St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Annual Report of 2025

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Congregational Meeting

February 1, 2026

10:15 a.m.

2026 Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda

1. Call the meeting to order/establish quorum
2. Prayer
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Introduce Council Members
5. Minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting
6. Reports
    - Report of Statistics for 2025
    - Report from Bishop Martin Halom, NW Synod of WI (ELCA)
    - Report from Barb Krug, SAM & Administrative Interim
    - Report of the Church Council President
    - Report of the Joint Council
    - Report of the Pastoral Call Committee
    - Report of Sunday School & VBS
    - Report of Confirmation
    - Report of WELCA
    - Report of the Mobile Food Pantry
    - Report of Bountiful Thanksgiving
    - Report of Outreach Ministries
    - Report of the Needles for Needs Community Quilting Group
    - Report of the Comfort Quilts Group
    - Report of Visitation Ministry
    - Report of the Worship Committee
    - Report of the St. Paul's Singing Saints (Choir)
    - Report of the Ladies' Lunch Bunch
7. Financial Reports
    - Report of the Scrip Program
    - Report of the Treasurer
    - 2025 Year End Account Balances
8. Old Business
    - Asbestos & flooring in the narthex and sanctuary
9. Actions (New Business)
    - Acknowledgement of St. Paul's staff and volunteers
    - 2026 Proposed Budget & Vote
    - Election of Council Members
    - Election of Youth Representative
    - Election of Treasurer
    - Sanctuary projector and screen
    - Other
10. Prayer & Benediction
11. Adjournment of the meeting

2025 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes – February 9, 2025

1. Call the meeting to order: **Called to order at 10:20 by Val Bach. Verified quorum.**
2. Prayer: **Led by Val Bach**
3. Adoption of the agenda: **Motion by Justin Zirngible, second by Dan Higgins – carried.**
4. Introduction of council members: **Val introduced the members present.**
5. Minutes from 2024: **Motion by Tina Dassow, seconded by Chris Konieczny – carried.**
6. Reports: **Motion to accept by Heidi Haynes, seconded by Tony Schumacher – carried.**
   Statistics for 2024
   Bishop Martin Halom, NW Synod
   Barb Krug, Sam
   Church Council President – Val Bach
   Sunday School and VBS
   Confirmation
   Mobile Food Pantry
   Bountiful Thanksgiving
   Outreach ministries
   Comfort Quilts
   Needles for Needs
   Visitation Ministry
   Worship Committee
   St. Paul's Singing Saints
   Ladies Lunch Bunch
7. Financial Reports:
   Report on Script – Tina Machon provided the update and program information
   Report of Treasurer – Tina Dassow explained the financial picture for 2024. Explained that we budget for Pastor but figures reflect our SAM, Fill in Pastors and lay people expenses. Reported that money left over from the repairs was applied to our new roof and that the additional roof repairs came from the general fund.

   Motion by Marie Koerner, seconded by Dan Higgins to accept the financial reports – Carried.
8. Old Business: **None at this time.**
9. Actions – New business:
   * Thank you to all St. Paul's volunteers and staff members
   * 2025 proposed budget – thank you to Leon Gasek and Tina Dassow for the preparation. Tina explained the reporting is different due to the new joint agreement with Our Savior's. Payroll taxes etc. are now part of our joint payments and not shown as such on our records. Mortgage/building fund giving went from $23000 to $16000 in 2024. Justin Zirngible encouraged all to continue giving to that fund because there are always repair needs in the building. Reminder, we need to continue our support of the church…especially to be able to show we can support a full/part time pastor.
   * Discussed the Synod Assembly and the Synod benevolences.

   Motion to approve the budget – making the Synod Assembly amount $1000 and

making the benevolence amount $10,000 by Tina Machon, seconded by Chris Konieczny – motion carried.

* Election of new Council Members. Terms expiring: Gail Heurung, Val Bach, Dan Higgins and Leon Gasek. Up for consideration were Harley Cook, Amber Fettes, Kyle Firnstahl, Dawn Harder, Gail Heurung and Chris Konieczny. A written ballot was taken and destroyed. Elected members were: Harley Cook, Amber Fettes, Dawn Harder, Gail Heurung and Chris Konieczny.
* Stacy Dassow shared she would be willing to be our Youth representative on council.
* Tina Dassow shared she would be willing to continue as our Church Treasurer.

Motion by Sally Lemke, seconded by Chris Konieczny to accept the newly elected. Motion carried.

* Discussion about future needs of the church regarding asbestos removal and re-carpeting. Val Bach presented bids from a couple asbestos removal firms and carpet suppliers. A written ballot was taken, with the decision to start looking at Brach for the asbestos removal and Surface Solutions for carpet. We will now look at fund raising and grants and other options to raise the funds for this project in the future.

Motion by Connor Zirngible, seconded by Tina Dassow to look at starting the project in the future. Motion carried.

*Other

Pastor Bob talked about a new SAM being able to assist as needed in the future. If help is needed we will have more resources.

There being no further business to discuss…Val Bach closed the meeting with prayer.
Motion by Sally Lemke, seconded by Chris Konieczny to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Heurung, Council Secretary

REPORT OF STATISTICS FOR 2025

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Statistical Report
December 31, 2025

Members 2024	590
Members received during 2025	
Baptisms (Youth)	2
Baptisms (Adult)	0
Affirmation of Faith (Adult)	0
Transfer from ELCA Congregations	3
Transfer from other Lutheran Denominations	0
From non-Lutheran Congregations	1
Members received	596

Members removed during 2025	
By Death	7
By Transfer to other ELCA Congregations	0
By Transfer to other Lutheran Congregations	0
By non-Lutheran Congregations	1
Membership changed to Inactive or Non-Member Status	8
Total members removed through death, transfer, etc.	16
Members 2025	**580**

First Communion (10)

Austin Faber
Emma Faber
Avery Frappier
Adalyn Hackbarth
Grace Johnas
Liam Johnas
Maddy Johnas
Emmett Machon
Carly Mildbrand
Jaxson Sackmann

Confirmation (13)

Carmyn Alexander
Brock Anderson
Bradin Brunner
Savanna Brunner
Sada Carstensen
Austin Faber
Saige Fettes
Grace Johnas
Liam Johnas
Treyton Pilgrim
Dawson Rappe
Kyra Scheithauer
Trista Shore

Marriages (0)

Deaths (7)

Hildegard Kuse	Galen Bergmann
Patricia Tauchen	Shirley Gruhlke
Jeremy Brunner (NM)	Linda Zielke
Debra Metz	Carol Kasparek

Baptisms (2)

Conrad David Alexander
Ike Ronald Blackburn

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Baptized Members	950	905	898	603	590	580
Confirmed Members	666	652	659	513	513	519
Average Weekly Worship Attendance in 2020					62	
Average Weekly Worship Attendance in 2021					51	
Average Weekly Worship Attendance in 2022					69	
Average Weekly Worship Attendance in 2023					80	
Average Weekly Worship Attendance in 2024					80	
Average Weekly Worship Attendance in 2025					72	
Average Weekly Number of People Reached Online in 2025						142

A message from Bishop Martin

To the amazing disciples of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

As I reflect on this past year, one of the most significant moments came at the fall Conference of Bishops, which was held immediately following the installation of our ELCA Presiding Bishop, Yehiel Curry. In his first address to the conference, he talked about a one word focus for his first year, connection.

As soon as he said it, I was already engaged, especially since that has been one of my goals in my first year! As I tour this great synod of ours, I've already been to over 50 churches representing over 60 congregations. It helps a lot when I can experience a worship opportunity where multiple churches come together, as was the case Menomonie and Eau Claire! Needless to say, I enjoy learning about the history and more importantly, the people that each congregation has to offer. So distinctive, yet at the same time, we are all still a part of the same team, connected by our common faith and common mission to love our neighbors.

Speaking of our neighbors, I have made it a priority to lift up the important ministry of Neighbor to Neighbor, staffed by Deacon Lidixe Montoya and supported by a newly appointed board at last year's synod assembly. It was at that same assembly where we adopted a resolution to raise $175,000 over three years to support this ministry that is already making great strides in supporting the Latino community throughout our synod. I would invite you personally to contribute toward this goal and/or increase what your church contributes to this ministry on an ongoing basis. Neighbor to Neighbor is a ministry that is so critical right now as so many of our Latino friends live in constant fear of deportation, which can inhibit their ability to even worship in public! We have a tremendous opportunity to show them that they are loved and valued, so let's come together for this important purpose.

Another highlight of 2025 was attending my first ever Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix. In addition to electing the first black Churchwide Secretary (CeeCee Mills) and Presiding Bishop (Yehiel Curry), we also passed yet another social statement, Faith and Civic Life. The rostered leaders of the synod will be spending some time digesting it at our upcoming Winter Theological Event in hopes to equip them to lead a study in your church. I would strongly encourage you to participate in this study as it addresses many of our current realities, including the issue of Christian Nationalism. This is a strong movement that is sweeping the country, but remains largely in conflict with our Lutheran beliefs. Faith and Civic Life conversations can help us all remain rooted in our faith and help us understand how to be engaged in life beyond worship.

To close, I'd like to thank you for your relationship to the synod. We truly can do more together, staying connected. We cannot reach out to the many different groups throughout the synod without your generosity. May we continue to innovate in 2026 as we work collaboratively together and share the love of God throughout our communities!

Privileged to serve,
Bishop Martin

SAM Report by Barb Krug

God's blessings as another year has come to a close and this new year has begun. I have been blessed with the opportunity to lead worship with you.
Exciting things continue to happen here.

Nancy Jones continues to lead us, even though she doesn't consider herself a leader. She leads us with her dedication and knowledge and her kind and caring manner toward each and every member and family of St. Paul's.

Our pulpit has been filled with experienced Pastors, Nancy Amacher and Bob Giese, who say they are retired but according to Merriam-Webster, retirement means: *"withdrawal from one's position or occupation or from active working life".* We are blessed they haven't done that yet! Val Bach and Dawn Harder, our Lay Leaders and I lead worship as well.

Our accompanists, Nancy Jones, Jill Sperl, Darlene Wellner, Tony and Kathy Schumacher, St. Paul's Singing Saints and Gail Heurung fill our services with beautiful music.

Bishop Martin Halom has lead worship at our congregation and will be back to our area on May 3, for what he is calling, Dish with the Bish. You'll hear more about this in the coming months. Our dedicated council members are active and engaged in the ministry and purpose of St. Paul's.

Our youth are being led by some amazing teachers that demonstrate their faith in their teachings. Kathy Hackbarth has stepped down as the Sunday School coordinator and Sam

Cook has graciously volunteered to fill that position with Heidi Haynes. There are other parents that volunteer on a regular basis and are appreciated for their commitment. Thank you, Kathy, for your years of dedication in leading the program to where it is today.

Our confirmation students are active and being challenged by Val Bach, Chris Finkler, Kim Gasek, Dan Higgins, and Dawn Kasper Harder.

There are many “silent” members, as well, that do work in the church that we don’t always see, and they get very little recognition. Our worship team that prepares communion, our communion assistants, our ushers, our audio/video volunteers, our lawn mowers, our landscape men and women, our snow shovelers, our members that provide food and service at funerals, our quilters that swoop in and transform the Welcome Center to a sewing haven for one day each week, but clean up and aren’t seen until we bless their quilts once a year, our custodian, the many workers that faithfully serve once a month at the mobile food pantry, and we can’t forget, Cathy Retzer, who fills any position when needed. Seek these people out and thank them for keeping St. Paul’s running smoothly. If you are interested in helping out in any capacity, please reach out to Nancy. Your service is appreciated as is your attendance in person or on-line for worship.

Lay School and the Continuing Education classes are continuing. Dawn Harder is in her first year. Attending Lay School does not mean you need to become a SAM. Lay School is an amazing opportunity to grow in your faith. If anyone is interested, please reach out to one of us.

A WELCA (Women of the ELCA) group has started and has become very active in a short time. The Ladies’ Lunch Bunch has monthly outings to offer fun and fellowship as we enjoy the restaurants in the area. Please join us anytime.

We have said goodbye to some members of St. Paul’s, as well, this past year. Grieving and sorrow never go away, but with the support of this church family, the pain and loneliness can be lifted somewhat.

Throughout the year, I have been involved in various groups and trainings within our synod. There are monthly SAM support meetings or get-togethers, and the Chequamegon Conference rostered leaders and SAMs meet monthly for worship and support. I am privileged to be a part of the Evangelical Leadership Commission. This Commission distributes available funds to education debt relief applicants and reviews the salary standards for the synod.

Work has begun with the CaSTLE (Country and Small Town Lived Ecclesiology) project and Pastor Bob, who is very involved and was instrumental in getting the grant money for this, is the mentor for the SAMs in our area.

Boundaries Training is a requirement for leaders and was held on November 6, in Eau Claire. Synod Assembly was held in April at Rice Lake. This beautiful church filled with Pastors and lay people that sing boldly is the best part of any synod gathering (for me anyway).
I have been accepted to participate in a pilot program through Wartburg Seminary and the CaSTLE grant. “Called to the Holy Spirit” is a program that is based on our Baptismal promises and, with guidance, we will work to instruct our congregations to take those promises outside the walls of the church, as I feel we do, but we may not recognize it as our ministry. You will hear more about this during 2026 as the program is a year long commitment.

I continue to be blessed to serve as the administrative SAM and I thank God for this calling and you, the members of St. Paul’s.

God’s Blessings,
Barb Krug - SAM

Council President Heidi Haynes

Council Members Include: Heidi Haynes, Marie Koerner, Gail Heuring, Tony Schumacher, Kathy Hackbarth, Carrie Zirngible, Harley Cook, Chris Konieczny, Amber Fettes and Stacey Dassow. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone for dedicating your time to benefit St. Paul's. It has truly been a pleasure to collaborate with all of you over the past year.

We are truly grateful for the continued support we receive in managing our Pulpit supply, thanks to the dedicated efforts of Barb Krug, Pastor Bob Giese, Pastor Nancy, and various lay people. Val Bach is leading the Confirmation program, while Sam Cook and I are overseeing Sunday School, with many others stepping up to assist in teaching. The wonderful members of St. Paul's have come together in remarkable ways, and the achievements we have made without a pastor are nothing short of inspiring.

We have engaged in several exciting projects over the past year and are currently working on more initiatives that promise to bring joy and benefit to our congregation. This summer, work was completed on the front garden, where multiple layers of rock and plastic were removed and replaced with rich black soil. Next spring, we look forward to planting beautiful flowers and grass to enhance the area. We are in the process of acquiring a new projector for the sanctuary, and we have been receiving generous donations to support this project. We are working on fixing the water fountains in the Welcome Hall; we have received concerns about where the water is sprayed when people try to drink. We have been looking at some alternative options to replace the carpet in the sanctuary. If we can do the asbestos work ourselves that would be a substantial savings. There are some options we have if we can do the work without disturbing the tiles. There is also a two-day, 16 hour class that can be taken and that person then is legally allowed to do work that causes minor disturbances, like taking the screws out of the pews. If anyone is interested in this course, please reach out to someone on the council.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to both the current and new members of the council, as well as to all the volunteers and everyone who contributes to making our church a successful place. It has been a tremendous honor to serve as the President of St. Paul's Council. May God bless you all.

Submitted by Heidi Haynes, Council President

Joint Council

The St. Paul's/Our Saviour's Joint Council's purpose is to coordinate financial obligations, such as payroll, and to encourage coordination of efforts through joint services/activities. Each congregation has 3 representatives. In addition, there is a joint treasurer.

The council met January 6, August 13, and November 17. Current St. Paul's representatives include Mark Temme, Stacey Dassow, and Kathy Schumacher. Thank you to Val Bach for serving as president for the initial 2 years of this council! Gary Jensen's efforts as joint treasurer is much appreciated! Thanks also to Dawn Harder, who is currently the joint treasurer. The group helped plan the 5th Sunday joint services (June 29, Breaking Chains at Holway Ballpark; August 31, at St. Paul's; and November 30, at St. Paul's) and is working on the "Dish With A Bish" program for May 3. Next meeting is February 16, at 5:00 p.m. at St. Paul's.

Submitted by Kathy Schumacher

Pastoral Call Committee

Members: Tony Schumacher, Marie Koerner, Heidi Haynes and from Our Saviour's (Julie Janke, Heidi Bower Kesling, Brenda Nernberger).

We interviewed one pastoral candidate in October, 2025. Overall, we thought it was a good interview and had further interest in the candidate. However, the candidate declined to be interviewed a second time by our committee.

We are reviewing our ministry site profile and making any necessary updates, as it has been a couple of years since most of the information was entered. Otherwise, we will continue to stay in touch and be prepared to have more interviews as any potential candidates are brought to our attention by the Synod.

Please contact one of the committee members if you have suggestions or comments. Thank you!

Submitted by Tony Schumacher, Chairperson

Sunday School Summary

Heidi Haynes and Kathy Hackbarth are the coordinators of Sunday School.

We started the 2025 Sunday school year with the children learning about the Bible stories: *The Plagues, The Red Sea, The Lord is My Shepherd, The Sower, and The Prodigal Son*. We also took time to discuss the Easter story and Holy Week, as well. Before stopping for summer break, we finished with the *Wedding at Cana and Jesus Feeds 5,000*.

VBS was held in July with 30 students/6 helpers, including confirmation students and grandparents. The group traveled to the 180-year-old Norwegian Church in Curtiss, noting the old pump organ and gorgeous stained glass windows, as well as no bathrooms! They continued to the Marshfield Zoo, seeing the Wild Wednesday session and breaking into small discussion/touring groups, viewing God's creation around them. On the trail back, they stopped at Good Shepherd Church, only 25 years old, to check out the features of a newer church. It was positive to see the children/youth from St. Paul's and Our Saviour's mixing well due to knowing each other through school.

Sunday School started back up in September. We average approximately 12 children on a Sunday with over 30 children enrolled. Each Sunday the children rotate learning the Bible stories through cooking, Bible skills/games, crafts, videos and science activities. We focus on each Bible story for two Sundays. The Bible stories we covered started with *Creation, The First Sin, Noah's Ark and Abrahm and Sarah*. From there, we needed to focus on the Christmas story to get ready for our program.

Our Christmas program was on December 14. We had the children teach the traditional Christmas story to the congregation this year through bible readings. Each child was able to participate if they so chose by reading and the entire Sunday School group sang four Christmas songs throughout the readings in the program.

Looking into 2026, Kathy Hackbarth stepped down as a coordinator and Sam Cook took over her position.

We would like to thank all the great kids that have been coming and their enthusiasm with the lessons and learning about God's Word. Also, a BIG thank you to the parents that help teach on Sundays.

Submitted by Kathy Hackbarth

Confirmation

Confirmation classes kicked off on September 10, with the Student/Parent meeting and actual classes started on September 17. We have a total of 10 students.

8th Graders (Confirmands):
- Nicole Dassow
- Crandel Harder
- Maddie Johnas
- Owen Machon

7th Graders:
- Peyton Hoffman
- Jacob Lubahn
- Ethan Melvin
- Carly Mildbrand
- Charley Peterson
- Myla Reisdorf

The curriculum for this year focuses on the books of the Bible; the Old Testament vs. New Testament; First, Second and Third Articles of the Apostles Creed; and the Lord's Prayer.

We have held a couple fun-filled faith activities including a church trail walk on the Ice Age Trail and a Creation Scavenger Hunt at the Park. We've had lessons on the parting of the Red Sea including a challenge to see which team could come up with the best way to part a small body of water without Moses' help; we created Gratitude Pumpkins and held a relay race representing the weight of our sins being lifted by Jesus' dying on the cross for our sins.

The students were very creative in coming up with their own set of commandments, which reflected the issues faced in today's world. They have also really enjoyed acting out short skits relating to the lessons each week.

In addition, the students have participated in several worship skits led by Dawn Harder (thank you, Dawn).

The remaining fun-filled faith activities for 2026 include a Stump the Pastor night hosted at St. Paul's; a faith-based movie night; and elective events, including a Bible Wise Cracks event hosted by Our Saviour's Church and a 1st/2nd Century Christian Worship Recreation night to be held at Munson Bridge.

Interviews with the Confirmands will be completed during the April 8 and 15 class periods with the Rite of Confirmation taking place on Sunday, April 26.

A huge thank you to all the parents for the meals they prepared and for instilling the importance of faith and God's word in these students. Also, thank you to Nestle for the donation of frozen pizzas, which fed the students on evenings we didn't have families signed up.

A big thank you goes out to Chris Finkler, Dan Higgins, Kim Gasek and Nancy Jones for all your help with weekly confirmation classes.

Submitted by Val Bach

WELCA

We had our first meeting August 11, 2025, and it was very well attended. The activities that we have had so far are:

- We had tables set up at the Joint Service on August 31, at St Paul's that had information about the different committees that St Paul's and Our Saviors have.
- The group hosted and organized the luncheon for the WELCA Fall Retreat Chequamegon Conference.
- On December 14, a Craft/Bake Sale was held after the Sunday School Christmas Program. 75% of the proceeds went towards the new projector fund. We were able to donate $695.00 with the help of an anonymous donation to our sale. Thank you to all for making this a success.

An Outreach program we are doing is sending birthday cards to all members of St Paul's.
We meet the second Monday of each month at 5:45 p.m. All women of all ages are welcome to attend! It is a time for gathering, socializing, and working together for the church and other programs. We took December off but will meet again in January to discuss the upcoming year. We are new yet, so we are all learning as we go along.

Submitted by Dawn Kasper-Harder

St. Paul's Mobile Food Pantry

The Medford Mobile Food Pantry operates once per month at St. Paul's. It is advertised by word of mouth, a Facebook page, announcements on the local radio station, Chamber News and also bulletins posted by St. Paul's and sponsors. It is scheduled the third Thursday of every month and is open to everyone in need; there is no certification process.
In March, of 2015, a grant from Thrivent was provided, which covered costs for more than a year. When the grant money was depleted, donations were provided by businesses and individuals throughout the community. When we're short of donations we utilize profits from scrip. Typically, people see the need and donate accordingly.

Each month food is ordered from Feed My People via an online process. Approximately $600 of discounted and donated food is ordered each month. A truck transports the food from Feed My People in Eau Claire. If school is closed due to road conditions, they will not send the truck but will reschedule.

All recipients park their vehicles in the church parking lot and wait to be registered. At approximately 3:00 p.m. the registration process begins and continues until 5:00 p.m. Food is loaded into vehicles from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. or until all registrants are served. All registered households are tracked

2025	Households	0-17	18-59	60+	Total Individuals
January	74	51	77	66	194
February	91	61	95	75	231
March	94	45	84	84	213
April	91	56	91	80	227
May	68	24	60	69	153
June	93	73	99	75	247
July	100	73	92	87	252
August	104	76	93	84	253
September	99	43	76	87	206
October	91	47	84	76	207
November	94	59	96	77	232
December	87	53	102	63	218

by age group, number in household, and zip code. This information is reported monthly to Feed My People in Eau Claire.

Approximately 70-110 households are served each month. Participants from Medford and surrounding communities are provided food at no charge. If there is leftover food, we donate it to the Baptist Church Food Pantry or the Taylor County Food Pantry. Both pantries are available to distribute food throughout the week.

St. Paul's provides the majority of the volunteers each month. However, many help from throughout the community, including students performing community service, recipients of the food, as well as those who sponsor the food. The volunteers organize the food in the Welcome Hall to prepare it for distribution. Once the truck arrives, the pallets are unloaded and sorted. Amount of food ordered is typically based on approximately one hundred households, based on the needs trending at other local food pantries. Equal portions are then organized and packed into containers to be loaded into the vehicles. Meanwhile, recipients are registered and provided numbers, as well as necessary information to keep the process running smoothly. At 4:00 p.m., the first recipient is directed to the pick-up location and volunteers load items into each vehicle. When distribution is complete, volunteers help clean-up.

Since the pandemic our process has changed to protect volunteers, as well as all other participants. Recipients remain in their vehicles, which eliminates close contact within the Welcome Hall.

We owe our success to all volunteers, as well as those who donate toward this worthwhile cause.

We provided food to 1,086 households (2,633 individuals) in 2025, compared to 1,047 households (2,504 individuals) in 2024.

Submitted by Sally Lemke

Bountiful Thanksgiving

Bountiful Thanksgiving, one of our annual community giving projects, once again helped three families in need. Representatives from the elementary schools identified the families and provided a list of children's needs and interests. We were able to provide clothing, shoes and boots to seven children. Items were delivered to the families the week before Christmas.

Submitted by Sally Lemke

2025 Outreach Ministries

- Synod Benevolence
- Beds from Christ
- Community Mission with Jesus
- Medford School District Cares Program
- United Way of Taylor County
- Taylor House
- Mobile Food Pantry
- Quilts donated by Needles for Needs and Comfort Quilts quilting groups
- Individuals/Groups sponsoring and working St. Paul's Mobile Food Pantry
- Bountiful Thanksgiving

Needles for Needs

Our group of ladies includes: Tonya Albers, Rita Emmerich, Chris Finkler, Pat Hovi, Jerry Ann Maldonis, Patsy Paustenbach, Carol Perez, Connie Riggle, Sue Shattuck, and Dorothy Smith.

We have completed and distributed 146 Homeless Veteran Quilts in 2025 with the assistance of our transportation team of Leon Gustafson and the Hands Foundation. 47 of those had been sent from October - December 2025. We have nearly depleted our supply of denim jeans, as Rita has been creating lots of quilt tops for this ministry - as quickly as Connie and Carol get them sized, Rita sews them up. We are hoping to receive more donations of clean denim jeans to finish our season. We have around a dozen quilts waiting for transport in 2026. These quilts are distributed by Every Third Saturday, a veteran outreach group located in Minneapolis, MN, near the VA hospital.

We were able to send 256 quilts to Lutheran World Relief (LWR) in October and sent 2 quilts to the Longwood Church for their fundraiser for rebuilding their church after a fire took it from them.

We are hoping to complete at least the same number of quilts in 2026.

Thank you to all who have given monetary donations and donations of supplies to our group. With these donations, we were able to cover shipping costs for quilt distribution by LWR, buy batting for LWR quilts, and buy other needed supplies like fabric, thread, and cutting blades. We also have received batting donations from the Hands Foundation for making Homeless Veteran Quilts. We are so blessed to be able to lovingly make so many quilts that help people in the region and around the world!

Submitted by Tonya Albers.

Comfort Quilts

Members: Sue Draeger, Kim Gasek, Chris Konieczny
We want to thank those individuals for their generous monetary donations, fabrics and prayers which were very helpful in 2025.

125 quilts were made given to: Stepping Stones, Operation Horses Heal, Taylor County Veterans Office, Bountiful Thanksgiving, Taylor House, Hope Hospice, and victims of fire, cancer, or accidents.

One story brings tears to my heart, and I will never forget this ... I went to see a cancer patient with family there and presented a lovely quilt which they all loved. Since I was there, I also served Communion and prayers. The next day she passed away. The family was grateful that I was there. Just think that a quilt started it all.

If you hear that someone is struggling and needs a quilt, please let us know.

Submitted by Chris Konieczny

Visitation Ministry

Members: Dawn Kasper-Harder, Chris Konieczny, Barb Krug
The visitation ministry team reaches out to members of the congregation that need spiritual or emotional support. Most of the visits are to members who physically cannot attend church. Holy Communion is shared along with prayer, kindness, companionship and spiritual encouragement.

Currently, we have 5 church members that are visited regularly.

Worship Committee

Members: Gail Heurung, Nancy Jones, Cathy Retzer, Jill Sperl, Tony Schumacher

Activities in 2025: The tasks of the committee are to meet several times during the year to plan the church services, coordinate musicians, and aid in hymn selection.

Plans for 2026: We will continue with the tasks listed in 2025, hoping to some day be planning with a new pastor.

We appreciate Gail Heurung's continued dedication as song leader.
Submitted by Cathy Retzer

St. Paul's Singing Saints

Members: Tony and Kathy Schumacher, Cathy Retzer, Nancy Jones (accompanist), Dan and Kathy Higgins, Kim and Dawson Gasek, Debra Bender, Gail Heurung, Chris Finkler, Chris Konieczny, Michele Lekie, Val Bach, and Pastor Bob Giese.

The choir is proud of what we accomplished in 2025. We sang most months, just taking a break over the summer. We typically rehearsed at 8:00 a.m. on the second and fourth Sunday of the month. We often sang during the early part of the worship services on those Sundays as well.

We especially enjoyed teaming up with the choir from the Medford United Methodist Church in late December to sing a Christmas related song. We hope to go and sing with them at their church in the future.

We plan to sing a song with the Sunday School children this upcoming spring. We also will be purchasing a cabinet soon to store our stereo in front of the church by the piano, using memorial funds from the Benders.

If you enjoy singing, please come and join us. No experience is required. Having a bigger group would allow us to try some different types of music and sound even better as we praise God!

Submitted by Tony Schumacher

St. Paul's Ladies Lunch Bunch

Women have continued to meet the third Wednesday of each month for lunch at a variety of places. All women are welcome and the meeting details are sent out via email, plus published in the monthly newsletter.

Our purpose is to have Christian fellowship with laughter and a time to share bits of our lives with one another.

Submitted by Chris Finkler and Michelle Danen

FINANCIAL REPORTS

St. Paul's Scrip

Profit earned from scrip sales in 2025 was $2,399 which is down from 2024's profit of $2,527. Watch the council meeting minutes to learn how profit will be distributed to areas of need within our church and community. In 2025, the most popular cards continued to be County Market, Kwik Trip – both grocery and regular cards, and Walmart. We said goodbye to Classic Car Wash tokens, as they closed their automatic car wash bays. We also, thankfully, said goodbye to several other cards that were sold after sitting in the scrip stock for too long. Scrip cards are sold after church in the Welcome Hall and throughout the week during office hours. Thank you to Kathy Higgins, who sells scrip every other Sunday, Nancy Jones, who sells throughout the week, and to everyone who purchases scrip as part of your routine throughout the year. This is such a simple way to give back.

How can you help in 2026?

- Let me know of retailers you frequent often and would like scrip for. We can review if it is available to order and discuss if keeping some on hand would be a good fit.
- Let me know if you would purchase Tractor Supply scrip if it were available. Our Saviour's indicated it is a good seller for them.
- Consider purchasing Kwik Trip scrip and, in turn, use to purchase car washes now that Classic Car Wash tokens are no longer available.

As always, please keep scrip in mind for your basic spending, such as groceries, gas, clothing, or a quick bite to eat. Also, consider scrip cards for home improvements, online shopping, gifts, and employee awards.

Submitted by Tina Machon

2025 Treasurer Report

	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	Over (Under) Budget
Support & Revenue				
Benevolence	0	500	200	
Direct Deposits	37498	35000	31252	
Discretionary Income	1130	1500	8019	
Envelopes	71645	75000	79698	
Loose Offerings	6669	7000	5359	
Mortgage Giving	16339			
Reimbursement - Bulletins/NL	700	700	1196	
Reimbursement - Flowers	283	300	264	
Reimbursement - Misc.	586	250		
Reimbursement - VBS				
Total Support & Revenue	134849	120250	125987	5737
Expenses				
Benevolence	5693	10000	10209	209
Employee Expenses				
Pastor	0	51000		-51000
Employer Health, Life, Disability	0	10000		-10000
Employer Retirement	0	5200		-5200
Total Salary Package	0	66200		-66200
Mileage	0	1000		-1000
Continuing Education	0	250		-250
Meetings	0	200		-200
Clergy Dues	0	110		-110
Professional Supplies	0	200		-200
Total Pastor	0	67960		-67960
				0
Office Secretary	16426	16500	17416	916
Custodian	2488	2500	2629	129
Employer Share SS	107	0		0
Worker's Comp	467	500	455	-45
Supply Pastor	9362	9400	9485	85
Misc Employee Exp	26	0		0
Total Employees Expense	28876	28900	29985	1085
				0
Administration				0
Background Checks	0	60		-60
Bank Charges	392	300	244	-56
Copier	930	950	1840	890

2025 Treasurer Report

	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	Over (Under) Budget
Council	0	200		-200
Finance	320	400	320	-80
Internet	1188	660	1188	528
Office Expenses	753	750	708	-42
Phone	763	775	1564	789
Postage	400	500	1000	500
Synod Assembly	825	1000	25	-975
Technology	1080	1000	1133	133
Total Administration	6651	6595	8022	1427
				0
Education				0
Adult Education	220	300	200	-100
Children's Education	196	600	82	-518
Confirmation	372	400	658	258
Graduation	98	125	125	0
VBS	33	150		-150
Children, Youth, Families	54	100	166	66
Total Education	973	1675	1230	-445
				0
Evangelism				0
Church Celebrations	422	450	276	-174
Marketing	104	100	119	19
Fellowship	144	200		-200
Total Evangelism	670	750	395	-355
				0
Property				0
Cleaning Supplies	275	500	360	-140
Electric/Sewer/Water	2203	2400	2594	194
Gas	2141	5000	2952	-2048
Lawn Care & Snowplowing	506	1000	2230	1230
Repairs & Maintenance	21880	5000	1197	-3803
Property Insurance	6838	7000	8610	1610
Waste Disposal	1415	1500	1610	110
Mortgage Expense	27820	0		0
Total Property	63077	22400	19553	-2847
				0
Worship				0
Worship Supplies	978	1100	961	-139
Devotionals	973	1000	635	-366
Musicians	2800	3500	2785	-715
Flowers	274	350	325	-25

2025 Treasurer Report

	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	Over (Under) Budget
Total Worship	5024	5950	4705	-1245
				0
Uncategorized Expense				0
Total Expenses	110964	144230	74100	-70130
Excess of Support & Revenue over Expenses	**23885**	**-23980**	**51888**	**75868**
Designated Support				
Building Maintenance	1733		33135	
Community Benelolence	1216		6892	
Fair Trade Sales	504		1214	
Flowthrough	5609		421	
Memorials Received			370	
Misc				
Mobile Food Pantry	6090		18949	
Monthly Mission Offering				
Mortgage Principal	30572			
Comfort Quilts Income			1500	
Sunday School	50		45	
Thrivent Choice	898		870	
Youth/SPY Fund/VBS	124		163	
Total Designated Support	46795		63558	
Interest Income	1676		1705	
Total Income	48472		65262	
Designated Expenses				
Building Maintenance	31549		972	
Community Benevolence Pymts	1199		6670	
Fair Trade	315		1493	
Flow Through	5608		583	
Memorials Used	813			
Mobile Food Pantry	5573		6400	
Monthly Mission Payment				
Mortgage Principal	30476			
Comfort Quilts Expense			421	
Sunday School	215		317	
VBS				
Youth				

2025 Treasurer Report

	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	Over (Under) Budget
Total Designated Expenses	75749		16856	
Designated Support over Expenses	-27277		48406	
Net Funds Increase (Decrease)	-3392		100294	

2025 TREASURER'S REPORT

Bank Account Balances as of:	**12/31/24**	**12/31/25**	**Increase (Decrease)**
General Checking	180,642	234,072	53,429
SPOS Joint	1,000	1,000	0
Designated Funds in Checking			0
Building Fund	1,360	33,523	32,163
Comfort Quilts	726	1,805	1,079
Community Benevolence Fund	133	355	222
Designated Memorials	4,140	4,510	370
Fair Trade Sales	476	196	(280)
Mortgage Fund	0	0	0
Thrivent Choice	1,230	2,100	870
Mobile Food Pantry	9,912	22,461	12,549
Sunday School	912	640	(272)
Youth Group	11,572	11,735	163
Total Funds In Checking	$212,104	$312,398	$100,294
Other Accounts			
Events/Fund Raiser Acct	3,164	3,180	16
Needles for Needs Acct	1,411	1,329	(81)
Scrip Acct	9,033	8,814	(219)
Total Other Accounts	$13,608	$13,323	-$284
Total - All Accounts for St Paul's	$225,712	$325,721	$100,009

2026 BUDGET Report

	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Budget	%of Budget	% Increaase over 2025 Budget
Support & Revenue						
Benevolence	0	500	200	500		
Direct Deposits	37498	35000	31252	35000		
Discretionary Income	1130	1500	8019	7000		
Envelopes	71645	75000	79698	90000		
Loose Offerings	6669	7000	5359	7000		
Mortgage Giving	16339					
Reimbursement - Bulletins/NL	700	700	1196	1200		
Reimbursement - Flowers	283	300	264	300		
Reimbursement - Misc.	586	250		750		
Reimbursement - VBS						
Total Support & Revenue	134849	120250	125987	141750	100.0%	17.9%
Expenses						
Benevolence	5693	10000	10209	10000	7.1%	0.0%
Employee Expenses						
Pastor	0	51000		51000		
Employer Health, Life, Disability	0	10000		10000		
Employer Retirement	0	5200		5200		
Total Salary Package	0	66200	0	66200		0.0%
Mileage	0	1000		1000		
Continuing Education	0	250		250		
Meetings	0	200		200		
Clergy Dues	0	110		110		
Professional Supplies	0	200		200		
Total Pastor	0	67960	0	67960	47.9%	0.0%
Office Secretary	16426	16500	17416	18000		
Custodian	2488	2500	2629	2800		
Employer Share SS	107	0		0		
Worker's Comp	467	500	455	500		
Supply Pastor	9362	9400	9485	1000		
Misc Employee Exp	26	0				
Total Employees Expense	28876	28900	29985	22300	15.7%	-22.8%
Administration						
Background Checks	0	60		0		
Bank Charges	392	300	244	300		
Copier	930	950	1840	1000		

2026 BUDGET Report

	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Budget	%of Budget	% Increaase over 2025 Budget
Council	0	200		200		
Finance	320	400	320	400		
Internet	1188	660	1188	1200		
Office Expenses	753	750	708	750		
Phone	763	775	1564	1600		
Postage	400	500	1000	1000		
Synod Assembly	825	1000	25	1000		
Technology	1080	1000	1133	1200		
Total Administration	6651	6595	8022	8650	6.1%	31.2%
Education						
Adult Education	220	300	200	300		
Children's Education	196	600	82	500		
Confirmation	372	400	658	500		
Graduation	98	125	125	200		
VBS	33	150		150		
Children, Youth, Families	54	100	166	200		
Total Education	973	1675	1230	1850	1.3%	10.4%
Evangelism						
Church Celebrations	422	450	276	450		
Marketing	104	100	119	150		
Fellowship	144	200		200		
Total Evangelism	670	750	395	800	0.6%	6.7%
Property						
Cleaning Supplies	275	500	360	400		
Electric/Sewer/Water	2203	2400	2594	2600		
Gas	2141	5000	2952	3500		
Lawn Care & Snowplowing	506	1000	2230	2000		
Repairs & Maintenance	21880	5000	1197	5000		
Property Insurance	6838	7000	8610	9000		
Waste Disposal	1415	1500	1610	1700		
Mortgage Expense	27820	0		0		
Total Property	63077	22400	19553	24200	17.1%	8.0%
Worship						
Worship Supplies	978	1100	961	1100		
Devotionals	973	1000	635	1000		
Musicians	2800	3500	2785	3500		
Flowers	274	350	325	350		

2026 BUDGET Report

	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Budget	%of Budget	% Increaase over 2025 Budget
Total Worship	5024	5950	4705	5950	4.2%	0.0%
Uncategorized Expense						
Total Expenses	110964	144230	74100	141710	100.0%	-1.7%
Excess of Support & Revenue over Expenses	**23885**	**-23980**	**51888**	**40**	0.0%	
Designated Support						
Building Maintenance	1733		33135			
Community Benelolence	1216		6892			
Fair Trade Sales	504		1214			
Flowthrough	5609		421			
Memorials Received			370			
Misc						
Mobile Food Pantry	6090		18949			
Monthly Mission Offering						
Mortgage Principal	30572					
Comfort Quilts Income			1500			
Sunday School	50		45			
Thrivent Choice	898		870			
Youth/SPY Fund/VBS	124		163			
Total Designated Support	46795		63558			
Interest Income	1676		1705			
Total Income	48472		65262			
Designated Expenses						
Building Maintenance	31549		972			
Community Benevolence Pymts	1199		6670			
Fair Trade	315		1493			
Flow Through	5608		583			
Memorials Used	813					
Mobile Food Pantry	5573		6400			
Monthly Mission Payment						
Mortgage Principal	30476					
Comfort Quilts Expense			421			
Sunday School	215		317			
VBS						
Youth						

2026 BUDGET Report

	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Budget	%of Budget	% Increaase over 2025 Budget
Total Designated Expenses	75749		16856			
Designated Support over Expenses	-27277		48406			
Net Funds Increase (Decrease)	-3392		100294			

CONGREGATIONAL VOTING

Church Council

Term Ending 2026	Term Ending 2027	Term Ending 2028
Heidi Haynes	Kathy Hackbarth	Harley Cook
Marie Koerner	Tony Schumacher	Amber Fettes
	Carrie Zirngible	Gail Heurung
		Chris Konieczny

Nominations: 2026 Ballot (term ending 2029)
Marie Koerner
?
1-year youth representative – Stacey Dassow
Treasurer – Tina Dassow

The Nominating Committee (consisting of Council members) is proposing this ballot to the congregation for approval at the annual meeting. The committee has communicated with congregation members who are interested and willing to make this commitment to the council. Coming from a committee, this proposal does not require a second.

NS&V
Northern Sound & Video LLC

Customer	St Paul Lutheran Church 321 N. Park Ave Medford, WI 54451 David Hraby 715-965-3150 715-748-4909	Date:	14-Oct-25
		Proposal #	IPA09251014
		Expires:	30 Days
Account Executive:	Roger Ihde	Customer Code:	PAUL4909

Options Page 1

Item	Qty	Manf	Model	Description
		Option #1 - Epson 6000 Lumens Laser Projector, Long Throw Lens, Projector Mount & Installation		
1	1	Epson	V11HA359	EB-PU1006W Laser Projector - 6000 Lum, 2.5 Mil:1 CR, WUXGA Native (4:3 / 16:9 Com
2	1	Epson	V12H004M	ELPLM11 Lens
3	1	Chief	RPA351	Projector Mount
		Lens Throw Distance 47.24 to 71.66 ft For A 72.5 X 116 Screen Viewing Area		
		If the throw distance is 67ft as you stated		
				Option #1 Total with Installation $ 11,431.33
		Option #2 - Different Epson Lens For Longer Throw Distance		
1	1	Epson	V12H004L	ELPLL08 Lens
		Lens Throw Distance 70.16 to 98.21 ft For A 72.5 X 116 Screen Viewing Area		
		If the throw distance is 78 ft as my old notes say		
				Additional Cost for Longer Throw Epson Lens $ 690.83
		The Option #2 lens will be needed if my notes are correct and the throw distance is actually 78 feet. The price shown is the cost increase over and above the lens in option #1.		
		Existing screen, video switcher, and AV wire infrastructure will be re-used as is.		
		Option #3 - Panasonic 6000 Lumens Laser Projector, Long Throw Lens, Projector Mount, and Installaiton		
1	1	Panasonic	PT-MZ680	Laser Projector - 6000 Lum, 3 Mil:1 CR, WUXGA Native (4:3 / 16:9 Compat), 20K Hrs, w
2	1	Panasonic	ET-ELT23	Long Throw Lens
3	1	Chief	RPA302	Projector Mount
		Lens Throw Distance 43.38 to 69.32 ft For A 72.5 X 116 Screen Viewing Area		
				Option #2 Total with Installation $ 11,007.23
		This projector and lens combination only work if the throw distance is 67ft as you have said. The Panasonic projector has a higher contrast ratio at three million to one compared to the Epson's two point five million to one. When it comes to video projection, the higher the contrast ratio, the better as ambient room light hitting the screen reduces contrast and so the more contrast the projector produces the better the projected image will look even if some contrast is lost due to ambient light. There is no longer throw lens for the Panasonic that meets the distance requirements for 78 feet if that is the throw distance. Both the Panasonic and the Epson have 6000 lumens of brightness.		
		Option #4 - Replace Screen with New High Contrast, Wider Viewing Angle, Tensioned Screen		
1	1	Da Lite	70175LS	Tensioned Contour Electrol Screen - 72.5"VH X 116"VW, HD Progressive 1.1 Contrast M
2	1	Da Lite	DL16525	Screen Controller with IR Remote & PoE Injector
		Please note that a tensioned screen will have a longer case than a non tensioned screen.		
				Total with Installation $ 5,867.64
		St Paul Lutheran to provide an electrical contractor to disconnect power from old screen and connect power to new screen.		