



St. Paul's Messenger

A monthly newsletter for friends and family

December 2023

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 321 N. Park Avenue, Medford, WI 54451

Phone: 715-748-4909



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EVENTS

- December 10 10:45 a.m.
 Showcase Players: *"The Greatest Story Ever Told"* performed at Our Saviour's
- December 17 Sunday School Program
 Welcome New Members

Attendance

November 5	106
November 12	99
November 19	71
November 26	58

Thank you to Lenore & Alan Brandl for sponsoring the December newsletter.

A MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT VAL BACH

Greetings everyone,

As I write my message to you, it is three days before Thanksgiving. By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will have come and gone. But that doesn't take away from the meaning of Thanksgiving, which often times gets somewhat skimmed over because the Thanksgiving holiday happens to fall during the week of deer hunting season in Wisconsin. Deer hunting is almost like a declared holiday, itself. Funny that Hallmark hasn't recognized that one yet. And then there's Black Friday shopping that no longer considers Thanksgiving to be sacred and off limits. You see those deals popping up sooner and sooner and that even includes deals on Thanksgiving Day. It seems to be just one more thing that takes away from the reasons we celebrate Thanksgiving.

I would still bet that most everyone spends a part of the day on Thanksgiving enjoying some good food, good company and a good excuse to wear comfy pants that allow for some expansion to accommodate all that delicious food to be consumed. There truly is so much to be thankful for.

I hope this message finds you in good health as another holiday season approaches. Earlier this year I reached the 6th decade of my life and of all the birthdays in my past, this one gave me reason to pause and reflect. I remember thinking to myself...wow, my dad passed away at the age of 70 and I couldn't seem to fathom possibly not being here in 10 years. All of a sudden 60 doesn't sound that old.

So many people have told me that time seems to go more quickly the older you get and now I find myself saying the same thing to my children. For me the magical thing about Thanksgiving is that no matter my age, the feeling of togetherness and sharing is always the same. Time might change the faces at the table, but the conversation always includes memories of those who have passed and, in this way, the younger generations at the table learn something of their great grandparents and allows the older generations the opportunity to resurrect fond memories of those who are no longer with us.

Thanksgiving is a celebration of those who are dear to us, and it is a tradition I am thankful is part of our national culture. Thanksgiving gives us all an opportunity to soak in the moment, to be keenly aware of not only the present, but of the past and the future, as well. We can be thankful for the life we have and the good that surrounds us. While some of us may have lost a loved one in this past year, making it difficult to face the holidays without that certain someone, we can also be thankful for the wonderful memories and in knowing God has them next to him.

(continued on page 2)

(Council President message continued from page 1)

Wherever you are on life's journey, I hope you take a moment this Thanksgiving to ignore the noise in your life, focus on the good, and allow that thought to expand and consume you, even if it is only for a brief moment.

Thank you to every one of you for being a part of this church and, in essence, a part of my life. And, thank God for all of the blessings he bestows upon us day in and day out. May your Thanksgiving be a time for you to slow down, ignore the noise and be thankful for what you do have. God's blessings to you all. Happy Thanksgiving from my family to yours!

A MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP'S ELECTION COMMITTEE



To the Council, congregation, pastors and lay leaders of St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin (NWSWI) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America is writing this letter to invite you to participate in the upcoming election of our synod Bishop at Synod Assembly 2024. The Bishop's role is to oversee the ministry and administration of the synod and its staff. This includes support for congregations, rostered leaders and Synodically Authorized ministers, and, relationships with churchwide and ecumenical partners.

All congregations have three responsibilities:

1. Each congregation should send the appropriate number of lay representatives and rostered leader representatives if available to vote at the Chequamegon Conference Assembly on Thursday, February 8 at 6:30 p.m. at Nazareth Lutheran Church, Withee, WI. Each Conference may nominate up to 7 candidates for Bishop. Candidates for Bishop include active rostered ministers of Word and Sacrament; both interim ministers and retired ministers are eligible. Please prayerfully consider if you have any candidate to bring forth for nomination; and, please ask them before bringing their name forward.
2. The wide distribution of information regarding the nominees, once all individuals have been contacted, and confirmed their interest or have recused themselves, is key. Discussion, town-hall style meetings, participation by all members is encouraged during the Q&A sessions and sharing of the biographic videos should be shown or taken to those who cannot watch it themselves. Healthy participation is key in any election, and non-voting observers are welcome at all gatherings.
3. Each congregation should send an appropriate number of lay representatives and rostered leader representatives, if available, to vote at the NWSWI Synod Assembly on June 7-8, 2024 in Eau Claire, WI to elect a Bishop from those individuals nominated and confirmed. Additional nominees can be made at Synod Assembly per open Ecclesiastical ballot guidelines.

The process for the nomination of a Bishop was changed at our last Synod Assembly and details will follow from your Conference Dean, Rev. Elizabeth Bier. Details and a full timeline is available on the website:

<https://nswi.org/synod-assembly-2024> .

We look forward to navigating this process together, guided by the Spirit, in the work of the Kingdom of Heaven. With deep gratefulness, we thank you for your prayerful participation.

Sincerely,

NWSWI Bishop's Election Committee

VP Al Arndt	Rev. Erin Nelson	Rev. Kurt Jacobsen
Karyn Hullinger	Sue Zahrbock	Elizabeth Bartsch
Rev. Sara Bishop	Rev. Greg Kaufmann	Rev. Mamy Ranaivoson
Madeline Leske-Oppedahl		

AN UNPRECEDENTED GIFT

Advent and Christmas Greetings from Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

Christmas is celebrating Jesus as the gift we didn't know we needed because our human brain can't imagine God's generosity.

Jesus is God's **unprecedented gift of love** for a world in great need. Friends, we live in unprecedented times. The word "**unprecedented**" means *never done or known before*. In recent years we've heard of the **unprecedented** effects of climate change causing more powerful hurricanes and devastating wild fires. We lived through an **unprecedented pandemic**, and we lament the **unprecedented** death toll from mass shootings in our country. We worry about the stability of our democracy after an **unprecedented** political insurrection at our own capital. At times it feels as though we are reeling from one unprecedented disaster to the next. How do we live as people of faith in this time and place? How do we put our Christian faith into action? What if we countered with **unprecedented goodness**?

This is a true story of **unprecedented goodness**.

On March 23, 1847, at a meeting in Skullyville, Indian Territory (Oklahoma), a group of tribal members from the Choctaw Nation, missionaries, and traders heard the news about what was happening far away across the Atlantic in Ireland, the Great Famine. The result was an unlikely, **unprecedented friendship between the Choctaw and the Irish**. Historians estimate that more than a million Irish people died between 1845-1851 from hunger and hunger related diseases.¹ The Choctaw, deeply moved by this story of people they have never met, collected \$174, an incredibly amount of money considering the Choctaw's own poverty due to the fact that they had been forcibly removed from their land by the U.S. government by an unprecedented act of cruelty just a little over ten years earlier. At the time of the donation many Choctaw were living in poverty with inadequate house and food. One historian writes, "It is difficult to

Jesus also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins.³ He said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put in more than all of them."⁴ For they all offered their gifts out of their wealth. But she, out of her poverty, put in everything she had to live on. Luke 21:2-4

imagine a people less well-positioned to act philanthropically." Records show that the donation was sent to New York City to buy grain and food that was shipped across the Atlantic. Seven Irish newspapers published an account of the generous Choctaw. Why

were the Choctaw so compassionate and generous? Why are we so surprised by their generous gift? Perhaps the Choctaw and the Irish were connected by their common experience of colonization, mistreatment and suffering.

Ireland had been colonized by England and forced into a land tenure system that enabled English landlords to gain profit from the Irish tenants farmers while leaving the farmers destitute. Tenant farmers raised crops to pay the landlord's rent and to feed

"We are never too poor to give or too rich to receive."² a favorite proverb of Bishop Joseph Bvumbwe, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Malawi

¹ Grant, R. (2023, Sept/Oct). On Common Ground, Smithsonian, pg. 56-65.

² Attributed to Pope John Paul II

(continued on page 4)

their own families they grew potatoes. A disease, blight, to the potato plant caused the famine. The English refused to help and often blocked aid to the Irish.

The Choctaw were forced from their tribal territory by the U.S. government when President Andrew Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act in 1830. The Choctaw were tricked and threatened into ceding 25,000 square miles of their land in Mississippi and were forced to walk 500 miles to Indian Territory now Oklahoma. Thousands of Choctaw died during that winter's blizzards from disease, and starvation walking what is now called the Trail of Tears and Death. With that memory still in their lived experience, the Choctaw had compassion and collected money (\$174) to be sent to those who were also suffering a great injustice 4,000 miles away in Ireland. It was truly a gift of unprecedented goodness, unprecedented generosity.

This story was largely forgotten until 1990 when an Irish writer uncovered it and began to connect with the Choctaw in Oklahoma. It began by Irish citizens joining members of the Choctaw to walk the Trail of Tears and members of Choctaw traveling to Ireland to join in a commemorative Famine Walk. Later there was a visit by the Irish prime minister to Oklahoma and in gratitude for the earlier gift offers of scholarships to pay for Choctaw students to study in Ireland.²

God sent Jesus into our broken, fallen world. Jesus is God's gift of unprecedented love. Jesus is a gift we desperately needed and did nothing to deserve, a gift we could never repay, a gift that transforms our despair and gives us hope.

Advent/Christmas 2023: May this season inspire us to give generously to those who have experienced injustice and live with great need in response to God's unprecedented gift of generosity to us.³

In Jesus' name, AMEN

Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

² For more information about the Choctaw gift see: [The Choctaw Nation's Gift to the Irish | Smithsonian Voices | National Museum of the American Indian Smithsonian Magazine](#)
[The Irish are sending relief to Native Americans, inspired by a donation from a tribe during the Great Famine | CNN](#)

³ Looking for ways respond in faith with unprecedented goodness? Consider giving a Christmas gift to our companion synod in Malawi for a well that will provide clean water for an entire village and enables girls to attend school rather than carry waters from rivers and streams miles away from their homes. [Northwest Synod of Wisconsin | Giving \(nswi.org\)](#) Scroll to Bishop's "Water is Life" Malawi Well Fund.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday, December 17 Sunday School Program
Welcome of New Members
Church Christmas Bake Sale



Sunday, December 24 Morning Worship 9:15 a.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (SP) 2:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (OS) 4:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (SP) 6:00 p.m.

No Advent Services are scheduled at this time.

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

The Mobile Food Pantry served 84 households on November 16, 2023.



50 individuals ages 0-17
78 individuals ages 18-59
77 individuals ages 60+

205 total number of individuals

47 individuals visited the pantry for the 1st time.

4,424 pounds of food were distributed. Food included chicken breasts, cheese, entree sandwiches, potatoes, bread and bakery, apples, squash, canned tomatoes, frozen pizzas, fresh basil, and onions.

If you would like to help sponsor the food pantry, simply make out your check to **St. Paul's Lutheran Church** and include "food pantry" in the memo line. Business and individual sponsors are welcome.

The next Mobile Food Pantry will be on Thursday, December 21.

Volunteers meet at 1:00 p.m.
Distribution begins at 4:00 p.m.

Thank you to the **Medford Chrysler Center** for sponsoring the November Mobile Food Pantry.

Thank you to the many volunteers that came to help distribute the food.

New Member Sunday

Sunday, December 17
9:15 a.m. service



If you are interested in becoming a member of St. Paul's, please contact the church office.

Check the Welcome Hall information board for opportunities to sponsor different ministries in the church, such as the Mobile Food Pantry, and the Newsletter.

We are also looking for snow shovelers this winter. The signup sheet is also in the Welcome Hall.



Rehearsals will be held at 8:10 a.m.
Sunday, December 10
Sunday, December 24

We will sing during those services as well as prepare a recording for the Christmas Eve services.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



The Sunday School children learned about Queen Esther and how she risked her life to save others. The children learned that this is what we should do, use the blessings given by God to help others.

The group is now getting ready for our Christmas program. We are practicing our songs and learning about the reason for Christmas! Please mark your calendar to join us for our Christmas program on **Sunday, December 17th!!!** We can't wait to see you!

Sunday School Coordinators,
Heidi Haynes and Kathy Hackbarth



CONFIRMATION

At this time, we are half way through the lessons for the year. The kids are doing great with the skits. How wonderful it was to have special music performed by Lauren and Briley. It was also wonderful to hear Saige being the voice of GOD in the Lord's Prayer with Kim. Thank you Dawn, for working with Saige.

In January, we will be starting on some skits, organizing dates to be confirmed and hopefully more special music. Thanks to all the parents and kids that are helping with the services. Please remember to use the shared document to sign up to help as worship assistants. Our church community needs each and every one of us to keep us going strong. God bless until next time. Faithfully submitted by
Kim and Leon Gasek

Bible Study: *Human Trafficking, the Bible, and the Church*

6 week study

When: Monday, January 8, 2024
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Welcome Hall
Cost: \$20.00 for book

This study presents an examination of key biblical material on slavery and prostitution. It suggests that the Bible does have much to say that can inform Christian responses to modern-day slavery in all its forms, including the sex industry into which so many victims of trafficking are sold. Contact the church office if interested so books can be ordered.

Please contact the church office if your contact information has changed.

Phone: 715-748-4909

Email: stpaulslutheranmedford@gmail.com



Join us for St. Paul's Lutheran Church's
CHURCH WIDE

Christmas Bake Sale

A fundraiser for global outreach ministries

December 17, 2023

To be held after the 9:15 a.m. service

We are in need of bakers. Please consider bringing a dozen or two of your homemade holiday treats to share.



NEEDLES FOR NEEDS COMMUNITY QUILT GROUP

We've been busy with all three of our projects this past month. So far we have completed 11 F/Q sized quilts for Veteran apartments (Every Third Saturday is helping newly housed homeless vets get a good start on independent living!), 7 Lutheran World Relief quilts, and 1 Homeless Veteran Quilt.

We are still accepting donations of embroidery floss, full size and larger flat cotton and cotton blend sheets, and batting. Thank you for your faithful giving!

We are still getting together every Tuesday from 9-2, with the exception of December 26. We hope you will join us for a few hours or a whole day!

God's work, Our Hands.
Tonya Albers

COMFORT QUILTS

Quilts were given to Taylor House. I can't say too much, but when I delivered them, my heart ached and tears ran out. To see so many clients there was unbelievable. They welcomed me with opened arms. You can't appreciate anything until it's gone.

Nine quilts are being donated to the Bountiful Thanksgiving project. What a Thanksgiving blessing. If you're interested in joining our group, we sew at home. The church has a long arm quilting machine that we use to finish our quilts. We would be happy to teach you how to use it or quilt the project for you.

We appreciate donations of cotton fabrics, colorful full size sheets and monetary donations for future quilts.

In God's name,
Chris Konieczny 715-965-8312



VISITATION MINISTRY

Since Pastor Bob had surgery, I have taken over coordinating our visitation ministry program. Dawn Kasper and I visit with parishioners and non-parishioners and offer to share Holy Communion with them. It is working out very well and they're happy to see us. If you know of anyone that needs a visit, please call Chris Konieczny 715-965-8312.



LADIES LUNCH BUNCH

WHEN: Wednesday, December 20

TIME: 11:30 a.m.

LOCATION: St. Paul's Welcome Hall

Bring a dish to pass and a wrapped white elephant gift.

Please call Chris Finkler at 715-748-6848
or Michelle Danen at 715-748-4397
for reservations.



JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

ALL ARE WELCOME – AND WE MEAN IT!

PASTOR NANCY AMACHER WILL BE LEADING WORSHIP

WORSHIP WILL BE AT BS BAR (HALL) @ W4782 HWY 64
(corner of Oriole & Hwy 64)

9:00 am Worship followed by brunch
provided by Barb Krug and Bruce Krug (members of OS)
and Craig and Tara Krug (members of SP).

This will not be pot-luck – Please come, worship, and enjoy great
food and fellowship.

This newly remodeled Hall will be a beautiful setting for a joint
worship service on this 5th Sunday of the month.

An early New Year's celebration is also being planned along
with some games for the kids.



DECEMBER 2023 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

DATE	MESSAGE	GREETERS	COMMUNION SETUP	ACOLYTE	LITURGIST	USHERS	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	AV
12/03/23	Barb Krug		Kathy & Dan Higgins		Justin Zirngible	Treyton Pilgrim	Marguerite Jochimsen Chris Finkler Justin Zirngible	Ross Hackbarth Cathy Retzer
12/10/23	Pastor Bob Giese		Jo Cypher	Saige Fettes	Tony Schumacher		Sophie Sperl Jeremy Sperl ?	Ross Hackbarth Cathy Retzer
12/17/23	Sunday School Program Bob Giese		Kathy & Dan Higgins		Val Bach		Val Bach Dawn Harder Sally Lemke	Ross Hackbarth Cathy Retzer
12/24/23 9:15 a.m.	Pastor Bob Giese		Kathy & Dan Higgins		Tony Schumacher	Saige Fettes	Val Bach Dawn Harder ?	Ross Hackbarth Cathy Retzer
12/24/23 2:00 p.m.	Barb Krug		Jo Cypher		Dawn Harder Justin Zirngible	Carmyn Alexander	Carrie, Connor, & Justin Zirngible	Ross Hackbarth
12/24/23 6:00 p.m.	Barb Krug		Jo Cypher (set up only)		Gail Heurung Cathy Retzer		Ken Coyer Marguerite Jochimsen Sally Lemke	Cathy Retzer

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2023

December 3	Peyton Hoffman Robert Scheithauer	December 16	Jacqueline Kmiecik Makenzie Kmiecik Bronson Peterson Judy Pinkston	December 26	Sherry Born Charles Peterson Christian Preuss
December 4	Dawn Korenuk Blaine Seidl	December 18	Chris Finkler	December 27	Debra Dassow
December 6	Lynn Coyer Emily Dehne	December 19	Jaclyn Raasch	December 28	Amelia Ranum
December 7	Jason Woller	December 21	Kathy Alexander Logan Langdon	December 29	Kathy Klimowski
December 10	Kaedence Ecklund	December 22	Alise Shore	December 30	Mark Zuleger
December 12	Scott Albers Sheryl Riemer	December 23	McKenna Bakkestuen Robert Harris Kenneth Kraus	Anniversaries	
December 13	Thomas Larson Dustin Razink	December 24	Maddison Pester	December 2	Margo & David Zuleger
December 15	Kyle Firnstahl Charity Pester	December 25	Lauren Cady	December 12	Shirley & Duane Schwarz
				December 14	Gail & David Nelson
				December 31	Amanda & Thomas Kraemer Jodie & Todd Metz

WORSHIP TIMES

Our Saviour's Lutheran **8:00 a.m.**
St. Paul's Lutheran **9:15 a.m.**

Every 5th Sunday – 9:00 a.m. joint worship: to be hosted on a rotating basis between Our Saviour's and St. Paul's.

December 31 – Joint service will be held at BS Bar.



Daily Devotionals

St. Paul's offers free devotional books to assist you with your daily meditations.



December 20, 2023

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, November 3, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 9:55 a.m. by Council President, Val Bach.

Meeting was called for the purpose of discussing the need for new roof on the main body of the church.

Val told the congregation that we have received two quotes – one for \$62,591 and one for \$41,900. The council decided to present the less expensive quote for consideration. The quote includes removal and disposal of the old shingles. The new roof would not be done until spring of next year...but because of rising prices, the council wanted to get the materials ordered to keep the pricing on the quote.

An explanation of who is considered a member was given.

A paper ballot was passed out and collected. There were 58 yes votes, 2 no votes and one abstention. Motion carried. A motion was made by Ken Coyer, seconded by Chris Konieczny to destroy the ballots. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Clem Johnson, seconded by Mark Temme to adjourn. Motion carried.

Meeting closed at 10:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Heurung
Council Secretary

Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Members attending: Marie Koerner, Sally Lemke, Kathy Hackbarth, Carrie Zirngible, Leon Gasek, Dan Higgins and Gail Heurung. Missing: Val Bach, Heidi Haynes and Dave Hruby.

Guests: Nancy Jones, Tina Dassow, Barb Krug and Pastor Bob via Zoom.

Meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Leon Gasek.

Opening prayer by Pastor Bob.

For prayer concerns and milestones – Leon requested that the council each take a “prayer request” from the wall and pray on it for a week. Then do so again next month. Pastor Bob requested Nancy forward left over prayer requests to him for him and Jo to pray on.

A motion by Dan, seconded by Sally to accept the agenda – motion carried.

A motion by Marie, seconded by Sally to accept the minutes from the previous month. Motion carried.

Business:

Lynnette still does monthly perusal of the income and checking entries. Steve Danen is busy helping his son at his business so we are still looking for someone to do the annual audit.

Wojcik Plumbing and Heating was called to repair the heating issue in the church offices. A motion was made by Gail, seconded by Kathy to pay the payment. Motion carried.

TDS contract is up and Nancy negotiated a better amount with a two year contract. Motion was made by Marie, seconded by Sally to have Nancy confirm the two year contract with the new monthly amount of \$139 for internet and phone. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Carrie, seconded by Marie to accept the Treasurer’s report. Motion carried.

Worship Team – Pastor Bob now has pulpit supply scheduled thru Easter. Right now February 4 and March 3 we have lay leadership scheduled. Barb Krug will be able to perform communion for us on those two dates.

A discussion on having Advent services this year. Decided to table those services for another year. Also, see if there are any requests for the services from the congregations.

(continued on page 9)

Council minutes continued from page 9)

Sunday School has one more week, then they start working on the Christmas Program.

Confirmation has two more weeks, then they will be on break until the 2nd week of January.

Adult Bible Study – started with 9, now down to 4. One more session, then they break til after the holiday.

FIN and Fresh – Leon not had time to explore where that is going at this time.

Call committee – nothing new at this time.

Roof – vote to proceed– discussed the gutters – we need to quote them and if we get that, we may be able to put to the congregation at the annual meeting.

Joint Parish – Oct 29th service went well with 160 in attendance. Next 5th Sunday will be December 31. Plans to hold services at BS Bar. Pastor Nancy will lead the service, and Pastor Bob plans to play for the service. Barb Krug said that they are starting to plan. Reminder that Easter 5th Sunday services will be separate. 2024 5th Sundays will be in June, September and December. Planning to be done next year.

Bob wanted to thank Barb Krug and Pastor Nancy for handling special events – funerals etc., while he is healing. Visitation class was held and we now have two members who are going out on visitation – Chris Konicieny and Dawn Harder.

Discussion on the Cub Scouts storage and meeting area in the basement – trying to get all their things in one place.

Benevolence – Nancy said the \$2500 check was sent to the synod per our meeting last month.

Sally Lemke is again handling “Bountiful Thanksgiving” this year. There is a conflict with the schools – the woman who handles their end is out on maternity leave – between Sally and Kathy they will find the right contact at the schools.

Leon mentioned that Luther Park is willing to send a representative to speak to the children about camp. Our students have typically been going to just National Camp. Barb Krug mentioned the Bishop Laurie would be great to come and talk to the students, too.

Sally suggested that we need to start finding replacements for the council vacancies. Kathy and Carrie have been on council 3 years, so are therefore eligible for another term. Sally has been on two 3 year terms so will be going off the council. It was decided that we start looking for new members.

Our next meeting is set for December 13, at 6:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Dan, seconded by Marie to adjourn. Motion Carried.

The council closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Heurung, Council Secretary

Bountiful ThanksGIVING

Bountiful ThanksGIVING is a community outreach program coordinated by St. Paul’s to help families in need.

We started this program two years ago and were able to help a total of nine families, five in 2021 and four in 2022. Last year we also provided jackets, snow pants, hats and mittens, as well as hygiene items, to the elementary schools for distribution as needed. Together we made a difference and it was much appreciated.

This year four families have been identified by a select group from the school district, which includes the social worker, and other representatives from the elementary schools. And once again they’ve identified a need for “reserve” boots, mittens, hats, snow pants and jackets. When a child comes to school in need, their immediate need will be provided from the “reserve” we provide. These items may be gently used or new. They also have a need for hygiene items like shampoo, conditioner, lotion, toothpaste and tooth brushes.



Tags and instructions are available in the Welcome Hall. Please return donations and tags by December 10. If you have questions, please contact Sally Lemke or the church office.

TREASURER'S REPORT

	2023		2022		YTD % of Change
	October	YTD	October	YTD	
General Giving	10,905	100,645	11,033	100,904	-0.3%
Mortgage Giving	1,530	19,420	1,982	21,822	-11.0%
Total Giving	12,435	120,065	13,015	122,726	-2.2%
General Expenses	5,950	59,668	8,586	75,263	-20.7%
Mortgage Expense	2,782	27,820	2,782	26,848	3.6%
Total Expenses	8,732	87,488	11,368	102,111	-14.3%
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$3,703	\$32,576	\$1,646	\$20,614	
Designated Giving	4,637	132,991	6,368	40,448	228.8%
Designated Expenses	4,035	115,597	3,606	32,896	251.4%
Net Designated Income	602	17,393	2,762	7,552	
Net Combined Income (Deficit)	\$4,305	\$49,969	\$4,408	\$28,166	

Bank Accounts - As of:	10/31/23	YTD Change		Comments
<u>General Checking</u>	\$144,278	\$33,105	\$104,380	
<u>Designated Funds in Checking</u>				
Building Maintenance	33,310	\$28,237	2,287	
Comfort Quilts	676	(\$69)	495	
Designated Memorials	3,298	\$420	2,878	
Fair Trade Sales	673	\$150	523	
Mortgage Fund	0	\$0	0	
Thrivent Choice	332	(\$10,947)	11,203	
Mobile Food Pantry	5,828	(\$826)	4,615	
Sunday School	1,102	(\$355)	1,551	
Youth Group	11,417	\$377	11,013	
Total Funds in Checking	\$200,916	\$50,094	\$138,946	
<u>Other Accounts</u>				
Events/Fund Raiser Acct	3,333	14	3,068	
Needles for Needs Acct	3,313	204	3,665	
Scrip Acct	5,729	(235)	7,217	
Total Other Accounts	\$12,375	-\$17	\$13,950	
Total - All Accounts	\$213,291	\$50,077	\$152,896	
PPP Loan Balance	\$0	\$0		Loan forgiven 3/15/21
Mortgage Balance	\$74,314	-\$76,364	\$161,681	

St. Paul's Giving Options

Mail your check to St. Paul's Lutheran Church,
321 N. Park Ave., Medford, WI 54451

Simply Giving contributions are deducted from your checking or savings account.

Giving via St. Paul's Website

E-Giving Download the app "GivePlus Church"



SCRIP cards make great gifts for weddings, graduations, or other special occasions. A portion of each gift card purchase enables St. Paul's to do ministry. Check at the SCRIP counter on Sunday morning or call the office and someone will help you.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

321 North Park Avenue, Medford, WI 54451

Mission Statement:

Saved and strengthened by Christ, we proclaim God's love through worship, education, and service to our congregation, community, and the world.

Contact Information

Nancy Jones (Parish Administrator)

Office phone: 715-748-4909

Office email: stpaulslutheranmedford@gmail.com

Pastor Bob Giese (for pastoral emergencies)

Phone: 847-899-7122

rjgiese@gmail.com

Pastor Nancy Amacher (for pastoral emergencies)

Phone: 715-223-5316

revnia10@gmail.com

Tina Dassow (Treasurer)

tinadassow@gmail.com

Church Council

Val Bach (President)	715-965-2358	val.bach@weathershield.com
Leon Gasek (Vice President)	715-785-7434	kingasek@tds.net
Heidi Haynes	715-965-6154	heidi_haynes@yahoo.com
Kathy Hackbarth	715-965-2407	kathyhackbarth@gmail.com
Gail Heurung (Secretary)	715-316-2788	gheurung@gmail.com
Dan Higgins	715-748-5529	higginsd1948@gmail.com
Dave Hraby	715-965-3150	davidlhraby@gmail.com
Marie Koerner (Financial Secretary)	715-965-6328	4-koerners@charter.net
Sally Lemke	715-965-2025	slemke2@tds.net
Carrie Zirngible	715-493-1696	cczirn@gmail.com

Additional Information

Sunday Service:	9:15 a.m.
Sunday School	9:15 a.m. (during school year)
Office Hours	Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Facebook:	StPaulsMedford
Website:	www.stpaulsmedford.org



Please read the prayer list in the weekly service. If there is someone that needs to be added or removed from the prayer list, please contact the church office at **715-748-4909** or send an email to: stpaulslutheranmedford@gmail.com

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Phone: 715-748-4909

Email: stpaulslutheranmedford@gmail.com

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Suicide Support Group will be held on December 17, at 6:00 p.m.		December 10 at 10:45 a.m. Showcase Players: "The Greatest Story Ever Told" performed at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church			1 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting	2
3 9:15 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Sunday School	4	5 9:00 a.m. Needles for Needs Work Day 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts	6	7	8 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting	9
10 8:10 a.m. Choir 9:15 a.m. Worship / Communion 9:15 a.m. Sunday School	11 Bountiful ThanksGIVING items are due back December 10	12 9:00 a.m. Needles for Needs Work Day	13 6:00 p.m. Church Council	14 6:00 p.m. Cub Scout Den Meeting	15 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting	16
17 9:15 a.m. Worship / Communion 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Program Welcome New Members	18	19 9:00 a.m. Needles for Needs Work Day 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts	20 11:30 a.m. Ladies Lunch Bunch Newsletter Deadline	21 1:00-5:00 p.m. Mobile Food Pantry	22 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting	23
24 8:10 a.m. Choir 9:15 a.m. Worship / Communion 2:00 & 4:00 p.m. Candlelight Service / Communion	25  Christmas Day no service	26	28	28 6:00 p.m. Cub Scout Den Meeting	29 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting	30
31 9:00 a.m. Worship / Communion	1 Office Closed	December 31 joint service will be held at BS Bar at 9:00 a.m.				

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
321 North Park Avenue
Medford, WI 54451-1420

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St. Paul's Messenger

A monthly newsletter for friends and family

December 2023

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
321 N. Park Avenue,
Medford, WI 54451



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