

# **NEWSLETTER**

**JULY 2025** 



# "LOOKING BACK, SITTING IN THE PRESENT, AND EXCITED FOR THE FUTURE!"

#### **Looking Back**

July 2025 holds a special place in my heart as I celebrate 25 years in ministry! Looking back, it's hard to fully express the impact of all the people who have walked through my life over these years. I've been blessed to walk alongside families during the loss of loved ones. I've cheered on youth at countless sporting events. I've witnessed hundreds of baptisms as God's love and grace were poured out. I've

attended nine National Youth Gatherings and currently serve as our district coordinator.

The greatest joy for me in ministry is journeying with families through life's highs and lows—and connecting them back to Christ, who is always there holding them up. One verse I often reflect on is Proverbs 3:5: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding." So many things in this broken world don't make sense—but we can place our hope and trust in the Lord.

I love being in relationship with people and helping others grow in their relationship with Christ. Serving in ministry alongside various pastors, directors, boards, and teams has been a true highlight. Each one has shaped my approach to ministry. The body of Christ is a beautiful and amazing thing. As Romans 12:5-6 says, "In Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us." May God continue to bless His faithful servants as they serve.

#### Sitting in the Present

I could not be where I am today without the help and support of my family. Ministry isn't a 9-to-5 job. Holidays and weekends are often filled with events, and my family understands that. My mom has cared for my son, Adam, during overnight retreats and ministry responsibilities—something I'm deeply grateful for.

I've always held on to the truth that everything is a season. As Ecclesiastes 3 reminds us, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." Some seasons are longer than others, but through it all, God is faithful.

I've just returned from a youth mission trip. Every trip humbles me, teaches me, and helps me grow. We served wholeheartedly and shared God's love with everyone we encountered. Mission trips are a powerful opportunity for youth to grow—not only in faith, but in life skills. I love watching them learn something new, whether it's using a table saw or talking with a resident in a nursing home. As Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." The memories made on these trips will last a lifetime.

#### **Excited for the Future**

I'm a planner at heart, and I love looking toward the future! I see God's hand at work in so many fun and exciting ways here at St. Paul. We are blessed with an amazing leadership team that works well together and shares a unified vision.

As we look ahead, may God continue to open doors for us to share Christ with others. May we always seek opportunities to help our neighbors in need—and to be the hands, feet, and voice of Christ in this world.

# NICOLE DOLLEVOET DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY



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# **EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER**

# CHRISTINA ZEUNER, DIRECTOR PRESCHOOL@STPAULFALLS.COM

The school year ended on May 21st with twelve children graduating from our 4K class. Since then, the Preschool and 4K teachers have thoroughly cleaned the toys and classroom and developed the curriculum for the upcoming year. Child Care continues through the summer. To take advantage of the summer weather, many activities and learning centers are held outside whenever possible.

We are currently collecting the following items: used ink and HP toner cartridges, as well as old cell phones. These donations help provide extra funds for supplies and other necessities for our program. Items can be dropped off in the Early Childhood Center bin located in the Donation Area.

Applications are still being accepted for the 2025–2026 school year for both morning and afternoon Preschool classes. Child Care has limited openings for the remainder of the summer and into the fall. Call 467-6733 or email <a href="mailto:preschool@stpaulfalls.com">preschool@stpaulfalls.com</a> for more information or to enroll.











# CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

# SAVANNAH HENN, DIRECTOR SAVANNAHH@STPAULFALLS.COM

#### Children's Messages

During the summer months, Children's Messages will be shared at our 9:30 AM services on the first, third, and fifth Sundays. We invite you and your family to join us for this service, which includes an age-appropriate message just for kids.

#### **Vacation Bible School**

Vacation Bible School is happening this month! We are so blessed to have volunteers and children ready to dig into God's Word this summer. Over 70 children are registered for VBS! Please pray for all those participating, that it may be a blessing to our congregation and community. A special thank-you to everyone who helped by purchasing items from our donation board—these supplies will help us run a great VBS. Photos from the event will be available on our website afterward.

#### **AWANA / Sunday School**

Registration for AWANA and Sunday School opens on July 30th. We are excited to begin the 2025–2026 school year! You can register your child at <a href="mailto:stpaulfalls.com">stpaulfalls.com</a> under the Children's Ministry tab. Please reach out to Savannah with any questions.

### **Children's Ministry Volunteers Needed!**

Children's Ministry is looking for willing volunteers to assist with AWANA or Sunday School. These programs run from September through May. Anyone in 9th grade or older is welcome to help with these impactful ministries. If interested, please contact Savannah Henn.

#### **Upcoming Family Event**

Join us on Sunday, July 13, from 1:00–3:00 PM at the Plymouth Pool! You can pay at the door. Please remember that the church swimsuit policy will be in effect.









## YOUTH MINISTRY

# NICOLE DOLLEVOET, DIRECTOR NICOLED@STPAULFALLS.COM

#### **Confirmation Reminders**

6th and 7th grade students can continue submitting worship service forms throughout the summer. You have until August 31st to complete and submit twenty-six worship services.

As we prepare for the fall, please keep all Confirmation mentors and helpers in your prayers as plans

are being made.



#### **Summer Youth & Young Adult Ministry**

Our Summer Youth & Young Adult Group is off and running! Summer can be a busy time, and we're excited to stay connected as the season unfolds. We had a wonderful Grad Sunday—what a joy to celebrate the accomplishments of our church family. We look forward to seeing you at our CYF swimming event on July 13th!







#### Youth Mission Trip Recap

Our youth recently served at Grace Lutheran Church in Three Lakes, WI, where they:

- · Removed brush and trees
- Deep cleaned the church and worship areas
- Repaired a boardwalk at Camp Luther
- · Hauled dirt and rock around a new camp building for drainage and landscaping
- · Cleaned six buildings at the Three Lakes Historical Society
- Deep cleaned the Veterans Resource Center in Eagle River
- · Built 15 beds for children in Northern Wisconsin

Our group received many compliments for their hard work, positive attitudes, and willingness to serve—rain or shine. Great job, team! Photos from the trip are available on our church website.





#### **Youth Gathering Team**

We have an incredible group of 34 students and leaders preparing for the LCMS Youth Gathering! Please keep them in your prayers as they embark on this 9-day journey. They're thrilled to join with 18,000 Lutheran youth and adults from around the world in worship, learning, and fellowship.

## **Confirmation Mentors & High School Helpers Needed**

Want to be part of this year's Confirmation ministry? We are looking for Confirmation mentors and high school helpers to support and guide our youth.

If you're interested, please contact Nicole at <u>nicoled@stpaulfalls.com</u>.

This is a great opportunity to impact the lives of young people and walk alongside them in their faith formation!







# **LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLITES**

#### MATTHEW TSCHUDY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

School's out for summer! As our Crusader families, faculty, and staff enjoy the many blessings of summer break, we are still hard at work getting ready for the upcoming school year. Even though our students are gone for the summer, our campus is filled with activity! We are blessed to have over 580 Crusader summer campers from grades K-12 registered, a new patio will be poured to replace our deck outside the Commons, and a beautiful floor will be installed in the Commons to brighten up where the students eat lunch.

Perhaps what is most exciting is that over the past school year, we worked extremely hard to develop our strategic plan and craft a bold vision for the future of Sheboygan Lutheran High. After many months of collecting data, analyzing the results, identifying our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, resources, and threats, we developed a strategic plan that is titled, **Bold in Faith. United in Purpose.** Now that the plan is complete, we are actively putting it into action...with much of the work already taking place this summer!

Our strategic plan incorporates seven bold objectives:

- 1. Strengthen Our Mission
- 2. Enrich the Academic Opportunities
- 3. Grow Enrollment
- 4. Create A Crusader Ambassador Network
- 5. Sharpen the Faculty
- 6. Promote & Inspire Student Culture
- 7. Enhance the Facilities & Finances

The future of Sheboygan Lutheran shines brighter than ever as we launch a variety of initiatives to bring our strategic plan to life. United in our mission of Preparing Christian Leaders — One Student at a Time, we move forward **Bold in Faith. United in Purpose.** Most importantly, we remain committed to keeping lesus at the center of all we do, continually seeking ways to grow His Kingdom. As Scripture reminds us:

"Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established." Proverbs 16:3

With Christ and His Word as our unwavering guide, we look ahead with confidence. The road before us is filled with opportunity, and we are excited for all that lies ahead as we seek to glorify God in every endeavor.

Have a blessed and relaxing summer, Crusaders. See you all in August!



# LCMS HISPANIC MINISTRY

**REV. DAVID BLAS** 

# OPERATION BACKPACK SCHOOL YEAR

2025-2026



The Hispanic Outreach Ministry is collecting back packs and school supplies for families in need. We are asking for your family to support this project by purchasing backpacks and school supplies.

Please bring the school supplies by July 6th to Good Shepherd, 1614 S 23rd St Sheboygan WI 53081.

You can also send a check donation with a memo to:

Operation Backpack, to Sheboygan County Hispanic Outreach 730 County Rd PPP, Sheboygan Falls Wisconsin 53085 The distribution day is August 2<sup>nd</sup> 12-2 pm at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

If you know a family who may benefit from this event, please share the information with them. For further information, please contact Rev David Blas 630-229-2455. Thank you

## School Supplies Needed

One inch 3 Ring Binder

Two inch 3 Ring Binder

Black Dry Erase Markers Backpacks Pens Coloring Books Glue sticks and Bottled Glue Erasers **Pocket Folders** Box Watercolor Paints W<sub>ashable</sub> M<sub>arkers</sub> Highlighters Packages of Lined Index Cards Colored Pencils Spiral Wide-ruled Notebooks Rulers Wide Lined Composition Notebooks Scissors Pencils & Pencil box (8 1/2x5 1/2) Crayons and Crayon Box **OUR GOAL - OPERATION BACKPACK IS A GREAT** OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE TO OUR COMMUNITY AND HELP THE FAMILIES IN NEED.

# FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

#### Support the 2025 Feed My Starving Children MobilePack

We're preparing for the twelfth annual Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) MobilePack and couldn't be more excited. Mark your calendar for October 9-11 to help pack meals —148,000 meals, to be exact! FMSC has provided life-saving meals to over 100 countries worldwide since 2009 and depends on organizations like ours to continue that mission.

We'll be opening up registration in August. Stay tuned! Pack times that we'll be looking for help with include:

- Thursday, Oct 9 5:30 7:30 p.m.
- · Friday, Oct 10 6:00 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, Oct 11 8:00 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.

We'll also need help setting up and cleaning up. Questions? Contact, Shelly Johnson

## **CELEBRATE RECOVERY**

#### JULIE JONES, MINISTRY LEADER

Everyone has issues and struggles in life.

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.

## At Celebrate Recovery we CELEBRATE God's amazing healing and restoration!

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: 6:30 – 7:30PM

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

Fellowship: 8:30 - 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

# **LOVE INC**

#### **BONNIE JONES, MINISTRY LEADER**



# **THANK YOUS & OTHER NEWS**

#### 8:00 & 11:00 am Greeters Needed!

Do you usually attend the 8:00 or 11:00 service on Sundays in the fall? Can you share a "Hello" and a smile every few weeks? If so, please contact Karri in the Church Office to be added to the next Greeter Schedule!

**VBS Thank You:** Thank you to all who donated to VBS through our Wishlist and donation tags. We appreciate your generosity.

**Prayer Chain:** Both Sharon Ogea and Jim Ottman would like to thank the Congregation for all the cards, prayers, and well wishes while they were each recovering from ailments. It is though your support that makes hard times that much easier.

Ride for a Cause: Join The Salvation Army's Salvation Ride on Saturday, July 12—a family-friendly cycling event with route options for all ages and abilities (10, 25, 50, 75, and 100 miles). The ride starts and ends at King Park in Sheboygan, and all cyclists are treated to a delicious broasted chicken meal from Pizza Ranch upon their return. Form a team with others from our church—no need to ride the same distance—and support a great cause. All proceeds benefit The Salvation Army's 45-bed homeless shelter right here in Sheboygan.

# JUNE CONGREGATION MEETING MINUTES

#### May 2025 Treasurer's Report

Stefanie Trakel presented the financial reports. Eleven months into the fiscal year, we are operating at a deficit of \$51,436. Earlier this year, giving to the general operating budget had fallen below 2024 levels. In response, notices were included in the Weekly News, and a letter was sent to all members in early May outlining the concern.

Since then, we've seen an increase in giving, thanks to the faithful support of our members. As of the end of May, giving remains below budget, but it is now ahead of last year's pace. Expenses continue to be well-controlled and under budget. Dedicated accounts were reviewed and remain strong. As a reminder, dedicated accounts are earmarked for specific purposes and cannot be used to fund general operating expenses.

## 2025-2026 Budget:

Stefanie Trakel also presented the proposed budget for 2025–2026, which was approved by the Congregation. We anticipate ending the fiscal year with a deficit of \$36,471. This shortfall will be covered by the Ministry Development Dedicated Account, which was established in prior years using surplus funds and is reserved for deficit years like this one.

The upcoming budget reflects a 12.2% increase over the current fiscal year—amounting to \$151,284. Nearly one-quarter of this increase addresses the current year's shortfall. The remaining \$114,813 in new expenses is primarily attributed to:

- · Increased wages
- · Increased benefit costs (set by Concordia Plan Services)
- · Loss of the State COVID Grant for the Early Childhood Center
- · Full-year salary for the Pastor (following a 6-month vacancy)

• Full-year compensation for the Children's Director, who was on maternity leave and previously paid through disability. The Children's Director is also expected to graduate soon, at which point the congregation will formally extend a Call—as approved more than a year ago.

#### **Ongoing Communication:**

The Council held discussion and will continue to emphasize the importance of members maintaining—or increasing—their giving, especially in light of recent improvements. Additionally, the Ministry Development Fund previously loaned \$195,000 to the Columbarium Fund. Once the columbarium units are sold, the loan will be repaid—restoring the Ministry Development Fund to approximately \$500,000.

#### 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan:

The Capital Improvement Plan was also shared. While not part of the annual budget, this account supports major facility expenses. One item on the plan is parking lot maintenance, scheduled for Spring 2027, per a recommendation from Northeast Asphalt. Depending on final costs, this may be funded as an operating expense.

#### **Worship Center Condenser Replacement:**

The Worship Center Condenser has shown signs of damage for more than eight years, though it continues to function. The cost of replacement has increased by nearly 50% since it was last quoted 18 months ago. Given the rising costs, the Council believes we should not delay further.

Three bids were obtained, and Schaus Mechanical (Manitowoc)—a well-regarded commercial contractor—was selected. The project is expected to take place this fall. The Congregation approved the \$70,000 project, which will be paid from the Capital Improvement Fund.

#### **Congregational Concerns:**

Best of Sheboygan County: The Early Childhood Center was nominated for Best of Sheboygan County! We are pleased to share that, following the voting period, we are in the top 3 finalists. The winner will be announced in the Sheboygan Press in late July. Congratulations to our dedicated staff!

# FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report - May 2025  Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025  Financial Results- Fiscal Year End Actual, Budget & Variance										
General Offerings	\$	1,145,883	\$	1,234,715		\$	(88,833)			
Other Income	\$	44,224	\$	47,850		\$	(3,626)			
Mission Offerings	\$	75,001	\$	86,167		\$	(11,166)			
Total Income	\$	1,265,107	\$	1,368,732	_	\$	(103,625)			
Operating Expenses	\$	1,241,543	\$	1,281,981		\$	(40,439)			
Mission Support	\$	75,001	\$	86,167		\$	(11,166)			
Total Expense	\$	1,316,543	\$	1,368,148	_	\$	(51,604)			
Suplus (Deficit) Total	\$	(51,436)	\$	584		\$	(52,020)			

Ca	Capital Impro W Incre		Balance at Month End	
Capital Improvement Fund	\$	5,169	\$ 345,994	
Membership Report				
Baptized Members	346	Confirmed Members	1,504	Total Members





THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



# Seeking: Choir Accompanist

St. Paul Lutheran

Sheboygan Falls

# **CONTACT:**

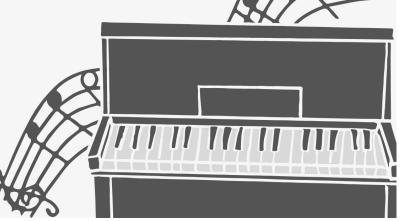
Thomas, Dir. of Worship

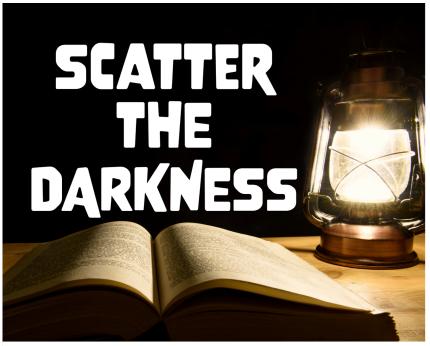
920-467-6449



- Play 1st & 2nd Sundays

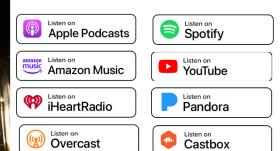
- Paid position





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#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

Pr Hasse – 60 year ordination anniversary Christina – 40 year call anniversary Nicole – 25 year call anniversary Pr Adam – 5 year call anniversary



#### ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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SHEBOYGAN FALLS, WI
PERMIT NO. 28

#### **Church Office Hours**

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

Friday: Closed

Website: <u>www.stpaulfalls.com</u>



#### **Pastors**

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

#### Worship Schedule

Thusday: 6:30 PM Sunday: 8:00 AM & 9:30 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, 9:15-10:45 AM







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