



# NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024

## Christmas

THE GIFT of HOPE

### THE BEST CHRISTMAS PRESENT EVER!

PR. KYLE BACKHAUS

I recently read an article about a group who set out to figure out how much it would cost to give the gifts in the classic Christmas song, "The 12 Days of Christmas." Apparently, this group has been doing this for years to figure out the state of the economy. And what they found might surprise you. The cost of the dozen gifts rang in at an all-time record of \$46,729.86. Some of the items seemed affordable, like a partridge in a pear

tree, which goes for \$319. Two turtle doves come in at \$750. Three French Hens would cost \$330. But the price really goes up when you get to seven swans-a-swimming which comes in at \$13,125. Ten Lords-a-leaping, will cost you \$14,539.20 (not sure where you would find those, but apparently its expensive). Musicians can be expensive, so it's no shock that eleven pipers piping cost \$3,207.38 and twelve drummers drumming is \$3,468.02. Overall, the real

message of Christmas is not in the gifts that we give to each other. It's a reminder of the gift that God has given to each of us. It is the only gift that truly keeps on giving, so I want to give you reminders about God's gift to us.

First: it's surprising. When Christmas rolls around, you might try to figure out if certain people have bought that gift you really wanted. Maybe you already know what they bought, because they didn't hide it very well. Or maybe you

uncovered it by accident when you looked at the credit card statement for the month. But when the day comes, and you open your present, you have to pretend you're surprised. But all along, you knew what the gift was. God's gift to us came as a complete surprise to everyone. It was not expected, and as you examine it more carefully, you realize how great a gift it was.

Second: God's gift came to us in the humblest of wrappings. What would you think if you saw a gift wrapped in newspaper and string under your tree? At first, you might think that your husband forgot about where the wrapping paper was (sorry, guys). But think about God's gift to us. Jesus was not born in a palace of gold, but rather a simple stable. He was clothed with rags. He was laid in a feeding trough. These things do not, in any way, diminish the story of Jesus' birth, but help us to realize that Jesus is accessible to all.

Third: we don't deserve this gift. At Christmas, we give gifts to those whom we care about, who have been kind to us over the past year, or who have given us a gift first. We don't typically give gifts to people who have slandered our name, or to the angry neighbor who never has a kind word to say. Yet God gave His gift while we were still His enemies. He didn't give this gift to us because we deserved it. The Bible says, "But God demonstrated His love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

Last but not least, the gift tells us something about the giver. When you want to give someone a gift, you start thinking about it ahead of time. Hopefully, you try to find what the person wants or needs. When God decided to give us the gift of eternal life, it wasn't something that He just stumbled into. Long before there was a town called Bethlehem, a garden called Eden, or even a place called Earth, a decision was made that God would send forth his Son, born of a woman, made under the law, to redeem those under the law. The Bible says that "He was slain from the foundation of the world." (Revelation 13:8) Make no mistake about it: this gift that God has given to us was the most sacrificial thing He could have ever given.

So, Christmas isn't about those gifts that you put under the tree. We may put stock in the things we have or the gifts that we give, but all those things will pass away. Life is about knowing the God who made you, and who has given you the greatest gift you will ever receive. Life is about knowing Jesus and what He has done for you. So, come hear the Good News once again. Join us for a special service of Carols and Songs on December 19th. Join us as we celebrate God's great gift to us Christmas Eve at 1 or 3 PM for our Contemporary Christmas Eve Service, or at 5 or 7 PM for our Traditional Christmas Eve service. We will celebrate our Savior's birth again on Christmas Day at a 9 am Worship Service. And by the way – you don't have to be afraid to share this gift with others. Invite a friend to join you as we celebrate the greatest gift of all, Jesus.

**PR. KYLE BACKHAUS**  
SENIOR PASTOR



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## UPCOMING HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Thurs Dec 19

6:30 pm "Stories & Songs of Christmas"  
Special Worship Service

### Dec 24-25 Church Building Closed

Church Hours resume Thurs Dec 26 8:30 - 4:30

### Christmas Eve, Tues Dec 24

1:00 pm Contemporary  
3:00 pm Contemporary  
- Children's Message and Livestreamed  
5:00 pm Traditional  
- Children's Message and Livestreamed  
7:00 pm Traditional

### Christmas Day, Wed Dec 25

9:00 am Traditional

### Thurs Dec 26

No Informal Worship

### Sunday Dec 29

Normal Schedule of Services 8 & 9:30 AM

### Wed Jan 1 Church Building Closed

Church Hours resume Thurs Jan 2 8:30 - 4:30

## "Stories & Songs of Christmas"

Thursday, December 19 6:30 PM

We will once again be holding a special music and Scripture service to prepare for and remember the birth of our Savior. Come hear the gifts of music from our Adult Choir, Bell Choir, Praise Teams, various soloists, and organ-led hymns by Bill Born. Invite family and friends to attend this time of worship!



## EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

**CHRISTINA ZEUNER, DIRECTOR**  
PRESCHOOL@STPAULFALLS.COM

In November, the children attending Preschool, 4K and Child Care spent time talking about all the things God gives us and does for us. Most importantly, we know He sent His Son, Jesus to die on the cross to forgive our sins. We also learned about where Thanksgiving came from and who the Pilgrims and Native Americans were. The 4K children made turkeys, headbands, necklaces and vests and the Preschool classes practiced harvesting fruits and vegetables and made a turkey out of triangles.

The children are working on songs and fingerplays for our Christmas service. On Tues., Dec. 3, they will tell the story of Jesus' birth with large paintings of Mary, Joseph, shepherds and angels. We wish all of you a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year!



## CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

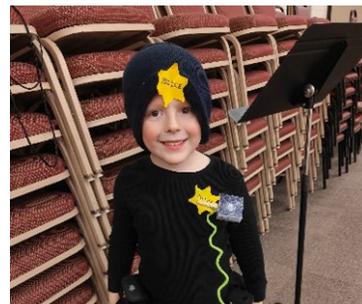
**SAVANNAH HENN, DIRECTOR**  
SAVANNAHH@STPAULFALLS.COM

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

December is an exciting month for Sunday School. We will be learning about how Jesus is good news and we should share it with all people. On December 8th we will be putting on our annual Christmas Program, "Signs of Christmas". We invite the whole congregation to join us as we tell the Christmas Story through physical signs we see in our daily lives. Our dress rehearsal for the program will take place on December 7th 11:00-12:30pm in the worship center. Reminder to Sunday School families that there is no Sunday School on December 15, 22, and 29. We will return to Sunday School on January 5.

### AWANA

It is crazy to think that it is December already. Last month at AWANA we had our first AWANA Store and got to pack boxes for Operation Christmas Child. This month we will continue to learn about the Heroes in the Old Testament specifically Elisha, Hezekiah, and Josiah. The themes this month are Western Night,



Christmas Apparel Night, and Bring your parent night. This month we will be making blankets for Project Linus on December 18. Parents are invited to join us for blanket making. Reminder that there is no AWANA on December 25 and January 1.



### CHRISTMAS FOR CHILDREN

On Christmas Eve at our 3pm and 5pm services, there will be a children's message. All children are welcome to join for an age-appropriate message. The nursery will NOT be staffed on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day but will be open if families need to use it.

A black poster for a Sunday School Christmas Program. It features several signs: a red 'YIELD' sign, a yellow 'HELP WANTED' sign, a yellow 'CAUTION' sign with an exclamation mark, and a white 'RAIL CROSSING' sign. The text on the poster reads: "Sunday School Christmas Program", "Come and watch as we put on the musical 'Signs of Christmas' December 8th at 2pm in the Worship Center".

### TRUNK OR TREAT RECAP

Children, Youth, and Family ministry hosted their second annual trunk or treat event this past October. We had 27 cars participate and hand out goodies. We had about 400 people who joined us in our parking lot for this event. It was a great event of outreach, and we look forward to hosting again next year! Special thank you to Kiwanis of Sheboygan Falls, Family Radio, Evens Pest Control, Bloomin on Broadway, Pine Haven, and the Town of Sheboygan Falls Fire Department for being part of our event. Thank you also to all the members of St. Paul who donated candy for the event.



# YOUTH MINISTRY

**NICOLE DOLLEVOET, DIRECTOR**  
**NICOLED@STPAULFALLS.COM**

**Confirmation Ministry** is flowing through all of their materials. Tests #1 and #2 have been completed and we look ahead to December which will be filled with blanket making and Christmas Parties!

**Youth group** on Sunday nights has been very busy! The youth really enjoyed taking over the kitchen and games for 2 weeks! We had a great group of 27 enjoy the movie theater. A fan favorite is always hide and seek around church. We are looking forward to our December events: Painting on Canvas, and Youth Christmas Party! Watch our website for the latest schedule. <https://stpaulfalls.com/ministries/youth-and-young-adult/>



The **youth mission team** of 14 youth and adults who are heading to Three Lakes, WI next summer and are excited to serve Northern Wisconsin! We having trainings and fundraisers all lined up! Thank you church for continuing to support St. Paul youth and all of their trips!

We have 33 youth and adults that will be headed to New Orleans for the **2025 LCMS Youth Gathering**. They are excited to serve together on Dec 14th. We have a number of fun locations they are going to serve including Sheboygan Area Food bank, Pine Haven, and Salvation Army. Please watch for their sweet fundraiser in January!



## THE GATHERING PLACE

**LEAH ZEHEL**

We are so thankful for the many donations that we have already received as of this writing. As we head into our 18th year at TGP our goal of \$45,000 will help us continue serving the many participants and families at the high level of care that we are known for. Your donations also help with our Memory Matters program that is held once a week. Donations are used for continuing education for our volunteers and staff and scholarships for those families that need a helping hand. They are also used for entertainment, meals, art, crafts, outings and our annual Christmas party for participants, their families and volunteers.

If you follow us on Facebook, you can see all the different things we do each day. Please consider donating by either dropping a check in the office, putting it in your weekly envelope with a note for November Giving or donating online at <https://memorymattersmost.com/donate>. Please contact us with any questions at 920-627-6847. Thank you.

# LOVE INC.

**BONNIE JONES**

We all have a story. Within those stories, there are chapters that are filled with wonderful tales and adventures. These chapters are fun to tell and easy to spin. Other chapters are filled with hardship and shame. These chapters are hard to tell, and are often told with downcast eyes and tears. They are hard to walk through. It may be a time of loneliness and brokenness. Sometimes, we get stuck in our hardship and shame, and don't know how to move through the valley of the shadow. We need help.

Love INC's Connection Center is the place where such chapters unfold. Our Intake Specialists listen and calmly breathe hope and life into our neighbors' stories, so that the chapter can be turned and a new ending can be written. As each neighbor shares with an intake specialist, HOPE is ignited. A relationship has begun that will transform a life.

One of our neighbors has a story that is a perfect example of a chapter turned and the hope of a new ending. This gentleman called us, brand new to Sheboygan. He is a veteran and disabled. Pain would rack his body every day. He needed furniture. We listened to his story and met his need of furniture. The Furniture Ministry Team sat with him, listened, prayed, and gave him a bible. The next week, he called us letting us know that he would be going to rehab for his pain medication addiction. The love and compassion of the volunteers he interacted with encouraged him to begin to change his story.

Our Neighbor Liaisons continued to call and check on this man weekly. He was depressed and lonely. He was off the narcotic pain killers, but still was in pain. Volunteers also sent him encouragement cards. We continued to love on him. He struggled with God. We prayed with him.

One day, we heard a plot twist. Our neighbor began to read the bible again. He watched church online. He prayed. The Holy Spirit was on the move. He began to see the goodness of God in his life. The last time we talked with him, we found out that he is engaged to a lovely women who wants to join her story with his. He feels he has a purpose, not only to follow God, but to become a good husband and serve others. He said that his life has new meaning and is grateful to Love INC for supporting him while he turned the chapter and wrote a new ending to his story.

The heart and soul of Love INC are relationships with our neighbors. What a joy to see and hear the wonderful things God does as we love our neighbors!

# LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLITES

**MATTHEW TSCHUDY , EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

It's the most wonderful time of the year!" is the title from Andy Williams' famous Christmas song. Who doesn't love this time of year?! Christmas songs, cookies, lights, trees, presents, food, movies, decorations, concerts, parties, and so much more! The excitement is in the air! As families are busy getting ready for the biggest holiday of the year, it is important to remember the events that lead up to Christmas. The Advent season is exactly that... the time in the church year that celebrates Jesus' birth.

Advent - the four weeks that lead up to Christmas - points to the arrival of our Savior, Jesus. It is a sacred season that emphasizes a time of waiting, reflection, and anticipation. A time to prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth, and a reminder of the hope, peace, joy, and love that His coming brings to the world. It is an opportunity for us to reflect on our faith and to prepare our hearts for the Christmas season. Perhaps the first and fourth verses of the famous Advent hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" say it best:

***O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.  
O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree, Free them from Satan's tyranny.  
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save, And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. Rejoice!  
Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel***

Let us never forget the reason Jesus came. He came to save us! He was born so that He might serve as the perfect sacrifice to reconcile us back to God. His death and resurrection are the most important events in all human history because, through Jesus, our sins are forgiven, and even though one day we will die, we will be raised to live life eternal in perfection! This is the greatest gift of all, and it is completely free, paid for by Jesus. During this Advent season, we remember the importance of crying out to God to "Save us!" And we wait for that Savior whose birth we celebrate on Christmas day. It truly is the most wonderful time of year as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Savior.

As we wrap up the first semester at Sheboygan Lutheran, we have so much to be thankful for and celebrate during the Advent and Christmas seasons. By far our greatest blessing is that we get to teach the Gospel message to our students every single day. We proudly stand on the truth of God's word and the eternal impact it has for our students. As we continue through the season of Advent and eventually reach that glorious Christmas morning, let us never forget the true meaning of the seasons, our Lord and Savior Jesus. On behalf of everyone at Sheboygan Lutheran High, we wish you all a blessed Advent and a very Merry Christmas!

Get the full publication here **HighLites**

READING THE PRINTED COPY? VISIT -- [WWW.LUTHERANHIGH.COM/PUBLICATIONS](http://WWW.LUTHERANHIGH.COM/PUBLICATIONS)

# CELEBRATE RECOVERY

**JULIE JONES, COORDINATOR**

We CELEBRATE God's amazing healing and restoration!

Celebrate Recovery now has BABYSITTING available! Contact Julie for more information.

Did you know... that 2 out of 3 people attend CR for NON-addiction issues?

**We all have struggles. What do you struggle with?**

Depression, Anxiety, Anger, Feelings of Unworthiness and Being Less Than, Paranoia, Perfectionism, Obsessive Thoughts, Co-Dependency, Loneliness, Control, Fear, Resentment, Addiction to Food, Drugs, Sex, Bad relationships, Unforgiveness, Money Issues, Emotional or Sexual Abuse, Pornography, Jealousy, Selfishness, Judgement of Others, Unfaithfulness, etc.

**Step 12** - Having had a spiritual experience as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to others and practice these principles in all our affairs.

Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Galatians 6:1 NIV

**Principle 8:** Yield myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others, both by my example and by my words. (Step 12)

Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires! Matthew 5:10 GNT

We have come a long way in our journey! We see changes and growth, restoration and healing that only God can bring. In Step 12 and Principle 8 we learn to live a life pleasing and honoring to God. We are not perfect, but we are on a new path of living! We see lives changed and relationships restored. We have been given a new life through Jesus Christ and now we want to share it with you!

**Are you tired of carrying the pain from past hurts? Are you willing to try a different approach to dealing with the pain in your life? Are you ready to take that first step in your journey of recovery from life's difficulties? You were never meant to walk this life journey alone...**

Come join us at **Celebrate Recovery!**

Your forever family is waiting!

You are not alone!

Celebrate Recovery follows a Christian 8 Principal / 12 Step process to heal from life's hurts, hang-ups, and habits!

Entrance #4 – 300 Wing

Dinner: 6:00PM

Large Group: 6:30PM – 7:30PM

Open Share Group (Gender Specific): 7:30PM – 8:30PM

Fellowship: 8:30PM – 9:00PM

No Sign-Up necessary!

The only requirement is confidentiality!

Everyone is Welcome!

We are waiting for you!

For additional information contact Julie J. @ 920-207-1397

# THANK YOU & OTHER NEWS

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

### Staff Anniversaries

6 of our St. Paul staff celebrated anniversaries in 2024. We are blessed to have them working here at St. Paul. Please join us in congratulating and thanking them!

#### 5 Years

Michele Leuck, Childcare Teacher  
Gina Schefsky, TGP Program Assistant  
Pao Yang, Evening Custodian

#### 10 Years

Nicole Dollevoet, Director of Youth & Family  
Mark Janke, Food Services Manager  
Leah Zehel, Director of The Gathering Place



**GOOD NEWS. GREAT JOY.**

**Operation Christmas Child** thank you to everyone who gathered items, filled boxes, and prayed for those receiving them. We boxed them up and sent them off to the distribution center. Continue to pray for safe travels of the boxes and that they are received with open hearts. Thank you again to St. Paul for your generous donations! Special thanks to the team who helped transport items from our church to the next location for processing!

## OTHER NEWS

**SOUTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT - LCMS:** The South Wisconsin District is excited to announce the launch of a Vocational Directory, designed specifically for LCMS business owners and professionals in South Wisconsin. This directory isn't about finding volunteers for pro bono work; it's about building a network of skilled professionals within our membership. We invite you to share your expertise with congregations across South Wisconsin by completing the form at [swd.lcms.org/PRO](http://swd.lcms.org/PRO) as we work to honor our Christ-centered vocations. Together, we can create a resource that strengthens our community and serves our churches effectively!

**COOKIE WALK 2024:** The annual Cookie Walk will be held on December 7th starting at 9am. Our event will go until all cookies are sold. You can get 2 lbs for \$15! While the Ladies' Auxiliary hosts the annual sale, they cannot do it without help from each family. All families of the congregation are asked to donate 4 dozen homemade small cookies. Cookies can be dropped off in a sealed container Thurs. Dec. 5, from 6-7:30 PM at Entrance #1 or Fri. Dec. 6, 1:30-6:30 PM.

The money we make is used to help our Youth and Missions here and around the world. Thank you for your support of this ministry! Any questions, please contact Jackie Bussert at 920-980-7713.

**ST. PAUL BOOKSTORE:** Visit our St. Paul bookstore for bibles and children's books. Books make great Christmas gifts! The bookstore is located in the fellowship area.

**CONTRIBUTIONS DEADLINE** The deadline for 2024 contributions must be received by December 31st to be included on your 2024 giving statement.

**ST. PAUL QUILTERS:** St. Paul Quilters give a big THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this year's mission project a large success. We were able to ship 250 quilts to Lutheran World Relief. We especially thank the bids we got in the silent auction. That helps to buy more supplies for this year's project. Without all the volunteer help, we would not be able to do this project. So thank you to all.

**CANDLE GLOW:** The Christmas Candle Glow will not be held at St. Paul Lutheran church this year on December 1st. We will be lighting the candles again in December of 2025. God bless you all as we get ready to celebrate Christ's birth.

**ST. PAUL LIBRARY UPDATES FROM KIM JO KATTNER:** Dianna and I were able to go through some bookshelves to donate books to our Trash & Treasure sale this year, so we were able to receive a lot of nice Christmas fiction books for reading. We moved the Pastor's Picks books back to the shelves, so we can have two shelves just for that. The church did purchase two books that I was able to get from the Voice of Christian Youth bookstore in Milwaukee this summer.

The first one is *The Hiding Place*, which is a graphic novel in the Teen section. It's about a family in Holland during WWII, which is an incredible true story about forgiveness by Corrie Ten Boom. The next book is written by Erwin Lutzer, called, *When a Nation Forgets God*. It's seven lessons we must learn from Nazi Germany. The foreword is by Eric Metaxas, the author of *Bonhoeffer*, which is a big book in our Biography section. The last book that I'm going to mention is from Philip Yancey. It's a donated book, which is how he and his brother were raised by an impoverished widow post-WWII in the '50s. We are so thankful for your donations, and we really do appreciate it! Dianna and I pray that each of you have a very Blessed & Merry Christmas! We hope you truly remember & celebrate the Reason for the Season.

**THANK YOU FROM REGINA HORSBY-GUTSCHE:** Thank you everyone for your thoughts, prayers, sent cards, made phone calls, or visited while I was in the hospital and rehab. It's so reassuring to know that I have such a loving and supportive church family behind me.

**ST. PAUL WEBSITE:** We re-built our website from the ground up. We are receiving feedback and moving forward in time. Please note that any adjustments take time.

**ST. PAUL DIRECTORY:** It is near completion. This is truly a monumental project. It should be ready near the release of this newsletter.

**FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN 2024 MEAL RECIPIENTS:** What a fantastic 11th Annual Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) MobilePack we had! 584 volunteers packed 684 boxes of food, which equates to nearly 148,000 meals—enough to feed 404 children one meal a day for one year. We're happy to announce that the MannPacks have reached their destination!

This year's meals went to FMSC's partner, Kinship United in Cambodia. Kinship United rescues orphaned, abused, and neglected children in countries torn apart by war, poverty, and tragedy. Kinship United uses FMSC meals in Bible School feeding programs and orphanages in Uganda, Cambodia and the Dominican Republic.

To learn more about this incredible organization visit, Kinship United | Charity for Vulnerable Children and Widows. A huge THANK YOU to all who made the 2024 pack such a success. We could not have done it without your support. More information to come in the new year for the 2025 MobilePack!

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH PODCAST:** Did you know we have a podcast? It's a great way to catch up on Worship Services, Sermons, and Bible studies if you miss a session. You can listen on the go, anytime, and anywhere. Get started today through your favorite podcast platform or directly on our website.

**PART-TIME CUSTODIAL POSITION AT LHS:** Sheboygan Lutheran High School is accepting applications for an evening custodial position. This year-round position requires 5 days/week, 4 hrs/day of cleaning the school buildings to maintain a well-kept and sanitary facility. Applications for employment can be downloaded from the [lutheranhigh.com](http://lutheranhigh.com) home page or obtained in the LHS school office Mon - Fri, 8 am - 4 pm, at 3323 University Drive in Sheboygan.

**TRINITY LUTHERAN DOWNTOWN:** Trinity Lutheran Childcare is seeking a full-time, lead teacher who is a Christian church member with a strong work ethic. Qualifications include a Lead Teacher Certification, Associate Degree, or Technical Diploma, CPR/AED/First Aid Certification, and State of Wisconsin Registry Certification. Great benefits of the position include holiday pay and holidays off, competitive pay, and insurance/health benefits.

**LUTHERAN CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY:** Dr. Greg Seltz, director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C., hosts a thought-provoking podcast featuring a conversation with a senior editor of the Washington Examiner. In their latest episode, titled "The Main Issue? Will Americans Undergird or Further Unravel Our Constitutional Order?", Delves into two types of freedom: earthly freedoms that sustain society and the ultimate freedom found in faith through Christ's life, death, and resurrection. Explore how faith and civic engagement intersect in this timely discussion. Check them out!

**STEPPING STONES:** We work with individuals after release from incarceration or that faced substance abuse issues. We provide safe and secure housing while providing you with education, personal needs, volunteer and employment opportunities while allowing you to form a personal relationship with God. Visit our website today to connect with us, [www.stepsstonesheboygan.com](http://www.stepsstonesheboygan.com)

**USHERS NEEDED:** We work with individuals after release from incarceration or that faced We are in need for a few Ushers to round out our existing teams for the 2025 Church Year. Ushers typically serve 1 service a month and 1 special service throughout the year. Duties include welcoming people and distributing bulletins, bringing forth offering, dismissing pews for communion, and checking pews for items after service. We need more Ushers for our Thursday services, especially.

Please email [thomasw@stpaulfalls.com](mailto:thomasw@stpaulfalls.com) to express your interest!

## NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER UPDATE:** Christina Zeuner submitted a report to Council sharing enrollment information. Childcare currently doesn't have openings until March. Staffing information was also shared. This year's fundraiser raised about \$3,000. This money is used for field trips, classroom parties, graduation and new toys and educational materials.

**2025-26 ECC TUITION RATES:** The Council discussed various changes for tuition rates for next year. 4K will remain at \$170 and Preschool will be raised to \$110. Childcare will be increased January 2026 to \$5.75/hour.

**FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN:** The Council approved the Feed My Starving Children MobilePack to be held October 9-11, 2025.

**COLUMBARIUM PRESENTATION:** The Columbarium Team led the council through a power point describing the project's scope and financial details. Discussion followed. The Council approved recommending the plan as presented to the Congregation.

**ELDER TEAM:** John reported details from the most recent elder meeting.

**SENIOR PASTOR REPORT:** Pastor Kyle updated the Council on his recent activities. He reported that Pr. Adam Wolfe will begin his ministry at St. Paul on January 13, 2025. Once Pr. Wolfe joins us, we will return to 3 worship services on Sundays and simplify the schedule. Services will be held at 8, 9:30 and 11. In the summers we will not hold the 11 am service.

Pr. Kyle shared an opportunity to have a 30-minute weekly spot on 93.1, a Sheboygan Christian music station, which the Council approved.

**WALK IN ITEM - FINANCIAL DISCUSSION:** Michelle Zuengler and Donna Felch met with Brad Ten Pas regarding various ideas. He suggested more graphic financial reporting at Congregation Meetings, which we will try at our meeting later this evening. He felt most people don't understand all the numbers. He also feels we should monitor attendance as that can lead to trends in giving. He also suggested forming a financial committee to look at other financial instruments to grow funds for big projects, such as the parking lot. While we do not use the stock market as an investment option, there maybe lower risk options for some of our long-term projects. Donna will look into this further. He also suggested we do more long-term capital planning which is a good suggestion and will be implemented.

**WALK IN ITEM - EXTERIOR LIGHTING & SIGNAGE:** Michelle Zuengler reported a request for better signage/lighting at outside entrances to help attendees locate their meeting locations.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

<b>Financial Report - October 2024</b>			
<i>Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025</i>			
<b>Financial Results- Fiscal Year End Actual, Budget &amp; Variance</b>			
	<b>4 Months Ended 10-31-24 Actual</b>	<b>4 Months Ended 10-31-24 Budget</b>	<b>Variance from Budget (Short)/Over</b>
General Offerings	\$ 378,918	\$ 448,987	\$ (70,069)
Other Income	\$ 15,970	\$ 17,400	\$ (1,430)
Mission Offerings	\$ 24,909	\$ 31,333	\$ (6,424)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 419,798</b>	<b>\$ 497,720</b>	<b>\$ (77,923)</b>
Operating Expenses	\$ 449,070	\$ 467,164	\$ (18,095)
Mission Support	\$ 24,909	\$ 31,333	\$ (6,424)
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 473,979</b>	<b>\$ 498,498</b>	<b>\$ (24,519)</b>
<b>Suplus (Deficit) Total</b>	<b>\$ (54,182)</b>	<b>\$ (777)</b>	<b>\$ (53,404)</b>

<b>Capital Improvement Fund</b>		
	<b>Monthly Activity Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>Balance at Month End</b>
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 6,693	\$ 351,921

<b>Membership Report</b>				
Baptized Members	402	Confirmed Members	1,708	Total Members 2,110

## Giving Center Donations

Items currently being collected at the Giving Center (located in the hallway near the Fellowship Hall)

- Hats, Gloves, Mittens, Scarves, etc: Until Dec 1 collecting warm weather wear for Veterans
- St. Paul Quilters: On-going collection of gently used sheets & material (label and place on top)
  - Early Childhood Center: On-going collection of used ink cartridges and cell phones
- Pillowcase Dresses: On-going collection of new or gently used pillow cases - cotton or cotton blend only - we cannot use microfiber or other synthetic fabric
- Sheboygan Falls Food Pantry: On-going collection of food & paper products for the SF Pantry
  - Helping Kids: On-going collection of food for families with children at SF schools
- Neat Repeats: On-going collection of items (small amounts only). If you have a large amount, please drop off at the Neat Repeats store in Plymouth
  - Mary's Room: On-going collection of newborn sleepers
- Love INC: On-going collection of Personal Care Items ([loveincsheboygancounty.org/donate](http://loveincsheboygancounty.org/donate))

# NOTICE

Starting Sunday, January 12, 2025, we will return to three services on Sunday mornings:  
8:00 Traditional, 9:30 Blended,  
and 11:00 Contemporary.

## ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

730 County Rd. PPP  
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085  
Phone: 920-467-6449  
Fax: 920-467-4239

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
SHEBOYGAN FALLS, WI  
PERMIT NO. 28

### Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM  
Friday: Closed  
Website: [www.stpaulfalls.com](http://www.stpaulfalls.com)



### Pastors

**Kyle Backhaus**, Senior Pastor  
**Tom Gudmundson**, Pastor Emeritus  
**Donald Hasse**, Pastor Emeritus

### Lay Leaders

**Tom Splittgerber**, Congregation President  
**Jeff Berg**, Congregation Vice President  
**John Rische**, Head Elder  
**Donna Felch**, Treasurer

### Worship Schedule

Thursday: 6:30 PM  
Sunday: 8:00 & 9:30 AM

### The Gathering Place & Memory Matters

920-627-6847  
The Gathering Place  
Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday:  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
Memory Matters  
Thursday: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

### Children & Youth

(During the school year)  
Sunday School: 9:30 AM service  
AWANA Wed Night: 6:00 PM  
Confirmation Wed Night: 6:00 PM  
Youth Group Sunday Night: 5:30 PM

### Early Childhood Center 3 year-old Class

ECC Phone: 920-467-6733  
(during school year)  
Tuesday & Thursday:  
9:00 - 11:30 AM or 12:30 - 3:00 PM

### 4K Class

(During school year)  
Monday, Wednesday, & Friday:  
8:30 - 11:30 AM

### Child Care

Monday through Friday:  
7:00 AM - 5:30 PM  
Ages 2 ½ - 5 years – call for drop-ins

### Wee Care Nursery

During Sunday Service, 9:15-10:45



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