

Welcome Home!

Saint Paul's Lutheran Church

February 2025 Newsletter



Good Gifts Valentines

Have you bought your valentines yet? Well, if you haven't or need a couple more, we have a solution for you– Good Gifts Valentines!! We will be selling them on Saturday, February 8 & Sunday, February 9 before & after worship services. They cost \$2 or \$5 for 3. All proceeds go towards World Hunger. These valentines were designed by Debbie Dravec. Thank you, Debbie!!



Souper Bowl

SOUPER BOWL

FEBRUARY 8 & 9

Wear your fav team jersey to worship!

Bring Non-Perishable Donations to Vote for Favorite Team!

Are you ready for St. Paul's Second Annual Souper Bowl on February 8 & 9?!? We will be collecting canned soup, vegetables, pasta and such for St. Paul's Food Pantry.

Bring your non-perishable food items the weekend of February 8 & 9 and "vote" for your favorite team playing in the big game that weekend by placing your donation on the table with that team's color. Be sure to wear your favorite sports jersey to worship that weekend! (And no, it does not have to be football jersey.)

Ministry Board Meeting

Join us for St. Paul's next quarterly Ministry Board Meeting on Monday, February 3 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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3 AT 6:30 PM
ST. PAUL'S GYM

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

A Lesson in Integrity

There was this preacher who was an avid golfer. Every chance he could get, he could be found on the golf course swinging away. It was an obsession.

One Sunday was a picture perfect day for golfing. The sun was out, no clouds in the sky, and the temperature was just right. The preacher was in a quandary as to what to do, and shortly, the urge to play golf overcame him. He called an assistant to tell him that he was sick, packed the car up, and drove three hours to a golf course where no one would recognize him. Happily, he began to play the course.

An angel up above was watching the preacher and was quite perturbed. He went to God and said, "Look at the preacher. He should be punished for what he is doing." God nodded in agreement.

The preacher teed up on the first hole. He swung at the ball, and it sailed effortlessly through the air and landed right in the cup four hundred yards away (as they say in basketball, nothing but net). A picture perfect hole-in-one. He was amazed and excited.

The angel was a little shocked. He turned to God and said, "Begging Your pardon, but I thought you were going to punish him."

God smiled. "Think about it -- whom can he tell?"

Integrity has a price, but not a price near as high as the lack thereof. God has given you the choice to live your life anyway you desire, but God's will for you is that you live a life that will give you true joy, not superficial joy. There is a big difference between the two. Think about what Solomon writes in Proverbs 10:2 -- "Ill-gotten treasures are of no value, but righteousness delivers from death."

May all that you prize be all that God wants for your life -- nothing but true joy.

-Pastor Erik Young



Community Care Ministries

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry continues to thrive!

In December, we had 11 families that came to the pantry: 38 people, 2 new families and 5 new people. We would love to see more neighbors use this resource; our food pantry is open to all in the 16506-zip code who are experiencing food insecurity.

Our next pantry distribution is coming up on Thursday, February 27 from 4-6 PM in Clare-Wolfe Lounge.

Thanks to all our volunteers who make this ministry possible! Questions? Contact us at

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.

Winter Sock Drive

St. Paul's Sock Drive continues into the new year!

Our three deliveries totaling 300 pairs of socks (along with a few coats, scarves, gloves & knit hats) have been distributed to those experiencing homelessness in Erie through St. Patrick's Haven.

Please continue to donate NEW pairs of men's socks in the bin located in the entryway of St. Paul's. Warm & dry socks are an important & much-needed clothing item for those experiencing homelessness, especially considering our wet & cold winter weather.

Thank you for your generosity!



Congregational Care Ministries

Congregational Prayers

Please keep our brothers & sisters in Christ in your daily prayers: **Ann Anderson, Vince Balinski, Denise Clinger, Barb Davies, Liz & Ted Davis, Gayle Elmer, Debi Firment, Mark & Vicki Fischer, Charlotte Haggerty, Lynn Jackson, Ron Kaffka, Phyllis Kennedy, Kevin Kuric, Linda Martz, Jim & Nancy Price, Laurie Sanders, Russ Wiest & 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: **Nancy DiCola, Lee Eighmy, 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: **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.**

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, Megan Bechtold, Sophie Beilharz, Stella Beilharz, Jake Buzzard, Andrew Collins, Emma Cunningham, Abbey Forehand, Sam Forehand, Jacob Gross, Xavier Jones, Drew Kwiatkowski, Ellie Schau, & Hannah Schmidt.**

Anniversaries

Feb 10– Ed & Sandra Hall
Feb 12– Richard & Barb Davies
Feb 14– Greg & Pati Swanson
Feb 15– Rick & Betty lou Schau
Feb 21– Tim & Michelle Fuller

Birthdays

Feb 1– Paula Buchanan
Feb 2– Mike Barber
Feb 4– Bob Wright
Feb 5– Colin Berger, Harper Scheuering
Feb 7– Alexa Kwiatkowski
Feb 8– Jacob Gross, Tom Pamin
Feb 9– Vanessa Baran
Feb 10– Donna Crotty
Feb 11– Becky Stroul, Erich Zech
Feb 12– Mike Collins, Carol Davis
Feb 13– Mike Cunningham
Feb 15– Josiah Chiapa, Zachery Combs, Len Toy, Stefanie Young
Feb 16– Gina Berger, George Farantzios, Mark Sandstrom
Feb 17– Debbie DeCoursey, Dylan Green, Jessica Kidd, Susan Snyder
Feb 18– Chris Panitzke
Feb 22– Xavier Jones
Feb 25– Gary Bax, Heather McLaughlin
Feb 26– Tristan Leopold
Feb 28– Michelle Colvin

Congregational Congratulations

Congratulations to Kameron & Kristen Perrin upon the birth of their son, **Kasey Reid,** on January 14, 2025. Proud big siblings are Kallin & Kayleigh.

Address Correction

Nancy DiCola
350 Town Center Way, Apt 117
Flowood, MS 39232-6016

Congregational Thank You Notes

Thank you for your generous gift. Your kindness and concern for those in need enables us to continue our mission of offering a ministry of presence, nightly refuge, food, comfort, and friendship for homeless men. You help us to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Our men certainly enjoy new socks at this time of the year.

Blessings,

St. Patrick's Haven Board

Sisters of St. Joseph of NWPA

To Everyone,

Thanks for the cookie tray.

Lois Gilbert

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to you and the congregation for the beautiful tray of cookies you delivered. Your kindness and generosity are very much appreciated.

Yours in Christ,

Pearl Danielson

Thank you for all the thoughts and church prayers during my recent illness. They meant a lot. Also, thank you for the cookie tray I received. All the cookies were so yummy, so many varieties and such a nice surprise. Thanks for all who prepared and arranged the tray. Thanks for the delivery Debbie DeCoursey. A special heartfelt thank you to Joanne Erikson, an angel when I needed help.

Karen Marzka

Thank you to Pati Swanson for donating a Keurig coffee machine to St. Paul's! Clare-Wolfe Lounge has an operational hospitality station again!

Congregational Fellowship

Breakfast Group

Breakfast Group meets on Monday, February 3 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, February 20 at 6 PM. Location TBA. Note the day of the week has changed from Tuesday to Thursday.

Church Council Highlights

From the January 2025 meeting:

- Elected Council officers & assigned liaison duties:
 - Mike Barber (Community Care Liaison)
 - Joanne Erikson (Faith Formation Liaison)
 - Bill Gross (Treasurer)
 - Larry Kessler (Early Childhood Ed Liaison)
 - Jessica Kidd (Security Liaison)
 - Joe Lang (President)
 - Marsha Szymanowicz (Secretary)
 - Erich Zech (Congregational Care Liaison)
 - Kelly Zimmerman (Vice President)
- Approved the permanent hire of Steven Roward as our campus Custodian (pending Personnel Team validation).
- Approved reinvestment of our funds in 6 month CDs.

-Next meeting: Monday, February 17, 2025 at 6:15 PM in Clare-Wolfe Lounge.

Attendance & Finances

By The Numbers:	December 2024
Avg. Saturday Attendance	15 in-person
Avg. Sunday Attendance	90 in-person online views
December Income	\$49,072
December Expenses	\$30,880
December Difference	\$18,192
December Budget Income	\$33,657
December Budget Expenses	\$33,988
December Budget Difference	-\$331
Year-to-Date Income	\$326,630
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$357,324
Year-to-Date Difference	-\$30,694
Year-to-Date Budget Income	\$318,715
Year-to-Date Budget Expenses	\$368,480
Year-to-Date Budget Difference	-\$49,765
2024 Total Budget Income	\$318,715
2024 Total Budget Expenses	\$368,480
2024 Total Budget Difference	-\$49,765

Faith Formation

Children's Ministry with Bridget



We are in great need for volunteer Sunday School teachers for Children's Church. Anyone who is interested in signing up for a week, please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the entryway or talk to Bridget at ChildrensDirector@stpaulserie.org.

We have 2 groups that you can help with, preschool-K and 1-3 grade children. The groups usually have between 3-5 kids each week. Even if you sign up for only one week, it would be greatly appreciated, and the kids

love this time on Sundays. We can't do it without volunteers!

The 4/5 Club will meet next on February 16 after church. Also, Kids Club for the month of February is cancelled. We will meet again on Monday, March 17.

Confirmation Youth Group with Pastor Erik

This youth group is every 2nd and 4th from 10:30 AM-noon in the gym.

Children's Church
PRE-K - GRADE 3
SUNDAYS AT 9 AM
COME AND JOIN US!
@stpaulserie

4/5 CLUB
GRADES 4 & 5
1ST & 3RD SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM
ST. PAUL'S GYM

Confirmation Youth Group
2nd & 4th Sundays
10:30 am-noon
St. Paul's Gym

Worship Ministries

Soli Deo Gloria

Johann Sebastian Bach was a devout Lutheran, who believed his music was a calling from God. Bach united his faith with his music by writing instrumental compositions to accompany different hymns and biblical texts. He believed that music was a powerful way to compliment the Word and communicate the truth of scripture. Bach was dedicated to creating and performing beautiful, theologically rich arrangements. Praising God and proclaiming the great things He has done.



Bach's faith was central to his life and he applied it to all aspects of his work. Much of his career was spent writing music for Lutheran churches. In the last twenty-seven years of his life, he wrote and usually performed a series of poetic songs and cantatas to interact with the chief hymn, reflect on the bible reading and prepare the congregation for the sermon each Sunday. Bach recognized that worship should not be drudgery. He strove to create music that would lift the heart and energize the soul.



Bach wrote his music, not for praise, but to bring God glory and bless others. All Bach's compositions were signed with J.J. for Jesu Java (Jesus Help) at the beginning and S.D.G. for Soli Deo Gloria (Glory To God Alone) at the end; reminding himself that music was a gift of God. He was merely a steward of that precious gift. Bach felt that he was working for God. And that God deserved only the best.

Submitted by Amy Nupp.

Child Development Center (CDC) Ministries

The Child Development Center had some fun visitors last month. Ms. Paula's class was doing a study on clothing. We had the Erie Otters and a Millcreek police officer here to share information about their different uniforms. This month we will be hosting a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) night for parents to come and enjoy some fun activities with their children and other families.

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



Preschool Ministries



Preschool is excited to have a dental hygienist come to talk about our teeth and healthy habits. We are talking about friendship, hearts, and all things valentines. We continue to work on social skills as well as learning our letters, colors, numbers, and manners.

We will be having a Parents' Night Out on Saturday, March 29 from 6-9 PM for our preschool families. Save the date for our Open House on Sunday, April 6 from 1-3 PM.

Questions? Contact Melissa Collins at PSDirector@stpaulserie.org or 814-833-1761, ext. 115.

Worship Assistants

Date	Event	Ushers	Assist Minister/ Reader	Communion Assistant
Feb 2	4 Epiphany	Wright Team	Erich Zech	Debbie DeCoursey
Feb 9	5 Epiphany	Zech/Chiapa Team	Karen McKenna	Debbie DeCoursey
Feb 16	6 Epiphany	Gardner/Marzka Team	Cheryl Moore	Joe Lang
Feb 23	7 Epiphany	Curtis Team	Greg Zimmerman	Kelly Zimmerman

February Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 5:00pm Worship
2 8:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Worship	3 8:30am Breakfast Group 6:30pm Ministry Board Meeting 6:30pm Property Team Meeting	4 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 6:15pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting	5 9:00am Scripture Study 10:00am Staff Meeting 8:00pm Basketball	6 6:30pm Basketball 8:00pm Basketball	7 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	8 <i>Good Gifts Valentines Souper Bowl Weekend</i> 5:00pm Worship
9 <i>Good Gifts Valentines Souper Bowl Weekend</i> 8:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 10:30am Confirmation Youth Group (6-8 grades)	10 9:45am Children's Chapel 1:45pm Children's Chapel 5:30pm Security Team Meeting 6:30pm Worship Team Meeting	11 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 5:30pm Faith Formation Team Meeting 6:15pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting	12 9:00am Scripture Study 8:00pm Basketball	13 6:30pm Basketball 8:00pm Basketball	14 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	15 <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i> 5:00pm Worship
16 8:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 10:30am 4/5 Club (4 & 5 grades)	17 <i>Church Office Closed</i> 9:45am Children's Chapel 6:15pm Church Council Meeting	18 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 6:15pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting	19 9:00am Scripture Study 8:00pm Basketball	20 6:00pm Well-Watered Disciples Men's Fellowship Group 6:30pm Basketball 8:00pm Basketball	21 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	22 5:00pm Worship
23 8:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 10:30am Confirmation Youth Group (6-8 grades)	24 9:45am Children's Chapel 1:45pm Children's Chapel	25 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 6:00pm ECE Board Meeting 6:15pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting	26 9:00am Scripture Study 8:00pm Basketball	27 4:00pm Food Pantry 6:30pm Basketball 8:00pm Basketball	28 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	