



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2024



ENGAGING HEARTS

LEAH ZEHEL

As we head into our 17th year next spring, it's amazing how far we have come in what our days look like here at The Gathering Place. More days offered, more participants able to participate, additional location, more staff and lots of volunteers, plus our Memory Matters class for those with early memory loss. While reviewing our budget to identify potential changes needed, we saw an increase in music and entertainment costs, as well as the

importance of our scholarship fund. Established 10 years ago, the scholarship fund ensures that our program remains accessible to everyone, especially when funds from the county, VA, or long-term care insurance are unavailable after the vetting process.

"My husband had been going to TGP for a year for two days a week. It's the perfect fit for him: he needed to be active and socialize in a comfortable setting because he is so young and I still needed to work. I

knew we had a long journey ahead of us with his diagnosis. The unknowns are terrifying. But TGP has been the one constant in my husband's life that he truly enjoyed, he is thriving there! But when I had to quit work because of my own health, finances became very tight. We used up funds we received from a grant and I was sad to tell him we had to cut back to one day a week. When talking with staff at TGP they found a way to make it work to continue two days a

week. The scholarship has been such a gift to us and I'm so grateful to all who donate to this as it is truly maintaining my husband's independence." Anonymous

Join us for "November Giving Campaign 2024." Our staff will be sending out letters to our family and friends asking for financial support. These donations will go directly to our daily programming expense and will allow us to continue offering respite to our families at an affordable cost. If you do not receive a letter and would like to donate, please contact Leah at (920) 627-6847, or visit our website at www.memorymattersmost.com.

The Gathering Place is so thankful for the ongoing support of this congregation, whether it is financial support, volunteering, spreading the word about our program, and continued prayers for our program. We are truly blessed to be a ministry of St. Paul's and are so grateful to offer this program to the community and now surrounding communities

LEAH ZEHEL
THE GATHERING PLACE - DIRECTOR



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EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

CHRISTINA ZEUNER, DIRECTOR
PRESCHOOL@STPAULFALLS.COM

We have had a great start to the new year at St. Paul Early Childhood Center. We have 12 children in 4K, 22 Preschoolers and 22 children using the Child Care at some time each week. The children and teachers have gotten to know each other and are having lots of fun learning each day. The children are becoming familiar with the school routines and beginning to make new friends.

The 4K class has already taken a walk to the falls, played at River Park, and gone to Memorial Library. Miss Britt, the librarian, comes every month to the Early Childhood Center to read to the Preschool and Child Care classes. Mr. Walkenhorst visited the classrooms to introduce himself, play his guitar, and teach songs about Fall. Everyone also attended their first chapel day to meet Pastor Kyle and praise God in a church setting.



We continue to collect used ink cartridges, HP toner and old cell phones. These can be placed in the Early Childhood bin in the church's collection center. We receive money for the ink and phones which help us purchase materials for the classrooms. We are also looking for Crystal Light containers and extra-large nuts and bolts.



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

SAVANNAH HENN, DIRECTOR
SAVANNAHH@STPAULFALLS.COM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School started last month, and we are so excited that the school year is off to a great start. During the month of October we are excited to start working on our Christmas music for our upcoming December program.

AWANA

AWANA programming also started last month. It is awesome to see returning friends and some new faces this year. Be sure to watch the calendar for our weekly theme nights. Also, a reminder there is no AWANA on October 16 as we have fall break.



THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS

Huge thank you to the amazing individuals that are serving in all of the areas of Children, Youth, and Family ministry as Savannah is on maternity leave.

I could not do it alone and it is a blessing to serve alongside all of you!



YOUTH MINISTRY AT ST. PAUL

NICOLE DOLLEVOET, DIRECTOR
NICOLED@STPAULFALLS.COM

Fall is here, and things are in full swing. It is great to have the hallways again filled with students on Wednesday nights. Confirmation has been in session for one month already and students are just finishing up their first units and test #1 is on the horizon.

Youth Goup on Sunday nights is also off to a great start! We are exploring a new Bible Study called Life on Purpose. The month of October we begin a whole month of service as we start with college care packages and end with decorating our cars for Trunk or Treat! It should be an exciting October!

Planning for our youth summer mission trip to Northern Wi is in full swing. Deadline to get signed up is the end of this month! All student's 6th grade and older are able to attend. Check out more information on our website- <https://stpaulfalls.com/mission-trips>

The group headed to the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering continues to prepare for their trip. The adults leading the trip have also gathered and excited to connect with their small groups during this next year.

To follow the latest youth ministry schedule and even get a sneak peek of what the next few months look like, check out our website. <https://stpaulfalls.com/youth-young-adult>



CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY EVENTS

Our Annual Trunk of Treat event is around the corner, and YOU are invited! This is a great event to attend with your family and to invite your neighbors and friends.

We are looking for Trunks for our annual Trunk or Treat event!
If interested in hosting a trunk please see Nicole or sign up through our church website!
Sign up deadline is Oct 20th!




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

Trunk or Treat
***FREE* Community Family Event**

Oct. 27 | 3:00 - 5:00 PM
St. Paul Lutheran Church
730 CTY PPP
Sheboygan Falls Church Parking Lot

LOVE INC.

BONNIE JONES

You are invited to the 7th annual Living Out Love dinner and auction on October 19th from 5:30 to 8:30 PM at Pine Hills Country Club. There will be testimonials, impact statements, a live auction, games, surprises, and raffles including a 50/50 raffle. Don't miss out - attend this uplifting, inspirational and fun-filled event in person!

If you aren't able to attend, please plan to participate in the online auction. Reservations for the dinner and registration for the online auction be done online at loveincsheboygancounty.org
 You can also call 920-783-6701 and press 0.

LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLITES

DEREK BULT, PRINCIPAL

As we continue to dive deeper into the 2024-2025 school year, there is a lot of energy and excitement on campus as we look to soon finish the first quarter of the academic year! Fall sports are in high gear, Homecoming week was packed full of energy, and the student body continues to dive deep into their studies! As we continue to move into the month of October, I am excited to announce an important project that is occurring throughout our school community.

During this school year, Sheboygan Lutheran is going through a significant and meaningful strategic planning process. As we launch into this endeavor, I want to share that our overarching goal is simple: create a vision for Lutheran High that contains measurable goals that will positively impact our school now and in the years to come. Both short- and long-term goals will be created to help guide our school forward as we live out the plans that God has already established for us.

As part of the strategic planning process, we are gathering input from a variety of stakeholders who support Sheboygan Lutheran: board members, faculty and staff, parents, students, congregational delegates, alumni, and donors. Each of the stakeholder groups will be solicited for information in different ways: surveys, focus groups, panel discussions, etc.

The strategic plan will be created by the end of the '24- '25 school year, and our basic timeline will be as follows:

- October 31: All data and input are collected
- December 31: The strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, resources, and threats are identified
- February 28: Measurable goals are created
- March/April: Finalization of the strategic plan
- May: Implementation of the strategic plan

We look forward to the weeks and months that lay before us as we craft a necessary and bold vision for Sheboygan Lutheran High School while continuing to live out our mission statement of Preparing Christian Leaders - One Student at a Time. It will be an exciting endeavor to see how the strategic plan will strengthen and embolden this mission! Vision moves the wheels of the mission!



Get the full publication here **HighLites**

READING THE PRINTED COPY? VISIT -- WWW.LUTHERANHIGH.COM/PUBLICATIONS

CELEBRATE RECOVERY

JULIE JONES, COORDINATOR

We CELEBRATE God's amazing healing and restoration!

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

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

We all have struggles. What do you struggle with?

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

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

Come join us at **Celebrate Recovery!**

Your forever family is waiting!

You are not alone!

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

Entrance #4 – 300 Wing

Dinner: 6:00PM

Large Group: 6:30PM – 7:30PM

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

Fellowship: 8:30PM – 9:00PM

No Sign-Up necessary!

The only requirement is confidentiality!

Everyone is Welcome!

We are waiting for you!

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

THANK YOU & OTHER NEWS

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

A big thank you to Tristan Nitsch for choosing our church for his Eagle Scout Project! He put together a team of workers, fundraised and built the new computer desk in the Fellowship Hall and the Gaga Ball pit outside of Entrance 5. Also thank you to Oostburg Lumber for their donation of supplies.



TRASH 'N' TREASURE: A BIG thank you to everyone involved in making this year's Trash 'N' Treasure Sale a huge success once again. I can't begin to tell you how important each of you are to the day's event. Volunteering your time, talents, and working together with others for a common cause is what this sale is all about. Feeling God's love among the volunteers as we worked together, whether it was unloading donated items, pricing, displaying, cashiering, or cleaning up after the sale, each of you were needed and appreciated. I feel so blessed to have so many old and new friends along side of me. God bless you all and hope to see you at the 37th Trash 'N' Treasure Sale.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The Gathering Place is looking for men and women willing to volunteer. We are open Monday thru Thursday. If you want to share your gifts with our ministry one day a week, we would love to have you! Our day program is filled with fun, laughter, games, crafts, music, and more. Come check it out and help us help those on our waitlist. Give us a call at 920-627-6847 or email ginas@stpaulfalls.com

TRUNK OR TREAT: Annual Trunk or Treat event is taking place Sunday, Oct 27th and we need folks willing to decorate their cars and trunks. We will welcome over 200 people to our parking lot as we SHINE the light of Jesus to them! Cars must be registered by Oct 20th if you would like to participate. If you can't provide a trunk, consider donating a bag of candy.

ENVELOPE FUNDRAISER: A huge thank you to everyone who participated in the youth mission trip envelope fundraiser. We are very blessed to have a congregation that continues to support youth mission trips. Continue to pray as we send out 2 teams this summer on youth trips!

FMSC MOBILEPACK 2024: We're so excited to get packing for our FMSC MobilPack 2024! THANK YOU to all who have supported this mission with time or donations. Please pray for a successful pack – for the food, that it may reach those who so desperately need it. And, pray for the volunteers who pack and those that transport it.

A quick reminder to those who will be volunteering to pack - please arrive at least 10 minutes prior to the start of your pack time. You are encouraged to leave valuables and jewelry at home to keep them, and the food, safe.

LIGHTHOUSE RECOVERY COMMUNITY CENTER: Nominated St. Paul Lutheran Church with their Dose of Hope Champion Award for our support of the recovery community in Sheboygan County. Positive things are happening with this transitional living for those in Sheboygan!

HELPING KIDS SCHOOL DRIVE THANK YOU: Thank you for all the generous donations of school supplies and monetary donations to Helping Kids. Your generous donations have helped so many kids start the school year with a smile on their face and less worried about having what they need to be successful at school. We would not have been able to do that without your help. God has truly blessed our community through your gifts of kindness, your compassion, and your love for others. With heartfelt gratitude, I thank you.

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY FOOD BANK: Thank you for donating 104 pounds of peanut butter for Sheboygan County Food Bank. Together, we are reaching local families, seniors, and children who are facing hunger. This is a 18% increase from 2023.

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

SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

WORSHIP MINISTRY UPDATE: So far the worship service times continuing into Fall have been working. There has been some feedback asking if the Choir could sing during the 9:30 Worship Service as well. At this point the decision was to keep the 8 am service Traditional and the 9:30 Contemporary.

The music ensembles have had a few new members, but we still need more musicians. Thomas has worked with the praise teams on a devotional series, encouraging team members to connect more with congregation members.

We still have livestream issues at times, it is sporadic and difficult to determine the cause. Thomas continues to be involved in various activities with children's ministry, ECC and TGP. He's also created a SWD Worship Director Group to begin collaborating.

CAMP LUTHER FALL MISSION TRIP & THREE LAKES JUNE MISSION TRIP: These trips were approved.

ELDER TEAM UPDATE: The Elder Team reviewed the membership report. They also reviewed the Call process.

SENIOR PASTOR UPDATE: We have had a tremendous amount of hospital visits, hospice, and funerals as of late. Pr Tom is assisting Pr Kyle with these.

The Call Team is established with 7 Pastors willing to go through the process and 4 that would seriously consider a Call. We hope to hold interviews in the next two weeks.

The Apostles' Creed Series has kicked off. There are 9 small groups working through it. We've had 4-6 new people also join small groups. Pr Kyle is currently doing the AWANA closing during Savannah's maternity leave. AIM will be 2 Saturday mornings, there are 20 people already signed up. Feed My Starving Children is ready, with 625 volunteers registered, all slots are full. The Tuesday Morning Pastor Bible Study has begun, with a very large group of around 60 people.

The SWD is seeking nominations for District President and Vice President, which will be voted on at the District Convention in June 2025. The Council will recommend Pr Nathan Meader for President and Pr Bryan Osladil for Vice President.

WALK IN - COMMUNION: The 9:30 Sunday Worship Service is running very long, especially on communion days. It was requested that the Elders discuss potentially switching to continuous communion temporarily during the 9:30 worship service.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report - August 2024

Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

Financial Results- Fiscal Year End Actual, Budget & Variance

	2 Months Ended 8-31-24 Actual	2 Months Ended 8-31-24 Budget	Variance from Budget (Short)/Over
General Offerings	\$ 183,434	\$ 224,494	\$ (41,060)
Other Income	\$ 1,606	\$ 8,700	\$ (7,094)
Mission Offerings	\$ 12,322	\$ 15,667	\$ (3,344)
Total Income	\$ 197,362	\$ 248,860	\$ (51,498)
Operating Expenses	\$ 282,421	\$ 266,055	\$ 16,367
Mission Support	\$ 12,322	\$ 15,667	\$ (3,344)
Total Expense	\$ 270,099	\$ 250,388	\$ 19,711
Suplus (Deficit) Total	\$ (72,737)	\$ (1,528)	\$ (71,209)
Capital Improvement Fund			
	Monthly Activity Increase (Decrease)	Balance at Month End	
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 8,070	\$ 339,126	
Membership Report			
Baptized Members*	402	Confirmed Members	1,705

*Please note, we are no longer reporting Confirmed Members in the Baptized Members Count

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085
Phone: 920-467-6449
Fax: 920-467-4239

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Church Office Hours

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



Pastors

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

Lay Leaders

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

Worship Schedule

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

The Gathering Place & Memory Matters

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

Children & Youth

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

Early Childhood Center 3 year-old Class

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

4K Class

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

Child Care

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

Wee Care Nursery

During Sunday Service, 9:15-10:45



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