



NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026



FOR FREE!

THOMAS WALKENHORST

Everyone loves free stuff! There is a saying that says "nothing good in life is free," but every now and then it is fun—and maybe sometimes a blessing—to get free stuff. Maybe you drive by someone's house and they are putting something out at the curb—a piece of furniture, decoration, or something you could use. How about when a friend or family member brings you an unexpected gift that blesses your day? Every now and then you might get a free coffee or dessert from a restaurant. We can all agree

that receiving something for nothing is a good feeling! It feels different because we know we didn't do anything to earn it, and we simply receive it with gratitude.

We have received something greater than all the "freebies" that we could ever get in life. The greatest gift we receive is the gift of freedom that comes through Jesus Christ.

The world and society designate the word "freedom" as being able to do whatever your heart desires, with no

restraints or any input from anyone else. Yet our freedom in Christ is so much more than that. We are released from the chains of original sin that held us in the ways of the world. We have been released from sin, guilt, and death so that we can live in God's will for our lives. Paul writes in Galatians that *"Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."* (Gal. 5:1) As we live as free sons and daughters of God, we should strive to follow in Christ's footsteps and not stumble backwards into our old ways.

Paul also says in Ephesians, *"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."* (Eph. 2:8) This gift, like the free stuff in life, is something we did not work for, but simply receive. We cannot earn God's forgiveness and salvation—it is gifted to us through faith in Jesus.

But having this freedom doesn't mean living for ourselves or doing whatever we please, as the world does. We can use this gift of freedom to glorify God. Paul writes, *"For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."* (Gal. 5:13) God's freedom leads us to live fulfilling, Christ-led lives. Instead of living in sinfulness, we can live out our love for Jesus by serving others and showing grace to others, as God has shown us His grace.

God also blessed us with spiritual gifts—our abilities, talents, time, and resources. We can use each of our unique gifts to serve God by serving others. Peter writes: *"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."* (1 Peter 4:10) As we know God has created everything, we also know these things come from Him, and being free in Christ, we respond not out of obligation but from gratitude—we don't *have* to, but we get to serve God.

As our nation celebrates its 250th anniversary this year, we can also consider the freedoms we have in the United States. As we receive them with gratitude, we realize that our freedom in this country is free to us, but many Americans over time have paid with their lives and their service to our country so that we can live in this beautiful country. Thank God for them!

So just as we are grateful for the free stuff we get in life, may we continually be grateful for the most incredible free gifts we have been given: forgiveness, salvation, and new life through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

THOMAS WALKENHORST
DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP



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BULLETIN

— *Sponsor* —

OPPORTUNITIES

There are a few opportunities
to sponsor bulletins for the
2026 / 27 FISCAL YEAR
(JULY–JULY).



For more information or available weekends /
services, contact Karri in the Church Office.



920-467-6449



karrib@stpaulfalls.com



EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

CHRISTINA ZEUNER, DIRECTOR
PRESCHOOL@STPAULFALLS.COM



The school year ended on May 20 with 13 children graduating from our 4K class. We were especially excited to hear that 8 of the children will continue their education at one of our many area Lutheran schools. Since then, the Preschool and 4K teachers have cleaned the classroom and all the toys as well as developed the curriculum for next year. Child Care continues through the summer. To take advantage of the summer weather, centers and activities are out on the playground for as much of the day as possible.

We are looking for the following: used ink and HP toner cartridges and old cell phones. These things give us extra money that we can use for supplies and other necessities for our program. They can be dropped off in the Early Childhood Center bin in the Giving Center all year long.

Applications are still being accepted for the 2026-2027 school year for the 4K and both Preschool classes. Child Care has limited openings for the remainder of the summer and the fall. Call 467-6733 or email preschool@stpaulfalls.com for more information or to enroll.



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

SAVANNAH HENN, DIRECTOR
SAVANNAHH@STPAULFALLS.COM

Children's Messages

During our summer months, there will be children's messages at our 9:30 AM services on the first, third, and fifth Sundays. We invite you and your families to join us during that service for an age-appropriate children's message.

Vacation Bible School

This month we are so blessed to have volunteers and children that are ready to dig into God's Word this summer! We have over 90 children registered for VBS. Please pray for all who will be participating and that it will be a blessing to our congregation and community. Special thank you to all the people who helped purchase items from our donation board and Amazon Wishlist. These items will help us run a great VBS. Photos from VBS will be available on our website after the event.



AWANA/Sunday School

Registration opens July 29 for the 2026-27 school year! We are so excited for another great year. You can register your child at stpaulfalls.com on our home page. Please reach out to Savannah with any questions you may have. Please register by August 24 so we can prepare for the school year.

Children's Ministry Volunteers Needed

Children's Ministry is looking for willing people to help with AWANA or Sunday School. These programs run September through May. Anyone 9th grade and up can help with these great ministries. If you are interested, please contact Savannah Henn.

Upcoming Family Events

Please come and join us Sunday, August 16 from 6:00 - 7:30 PM at River Park in Sheboygan Falls. We will be sharing a meal together and then participating in a game of Kickball. Bring a dish to pass!



YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

NICOLE DOLLEVOET, DIRECTOR
NICOLED@STPAULFALLS.COM

Confirmation Reminders

6th and 7th Grade students can still submit worship services through the summer. You have until August 31 to submit 26 worship services. We are getting ready for fall, so please keep all mentors and helpers in your prayers as plans are being made.



Summer Youth & Young Adult Group

Summer can be a busy time and we are excited to connect with everyone as the days of summer tick by. We had a great Grad Sunday—it is wonderful to celebrate the accomplishments of our church family! Young adults gathered in May and June for fun evenings surrounded by food and fellowship. Our next Young Adult night will be July 13 at 6:00 PM for food trucks at Kiwanis Park.

Our next Youth Group will be at South Pier on July 12 at 6:00 PM. Mini golf is \$5 and bring money for ice cream! We are making plans to attend the South Wisconsin District Youth event on Sunday, August 9. We are leaving church at 4:15 PM and returning around 8:45 PM. We will join with over 200 youth

and adults from all over the district at Slick City in Wauwatosa. This is a free event, just bring money for snacks. Deadline to sign up is August 2.



Youth Mission Trip

We had an amazing time on our Youth Mission Trip! We were able to hit a number of tourist sites during our travels to South Carolina and really enjoyed the Pigeon Forge area. While in Charleston, we learned about its rich history!

We cannot thank the congregation enough for all of their support. Thank you for praying for our team of 33 as we traveled, worked, and served together! Trip photos can be found on our website.



THE GATHERING PLACE

LEAH ZEHEL, DIRECTOR
LEAHZ@STPAULFALLS.COM

SAVE THE DATE

BRAT FRY & CAR SHOW

AUGUST 24 • 4:30 TO 6:30 PM

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
730 COUNTY ROAD PPP • SHEBOYGAN FALLS**



**T-SHIRT SALE!
50/50 RAFFLE
GERMAN POTATO SALAD • BEANS
BRATS • BURGERS • ICE CREAM TRUCK
DJ • CAR SHOW!**



All proceeds for this event will benefit The Gathering Place and Memory Matters programming!

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

At St. Paul, our mission of "Connecting People to Christ" doesn't stop at our front doors—it goes down the street, across the county, and to the other side of the world. Each month we will be shining a spotlight on a different group of ministries to share what our humble servants have been up to and ways you can get involved. This month we are highlighting our **Outreach & Missions** ministries—a vibrant and active group of servants who show up for others in the name of Jesus. We pray that through these updates, you will see God at work in and through our congregation as we live out our calling together.

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve." — Mark 10:45

Youth Mission Trip — Charleston, SC

Our Youth Mission Team recently returned from Charleston, South Carolina, where they spent the week serving others and growing in faith together. We are so proud of each and every one of them for saying yes to the call. Welcome home!



Our **Family Mission Trip** is scheduled for October 23-25, 2026 at Camp Luther in Three Lakes, WI. We can't wait, watch for more information coming soon!

Mission Partner SCRIP — Recognized!

Our SCRIP program recently received a certificate of appreciation for the faithful support of LCMS missionaries around the world. Every gift card purchased at the Welcome Center helps fund local and global mission work—and St. Paul's congregation has made a real difference. Thank you to everyone who participates week after week!



Pillowcase Dress Mission Project

Approximately 400 beautifully handcrafted pillowcase dresses and boys' shorts, sewn by faithful members of St. Paul and some dear friends, will travel to Guatemala with our Guatemala Mission Team. The remainder will be shipped to Little Dresses for Africa, a Christian charity based in Michigan that transports clothes to children in need across the world. Countless hours of love—all for kids who need it most. Many thanks to everyone who has sewn, donated pillowcases, or given supplies. Our aim is to serve God by serving others.

Guatemala Mission Trip

St. Paul is going international this August! Our Guatemala Mission Team is heading back to Casa Aleluya in San Bartolomé Milpas Altas—a children's home caring for approximately 300 children. Our team has served at Casa Aleluya and partnered with Senderos de Luz to build a family home, install water filtration, provide food to widows, and distribute Spanish Bibles. This year they return with the same heart and the same calling.

Feed My Starving Children

St. Paul's 13th Feed My Starving Children MobilePack is set for October 8 - 10, 2026! Every year, 700+ volunteers from across Sheboygan County gather at St. Paul to hand-pack thousands of nutritious meals for malnourished children around the world. Since FMSC was founded, partners have shipped more than 5 billion meals worldwide—and St. Paul has been proud to be part of that work for 13 years. This is a wonderful opportunity for the whole family to serve together. Stay tuned for more ways to get involved as we get closer to the event!

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT (CONTINUED)

Rebuilding Together

As more Sheboygan County residents become aware of Rebuilding Together's services, applications have grown every year for the past six years. This year we have completed 10 projects—two of which were done by St. Paul volunteers—but 19 more are on our waiting list and we are only halfway through the year. We desperately need more volunteers! In addition to St. Paul, we have started an active campaign to recruit from other Christian congregations. Corporate and foundation donations are ahead of last year, so we are funded for all current projects. If you feel called to help, contact them at rtsheboygan@gmail.com or 833-729-3330.



Night to Shine

Save the Date - Night to Shine returns February 12, 2027! This annual prom night experience, centered on God's love, celebrates people with special needs as Kings and Queens for the evening. Every guest receives red carpet treatment, dancing, dinner, and a night they will never forget. It is truly one of the most joyful evenings of our entire year. Volunteer opportunities will be available—watch the Weekly News for details as we get closer!

Christmas Blessings

Coming in November, Christmas Blessings is St. Paul's annual outreach to families and elderly individuals in our area who might not otherwise have much of a Christmas celebration. Through the generous giving of our congregation, we are able to provide gifts, food, and hope to those who need it most during the Christmas season. This ministry is a beautiful reminder that Christmas is about so much more than ourselves. Watch the Weekly News this fall for ways to get involved.



LERT — Disaster Relief in Action

In early May, a pastor's property in South Wisconsin was devastated by straight-line winds—more than 20 mature trees were damaged or destroyed. Our St. Paul LERT team was among 14 volunteers from across the region who showed up with chainsaws, heavy equipment, and willing hands to help clear the property. Before leaving, the team cut a cross into one of the stumps—a quiet but powerful reminder that Christ is with us in every storm.

St. Paul Serves

St. Paul Serves 2026 is a wrap—and what a year it was! 219 volunteers | 18 projects | 15 sites | 640 hours served. These numbers represent willing hearts, rolled-up sleeves, and a congregation that showed up to love their community in real, tangible ways. From painting walls to clearing debris, from visiting residents to cleaning barns, every act of service reflected the love of Jesus in action. Thank you to every single person who showed up. Save the Date: St. Paul Serves returns May 1-15, 2027!

Behind every ministry at St. Paul is a person who said yes—yes to showing up, yes to giving their time, yes to loving their neighbor in the name of Jesus. We are so grateful for each and every one of you. Visit stpaulfalls.com to learn more about getting involved.

STAFF RETREAT DAY

Every once in a while it is good to step away, breathe, and just enjoy being together. On June 24 our staff enjoyed a wonderful day in Appleton at a Timber Rattlers game—complete with tailgate games, great fellowship, and a beautiful day that somehow avoided the rain. Oh, and the Rattlers won too!

We are so grateful for the gift of rest, laughter, and the people we get to do life and ministry alongside.



OTHER NEWS & THANK YOUS

Volunteer Opportunities This Fall: The 2026 - 27 ministry year is just around the corner, and we are looking for adults to join our team! We are currently in need of Confirmation mentors, Sunday school co-teachers, AWANA small group leaders, and many helpers. Check out the Ministry House and speak with Nicole or Savannah to find a spot this fall!

Lutheran Education Scholarship Program: Applications for St. Paul Lutheran Church Lutheran Education Scholarship Program are due in July. These are for members of St. Paul Lutheran Church Grades 3K through College. College applications are due July 15. Preschool through High School applications are due July 31. You will find these application forms on the Information Wall in the Welcome Center or find the form online at <https://bit.ly/4tqoeFm>.



Confirmation Mentors Needed

Want to walk alongside young people in their faith formation? Confirmation mentors and high school helpers are needed for the coming year. Contact Nicole at nicoled@stpaulfalls.com to learn more!

Chemo Care Packages - A Second Note of Gratitude: Our 6th-8th Grade Confirmation students assembled Chemo Care Packages earlier this year, and we recently received this heartfelt note from a recipient: "Words seem inadequate to express our sincere appreciation for the wonderful Cancer Care Bag assembled by your Confirmation students. Every product was matched perfectly with the needs of cancer patients. I felt like each item was tailored for my particular concerns—especially to be shared with non-members. Be assured every product will help me through my blood cancer journey. Please pass along our heartfelt thanks to all who were involved in this project. Prayers and support truly ease the burden of those struggling with medical issues."

Thank You from Mary's Room: "A heartfelt thank you to all who contributed to the Ladies Auxiliary donation drive for Mary's Room! Your generous donations of new and gently used clothing in sizes newborn through 5 years old will help clothe and care for little ones in our community. Your kindness and generosity are deeply appreciated."

Job Opportunity - Organist: We are looking for an organist on Sundays from 8-10 am. This position also serves as our Choir Piano Accompanist and Bell Choir Director, with commitments on Sunday mornings and Tuesday evenings during the school year. The position could be split up, depending on skillset. Please visit our website for more a job description and application. Please contact Thomas Walkenhorst at thomasw@stpaulfalls.com or 920-467-6449 with questions.

Nursery Help Needed: Do you enjoy working with children 4 years and younger? Our nursery is in need of two new workers to help on Sunday mornings from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM on a rotating basis starting in August. This is a paid position. Applicants need to be 14 or older to apply. Applications can be found on our website or in the Church Office.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY



Celebrate
Recovery

A CHRIST CENTERED Recovery Program

Everyone has issues and struggles in life.

We CELEBRATE RECOVERY in God's amazing healing and restoration!

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.

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!**

Entrance #4 – 300 Wing

Dinner: 6:00PM

Large Group: 6:30PM – 7:30PM

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

Fellowship: 8:30PM – 9:00PM

No Sign-Up necessary,

The only requirement is confidentiality!

Everyone is Welcome!

We are waiting for you!

For additional information contact the Ministry Leader - Julie J. 920-207-1397

JUNE CONGREGATION MEETING MINUTES

May 2026 Treasurer's Report: Donna Felch presented the financial reports. Eleven months into the year we have a surplus of \$19,172 prior to special gifts. The special gifts bring our surplus to \$493,281. Dedicated accounts were reviewed and are strong, as a reminder these are earmarked for specific things and cannot be used for the operating budget.

Donna also explained the Ministry Development Fund. This has multiple uses, primarily uses include:

- Balance church budget at fiscal year end in case of deficit.
- Provide a "jump start" to new or expanded ministries or missions.
- Fund unemployment pay for staff in case of temporary layoffs.
- Provide fundraising match to church ministries with an annual 10% fund balance limit.

2025-26 Budget: Donna Felch presented the upcoming budget, which the congregation approved. It is estimated we will end the year with a surplus of \$2,052 prior to the special gifts. A surplus of \$476,161 is estimated which includes the special gifts. The Church Council will be discussing the best uses for the surplus at their July Council Meeting. The upcoming budget has an 11% increase over this fiscal year, which amounts to \$149,311. Our budget is 65% salaries and benefits, it is our people that run the ministries so this is appropriate. The new expenses primarily come from:

- Wages
- Benefits, which is set by Concordia Plan Services
- Discontinuation of the State Covid Grant for the ECC
- Moving our part time Public Relations & Media Coordinator to full time
- Budgeting Youth Mission Trip support, as their dedicated fund has been depleted

The 5-year Capital Improvement Plan was shared. This is not a budgeted item, but we do try to plan out the spending for this account, as expenses tend to be significant.

Thank You: President Tom Splittgerber extended a thank you to Jim Weber, Member-at-Large, for his service to the church, as his term is ending.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report - May 2026

Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

Financial Results- Fiscal Year End Actual, Budget & Variance

	11 Months Ended 5-31-26 Actual	11 Months Ended 5-31-26 Budget	Variance from Budget (Short)/Over
General Offerings	\$ 1,259,701	\$ 1,296,576	\$ (36,875)
Other Income	\$ 44,483	\$ 50,829	\$ (6,346)
Mission Offerings	\$ 71,177	\$ 74,251	\$ (3,074)
Total Income	\$ 1,375,361	\$ 1,421,655	\$ (46,294)
Operating Expenses	\$ 1,285,011	\$ 1,343,750	\$ (58,738)
Mission Support	\$ 71,177	\$ 74,251	\$ (3,074)
Total Expense	\$ 1,356,188	\$ 1,418,000	\$ (61,812)
Suplus (Deficit) from Operations	\$ 19,172	\$ 3,655	\$ 15,518
Plus: Legacy/Special Gifts	\$ 474,109		
Net Surplus	\$ 493,281		

Capital Improvement Fund

	Monthly Activity Increase (Decrease)	Balance at Month End
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 5,586	\$ 340,711

Membership Report

Baptized Members	337	Confirmed Members	1,535	Total Members	1,872
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LCMS HISPANIC MINISTRY

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We give thanks to God for the Confirmation of Hilary N. Jananan and Regino A. Zavarce, who have publicly confessed the Christian faith into which they were baptized and have been strengthened through God's Holy Word and Sacraments.



In Holy Baptism, God called them as His own, and through His Word, He has continued to preserve and nurture them in the one true faith. We rejoice that they have now been brought to this public confession of faith and pray that the Lord would keep them steadfast in Christ all their days. As their church family, we continue to lift them in prayer, asking that they would grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and remain faithful until life everlasting.

Hilary N. Jananan — Confirmed Sunday, May 17
 "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" — Psalm 27:1

Regino A. Zavarce — Confirmed Sunday, May 24
 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." — Joshua 1:9

We rejoice with Hilary and Regino and give thanks to God for His faithfulness.

Soli Deo Gloria.

In Christ's service,
 Pastor David Blas



LCMS
 SHEBOYGAN COUNTY
HISPANIC OUTREACH

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

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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

Summer Worship Schedule
(May 17 - September 6)

Thursday: 6:30 PM | Sunday: 8:00 AM & 9:30 AM

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

Summer Hours | Sunday Services, 9:15 - 10:45 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 Wednesday Night: 6:00 PM

Confirmation Wednesday Night: 6:00 PM

Youth Group Sunday Night: 5:30 PM



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SOCIAL MEDIA