 AM in the gym of St. Paul's. Sign up for this intergenerational event featuring a pizza lunch & pumpkin carving at <https://forms.gle/B8eay67yfwqpbtoh6> or scan the QR code.

## Trunk-or-Treat

On Saturday, October 25, we are excited to host our 9<sup>th</sup> annual Trunk-or-Treat from 6:30-7:30 PM in the parking lot of St. Paul's. Come in costume, decorate your car & hand out treats. Children will travel around the parking lot collecting goodies. Rain or shine!



# Trunk-or-Treat

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25  
6:30-7:30 PM | ST. PAUL'S PARKING LOT

Come in costume, decorate your car,  
& hand out treats.  
Join us for a spook-tacular good time!



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



## 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](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulserie)

and available at

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

**Wednesday Scripture Study, 9 AM**



**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, ext. 103

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

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

### NW PA Bishop Installation Invitation

You're invited to the Installation of Rev. Kristen Papson  
as Bishop of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

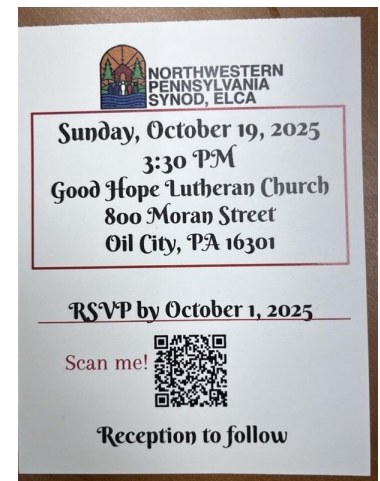
Sunday, October 19, 2025

3:30 PM

Good Hope Lutheran Church

800 Moran Street, Oil City, PA 16301

RSVP by October 1, 2025. Scan QR code below. Reception to follow.



Ride the bus to the bishop's installation in Oil City:

The Erie Lutheran Conference has arranged for two school buses with professional drivers to transport folks to & from Bishop Papson's Installation Service.

Buses will leave Faith Lutheran (5414 E. Lake Rd) at 1 PM & Luther Memorial (225 W. 10th) at 1:30 PM. Cost is \$5 per person, payable on departure. Space is limited to 52 people per bus. To reserve your seat, sign up on the sheet in the entryway of St. Paul's or email

[faithlepastor@gmail.com](mailto:faithlepastor@gmail.com).





## Community Care Ministries

### 50<sup>th</sup> Erie County CROP Hunger Walk

Thank you to all sponsors, walkers & cheerleaders for supporting the Walk! Please look for the details & final results in the November or December newsletter.

### Food Pantry

The Food Pantry has reached a goal: We served over 61 people & 20 households this past month! 6 of the households were new to our pantry. Thank you all for your generosity & help. For the month of October, we could use the following:

- Pasta (NOT spaghetti)
- Spaghetti sauce
- Canned corn

Drop off all items in the entryway of St. Paul's. Thanks again for your support! Questions? Contact us at

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



## October Food Pantry Wish List

- Pasta (not spaghetti)
- Spaghetti sauce
- Canned corn

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

### Lutheran World Relief

In October, 84 LWR Personal Care Kits from the community of St. Paul's will begin the journey to the warehouse in Maryland & then, off to where they are needed the most to help people cope with poverty, disaster, conflict & more. Thank you for your amazing generosity for purchasing the items & also for assembling the kits. It truly was "God's Work, Our Hands."



**God's Work, Our Hands Sunday**

### 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.



## Patchwork of Love

**Tuesdays @ 9 am**

**CLARE-WOLFE LOUNGE**

@stpaulserie

## Reformation Sunday

Join us on Sunday, October 26 at 9 AM 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. You will find the worship space decorated in red and often, members of the congregation will wear something red on this day. Why? Red reminds us of the power of the Holy Spirit coming among God's people.

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



**REFORMATION  
SUNDAY**

**OCTOBER 26**

@STPAULSERIE

## Congregational Care Ministries

### Congregational Sympathy

Congregational sympathy is shared with the family & friends of **Sue Bax** who passed away August 24, 2025.

Sympathy from the congregation is also shared with the family & friends of **Elva Mussett**, mother of Ruth Mussett, who passed away September 3, 2025.

Congregational sympathy is shared with the family & friends of **Nancy DiCola**, longtime member of St. Paul's, who passed away September 9, 2025.

### Congregational Prayers

Please keep our brothers & sisters in Christ in your daily prayers: **Richard Davies, Liz & Ted Davis, Dan DeCoursey, Debi Firment, 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, Debi Firment, Noni Gardner, Dottie Johnson, & 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**.

### Anniversaries

Oct 1— Kristin & Kevin Garben

Oct 5— Nick Barber & Marit Bakken  
Barber, 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

### Congregational Congratulations

Congratulations to **Mark & Vicki Fischer** upon the birth of their granddaughter, Gracie Marie, on August 26, 2025.

## Congregational Thank You Notes

*Thank you so much for your time and efforts in providing a delicious post-funeral dinner and for your support and love for our Grandma Jackie during this difficult time. We appreciate you so much.*

*Allen, Hallie & the Sharrer Family*

*Thank you for all your love and support throughout my educational career. I could not have done it without all of you.*

*Thank you,*

*Christopher Boam, Class of 2025*

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

*Thank you for your condolences and prayers during my wife Sue's illness and upon her passing. Your generous love and support have strengthened me at this difficult time. I especially thank Pastor Erik for his guidance and prayers. I also want to thank all of you who attended Sue's memorial service, which I will remember for the loving kindness extended by our faith community. I also thank those who volunteered for the luncheon that followed Sue's memorial service. The fellowship extended at our luncheon was truly extraordinary. May God bless everyone in our faith community.*

*Grace and peace,*

*Gary Bax*





## Congregational Fellowship

### Breakfast Group

Breakfast Group meets on Monday, October 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 next on Thursday, October 16 at 6 PM at TBA.



## Church Council Highlights

### From the September 2025 meeting:

- Property Team has arranged for Spaeder to repair the ed wing boiler. They are also looking for people to plow & salt this winter.
- Child Development Center received their STAR 4 rating.
- Performance reviews are being created by Personnel Team.
- Worship Team is planning for Thanksgiving, Advent & Christmas worship services.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at 6:15 PM in Clare-Wolfe Lounge. Note, beginning in October, Council meetings have changed to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month.



## Attendance & Finances

| By The Numbers:                | August 2025                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Avg. Saturday Attendance       | 23 in-person                    |
| Avg. Sunday Attendance         | 72 in-person<br>13 online views |
| August Income                  | \$21,699                        |
| August Expenses                | \$31,539                        |
| August Difference              | <b>-\$9,840</b>                 |
| August Budget Income           | \$23,500                        |
| August Budget Expenses         | \$33,413                        |
| August Budget Difference       | <b>-\$9,913</b>                 |
| Year-to-Date Income            | \$211,843                       |
| Year-to-Date Expenses          | \$257,339                       |
| Year-to-Date Difference        | <b>-\$45,496</b>                |
| Year-to-Date Budget Income     | \$216,695                       |
| Year-to-Date Budget Expenses   | \$252,527                       |
| Year-to-Date Budget Difference | <b>-\$35,832</b>                |
| 2025 Total Budget Income       | \$348,607                       |
| 2025 Total Budget Expenses     | \$374,512                       |
| 2025 Total Budget Difference   | <b>-\$25,905</b>                |

## Faith Formation

### Children's Ministry with Bridget

Welcome back to all the children of St. Paul's!! This year, the groups for Children's Church are a bit different. Preschool-K will meet at the table in front of the church office. 1-2 grades will meet in the YAM room, & 3-5 grades will meet in the Youth Room. 3-5 grades will start their meeting at the beginning of Sunday worship at 9 AM & the younger groups will continue to meet after the Children's Song during worship.

Questions? Contact Bridget at [CDCAssistant@stpaulserie.org](mailto:CDCAssistant@stpaulserie.org).



## Confirmation Youth Group

**MONDAYS  
6-7:30 PM  
GYM & YOUTH ROOM**

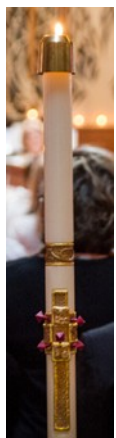
### Confirmation Youth Group with Pastor Erik

Middle & high schoolers... Please join us every Monday, beginning October 6, from 6-7:30 PM for youth group! We will gather for fun & games, Bible & faith studies (yes, this takes the place of Sunday Confirmation class), & solid hang out time. We will plan service opportunities, weekend retreats, overnight lock-ins, national gathering trips, and more! Behind on your homework? Bring it and study together. Sad and tired? Bring it and just be. Got a friend at school? Bring them and let them meet Jesus here.

## Worship Ministries



Candles play an important part of our liturgical celebrations. Lutheran churches often use candles to symbolize God's presence or to represent Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. We see candles in Advent wreaths, on the altar, during Easter season, at baptisms and at funerals. Votive candles are lit for private prayers or in memory of loved ones. Burning candles in church is an ancient tradition providing a spiritual continuity with previous generation's faith practices.



Altar candles were originally a practical way of providing light for the priest who was leading communion. Some Lutheran churches use a Sanctuary Lamp or Eternal Flame as a sign of the eternal or constant presence of the Holy Spirit. During Easter season, the Paschal Candle used to be burned throughout all 50 days of the season. Which is why it's so big! The Paschal Candle is also lighted for baptisms and funeral services. Both times it's a symbol of Christ's death and resurrection.

Four blue or purple candles are placed in a circular wreath counting down the weeks of Advent leading up to Christmas Day. A white Christ's Candle is sometimes placed in the center of the wreath and lit on Christmas Day. This represents the arrival of "the light that shines in the darkness." Personal candles for Christmas Eve services, Easter vigil services and Pentecost services visually symbolize the distribution of the Light of Christ throughout the congregation.

Candles are symbols of the Light, of faith and of hope in darkness; reminding us God is always present to guide and enlighten us on our spiritual journey.



Submitted by Amy Nupp.



## Preschool Ministries

Our students had a wonderful first month getting to meet new teachers & friends. We have a lot more to come!

We are excited to meet with Pastor Erik once a week for story time & songs. Kids will be learning about the fall season, apples, pumpkins, & more! They will continue to work on social & academic skills through play-enriched activities. On Friday, October 31 at 9:20 AM, kids will sing a few Halloween songs & show off their costumes for families. To see all the fun the children are having, check out St. Paul's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/stpaulserie](http://www.facebook.com/stpaulserie).

There are still some openings in our traditional afternoon preschool class. If you know anyone who may be interested, contact Melissa Collins at [PSDDirector@stpaulserie.org](mailto:PSDDirector@stpaulserie.org) or 814-833-1761, ext. 115.



## Child Development Center (CDC) Ministries



We are excited to be back at school. We had another wonderful summer and are looking forward to a great school year. We continue to have a wonderful group of teachers and children in our program. Over the summer, we received our STAR 4 rating again. STAR 4 is the highest rating of quality for childcare centers in PA. We work hard to have a wonderful program that both the families and staff love coming to every day!



Questions? Contact us at [CDCDirector@stpaulserie.org](mailto:CDCDirector@stpaulserie.org) or 814-833-1761, ext. 124.



## October Calendar

| Sunday                                                                                                                                       | Monday                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Tuesday                                                                                                                           | Wednesday                                                                                  | Thursday                                                          | Friday                                                                                                                       | Saturday                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                   | <b>1</b><br>9:00am Scripture Study<br>10:00am Staff Meeting<br>8:00pm Basketball           | <b>2</b><br>6:00pm Presque Isle Garden Club Pumpkin Carving       | <b>3</b><br>7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group                                                                         | <b>4</b><br><b>5:00pm Worship</b>                                                            |
| <b>5</b><br><b>World Communion Sunday</b><br>8:15am Choir Rehearsal<br>9:00am Children's Church<br><b>9:00am Worship</b>                     | <b>6</b><br>8:30am Breakfast Group<br>9:45am Children's Chapel<br>6:00pm Confirmation Youth Group<br>6:30pm Property Team Meeting                                                                                                   | <b>7</b><br>9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry<br>6:15pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting                                         | <b>8</b><br>9:00am Scripture Study<br>8:00pm Basketball                                    | <b>9</b>                                                          | <b>10</b><br>7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group                                                                        | <b>11</b><br>8:00am Garden Cleanup<br><b>5:00pm Worship</b>                                  |
| <b>12</b><br>8:15am Choir Rehearsal<br>9:00am Children's Church<br><b>9:00am Worship</b><br>10:15am 2025 Annual Meeting                      | <b>13</b><br><i>Church Office Closed</i><br><b>Indigenous Peoples Day</b><br>9:45am Children's Chapel<br>1:45pm Children's Chapel<br>5:30pm Security Team Meeting<br>6:00pm Confirmation Youth Group<br>6:30pm Worship Team Meeting | <b>14</b><br>9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry<br>5:30pm Faith Formation Team Meeting<br>6:15pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting | <b>15</b><br><i>Newsletter Articles Due</i><br>9:00am Scripture Study<br>8:00pm Basketball | <b>16</b><br>6:00pm Well-Watered Disciples Men's Fellowship Group | <b>17</b><br>7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group                                                                        | <b>18</b><br>11:00am Pizza & Pumpkins Party Intergenerational Event<br><b>5:00pm Worship</b> |
| <b>19</b><br>8:15am Choir Rehearsal<br>9:00am Children's Church<br><b>9:00am Worship</b><br>1:00pm Bus Trip to Bishop Papson's Installation  | <b>20</b><br>9:45am Children's Chapel<br>6:00pm Confirmation Youth Group                                                                                                                                                            | <b>21</b><br>9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry<br>6:15pm Church Council Meeting<br>6:15pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting       | <b>22</b><br>9:00am Scripture Study<br>8:00pm Basketball                                   | <b>23</b>                                                         | <b>24</b><br>7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group                                                                        | <b>25</b><br><b>5:00pm Worship</b><br>6:30pm Trunk-or-Treat                                  |
| <b>26</b><br><b>Reformation Sunday</b><br>8:15am Choir Rehearsal<br>9:00am Children's Church<br><b>9:00am Worship</b><br>10:30am Coffee Hour | <b>27</b><br>9:45am Children's Chapel<br>1:45pm Children's Chapel<br>6:00pm Confirmation Youth Group                                                                                                                                | <b>28</b><br>9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry<br>6:15pm Church Council Meeting<br>6:15pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting       | <b>29</b><br>9:00am Scripture Study<br>8:00pm Basketball                                   | <b>30</b><br><b>4:00pm Food Pantry Distribution</b>               | <b>31</b><br><b>Reformation Day</b><br>9:20am Preschool Halloween Music & Parade<br>7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group |                                                                                              |

## Worship Assistants

| Date   | Event        | Ushers              | Assist Minister/Reader |
|--------|--------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Oct 5  | 17 Pentecost | Wright Team         | Wayne Gardner          |
| Oct 12 | 18 Pentecost | Zech/Chiapa Team    | Cindy Dohanic          |
| Oct 19 | 19 Pentecost | Curtis Team         | Greg Zimmerman         |
| Oct 26 | Reformation  | Gardner/Marzka Team | Cheryl Moore           |