

Welcome Home!

# Saint Paul's Lutheran Church

April 2025 Newsletter



## Holy Week



**HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES**

**Palm Sunday**  
April 13 • 9 am

**Seder Supper**  
April 17 • 6 pm\*

**Good Friday**  
April 18 • 12 pm\* & 7 pm

**Funeral for Jesus**  
April 19 • 5 pm\*

**Easter Sunday**  
April 20 • 6:30 am\* & 9 am  
*\*in-person only*

Join us in person and online for our Holy Week journey. Online services 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).

Palm Sunday, April 13 at 9 AM is where we commemorate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem with the blessing of palms.

Maundy Thursday's potluck Seder Supper is April 17 at 6 PM in the gym. Bring a dish to share! The seder meal is where we remember and honor the Last Supper Jesus had with his disciples. We will also celebrate First Communion with some of our children and their families. We will end this holy night in the sanctuary with the stripping of the altar, leading us into the darkness that is Good Friday.

Good Friday is March 18 at 12 & 7 PM. These services are where we honor the final moments in Jesus' life with the Seven Last Words of Christ. Funeral for Jesus is on Saturday, April 19 at 5 PM. This service is where we honor Jesus' life and prepare for the resurrection.

## Easter Sunday Worship

Celebrate with us on Easter Sunday, April 20 at 6:30 AM (sunrise service) & 9 AM (traditional service) in the sanctuary of St. Paul's. 9 AM worship will be 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). There is no Children's Church on Easter Sunday.

Did you know? Easter is the oldest Christian holiday and the most important day of the church year because the events of the death and resurrection of Jesus are the basis for Christianity. Christ is Risen! Alleluia!



## Rummage Sale

Mark your calendar for our rummage sale on Saturday, April 12 from 8 AM-noon in the gym. All proceeds to benefit our Youth Ministry.

Throughout the week before, you are invited to bring your donations to the church gym and place them on the stage. Youth will be there Friday, April 11 from 6-9 PM to help you unload if you choose.



## 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

### ABOUT WORSHIP: The Paschal Candle

Fire has long been a sign of God's presence. The Old Testament is full of examples: the burning bush on Mount Sinai, the pillar of fire in the desert, the tabernacle lamps, and the sacrificial fires on the altar of the temple in Jerusalem. Early Christians rather naturally viewed the kindling of new fire as a symbol of the presence of their resurrected Lord, the new pillar of fire.

In Jerusalem, the earliest Christians blessed and lighted candles every Saturday night. By at least the fifth or sixth century, the custom had become associated with celebrations of the Resurrection, and paschal candles had found their way into the liturgy of the Western church.

In the medieval church, allegorical meaning was ascribed to every aspect of the paschal candle. Unlighted, it represented Christ's death and burial; lighted, it represented the splendor and glory of Christ's resurrection. The wick represented Christ's humanity, and the halo of flame represented his divinity. Other candles lighted from the paschal candle symbolized Christ giving the Holy Spirit to the disciples.

For us, the symbolism of Christ's triumph over the darkness of sin and death is preeminent. This symbolism is most apparent when the paschal candle is introduced each year to the congregation in the Easter Vigil on Easter Eve. When the Vigil begins, the church is dark, symbolic of the darkness of the sepulcher that held the crucified Christ. A new fire is kindled, and the paschal candle is lighted, representing the Risen Christ, the Light of the world.

Symbolically, this is the fire from which all light is ignited. Traditionally, before lighting the candle from the new fire, the candle is inscribed with a cross, an alpha and omega, and the current year. This reinforces the point that Christ is present among us now and throughout eternity.

Throughout the fifty days of Easter, the paschal candle traditionally stands near the altar as a symbol of the resurrection. It is lighted for each liturgy during the great fifty days of Easter. (Easter is not over until Pentecost, the fiftieth day!) After the Day of Pentecost, the paschal candle is placed on its stand near the baptismal font as a visual reminder that in our baptism, we are crucified and resurrected with Christ. The candle is lighted at each celebration of Baptism, at which time small baptismal candles are lighted from it for presentation to the baptized or sponsor. This act is a visual reminder of the integral connection between Baptism and Easter. For funerals, the paschal candle is lighted and placed in its stand at the head of the casket during the funeral rite. In a visual way, the paschal candle visually proclaims the message of Romans 6:3-5 (used at the beginning of the burial liturgy): "In our Baptism we have already died and been raised with Christ."

The paschal candle, sometimes called the Easter candle, should be of substantial size, even huge, if its important symbolism is to speak clearly. Even the stand in which it rests should be of great size. The Easter proclamation sings the glories of the candle, for it is a visible reminder of whom we are celebrating – Jesus, the risen Christ, the light of the world no darkness can overcome.

Excerpts from [www.elca.org/dcm/worship/faq/worship\\_space/paschal\\_candle.html](http://www.elca.org/dcm/worship/faq/worship_space/paschal_candle.html)

*-Pastor Erik Young*



## Community Care Ministries

### Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is humming along. We had 11 families in February & some of them were new to our pantry. We know it is a slow process. Thanks again to all our volunteers! We couldn't do it without them. Our next food pantry distribution is on Thursday, April 24 from 4-6 PM in Clare-Wolfe Lounge.

Questions? 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.



### World Hunger Update

By now, you should have your Lenten coin box & are "feeding it" with your extra change. Isn't it amazing how quickly that daily or routine amount adds up?!

This year, we will be selling Easter eggs for \$1 each on Palm Sunday weekend. The eggs will be filled with candy and/or chicks. Please pick up a couple for your Easter baskets! All proceeds will go to World Hunger.



If you are interested, there are several videos that share how our donations are used. Check out [vimeo.com/Channels/ELCAWorldHunger](https://vimeo.com/Channels/ELCAWorldHunger) or [YouTube.com/ELCA](https://YouTube.com/ELCA). Thank you for your support of the much-needed mission!



## Congregational Care Ministries

### Congregational Sympathy

Congregational sympathy is shared with the family & friends of **Paul Berger** who passed away on February 28, 2025.

Sympathy is also shared with the family & friends of **Mary Venable**, sister of Noni Gardner, who passed away March 11, 2025.

### Congregational Prayers

Please keep our brothers & sisters in Christ in your daily prayers: **Vince Balinski, Denise Clinger, Barb Davies, Liz & Ted Davis, Debi Firment, Mark & Vicki Fischer, Wayne Gardner, Charlotte Haggerty, Lynn Jackson, Ron Kaffka, Phyllis Kennedy, Elva Mussett, Jim & Nancy Price, Laurie Sanders, Marsha Szymanowicz, Russ Wiest, Mike Wright, 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, Nancy DiCola, Lee Eighmy, 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 **Child Development Center, Preschool, & Sunday School teachers.**

We continue to pray for those who are close to us who serve in the military, including their families: **Mike Cunningham & 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, Emma Cunningham, Abbey Forehand, Sam Forehand, Jacob Gross, Xavier Jones, Drew Kwiatkowski, Ellie Schau, & Hannah Schmidt.**

### Anniversaries

Apr 10— Bob & Jeannie Curtis  
Apr 19— Joe & Jennifer Douglas  
Apr 21— Liz Gould & Jim Scott  
Apr 22— Brandon & Erika Nornhold

### Birthdays

Apr 1— Kristen Burillo, Lori Buzzard  
Apr 2— Liz Gould, Kathy Maries  
Apr 3— Abbey Forehand  
Apr 5— Danielle Jones-Miglicio  
Apr 6— Vince Kernick  
Apr 9— Lisa Crcic, Mark Fischer  
Apr 10— Noni Gardner  
Apr 11— John Cooper, Jim Price  
Apr 12— Baylen Laufer, Brandon Nornhold  
Apr 17— Dan Hannah, Jenn Randolph  
Apr 18— Tyler Bliley, Sandra Hall, Tom Madara  
Apr 19— Kris Balinski  
Apr 20— Brett Forehand  
Apr 21— Joe Ulrich  
Apr 22— Nancy Madara  
Apr 23— Sara Beilharz  
Apr 24— Kameron Perrin  
Apr 25— Nancy Price, Sue Ellen Wojciechowski  
Apr 26— Marit Bakken Barber, Asher Wakley  
Apr 29— Sawyer Scheuering, Hannah Schmidt

### Baptism

We welcomed **Kasey Reid**, son of Kristen & Kameron Perrin, into the body of Christ on March 30, 2025.



### Congregational Congratulations

Congratulations to **Kallin Perrin** who received his First Communion on March 30, 2025.

Congratulations to **Josiah Chiapa, Baker Luria, Charlotte Rainbow, Elliot Rainbow, Henry Rainbow & Lorelai Reagle** who will receive their First Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 17, 2025.





## Congregational Fellowship

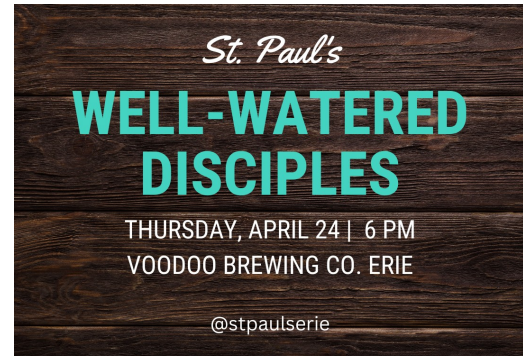
### Breakfast Group

Breakfast Group meets on Monday, April 7 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, April 24 at 6 PM at Voodoo Brewing Co. at 101 Boston Store Place in Erie. Note, this month's meeting is on the fourth Thursday of the month, instead of the third because of Maundy Thurs.



## Church Council Highlights

### From the March 2025 meeting:

- Approved ICE Protocol for campus. Child Development Center & Preschool staff members will be trained on what to do.
- Discussed alternative vendor for upgrading & securing main entrance doors to the church.

-Next meeting: Monday, April 21, 2025 at 6:15 PM in Clare-Wolfe Lounge.

## Lenten Soup Suppers & Table Talk

Join us for the last two Soup Suppers & Table Talk on Wednesday, April 2 & 9 at 6 PM in the gym for an hour of food, fellowship & faith-learning centered around Rick Warren's book, *The Purpose Driven Life* &

includes a children's Lenten study for those in preschool through grade 3.



## Attendance & Finances

### By The Numbers: February 2025

Avg. Saturday Attendance	20 in-person
Avg. Sunday Attendance	84 in-person 24 online views
February Income	\$29,560
February Expenses	\$33,461
February Difference	-\$3,901
February Budget Income	\$23,550
February Budget Expenses	\$30,214
February Budget Difference	-\$6,664
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 are seeing great attendance at Children's Church and 4/5 Club! Please continue to look at the Children's Church signups on the bulletin board, if you would like to help out one week. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered so far this year!



We will not be having Children's Church on Easter Sunday; however, be on the lookout for activity kits for church that day to keep the children occupied & engaged!

Kids Club for our 1-3 graders for the month of April is cancelled because I will be out of town for a conference that week.



## Child Development Center (CDC) Ministries

Happy Spring! We are so excited to be able to get back outside to play in the sunshine! We are busy planning for our summer program here at the CDC. If you have any talents that you would like to share with our children, please reach out to Bridget Nair or Nancy Dahlquist at [CDCDirector@stpaulserie.org](mailto:CDCDirector@stpaulserie.org) or 814-833-1761, ext. 124.

We currently have a full school-age program for the summer with a waiting list of families. We are also planning way ahead and working on enrollment for open pre-K spots for the fall. We have a few spots left for children who are getting ready for kindergarten. Interested or know someone with pre-k-aged child(ren), contact us at [CDCDirector@stpaulserie.org](mailto:CDCDirector@stpaulserie.org) or 814-833-1761, ext. 124.



## Preschool Ministries

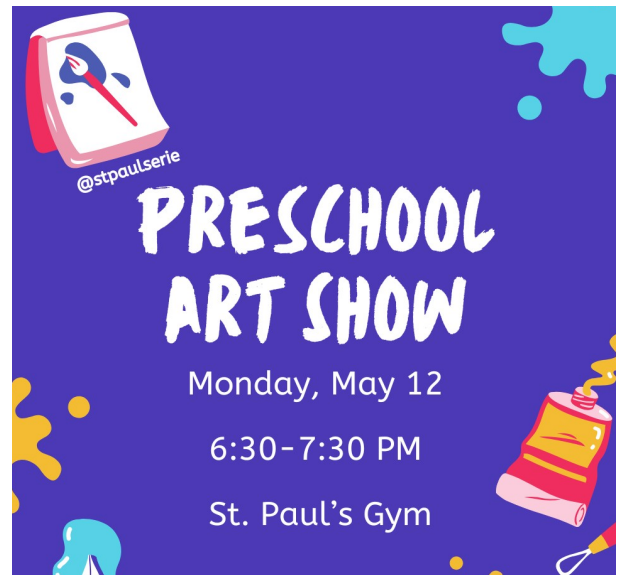


Sunday, April 6 from 1-3 PM is our Open House. Meet our teachers & see our classrooms! Please share with families with preschool-aged children.

This month, we are learning about weather and the environment. We are also talking about Easter and learning songs Pastor Erik sings at Monday chapel.

Monday, May 12 from 6:30-7:30 PM, we are having an Art Show and raffle baskets (to help defray the cost of the end-of-year picnic for families).

We are looking for donations of cookies and items for our raffle baskets. Our basket themes are game night (indoor and outdoor), movie night, date night, beach, summer activities, arts & crafts and gift cards. Any donations will be greatly appreciated and can be dropped off in the church kitchen by Thursday, May 8; please label them clearly for preschool. Thank you for your continued support. Last year we had an amazing turnout. Questions? Contact Melissa Collins at [PSDirector@stpaulserie.org](mailto:PSDirector@stpaulserie.org) or 814-833-1761, ext. 115.



## Worship Assistants

Date	Event	Ushers	Assist Minister/ Reader	Communion Assistant
Apr 6	5 Lent	Wright Team	Karen McKenna	Joe Ulrich
Apr 13	Palm Sunday	Zech/Chiapa Team	Cheryl Moore	Joe Lang
Apr 20	Easter 6:30 am	Wright Team	Wayne Gardner	Cheryl Moore
	Easter 9 am	Curtis Team	Larry Kessler	Joanne Erikson
Apr 27	2 Easter	Gardner/Marzka Team	Cheryl Moore	Kevin Kuric



## April Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 6:15pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting	<b>2</b> 9:00am Scripture Study 10:00am Staff Meeting <b>6:00pm Lenten Soup Supper &amp; Table Talk</b>	<b>3</b> <i>Church Office Closed</i>	<b>4</b> 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	<b>5</b> <b>5:00pm Worship</b>
<b>6</b> <i>Easter Flower Orders Due</i> 8:15am Choir Rehearsal <b>9:00am Worship</b> 10:30am 4/5 Club (4 & 5 grades) 1:00pm Preschool Open House	<b>7</b> 8:30am Breakfast Group 9:45am Children's Chapel 6:30pm Property Team Meeting	<b>8</b> 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 5:30pm Faith Formation Team Meeting 6:15pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting	<b>9</b> 9:00am Scripture Study <b>6:00pm Lenten Soup Supper &amp; Table Talk</b>	<b>10</b> <i>Church Office Closed</i>	<b>11</b> Rummage Sale Setup 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	<b>12</b> <i>World Hunger Easter Eggs Sale</i> 8:00am Rummage Sale <b>5:00pm Worship</b>
<b>13</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> <i>World Hunger Easter Eggs Sale</i> 8:15am Choir Rehearsal <b>9:00am Worship</b> 10:30am Confirmation Youth Group (6-8 grades)	<b>14</b> 9:45am Children's Chapel 1:45pm Children's Chapel 5:30pm Security Team Meeting 6:30pm Worship Team Meeting	<b>15</b> <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i> 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 6:15pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting	<b>16</b> 9:00am Scripture Study 8:00pm Basketball	<b>17</b> <b>Maundy Thursday</b> <b>6:00pm Sedar Supper &amp; First Communion</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Good Friday</b> <b>12:00pm Good Friday Worship</b> 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group <b>7:00pm Good Friday Worship</b>	<b>19</b> <b>5:00pm Worship (Funeral for Jesus)</b>
<b>20</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b> <b>6:30am Worship</b> 8:15am Choir Rehearsal <b>9:00am Worship</b>	<b>21</b> <i>Church Office Closed</i> 6:15pm Church Council Meeting	<b>22</b> <b>Earth Day</b> 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 6:00pm ECE Board Meeting 6:15pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting	<b>23</b> <b>Administrative Professionals Day</b> 9:00am Scripture Study 8:00pm Basketball	<b>24</b> 4:00pm Food Pantry 6:00pm Well-Watered Disciples Men's Fellowship Group	<b>25</b> 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	<b>26</b> <b>5:00pm Worship</b>
<b>27</b> 8:15am Choir Rehearsal <b>9:00am Worship</b> 10:30am Confirmation Youth Group (6-8 grades)	<b>28</b> 9:45am Children's Chapel 1:45pm Children's Chapel	<b>29</b> 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 6:15pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting	<b>30</b> 9:00am Scripture Study 8:00pm Basketball			

## Easter Flowers Order Form

As we prepare for Easter, we also remember friends and loved ones with flowers for the sanctuary. Plants are \$9 each. To place an order, please return the completed form, with proper remittance, to the church office or place in the offering plate by **Sunday, April 6**. Thanks!

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

From: \_\_\_\_\_ **Total number of plants ordered** \_\_\_\_\_ **X \$9 = \$** \_\_\_\_\_

I/We would like to give \_\_\_\_\_ to the Decorations Fund at St. Paul's. **Total amount for deco \$** \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_ Please make checks payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

