



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024



“Anticipation, Anxiety, Resolution”

by Pastor Kyle Backhaus

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and are looking forward to 2024. A New Year brings new opportunities. When people go through something new, when change occurs, there usually is a progression that people go through. That progression typically goes something like this: anticipation, anxiety, and resolution.

First: anticipation. There is always anticipation when we are confronted with something new. Trying a new restaurant brings with it the anticipation of great food. A new car comes with the anticipation of that new car smell and new features. A new job brings the anticipation of new opportunities for income, experiences, and advancement.

As the anticipation begins to wane, next there is usually some anxiety. Anxiety is driven by uncertainty. Typically, people don't do well with uncertainty. What if the New Year is filled with problems and struggles, such as a job loss or death of a loved one? What if that new restaurant serves overpriced, underflavored food? What if the new car turns out to have a bad engine? What if the new job comes with a jerk for a boss, a toxic work environment, or even a layoff? As a person gazes into the future over which we have no control, there are no guarantees, and the devil often allows our mind to swap anticipation for anxiety. This makes new things cause as much dread as it does excitement.

After anticipation gives way to anxiety, we move to resolution. This is why so many use the turning of the calendar as a time to make resolutions. There are commitments to embrace anticipation and minimize anxiety. There are commitments to redouble efforts toward a better end; a desire to take better care of our bodies by losing weight, hitting the gym, eating better. A desire to get our finances in order leads us to cut up the credit cards, get out of debt, put more money in savings or retirement. A desire for strengthening our relationships causes us to engage with family or reconnect with old friends.

But if these things are not done properly, resolution often devolves

Continued on page 2

back into anxiety. This happens when we seek to rely on our own efforts to accomplish what is anticipated and resist what makes us nervous all on our own.

The regular at the gym is no fan of January, because that is when all the resolvers show up and hog the machines. Financial planners often find that March appointments aren't kept because old spending habits die hard. Relationships continue to be broken because we get busy. Resolutions fail not because they were made, but because they were made by sinners.

The beginning of the New Year can be a great time for us as Christians. It is true if we are willing to avoid the traditional appeal to human effort. If the Christian anticipates the New Year by resolving to beat back anxiety by human effort alone, they will fail. However, if we face the anticipation and anxiety of the New Year by being resolved to turn to God, amazing things can happen.

In 1 Peter 4, Peter talks about the fact that we, as God's people, have been called to live a different kind of life. We live differently because we know and understand that God has created us, redeemed us, and continues to

work in and through us. We are called to live in that truth, following God's Word and will for our lives. Peter says that we should use not just our money, but our time, talent, interests, hobbies, and even our bodies, all which have been given to us as a gift, to serve one another. ***"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards (managers) of God's varied grace."***

Starting January 7, we will begin a three-week series on how we are to steward or manage the gifts of God. We have all had managers - whether it be a coach, a boss, a teacher, or a board of directors that we must answer to. Maybe you have had a bad experience in a restaurant and wanted to talk to a manager, the person who was in charge. Hopefully, you have had some good managers - people who were there to encourage, support, and cheer you on as you went about your work. And God has made you and me, no matter our role or position in life, a manager of the gifts that He gives to you and me.

When the church talks about stewardship, it is more than just asking for your support through giving money to fund the work of the church (yes,

Jesus talked about financial resources and so will we). Instead, stewardship is a mindset. We look at life and recognize all the blessings that God has given us, all the roles that we have in life, and ask, *"how can we use all of it to bring God glory and honor?"* Through the series, **"Good Manager"**, we will look at a few of the gifts God gives to us, including money, forgiveness, and community, and ponder how God might be calling us to use these blessings to further His kingdom.

Together, the church of St. Paul has the mission of **"Connecting People to Christ."** We certainly can't fulfill this God-given mission without your prayers, as well as the donation of your time, talents, and your financial resources to make ministry happen at YOUR church and in our community.

Please join us for this sermon series and look for more information coming your way in a future mailing.

God's Blessings,

Pastor Kyle Backhaus

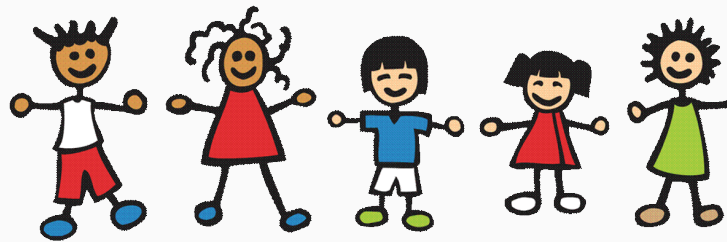


Early Childhood Center

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

Now we have begun a new year that is full of new experiences and opportunities. The children are hoping for snow as we learn about winter. We wish all of you a blessed New Year.

We will celebrate Lutheran Schools Week Jan 21-27. A display of the children's artwork will be in the Gathering Area. An Open House will be held Jan 25 from 6-7 pm to begin enrollment for next year and we will end the week with a Family Event on Sat Jan 27 in the center with activities having an Ocean/Beach theme.



Early Childhood Center (ECC) Enrollment for 2024-2025

Enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year will begin on January 15, 2024. Families that are currently enrolled at the Early Childhood Center (ECC) and all church members are eligible to enroll. There will be an Open House on Thurs Jan 25 from 6:00 - 7:00 pm. At that time, enrollment is open to the public. In the past, the morning sessions fill very quickly.

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

Lutheran High School HighLites Mr. Derek Bult, Principal

Enrollment for the 2024-25 school year is officially underway! We are working hard to grow the next incoming freshman class and there are many opportunities to learn about what Sheboygan Lutheran has to offer:

- **Open House** – January 25 from 5 - 7 pm
- **Educational Consultations** – January 14 & February 11 & 25 – private tours, register at lutheranhigh.com/visit
- **Shadow Days** – Tuesdays & Thursdays – shadow a student, call 920-452-3323 to make arrangements
- **Citrus Sales** to benefit the LHS Music Department is taking place. Order at lutheranhigh.com by Jan 31.

Sunday School

Well done to all the Sunday School children who participated in the Christmas Program. They did such a nice job singing. This month we have many great lessons planned out for Sunday School. Our 3K-3rd Graders will be going through different stories in the New Testament where Jesus surprises us with his miracles and wisdom. Our 4th and 5th Grade classes will be learning about Joseph and how the Lord was with him every step of the way. On Jan 21 we will be celebrating Friendship Sunday. We invite everyone to bring a friend to join us for worship.



AWANA

We return to AWANA on Jan 10 after the Christmas break. This month we continue to learn about the Ten Commandments. Our themes this month are school apparel, bring a friend, and pajama night. On Jan 24 we will have our second AWANA Store of the year. This month, we will also be collecting items for our AWANA Store. Please see the graphic for items we are looking for.

Children, Youth, & Family Event

Come and join us for **Roller Skating on Sun Jan 14 6-7:30 at PJs Party Zone.** Cost is only \$1. We hope that you and your friends and family can join us.



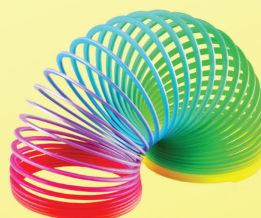
Mark your calendar for our upcoming events.

Feb 4 12:00 - 2:00 – Swimming at Falls Aquatic Center

March 10 3:00 - 5:00 – Bricktacular Event at Church



- Blankets (**NO** stuffed animals)
- Sports sets
- Water Bottles
- Bluetooth Speakers
- Tech accessories
- Gift Cards (\$5 value)



AWANA Store Donation

Collecting **January**
Giving Center by
Fellowship Hall

- Pop Its (dimple toys, etc)
- Barbies
- Accessories (Headbands, earrings, etc.)
- Craft Kits
- Science Kits
- DIY Projects

Blanket Making and Christmas Parties

Blanket making and Christmas parties were the focus for our Confirmation students for their final class period before Christmas break. Many, many beautiful blankets were made for Project Linus: a great way for students to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Students are reminded to sign up to serve for the last 2 quarters online for Acolyting, Altar Guild and Ushering. Classes resume on Jan 10, see you then!

Youth Group

Youth Group on Sunday nights was festive during the month of December. We had an awesome hide and seek night, a very creative Gingerbread house competition, and an action-packed Ugly Sweater Christmas Party. It is fun to celebrate the season with friends! During the month of January, we look forward to bingo, roller skating, game night, and v-ball. Photos from all of our events can be found on our website – check them out!

Visit our website for the latest schedule.

<https://www.stpaulfalls.com/youth-young-adult-ministry>



Youth Mission Team

The Youth Mission Team served Sheboygan County on Dec 16.

- Made cookies for our local middle school and High school teachers.
- Prepared a meal for the Salvation Army homeless shelter. Sorted and stocked items at the Sheboygan Food bank.
- Purchased items for Mary's Room and made a few blankets for Children's Hospital. It was a full days worth of work but went quickly with this awesome group of youth and adults!



**St. Paul Youth Summer Mission Team
Served Sheboygan County!**



Young Adults

St. Paul Young Adults (18-24 year olds)

continue to meet monthly. Those home from college will gather on Jan 3 and then we have our regular monthly get-together on Jan 15. In November we had a great Friendsgiving event. There is a special Christmas party for those that are home for the holidays on Wed Jan 3 6 pm at Nicole's house. Come for an evening of food, games, and many laughs. Can't wait to see you there!

Children, Youth and Family events

Children, youth and family events continue to be a great opportunity for fellowship

with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We had a great time bowling and had over 50 people in attendance. We

encourage families to continue to support and show love to our greater church family. See you at our next event: Roller skating on Jan 14!



Hey St. Paul Youth

We are headed to Concordia University WI in February for a men's basketball game! Sign-up deadline is Jan 17, cost is only \$5! See permission slips and sign up in the back of church.

Join us for CUW Men's basketball game, devotion, faith, & more!

Feb 3

11:15AM - 5PM

Faith at the CORE Sports Event

at  CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY WISCONSIN

Night to Shine Information!

Night to Shine is already next month!

February 9 is quickly approaching and we are getting excited for our prom night experience! Registration is now open! To make this an unforgettable experience, we are looking for 200+ volunteers to make our guests feel loved and remind them they are loved by God. If you are not interested in registering to volunteer, you are welcome to come watch the crowning of our Kings and Queens in the worship center as part of the "Here to Cheer" team.

NIGHT *to Shine*
SPONSORED BY THE **TIM TEBOW**
FOUNDATION™



You Are Invited!

February 9, 2024
6 - 9 PM

**Join us for a prom night
experience that you will never
forget!**

**Walk the red carpet, enjoy the
royal treatment, and dance the
night away!**

**For Information on attending, volunteering, visit us:
sheboygancounty.nighttoshine.com**

**For Persons with special needs 14+
(Physical, emotional, and/or cognitive needs)**



PROUDLY HOSTED BY



Supported by:



Salem United Church of Christ
217 Salem Dr. Plymouth, WI



Trivia Night is Back!

If you are interested in supporting Night to Shine, we are having a trivia fundraiser Jan 20 at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. It will be general trivia and costs \$60 per team with up to six people per team. There will also be a tater tot bar with a goodwill offering beginning at 5pm. Use this QR code to register! Or call Katrina Martin at 920-912-3316.

As always, prayers and monetary donations are much appreciated. Can't wait to see you there!



November 27, 2023 Church Council Meeting Minutes

Early Childhood Center Update: Christina Zeuner submitted a written report. Preschool and 4K enrollment is slightly down from last year. Childcare continues to be in high demand, with a waiting list. We are currently balancing childcare enrollment carefully with staffing. Summer childcare is projected to be full, likely requiring 2 teachers at all times.

2024-25 ECC Tuition Rates: 4K tuition will be increased to \$170/month. Preschool will not change. Childcare will be increased to \$5.50/hour beginning January 2025.

Updated Policy #26 – Communion Assistant Dress Code: The Council updated this policy to allow for jeans for regular Thursday evening worship.

Policy #64 – Mission Donation Allocation: This has been an unwritten policy for ten plus years, with mission donations being split, 80% going to the district and 20% to Home Missions as set annually by the Council. This policy allows the Council to adjust the percentage annually as needed. For the 2024 fiscal year, this amount will be 60% to district and 40% to Home Missions.

Love Inc Refugee Resettlement: Earlier this year the Council discussed Love Inc's request for support of their potential Refugee Resettlement project. At the time, the

Council decided to not move forward with support, requesting more detailed information, including the long term sustainability plan. Love Inc has decided to move forward with this project and has now sent out a pledge form. Discussion was held. The Church Council will not be moving forward with support of this project unless more detailed information is made available. They will continue to support Love Inc as a whole, as we have in the past, funds just will not be directed towards this particular project.

Elder Team Update: Discussion was held regarding potential policy changes in regards to Church Council elections and reporting structure, which the Elder Team supports. The team also discussed worship attendance and membership. Rick Zeuner will be leading a 3 week study on the miracles of Jesus from the Jewish perspective this spring, which will be combined with another small group push. We plan to do the same in Fall with the Apostles Creed.

Senior Pastor Report: Pr Kyle suggested some policy changes in regards to Church Council elections and reporting structure. Discussion was held. Further discussion will take place at the January meeting.

Book Study: Pr Kyle continued to lead the Council through their book study.

The Gathering Place November Giving Update

**NOVEMBER
GIVING
CAMPAIGN**

We wanted to thank everyone that donated to our November Giving Fundraiser. Though we fell short of our goal, we are still very grateful for the donations we received. We also appreciate the donations that come in throughout the year through Thrivent Choice Dollars, church envelopes, memorials and other donations that help us to continue to provide the best care possible at The Gathering Place. Thank you for your continued prayers to bless our program throughout the New Year.

Thank You and Other News

Thank You

The Guatemala mission team would like to thank St Paul Lutheran Church for again supporting our mission. Our fundraiser at Falls Café was a wonderful success. The owners of Falls Café were so impressed with how many members of St Paul came out to support our fundraiser. Thank you!

Ladies Auxiliary Thank You

We send a huge thank you to all the wonderful and generous bakers of our congregation for your donations to our Annual Cookie Walk. Without all of you, we would not be able to accomplish this and support numerous missions throughout our church and abroad!

St. Paul's Friends Club

St. Paul's Friends Club is proud to announce our 2023/24 donations. These donations were possible from the 2023 Trash 'N' Treasure Rummage Sale:



Student Bibles, Adornment, Christmas Blessings, Early Childhood Center, The Gathering Place, Quilters, Love Inc, Falls Food Pantry, Helping Kids, Salvation Army, Anchor of Hope and Sheboygan Falls Christmas Tree Lighting Contest.

Thank you for your support of the TNT sale all these years!

Lorrie Wilson, President

Candle Glow Thank You

Thank you everyone who came to the Candle Glow. A special thank you to the hostesses, readers, Bill Born, and our guest speakers. Thank you for your donations to the Falls Food Pantry. We wish you all a blessed Christmas!



Roseann and Beth

Food Pantry Thank You

We would like to thank everyone for their generous monetary & food donations this past year. Thank you also for the Easter Bags & Christmas Stockings, which are always well received by our clients and bring a smile to their faces.

Thank you again,

The Volunteers of the Sheboygan Falls Food Pantry



Thank you

A BIG thank you to all that donated hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, etc. to our very nice collection for the vets. And a BIG thank you to Dave DePagter for delivering the items!! Thank you all!



Christmas Blessings Thank You

The Christmas Blessings Team would like to thank all of you that supported the Christmas Blessings Ministry. This ministry Connects People to Christ by not only providing Christmas Gifts but also devotional materials to individuals in financial need. We are pleased to report that we helped 286 individuals through the following programs: The Salvation Army, Pine Haven, Sunny Ridge, Foster Kids, Church Members, Safe Harbor and the Hispanic Ministry. We had 40 plus volunteers assist with this ministry, along with many who helped financially and through prayer. Thank you!

St. Paul Seniors

Fri Feb 9 at 12:00 PM

Holidays Pub & Grill
County Y & Superior

We meet on the second Friday for lunch at noon followed by a few rounds of Bingo - please bring a small Bingo prize. If attending, please call Luaine by Feb 2 at 803-6554 to reserve a spot!

Love Inc – Sew Caring Gap Ministry

This ministry provides clothing protectors to Sheboygan County nursing home residents. These clothing protectors serve as a dignified way to allow nursing home residents to eat independently and ensure their clothes remain clean. This ministry has also engaged in other sewing needs to fill gaps within our ministries. Volunteers enjoy sewing at home and together, having a heart for helping others. They are in need of new standard size light weight bath towels. These can be placed in the Love INC tote located in the giving area of church. They could also use monetary donations to purchase other supplies. If you are able to sew these at home or are willing to drop the clothing protectors off at area nursing homes, please contact Love INC at 920-783-6701.



Financial Report - November 2023

Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Financial Results- 5 Months Year to Date Actual, Budget & Variance

	5 Months Ended 11-30-23 Actual	5 Months Ended 11-30-23 Budget	Variance from Budget (Short)/Over
General Offerings	\$ 496,596	\$ 562,571	\$ (65,975)
Other Income	\$ 16,123	\$ 13,100	\$ 3,023
Mission Offerings	\$ 38,651	\$ 35,737	\$ 2,915
Total Income	\$ 551,371	\$ 611,408	\$ (60,037)
Operating Expenses	\$ 554,622	\$ 572,024	\$ (17,402)
Mission Support	\$ 38,651	\$ 35,737	\$ 2,915
Total Expense	\$ 593,273	\$ 607,760	\$ (14,487)
Suplus (Deficit) Total	\$ (41,902)	\$ 3,647	\$ (45,550)

Capital Improvement Fund

	Monthly Activity Increase (Decrease)	Balance at Month End
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 7,123	\$ 237,571

Membership Report

Baptized Members	2,036	Confirmed Members	1,735
------------------	-------	-------------------	-------



If you've lost a spouse, child, family member or friend, you've probably found that there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. GriefShare is a support group for people who are grieving the loss of a loved one. This group is sponsored by people who understand what you are experiencing and want to offer you comfort and encouragement during this difficult time.

You can begin attending the GriefShare group at any session during the 14-week cycle. GriefShare is a non-denominational group and features biblical teaching on grief and recovery topics. Please join us for the next GriefShare session. We know it hurts, and we want to help!

Attend a Meeting:

**Tuesdays from 6:00 - 8:00 pm
beginning January 30 in Room 103**

Each session includes a video seminar and group discussion. A GriefShare workbook assists you with note-taking, journaling and grief study. This program is designed to help you heal and to move from mourning to joy.

If you have questions, contact Pr. Tom Gudmundson at griefshare@stpaulfalls.com.

Celebrate Recovery® A CHRIST-CENTERED 12 Step program

We CELEBRATE God's amazing healing and restoration!

**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.

Principle 1

Realize I'm not God. I admit that I am powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and that my life is unmanageable.

"Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor." (Matthew 5:3)

Step 1

We admitted we were powerless over our addictions and compulsive behaviors, that our lives had become unmanageable.

"I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature.

For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out." (Romans 7:18)

Denial and powerlessness – two words that can be the most difficult to face, yet it can be the place where healing and freedom begin.

No one ever wants to admit that there are hurts in their lives and that they are powerless to fix it. Yet, once you let go of control and lay down your pride God has room to come in and begin His healing work in your life, through Jesus Christ!

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!
All are welcome! We are waiting for you!**

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

St. Paul Lutheran Church
730 County Road PPP
Sheboygan Falls WI 53085



NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SHEBOYGAN FALLS, WI
PERMIT NO. 28

TO:

IN THIS ISSUE	
Children’s Ministry.....	4
Celebrate Recovery	10
CC Meeting Minutes.....	7
Early Childhood Center News.....	3
Financial Report	9
Grief Share	10
Love Inc.	9
Lutheran High School HighLites...	3
Night to Shine 2024	6
November Giving Update	7
Pastor Kyle Letter.....	1
Thank Yous and Other Notes	8
Youth Ministry News.....	5

Pastors

Kyle Backhaus, Senior Pastor
Robert Schrader, Associate Pastor
Tom Gudmundson, Pastor Emeritus
Donald Hasse, Pastor Emeritus

Lay Leaders

(Contact Church Office for contact information)
Tom Splittgerber,
Congregation President
Jeff Berg, Congregation Vice President
John Rische, Head Elder
Donna Felch, Treasurer

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Fridays: Closed

Church Phone: 920-467-6449
Church Fax: 920-467-4239
ECC Phone: 920-467-6733
The Gathering Place: 920-627-6847
Website: www.stpaulfalls.com

Worship Schedule

Thursday:
6:30 PM Informal
Sunday:
7:45 AM Traditional (*Hymns*)
9:15 AM Blended (*Hymns & Praise Band*)
10:45 AM Contemporary (*Praise Band*)

Wee Care Nursery

Staffed Sunday from 9:15 - 11:45 AM

Children & Youth

(all below during the school year)
Sunday School: 9:15 AM service
AWANA Wed Night: 6:00 PM
Confirmation Wed Night: 6:00 PM
Youth Group Sunday Night: 5:30 PM

Early Childhood Center

3 year-old class *(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

The Gathering Place & Memory Matters

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