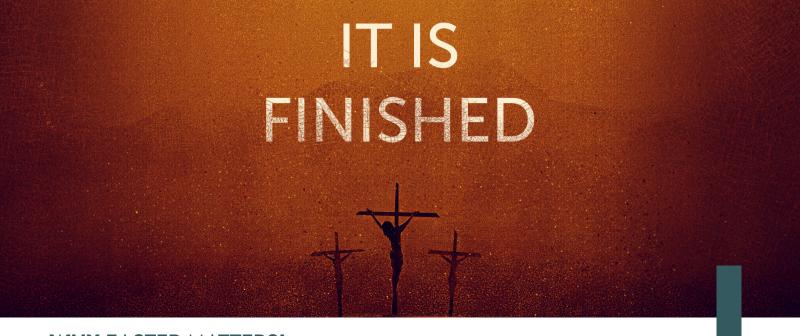


NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025



WHY EASTER MATTERS!

PR. KYLE BACKHAUS

"Jesus said, 'It is finished.'
Then He bowed his head and gave up his spirit."
- John 19:30

If this is where our story ended, we would not be living as people of the resurrection. We would be stuck at the crossroads, having no clue where to go or what to do. We would not know who we are or what our purpose is. But thanks be to God that our story doesn't end there, but rather it is just the beginning. God does something miraculous

through Jesus so that we can shout with joy-filled hearts on Easter: "He is risen, He is risen indeed!"

"He is not here; for he has been raised." - Matthew 28:6

This is what we proclaim on Easter Sunday and every day. God promised to send a Savior, the one who would crush the serpents head, and because God is true to His Word, Jesus is not dead but alive! Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we are granted grace upon

grace. Through His unfailing, unfaltering, unparalleled love, we are set free to be people of the resurrection, covered by the grace and forgiveness of God. We no longer find ourselves stuck at the crossroads, but rather, we are covered in grace.

In the grace we received from Jesus, we give God our praise and thanksgiving. For the light of Christ is found in the resurrection, and there we see Jesus in all His glory as He rises from the dead, and we receive the gift of grace.

We trust that the light of Jesus will never burn out, it will never be dimmed, it will not let us stumble in the darkness. Jesus' light will shine and guide our steps Easter matters because it is a reminder that we will never be forsaken, we will never be left alone to wander in the darkness. True light has come, and God has done something extraordinary through Jesus. God, the creator of the world and liberator of all people, has brought Jesus back to life, and through the resurrection of Jesus we are freed from our fears. Through Jesus we are forgiven and saved by grace. There is no greater love than this and nothing - absolutely nothing - compares to grace. Almighty God has restored humanity and in God's mercy, through the Holy Spirit living and working in us, we are called to share His love and grace with everyone, everywhere we go.

The light of Christ shines in your heart — a light to your path, guiding you in your coming and goings, so that you might always know the way, the truth, and the life. We know this only through Jesus who was, and is, and will always be our Savior.

As we celebrate Easter, we are reminded of the true meaning of Easter: the resurrection. The world may bring out the fluffy bunnies, sweet treats, and eggs, and while that is all well and good, we are rooted in the promises of forgiveness and grace that comes from our crucified and risen Savior. Remember that when you come to worship, we worship together with trumpets and song to praise a God of unparalleled love. We worship a God who gave everything so we might know the comfort and promise of grace. And when the trumpets fade, and work, life, and everything else resumes, do not forget that as we go about our daily lives God is still loving us and Jesus died and rose again so that we might know His AMAZING GRACE!

Join us for our Holy Week services and Easter celebration. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services are at 1:30 and 6:30 PM. A special Tenebrae Cantata service will be held Good Friday evening. Easter services will be held at regular Sunday service times of 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 AM. Please come and celebrate with us: JESUS IS ALIVE!

KYLE BACKHAUS
ASSOCIATE PASTOR



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HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY APRIL 13 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY
APRIL 17
1:00 PM & 6:30 PM

GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 18 1:00 PM & 6:30 PM CANTATA

> EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 20 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 AM

St. Paul Lutheran Church



EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

CHRISTINA ZEUNER, DIRECTOR PRESCHOOL@STPAULFALLS.COM

The Early Childhood Center continues to provide many opportunities for children to learn and grow. In March, our Preschool theme was Transportation. Everyone brought in their favorite vehicle! We sorted them by color, number of wheels, where they travel, and size. Then we raced our vehicles—and other toy cars—down a racetrack.

The 4K class celebrated Pirate Day! Everyone dressed like a pirate, and we conducted a fun experiment: how many jewels could we load into our boat before it sank? In the gym, we rode our "pirate ships" to different islands to find treasure hidden underneath. We even made our own treasure maps—and just as we were reading a book, a clue fell out! We followed 12 clues and eventually found the hidden treasure chest!

The children are looking forward to warmer weather so they can enjoy more time outside on the playground equipment. We're also excited to invite grandparents to visit on April 23 and 24. Grandparents will attend chapel with the children, play games, and create an art project together.

There are still openings available in our morning and afternoon Preschool classes for the upcoming school year starting in September. The Child Care program has limited openings for both the summer and the new school year beginning September 2. For more information, please call (920) 467-6733 or email us at preschool@stpaulfalls.com.







CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

SAVANNAH HENN, DIRECTOR SAVANNAHH@STPAULFALLS.COM

AWANA

April is our final month of AWANA—where did the year go? This month, we'll be learning about John, Paul, and Timothy. Our fun themes include Dots and Stripes, Beach Night, and Thank a Leader Night. We return to our normal ending time of 7:30 p.m. on April 16. Our final night of AWANA is April 23, when we'll enjoy the last AWANA Store and wrap up with an Ice Cream Party and awards celebration. Thank you to all our amazing volunteers this year!

Sunday School

Sunday School continues to go very well! This month, our 3K–3rd graders will learn about Paul and his missionary work, while our 4th and 5th graders begin a new unit on the book of James. Just a reminder—there will be no Sunday School on Easter (April 20). As we approach the end of the school year, we are incredibly thankful for the dedication of our weekly volunteers.



VBS 2025

Are you ready to embark on an Alaskan adventure? Vacation Bible School is happening this summer at St. Paul, and we need volunteers! VBS will take place July 27–30 from 3:00–6:00 p.m. Volunteers can be students entering 6th grade and up (based on the 2025–2026 school year). We need crew leaders and assistants, volunteers for our opening and closing sessions, help running activity stations, and more! Registration opens April 10 at stepaulfalls.com under the Children's > VBS tab. If you have any questions, please contact Savannah in the Church Office. Get ready—Child Registration opens in May!



Easter Children's Ministry

There will be a special Children's Message during the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Easter services. Children of all ages are welcome to attend. The church nursery will be staffed for the 9:30 service only.

Children, Youth, and Family Events

In March, we had a great time roller skating at PJ's Party Zone. We had 70 people join us for a fun evening. Photos from the event can be found on the church website.

Our April CYF event is Bowling at Odyssey Fun Center on Sunday, April 13 5:30-7:30 PM! Cost is \$5 a person. Hope you can join us with your friends and family!



UPCOMING EVENTS



www.stpaulfalls.com/ministries/childrens

Questions? See Savannah Henn



YOUTH MINISTRY

NICOLE DOLLEVOET, DIRECTOR NICOLED@STPAULFALLS.COM

Our Confirmation students had a great time on the First Communion Retreat! The Seder Meal was a memorable Faith Path event for our families. A big thank-you to all our Confirmation mentors and helpers who supported these meaningful experiences. It's been quieter on Wednesday nights as students are busy preparing for end-of-year testing. It's a great season to reflect on everything they've learned this year. An Intro to Confirmation meeting for all students joining this fall will be held on Sunday, April 13, in Room 108. This informational session is for all new students—especially 5th graders—and their parents.





Our youth group recently enjoyed a Fancy Schmancy Night and played a few good rounds of Monarch and Tetris XL. April will be a whirlwind of fun with a Goose Chase Scavenger Hunt and Bowling Night!

Stay up to date by checking the latest schedule on our website:

stpaulfalls.com/ministries/youth-young-adult/youth-group



Youth Mission Trip

Please keep the 14 youth and adults in your prayers as they prepare to serve this summer in Northern Wisconsin.







Youth Gathering Group

At our most recent meeting, we explored the sights, sounds, and smells of New Orleans. We also discussed group safety, the city's vibrant culture, and spent time in small groups digging into the theme of Endure. Please continue to lift this group up in prayer.



First Communion Students

Thank you to the many hands that helped with the Seder Meal as we celebrated with our 6th-grade Confirmation students. We praise God for the students who completed their coursework and participated in their First Communion after attending seven class sessions during the overnight retreat and the ceremonial Seder Meal with their parents:

- Coltyn Brown
- Grayson Gierach
- Kasey Meyer
- Diontay Tolliver
- Adeline Berucci
- Harper Dentz
- Katie Gasparick
- Alayna Jenkins
- Harper Lorenz
- Hope Luangsaeng
- Sophia Schmidt
- Lauren Walesh
- Lexi Wolfert

- Cameron Flores
- Drew Selby
- Roland Zimbal
- Aubrey Theune







THE GATHERING PLACE

LEAH ZEHEL, DIRECTOR LEAHZ@STPAULFALLS.COM

The Gathering Place would like to thank everyone who participated in our 10th Annual Soup Cook-Off—what a huge success! We were truly blown away by the number of people who came out to support us. A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who competed, volunteered, baked, attended, and voted! It takes many helping hands to make this event happen, and we're so blessed to have such a generous and supportive community.

This year's competition was incredibly close—every soup received plenty of votes! In the end, Antoinette's claimed first place for the second year in a row with their delicious Chicken Enchilada soup. Pastor Kyle and Pastor Tom had quite the friendly rivalry, with Pastor Kyle securing second place thanks to his Zuppa Toscana and a loaf of homemade sourdough bread baked by his wife. Chris and Sue took third place with their flavorful Beef Barley. They've participated every year for all 10 years and consistently place in the top three!

Other standouts included Sweet Basil's Andouille Sausage & Corn Chowder, which tied for fourth place with Becki Post's Stuffed Green Pepper—a new personal favorite! We were thrilled to welcome a few new chefs this year, including Pastor Tom and his wife Judy, the dynamic Bonnie duo (Bonnie Jones and Bonnie Holzheimer), as well as Olive Garden and Nourish Farms.

A huge thank-you to everyone involved—from the cooks and bakers to those who helped with setup, serving, and cleanup. Your efforts help make this event such a joy, and the funds raised go directly toward programming for The Gathering Place and Memory Matters, including outings, entertainment, visiting artists, and more—all enhancing the lives of our participants.

We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!

Soup Cook-Off Participants:

- Pastor Kyle Zuppa Toscana
- River Park Creamy Chicken and Rice
- Amy Kolste Chicken Vegetable
- Becki Post Stuffed Green Pepper
- Ed Henning Chili
- TGP Mary / Thursday Group Corn Chowder
- Chris and Sue Beef Dumplings
- Antoinette's Chicken Enchilada
- Olive Garden Chicken Gnocchi
- Texas Roadhouse Texas Chili
- Bonnie & Bonnie Stuffed Pepper
- Mary Kempf Black Bean
- Karen Wilterdink Cabbage
- Linda Lornenz Creamy Potato
- Cathy Hugh's Beef Brisket Chili
- Pastor Tom Spicy Chicken or Bean
- Nourish Farms Hungarian Mushroom Chili

- Kim's 5 Corners Beef Barley
- Sweet Basil Andouille Sausage Chowder

LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLITES

MATTHEW TSCHUDY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we enter this Lenten season many of us may take up traditional "Lenten challenges." Which option will you choose? Will you give something up for 40 days, or will you try something new for 40 days? Regardless of which option you choose, I pray that during these 40 days of Lent, you have an opportunity to draw closer to God, and spend time in reflection, repentance, and renewal.

At Sheboygan Lutheran there are many Lenten blessings and updates that we are excited to share with our Crusader community.

- We are knee-deep in our active and bustling enrollment season. If you have not applied for admission yet, simply go to our website, <u>lutheranhigh.com</u>, and click on the "Apply Today" link at the top of our homepage. We are excited to welcome the Class of 2029 to our campus next year, and to welcome our current students back as sophomores, juniors, and seniors!
- The strategic planning process continues to move along at a productive pace. There is a Vision Committee in place that has identified our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, resources, and threats. Now comes the fun part...the Vision Committee is in the process of developing a plan that is based off the answers to the following five questions:
- 1. How do we continue to build on our strengths?
- 2. How can we best address our weaknesses?
- 3. How do we activate our opportunities?
- 4. How do we employ our resources?
- 5. How can we defend against our threats?
- Both the boys and girls basketball teams have entered their post-season play, and we wish them both the best of luck! Check out our online calendar or Facebook and Instagram pages for the latest game details. Go Crusaders!
- Planning is officially underway for our Dinner Auction on Saturday, April 12. Sign up today for all the fun, fellowship, and amazing auction items! See the back side of this page for event details.

As Lent continues and we eagerly await the warmer weather of Spring, let us earnestly desire to celebrate the eternal victory that was won for us on Easter morning. I pray that during this Lenten season you are able to remove distractions, focus on God, appreciate the provisions He provides, and experience spiritual growth in your relationship with Jesus.

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" John 14:6



LOVE INC

BONNIE JONES, COORDINATOR

In every community, people possess gifts and talents that can be used for ministry—but often, they don't know how to connect with neighbors who are in need of those skills. Love INC helps churches mobilize their members to serve by creating specific, manageable opportunities that match the unique talents of each congregation with unmet needs in the community.

To learn how you can make a difference, please visit <u>loveincsheboygan.org</u> and explore the many ways you can help your neighbors in need.

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.

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 YOUS & OTHER NEWS

ST. PAUL ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE ACCEPTING GRANT

APPLICATIONS: The St. Paul Endowment Committee is pleased to announce the availability of grant monies intended to carry out the congregation's mission of "Connecting People to Christ." Over the past 13 years, the St. Paul Endowment Fund has helped financially support individuals, groups, and missions deliver positive impacts to people in our community and throughout the world. Anyone seeking funds for a special project promoting Christian values and stewardship is encouraged to apply.

The 2025 grant application is available on the St. Paul Church website at stpaulfalls.com/give/endowment-fund/ or by contacting the church office. Completed forms must be received at the church by April 15, 2025. All application submissions will be reviewed by the Endowment Committee, with approved financial distributions expected to occur in May 2025.

EDWARD W. ALBERTIN SCHOLARSHIP GRANT: The Rev. Edward W. Albertin scholarship grant applications are due by May 1, 2025. If you are a member of this congregation and are attending a LCMS college pursuing a full time career within the church, you qualify for a grant. Application forms are available in the Gathering Area.

HOLY WEEK CANTATA: The Adult Choir will be sharing the cantata "Shadows" by Douglas E. Wagner on Good Friday, April 18 at 6:30 PM. They will be accompanied by an instrumental ensemble. We invite you to attend this Tenebrae service and think upon the great cost Christ paid on our behalf.

MEET THE MINISTER: Greetings, St. Paul Family! Thank you for all of you who stopped in for "Meet the Minister Month" at St. Paul! I want to thank you for welcoming me along with my family to St. Paul in such a wonderful way. Thank you again to all who came to celebrate my installation on January 12th and for the beautiful dessert reception. Thank you to all of you who took time to stop in and meet with me and it has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know you as we grow in the faith together at St. Paul!

If you didn't have the chance to sign up to meet with me, please feel free to call the church office or send me an email (adamw@stpaulfalls.com) to set up a time and we can arrange a time to meet. I cannot wait to see what God will do through our shared mission of connecting people to Christ at St. Paul!

In Christ,

Pastor Adam

ST. PAUL SERVES 2025: The sign-up for St. Paul Serves is now open on our website! The event will run from May 1–17, so be sure to register soon—registration closes April 13. Don't miss this opportunity to serve alongside others and make a meaningful impact in our community!

A SPECIAL THANKS: Fay Risse wanted to say thank you to everyone who reached out during her recent surgery.

MARCH COUNCIL MINUTES

WORSHIP MINISTRY UPDATE: Praise teams are going into the Gathering Area before and after worship to greet people. Adult Choir attendance was rough in winter with illnesses but has improved. Bell choir is rining, yet abscences can make rehearsals tough. Praise Teams have added a few new singers and players, but more are always welcome.

Thomas is working on developing a Praise Team Handbook. He's also collaborates with other Worship Directors in the South Wisconsin District on a monthly basis. Our Choir Accompanist Piper will be going to college in fall, so he will begin recruiting for that position shortly. He is working to establish leaders that can fill in for him to allow him to take time off.

FEBRUARY TREASURER REPORT: Weekly offerings continue to lag. Expenses have been cut in half compared to budget. An updated message will be printed in the Weekly News to make the Congregation aware of the financial concerns. This will also be discussed at the April Congregation Meeting. Council will also look at attendance trends to see if that is part of the issue with the lag in giving.

WORSHIP CENTER CONDENSER: Chad Berke reported that it has been difficult to get quotes. He hopes to have an update at the April Council Meeting, he will not be ready to present this to the Congregation at the April Meeting.

FRONT OFFICE PROJECT: The Council approved replacing the front office carpeting. It is the only carpeting that has not been replaced, so it is 30 years old. Three quotes were sought, Sheboygan Flooring was chosen, we will use carpet tiles. We would also like to redesign and replace the front office furniture at the same time. That is all original to the build as well. Quotes are being sought.

SENIOR PASTOR REPORT: Pr Adam is doing well, he has done his first funeral and will be taking over Pastor Bible Study this week. He will begin taking over small groups by the summer. Weddings, funerals, AWANA/Confirmation, AIM and visits continue. I took our 6th graders and families through the Seder Meal this past month. The Pastors will start having a session with TGP once a month. We need more communion servers for the 11 am service, this is a challenge.

WALK IN ITEM – NOMINATING COMMITTEE: The ballot is in place for the April elections. The nominating team used a more thorough vetting processes this year. All involved felt it was a much better process to select the best candidates.

WALK IN ITEM – COLUMBARIUM: The units will be here next week. Concrete work is scheduled to begin April 21, weather dependent. Sales begin this weekend.

WALK IN ITEM – 11 AM SUNDAY SERVICE: We haven't gotten much feedback now that the 3rd service has been added back. We average 80 people. It has helped to take the pressure off of the 9:30 service. We switch to the summer schedule (2 Sunday services) on May 18.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finai	ncial Re	port - Febi	ruary	2025						
	Fiscal Year Ju	ıly 1, 2024 - June	30, 202	5						
Financial Results- Fiscal Year End Actual, Budget & Variance										
		8 Months		8 Months		Variance				
	End	Ended 2-28-25		Ended 2-28-25		from Budget				
		Actual		Budget	(5	(Short)/Over				
General Offerings	\$	792,530	\$	897,975	\$	(105,444)				
Other Income	\$	28,642	\$	34,800	\$	(6,158)				
Mission Offerings	\$	53,554	\$	62,667	\$	(9,112)				
Total Income	\$	874,727	\$	995,441	\$	(120,715)				
Operating Expenses	\$	903,910	\$	932,779	\$	(28,870)				
Mission Support	\$	53,554	\$	62,667	\$	(9,112)				
Total Expense	\$	957,464	\$	995,446	\$	(37,982)				
Suplus (Deficit) Total	\$	(82,738)	\$	(5)	\$	(82,733)				

Ca						
		Monthly Activity Increase (Decrease)		alance at onth End		
Capital Improvement Fund	\$	6,668	\$	351,553		
Membership Report					1	
Baptized Members	404	Confirmed Members		1,689	Total Members	2,093

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



PALM SUNDAY APRIL 13

8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY APRIL 17

1:00 PM 6:30 PM

GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 18

1:00PM 6:30 PM CANTATA

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 20

8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 AM





May 1-17, 2025

Please sign up via QR code, call the Church Office, or visit our website

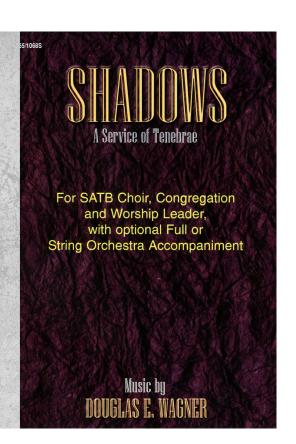
CANTATA

sung by Adult Choir

Tenebrae Service
Good Friday

April 18, 6:30 PM

Join us for this special worship service



Endowment Grants Available

The St. Paul Endowment Fund is accepting grant applications beginning March 1st. Applications can be found in the Church Office or on the website.

Deadline: April 15, 2025

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

730 County Rd. PPP Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085

Phone: 920-467-6449 Fax: 920-467-4239 U.S. POSTAGE
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SHEBOYGAN FALLS, WI
PERMIT NO. 28

NONPROFIT ORG

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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