



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025



THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE THEY STAY THE SAME!

PR. KYLE BACKHAUS

Chances are we have all heard the title of this article before. The idea behind the phrase is that, while a lot of big changes appear to be happening, the real situation is that nothing important has changed much at all!

The phrase gets used quite often to describe things that appear random in the short term, but follows the same pattern in the long term, such as rainfall, gas prices, or the up and down of the economy.

While there are some new and exciting changes happening at St. Paul, the Gospel will continue to be proclaimed. Let's start with the changes. On January 12th at 3:00 pm, we will install a new pastor. We welcome Pastor Adam Wolfe, who comes us after serving for four years at Divine Redeemer in Hartland, Wisconsin. Pastor Adam went to Concordia Seminary St. Louis and graduated in 2020. He is another proud Wisconsin native who grew up

in Germantown.

Pastor Adam attended Concordia University Wisconsin. While he was there, he met his wonderful wife, Morgan. Pastor Adam and Morgan were married here at St. Paul in 2017. Morgan and Adam have been blessed with two amazing little boys, Micah (4) and Liam (2).

Pastor Adam is full of enthusiasm, has a wonderful understanding of ministry, and how to be a great team player

since he served on a large team at Divine Redeemer. We look forward to Pastor Adam joining us on our mission of "Connecting People to Christ."

Another change that is coming to St. Paul is a return to three services on Sunday Morning. We will keep the 8:00 and 9:30 am services and add an 11:00 am service. This will be our worship schedule during the school year. We look forward to the opportunity to welcome in more people to share with them the love that God has given us in Jesus.

And speaking of the love that God has given us in Jesus, that is the thing that stays the same. While some things may change, you can rest assured that the Good News of Jesus, who came to give His life for You - that wonderful message of grace and salvation - stays the same.

In this New Year, as perhaps you make some New Year's resolutions to make sure that change happens, I want to invite you to remember and rededicate yourself to your faith, the church, and St. Paul's mission of "Connecting People to Christ."

PR. KYLE BACKHAUS
SENIOR PASTOR



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UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE CHANGES

Starting the week of January 12, 2025

We will return to three services on Sunday mornings:
8:00 Traditional, 9:30 Blended, and 11:00 Contemporary

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

CHRISTINA ZEUNER, DIRECTOR
PRESCHOOL@STPAULFALLS.COM

In December, the children in Preschool and 4K had a stable in the classroom as well as costumes, a donkey, and sheep so they could act out the story of Jesus' birth. They also used an Advent wreath, Advent calendar, and Advent chain to count the days until Jesus' birthday.

Now we have begun a new year that is full of new experiences and opportunities. The children are hoping for snow as we learn about winter. We wish all of you a blessed New Year. We will celebrate Lutheran Schools Week starting on January 26 - February 1. A display of the children's artwork will be in the Gathering Area. An Open House will be held Jan. 30 from 6-7 pm to begin enrollment for next year and we will end the week with a Family Event on Sat., Feb. 1 in the center with activities having an Animals theme.

FOR INFORMATION ON ENROLLMENT IN 2025, PLEASE SEE THE NEWS SECTION.

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

SAVANNAH HENN, DIRECTOR
SAVANNAHH@STPAULFALLS.COM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Well done to all the Sunday School children who participated in the Christmas Program. They did such a nice job singing. This month we have many great lessons planned out for Sunday School. Our 3K-3rd Graders will be learning about Moses this month and how our God is awesome. Our 4th and 5th Grade classes will be learning about the Armor of God from the book of Ephesians. On January 19 we will be celebrating Friendship Sunday. We invite everyone to bring a friend to join us for worship.



AWANA

We return to AWANA on January 8th after the Christmas break. This month we will learn about Jeremiah, Daniel, Esther, and Ezra. Our themes this month are Backwards Night, Bring a Friend, and Pajama Night. On January 29 we will have our second AWANA Store of the year. All the kids are doing a great job on their memory work and workbooks.



NURSERY

The nursery will now be staffed for both the 9:30 and 11:00 services. Our church nursery is open to those who are birth-4 years old. Parents are always welcome to utilize the space during other services when it is not staffed.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY EVENT

Come and join us on January 12 10:30-12:00 for our Bricktacular event. We will be making scenes from the Old Testament with Legos. We hope you can join us.

Join us also on January 26 12:00-2:00 for swimming at the Sheboygan Falls Aquatic Center. This event is free so invite your friends and family.

CAMP LUTHER

In the month of November, Camp Luther visited AWANA and Confirmation. They shared different summer camp opportunities with our students. Last summer we had eight children/youth attend Camp Luther from our congregation. We would love your child to attend this summer. There are camper scholarships available. Please see Nicole or Savannah by January 15 to receive one. Registration for camp opens January 26.




Bricktacular
Children, Youth, & Family Event

JAN 12 | 10:30AM-NOON

ARE YOU A MASTER BUILDER? SHOW OFF YOUR TALENTS AND CREATE A SCENE FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT.

JOIN US IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL



Free Swimming Event
Children, Youth, & Family

Sunday, Jan 26
Noon - 2 PM

Sheboygan Falls Aquatic Center



Save the Date
Vacation Bible School
July 27-30, 2025 | 3-6PM
St. Paul Lutheran
Sheboygan Falls

Stay tuned for more info

TRUE NORTH
treating Jesus in a wild world

ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Community People in Christ
Sheboygan Falls, WI

YOUTH MINISTRY

NICOLE DOLLEVOET, DIRECTOR
NICOLED@STPAULFALLS.COM

Blanket making and Christmas parties is flying through all of their materials. Tests #1 and #2 have been completed and we can't wait to see what they create.



Youth group on Sunday nights was festive during the month of December. We had an awesome paint night. The youth Christmas party was fun and we had some pretty creative gingerbread houses assembled! It is fun to celebrate the season with friends! During the month of January, we look forward to volleyball, Bricktacular, Board game night and our swimming event. Photos from all of our events can be found on our website- check them out!

Watch our website for the latest schedule. <https://stpaulfalls.com/ministries/youth-and-young-adult>



The LCMS Youth Gathering Team served Sheboygan County on Dec 14th. They prepared a meal for the Salvation Army homeless shelter, sorted and stocked items at the Sheboygan Food bank, purchased items for Mary's Room, and made cards for Project Angel Hugs. It was a full day's worth of work but went quickly with this awesome group of youth and adults!



LCMS Youth Gathering Team Serves Sheboygan County!



Seroogy's Candy Bar Sale!

Starts Jan 5 until sold out!

Supports the
St. Paul Youth Trips

Available following services
in the gathering area



SEROOGY'S



LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

MATTHEW TSCHUDY , EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When it comes to New Year's resolutions, what comes to mind? Improving your health, reading more, picking up a new hobby? Maybe there is something you want to quit like a bad habit or eating too much junk food? What's fascinating about New Year's resolutions is how quick people are to completely fail at accomplishing their goals... myself included! In fact, the majority of resolutions are abandoned by the end of January! Why? Our goals, priorities, and resolutions often fail as the result of sin. The reality is we are imperfect people who mess up all the time and need forgiveness.

Let us always be reminded to look to Jesus, the "founder and perfecter of our faith." He did not fail on his resolution...or should we say his mission? He was successful. He lived a perfect life, served as a perfect sacrifice for our sins, and triumphantly rose from the dead. Why? So that our sins can be forgiven, and we can be raised to live life eternal in perfection.

My prayer is that as you embark on the new year, this reality and truth motivates and guides you in all avenues of your life. The Gospel message is the greatest story ever told. When we embrace it and live it out, we develop a new perspective that we get to share with the entire world around us. Life may be full of failure and disappointment, but take hope, joy, and comfort in the fact that Jesus did not give up on us, and he did not fail. He was victorious! That is the great news that we get to share with our students at Sheboygan Lutheran High every day. We encourage our students to boldly live out their faith in everything they do and to tell others about our great hero, Jesus.

As we continue to educate our students with this eternal truth, there are some exciting updates to share regarding our strategic planning process and what our future holds at Sheboygan Lutheran! We have successfully identified all of our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, resources, and threats. The next step in our strategic planning process is to begin crafting our goals and vision to guide us into the future. We are moving along nicely and are on track to finish our strategic plan by May 2025. I want to extend a special thank you to all the individuals and stakeholders who provided valuable information that was necessary to begin creating our plan. We could not have done it without you! God's richest blessings to you and your family. Happy New Year!

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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.

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

We send a huge Thank You to all the wonderful and generous bakers of our congregation for your donations to our Annual Cookie Sale! We can't thank you enough! Without all of you we would not be able to accomplish this and support numerous missions throughout our church and abroad! We are also grateful for all of the winter apparel donated for the Milwaukee VA Hospital.

St. Paul Ladies' Auxiliary

OTHER NEWS

ECC ENROLLMENT FOR 2025: Enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year will begin this year on January 20, 2025. Families that are currently enrolled at the Early Childhood Center (ECC) and all church members are eligible to enroll. There will be an Open House on Thursday, Jan. 30 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. At that time, enrollment is open to the public. In the past, the morning sessions fill very quickly.

A spot will be saved for a child when the registration form (tri-fold found on the wall in the Gathering Area) along with the \$75 registration fee is turned in. (Bring it to the ECC or turn it in at the church office.) If you know anyone who might be interested, have him or her call 467-6733, email preschool@stpaulfalls.com or stop by the ECC. Please call for specifics regarding days, times, or tuition costs.

ST. PAUL DIRECTORY: The Photo Directories are almost ready! They are expected to be available FOT THOSE WHO HAVE THEIR PICTURE TAKEN in the Gathering Area mid-January. Directories are labeled alphabetically in the bins near the Church Office. There will be directories available for any who ARE NOT IN directory at a later date. Watch the Weekly News to be notified when they are available. If you ordered a directory from the photographer, expect to receive it in the mail soon!

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 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!

MINISTRY HOUSE: We are repurposing the "house" in the Gathering Area to a display area to promote various ministries within our church. If you have a ministry that you would like to promote, please contact Karri in the Church Office for the guidelines and to reserve a month.

CONGREGATION MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 3, 2024: The Columbarium Team made several presentations prior to this meeting regarding the project. The church will borrow \$195,000 to complete the project. This will then be paid back to the church through the niche sales. In the end, it will cost nothing to the church and will produce a surplus in funds. Discussion was held. The

Congregation approved the project, anticipated to start in spring.

LERT TRAINING: Last month St. Paul hosted the required training for the LCMS Disaster Training Program called LERT (Lutheran Early Response Team). 17 people successfully completed the training program. The goal of our LERT team is to take a trip to the North Carolina area to help those who have suffered great loss from hurricane Helene. Along with creating our own LERT team our church has created a new dedicated fund to support our mission efforts. Anyone wishing to support disaster relief efforts can make their donations directly to this new fund. For questions about LERT, contact Pete Strains at 920-838-4969.

ST. PAUL BOOK CLUB: St Paul's Christian Fiction Book Club meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00 PM in Room 108-112. We invite anyone that is interested in fellowship and book discussions to join us. We are reading the following books for Winter/Spring 2025:

January: "Divine Proverb of Streusel" by Sara Brunsvold

February: "The Color of Home" by Kit Tosello

March: "All My Secrets" by Lynn Austin

April: "Where the Blue Sky Begins" by Katie Powner

Please reach out to Heather Schmitz if you have any questions.

NIGHT TO SHINE 2025: Night to Shine is seeking a Hospitality Coordinator to join the team at St. Paul. This role involves coordinating the menu items with the Plymouth team, organizing volunteers to prepare and serve food on the event night, and ensuring that meals are ready to be served to both guests and volunteers. The menu has already been finalized, and most donation requests have been sent out. If you're interested in assisting with this important role, please reach out to Katrina Martin at 920-912-3316.

ANCHOR OF HOPE: Thank you to everyone who helped, supported, donated, or helped benefit the mission of Achor of Hope in 2024.

LOVE INC: Thank you everyone for your recent donations. Thank you for everything in 2024 and we are looking forward to a bigger and brighter 2025.

BRASS PLAYERS FOR EASTER 2025: We are seeking players of brass instrument to share their talents leading Easter worship this year (April 20). This would include trumpet, euphonium/baritone, French horn, trombone, and tuba. If you or your child has these talents and would like to use them in our Easter celebration, please email thomasw@stpaulfalls.com with contact details and experience. Thanks in advance!

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report - November 2024			
<i>Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025</i>			
Financial Results- Fiscal Year End Actual, Budget & Variance			
	5 Months Ended 11-30-24 Actual	5 Months Ended 11-30-24 Budget	Variance from Budget (Short)/Over
General Offerings	\$ 467,499	\$ 561,234	\$ (93,735)
Other Income	\$ 17,766	\$ 21,750	\$ (3,984)
Mission Offerings	\$ 32,018	\$ 39,167	\$ (7,149)
Total Income	\$ 517,283	\$ 622,151	\$ (104,867)
Operating Expenses	\$ 555,982	\$ 583,568	\$ (27,586)
Mission Support	\$ 32,018	\$ 39,167	\$ (7,149)
Total Expense	\$ 588,000	\$ 622,735	\$ (34,735)
Suplus (Deficit) Total	\$ (70,717)	\$ (584)	\$ (70,132)

Capital Improvement Fund		
	Monthly Activity Increase (Decrease)	Balance at Month End
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ (20,281)	\$ 331,640

Membership Report				
Baptized Members	402	Confirmed Members	1,709	Total Members 2,111

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Friday: Closed
Website: www.stpaulfalls.com



Pastors

Kyle Backhaus, Senior Pastor
Adam Wolfe, Associate 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

Starting 01/12 - Sunday: 8:00, 9:30, & 11:00 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: 9:15 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, 9:00-12:00 PM



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