ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Connecting People to Christ

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2026



GIVING THANKS IN EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE

PASTOR KYLE BACKHAUS

In the middle of the American Civil War, the United States was facing some of the darkest days in its history. Thousands of soldiers had lost their lives. Families were separated. Communities were grieving. The future of the nation was uncertain.

And yet, on October 3, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation calling for a national day of Thanksgiving. Think about that for a moment. The country was at war. People were suffering. There was plenty of uncertainty and grief. And yet the nation was being called to stop, gather, and give thanks. Why? Because thanksgiving is not dependent upon having a perfect life.

That is something the Bible has been teaching God's people from the very beginning. Why do we give thanks? The Bible gives us a very simple reason: God is good.

Psalm 107 begins, *"Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!"* Notice where the Psalmist directs our attention. It does not say, "Give thanks, because everything in your life is going well." It says, "Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good." Our thanksgiving begins with God.

We give thanks because He created us and continues to provide for us. Every day we receive gifts from His hand—our food, our homes, our friends, our work, and countless other blessings that we often take for granted. But our greatest reason for thanksgiving is not found in the things we possess. It is found in the One who has given Himself for us.

We are sinners. We have failed to love God and our neighbor as we should. We have plenty of reason to be ashamed of the things we have said, thought, and done. And yet, God has not abandoned us. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, for you. Jesus took our sins upon Himself and died on the cross in our place.

He rose from the grave, defeating sin and death. Through faith in Him, you have forgiveness. You have peace with God. You have the promise of eternal life. That is why we can give thanks in every circumstance.

Our circumstances change. God does not. Our health can change. God's promises do not. Our families can change. God's love does not. Our finances can change. God's provision does not. Life can change in ways we never expected. But Jesus remains the same.

The Apostle Paul writes, "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Paul does not tell us to pretend that everything is good. Christians still experience grief, sickness, disappointment, loneliness, and hardship. The Bible gives us permission to mourn and to cry out to God in the midst of those things.

But even in those moments, we have reason to give thanks. We can thank God that He is with us. We can thank Him for His promises. We can thank Him for the people He has placed in our lives. And above all, we can thank Him for Jesus. Thanksgiving, then, is not simply a holiday on the calendar. It is a response to God's grace. God's people have received His gifts, and so God's people give thanks.

One of the best ways we can give thanks is by gathering as God's people. When we gather for worship, we are not simply coming to fulfill an obligation. We are coming to receive God's gifts and to respond to those gifts with thankful hearts. This Thanksgiving, before we gather around our tables with family and friends, let's gather around God's Word. Let's hear again the story of God's great love for us in Jesus. Let's sing His praises and give thanks for His many blessings. We will gather for worship on Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 25 at 6:30 PM, and on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26 at 9:00 AM.

Bring your family. Invite a friend. Come and give thanks. Whether this year has been filled with joy or filled with challenges, one thing remains true: God is good. His steadfast love endures forever. And in Jesus Christ, His grace is yours.

Happy Thanksgiving!
In Christ,

PASTOR KYLE BACKHAUS
SENIOR PASTOR



EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER 4
CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY 5-6
YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY 7
THE GATHERING PLACE 8
MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT - CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY 9-10
CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS 10
FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN 11
CHRISTMAS CANDLE GLOW 11
CHURCH LIBRARY UPDATE 12
LOVE INC 12
TABLE OF GRACE 13
CELEBRATE RECOVERY 13
OTHER NEWS & THANK YOUS 14-15
SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 16
SEPTEBMER FINANCIAL REPORT 17
HISPANIC OUTREACH MINISTRY 18
LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLITES 19


HOW CAN YOU HELP?
NOVEMBER giving CAMPAIGN
engaging hearts...enriching minds
The Gathering Place
Memory Matters
Music and Entertainment
YOUR DONATION SUPPORTS ALL THESE ACTIVITIES
Arts and Craft Supplies
Outings
Meals and Snacks
Scholarship Program
To donate, scan the QR code or contact us at 920-627-6847.

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

CHRISTINA ZEUNER, DIRECTOR
PRESCHOOL@STPAULFALLS.COM

In October, our first theme was Safety — Firefighters and Police Officers. The morning Preschool class had a visit from a firefighter and a police officer, while the 4K class went to the Howards Grove Fire Station and had visits from a police officer and an ambulance.

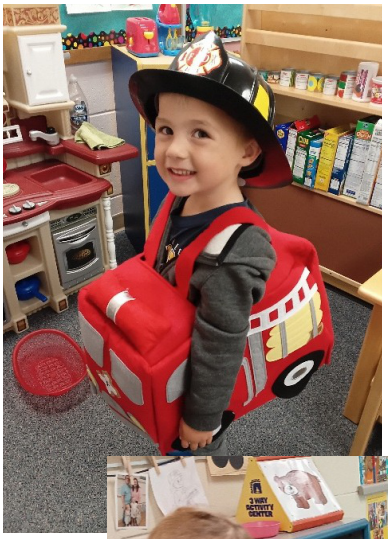


The last half of the month our theme was Wild Animals. Preschoolers brought stuffed bears to school for Bear Day. We sorted them, went on a bear hunt, and did a dance with them, as well as made bear footprints to eat. The 4K class went on a safari, wearing hats, vests, and binoculars. With their clipboards, they searched for and marked off animals as they found them.

Our fundraiser was a success! Over $4,000 was raised and will be used as needed for toys and materials, field trip fees, and 4K graduation. Thank you to everyone who supported our program in some way.

Parents and teachers will have time to meet and talk about their child's progress at Parent/Teacher Conferences November 10-13.

We are also preparing for the beginning of December when we will have our Christmas service on Tuesday, December 1 at 6:30 PM. The children will show how the ornaments we hang on our Christmas trees teach us about the things that happened that first Christmas.











CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

SAVANNAH HENN, DIRECTOR
SAVANNAHH@STPAULFALLS.COM

Sunday School



In November, our 3K-3rd Graders will be learning about how Jesus is our rescuer through the stories of Jesus Calms the Storm, Jesus Forgives the Thief on the Cross, and Jesus Comes Back to Life. Our 4th and 5th Graders will be going through the life of Paul. As always, we continue to collect offerings at Sunday School. This year, all offerings will go toward buying animals for families in different countries. In May, the children will vote on what animals they would like to buy. Reminder that there is no Sunday School on November 29.



AWANA

Things have been going very well! On November 4 we will have our first AWANA Store of the year. All the children have been working very hard and we are excited to see what they will purchase with their points. This month we will be learning about David and Elijah. Our themes this month are Wildlife Night and Silly Sock Night. On November 18, AWANA classes will be assembling Operation Christmas Child boxes. Weekly AWANA offerings go toward Operation Christmas Child boxes. Reminder that there will be no AWANA on November 25.

Trunk or Treat Recap



Our annual Trunk or Treat event in the church parking lot was a huge success! We had over 600 people come through our lot and it was great to connect with people from our community. Special thank you to all the individuals and businesses that hosted a trunk this year.

Camp Luther Service Weekend

We had a great group of 26 children, youth, and adults head up to Camp Luther for a service weekend. This awesome team helped prepare camp for winter! Cottages were cleaned from top to bottom, picnic benches, tubes, and other water items were stored away, windows were washed, wood was hauled, the highway was cleaned up, and leaves were raked! All photos can be seen on our church website.



Camp Luther staff will be visiting on Wednesday, November 4. They will share with our students the awesome work God is doing through Camp Ministry! If your child is interested in attending Camp Luther this summer, please speak with Nicole or Savannah about the campership program. We had seven students from St. Paul attend last summer—can we double that number?

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY (CONTINUED)

SAVANNAH HENN, DIRECTOR
SAVANNAHH@STPAULFALLS.COM

Upcoming Family Events



Birthday Party for Jesus

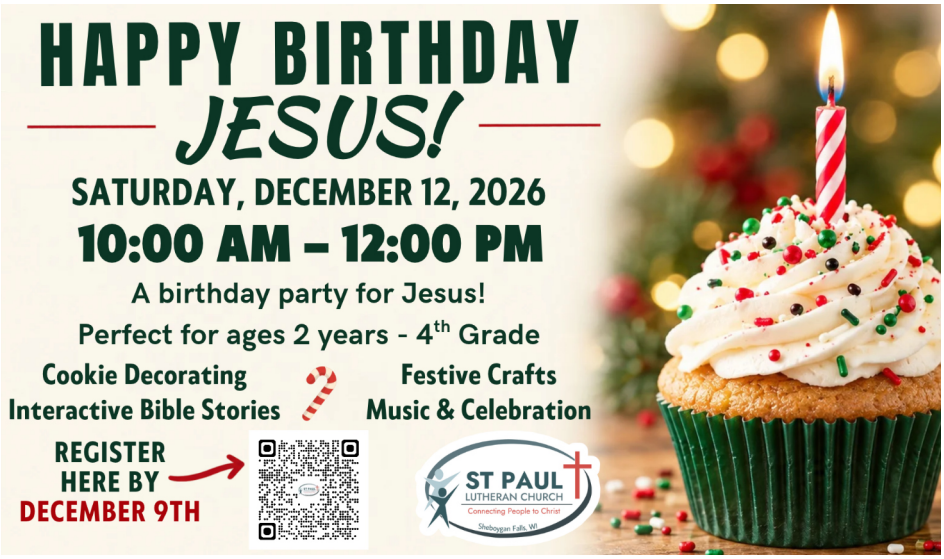
Saturday, December 12 | 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Join us at St. Paul Lutheran Church for our Birthday Party for Jesus! Last year, 20 families joined us for a wonderful morning of singing, games, crafts, Bible stories, and cookie decorating. We even ended our celebration by singing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus!

We look forward to another fun-filled morning as we celebrate the birth of our Savior and the true meaning of Christmas.

This event is perfect for children ages 2 through 4th Grade. Students in 5th Grade and older are also welcome to volunteer and help make this special celebration a success.

Invite your friends and join us as we celebrate the greatest gift of all—Jesus! Please register by scanning the QR code by December 9.



YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

NICOLE DOLLEVOET, DIRECTOR
NICOLED@STPAULFALLS.COM

October has been a busy and meaningful month for St. Paul's youth! We have been putting our faith into action through a variety of service projects, including sending care packages to our college students, creating cards for our shut-ins, making blankets for children, preparing Operation Christmas Child boxes, and assembling materials for Trunk or Treat. Our youth also participated in the FMSC MobilePack, hosted many trunks for our Trunk or Treat event, and attended a service weekend at Camp Luther. What an incredible month of serving others and sharing God's love!



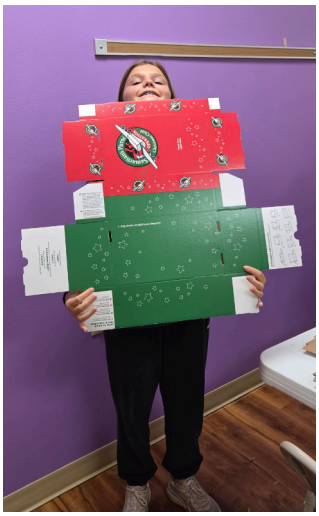


We are also continuing strong with our Bible study series, "Faith Foundations," as we grow together in our understanding of God's Word and what it means to live out our faith each day.

November is bringing even more fun to Youth Group! You can find us in the kitchen preparing all sorts of delicious meals, along with two of our most popular nights of the year: Extreme Bingo and Bowling. There are plenty of opportunities for fellowship, laughter, and building relationships as we continue to grow together in faith.

7th Grade Confirmation Lock-In

Our 7th Grade Confirmation Lock-In is just around the corner! Retreats and lock-ins are such important opportunities for youth and adults to step outside their everyday routines, build relationships, and grow together in faith. It is amazing to watch the connections that form and the growth that happens when we spend this intentional time together.



This lock-in is always extra special because it is led by college students from Concordia University Wisconsin. They bring incredible energy, creativity, and faith-filled leadership to the experience. We are looking forward to another memorable evening of fun, fellowship, and growing in faith!







THE GATHERING PLACE

LEAH ZEHEL, DIRECTOR
LEAHZ@STPAULFALLS.COM

The Gathering Place November Giving Campaign

- Carol Bimmel

It is hard to believe it is November already—a busy time of the year for us. It is time for our annual November Giving Campaign. Nine years ago, we first decided to try fundraising this way, not sure it would work out, but it has been a blessing for our program, participants, families, and everyone involved with The Gathering Place!

We are a nonprofit and your donations are critical to help us replenish funds that may be running low in various categories like meals, arts and crafts, and outings. This year we are focusing on Scholarships and Entertainment. Many families rely on the scholarship fund for help, and while we have been blessed with many donations, by December this fund will be empty. Music is another huge part of our budget, and as entertainment gets more expensive, this fund could also use some help. We have seen adults who were not very verbal suddenly singing along with our groups. Smiles and a feeling of being invigorated by the music appear on everyone's faces—participants, volunteers, and staff alike.

We thought our participants and families could say it best when it comes to what our musical entertainment means to them:

"Music makes me forget that I have any troubles and reminds me I have all these friends to have fun with and to feel free." — Current Participant

"Every Tuesday I hop on Facebook to see if The Gathering Place has another video with my dad living his best life, dancing to the music groups they bring in. Being out of state, I look forward to seeing this—it makes me feel better that my dad is still able to have fun in his later years living with dementia." — Ana

Our fundraising goal for 2026 is $50,000. We have made it easy to donate—scan the QR code, visit memorymattersmost.com/donate/, or pick up a form in the Church Office. You can also donate in memory or in honor of someone. 100% of your donations go directly to our program.

Help us continue to do this important work for Sheboygan County and beyond! Scan the QR code below to make your donation today.

engaging hearts...enriching minds
The Gathering Place
Memory Matters

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT - CHILDREN & FAMILY

At St. Paul, we believe that nurturing faith in the next generation is one of the most important things we can do as a church family. This month we are shining a light on the ministries that invest in our youngest members—a vibrant space where faith and fun come together and children learn about God's love in a way that resonates with their hearts and minds.

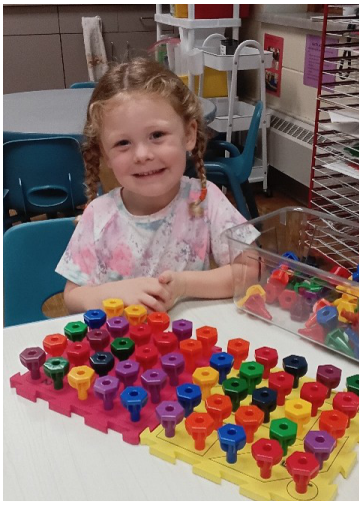
"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." — Proverbs 22:6

Three dedicated leaders pour their hearts into making this possible. Savannah Henn, Director of Children & Family Ministry, leads our Sunday School, AWANA, and VBS programs, and teams up with Nicole Dollevoet to bring families together through CYF events. Christina Zeuner, Director of the Early Childhood Center, leads our Preschool, 4K, and Child Care programs—providing a loving, Christ-centered environment where our littlest ones can explore, learn, and grow in their faith every day.

Early Childhood Center

Under the direction of Christina Zeuner, our dedicated staff fosters a nurturing atmosphere that supports both spiritual and developmental growth. The ECC offers three programs:

3-Year Old Preschool — Tuesday & Thursday
9:00-11:30 AM or 12:30-3:00 PM
4K Program — Monday, Wednesday & Friday
8:30-11:30 AM
Child Care — Monday through Friday
7:00 AM-5:30 PM



For more information, call 920-467-6733. We are also proud to share that St. Paul Early Childhood Center has been recognized two years in a row by the Sheboygan County Community's Choice Awards—as a Winner in 2025 and a Finalist in 2026!



Sunday School

Meeting during the 9:30 AM service, Sunday School offers age-appropriate Bible lessons, worship, and fun activities for children 3K through 5th Grade. While parents worship in the Worship Center, kids are engaged in their own faith-building experience.

Sundays during the 9:30 AM service | September through May

AWANA

A wonderful Wednesday evening program where children build friendships, discover God's Word, and grow in their faith through games, Scripture, and fun activities. Kids earn awards for memorizing Scripture—and they have a blast doing it!

Wednesdays 6:00-7:30 PM | September through April | Fellowship Hall | Grades K-5

Both Sunday School and AWANA are led by Savannah Henn and her dedicated team of volunteers. For more information, visit stpaulfalls.com or contact Savannah at savannahh@stpaulfalls.com.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT - CHILDREN & FAMILY (CONTINUED)



Vacation Bible School

VBS 2026 brought children together for four days of Bible adventures, games, crafts, music, and snacks. A huge thank you to Savannah Henn, every volunteer, and every family who made it possible! **VBS 2027 will be held July 18-21 from 3:00-6:00 PM.**

Children, Youth & Family Events

Throughout the year, Savannah and Nicole team up to bring families together through monthly CYF events—fun, faith-filled gatherings open to all ages. Watch the Weekly News for upcoming events!

Nursery

Our nursery provides free, loving care for children from birth through age 4 during Sunday morning services—so that parents can worship with peace of mind. Parents are always welcome to stay too!

Baptism

Through Baptism, God claims each child as His own—and we celebrate that beautiful moment together as a church family. If you have questions or would like to get started, contact the Church Office at 920-467-6449 or visit stpaulfalls.com.

From our nursery babies taking their very first steps of faith, to our 5th Graders growing deeper in God's Word—every child at St. Paul is known, loved, and welcomed. Behind every program is a team of staff and volunteers who show up faithfully, week after week, to love these kids and point them toward Jesus. What a privilege it is to invest in the next generation together!



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

St. Paul has partnered with the Salvation Army and other local agencies to provide Christmas gifts to people in need this holiday season. There are multiple opportunities for St. Paul members to get involved this year!

Wish Lists & Donations

We have the opportunity to provide Christmas presents to those who are struggling this holiday season through our Christmas Blessings Ministry. Christmas gift tags will be available in the Gathering Area during services November 5-22 for anyone who would like to purchase a gift for someone in need. Gifts need to be returned to church by December 6. If you would like to make a financial contribution toward this ministry, you can do so by placing it in an envelope and marking it "Christmas Blessings."

Adopt a Family

If you are interested in adopting a family for the Christmas season, please contact the Church Office by November 22. Some suggestions for adopting a family include purchasing gifts for the family, delivering the gifts to them, taking them a meal or even meals throughout the year, or bringing them a Christmas tree. Most importantly, this would be a family that you would pray for and with. You can choose what suits you best!

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Celebrating Our 13th Feed My Starving Children MobilePack

We are celebrating another successful Feed My Starving Children MobilePack—our 13th event! More than 600 volunteers came together to pack 684 boxes and 147,744 meals, enough to provide 404 children with a daily meal for an entire year.

While the packing itself happens in a short window, making a MobilePack possible is nearly a yearlong effort. Planning includes coordinating volunteers and logistics, as well as raising approximately $40,000 to fund the food packed during the event. Many members of the planning team have been serving together for nearly all of the past 14 years, and their commitment to this ministry has never wavered.

Beyond the impressive numbers, the MobilePack is about people joining together in service. Church members, families, friends, and volunteers from throughout the community work side by side with a shared purpose: helping provide nourishment and hope to children in need.



A huge thank you to our FMSC Planning Team for all the hard work, countless hours, and fundraising efforts that went into making this year's event a success! Shirl, Mary, Carol, Steve, Kim, Nicole, Beth, Annie, Jim, Shelly, Karen, Shelly, Pete, Diana, Katrina, Sharon, and Paul—we are so grateful for each of you and the time, energy, and heart you poured into this amazing ministry!

We also cannot thank our St. Paul congregation enough for your incredible generosity, prayers, and support. Together, we accomplished something truly special!

Our connection to this year's event does not end when the last box is packed. We will share information about where the meals are distributed when it becomes available. In the meantime, please continue to pray that the meals we packed reach the mouths of hungry children around the world, nourishing their bodies and reminding them of God's love for their souls.

CHRISTMAS CANDLE GLOW

Christmas Candle Glow — December 6

Join us on Sunday, December 6 from 6:30-8:00 PM in the Gathering Area for this special evening for women featuring an Advent preparation theme with readings, music, and a speaker. This year's mission of choice is **Project Angel Hugs**, and we will be collecting the following donated items:

> Nail polish, manicure sets, facial masks, skin care items, lip balms, card games (ages 12 and up), headphones, Lego sets, model trucks and car kits, paint by number sets (no larger than 12″x12″), jewelry or craft kits for boys or girls, Bluetooth speakers, sports facts books, and history books (ages 12 and up).

All women of St. Paul are welcome—bring a friend and join us! Please sign up in the Gathering Area.

CHURCH LIBRARY UPDATE

We recently received a donation of *Twelve Ordinary Men* by John MacArthur, which can be found under (3 Ma) on the shelves. John MacArthur has served as Pastor/Teacher at Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, California since 1969 and can be heard on radio and TV. In this book, he shares his perspective on the lives of Jesus's disciples, a topic he has always found fascinating.

This summer we purchased *Communion: Finding My Way Back to Faith* by JD Vance, found under (4 Va). We have also received several books from congregation members including *When the Jasmine Grows* by Donna Everhart (1 Ev) and *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate (1 Wi).

As we approach the Christmas season, our Christmas books will be returning to the shelves! We also received a donated copy of *The Women of Christmas* by Liz Curtis Higgs, which explores the lives of Mary, Elizabeth, and Anna in the Bible. You will find it under (4 Hi) with the Christmas books.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving!
Kim Jo Kattner & Dianna Witt
Church Librarians

LOVE INC

Church Ministry Coordinator (CMC) Needed

We are currently looking to fill the Church Ministry Coordinator (CMC) role here at St. Paul. The CMC serves as the primary connection between Love INC and our church. This volunteer helps communicate opportunities to serve, connects church members with needs identified through Love INC, promotes Love INC ministries within the congregation, and encourages prayer and volunteer involvement. The CMC works alongside church leadership and Love INC staff to help our church live out its calling to serve our neighbors in need.

Responsibilities typically include:

- serving as the church's contact person for Love INC
- sharing volunteer opportunities and ministry updates with the congregation
- helping connect church members to service opportunities that match their gifts and interests
- communicating church resources and ministries to Love INC
- encouraging prayer and support for Love INC's mission

Training and ongoing support are provided by Love INC. If you are willing to fill this vacancy, please contact Love INC at 920-783-6701.

love in the name of Christ

TABLE OF GRACE - MEALS ARE READY

Our first batch of 80 meals is prepared and ready to be shared! If you know someone who could use a meal during a difficult time, it is as simple as stopping by the Giving Center. No formal sign-up required—just follow these steps:

1. Grab a reusable cloth bag
2. Choose a frozen meal from the freezer
3. Sign out the meal on the clipboard on the freezer
4. Add a serving set of disposable plates and silverware
5. Choose a devotional or Portal of Prayer if you wish
6. Take a "Thinking of You" card and write a note

It's that simple, and it's a beautiful way to remind someone they are loved and not alone. We'd also love your help preparing meals. Watch for upcoming Table of Grace workshops, and come join us! Thank you, St. Paul family, for being the hands and feet of Jesus.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Everyone has issues and struggles in life.

We CELEBRATE RECOVERY in God's amazing healing and restoration!

Celebrate Recovery
A CHRIST CENTERED Recovery Program

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.

Only 2 out of 3 people attend CR for NON-addiction issues.

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!

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 the Ministry Leader - Julie J. 920-207-1397

OTHER NEWS & THANK YOUS

Church Bookstore - Books make wonderful gifts—especially ones that inspire and encourage faith! Stop by our church bookstore to browse our latest selection. Thanksgiving books are on display now, with our Christmas collection arriving right after Thanksgiving. It is a great way to find a meaningful gift for someone you love this holiday season. Stop by before or after services and see what we have!

Thank You - Thank you to Craig Rusch of Woodland Tree Farm for donating items for the fall display. The variety of pumpkins, gourds, corn, and beautiful mums made such a nice addition - Adornment Team, Lorrie Wilson



Thank You - Thank you so much for awarding me the Lutheran Education Scholarship for this academic year. I am grateful to receive this financial support from my church family. As I start my education at Concordia University, this blessing will directly help cover my tuition and books. Your generosity not only eases my financial responsibilities but reminds me of the strong community of faith standing behind me. Thank you for your prayers, kindness, and investment in my future - Natalie Nickolai.

GOOD NEWS. GREAT JOY.

Operation Christmas Child - Operation Christmas Child boxes are available in the Gathering Area to be picked up, filled, and returned. A few things to remember when packing your box: no liquids, no toothpaste, no lotions, no candy, no indicators of war, no soap, and no used items. Guidelines and suggestions on what can be placed in the boxes can be found inside each box. All filled boxes need to be returned to the Gathering Area by November 22.

St. Paul Quilters — Thank You - Thank you to everyone who supports our Quilting Ministry—from fabric donations and our talented seamstresses, to silent auction bidders and helpers with shipping. So many people lend a hand throughout the year to make this ministry happen! We are truly grateful for each of you. Funds raised will go toward supplies and shipping costs, as these quilts are distributed through Lutheran World Relief to disaster areas and impoverished countries around the world. What a meaningful way to share God's love! These quilts may travel far from our hands, but they carry with them the love of Christ. If you would like to join us, we have two groups that meet each month:
Daytime Group — 1st Wednesday of the month at 9:00 AM
Evening Group — 3rd Monday of the month at 6:00 PM

Thank You from Anchor of Hope - Anchor of Hope Health Center sends their heartfelt gratitude to St. Paul Lutheran Church for our generous support and partnership. Because of our congregation's giving and prayers, they are able to continue serving resilient moms and families in our community—helping them choose life while sharing the hope, compassion, and truth found in Jesus. Thank you for walking alongside this life-affirming ministry!

Thank You — Table of Grace
Thank you to all the ladies who helped at the Table of Grace meal workshop! Everyone worked hard and was able to make 80 meals to stock the freezer. Please think of these meals when you encounter someone in need — they are ready and waiting to bless others! We will hold another workshop in the coming months and would love to have you join us!

Tuesday Morning Pastor Bible Study - Please note that there will be no Bible study on Tuesday, November 24. The last session of the 2026 calendar year will be Tuesday, December 15. We look forward to continuing together in the new year!

OTHER NEWS & THANK YOUS CONTINUED

GriefShare — Surviving the Holidays - The holidays can be an especially difficult time for those who are grieving. Join us on Saturday, November 14 from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM in Room 100 for our fifth year of offering this special event designed to help you navigate the holiday season. Through expert guidance and the shared experiences of others who have walked a similar path, you will discover how God can use this season as a blessing in your life—even in the midst of loss. Whether your grief is recent or something you have carried for years, you are not alone. Sign up at the kiosk by the Welcome Center or scan the QR code to register. We hope you will join us.

Ladies Auxiliary Bake Sale — December 6 - The Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting a Bake Sale on Sunday, December 6 between services in the Gathering Area. Please note: there will be no Cookie Sale this year. The Bake Sale will take its place, so be sure to stop by and stock up on some delicious homemade treats just in time for the holiday season! Whether you are looking for something sweet to bring to a holiday gathering, share with a neighbor, or simply enjoy at home, the Ladies Auxiliary always delivers on homemade goodness. Come hungry and leave happy—we hope to see you there!

Pastor Appreciation Month - Thank you for the many ways you showed your appreciation during Pastor Appreciation Month! We are grateful for your prayers, kind words, thoughtful notes, flowers, gifts, and the wonderful congregational video. A special thank you to everyone who helped bring the video together and to all who shared their messages of encouragement and appreciation. Your kindness and encouragement mean so much to us. We are thankful for the love and support you show to your pastors and for the many ways you continue to encourage those who serve in ministry at St. Paul. What a blessing it is to be part of such a caring church family! We give thanks to God for each of you and for the privilege of serving His people. To Him alone be all the glory!

In Christ,
Pastor Kyle, Pastor Adam, Pastor Tom, and Pastor Hasse



SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 28, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes

Worship Ministry Update: Thomas Walkenhorst provided a written update on Worship activities, all of which have resumed for the fall season. MIDI Organ is being utilized while an organist is being sought. Thomas and Chad Berke recently attended a worship team conference which provided some new worship options.

Endowment Team Update: Rita Ten Pas presented an overview of the Endowment Fund, its specific categories, latest distribution amounts, and June 30 balances. She presented statistics on the fund's performance since being managed by the Lakeshore Community Foundation.

Senior Pastor Update: Pr. Kyle provided data on overall worship service attendance as well as the 11:00 AM service since resumption of the fall schedule. He also gave a recap of various upcoming activities and programs, as well as a few potential future opportunities.

August Treasurer's Report: August saw average weekly giving drop below the fiscal year 2026 average weekly giving level. If giving does not increase, there would be a shortfall of about $274,000 at year end (assuming expenses are as budgeted). However, summer giving is often below budget as members travel. It is likely that weekly giving will rise in September as the full schedule of activities resumes.

Parking Lot Striping: John Rische identified necessary equipment available for rent at a reasonable cost. Paint would be sourced from Fasse Paint, who will provide it at cost. Mark Buffington volunteered to head up a team to do the striping this fall.

Policy #69 – Security Camera System: The Council approved a policy governing the operation of the recently installed cameras, which is available on our website.

Policy #52 – Sustenance Fund: The fund was established during COVID to provide help to those in need. After COVID, the fund balance was moved to the Social Ministry dedicated account. Since the fund is no longer used, a decision was made to retire it.

Year End Surplus Discussion: There are various options as to how these unusual gifts will be utilized. More time is needed to further consider the issue.

Walk-In Item: A discussion was held regarding the many conflicts parents face trying to balance their families' church attendance and activities with conflicting sports schedules.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report - September 2026

Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027

Financial Results- Fiscal Year End Actual, Budget & Variance

	3 Months Ended 9-30-26 Actual	3 Months Ended 9-30-26 Budget	Variance from Budget (Short)/Over
General Offerings	$ 325,757	$ 377,252	$ (51,495)
Other Income	$ 14,154	$ 15,493	$ (1,339)
Mission Offerings	$ 18,927	$ 18,500	$ 427
Total Income	**$ 358,838**	**$ 411,244**	**$ (52,406)**
Operating Expenses	$ 394,808	$ 391,598	$ 3,210
Mission Support	$ 15,843	$ 14,516	$ 1,328
Total Expense	**$ 410,651**	**$ 406,113**	**$ 4,538**
Suplus (Deficit) from Operations	**$ (51,813)**	**$ 5,131**	**$ (56,944)**

Capital Improvement Fund

	Monthly Activity Increase (Decrease)	Balance at Month End
Capital Improvement Fund	$ (9,944)	$ 346,977

Membership Report

Baptized Members	308	Confirmed Members	1,461	Total Members	1,769

HISPANIC OUTREACH MINISTRY

Beyond Walls and Bars: Christ's Love Reaches the Forgotten

The LCMS Sheboygan County Hispanic Outreach brings the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ to inmates at Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution.

For the first time, I entered Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution to begin leading Spanish Bible classes through the Sheboygan County Hispanic Outreach. The fences were high, the doors were locked, and if I am honest, I was nervous. Yet one truth remained certain: Jesus Christ was already there, and His Word would be at the center of our gathering.

Our Lord Jesus said, *"Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."* (Mark 2:17) These words remind us that the Gospel is for sinners—every one of us—and that Christ's saving love reaches people wherever they are.

That day, six inmates attended the first Spanish Bible class. What began with my own nervousness became a beautiful opportunity to share the comfort, hope, and forgiveness found in Jesus Christ. Through the reading and study of God's Word, we gathered not simply to learn about the Christian faith, but to hear what God has done for us through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son.

The walls and bars of a correctional institution may restrict physical freedom, but they cannot imprison the Gospel. Christ comes to sinners through His Word, offering forgiveness and eternal life to all who trust in Him (2 Timothy 2:9).

One of the most encouraging moments of that first class was when one inmate expressed a desire to be baptized. What a powerful reminder that the Holy Spirit works through the means of grace, calling people to faith and bringing them to the waters of Holy Baptism, where God attaches His promises to water and His Word.

For me, this experience was a reminder that the Church's mission does not end at the church doors. Through the Sheboygan County Hispanic Outreach, we have the opportunity to bring Spanish-speaking people the treasures of God's Word and the comfort of the Gospel—including those living behind prison walls.

This ministry is not about self-improvement or promising an easier life. It is about proclaiming Jesus Christ crucified and risen for sinners—reminding people that their sins are forgiven, that God's mercy is greater than their past, and that their identity rests in the saving work of Jesus.

As I continue this ministry, I look forward to providing spiritual care, teaching the Christian faith, and walking alongside those who desire to learn more about Christ. Each visit is an opportunity to serve faithfully, trusting that God will accomplish His purposes through His Word—opening doors for His Gospel in places we might never have imagined.

The mission field is not limited by walls, locked doors, or bars. Christ's love reaches into places of confinement, and His Gospel brings the same promise to every sinner: forgiveness, life, and salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please keep this ministry, the inmates who attend these classes, and all who serve in your prayers. May the Lord bless the proclamation of His Word, strengthen faith, and continue to bring the hope of Christ to those who need to hear that they are not beyond the reach of His mercy.

"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit." — Psalm 34:18

In Christ, His humble servant and yours,
Rev. David Blas

LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLITES

A Season of Gratitude

As November arrives and the crisp autumn air settles over our campus, we are reminded that we have so much to be thankful for. Scripture reminds us in Psalm 107:1, "Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!" Our school family has so many reasons to celebrate the blessings of God's hand at work in our high school this year.

We want to begin by sharing how thankful we are for family—especially our wonderful grandparents and parents:

Grandparents Day: In October, we had the joy of welcoming Grandparents Day back to campus. Seeing multi-generational smiles fill our hallways was a beautiful reminder of the priceless role grandparents play in passing down a rich legacy of faith and love.

Parent Involvement: Equally inspiring is the heartwarming dedication of our parents. This school year, we launched our new parent organization, CREW, whose goal is to connect, rally, engage, and welcome every school family with open arms.

Every time we look around our campus, God's goodness and generosity shine through in so many tangible, welcoming ways:

Heidi Hake Memorial Garden and Fountains: We are deeply grateful for this beautiful new space at the entrance to our school, which offers a peaceful outdoor area for reflection, fellowship, and prayer.

School Vans: The arrival of our new vans provides safe, reliable transportation to keep our students connected on field trips, athletic events, and ministry outings.

New Website: Behind the scenes, our newly launched website makes it warmer and easier than ever for families to stay connected, engaged, and informed. Check it out at lutheranhigh.com.

Above all, we pause to give thanks to God for the ultimate gift of salvation through Jesus. This divine grace is the heart of our mission, shaping every lesson taught and every relationship built. We are deeply blessed to be able to offer the gift of Christ-centered education, where students learn to see the world through the loving and unshakable lens of Scripture. Every day, our faculty and staff faithfully bring this meaningful work to life through their unwavering dedication to our students.

As you gather with loved ones around the table this Thanksgiving, may your home be filled with peace, joy, and thankfulness. Thank you to our entire Crusader community for everything you do to support our mission of Preparing Christian Leaders—One Student at a Time.

Have a blessed November and a happy Thanksgiving!

Matthew Tschudy
Executive Director

SHEBOYGAN LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085
Phone: 920-467-6449
Fax: 920-467-4239
Website: www.stpaulfalls.com

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Church Office Hours
Monday - Thursday: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Friday: Closed

ST PAUL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Connecting People to Christ
Sheboygan Falls, WI

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 AM | 9:30 AM | 11:00 AM

The Gathering Place & Memory Matters
920-627-6847
The Gathering Place
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sheboygan Falls
Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Sheboygan
Wednesday: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Memory Matters
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sheboygan Falls
Thursday: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Children & Youth
(during the school year)
Sunday School: 9:30 AM service
AWANA Wednesday Night: 6:00 PM
Confirmation Wednesday Night: 6:00 PM
Youth Group Sunday Night: 5:30 PM

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
Sunday Services, 9:15 - 12:00 PM

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CONNECTING PEOPLE TO CHRIST