

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2025



A JOYFUL HELLO!

PR. ADAM WOLFE

Greetings! I'm Pastor Adam Wolfe, a Wisconsin native from Germantown. I met my wife, Morgan, at Concordia University, and we were married here at St. Paul in 2017. After completing my seminary studies at Concordia Seminary, I served at Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church in Hartland for 4.5 years. Morgan is a preschool teacher and special ed leader. We have two boys, Micah (4) and Liam (2), and we love spending time outdoors, watching Packers

games, and working on cars. One of my favorite Bible verses is Romans 8:38-39, reminding me that nothing can separate us from God's love. I'm excited to get to know you and to see what God will do through our ministry at St. Paul!

I thought I would take this time and tell you a bit more about me by answering a series of questions:

How did you become a Christian? How did you come to the Lord?

I was welcomed into God's

family through the waters of Holy Baptism as an infant.

What was your call to ministry? How was it confirmed?

For many years I have had two main joys in life 1) I have had a passion for learning more about God and His grace in Jesus and 2) caring for other people that God has placed in my life. Towards the end of my high school career, I felt pulled towards the pastoral ministry as it would allow me to explore both of my life's greatest joys: growing in my faith in Christ

and sharing His love with others. I have also had the blessing of a supportive family, home pastor, and professors who recognized the gifts God has given me to lead in ministry.

What's the last book you read?

The last book I read other than a book of the Bible as a part of my daily devotional reading is Teams that Thrive: Five Disciplines of Collaborative Church Leadership by Ryan T. Hartwig and Warren Bird. We read this for professional development material as a church staff at Divine Redeemer. I am currently reading Strange New World by Carl R. Trueman which I find provides us with an accurate diagnosis of the culture we find ourselves in today and how we can speak Christ's truth in love to those who may come from a different worldview than our own as followers of Jesus.

What would be your goal for St. Paul?

One of my goals about St. Paul would be to continue and expand, our opportunities connecting people to Christ. I would like us to focus on what we do well and continue to do so to the glory of God and find new opportunities God may be placing in front of us so that more people may form connections with their Savior!

What do you like so far about St. Paul?

I love that St. Paul as a larger congregation has amazing opportunities to connect with others of the faith while at the same time not being too large of a congregation where you may feel lost.

How would you reach those who are non-believers?

I strongly believe that the best way to reach non-believers is through relationships. When you get to know others and spend the time to learn more about them and their concerns, the Holy Spirit can do great things opening up opportunities to speak Christ's grace into their situations.

What is the best way to show you love?

My "love language" would be words of affirmation!

What historical leaders influenced you the most?

Soren Kierkegaard and Dietrich Bonhoeffer have always been influential to my thinking when I was first exposed to them during my college career at Concordia Wisconsin. Kierkegaard's Fear and Trembling with its focus on the rich depth of the Christian Faith and Bonhoeffer's The Cost of Discipleship and the way Christians are called to live out this faith have shaped my own faith journey.

How would you influence the culture of the staff and church?

I cannot wait to learn more about the culture of St. Paul and how all staff, volunteers, and congregants serve together to connect people to Christ! I can only hope to positively influence our staff and church culture by being a supportive and encouraging teammate in Christ's mission! Let's take our faith seriously (as we should) but not ourselves too seriously so while we serve we may have fun and share a few laughs as we grow together!

How would you influence the children and families here at St. Paul?

The Christian faith is a generational faith taught within the household as the primary means of discipleship. I look forward to working alongside children and families as they grow in their discipleship in the Word together. We have been called to a larger church family such as St. Paul where we are graciously tasked with supporting one another in the faith. What a privilege it is to speak

into other's faith journeys as a pastor and I hope to be an encouraging witness to all that I encounter!

Favorite color:

Green

Favorite food:

Burgers and Mac and Cheese. Steak if I want to spoil myself!

Favorite season:

Fall

Favorite TV show:

The Mandalorian

Favorite fun activities:

Watersports, camping, working on cars, hiking, being outdoors, playing with my boys, watching the Packers

Favorite Bible story:

I love the story of Jesus encountering Saul/Paul on the road to Damascus and how Jesus calls him to spread the Good News to others. If God can change someone like Saul and use him for His purposes, He can use all of us for His glory!

Favorite Bible verse:

Romans 8:38-39

Favorite sport:

Football

Favorite social media:

Facebook

Favorite place to travel:

Eagle River WI

ADAM WOLFE ASSOCIATE PASTOR



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EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

CHRISTINA ZEUNER, DIRECTOR PRESCHOOL@STPAULFALLS.COM

Enrollment for the 2025 - 2026 school year has begun. The following classes are available — 3 year old Preschool which meets on T, Th from 9:00-11:30 am or 12:30-3:00 pm and the 4K program which meets M, W, and F from 8:30-11:30 am.

A spot will be saved for your child when the registration form (yellow tri-fold found on the wall in the Gathering Area) along with the \$75 registration fee is turned in. (Bring it to the Early Childhood Center or the church office.) Tuition is \$100 per month for Preschool and \$175 per month for 4K. The SCRIP program is available to help offset the costs and earnings can be banked as soon as a child is enrolled.

Child Care is also available on days or times when your child is not in school. Openings are available for children ages 2 ½ - 5 years old. Child Care is open Monday — Friday from 7:00 am — 5:30 pm. The hourly rate is \$5.50 per hour for 3-5 yr. olds and \$5.75 for 2 ½-3 yr. olds. If you or anyone you know would be interested, contact us at preschool@stpaulfalls.com, call 467-6733 or stop

by the Early Childhood Center.







CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

SAVANNAH HENN, DIRECTOR SAVANNAHH@STPAULFALLS.COM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

This month all grades will be starting a new unit. Our 3K-3rd graders will be learning about how Jesus changes everything. They will be learning about how the Holy Spirit works in our hearts. Our 4th and 5th Graders will be exploring the book of Romans. Special thank you to all our Sunday School teachers who teach each week and care for our children!

AWANA

This month at AWANA we will be learning about Nehemiah, Mary, and John the Baptist. Our themes this month are Valentine's Night, Sports Apparel, and USA Night. A reminder that there is no AWANA on February 5.

VBS SAVE THE DATE

Save the date for VBS 2025! VBS will be taking place July 27-30, 3 - 6 PM here at church. Children 3K-5th Grade for the 2025-2026 year can join us. More information coming soon.

CYF- ROLLER SKATING

Come and join us on March 2 6:00 - 7:30 PM at PJ's Party Zone. Cost is only \$1 a person!

BRICKTACULAR WINNER

Congrats to Emmi Backhaus who got the most votes for her "Creation" brick masterpiece! Thank you to everyone who participated and voted!











UPCOMING EVENTS



Children, Youth, & Family Event

March 2 6-7:30 PM ONLY \$1!

PJ'S PARTY ZONE IN SHEBOYGAN





YOUTH MINISTRY

NICOLE DOLLEVOET, DIRECTOR NICOLED@STPAULFALLS.COM

The cold temps and snowstorms did not keep our Confirmation students down! We continued strong in our lessons during the month of January! In February we start to work on our final units of the year! It is also retreat season for our confirmands. These retreats are an important part of their learning and it's awesome to see friendships grow and strengthen. Forms for the Communion Retreat can be found on our website.

Youth Group on Sunday nights had a great month with some awesome theme nights. Volleyball night was filled with many laughs and showing off some great skills. Game night we tried a few new ones and that was a lot of fun! The Bricktacular event was super fun and we had lots of great submissions from our Children, youth and families. We have really enjoyed exploring how to live a Life of Purpose during Bible study. We look forward to February as we get to serve together and enjoy some time at Nicole's house as we watch the big game and have a movie night!

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









THE GATHERING PLACE

LEAH ZEHEL, DIRECTOR LEAHZ@STPAULFALLS.COM

We would like to thank all our donors for their generosity for our Fall Fundraiser. We will be able to continue to have great entertainment, scholarship funds to help our families and so many other programs will be enriched because of these funds. Please check out our FB page to see the list of businesses who helped support our program and consider using their services! Donations can also be given and are appreciated anytime of the year.

Our Soup Cook Off is fast approaching. Details are in the ad. We will have more soups and will post a list of competitors and their soups mid February. If you or your business would like to compete for the golden ladle, please contact Leah at 920-627-6847 or email leahz@stpaulfalls.com.

You'll need a nesco of soup to compete. We can provide the nesco if needed and you can serve or we can have volunteers serve it for you. It's a wonderful social event. We hope to see you there!



LCMS HISPANIC MINISTRY

REV. DAVID BLAS

Greetings from The Hispanic Outreach! Happy New Year!

The Lord continues His work through the Hispanic Ministry in Sheboygan County. The year 2024 was a year of many blessings. God has been good to our Hispanic Outreach, and we are grateful that He has allowed us to reach a new year, 2025. God's hand was in our midst, supporting us and providing for our ministry.

We are blessed that God has touched many lives around us to provide for our ministry in 2024. We are thankful for your support. Thanks for your commitment to help us with this ministry—it is sincerely appreciated. We are very grateful! Thanks to these donations, we have been able to continue to preach the Gospel of Our Lord. With your generous support, we have reached many souls through this ministry. Last year, the Lord received six new members through the rite of baptism. We instructed 11 individuals—two youth and nine adults—leading to Confirmation. We introduced our ministry to more than 100 new visitors throughout the year. We are blessed with offering growth, six months into the fiscal year, 23% ahead of plan. We are thankful for the generosity of 18 partner congregations across Sheboygan County. 162 mission backpacks were provided to students this year, through our partnership. Additionally, I began working with new families and am currently working with them, praying they become members soon.

Great news! The Lord continues to enlarge His family. On December 29, 2024, Mariu Victoria Rangel Rojas was baptized. Jesus has done it again! Thanks be to God!

Thanks to the Lord, we received one new member on November 17, Arelis Afanador, who was received through the Rite of Confirmation. She was born in Venezuela and moved to Sheboygan last year. To the glory of God, she is now a member!

Good News! Back in November of last year, we started at Good Shepherd a new service at 6:00 PM. This gives this ministry the opportunity to reach more people. For those who cannot attend the noon service, they now have another option.

Operation Backpack is on Saturday, August 2, 2025, at Good Shepherd Sheboygan. We are already collecting supplies. Our goal is to collect 150 backpacks with school supplies. We would like to have all the supplies and backpacks by July 20. If you're willing to be part of this effort, please bring the school supplies to Good Shepherd.

You can also send a donation with a memo:

Operation Backpack, to: Sheboygan County Hispanic Outreach 730 County Rd PPP Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin 53085. For further information, contact Rev. David Blas at 630-229-2455.

Thank you for reading this letter! Thank you for your continuing support for OUR Hispanic Ministry. Thank you for partnering with us. Please continue to pray for us! Please consider continuing to support us! May God richly bless you!!! We are looking forward to what the Lord has for us in 2025!







LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLITES

MATTHEW TSCHUDY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The topic of this month's featured article in Highlites is literally the highlights! We've had several exciting things happen at Sheboygan Lutheran High recently, making it impossible to choose just one. So here you have it, the top 5 highlights to kick off 2025.

#5: WINTERIM

During the first week in January, our students participated in Winterim: a unique, week-long educational experience outside of the traditional curriculum. Students selected a course that teachers developed based on a subject or hobby about which they are passionate. Selections included Automotive Care and Repair with Mr. Bult, American Sign Language with Ms. Billings, Exploring Christian Colleges with Mr. Jake Jurss, Outdoor Adventure with Mr. Roeske, Drumline with Ms. Bredman, and more. It was an awesome combination of learning and fun!



#4: ONLINE ENROLLMENT

We've launched a new online enrollment system, and applications for the 2025-2026 school year are starting out strong. Do you know someone who would benefit from a Christ-centered high school education? Encourage them to check out LHS.

#3: CRUSADER HOOPS

Our Crusader basketball teams are off to a great start, with high hopes for deep playoff runs for both the boys' and girls' teams. There are plenty of opportunities to catch them in action on the LHS court! Check out our online calendar at https://linear.nigh.com for game details.

#2: NEAT REPEATS

Neat Repeats Thrift Shop's 2024 contribution to Lutheran High was \$250,000! Yes, A QUARTER OF A MILLION DOLLARS! We give thanks to the army of volunteers, donors, and patrons who made this possible. You can make a difference by shopping and volunteering! Get involved and learn more at neatrepeatsthriftshop.com.





#1: TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Our very own Mr. Jeff Jurss was recently chosen by the LCMS South Wisconsin District as the 2025 High School Teacher of the Year! As a Crusader alum, parent of four LHS grads, and veteran Lutheran High teacher for thirty years, Jeff is all in at LHS. Read about his well-deserved award and ministry highlights at lutheranhigh.com/news.





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? God has a Plan and Purpose for your life! 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!

BABYSITTING is available! Contact Julie for more information.

No Sign-Up necessary!

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

The only requirement is confidentiality!

Everyone is Welcome!

We are waiting for you!

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

LOVE INC

BONNIE JONES, COORDINATOR



COMMUNITY CLASSES AT NEW WAY

Starting Feb. 6, 2025

5 pm - 7 pm

Free childcare and dinner provided each week

Location

Calvin Christian Reformed Church, 2313 Saemann Ave., **Sheboygan**

New Way is a place to

meet new people, learn new skills, and strengthen vour faith

Register online

starting Jan. 6



Classes Available

FREE CLASSES!

12-Week Classes

- Affirming Potential
- Financial Future
- Discovery Bible Study

10-Week Classes

- Successful Living
- Boundaries

Read more about each class on our websitel

www.loveincsheboygancounty.org

classes@loveincsheboygancounty.org



920-783-6701

THANK YOUS & OTHER NEWS

ST. PAUL DIRECTOR:The Photo Directories are here! Directories are labeled alphabetically in the bins near the Gathering Area.

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 at hcushing725@gmail.com

CHEMO CARE PACKAGES: Confirmation student will be putting together 75-100 bags for both male and female cancer patients on March 19th as a part of their service project night. Your help is needed in collecting those items! Please consider donating the follow items:

- · lemon drops & peppermints
- · gum
- · hand sanitizer
- · lip balm
- · a notepad
- · warm socks
- · coloring pages/pencils
- · Mittens & hats
- non-alcohol mouthwash
- · neck pillows
- Chap stick
- · hand lotion (unscented, sensitive)
- · kleenex packets
- crossword/ search a word
- · packets of thank you/ blank cards
- · mini notebook & pen
- Devotion books
- deck of cards

- · special, fun pillowcases
- · dangly earrings
- · scarves
- Adult coloring books/pages
- colored pencils
- crosses
- · tea packets
- pill organizers (with the Monday thru Friday slots)

**Any lotion, moisturizer, mouthwash — anything like that should be travel size and needs to be fragrance free as patients can be sensitive to smells.

If you are a Thrivent member, this is a great way to use Action Team Dollars! Speak to Nicole on what to apply for!

Donations can be dropped off at the giving area by

March 16, 2025

JANUARY COUNCIL MINUTES

Children & Family Ministry Update: Savannah shared that AWANA has 55 children registered, with 30 volunteers. Sunday School has 95 registered. The curriculum for both programs is working well. She is reviewing the Sunday School Christmas Program and might change it up a bit for next year. VBS will be July 27-30. She is working closely with Nicole on Family Events, with the most recent being the Lego and Swimming Events. The Nursery is running well, Grace Grosshuech replaced Maddie Wohlgemuth this past fall.

Synod Mission Allocation: Per policy #64, the mission allocation needs to be set for the Feb 2025-January 2026 timeframe. This years allocation will be 50% Home Missions, 50% Synod Missions.

Endowment Vacancy: John Garland has vacated his position on the Endowment Team. Jim Fasse, the chairman, has appointed Arika Bertucci to fill the rest of his term, which the Council approved.

Columbarium Guidelines: Donna Felch shared guidelines with the Council, which were patterned after the Hales Corners Lutheran Church, which the Council approved. These will now go for legal review. At that point, sales will begin, hopefully in March. The Columbarium Committee will report to the Church Council. Stefanie Trakel will handle all the record keeping within the Church Office. The Columbarium will be added to the property insurance once it is in place.

Elder Team: John reported that the team will be meeting with both Pr Kyle and Pr Adam at the end of February.

Senior Pastor Report: Installation for Pr Adam went very well. The Pastors are now working on dividing up duties. Pr Adam is helping with Night to Shine and has started shut in visits. The Pastors are also using our new software to document their visits, to help improve communication between the two. Marriage counseling is starting up for summer weddings. Pr Kyle is helping in AWANA & Confirmation as needed. AIM is starting February 9, there are 15 registered with several more inquiries. The Tuesday Morning Bible Study restarted last week, with a focus on The Chosen Season 2. Pr Adam will then take over in spring.

Rick Zeuner will be doing a 3 week study the end of February. There will be a push to get small groups and others involved. Pr Kyle is looking for a lay leader to lead the Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study. St. Paul Serves will be held in May, planning is currently underway. The 3rd Worship service is back in place, averaging 75 people, we do need more communion servers for this service. The Radio opportunity is no longer going to work, the parameters don't suit our church well.

Walk In Item — Nominating Team: The Nominating Team process was discussed, a questionnaire will be given to potential candidates which will help the team select candidates for the ballot. This process is beginning now.

Walk In Item – Livestream Issues: Stefanie will look to budget for a software to better manage our livestream.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report - December 2024										
Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025										
Financial Results- Fiscal Year End Actual, Budget & Variance										
		6 Months		6 Months	'	/ariance				
	End	led 12-31-24	Ended 12-31-24		fro	m Budget				
		Actual	Budge		(Sh	(Short)/Over				
General Offerings	\$	610,756	\$	673,481	\$	(62,725)				
Other Income	\$	27,588	\$	26,100	\$	1,488				
Mission Offerings	\$	40,942	\$	47,000	\$	(6,058)				
Total Income	\$	679,287	\$	746,581	\$	(67,294)				
Operating Expenses	\$	664,494	\$	699,972	\$	(35,478)				
Mission Support	\$	40,942	\$	47,000	\$	(6,058)				
Total Expense	\$	705,436	\$	746,972	\$	(41,536)				
Suplus (Deficit) Total	\$	(26,149)	\$	(391)	\$	(25,759)				

Ca	pital Impr	ovement Fund				
	Monthly Activity Increase (Decrease)		Balance at Month End			
Capital Improvement Fund	\$	7,534	\$	339,174		
Membership Report					1	
Baptized Members	405	Confirmed Members		1,704	Total Members	2,109

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



Pastors

Kyle Backhaus, Senior Pastor **Adam Wolfe**, Associate Pastor **Tom Gudmundson**, Pastor Emeritus **Donald Hasse**, Pastor Emeritus

Worship Schedule

Thursday: 6:30 PM 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: 9:30 AM service
AWANA Wed Night: 6:00 PM
Confirmation Wed Night: 6:00 PM
Youth Group Sunday Night: 5:30 PM



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

Early Childhood Center

ECC Phone: 920-467-6733 3 year-old Class (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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