



Saint Paul's Lutheran church

May 2025 Newsletter



New Member Class

St. Paul's New Member Class is coming up Sunday, May 18 from 10:30 AM-12 PM in Clare-Wolfe Lounge at St. Paul's. All those who are interested in joining St. Paul's are invited to attend. Please share with family and friends!



Ministry Board Meeting



St. Paul's next quarterly Ministry Board Meeting is on Monday, May 5 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!

Raffle Baskets for Preschool

Preschool's Art Show is Monday, May 12 from 6:30-7:30 PM in the gym. As part of the Art Show, we are having a gift basket raffle to help defray the cost of the end-of-year picnic for families. Donations of cookies for the Art Show reception & items for our raffle baskets would be greatly appreciated!

Raffle basket themes are game night (indoor and outdoor), movie night, date night, beach, summer activities, arts & crafts and gift cards. All donations should be dropped off in the church kitchen by Thursday, May 8; please label them clearly for preschool. Thank you for your support!

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



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

Children's Letters to God

I'm not sure where exactly these "letters" came from, except that my dad emailed them to me 20 years ago. I enjoyed it enough that I saved them. I thought with Mother's Day & Father's Day, they would be fun to share with my faith family.

As you read them, let these letters remind you of the words Jesus said in the 18th chapter of Matthew when he was asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" His reply? "A child. You have to be like a child to enter the kingdom of heaven." It was just a simple truth. We are called to be like children. With that truth in mind: If you were to write a letter to God, would your letters read like the following?

Dear GOD,

-In school they told us what You do. Who does it when You are on vacation? -Jane

-I read the Bible. What does 'begat' mean? Nobody will tell me. Love, Alison

-Are you really invisible or is that just a trick? -Lucy

-Did you mean for the giraffe to look like that or was it an accident? -Norma

-Instead of letting people die and having to make new ones, why don't You just keep the ones You have now? -Jane

-Who draws the lines around the countries? -Nan

-I went to this wedding and they kissed right in church. Is that okay? -Neil

-What does it mean You are a Jealous God? I thought You had everything. -Jane

-Thank you for the baby brother, but what I prayed for was a puppy. -Joyce

-It rained for our whole vacation and is my father mad! He said some things about You that people are not supposed to say, but I hope You will not hurt him anyway. Your friend (But I am not going to tell you who I am)

-Why is Sunday School on Sunday? Wasn't it supposed to be a day of rest? -Tom L.

-Please send me a pony. I never asked for anything before, You can look it up. -Bruce

-If You give me a genie lamp like Aladdin, I will give you anything you want, except my money or my chess set. -Raphael

-Maybe Cain and Abel would not kill each other so much if they had their own rooms. It works with my brother. -Larry

-You don't have to worry about me. I always look both ways. -Dean

-I think about You sometimes even when I'm not praying. -Elliott

-I bet it is very hard for You to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it. -Nan

-Of all the people who work for You I like Noah and David the best. -Rob

-My brother told me about being born but it doesn't sound right. They're just kidding, aren't they? -Marsha

-If You watch me in church Sunday, I'll show You my new shoes. -Mickey D.

-I would like to live 900 years like the guy in the Bible. Love, Chris

-We read Thomas Edison made light. But in Sunday school they said You did it. So I bet he stole your idea. Sincerely, Donna

-The bad people laughed at Noah - "You made an ark on dry land you fool." But he was smart, he stuck with You. That's what I would do. -Eddie

-I didn't think orange went with purple until I saw the sunset you made on Tuesday. That was cool! -Eugene

God, help us all to learn how to be your children again. Love, StPaulsErie

-Pastor Erik Young

Community Care Ministries

Food Pantry

Our neighbors are experiencing difficulties with food security. There has been a 40% increase in the number of neighbors that are receiving food from the Second Harvest Food Bank. Our Food Pantry continues to serve around 14 families each month. Our next food pantry distribution is on Thursday, May 29 from 4-6 PM in Clare-Wolfe Lounge.

If you are planting a garden this summer, would you be willing to plant a little extra to share with our Food Pantry? Fresh produce is always in demand & we would appreciate anything that you cannot use.



We would also like to ask for help with supplying the pantry with recipe that incorporate the foods we would be distributing for that month. Interested? Contact us at FoodPantry@stpaulserie.org.

Lastly, we would like to thank our volunteers for their help! Our volunteers are always willing to do whatever we need.

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

Our Easter Egg Sale was a success! You donated \$152 towards World Hunger!! Thank you all for your support. Joanne Erikson will be counting the Lenten coin boxes, so when we have a total, we will let you know. So many people depend on the ELCA World Hunger programs to survive. Thanks for your contributions.

You are all encouraged to become more involved in the World Hunger mission. John & Maureen Damico, along with Gabe Chiapa, have expressed interest in leading the World Hunger mission for St. Paul's. Gabe willingly donned the chicken costume to see Easter eggs! Thank you John, Maureen & Gabe for your interest.



Thank you Gabe Chiapa & Cindy Dohanac for dressing up like chickens to sell Easter eggs & raise money for ELCA World Hunger programs on Palm Sunday!

Congregational Care Ministries

Congregational Prayers

Please keep our brothers & sisters in Christ in your daily prayers: **Liz & Ted Davis, Mark & Vicki Fischer, Charlotte Haggerty, Lynn Jackson, Ron Kaffka, Phyllis Kennedy, Nancy Price, Laurie Sanders, 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, Lee Eighmy, Debi Firment, Noni Gardner, Dottie Johnson & Elva Mussett, Sandy Pamin, Jim Price.

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

May 2— Al & Linda Swab

May 8— Sandy & Tom Pamin

May 11— Kathy & Jeff Maries

May 18— Aaron & Allie Wakley

May 19— Mark & Linda Turi

May 20— Don & Lori Buzzard

May 23— John & Ellen Cooper

May 28— Kris & Vince Balinski

Birthdays

May 2— Linda Swab

May 3— Pam Brady, Greg Zimmerman

May 5— Maureen Damico, Pati Swanson,
Ryan Zimmerman

May 8— Karen Martin

May 9— Christa Kaffka, Elliot Rainbow

May 10— Charlotte Rainbow

May 11— Debbie Dravec

May 13— Violet Gould

May 14— Wayne Gardner

May 17— Dane Crncic, Sam Forehand

May 18— Sam Gross

May 19— Debi Firment, Garrett Fuhrman

May 21— Ansel Miglicio

May 22— Mark Turi

May 23— Mary Hetrick, Ken Thompson

May 24— Diana Bernatowicz, Cindy
Dohanic, Joe Douglas, Kelly
Martucci

May 25— Nancy Price, Karen Zahratka

May 28— Dottie Johnson

May 31— Sandy Pamin

Baptism

We welcome

August Joseph,

son of Aaron &

Allison Wakley, into the body of Christ on May 4, 2025.



Congregational Thank You Note

To all of my Christian Friends & Family,

I wish to thank you all for your beautiful cards. They do cheer me up.

I also wish to thank Joanne Erikson for the wonderful visit. I enjoy having a visitor.

In God's Name,

Debi Firment

Congregational Fellowship

Breakfast Group

Breakfast Group meets on Monday, May 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 next on Thursday, May 15 at 6 PM at TBA.



Winter Sock Drive Recap

St. Paul's Winter Sock Drive was very successful & beneficial to those experiencing homelessness in Erie. Because of your generosity, we made five deliveries over the winter months, totaling about 400 pairs of socks distributed to St. Patrick's Haven shelter. Thank you!



Attendance & Finances

By The Numbers:	March 2025
Avg. Saturday Attendance	19 in-person
Avg. Sunday Attendance	92 in-person 19 online views
March Income	\$26,980
March Expenses	\$34,564
March Difference	-\$7,584
March Budget Income	\$30,855
March Budget Expenses	\$31,683
March Budget Difference	-\$828
Year-to-Date Income	\$86,734
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$101,206
Year-to-Date Difference	-\$14,472
Year-to-Date Budget Income	\$83,005
Year-to-Date Budget Expenses	\$94,236
Year-to-Date Budget Difference	-\$11,231
2025 Total Budget Income	\$348,607
2025 Total Budget Expenses	\$374,512
2025 Total Budget Difference	-\$25,905

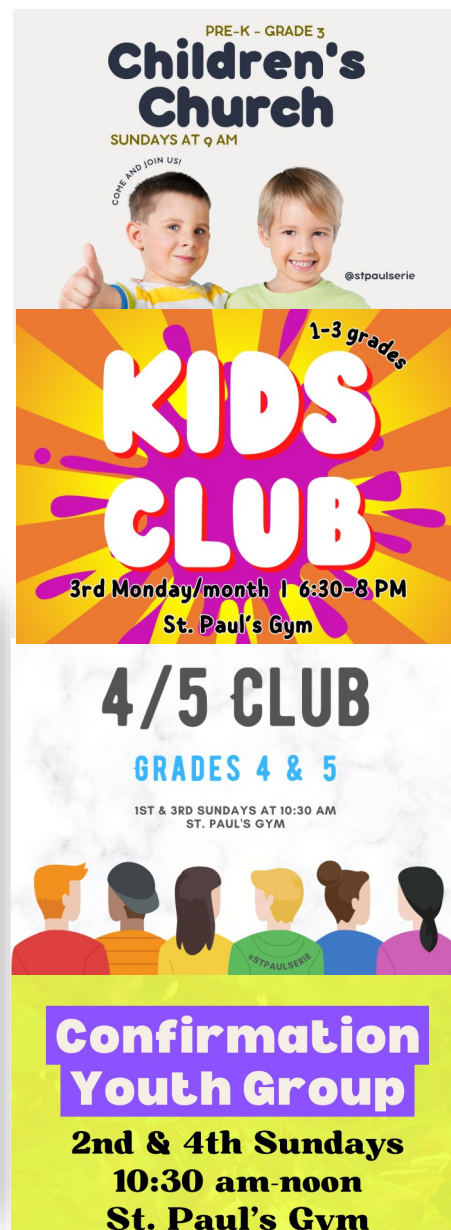
Faith Formation

Children's Ministry with Bridget



4/5 Club is proud to host coffee hour on Sunday, May 18, directly after worship in the entryway of St. Paul's!

Join us Sunday, June 1 at 9 AM for our Bible presentation to all our third graders!



Child Development Center (CDC) Ministries



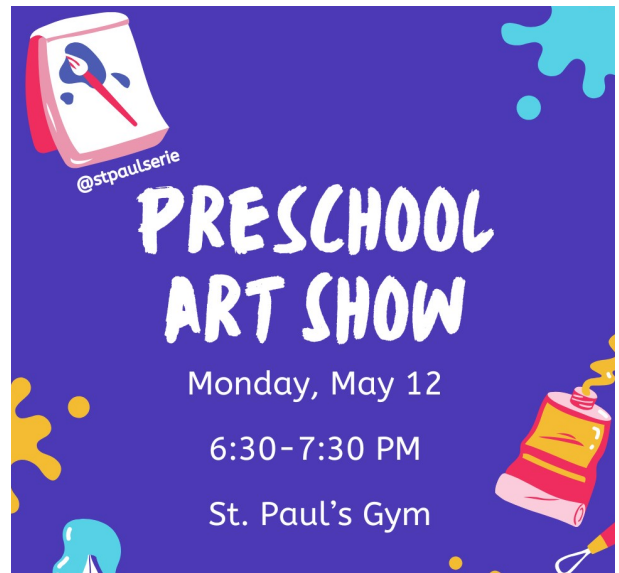
Child Development Center's summer program is full, with a waiting list! With our summer staff hired & our program planned, we are ready for summertime!

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

Preschool Ministries

All are invited to join our preschool students & their families celebrate the end of the school year with an Art Show in St. Paul's gym on Monday, May 12 from 6:30-7:30 PM.

As we prepare for the art show, we are looking for cookie donations and/or raffle basket items with the following themes: game night (indoor and outdoor), movie night, date night, beach, summer activities, arts & crafts and gift cards. Please drop off all donations, clearly labeled for preschool, in the church kitchen by Thursday, May 8.



All our preschool students & their families are invited to join us at Glenwood Park for our end-of-the-school-year picnic on Friday, May 16 from 10 AM-1 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	Acolyte
May 4	3 Easter	Wright Team	Joanne Erikson	Debbie DeCoursey	Aubrey Nair
May 11	4 Easter	Zech/Chiapa Team	Greg Zimmerman	Kelly Zimmerman	TBA
May 18	5 Easter	Curtis Team	Karen McKenna	Joe Lang	Quinn Gould
May 25	6 Easter	Gardner/Marzka Team	Joe Ulrich	Karen Marzka	TBA

May Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 National Day of Prayer	2 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	3 5:00pm Worship
4 8:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Wakley Baptism 9:00am Worship 10:30am 4/5 Club (4 & 5 grades)	5 8:30am Breakfast Group 9:45am Children's Chapel 6:30pm Ministry Board Meeting 6:30pm Property Team Meeting	6 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 6:15pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting	7 9:00am Scripture Study 10:00am Staff Meeting 8:00pm Basketball	8 <i>Preschool Raffle Basket Donations Due</i>	9 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	10 5:00pm Worship
11 Mother's Day 8:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 10:30am Confirmation Youth Group (6-8 grades)	12 9:45am Children's Chapel 1:45pm Children's Chapel 5:30pm Security Team Meeting 6:30pm Preschool Art Show 6:30pm Worship Team Meeting	13 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 5:30pm Faith Formation Team Meeting 6:15pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting	14 9:00am Scripture Study 8:00pm Basketball	15 <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i> 6:00pm Well-Watered Disciples Men's Fellowship Group	16 10:00am Preschool Picnic 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	17 5:00pm Worship
18 8:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 10:00am Coffee Hour (hosted by 4/5 Club) 10:30am 4/5 Club (4 & 5 grades) 10:30am New Member Class	19 6:15pm Church Council Meeting 6:30pm Kids Club (1-3 grades)	20 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 6:15pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting	21 9:00am Scripture Study 8:00pm Basketball	22	23 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	24 5:00pm Worship
25 8:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 10:30am Confirmation Youth Group (6-8 grades)	26 <i>Church Office Closed</i> Memorial Day	27 9:00am Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 6:00pm ECE Board Meeting 6:15pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting	28 9:00am Scripture Study 8:00pm Basketball	29 4:00pm Food Pantry Distribution	30 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group	31 5:00pm Worship