



# NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026



## RETURNING TOGETHER: CONNECTING TO CHRIST IN LENT

**PASTOR ADAM WOLFE**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*"Therefore say to them, Thus declares the LORD of hosts: Return to me, says the LORD of hosts, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts."*  
-Zechariah 1:3

As February arrives, we begin to look to the season of Lent. Lent is not meant to feel heavy or distant. It is a gracious invitation from our Lord to slow down, reflect, and draw near to Him again. At St. Paul, we do not walk this season alone. We walk it

together, gathered around God's Word and anchored in the promises He has kept for us in Jesus!

Lent begins with honesty and hope. On Ash Wednesday we are reminded that we are dust, and that sin touches every part of our lives. Yet even in that reminder, God speaks a word of comfort. He calls us to return to Him and promises that He comes to meet us with mercy. Throughout these weeks, our worship will continually point us to Jesus, who willingly went to the cross

and finished the work of our salvation for us.

One way we will journey together this Lent is through the Red Letter Challenge, which will shape both our Thursday evening and Sunday morning worship. The Red Letter Challenge was created to help Christians focus intentionally on following Jesus by paying close attention to His own words (often printed in red in many Bibles). It reminds us that faith is not just about having good intentions but about keeping our eyes fixed on Christ. Because God has been so gracious to us, we are drawn to

follow Jesus more closely. As we hear His words together, we will be encouraged to live lives marked by grace, compassion, and love for others.

Alongside the Red Letter Challenge, our midweek Lenten services will also include the theme *It Is Finished*, based on the prophecies of Zechariah. These sermons will guide us through the events of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection, showing how God's promises were fulfilled in Christ. From the call to "Return to Me" on Ash Wednesday, through themes such as "Scattered Sheep," "The Kingly Priest," and "Look at the One Who Was Pierced," we will see again that nothing about Jesus' journey to the cross was uncertain. At the cross, Jesus declared, "It is finished." Our sins are forgiven! Our salvation is secure!

Our hope and prayer is that this Lenten season will be a time of renewed worship, fellowship, and growth for all of us. Come and be a part of it! Gather with God's people! Invite a friend or neighbor to join you. Through Word and Sacrament, the Lord is at work among us, strengthening our faith and drawing us closer together. As we return to the Lord this Lent, may we trust His promise that He always returns to us with grace, forgiveness, and life in Jesus. As He draws us back to Himself, may He also use us to live out our calling as a congregation, "Connecting People to Christ." Through our worship, our words, and our care for one another, may this season be a time when we are strengthened in faith and sent out in love, so that others may come to know the Savior who finished the work for them as well!

PASTOR ADAM WOLFE

ASSOCIATE PASTOR



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## *Lenten Midweek Services*

Wednesdays  
11:30 AM (Livestreamed) & 7:15 PM

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 18

Potluck lunch following the 11:30AM service each week in the Fellowship Hall, hosted by the Ladies' Auxiliary.  
Please bring a dish to pass.

**SAY GOODBYE TO  
WINTER WITH OUR**

# **SOUPER SUNDAY COOK-OFF**



**SUNDAY, MARCH 22**

**10:45 AM TO 1:00 PM**  
(or until the Nescos are empty)

**ALL YOU CAN SAMPLE!**

**\$12.00** per person  
Children 4-12 yrs. - \$5  
3 yrs. & under - FREE

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
730 County Road PPP  
Sheboygan Falls

All proceeds will go to The Gathering Place and Memory Matters day programs for adults with memory loss.



## **RED LETTER CHALLENGE KICKS OFF!**

**JOIN US AS WE DIVE INTO JESUS' OWN WORDS THIS LENT!**

**THE RED LETTER CHALLENGE BEGINS THIS MONTH.**

**LET'S FOCUS ON WHAT JESUS SAID AND FOLLOW HIM MORE CLOSELY TOGETHER.**

**KICKOFF SERMON: FEBRUARY 12-25**  
**FIRST DAY OF READING: FEBRUARY 18**

**GET READY FOR AN EXCITING JOURNEY!**

# EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

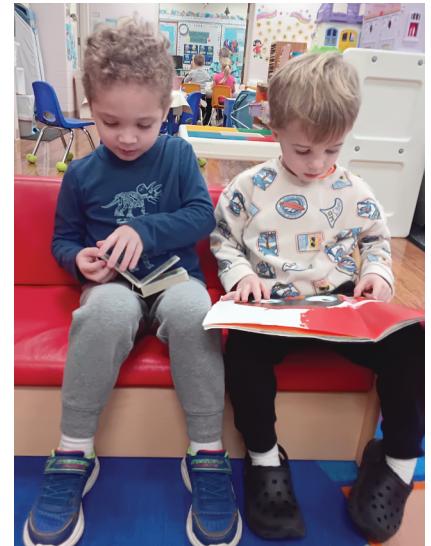
**CHRISTINA ZEUNER, DIRECTOR**  
**[preschool@stpaulfalls.com](mailto:preschool@stpaulfalls.com)**

Enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year has begun. The following classes are available – 3 year old Preschool which meets on T, Th from 9:00-11:30 AM or 12:30-3:00 PM and the 4K program which meets M, W, and F from 8:30-11:30 AM.

A spot will be saved for your child when the registration form (yellow tri-fold found on the wall in the Gathering Area) along with the \$75 registration fee is turned in. Bring it to the Early Childhood Center or the Church Office. Tuition is \$100 per month for Preschool and \$170 per month for 4K. The SCRIP program is available to help offset the costs, and earnings can be banked as soon as a child is enrolled.



Child Care is also available on days or times when your child is not in school. Openings are available for children ages 2 ½ - 5 years old. Child Care is open Monday – Friday from 7:00 AM – 5:30 PM. The hourly rate is \$5.75 per hour for 3-5 yr. olds and \$6.00 for 2 ½-3 yr. olds. If you or anyone you know would be interested, contact us at [preschool@stpaulfalls.com](mailto:preschool@stpaulfalls.com), call 467-6733, or stop by the Early Childhood Center.



# CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

**SAVANNAH HENN, DIRECTOR**  
**[SAVANNAHH@STPAULFALLS.COM](mailto:SAVANNAHH@STPAULFALLS.COM)**

## Sunday School

This month all grades will be starting a new unit. Our 3K-3rd Graders will be learning about how God is kind. They will be learning about the prophet Elisha. Our 4th and 5th Graders will be digging into the life of David. Special thank you to all our Sunday School teachers who teach each week and care for our children. We celebrate them on February 22, which is Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Day.

## AWANA

This month at AWANA, we will be following the church sermon series of the Red Letter Challenge. On February 4, we will have our second AWANA Store of the year. Our themes this month are Neon Night and USA Night. A reminder that there is no AWANA on February 11.



## Recap: CYF Swimming

We had a great time at our swimming event on January 18. Thank you to everyone that came out for an afternoon of fun.

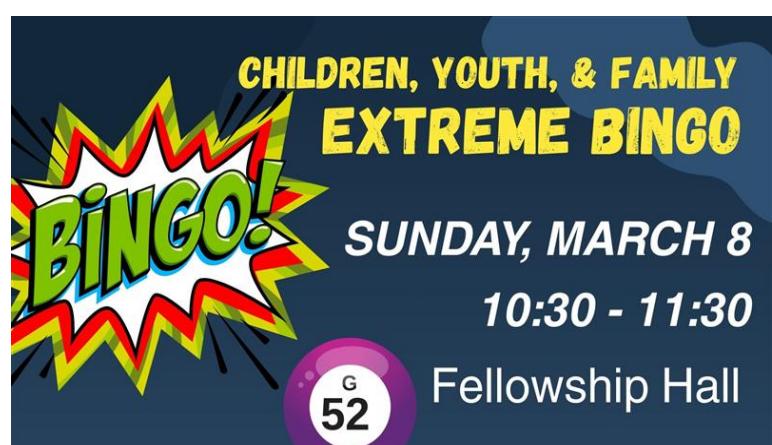
## Save the Dates

### Bricktacular Event – February 1

Join us for our annual Bricktacular Event on February 1, 10:30 AM-12:00 PM, in the Fellowship Hall. We will be creating scenes from the life of Jesus using LEGO bricks! All ages welcome.

## Children, Youth, & Family Extreme Bingo - March 8

Join us for an hour of high-energy fun at Children, Youth, & Family Extreme Bingo! Gather in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, March 8 from 10:30-11:30 AM for games and fellowship. All ages are welcome—bring your family and friends for this exciting event!



# YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

**NICOLE DOLLEVOET, DIRECTOR**  
**NICOLED@STPAULFALLS.COM**

The cold temps and snowstorms did not keep our Confirmation students down. We continued strong in our lessons during the month of January. In February we start to work on our final units of the year. It is also retreat season for our confirmands. These retreats are an important part of their learning, and it's awesome to see friendships grow and strengthen. Forms for the communion retreat can be found on our website.

**Youth Group** on Sunday nights had a great month with some awesome theme nights. Bingo night was filled with many winners. Game night was filled with many laughs. The swimming event at Falls Aquatic Center always helps break up the winter blues. We have really enjoyed exploring the Bible study topic of Interruptions. We look forward to February as we get to serve together and enjoy some time at Nicole's house as we watch the big game!



Watch our church website for the latest schedule and photos.

## Camp Luther

In the month of November, Camp Luther visited AWANA and Confirmation. They shared different summer camp opportunities with our students. Last summer we had three children/youth attend Camp Luther from our congregation, and 14 youth and adults served up there for their 2025 summer mission trip. We would love your child to attend this summer. If you have never attended camp, there are scholarships available by visiting their website, [campluther.com](http://campluther.com)



## OTHER NEWS & THANK YOUS

**Guatemala Mission Team - Super Bowl Sub Sale Pickup:** The Guatemala Mission Team Super Bowl sub sale pickup is here! If you ordered subs and desserts, your order will be available for pickup either the evening of February 7 or Super Bowl Sunday morning, February 8. Thank you for supporting the Guatemala Mission Team!

**Sheboygan County Night to Shine - February 13, 2026:** Night to Shine is almost here! This unforgettable prom night experience celebrates people with special needs as Kings and Queens for the evening. There are still ways you can be part of this special night:

Desserts Needed: Sign up at the Welcome Center to provide desserts for this special evening.

Here to Cheer: Let's Fill the Church! No need to register, just come on February 13 between 4:15 - 7:00 PM and cheer on our Kings and Queens!

Questions? Contact Rachael Wilson at [rachaelw.scnts@gmail.com](mailto:rachaelw.scnts@gmail.com) or 920-467-6449.

**40 Days for Life March:** Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Sheboygan County will host a 40 Days for Life march. There will be a peaceful and prayerful presence on the corner of S. Taylor Drive and New Jersey Ave all throughout the season of Lent. We pray for the millions of innocent lives that have been lost due to abortion. If you would like to join in and support this cause, check out the information at [www.40daysforlife.com/sheboygan](http://www.40daysforlife.com/sheboygan) or contact the leader of Sheboygan County March for Life, Germaine at 920-918-2310.

**A Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser:** will be held Sunday, February 15 from 12:00-4:30 PM at The Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, 3027 Wilgus Avenue, Sheboygan. The dinner includes spaghetti (with or without meatballs), garlic bread, and a torte for dessert. Cost: \$8-Adults; \$5-Ages 5-10; Free-Ages 4 & under. Proceeds will help offset the cost for youth to attend the National Youth Gathering.

**Thank you from Helping Kids:** The Lord shows His love through special people like you. Your continued support and kindness to the Helping Kids program is greatly appreciated, and you have all made a difference in the lives of many kids and their families last year. Be that through donations of food or school supplies, monetary donations, or prayers, we thank you all. Helping Kids has helped families with monthly food boxes, various snacks for students (free breakfast is no longer available), and in-season athletes. We gave out 54 school backpacks, 525 items of hygiene products, and 130 pieces of clothing or winter apparel. From the bottom of our heart, we thank you all. We wish you love, joy, and good health in 2026.

**Helping Kids Food Drive:** Helping Kids is in need of some items to restock the food shelves for the upcoming months. Free breakfast is no longer available, so snacks have been the biggest request so far this school year. Thank you in advance for your continued support of the Helping Kids program.

NEEDS: Cereal, pop tarts, instant oatmeal, pancake mix w/water only, Hamburger Helper, Sloppy Joe Mix, mac & cheese, jelly/jam, box instant mashed potatoes and instant rice, taco kits, jars of applesauce, cookie mix, brownie mix, and muffin mix

SNACK NEEDS: Granola bars, protein bars, fruit snacks, individual packaged crackers, snack mix, trail mix or cookies, pop tart bites, individual bags mini muffins, unsweetened applesauce cups, pudding cups, and individual meat sticks.

**Pillowcase Dress Mission Project:** A big "Thank You" again to everyone who has sewn pillowcase dresses. Also, thanks to everyone who has donated pillowcases or other needed supplies. We have accumulated a good number of dresses and boys' shorts to go to Guatemala with our St. Paul Guatemala Mission Team this summer. We are, however, getting low on pillowcases. If we can receive some more donated pillowcases, we can continue to sew more of those cute pillowcase dresses. We will also need several more suitcases (large but not jumbo), preferably with wheels.

**SCRIP Volunteers Needed:** We are in need of SCRIP sellers for the second and fifth Thursday of each month from 6:10-6:30 PM before the 6:30 PM service. Whether you have volunteered in the past or are brand new to SCRIP, we would love to have you! Your help supports our church and school families. Contact Mary Kempf at [maryjkempf@gmail.com](mailto:maryjkempf@gmail.com) with questions or to volunteer.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Financial Report - December 2025

Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

### Financial Results- Fiscal Year End Actual, Budget & Variance

|   | 6 Months<br>Ended 12-31-25<br>Actual | 6 Months<br>Ended 12-31-25<br>Budget | Variance<br>from Budget<br>(Short)/Over |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| General Offerings                       | \$ 689,237                           | \$ 707,223                           | \$ (17,986)                             |
| Other Income                            | \$ 25,680                            | \$ 31,486                            | \$ (5,806)                              |
| Mission Offerings                       | \$ 38,822                            | \$ 40,500                            | \$ (1,678)                              |
| <b>Total Income</b>                     | <b>\$ 753,740</b>                    | <b>\$ 779,210</b>                    | <b>\$ (25,470)</b>                      |
| Operating Expenses                      | \$ 708,322                           | \$ 730,838                           | \$ (22,516)                             |
| Mission Support                         | \$ 38,822                            | \$ 40,501                            | \$ (1,678)                              |
| <b>Total Expense</b>                    | <b>\$ 747,144</b>                    | <b>\$ 771,339</b>                    | <b>\$ (24,195)</b>                      |
| <b>Suplus (Deficit) from Operations</b> | <b>\$ 6,596</b>                      | <b>\$ 7,871</b>                      | <b>\$ (1,275)</b>                       |
| Plus: Legacy/Special Gifts              | <u>\$ 174,109</u>                    |                                      |   |
| <b>Net Surplus</b>                      | <b><u>\$ 180,704</u></b>             |                                      |   |

### Capital Improvement Fund

|                          | Monthly Activity<br>Increase (Decrease) | Balance at<br>Month End |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Capital Improvement Fund | \$ 6,628                                | \$ 379,801              |

### Membership Report

|                  |     |                   |       |               |       |
|------------------|-----|-------------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| Baptized Members | 352 | Confirmed Members | 1,501 | Total Members | 1,853 |
|------------------|-----|-------------------|-------|---------------|-------|

## LOVE INC

**BONNIE JONES, MINISTRY LEADER**

We all have a story. Within those stories, there are chapters that are filled with wonderful tales and adventures. These chapters are fun to tell and easy to spin. Other chapters are filled with hardship and shame. These chapters are hard to tell, and are often told with downcast eyes and tears. They are hard to walk through. It may be a time of loneliness and brokenness. Sometimes, we get stuck in our hardship and shame, and don't know how to move through the valley of the shadow. We need help.

Love INC's Connection Center is the place where such chapters unfold. Our Intake Specialists listen and calmly breathe hope and life into our neighbors' stories, so that the chapter can be turned and a new ending can be written. As each neighbor shares with an intake specialist, hope is ignited. A relationship has begun that will transform a life.

One of our neighbors has a story that is a perfect example of a chapter turned and the hope of a new ending. This gentleman called us, brand new to Sheboygan. He is a veteran and disabled. Pain would rack his body every day. He needed furniture. We listened to his story and met his need of furniture. The Furniture Ministry Team sat with him, listened, prayed, and gave him a Bible. The next week, he called us letting us know that he would be going to rehab for his pain medication addiction. The love and compassion of the volunteers he interacted with encouraged him to begin to change his story.

Our Neighbor Liaisons continued to call and check on this man weekly. He was depressed and lonely. He was off the narcotic pain killers, but still was in pain. Volunteers also sent him encouragement cards. We continued to love on him. He struggled with God. We prayed with him.

One day, we heard a plot twist. Our neighbor began to read the Bible again. He watched church online. He prayed. The Holy Spirit was on the move. He began to see the goodness of God in his life. The last time we talked with him, we found out that he is engaged to a lovely woman who wants to join her story with his. He feels he has a purpose, not only to follow God, but to become a good husband and serve others. He said that his life has new meaning and is grateful to Love INC for supporting him while he turned the chapter and wrote a new ending to his story.

The heart and soul of Love INC are relationships with our neighbors. What a joy to see and hear the wonderful things God does as we love our neighbors!



# LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

MATTHEW TSCHUDY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## CRUSADERS IN THE COMMUNITY

Preparing Christian Leaders - One Student at a Time has been the mission of Sheboygan Lutheran High for many years. Christian leadership is exemplified in so many ways, just one of which is by loving and serving our neighbors, and we've been doing quite a bit of that recently. Take a peek at the various ways our Crusaders have been impacting their community:

- Our Love & Serve Winterim class volunteered at the Salvation Army, spent time playing BINGO with residents at Pine Haven Christian Communities, packaged meals for the Sheboygan County Food Bank, and delivered lunches for Fresh Meals on Wheels.
- Crusader basketball teams tutor and mentor students weekly at Longfellow Elementary School and assist with Special Olympics.
- Cross country runners participate in community runs, like the Holiday Lights Run to benefit the Sheboygan County Food Bank.
- National Honor Society provided Christmas cheer to residents at Meadow View Manor Nursing Home, led a Christmas drive to assist LHS families in need, and will host their annual trivia night to support the Wounded Warrior Project.
- Our InterAct group packed over 70 boxes for Operation Christmas Child, packed meals for Feed My Starving Children, and filled holiday bell-ringing shifts for the Salvation Army.

In addition to these organized outreach endeavors, we spy Crusaders actively involved in service activities on their own accord, like excelling at part-time jobs and being active in their respective churches and Youth Groups.

*"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."* Philippians 2:4

Yes, some of these activities are required, and yes, some count toward service hours or enhance those scholarship applications, but ultimately, we are striving to instill in our students a genuine heart for service. What a gift to serve others, not out of obligation or expectation, but out of genuine willingness and unselfishness, as if serving Jesus himself. It is our constant prayer that our students will carry these experiences with them throughout their lives beyond high school and remain vigilant Christian leaders and servants in their future vocations, positively impacting their communities for years to come. Lead on, Crusaders!



# CELEBRATE RECOVERY

JULIE JONES, MINISTRY LEADER

**Celebrate Recovery®**  
A CHRIST-CENTERED 12 Step program

**We CELEBRATE God's amazing healing and restoration!**

Our walk thru healing and restoration starts with one principle at a time, taught to us by Jesus:

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. *"Blessed are the poor in spirit"* Matthew 5:3a

Principle 2: Earnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to Him, and that He has the power to help me recover. *"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."* Matthew 5:4

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.

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

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: 6:00 PM

Large Group: 6:30 – 7:30 PM

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

Fellowship: 8:30 – 9:00 PM

No Sign-Up necessary!

The only requirement is confidentiality!

Everyone is Welcome!

We are waiting for you!

Celebrate Recovery now has BABYSITTING available! Contact Julie for more information.  
For additional information contact Julie J. 920-207-1397

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](http://www.stpaulfalls.com)



#### Pastors

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

#### Lay Leaders

Tom Splittergerber, 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 1/2 - 5 years — call for drop-ins

Wee Care Nursery  
During Sunday Service, 9:15-12:00 PM



YouTube



FOLLOW US ON  
SOCIAL MEDIA

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO CHRIST