



St. Paul's EPISTLE

March 2026 edition

WE HAVE A NEW PASTOR!



It is with a heart of absolute thanksgiving I share the news with y'all that Pastor Wallander has accepted the call to serve as Youth and Family Pastor at St. Paul's. Pastor Wallander will be working directly with the school, our staff, our students, and our families to connect them to their Savior. We couldn't be more excited and grateful to God that he has led Pastor Wallander and his wife, Kelli, to serve in Wisconsin Rapids. Pastor Wallander will finish out his calling at Michigan Lutheran Seminary this school year and then transition to St. Paul's this summer. – Mr. Andy Van Weele.

Members of St. Paul's,

God's grace, His mercy, and His peace, these and so many other blessings are yours through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It has been a tremendous blessing to pray and ponder on the call you have extended me to serve as your youth and family pastor. Based on the many conversations I have had with you, it is clear that God has showered an abundance of blessings upon St. Paul's. Deliberating this call has been both exciting and humbling. Exciting to see the possibilities of how my gifts could be used to serve you. Humbling to recognize my weaknesses and shortcomings as a shepherd. But ultimately, we serve the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, who has no weaknesses or shortcomings.

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Shaped by the Word,
we grow as one family
equipped and transformed
through the power
of the gospel.

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Worship
Sunday at 9:00 AM

www.stpaulswr.org

WE HAVE A NEW PASTOR

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With all that in mind, I am pleased to announce that I am accepting the call to serve as your youth and family pastor. I am looking forward to meeting you all in person, getting to know your stories, and teaching you about the greatest news ever told.

Since I currently serve at a prep school, I will not be able to join you until after my call at Michigan Lutheran Seminary is completed. My family and I look forward to moving to Wisconsin Rapids later this summer. Continue to pray for us as we make this major life transition. You all are already in our prayers!

Thank you. God bless you. And Jesus loves you!

In Christ's service and eager to serve you,
Rev. Jeremiah Wallander †

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN LEADERSHIP NIGHT RECAP

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Lutheran Leadership Night! It was a joy to see such a strong turnout from many different areas of our congregation—members, ministry leaders, school representatives, and volunteers—all united around our shared gospel mission. The conversations were thoughtful, hopeful, and Christ-centered. Events like this remind us that ministry at St. Paul's is not carried by a few, but by the whole body of believers working together under our Savior.

Our team that attended the National Conference on Lutheran Leadership is continuing to meet informally as we consider how to implement some of the ideas we discussed. Several key areas of focus have emerged. First, we are exploring ways to better coordinate member ministry and volun-

teering so that the gifts of individuals in our congregation and the opportunities for serving align more clearly and joyfully. Second, we are beginning conversations about our church governance structure, asking how it might best support faithful, effective gospel ministry for years to come. These discussions are ongoing, and we are committed to keeping the congregation informed as they develop.

If you weren't able to attend—or if you've had more time to reflect—we still want your voice included! At the event, many filled out an Interest Card, circling areas such as discipleship, volunteering, church governance, worship, youth ministry, and more. This was not a commitment, but simply a way to express openness to future conversations. If you would like to be part of upcoming discussions in any of these areas, please reach out to the church office or to the pastor. As the card says, sharing your name simply allows us to follow up if and when conversations develop.

We are grateful for the Spirit's work among us and look forward to how the Lord will continue shaping our ministry together! †

INTEREST CARD

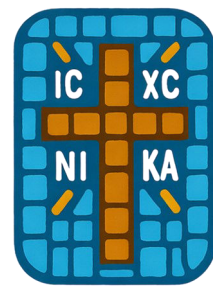
Thank you for being part of tonight's conversation!
We want to continue including you as we shape future ministry together.
Circle any areas where you are interested in future conversations:

Discipleship	Women's Ministry	Worship
School	Finances/Stewardship	Evangelism
Volunteering	Church Governance	Youth Ministry

Name: _____

Contact: _____

This card is not a commitment! Sharing your name simply allows us to follow up *if* and *when* conversations develop.



EASTER FOR KIDS - AND PARENTS

Come Celebrate Easter Joy!

Join us for a joyful morning celebrating the resurrection of our Savior, Jesus! Kids and parents are invited to a special Easter event filled with Christ-centered activities, music, and learning.

Easter for Kids and Parents is on Saturday, March 28. Check-in begins at 8:45 a.m.

Once checked in, children can decorate their own bag to collect the treasures they'll make and receive throughout the morning. The event officially begins at 9:00 a.m. with an opening devotion, after which children will rotate through their activity stations while parents attend a special workshop.

MAKING SPACE FOR MINISTRY

If you've walked through the West Wing recently, you may have noticed some activity. We've begun cleaning and revamping two rooms that in past years served as spaces for youth activities, music lessons, and even a school math class. While those uses have come to a close, the opportunity before us is exciting: we're reimagining these rooms to better serve our congregation's current and future ministry needs.

The goal is simple—make better use of the space the Lord has already given us. These refreshed rooms will be designed to host both small and larger Bible studies, congregational gatherings, leadership meetings, and potentially even fellowship events. As we continue emphasizing discipleship and strengthening our ministry together, having flexible, welcoming spaces will be a blessing to many.

And here's where you come in. Not everyone enjoys sitting in meetings—but many enjoy rolling up their sleeves and simply getting things done. If you'd like to help paint, organize, move furniture, clean, set up, or lend your practical skills to make your church an even better place for ministry, this is a great opportunity. Please contact Michelle Gear at michellemgear@gmail.com †

Grow as a Christian parent at our parenting workshop. Learn practical ways to bring Jesus and his Word into your home and family life.

At 11:30 a.m., parents and kids will come back together for a short closing program featuring songs the children have learned.

Everyone is invited to enjoy a free lunch following the closing program.

Register today!

Visit stpaulswr.org/Easter-for-Kids or call 715-421-3634.

We can't wait to celebrate with you at Easter for Kids! †

Come Celebrate the Joy of Easter!

Make Projects
Sing songs
Register at stpaulswr.org or call 715-421-3634
Play Games
Make & eat snacks

Bible Story
EASTER for Kids and Parents
Ages 3-10
Babysitting provided

March 28 2026
9:00 TO 11:45 am
Lunch to follow
St Paul's Lutheran Church 311 14th Ave S (across from Splash Pad)

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SCHOOL QUICK HITS

When kids have books at home, they read more. The goal of our new Book Blast reading initiative is simply to grow every child's home library. Through the program, every student is guaranteed to receive one book and can earn up to 10 free books.

St. Paul's held our own Winter Olympics on Feb. 18. There was an Opening Ceremony with student representing teams from different nations. The students then rotated between events in the gym. There were indoor game versions of bobsled, skiing, ice skating, curling, and hockey.

While there was still snow on the ground, the upper grades took a trip to Powers Bluff for some snow tubing.

On Feb. 18-19, our teacher attended The Western Wisconsin District Teachers' Conference in Lake Mills, WI to learn and grow through professional development.

On March 2, the Panthers basketball team will finish their season by taking on a team made up of parents and staff. During half-time, student will have a chance to win prizes. The concession stand will be open.

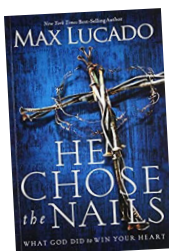
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN WINTER OLYMPICS



CHURCH LIBRARY CORNER

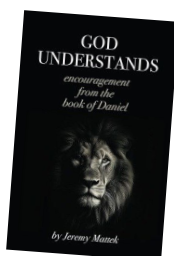
by Pam Negus

This month reviews two studies recently completed by the "Women Walking in the Word" bible study group.



The first was Max Lucado's **"He Chose the Nails"** (248.4 LUC). This study is true to Max's writing style as he discusses the promises that Jesus made to us in the soldier's spit, the crown of thorns, in the nails, etc all the way to the empty tomb. In each chapter, Max points out how each step to the cross shows what God did to win your heart. It is written in clear language, and it brings the Easter story to life. At the back of the book, there is a study guide for each chapter that helps us to dig in a little deeper and apply each topic to our lives. The study guide utilizes bible passages and questions to help us examine scripture and what it means for us. We spent a lot of time on this book as it fostered a LOT of great discussion and thought. We have several copies in the library (and could probably rustle up a few

more) if people would like to read this on their own or get together with friends or a bible study group to dig into this book. There are 15 chapters in this book, and while we sometimes completed a whole chapter and study guide in one week, more often than not, it took two weeks to complete both sections. Max Lucado fans will not be disappointed!



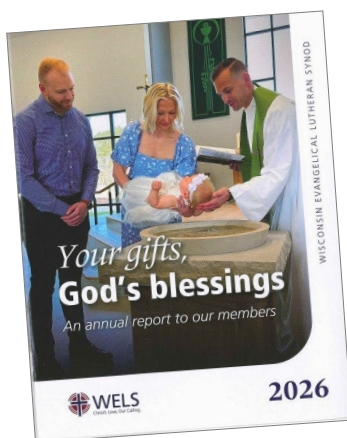
The second is **"God Understands: Encouragement from the Book of Daniel"** by Jeremy Mattek (248.4 MAT). This book leads you through the book of Daniel, pointing out how God understands your world, your future, your challenges, your limits, your legacy, and your lions. It was a good review of the book of Daniel with an emphasis on what we have in common with Daniel and his fellow Christians of his time. At the end of each chapter, there is a real-life application that encourages you to examine a situation that could arise in life

and prompts you to apply how the book of Daniel can offer options for how you could best respond. For this book, each "Day" or chapter was sufficient material for a weekly group study session of about an hour in length. There are a total of 22 days/chapters in the book. This is a 2025 book from the Time of Grace Ministry, so the application suggestions are very current. There are multiple copies of this book in the library as well, in case you would like to use it as a book club option, bible study topic, or as a personal study.

Both of these studies are recommended by the Tuesday morning women's bible study group as they provided us with many hours of great discussion. If you are available on Tuesdays at 9:45, come find out what we are checking out next!


During Lent, there is a selection of Easter cards for sale, as well as some library books that are available to check out to help prepare your hearts for Easter on the table in the Resource Center.


†



WELS ANNUAL REPORT AVAILABLE

 1,237
churches

 327,943
baptized members

 261,357
communicant members

 335
early childhood ministries

 269
Lutheran elementary schools

 29
area Lutheran high schools

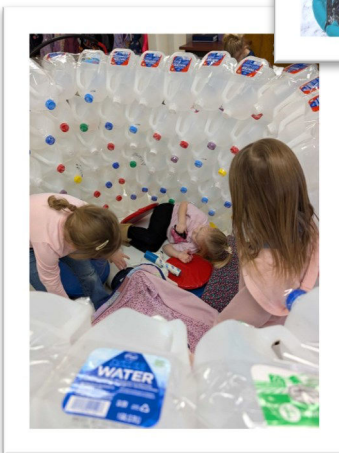
View online at wels.net/annualreport



< Family Fun Night Tents and forts were set up in the Welcome Center for story time.



Chillin' on the pre-school playground. >



< Enjoying the "igloo" built from milk jugs. Thanks for the donations!

Staff and students had fun tubing at Powers Bluff. >



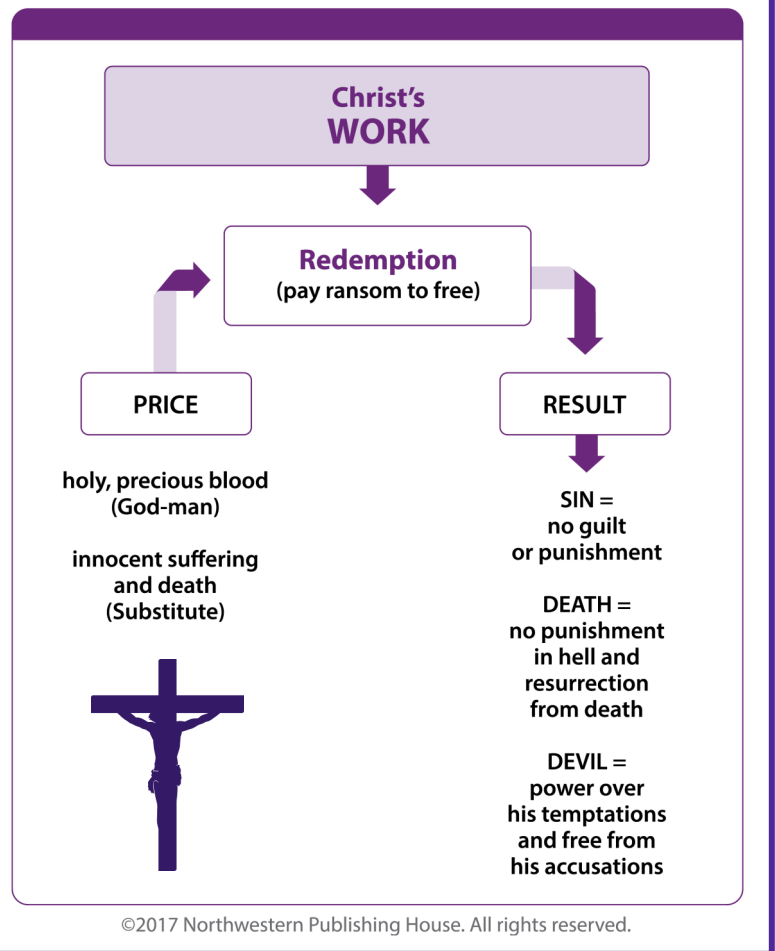
< Our students participated in the play performed by NLHS Drama Club.



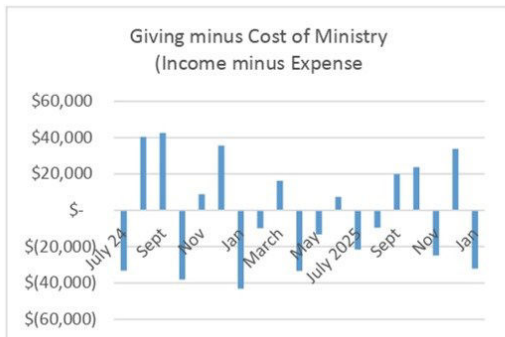
With the Lord
 Donald Provost
 Phyllis Price
 Georgene Provost
 Marti Schiestle

CATECHISM CORNER

Christ's accomplished work of redemption assures us that God loves us. Because of his love, we understand that God uses our hardships to train us – for our blessing and his glory. The painful sting of despair has been removed even from death. For believers, death is the gate through which we enter the enjoyment of heaven.



**St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church
January 2026 Financials**



- > Weekly Envelope giving for January of \$39,155 was the lowest monthly total since January of last year where the monthly total was \$37,491. Total giving in support of the Ministry Plan, all sources, was \$57,371. Recall that the needed (budgeted) level of Weekly Envelope Giving alone is nearly \$60,000 per month.
- > The total for Ministry Plan costs in January was \$89,460, which is slightly above the monthly average expenses of \$85,749. January is the third month of the fiscal period where the quarterly costs for pension and liability insurance are incurred. For the fiscal period total expenses are at 91.8% of budget, which amounts to nearly \$54,000 of cost avoidance.
- > Overall, the total financial support of the Ministry Plan for January fell far short of the cost to carry out this plan by (\$32,089). The significant fiscal surplus of \$29,522 that had been achieved by month-end December has now become a slight fiscal deficit of (\$2,566) at month-end January.



Mortgage Balance: \$515,685

SPECIAL GIFTS & MEMORIALS
through February 15

Altar Guild

- In memory of Georgene Provost given by Veronica Klish

Building Debt

- In memory of Alvin Haferman's Birthday given by Edna Haferman

Current

- In memory of Harvey Pierce given by Pat Grosskreutz
- In memory of Fred Camacho given by Pat Grosskreutz
- In memory of Don Provost given by Larry Ubinger, Charlotte Carlson, David & Kari Kellen, Kevin & Sheila Provost, and Christian & Angie Fuetz
- In memory of Carolyn Zernicke given by Judith & Thomas Mueller

- In memory of Fritz Link, Marilyn Link's bother-in-law, given by Larry Ubinger
- In memory of Georgene Provost given by Larry Ubinger, Tom & Sue Kulhanek, Randy & Pat DeBoer, the Ubinger & Nieman Families, Charlotte Carlson, and Jerry & Barb Blum
- In memory of Mike Anderson's sister, Glenda Minton, given by Marilyn Sigler
- In memory of Phyllis Price, Pam William's mother, given by Christine Herman

Endowment Fund

- In memory of Don Provost given by Stephanie Bathke, Marilyn Link

Mortgage

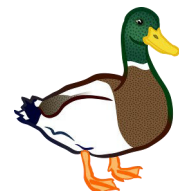
- In memory of Georgene Provost given by Kathy Jackson

School

- In memory of Don Provost given by Betty Meyer
- In memory of Georgene Provost given by Betty Meyer

St. Paul's Tuition Assistance Fund

- In memory of Georgene Provost given by Jim & Jeanne Jackson
- In memory of Don Provost given by Edna Haferman



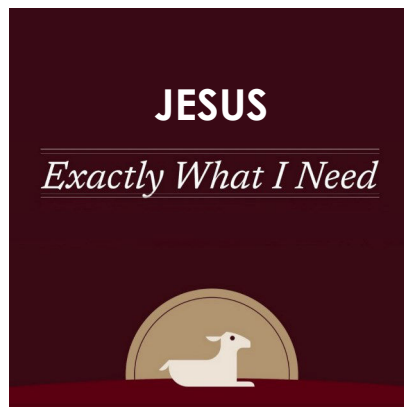


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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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March 2026 edition



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