



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025



A THRILL OF HOPE

PASTOR KYLE BACKHAUS

We all have our favorite Christmas carols. Perhaps your favorite is Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas," which last I heard earns her more than 1 million dollars each Christmas. Or, perhaps you treasure "Silent Night," which has been performed by countless artists over the last two hundred years. "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," "O Come All Ye Faithful," "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," "O Little Town of Bethlehem": all of these Christmas carols are beautiful and can remind

us what we celebrate at Christmas.

In 1847, in a small village in southern France, a church had just refurbished their pipe organ. The priest wanted to celebrate and asked the town poet to write some special poetry for Christmas Eve when the new organ was to be revealed. The priest took the poet's words and went and found a composer to put the poem into music. Finally, on Christmas Eve, he hired an opera singer to share not only

the restored pipe organ but the hymn "O Holy Night."

The song never really caught on, until a number of years later, a man by the name of John Sullivan Dwight got a hold of the song and had it translated into English. He published it in his own journal of music. The song was first sung in English in 1855 and remains a prominent Christmas hymn to this very day: "O holy night, the stars are brightly shining; it is the night of the dear Savior's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till He appeared and the

soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn! Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born! O night divine! O night, O night divine!"

"O Holy Night" is another beautiful Christmas carol that helps us reflect on the birth of Jesus and on the story of humanity's redemption. This Advent season, we will begin a sermon series called "A Thrill of Hope," where we will use the text "O Holy Night" to help us understand and prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus. Each week, we will use one of the verses of this beloved hymn as a launch point to teach about who Jesus is and what He has come to accomplish by coming into this world. We hope you will join us as we examine this beloved carol and prepare our hearts to celebrate God's great gift of love - the birth of our Savior - throughout the season of Advent.

PASTOR KYLE BACKHAUS
SENIOR PASTOR



IN THIS ISSUE

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE AND INFORMATION	3
THE RED LETTER CHALLENGE	4
EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER	5
CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY	6
YOUTH MINISTRY AT ST. PAUL	7
THE GATHERING PLACE	8
NEW MEMBERSHIP NEWS	9
STAFF ANNIVERSARIES	9
OTHER NEWS & THANK YOUS	10-11
FINANCIAL REPORT	12
LOVE INC	12
CELEBRATE RECOVERY	13
LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS	14
LCMS HISPANIC MINISTRY	15

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE AND INFORMATION

Thursday, December 18 - "Stories & Songs of Christmas" 6:30 PM

A special service with Scripture, hymns, and music offerings to help us prepare for celebrating Christ's birth!

Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

1:00 PM Contemporary

3:00 PM Contemporary - Children's Message & Livestreamed

5:00 PM Traditional - Children's Message & Livestreamed

7:00 PM Traditional

The Nursery will not be staffed on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. It will be open for use, but you will need to stay with your children.

Thursday, December 25 - Christmas Day

9:00 AM Traditional, Livestreamed

No Informal Worship at 6:30 PM

Sunday, December 28 - Regular Sunday Worship Schedule

Thursday, January 1 - No Informal Worship at 6:30 PM

Church Office Closed - December 24, 25 & January 1 - all day

December 31 - closing at noon

Happy Birthday
JESUS!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025

10:00 - 12:00 PM

JOIN US FOR A BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS!

COOKIE DECORATING 🍪 FESTIVE CRAFTS

INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORIES 📖 MUSIC & CELEBRATION

REGISTER
HERE:



THE RED LETTER CHALLENGE

Members of St. Paul Lutheran Church,

Time flies. Five years ago, the staff planned to lead the congregation in a book study for Lent. We made it two weeks into the book and the activities we had planned, and then we were forced to close our doors due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is now November 2025. Before we know it, the Christmas celebration will be over and Ash Wednesday on February 18, 2026, will move us into the season of Lent, which precedes Easter.

We have normally done a special Lenten Midweek sermon series, and while we have yet to determine what that will be this year, I am excited that we are going to be bringing back the Red Letter Challenge for regularly scheduled services. Lent is a great time to reflect on our lives as God's people, and this book and study should help us do just that.

This year, during regular Thursday and Sunday services, we will be preaching on topics from Red Letter Challenge. In some Bibles, the words of Jesus are written in red to help us focus on the words and instructions of Jesus. That is exactly what the Red Letter Challenge does. Jesus says in Matthew 7, "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on rock." When life batters us around and we encounter difficulties and trials, we need a strong foundation: the words of Jesus.

If you still have your book from 5 years ago, now is the time to find it and dust it off. If you don't have a book, we want to encourage you to pick up a copy of the book, Red Letter Challenge by Zach Zehnder, and join us as we embark on the journey of following the instructions Jesus gave us. Each week will cover one of five categories: Being, Forgiving, Serving, Giving, and Going. Each day contains a devotion and then a practical guide to put the words of Jesus into action in our lives. These challenges are meant to push us out of our comfort zones, help us grow as individuals and as a church, as we live out the word of God together. The church staff has already gone through the book and are excited about what this could mean for our church!



If you are ready to join in the Challenge, great! Bring your book and we will begin our sermon series on February 15, where we will help explain how the series will work. If you don't have a book, there will be envelopes at the Ministry House in the Gathering Area where you can order a book. Each book is \$10. For families, we are excited that there is a kid's version of the Red Letter Challenge. This version would be great for families with kids 3 years old through 6th grade. The kid's book is a workbook that has many different activities and a wide range of challenges to fit many levels of maturity and understanding. Consider picking up one for each child. These are also \$10.

The weekend of December 14, we will share a promotional video. Book orders are due by January 11 so that we can make sure that we have the right amount of materials. If you order a book, you can pick it up at church on January 29. A bracelet and a helpful bookmark will be available to everyone to encourage and remind us of this challenge. We invite you to pick those items up and participate in an activity we have planned at church each week.

Small groups will be offered to help guide you through this Challenge. While we hope that this will benefit you as you go through the Red Letter Challenge, we also hope that you will make life-long friendships, enjoy studying the Word of God together, and continue to do so into the future. Small group sign up will begin mid-January in the Gathering Area.

February 12-15 will be our kickoff weekend as we introduce the book and get you ready to join us on a 40-day challenge to live out the words of Jesus. We encourage everyone to participate, as we believe this book can not only make a difference in your life, but in the life of our church and our community.

If you have any questions or would like to see a copy of the book in advance, you can check it out at the Ministry House starting December 1.

God's Blessings, Pastor Kyle Backhaus

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

CHRISTINA ZEUNER, DIRECTOR
PRESCHOOL@STPAULFALLS.COM

November Highlights and Upcoming Events

In November, we finished a unit filled with fairy tales and nursery rhymes. Then we focused on Music and the Arts. The 4K class had the opportunity to use "grown up" instruments – a flute, trumpet, trombone, and baritone. A few children were able to get sound out of them, and there were lots of giggles in the process.

Then we spent time talking about all the things God gives us and does for us. Most importantly, we know He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to forgive our sins. We also learned where Thanksgiving came from and who the Pilgrims and Native Americans were. The children made a tepee, moccasins, headbands, a Native American bag, and turkeys. We finished the month by filling a cornucopia with all our blessings.



The children are working on songs and fingerplays for our Christmas service. On Tuesday, December 2, at 6:30 PM, they will tell the story of Jesus' birth through songs and fingerplays.

We wish all of you a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year!



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

SAVANNAH HENN, DIRECTOR
SAVANNAHH@STPAULFALLS.COM

Sunday School

December is an exciting month for Sunday School. We will be learning about how Jesus gives us hope. On December 7, Sunday School will be singing at the 9:30 and 11:00 AM services. We hope you can join us as we share a song about Christ Emmanuel. Reminder that there will be no Sunday School on December 14, 21, and 28.



AWANA

It is crazy to think that it is December already. Last month at AWANA, we had our first AWANA Store and got to pack boxes for Operation Christmas Child. This month we will be learning about the Apostles' Creed. The themes this month are Stuffed Animal Night, Christmas Apparel Night, and Bring Your Parent Night. This month we will be making blankets for Project Linus on December 18. Parents are invited to join us for blanket making. Reminder that there is no AWANA on December 24 and 31.



Christmas for Children

On Christmas Eve at our 3:00 and 5:00 PM services, there will be a children's message. All children are welcome to join for an age-appropriate message. The nursery will NOT be staffed on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day but will be open if families need to use it.



Recap: Trunk or Treat

We had a great turnout for our Trunk or Treat event in October. We had over 275 trick-or-treaters attend and 27 cars with 80 volunteers. We appreciate everyone who donated candy and participated. Special thanks to Bloomin on Broadway, Glowed Up Fun Zone, Meadowland Credit Union, Texas Roadhouse, City of Sheboygan Falls Fire Department, Cub Scouts Pack 3885, and the VW Club of Sheboygan. Photos from the event can be found on the church website. We look forward to Trunk or Treat again in 2026.



Recap: Children and Family Museum

In November, we enjoyed an afternoon at Above and Beyond Children's Museum. It was great to see our church families come together for a time of fellowship. Photos from the afternoon are on our website.

Birthday Party for Jesus

On December 6, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, we will be hosting a Birthday Party for Jesus. There will be music, cookie decorating, Bible stories, crafts, games, and more. While activities are best suited for kids in 5th grade and under, everyone in the family is encouraged to come and enjoy the event together! Sign up to attend today.

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

NICOLE DOLLEVOET, DIRECTOR
NICOLED@STPAULFALLS.COM

Youth Ministry Update

Confirmation Ministry is flowing through all of their materials. Tests #1 and #2 have been completed, and we look ahead to December, which will be filled with blanket making and Christmas Parties!

Youth Group on Sunday nights has been very busy! The youth really enjoyed taking over the kitchen and games for 2 weeks! A fan favorite is always Hide and Seek around church, and we ended the month with bowling. We are looking forward to our December events: Painting on Canvas and the Youth Christmas Party!

The youth mission team of 32 youth and adults are headed to Charleston, South Carolina, this coming summer. They are excited to serve together on December 13. We have a number of fun locations they are going to serve including Sheboygan Area Food Bank, Mary's Room, and Salvation Army. Please watch for their sweet fundraiser in January!



A reminder of the cancellation policy: if class on Wednesday night or Youth Group on Sunday night need to cancel due to weather, a mass text will be sent out. Please use your best judgment regarding winter weather and travels to church.



THE GATHERING PLACE

LEAH ZEHEL, DIRECTOR
LEAHZ@STPAULFALLS.COM

The Gathering Place November Giving Update

We are 3 weeks into our November Giving Campaign (goes through December 31) and we are so appreciative of the many donations we have received so far for our fall fundraiser from our local community and beyond. The many businesses that have also stepped up to help our program enables us

to continue our quality programming. It has been so rewarding to read all the notes on the donation slips from friends and families of the past and present. We also appreciate your concern and prayers for the success of our program, volunteers, and staff.

Our goal this year is \$45,000, and we are hopeful that we can reach that goal this year.

You can go to our website: <https://memorymattersmost.com/donate/> to donate through PayPal, make a note on your church envelope under missions and write November Giving, send a check with November Giving listed in the memo line to The Gathering Place, 730 County Road PPP, Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085, or just stop in and say hi and drop off your donation in person.

Donations for November Giving will be accepted through December 31, 2025, so there is still time to get a donation in!

Thank you again for your gifts to The Gathering Place.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

NOVEMBER
giving
CAMPAIGN

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

YOUR DONATION SUPPORTS ALL THESE ACTIVITIES

Arts and Craft Supplies

Meals and Snacks

Scholarship Program

Music and Entertainment

Outings

To donate, scan the QR code or contact us at 920-627-6847.

NEW MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to the St. Paul family! On Sunday, November 16, 2025, these individuals and families joined our congregation and became part of our mission of *Connecting People to Christ*. Please take a moment to introduce yourself and extend a warm welcome when you see them at church!

- Jayme & Jennifer Arndt
Miles & Wesley
- Deborah Gaines
- Brandon & Leanne Hahn
- Deborah Haynes
- Roy & Cheryl Hilbelink
- Ken & Melissa Luckjohn
Aidan, Eli, Holden
- Richard & Wendy Merz
- Kevin & Jenny Meyer
Emmit & Kasey
- Robert Rosenthal
- Jessica Schroeder
- Emily Stewart
Henry & Louis
- Daniel Travis & Kimberly Lutzke
- Timothy & Marie Wirtz
- Richard & Linda Yurk

A.I.M. - (Adult Introduction to Membership)



Are you interested in learning more about the faith & ministry of St. Paul Lutheran Church? Our Membership Class called A.I.M. will be offered **Sunday mornings from 10:45 AM-12:00 PM beginning January 18, 2026**. Childcare available.

Upon completion of the course, those who would like to become a part of the mission and ministry of St. Paul will have the opportunity to become members of our church. For more information, or to register to attend, contact Karri in the Church Office at 920-467-6449 or karrib@stpaulfalls.com.

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

Four of our St. Paul staff celebrated employment anniversaries in 2025. We are blessed to have them working here at St. Paul. Please join us in congratulating and thanking them!

5 Years

Mike Holden — Grounds Crew
Lori Sharpe — Head Custodian

10 Years

Donna Stieghorst — TGP Program Assistant

15 Years

Carol Bimmel — TGP Office Assistant

OTHER NEWS & THANK YOUS

Sheboygan County Night to Shine February 13, 2026:



We are thrilled to announce that registration for Kings, Queens, and volunteers will open on December 1 at our NEW website:
www.sheboygancountynts.com

Night to Shine is an unforgettable worldwide celebration event, centered on God's love, honoring and valuing people with special needs. On one night, hundreds of churches of different denominations from all over the world will come together to celebrate people with special needs! Stay up to date on our Facebook page "Sheboygan County Night to Shine." If you have questions, please contact Rachael Wilson at rachaelw.scnts@gmail.com

Help us with
our Amazon
Wish List!

Scan the
QR code, or
click on the
link in the
description



Scrip Cards: Christmas is coming - buy your gift cards at church! We have a large selection of gift cards in varying amounts. There are many options to pre-order \$5 & \$10 cards, which are perfect for gift giving! Special and pre-order cards need to be paid for at the time of ordering.

Operation Christmas Child: Thank you to everyone who gathered items, filled boxes, and prayed for those receiving them. We boxed them up and sent them off to the distribution center. Continue to pray for safe travels of the boxes and that they are received with open hearts. Thank you again to St. Paul for your generous donations! Special thanks to the team who helped transport items from our church to the next location for processing!



Ladies Auxiliary Cookie Sale

All families in the congregation are asked to donate 4-dozen homemade cookies. Cookies can be dropped off in a sealed container:

- ◆ Thur Dec 4 from 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM & 6:00 - 7:30 PM at Entrance 1
- ◆ Fri Dec 5 from 1:30 PM - 6:30 PM at Entrance 2

The Cookie Sale is on Sat Dec 6 from 8:00 AM until the cookies are gone. Boxes of cookies sell for \$15 for 2 pounds. Money raised is used to help our Children's Ministry here and other ministries around the world. Thank you for your support. Contact Jackie at 920-980-7713 with any questions.

Year End Giving Deadline: All 2025 giving needs to be postmarked December 31, 2025! Statements will be mailed out by the end of January 2026.

Candle Glow: Dear ladies of St. Paul church, you are invited to attend the Candle Glow on Sunday, December 7, at 6:30 PM in the Gathering Area. Enjoy the evening of fellowship and preparation for the birth of our Savior. Sign up is available at the Welcome Center in the Gathering Area. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Jens at 920-207-0610.

Thank you from Regina Hornsby-Gutsche: Thank you to my church family for all the prayers, cards, calls, and visits during my surgery and recovery.

LERT - Lutheran Early Response Team: The St. Paul Sheboygan Falls LERT team would like to thank those who supported us through donations and prayers. Your generosity helped us participate in two deployments this year. One in August to help flood victims in Milwaukee and the other in October to help remove trees blown down by Hurricane Helene in Spartanburg, SC. In addition to these deployments, the support also facilitated two essential team trainings and the purchase of vital equipment. To learn more about the team's ongoing efforts or to offer future support, contact Pete Strains at ppstrains@gmail.com or 920-838-4969.

OTHER NEWS & THANK YOUS

St. Paul Quilters: Another year came to an end, and we sent off 250 quilts to Lutheran World Relief. Thank you to all who have helped in some way that this year was such a success. Thank you for all the bids and donations on the "silent auction." Thank you also for all the fabric and sheets that have been given to us. We are on our way for this year with another goal of 250 quilts. All your donations and help make this mission project successful.

GriefShare:

Are you grieving the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend?

GriefShare is a weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life after loss. Led by people who have experienced grief themselves, each session offers care, understanding, and practical help for the days ahead.

Beginning January 27, 2025 | Tuesdays | 6:00–8:00 PM

Room 112 – St. Paul Lutheran Church

You don't have to go through grief alone. We're here to walk with you.



Job Opening - Choir Accompanist: We're seeking a piano player to accompany our Adult Choir (Tuesdays 6:30–8:00 PM, now through May), including services on Sundays and festivals. Part-time (~8 hrs/week, paid). For full job descriptions and to apply, visit our Employment page at <https://stpaulfalls.com/resources/employment/> or contact the Church Office.

Feed My Starving Children Manna Packs Delivered!: What an incredible 12th Annual Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) MobilePack we had! Volunteers packed 684 boxes of food, totaling nearly 148,000 meals—enough to feed 404 children one meal a day for one year. God is good! We're happy to announce that the Manna Packs have reached their destination.

This year's meals went to FMSC's partner, Food for the Poor (FFTP) – an organization that links the church of the First World with the church of the Third World in a manner that helps both the materially poor and the poor in spirit. FFTP has distributed FMSC meals through its extensive network of partner organizations in the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. This is excellent news as there is a great need in Jamaica after the recent Hurricane Melissa!

For a heartwarming story about how FFTP is making a difference, visit: <https://www.fmssc.org/the-feed/from-the-field/2017/september/who-are-the-adults>

A huge THANK YOU to all that made this MobilePack a success. We could not have done it without your support. We came together to help those in need and had some fun, too! Check out all of the photos from the event at the Resources tab on stpaulfalls.com.

Until next year...

Senior Citizen Bible Breakfasts: Tuesdays are for BREAKFAST! Senior citizens, you are invited to join us in the LHS atrium December 16 at 8:30 AM for a Bible study led by Executive Director, Matt Tschudy, a delicious hot breakfast, and Christian fellowship. Kindly RSVP to Carmen Dolson at dolson@lutheranhigh.com or (920) 452-3323 so we can have the coffee flowing!

Help Needed at LHS: Sheboygan Lutheran High is looking for a dance team coach as well as a group to coordinate concessions for home basketball games. The group keeps a portion of the funds earned from concession sales, making it a great fundraising opportunity. Also, we have a few Crusader Cards with discounts to local businesses left, and they'd make great Christmas gifts for friends or family for just \$20 each! If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please contact Mr. Holzheimer at holzheimer@lutheranhigh.com or 920-452-3323.

Save the Date: You're Invited! – 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Sheboygan County Hispanic Outreach. We'll gather for a special bilingual Divine Service on Sunday, January 18, 2025, at 12:30 PM with guest preacher Dr. Rev. Nathan Meador at Good Shepherd, Sheboygan. Following the service, we'll continue the celebration with a fellowship potluck — bring a dish to share and enjoy this joyful time together! Let's rejoice in all that the Lord has done, is doing, and will continue to do through this ministry. Everyone is welcome!

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report - October 2025				
Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026				
Financial Results- Fiscal Year End Actual, Budget & Variance				
	4 Months Ended 10-31-25 Actual		4 Months Ended 10-31-25 Budget	Variance from Budget (Short)/Over
General Offerings	\$ 438,366		\$ 471,482	\$ (33,116)
Other Income	\$ 13,612		\$ 16,611	\$ (2,998)
Mission Offerings	\$ 24,654		\$ 27,000	\$ (2,346)
Total Income	\$ 476,632		\$ 515,093	\$ (38,461)
Operating Expenses	\$ 485,285		\$ 488,569	\$ (3,285)
Mission Support	\$ 24,654		\$ 27,001	\$ (2,347)
Total Expense	\$ 509,939		\$ 515,570	\$ (5,631)
Suplus (Deficit) Total	\$ (33,307)		\$ (477)	\$ (32,830)

Capital Improvement Fund			
	Monthly Activity		Balance at
	Increase (Decrease)		Month End
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ (166)	\$	375,580

Membership Report

Baptized Members	351	Confirmed Members	1,512	Total Members	1,863
------------------	-----	-------------------	-------	---------------	-------

LOVE INC

BONNIE JONES, MINISTRY LEADER

Here are a few pictures from the Love INC 2025 Gala fundraiser:



Thank you to all our supporters for helping make our Love INC Gala a success. Through your generosity, we were able to meet our goal by raising over \$62,000! This money goes to help your neighbors in need. We couldn't do it without all of your help.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY

JULIE JONES, MINISTRY LEADER



From our Celebrate Recovery family to yours

Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

We CELEBRATE God's amazing healing and restoration!

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, Judgment 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!

Babysitting is available! Contact Julie for more information.

CelebrateRecovery®
A CHRIST-CENTERED 12 Step program

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

LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

MATTHEW TSCHUDY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we enter the Advent season and Christmas draws near, students at Sheboygan Lutheran High School are reminded that the true heart of this season is not found in the lights, gifts, or celebrations—but in the birth of Jesus Christ. Over two thousand years ago, His birth marked the beginning of a journey that would lead to His death on the cross and culminate in His glorious resurrection. Through that resurrection, Jesus conquered the grave, offering forgiveness of sins and the promise that all who believe in Him—though they die—will also be raised to eternal life.

At Sheboygan Lutheran, the Christmas season is filled with opportunities to serve and share the good news of Christ's birth. Chapel services, music concerts, supply collections for Operation Christmas Child and families in need, and our new Christian Leadership Program encourage everyone to focus on the true meaning of Christmas. These experiences remind students that leadership involves serving others, just as Christ served us.

"The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."
Matthew 20:28

Our student-led Christian Leadership Program has been actively engaged in planning, discussion, and hands-on leadership development. Every Friday, students meet in small groups with an upperclassman mentor to explore and apply a specific leadership trait. This leadership cohort is thoughtfully preparing lessons that include video teachings, Bible studies, and other creative, interactive activities designed to bring leadership principles to life in meaningful and enjoyable ways.

As we continue to grow and strengthen our leadership community here at Sheboygan Lutheran, we warmly invite your family to join us and become part of our Crusader family. Applications are open for the 2026–2027 school year, and we are excited to welcome next year's incoming freshman class, as well as any transfer students seeking a new, faith-driven high school experience.

Blessings to our entire Crusader community as we journey through this Advent season, continually reminded of our deep need for a Savior and the miraculous gift of Jesus' birth on that holy and wondrous Christmas Day. Wishing our entire Crusader Nation a blessed Advent and a very Merry Christmas!

SHEBOYGAN LUTHERAN
BAND AND CHOIR PRESENT

O Holy Night



Matthew 2: 9-11

SATURDAY - DECEMBER 13 7:00PM
SUNDAY - DECEMBER 14 2:00PM
LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
 3233 UNIVERSITY DRIVE, SHEBOYGAN





**Sheboygan Area
Lutheran High School**

Preparing Christian Leaders - One Student at a Time

LCMS HISPANIC MINISTRY

Twenty Families in an Aisle: When God Opens a Mission Field in Walmart

Not long ago, I experienced something that reminded me why the Lord calls us to go out, to walk, to seek, and to speak the Gospel everywhere. One day I went to the Walmart in Sheboygan with a handful of business cards, some church flyers... and a heart willing to listen and to serve.

I didn't have a perfect plan. There wasn't an organized event. I only had the conviction that Jesus sends His servants to where the people are.

For three hours I walked through those aisles: through toys, vegetables, the bakery, electronics, cleaning supplies... ordinary places where almost no one would expect the Holy Spirit to be at work. But God has no limits.

That day, I met twenty new families. Twenty faces, twenty stories, twenty voices full of hope and pain. And to my surprise... they were all Venezuelan families.

Some had just arrived; others didn't know anyone; most were searching for stability, community, a place where their children are safe, and a warm embrace in the middle of so much change. But deeper than all of that... they carry a longing that only Christ can fill, even if they don't yet know how to express it.

Between aisles, shopping carts, and timid smiles, I was able to hand out cards, share information about our church, and above all... share the Gospel. Right there, in Walmart, in the heart of Sheboygan.

Because the Gospel is not tied to a building or limited to a schedule. The Gospel walks, seeks, listens, embraces, and is proclaimed in every place and to every tongue.

That day, I understood something very deep: our ministry isn't passive—we don't wait for the Hispanic community to come to us. The community is already here, and that's exactly why we go to them wherever God leads us... even to Walmart. Into the places where they live, shop, work, and learn. They need to hear Christ crucified and risen. They need a church that loves them, welcomes them, and walks beside them.

But this work cannot be done alone. Behind every conversation, every card handed out, and every family reached, God is at work—and so are the people who pray, support, donate, and believe that He is doing something great among the Hispanics of Sheboygan County.

That's why I invite you to join this mission. To be part of what God is doing. To support a ministry that goes out, that moves, that knocks on doors... and shares the love of Jesus where you least expect it.

Because if God can open a mission field in the aisles of Walmart, imagine what He can do with your support, your prayers, and your generosity.

The twenty families I met that day are only the beginning. With your help, we can reach many more. Christ is already at work. The harvest is ready. And you can be part of this beautiful mission.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and thank you for your continued support of our Hispanic Ministry. Thank you for partnering with us in this mission. Please continue to keep us in your prayers. May God richly bless you for your generosity, your love, and your faithfulness. We look forward to all that the Lord has in store for us!

Serving Christ through His humble servant and yours,

Rev. David Blas

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
730 County Rd. PPP
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085
Phone: 920-467-6449
Fax: 920-467-4239

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

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



Pastors

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

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
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

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, 9:15-12:00 PM



FOLLOW US ON
SOCIAL MEDIA