

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026













THE GENEROUS LIFE
PASTOR KYLE BACKHAUS

"Connecting People to Christ" is the mission of St. Paul. We do this through the various ministries and programs that happen week in and week out. The youngest among us learn Bible stories through our Early Childhood Center, Sunday School, and AWANA. The oldest among us hear many of these same stories at The Gathering Place and Memory Matters. The faith is taught in Bible class and AIM (Adult Instruction to Membership). The church is reaching out into our community through St. Paul

Serves, Social Ministry, and we are partnering with other great organizations through Mission dollars and Scrip, as they share the Gospel and care for the needs of those around us. The Gospel is being proclaimed, God is working faith in the lives of His people. The needs of people are being met through Feed My Starving Children, Night to Shine, Celebrate Recovery, GriefShare, and in many other ways.

In 1 Peter 4, Peter talks about the fact that you and I, as God's people, have been

called to live a different kind of life. We live differently because we know and understand all that God has done for us. Even though we have sinned and turn our backs on God, even though we daily sin against Him and our neighbor, God's love for you and me was so great that He sent His one and only Son for us, so that we may receive the gift of eternal life. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 8:9, "For we know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty, might become rich." Because of God's grace for you and me, He daily and richly

provides for our earthly needs, and He gives us what we need for eternal life. Having received all these blessings from God, He then calls us to respond and to share our gifts with others.

Having received all these blessings from God and the Good News that God has given us what we need most, His Son; we are then called to use our gifts in service to both Him and one another. We do these things not to earn God's favor, but rather to reflect God's goodness and faithfulness to the world around us.

To participate in this Stewardship campaign, let me first encourage you to COME. Be in church and hear and be fed by the Word of God. You'll hear the Good News of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection for the forgiveness of your sins, and you'll receive the gifts that God pours out for you in worship. You'll hear, see, and learn how God has blessed you, and how He instructs us to live a generous life, sharing His blessings with others. God's great love for you was shown through Jesus' sacrifice that gives you the promise of everlasting life with Him through faith in His Son... this love is the reason we seek to be faithful stewards of what God has given us, using our time, talents, gifts, and even our treasure so that many more might come to know Him and His great gift of love in Jesus.

Considering all that God has done for you, let me encourage you to prayerfully consider the following questions:

- Do I believe in the Mission of St. Paul Lutheran Church; "Connecting People to Christ?"
- Is MY church making a difference in the lives of both the members of St. Paul and those in our community?
- Am I willing to support the work of sharing the Good News of Jesus with others through my time, talents, and financial resources?

We hope and pray that, motivated by the Gospel, you desire to begin or increase your participation in St. Paul's mission of "Connecting People to Christ".

If God's forgiveness, grace, and mercy have so compelled you, then let me encourage you to look at and prayerfully consider your support of St. Paul. Now is a great time to evaluate how often you are coming to church and receiving God's gifts, your involvement in the mission and ministries of St. Paul, your own personal devotional life, and your support of St. Paul's Mission. We are sending you a copy of our Faith/Mission Commitment Sheet. Please fill it out and place it in the envelope provided and bring it to church with you on January 15-18, the last week of our "A Generous Life" stewardship campaign, so that together we can pray over them and St. Paul's Mission of "Connecting People to Christ."

I want to thank all of you for your support of St. Paul over the past year. Your prayers for and dedication to St. Paul is critical as we work toward advancing God's kingdom in our church and community. I cannot thank you all enough for the way that you stepped up last year to help with our budget. Because of your on-going generosity, we were able to minimize the large deficit we were facing back in April, and things are on track for this budget. Thank you for your dedication to making sure that the Gospel continues to be proclaimed through the work of St. Paul.

God's Blessings,

PASTOR KYLE BACKHAUS SENIOR PASTOR



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PARENT INFO MEETING



for Awana, Confirmation, and St. Paul Sheboygan Falls Families

Wednesday, January 14 6:15 - 7:00 pm St. Paul Worship Center

Meet Matt Tschudy, Sheboygan Lutheran High's Executive Director, and learn about:

- · Academics, athletics, fine arts, and student life
- Scholarships, financial aid, and FREE TUITION through the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program

Plus... we'll have snacks!



EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

CHRISTINA ZEUNER, DIRECTOR PRESCHOOL@STPAULFALLS.COM

In December, the children in Preschool and 4K had a stable in the classroom as well as costumes and sheep so they could act out the story of Jesus' birth. The entire center used Advent wreaths, Advent calendars, and Advent chains to count the days until Jesus' birthday.

Now we have begun a new year that is full of new experiences and opportunities. We will start the year learning about the wisemen's visit to little boy Jesus. We will learn about stars, astronauts, and outer space. The second half of the month we will do activities involving winter and snow. We wish all of you a blessed New Year.



We will celebrate Lutheran Schools Week January 25-31. A display of the

children's artwork will be in the Gathering Area. There will be an Open House on January 29 from 6:00-7:00 PM to begin enrollment for next year, and we will end the week with a Family Event on Saturday, January 31, in the center with activities having a Shapes theme.











CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

SAVANNAH HENN, DIRECTOR SAVANNAHH@STPAULFALLS.COM

Sunday School

Well done to all the Sunday School children who sang in church on December 7. They did an excellent job. This month we have many great lessons planned out for Sunday School. Our 3K-3rd Graders will be learning about how Jesus gives us special work to do. They will learn about Peter and Paul. Our 4th and 5th Grade classes will finish their unit on words for the wise and start a unit on Joseph. On January 18, we will be celebrating Friendship Sunday. We invite everyone to bring a friend to join us for worship.



AWANA

We return to AWANA on January 7 after the Christmas break. This month we will learn about Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and the Lord's Prayer. Our themes this month are Tie Dye Night, Bring a Friend, Pajama Night, and Valentines Night. On February 4, we will have our second AWANA Store of the year. All the kids are doing a great job on their memory work and workbooks.

Recap: Birthday Party for Jesus

We had a great time at our first Birthday Party for Jesus. We had 20 family units join us for a morning of singing, games, crafts, Bible stories, and cookie decorating. We finished the morning off by singing Jesus the song "Happy Birthday." We look forward to hosting this event again in 2026. Photos from the event can be found on the website.

Save the Dates

Swimming at the Aquatic Center – January 18

Join us on January 18, 12:00-2:00 PM, for swimming at the Sheboygan Falls Aquatic Center. This event is free, so invite your friends and family. The church swimsuit policy will be in place. If you have questions, ask Savannah or Nicole.

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.

VBS 2026 - July 26-29

Save the date for VBS 2026! VBS will be taking place July 26-29, 3:00-6:00 PM, here at church. Children 3K-5th Grade for the 2026-2027 school year can join us. More information coming soon.



YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

NICOLE DOLLEVOET, DIRECTOR NICOLED@STPAULFALLS.COM

Youth Group and Confirmation Updates

Blanket making and Christmas parties was 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 January 7—see you then!





The 2026 Summer Mission Team served Sheboygan
County on December 13. They prepared a meal for the
Salvation Army homeless shelter, sorted and stocked items at the Sheboygan

Food Bank, purchased items for Mary's Room, prepped items for OCC boxes, wrote cards to shut-ins, and made cards for Project Angel Hugs. It was a full day's worth of work but went quickly with this awesome group of youth and















UPCOMING EVENTS









THE GATHERING PLACE

LEAH ZEHEL, DIRECTOR
LEAHZ@STPAULFALLS.COM

Thank You! We Met Our Goal!

We have been so blessed by so many generous individuals/families and businesses that have chosen to donate to our November Giving fundraiser. These funds will help keep our costs low for our families, activities at an awesome level, and scholarships for those that need a helping hand to come to The Gathering Place. With these funds, our wonderful volunteers and staff at both locations, and the support of St. Paul staff and members, we are in a good place as we look and plan for 2026. We appreciate all who donate throughout the year as well, because without those donations and your prayers and support, we wouldn't be where we are today. Thank you for helping us achieve our goal. Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year from The Gathering Place.

OTHER NEWS & THANK YOUS

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, registration required. 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 karribearthampage-4.

Guatemala Mission Team - Super Bowl Sub Sale: The Guatemala mission team would love to help you make your Super Bowl gathering easier this year! We will be taking orders for subs and desserts starting January 15, 2026. There will be an online order form or in-church order forms available. We will be offering 12" subs made-to-order and delicious homemade Crème Brûlée, Tiramisu, or Angel Food Cake with strawberries. The opportunity to pre-order will end on February 1, 2026. Your order will be available for pick up either the evening of February 7 or Super Bowl Sunday morning, February 8, 2026.

2026-2027 Early Childhood Center Enrollment: Enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year will begin this year on January 29, 2026. Children that are currently attending the Early Childhood Center (ECC) and all church members are eligible to enroll starting January 18. There will be an Open House on Thursday, January 30, 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 reserved for a child when we receive the registration form (trifold found on the wall in the Gathering Area) along with the \$75 registration fee. (Bring it to the ECC or turn it in at the Church Office.) If you know anyone who might be interested, have them call 920-467-6733, email preschool@stpaulfalls.com, or stop by the ECC. Please call for specifics regarding days, times, or tuition costs.

St. Paul Ladies Auxiliary Thanks You: We want to send out a huge thank you to all the generous bakers of our congregation for donating cookies for our Cookie Sale! Without all of you we would not be able to accomplish our numerous missions for our church and abroad!

Sheboygan County Night to Shine February 13, 2026: Night to Shine is an unforgettable prom night experience, centered on God's love, celebrating people with special needs as Kings and Queens for the evening. Join hundreds of churches worldwide as we honor and value every

guest with red carpet treatment, dancing, dinner, and a night they'll never forget!

Registration is Open!

Kings, Queens, and volunteers can register now on our website, just scan the QR code to register today!

Questions? Contact Rachael Wilson at rachaelw.scnts@gmail.com or 920-467-6449.

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 Saturday, 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!

OTHER NEWS & THANK YOUS

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. You don't need to go through grief alone. We're here to walk with you. Register: https://stpaulfalls.com/ministries/bereavement/griefshare/
Beginning |anuary 20, 2025 | Tuesdays 6:00 - 8:00 PM | Room 112 - St. Paul Lutheran Church

Church Cancellations: We do not notify TV, radio, or social media of cancellations. Information will be available as follows:

- St. Paul members with a cell phone number on file will receive a text message (add 22383 to your contacts)
- On our website homepage www.stpaulfalls.com
- Call 920-467-6449 and choose option 4 for a list of cancellations

Wondering if anything else is cancelled?

Early Childhood Center / The Gathering Place / Children's & Youth Events will close or be cancelled if the Sheboygan Falls School District closes due to weather. Our various ministries have individual cancellation notification procedures. If you are unsure how to receive this information, please check with the Ministry Leader.

Church Library Update: We are thankful for all the donations we receive from you! Here are some recent additions: *Noah's Ark* by Tim Loveit (Bible section #10) is a beautiful illustrated book. *A Little Book of Joy: The Secret of Living a Good News Life in a Bad News World* by Matthew C. Harrison offers encouragement for daily life. *Angels for Teens & the Young at Heart* by Carol J. Enders (Teen section) is a wonderfully illustrated book about angels. *Bad Girls of the Bible* by Barbara J. Essex (Biography section #4) provides an intriguing look at women in Scripture. We also added a leather-bound, smaller-sized Revised Standard Version Bible. We have a collection of Bible translations, including 2 large print versions. If you forget your Bible during small group or Bible study, remember the library is here for you! Have a blessed and happy 2026! Your Church Librarians, Kim Jo Kattner & Dianna Witt

Thrivent Action Team Cards Needed: Those with Thrivent policies are eligible for 2 action teams per year. If you still have cards available, please consider supporting one of the following:

- Night to Shine
- · Hispanic Ministry 10 Year Celebration

Please contact Stefanie in the Church Office for assistance.

Reinbold Novak Funeral Home Thanks You: Thank you for your wonderful contribution toward the 35th annual "Coats for Kids" drive! Thanks to the compassion and generosity of supporters like you, over 890 new coats have been collected! The Salvation Army has distributed these coats: 207 families received 865 coats and a total of 2,711 winter wear items! This would not have been possible without your support. Your generosity truly makes a difference and will help hundreds of local children and adults stay warm throughout the cold winter months ahead. Thank you so much for your commitment to this worthy cause!

Love INC Thank You: To our dear friends at St. Paul Church - God bless you over and over for your awesomely wonderful donation of items for the personal care kits. These kits are always in high demand, but the demand always seems to rise at this time of year. Thank you!

DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The Early Childhood Center Ministry Update: Christina Zeuner delivered a report on current enrollment and staffing. Due to the success of fundraising, \$7,000 of ECC funds were transferred to offset St. Paul operating expenses.

2025-26 Tuition Rates: Preschool and 4K tuition for the 2026-27 school year will remain the same. Childcare rates will increase by \$0.25 in January 2027.

Senior Pastor Update: Pr. Kyle reported the pastors are contacting members whose recent attendance has recently declined. Several persons now homebound have been identified. The holiday activities, an upswing in hospital and hospice calls, and several funerals are filling the pastoral schedules. Feedback was requested on the recent service cancellation due to weather.

Policy #68 – Membership for Children of Non-Members: Confirmed children of non-members will become members if their parents become members within three A.I.M. cycles. Non-member confirmands whose parents do not become members may speak to the senior pastor about becoming a member at age 18.

Policy #64 Update – Mission Donation Allocation: Each year the Council reviews this policy to determine what the Home Missions allocation will be for the upcoming fiscal year. In 2026, our allocation will be 40% to District Missions and 60% to Home Missions.

Policy #41 Discussion — Undesignated Monetary Donations: As St. Paul has received a significant undesignated monetary gift, the council reviewed the policy which currently designates that such gifts be directed to operations. The gift will be recorded as a special gift to distinguish it from budgeted giving. Such a gift is highly unusual and does not reduce the need for congregational support of the approved budget. The ultimate designation of surplus funds will be determined by the council at fiscal year-end. The council will consider what policy amendment(s) would be appropriate to better address a future gift of this magnitude.

Feed My Starving Children Activity Sponsorship Request: The Council approved the Mobile Pack for October 8-10, 2026.

Elder Team Report: John Rische reported that the team had reviewed and approved policy #68. The team recently completed a study on the Ten Commandments and will do a study on the Creeds next. Worship Center Condenser: Chad Berke reported that the AC condenser was on site. Installation will be completed in spring.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report - November 2025													
Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026													
Financial Results- Fiscal Year End Actual, Budget & Variance													
	5 Months Ended 11-30-25		5 Months Ended 11-30-25			Variance							
					from Budget								
		Actual	Budget		(Short)/Over								
General Offerings	\$	550,274	\$	589,353	\$	(39,078)							
Other Income	\$	14,522	\$	19,222	\$	(4,701)							
Mission Offerings	\$	31,004	\$	33,750	\$	(2,747)							
Total Income	\$	595,800	\$	642,325	\$	(46,526)							
Operating Expenses	\$	590,909	\$	612,900	\$	(21,991)							
Mission Support	\$	31,004	\$	33,751	\$	(2,747)							
Total Expense	\$	621,912	\$	646,651	\$	(24,738)							
Suplus (Deficit) from Operations	\$	(26,113)	\$	(4,325)	\$	(21,787)							
Plus: Legacy/Special Gifts	\$	174,109											
Net Surplus	\$	147,996											

Сај	oital Impro	ovement Fund				
	In	Monthly Activity Increase (Decrease)		alance at Ionth End		
Capital Improvement Fund	\$	(2,407)	\$	373,173		
Membership Report						
Baptized Members	351	Confirmed Member	s	1,505	Total Members	1,856

LCMS HISPANIC MINISTRY



Hispanic Outreach Ministry

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026 12:30 PM BILINGUAL SERVICE



Guest Preacher:
Dr. Rev. Nathan Meador
President of the South Wisconsin
District of the LCMS

Potluck Afterward - Bring a Dish to Pass

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 1614 S 23rd St. Sheboygan, WI



LCMS HISPANIC MINISTRY

The Lord continues His marvelous work through His Holy Sacraments, and we rejoice in seeing His grace at work in our community!

On December 7, we celebrated the Holy Baptism of Ada S. Chavarría. In this sacred sacrament, our Lord called Ada by name, washing her in the waters of baptism and joining her to Christ. Through this divine act, Ada has been clothed in Jesus, forgiven of all sins, and welcomed into the family of God. What a joyful moment for her family, friends, and all of us as a congregation!

Ada's baptism reminds us that God's mission is alive and active. Every child baptized, every person brought to faith, and every family nurtured in the Word is part of His ongoing work in our community. Through ministries like ours, the Gospel continues to shine, bringing hope, forgiveness, and the love of Christ to hearts that long for His presence.

We are so grateful for the faithful members and supporters whose gifts make this mission possible. Your generosity helps provide pastoral care, faith formation, and outreach opportunities that bring the saving love of Jesus to many more people. As we rejoice in Ada's baptism, we invite you to prayerfully consider partnering with this mission, so that more lives may be touched, more hearts drawn to Christ, and more souls welcomed into His eternal family.

Let us celebrate together the promise of baptism: that in Christ, we are all children of God, forgiven, loved, and called to shine His light in the world.

Serving Christ through His humble servant and yours, Rev. David Blas





LOVE INC

BONNIE JONES, MINISTRY LEADER





Thank you for all your donations throughout this past year.

We received wonderful donations from St. Paul in Sheboygan Falls — what a blessing! The generosity helps us meet real, everyday needs for neighbors who are walking through tough seasons.

If anyone feels led to give, we are currently running low on:

- Toilet paper
- Deodorant
- · Shaving cream
- · Feminine hygiene products

Donations can be dropped off at Love INC Sheboygan County during office hours. Thank you for helping us care for our community with dignity and Christ-like love!

LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLITES

MATTHEW TSCHUDY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As a new year begins, many of us start thinking about changes we hope to make. Maybe it's becoming healthier, reading more books, learning something new, or breaking bad habits. While these goals often start with excitement, they tend to fade quickly. Studies show that many resolutions don't even make it past the first month of the year. Why does this happen? Simply put, our human nature gets in the way. We fall short, we stumble, and we need grace and forgiveness far more than we like to admit.

That's why it is so important to fix our eyes on Jesus, the one who began and completed our faith. Unlike us, He did not fall short of His purpose. He fulfilled it perfectly. He lived without sin, gave His life as the ultimate sacrifice, and rose again in victory. Through His victory, our failures are forgiven, and we are promised eternal life.

As we move forward into this new year, it is my hope that this truth continues to shape your outlook and guide your decisions. The message of the Gospel is powerful, and it is the hope we celebrate and share every day at Sheboygan Lutheran High. We joyfully encourage our students to live out their faith with confidence and to point others to our Savior, Jesus.

As we reflect on the first semester, we are grateful for a season filled with growth, energy, and exciting accomplishments. Our freshman class is the largest on-campus, and together with the sophomores, juniors, and seniors, they bring great enthusiasm to our school community! Homecoming was a joyful and memorable celebration, and our fall sports teams experienced a successful season, highlighted by our cross country team's visit to the State competition. We launched a new student-led Christian leadership development program, empowering all students to grow in confidence, responsibility, and leadership. Additionally, our restructured tuition rate is making a quality Christian education more accessible and affordable for families.

As we look ahead to the second semester, we are excited for the many opportunities that lie before us to educate our students, share the Gospel, and develop strong Christian leaders.

May God bless you and your family abundantly in the year ahead. On behalf of the LHS staff, we wish you a joyful, peaceful, and blessed New Year!

For Him,

Matthew Tschudy Executive Director



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

Fax: 920-467-4239

Church Office Hours

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

Friday: Closed

Website: www.stpaulfalls.com



<u>Pastors</u>

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 | 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

NONPROFIT ORG
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Lay Leaders

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, 9:15-12:00 PM







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