



The Parish Pulse

A monthly newsletter for friends and family of
Our Saviour's Lutheran of Holway and
St. Paul's Lutheran of Medford

December 2025



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Christmas SERVICES

Advent Services at St. Paul's, 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 3

Wednesday, December 10

Wednesday, December 17

Sunday School Christmas Programs

Sunday, December 14 - St. Paul's, 9:15 a.m.

Wednesday, December 17 - Our Saviour's, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 21 - Our Saviour's, 8:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

2:00 p.m. - St. Paul's

4:00 p.m. - Our Saviour's

6:00 p.m. - St. Paul's

There are no services on Christmas Day



BISHOP HALOM'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: WHEN GOD SHOWS UP



As we approach the season of Christmas that so many of us adore, I'd like to address a few churchy words that theologians like to use and sound impressive when using them. The first word is *incarnation* and the second is *Emmanuel*.

If your church uses the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), you will again hear the passage from the first chapter of John on Christmas Day. The passage famously concludes in verse 14 with the words, "And the Word became flesh and lived among us..." This verse speaks directly to the concept of

incarnation. In other words, it speaks to a God who literally takes on human flesh and enters this world in the form of baby Jesus. It's in stark contrast to what some believe and experience - a God who exists far away, only to look down on us from God's heavenly throne. Instead, the incarnate God speaks to a God who is willing to take on the human experience with all the joys and sorrows that come with it. One can readily see that Jesus did indeed make his way through the human experience. He felt joy. He felt pain. His eyes teared up. And even if I can't recall a story when he laughed, I gotta believe that he really did!

Another passage found in the Christmas season comes from the gospel of Matthew, which references Isaiah 7:14: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us.'" One of the most important lessons I ever learned in seminary was in a pastoral care class. I had hoped to learn what to say, especially to someone hurting or grieving. What I learned was much more important. Instead of learning what to say, I was taught to show up - to be present. As time passes, few will remember what I say, but will remember that I was there. That's precisely why the name *Emmanuel* means so much to me. It's a constant reminder that God is always with us. Consider the final words in the gospel of Matthew: "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20b) Presence matters because God embodies it and teaches it.

Christmas is known for its gift giving nature. We share gifts with one another to reveal our love for them. This year, I hope that regardless of the quantity or quality of the wrapped presents that lay under the tree, you will recognize the gift of presence. Not only the presence of your loved ones, but particularly the presence of God. So many of you will grieve as you experience the lack of presence from a loved one due to death or distance. My heart grieves with you. My hope lies in a God who provides and will gift you all with someone who will be present with you in some way at some time. If nothing else, remember God's presence as you receive the body and blood of Christ in the worship services that you attend, for that's yet another way in which God shows up.

Fellow disciples, Merry Christmas to you all and may the presence of God incarnate, Emmanuel, embrace you in such a way that brings warmth to your heart!

Bishop Martin

Message from Barb Krug, SAM

My Wish List

As a child, I remember waiting for the Sears Christmas catalog and looking and wishing for so many things. The fun, the excitement, the anticipation! Children today have their wish lists as well, but most are posted on Amazon or some other app that I don't understand or even know how to find. They will never know the thrill of sitting down paging through that popular catalog. As an adult, my wish list is still exciting and filled with anticipation, but it is wishes of hope, peace, joy, and love. As we journey through this Advent season, my wish for you is that you find hope, peace, joy, and love that only our Lord and Savior can provide. Join us for worship this Advent season and experience this and more. Have a very blessed Christmas this year.

Barb Krug - SAM

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Holway

W7809 Apple Avenue, Medford, WI 54451
 Phone 715-785-7975
 Website: oursavioursholway.com
 Facebook: Our Saviour's Lutheran Holway
 Email: secretary.saviourschurch@gmail.com
 Parish Secretary: Nancy Jones
 Office Hours: Tuesday 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

321 N. Park Avenue, Medford, WI 54451
 Phone 715-748-4909
 Website: www.stpaulsmedford.org
 Facebook: StPaulsMedford
 Email: stpaulslutheranmedford@gmail.com
 Parish Administrator: Nancy Jones
 Office Hours: M-W-F 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

For pastoral care emergencies, call the following:

Barb Krug: 715-965-5696, barbkrug@charter.net
 Pastor Bob Giese: 847-899-7122, rjgiese@gmail.com
 Pastor Nancy Amacher: 715-223-5316, revnia10@gmail.com

Sunday Services

Our Saviour's Service: 8:00 a.m.
 Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
 St. Paul's Service 9:15 a.m.
 Sunday School 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. Our next joint service is scheduled for Sunday, March 29, at St. Paul's.

2025 JOINT PARISH FINANCIAL

	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD
Income													
OS Income	1906.96	1324.56	1693.50	1811.21	1545.44	1550.31	1518.73	1471.44	1479.00	1829.10			16130.25
SP Income	3396.42	2190.82	2222.81	3932.96	2196.53	2226.03	3386.61	2347.63	2200.24	3750.30			27850.35
Misc Incom		17.75			0.04		17.00						34.79
OS Lawn Inco				2820.00									2820.00
OS Jator Inco	782.84			782.84			782.84			782.84			3131.36
Total Income	6086.22	3533.13	3916.31	9347.01	3742.01	3776.34	5705.18	3819.07	3679.24	6362.24	0.00	0.00	49966.75
Expenses													
Joint (ex: checks, resources, tools, etc)		56.00											56.00
Workman C				910.00									910.00
SP Parish Adm	1132.35	1066.41	1118.92	1092.68	980.12	1079.54	1105.80	1122.39	1059.50	1118.92			10876.63
OS Secretary	345.91	266.53	269.89	343.46	289.21	243.32	266.53	282.60	289.31	269.88			2866.64
OS Custodian			671.56			671.56			671.56				2014.68
SP Custodian	169.41	153.34	171.85	179.79	171.85	121.62	142.77	171.85	185.07	153.34			1620.89
OS Watchman	120.00	80.00	80.00	120.00	80.00	80.00	80.00	80.00	110.00	80.00			910.00
SAM	900.00	775.00	1045.00	1150.00	720.00	900.00	900.00	850.00	970.00	720.00			8930.00
Lay Leaders			150.00		150.00			125.00	150.00	150.00			725.00
SP Music	200.00	150.00	200.00	150.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	250.00	200.00	200.00			1950.00
OS Music	150.00	225.00	375.00	300.00	300.00	225.00	300.00	225.00	300.00	300.00			2700.00
Pastor Bob	292.00	327.00		292.00	292.00	292.00	292.00	412.00	292.00	292.00			2783.00
Busin.Tax Reg													0.00
Pastor Nancy	286.12	286.12	286.12		286.12	286.12	286.12	286.12		286.12			2288.96
OS Lawn Care				2820.00									2820.00
StateQuarterly	112.21			103.70			96.20			99.90			412.01
Fed Quarterly	1524.70			1662.55			1597.74			1639.07			6424.06
Misc Expense		17.75			40.00	270.00				549.00			876.75
Total Expense	5232.70	3403.15	4368.34	9124.18	3509.30	4369.16	5267.16	3804.96	4227.44	5858.23	0.00	0.00	49164.62

May Misc is for Dept of Financial Inst yearly filing fee

June Misc for Breaking Chains

July Misc Deposit-refund from Church Mutual

Oct Misc is for Sundays & Seasons Renewal

Joint Council Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2025, 5:00 p.m. at Our Saviour's

Council members present: Mike Kesling, Brenda Nernberger, Julie Janke, Kathy Schumacher, Barb Krug (SAM)

Absent: Mark Temme, Stacey Dassow (new rep from SP)

Guest: Dawn Harder - Joint treasurer

The meeting was called to order by Brenda Nernberger, President, at 5:08 p.m.

Opening prayer was led by Barb Krug.

Motion to accept the agenda was made by Mike, seconded by Julie. Motion carried.

Motion was made to approve the council meeting minutes from August 13, 2025, by Mike, seconded by Julie. Motion carried.

Reports:

Joint Parish Treasurer:

Dawn reported that things are going well, bills are getting paid, and workman's compensation details are getting worked out with Jerry Carstensen and his company so paperwork, etc. will be completed in the spring. W2 and 1099 forms will be ready for the end of year.

Barb Krug - SAM:

- Barb is keeping busy attending various meetings regarding congregations in rural settings, pastor pay/ benefits, boundaries for former pastors and communication with members, etc.
- Wednesday confirmation classes are going well. Instructors at both congregations are working with families to offer vibrant and relevant programs for Sunday school and confirmation - THANK YOU!
- Barb will inform OS council that Julie Janke is willing to serve for another 2 year term on the Joint Council.

Business:

Old Business

- May 3, 2026 is Dish with a Bish hosted at St. Paul's. A gardening themed multi-generational activity will be planned, along with a meal and short video program. More details to follow the holiday season.

Joint Worship

- November 30, 2025 at St. Paul's with WELCA serving at fellowship and the Our Saviour's bell choir playing during the joint service, which starts at 9:00.
- July 19, 2026 at the Medford Park bandshell with St. Paul's hosting and Breaking Chains (worship leadership group) returning to lead the worship service.

Next meeting will be held on February 16, 2026 at 5 pm at St. Paul's.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Kathy, seconded by Mike. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with Barb's blessings at 5:55 pm.

Submitted by Kathy Schumacher



Did you know that both Our Saviour's and St. Paul's earn money for special projects and missions when you purchase a Scrip Card from them? The holiday season is a perfect time for you to support your church by buying your gift cards through your church.

What types of cards do the churches have? Both churches carry many of the popular cards such as Amazon, County Market, Kwik Trip, and Walmart, as well as cards from many other businesses.

How can I purchase Scrip Cards from my church? It is very simple. If you are from Our Saviour's, cards can be purchased before or after Sunday morning services. If you are from St. Paul's, cards can be purchased after Sunday morning services as well as on M-W-F during office hours (10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.).

Support your church. Buy Scrip.

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Mission Statement: Our mission is to share the love of Christ with each other, our community, and the world.

Church Council

President: Mike Kesling - shamumrk@yahoo.com (715-512-0498)
Vice President: Jason Borman - jason.borman@us.nestle.com (715-965-6058)
Secretary: Meagan Neitzel - meagan.neitzel@aol.com (715-562-0100)
Treasurer: Nancie Adams - adams710@tds.net (715-965-6959)
Paula Stroinski - paula.stroinski@gmail.com (715-965-2084)
Echo Buehler - echo.op14@tds.net (715-748-3928)
Clarice Zenner - claricezenner@yahoo.com (715-579-4445)
Barb Krug - barbkrug@charter.net (715-965-5696)

Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, December 7

November 2025

Attendance

November 2	38
November 9	37
November 16	34
November 23	27
November 28	Joint Service at St. Paul's

December 2025 Calendar for Our Saviour's

Sunday Worship 8:00 a.m.

December 2 Our Saviour's Ladies Supper - 5:00 p.m. at 64 North
December 3 Confirmation & Sunday School - 4:00 p.m.
Advent service at St. Paul's - 6:00 p.m.
December 7 Worship w/communion, Mike Kesling
Annual Meeting after the worship service
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Joyful Chimers - 5:00 p.m.
December 10 Confirmation & Sunday School - 4:00 p.m.
Advent service at St. Paul's - 6:00 p.m.
December 14 Worship w/communion, Pastor Bob Giese
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Viewing of *The Chosen* - 9:00 a.m.
Joyful Chimers - 5:00 p.m.
December 17 Cookie drop off for the Christmas programs
Sunday School Christmas Program - 5:00 p.m.
Advent service at St. Paul's - 6:00 p.m.
Church Council - 6:00 p.m.
December 19 WELCA Handbook planning meeting - 5:30 p.m.
December 21 Worship w/communion, Barb Krug, SAM
Sunday School Christmas Program - 8:00 a.m.
Viewing of *The Chosen* - 9:00 a.m.
Joyful Chimers perform at Our Saviour's
December 24 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, 4:00 p.m., Barb Krug, SAM
December 28 Worship w/communion, Pastor Bob Giese
Viewing of *The Chosen* - 9:00 a.m.
Joyful Chimers perform at St. Paul's - 9:15 a.m.

Our Saviour's Ladies Dinner
December 2 at 5:00 p.m.
64 North in their new
outdoor "container."
2993 County Road E, Medford

St. Paul's women are invited to join. If you are interested, RSVP to Heidi Bower Kesling or the church office.

Men's Bible Study
every Thursday afternoon.
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Contact Mike Kesling for additional information.

Continued prayers and support for the family of Doris Blume, who passed away on November 17, 2025.

Ornaments for sale: Our Saviour's WELCA has church ornaments for sale. The winter and spring ornaments are available now. The summer and fall ornaments will be available next year. The cost is \$10.00 each. Purchases can be made on Sunday mornings before and after church or contact Heidi Bower Kesling at 715-512-0557.

Christmas Giving / Poinsettia Orders

If you would like to make a donation or purchase a Poinsettia for Christmas, please complete an order form, available in the church office and Fellowship Hall. Please contact the church secretary by email (secretary.saviourschurch@gmail.com) to request a form be emailed to you. The cost for a Poinsettia is \$16.00.



Our Saviour's December 2025 Worship Assistants

December Altar Guild: Heidi Bower-Kesling & Adele Adams

DATE	MESSAGE	USHERS	LITURGIST	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	COUNTERS	ACOLYTE
December 7	Mike Kesling	Echo Buehler Paula Stroinski	Kason Lindau	Mike Lindau	Echo Buehler Paula Stroinski	Breckyn Klemm
December 14	Pastor Bob Giese	Heidi & Mike Kesling	Heidi Bower Kesling		Heidi Bower Kesling	Jordyn Bottlemey
December 21	Barb Krug		Ed Rowe	Paula Stroinski		Brynlee Pagel
December 24 4:00 p.m.	Barb Krug		Ed Rowe		Marian Nernberger	Chloe Krueger
December 28	Pastor Bob Giese	Marian & Ken Nernberger	Marian Nernberger			Jackson Brunner

Our Saviour's WELCA Minutes – November 5, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Echo Buehler. In attendance were Barb Krug, Echo Buehler, Carol Lekies, Juanita Krug, Heidi Bower, Meagan Neitzel, Marian Nernberger, Paula Stroinski, Karen Frosch, Julie Janke, Nancie Adams, and Amie Marzinske

Devotion: Barb Krug gave us a short history lesson about Martin Luther and his wife Katie. In 1997 the Women of the ELCA formed Katie's Fund to help support women's ministry. Donations can be made at WELCA.com.

Purpose statement

Secretary's Report: The October minutes were approved as read. Paula made the motion to accept, seconded by Marian.

Treasurer's Report: Paid: janitors, Sunday School Bibles, Stamps for dinner fliers; Incoming: Donations from Cypher and Minshall families for funeral serving. Balance: \$9990.77. This balance doesn't include the Anniversary dinner costs. Hall bill still needs to be paid. Rent & cost of goods.
Heidi made a motion to approve the report, Nancie seconded, carried.

Stewardship: The quilts for the Veterans were picked up. Not sewing at church until after the first of the year. Barb took a load of donations to Rescued and Redeemed, Eau Claire

Old Business:

- Anniversary Dinner review. Amie M. made a motion to hold the Anniversary Dinner on Oct. 11, 2026, Julie seconded. We ran out of Cool Whip but had plenty of pie. Those in attendance were looking for more fruit pies. Brownies were left over. The take outs were well assembled. We need better communication for takeout orders. Heidi made a motion to give Jean from the hall a \$200.00 tip. Seconded by Julie. Considered maybe not having the raffle next year. Will keep the license. Plan to continue the basket raffle.
- Lights of Love: Howard Lavin, Mike Selby, Derek Hanson, Edith Minshall and Janet Cypher.
- Thank Offering: Barb asked for volunteers to take part in the Thank Offering service to be held November 16.
- Having cake for the annual meeting and Harry's 90th birthday.

New Business:

- All Saints Sunday comments. Suggested we send home a simple candle and a holder for those who lost loved ones for the year? Nancie A. made a motion to order 12 candles for All Saints Sunday next year. Julie seconded. One per family.
- Karen F. donated and installed a light in the basement for the quilters. Thank you.
- Juanita K. would like to step down from the altar guild.

(Continued on next page.)

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

(Our Saviour's WELCA minutes from previous page.)

- Lunch ladies supper, 5-7:00 pm, December 2 at 64 North in their heated container. Holds 25 people. The gift exchange limit is \$10.00. A motion was made by Karen Frosch to cover the container rent cost of \$85.00, Amie seconded. Passed. A motion by Carol L. to give the waitress a \$50.00 tip from WELCA, Seconded by Amie. Passed.
- December 19, 5:30 pm after confirmation, there will be a meeting to plan the 2026 WELCA handbook. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- The next Ladies Lunch will be January 8 at 11:30 at New China behind Cenex in Medford.
- Attention Bakers! On December 17 and 21 need donations of cookies for the Christmas programs. Drop off cookies OS on December 17.
- WELCA will not be meeting in January. The next meeting will be in February with Karen Frosch as hostess.
- A motion was made by Amie to give Christmas gifts from WELCA to include Pastor Nancy, Pastor Bob, Jeff Neitzel, Barb Krug, Mike Kessling, Nancy Jones, Misty Hartman and 2 janitors (Adele & Deb). Seconded by Heidi. Passed.

Dates to Remember:

- Joint Church service at St. Paul's --- November 30, Joyful Chimers will be playing.
- Harry's 90th Birthday/Annual Meeting --- December 7
- Christmas Programs --- December 17 and 21, Joyful Chimers will be playing.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.
Submitted by Carol Lekies, Secretary

Our Saviour's Church Council Meeting

November 19, 2025

Attendees: Barb K., Meagan N., Echo B., Paula S., Mike K., and Clarice Z.

Meeting called to order: 6:02 pm - Mike led us in a devotion from The Sabbath Way by Travis West.

Recited Mission Statement.

Echo made a motion to approve agenda as outlined and seconded by Paula - motion carries.

Echo made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as printed for October and seconded by Clarice - motion carries.

Paula made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and seconded by Echo - motion carries.

Education and Youth:

Sunday School

- Prepping for the Christmas programs. Dec 17 and the 21st. Joyful Chimers will play at the Sunday service.
- Wednesday is a little lighter in attendance this year, but the kids are energetic.

Confirmation

- Running along smoothly.
- Kids are seeming to retain information and have been able to recap as needed.

Property

- Basement Lights and drywall - Jim Z. will install the lights and work on the drywall when he's able to. We are in no hurry and know he'll get to us when he can.
- There are three slabs down in the basement. Thinking these are for the cemetery.

WELCA

- Ladies Night Dec 2 at 5. Will be held at 64 North in the container.
- 2026 Yearbook planning was completed.
- Anniversary Dinner went very well and the date for 2026 is set.

Worship

- Joint service is Nov. 30, at St Paul's. St Paul's WELCA will be having after church snacks. The Joyful Chimers will be performing. Church is at 9:00 a.m.
- Christmas Eve service at Our Saviour's at 4:00 p.m. No Christmas Day service here but Barb will be preaching at Edgar if anyone is interested.
- Newsletter and Annual report items are due by this Friday, Nov. 21.

(Continued on next page.)

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

(Our Saviour's Council minutes from previous page.)

Old Business:

- Nancie had a Church Insurance update but the council will get via email to review if needed.
- Meditation Area in cemetery still in talks.
- Church Directory was sent in for review to the company.
- Dish with the Bish - that was on Oct. 26. There was a service, conversation, and a meal. They did a service project to stuff bags for women/children in shelters. Kathy Schumacher is going to lead a service project in May for planting a community garden.
- Call Committee update: the prospective pastor withdrew from the call to Our Saviour's and St Paul's. We are back in the call process.

New Business:

- SAM Review with Pastor Bob, Heidi, and Mike. They will be meeting after the joint service to have an annual review with Barb.
 - Annual Meeting Dec. 7. Positions up for election are President, Vice President, and Secretary as well as lay members.
 - Mike is going through the process to become a SAM.
 - Echo, Jason, and Clarice are able to serve again.
 - Paula has served 3 years as a lay member so is not eligible.
 - Meagan has served 3 years as secretary so is not eligible.
 - Nancie still has another term as treasurer.
 - Budget proposal was reviewed for 2026.
 - Clarice made a motion to approve the budget as projected and seconded by Paula - motion carries.
 - Joint Worship on July 19, 2026. Breaking Chains will perform and it will be held in the Park at the Band Shell. Intent is to invite the public to join us and have a free-will offering.
- Next Meeting 12/17/2025 at 6:00 p.m. after the Sunday School Children's program that evening.
- Paula made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Clarice. Motion carries.
- Ended with Lord's Prayer at 6:49 p.m.
- Submitted by Meagan Neitzel

INCOME - Our Saviour's	October	YTD 2025		
General	4,700.24	48,764.27		
Hunger	360.00	3,175.00		
Sunday School/VBS/Camp		250.00		
Change the World/Special Offering		1,740.00		
Scrip	1,550.00	26,750.00		
TOTAL INCOME	6,610.24	80,679.27		
Expenses:	October	YTD	Monthly/Budget	Year/Budget
Benevolence	186.45	1,935.06	250.00	3,000.00
Hunger In/Out	360.00	3,175.00	0.00	
Special Offering In/Out	500.00	2,161.00	0.00	
Internet Service	61.94	619.40	62.50	750.00
Phone	33.78	305.89	60.42	725.00
Electricity	42.76	1,460.82	166.67	2,000.00
LP Gas	286.00	2,860.00	333.33	4,000.00
Dumpster - GFL	25.92	361.41	58.33	700.00
Holding Tanks		0.00	20.83	250.00
Snow Plowing		562.50	100.00	1,200.00
Janitor Supplies		174.29	18.75	225.00
Clear Country Water Solutions		0.00	18.75	225.00
Building Repairs/Maintenance		1,477.86	83.33	1,000.00
Worship/Devotionals/Resources		136.73	50.00	600.00
Organ/Piano Maintenance		115.00	25.00	300.00
Insurance	509.10	5,091.00	508.33	6,100.00
Office & Computer Supplies/parts/ink		678.64	25.00	300.00
Postage and Stamps		0.00	16.67	200.00
Computer Maintenance/Repair		0.00	16.67	200.00
Treasurer Supplies		87.59	8.33	100.00
Newsletter Postage	32.45	340.85	37.50	450.00
Copier Lease	134.14	1,287.40	125.00	1,500.00
Supply Pastors	524.06	5,243.48	600.00	7,200.00
Conference Dues		0.00	3.33	40.00
Assembly Delegates		150.00	41.67	500.00
Joint Account** see notes below		0.00	41.67	500.00
Payroll-Secretary-Property Manager	805.04	5,941.77	650.00	7,800.00
Website		155.88	16.67	200.00
Music	300.00	2,884.52	325.00	3,900.00
Leadership Training		0.00	83.33	1,000.00
Education (Adult, Confirmation, Sunday School, VBS)		375.91	83.33	1,000.00
Background Checks		0.00	8.33	100.00
Camping Funds		0.00	33.33	400.00
Pastorial Admin	200.00	2,000.00	200.00	2,400.00
Miscellaneous- Special Events		780.08	41.67	500.00
Scrip Cards	960.00	26,806.28	0.00	
VANCO Charge	7.45	62.40	0.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,969.09	67,230.76	4,072.08	49,365.00
Checking Account:		Savings Account:		8,858.64
Camping Fund	873.54		Deposit	0.75
Sunday School/VBS	1,822.53		Total	8,859.39
General	63,952.50			
TOTAL	66,648.57	<i>Submitted By: Nancie Adams, Treasurer</i>		

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Our Saviour's October Financial Report: 2025

EXPLANATIONS:

This report shows the normal, ongoing bills that are paid on a regular basis each month. I have detailed the Income, as well as the line items expenses. Nancie

Income Section:

General	\$4700.24
Hunger	\$360.00
Scrip	1550.00

TOTAL INCOME: **\$6610.24**

Expense Section

Benevolence	\$186.45(to NW Synod of WI General Mission Support – 4%
Hunger	\$360.00(to Northwest Synod of WI for ELCA World Hunger)
Special Offering In/Out	\$500.00(Donation to Synod-Neighbor to Neighbor <u>Campaign</u>)
Internet Service (Clark Electric)	\$61.94
Phone (TDS)	\$33.78
Electricity (Taylor Electric)	\$42.76
Dumpster (GFL Environmental)	\$25.92
LP Gas (Budget-Medford Coop)	\$286.00
Insurance (Church Mutual)	\$509.10
Newsletter Postage	\$32.45
Payroll	\$805.04(watchman \$80.00--sec \$371.25, 3 rd qu tax \$353.79)
Church Administrator	\$200.00
Supply Pastors	\$524.06
Music (Organist)	\$300.00
Copier Lease (E.O. Johnson)	\$134.14
VANCO charge	\$7.45
Script Cards	\$960.00(Co. Market)

TOTAL EXPENSES: **\$4969.09**

Savings Account: **\$8859.39**

Script sales profit for Oct \$60.00 Current Inventory \$3725

Mission Investment Fund:

Term Investment Fixed 4 Year – 3847 Rate 4.3290% Matures 9/23/2029
07/31/2025 Balance: \$17,064.47
Interest 09/30/2025 \$63.48
New Balance **\$17,127.95**

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Message from St. Paul's Council President—Heidi Haynes

Christmas is a truly magical time of year, filled with twinkling lights, joyful music, and beautiful decorations. It is a season for family gatherings and indulging in delicious food and desserts. Most importantly, it reminds us of the immense love we share, highlighted by the celebration of the birth of our Savior.

During this festive season, let us also remember to reach out to friends and family who may be facing challenges. A simple phone call or a heartfelt Christmas card can make a significant difference to someone who is struggling.

Our family experienced a special Christmas gift 16 years ago on Christmas Day when my daughter was born three weeks early. It was one of the best Christmas surprises I could have ever dreamed of. While she might not be thrilled about sharing her birthday with a holiday, it certainly makes this day extra special for us. Happy 16th Birthday, Lauren!

Additionally, it's always a joy to see our Sunday School children practicing for weeks for their program, eagerly dressing up and performing for their parents. This year, our program will take place on December 14!

Merry Christmas from my family to yours! May this festive season bring you joy, peace, and cherished moments with loved ones.

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." – Luke 2:13-14

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. – John 3:16

St. Paul's December 2025 Worship Assistants

DATE	MESSAGE	LITURGIST	COMMUNION SETUP	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS
December 7	Dawn Harder Barb Krug	Sally Lemke	Jo Cypher	Chris & Dave Konieczny Sally Lemke
December 14	Pastor Bob Giese	Cathy Retzer	Kathy & Dan Higgins	Chris & Dave Konieczny Tina Machon
December 21	Barb Krug	Dawn Harder	Kathy & Dan Higgins	Dawn Harder Chris & Dave Konieczny
December 24 2:00 p.m.	Barb Krug	Justin Zirngible	Kathy & Dan Higgins	Carrie & Justin Zirngible Kathy Higgins
December 24 6:00 p.m.	Barb Krug	Gail Heurung	Kathy & Dan Higgins Cathy Retzer	
December 28	Pastor Bob Giese	Tony Schumacher	Kathy & Dan Higgins	Marguerite Jochimsen

Sunday School

The Sunday School children have been very busy this month practicing for our program on December 14! We have been working on speaking parts that explain the Christmas story, songs including hand motions and crafts to share. This is a special time of year to learn about the birth of Jesus and be with family and friends. We hope you are able to attend our program at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, December 14.

We are also looking for someone who loves children and wants to help Heidi coordinate the Sunday School program. Kathy Hackbarth is stepping down as of the new year and this position works well to have two volunteers share the duties. If you are interested and would like to hear more details about the position please contact Heidi Haynes or Kathy Hackbarth.

Sincerely,
The Sunday School Coordinators,
Heidi Haynes and Kathy Hackbarth

Confirmation: The confirmation students will be presenting "Advent Conflict" in a Reader's Theatre form on Wednesday, December 10, during the 6:00 p.m. Advent service. Come and Enjoy!

St. Paul's Ladies Lunch Bunch

Wednesday, December 17

Location: Medford Cafe, 403 South 8th, Medford

Time: 11:15 a.m. All women welcome.

Bring a White Elephant gift.

Please contact Michelle Danen at 715 748-4397 or Chris Finkler, 715 748-6848, if you'd like to be involved.

The Mobile Food Pantry served 94 households on November 20, 2025.



First visits in 2025 = 66

59 individuals ages 0-17
96 individuals ages 18-59
77 individuals ages 60+
232 total number of individuals

The next Mobile Food Pantry will be on Thursday, December 18, 2025.

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

Feed My People delivered 5,177 pounds of food. Food distributed included: ground chicken, cheddar cheese, garbanzo beans, soup, chili starter, fresh produce (i.e. carrots, apples, onions, squash, pumpkins, potatoes), canned vegetables, peanut butter, bakery, pies, cinnamon butter, snack pudding cups, crackers, juice, oatmeal, tuna, pasta sauce, and pet supplies. 57 pounds of produce was redistributed to the First Baptist Church. 17 volunteers helped organize and distribute the food.

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.

Thank you to **Julie Scott, Sam Klinner, Jim Krug, and Brian Krug** for sponsoring the November Mobile Food Pantry and to the volunteers that came to help distribute the food. We would also like to thank **Carol O'Leary, Our Saviour's WELCA, Intek, and Bone & Joint** for their recent monetary and food drive donations.

Needles for Needs Community Quilt Group

We just sent off our first batch of Homeless Veteran Quilts for the season on November 18. We sent 26 denim quilts and 1 apartment quilt. In addition to the quilts, we also sent several new or gently used denim jeans (size 36 waist and larger) for veteran recipients that visit Every Third Saturday who are in need of some pants. If you get a chance, you should look up Every Third Saturday on Facebook, or their website: www.everythirdsaturday.com - they do such good things for veterans in need!

A big thank you to all who donate jeans and backing sheets to our group - they sure are getting used this season! Also thank you to Leon Gustafson and Deb & Scott Marrier for transporting our quilts! And wow - we have been blown away by how organized Deb Metz was - her fabrics have been helping us make so many quilts! She had many stacks of precut fabric squares and had labeled all other uncut fabrics, so we knew what was there before unfolding them. Thank you to her family for donating her fabrics to us!

As always, we have options for those of you who would like to help our group make quilts, but can't make it to work days. Call Tonya at 715-560-0295 for more information. We are still meeting every Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. All are welcome!

Blessings to you all as you enter this holiday season!

Tonya Albers

Comfort Quilts

Comfort Quilts is a quiet ministry that many from our congregation are not familiar with. We have 3 active members at this time but would welcome anybody if they prefer to sew at home and do a local ministry. Comfort Quilts try to fill the need within our community first but we do reach out beyond Medford when we hear of other people suffering. We also have donated to Hope Hospice, Aspirus Dialysis department, the homeless shelter, Veterans (VFW and the equine therapy), also any person that we hear of that is struggling with cancer or other health concerns. We also donated to the Thanksgiving families that St Paul's is sponsoring this year.

Please, if you have any questions about this ministry, feel free to talk to anyone in our group or talk to Nancy in the office and she will make the connection needed. We appreciate all the donations that have been given to us because we can't do this without everyone's help. Until next time, God bless. Submitted by Kim Gasek.

During the first two weeks of October, thirty-one bath towels were donated to The Taylor House in Medford, a local supportive housing option. The response was greatly appreciated. For future donation ideas, look at Taylor County Supportive Housing's Facebook page. For more information, contact Chris Finkler at (715)748-6848.

The **Church Directories** have arrived. Those who had their picture taken may pick up their copy before or after church.

December 2025 Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAY

Dec. 3 Peyton Hoffman
Robert Scheithauer
Dec. 4 Dawn Korenuk
Blaine Seidl
Dec. 6 Lynn Coyer
Emily Dehne
Dec. 7 Conrad Alexander
Jason Woller
Dec. 10 Kaedence Ecklund
Dec. 12 Scott Albers
Sheryl Riemer
Dec. 13 Thomas Larson
Dec. 15 Kyle Firnstahl
Charity Pester
Dec. 16 Jacqueline Kmiecik
Bronson Peterson
Judy Pinkston

BIRTHDAY

Dec. 18 Chris Finkler
Dec. 19 Jaclyn Raasch
Dec. 21 Kathy Alexander
Logan Langdon
Dec. 22 Alise Shore
Dec. 23 Mckenna Bakkestuen
Robert Harris
Kenneth Kraus
Seth Williams
Dec. 24 Maddison Pester
Dec. 25 Lauren Cady
Dec. 26 Sherry Born
Charles Peterson
Christian Preuss
Dec. 27 Debra Dassow
Dec. 28 Amelia Ranum
Dec. 29 Kathy Klimowski
Dec. 30 Mark Zuleger

ANNIVERSARIES

Dec. 2 Margo & David
Zuleger
Dec. 12 Shirley & Duane
Schwarz
Dec. 14 Gail & David Nelson
Dec. 30 Jerry Ann & Gary
Maldonis
Dec. 31 Jodie & Todd Metz



The church has ordered 8 Poinsettias for the

Christmas season, 4 red, 4 white. If you would like to sponsor a Poinsettia in memory or honor of someone, please sign-up on the Poinsettia order form in the Welcome Hall. The cost is \$16.00.

November 2025 Attendance

November 2 95
November 9 90
November 16 100
November 23 69
November 28

St. Paul's Council Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.

Council Members: Heidi Haynes, Kathy Hackbarth, Tony Schumacher, Carrie Zirngible, Gail Heurung, Harley Cook, Chris Konieczny, and Amber Fettes were present. Unable to attend were Marie Koerner, Dawn Harder, and Stacey Dassow and Tina Dassow. Guests present were Nancy Jones and Barb Krug.

Meeting called to order by Heidi Haynes at 5:59 p.m. Opening prayer by Barb Krug.

Motion to accept the meeting agenda by Amber, seconded by Tony, motion carried. Motion to approve the council minutes from October by Chris, seconded by Kathy, motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and motion to approve by Gail, seconded by Chris, motion carried.

Financial Secretary report – notice that Marie will step down from this position on the new year.

Barb attended the Synod Boundary meeting. Informed the council that we lost two members in the past week. Let us know what transpired at the Dish With the Bish she attended so we can start thinking about our plans for our turn to host.

Worship team update – 5th Sunday coming up – WELCA will provide the refreshments. Sunday School – getting ready for the Christmas program on December 14. Looking for new teachers needed.

Confirmation is going well. Some scheduling issues are being dealt with.

Joint Parish – the 5th Sunday in July will be held on July 19, (not the 5th Sunday). Plans are for the group Breaking Chains to lead the service at the band shelter in the park.

Benevolences were sent to the synod in October

New business:

The copier has been ordered to update from out outdated copier here at St. Paul's. Some projector information was presented – will be placed on the annual meeting agenda.

The annual meeting will be held on February 1.

Council terms up – Heidi, Dave and Marie. Need to find nominees for the annual meeting. Some more information is being gathered for the sanctuary/asbestos/choir loft renovations. Reminder about building scheduling and rules.

Council with a motion by Amber, seconded by Chris agreed to authorize and additional \$100 to go with the money donated for a cabinet for the choir stereo. Tony with assistance is looking into what will work.

Chris wants to offer a Bible study – no issues from the council.

Next meeting will by December 10' at 6:45 p.m. – after the Advent service.

Motion by Gail, seconded by Amber to adjourn – motion carried. Council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Gail Heurung, Council Secretary

St. Paul's Treasurer's Report for October 2025

	2025		2024		YTD % of Change
	October	YTD	October	YTD	
Total General Giving	8,648	101,586	11,393	107,831	-5.8%
Total General Expenses	\$9,121	62,780	7,982	99,671	-37.0%
Net Surplus (Deficit)	-\$473	\$38,807	\$3,412	\$8,160	
Designated Giving	1,528	17,227	3,629	41,300	-58.3%
Designated Giving - Building	895	16,830			
Total Designated Giving	2,423	34,057		41,300	
Designated Expenses	955	13,513	365	69,076	-80.4%
Designated Expenses - Building		1,151			
Total Designated Expenses	955	14,663		69,076	
Net Designated Income	1,468	19,394	3,264	(27,776)	
Interest Income	\$158	1,436	\$131	1,437	
Net Combined Income (Deficit)	\$1,153	\$59,636	\$6,807	(\$18,179)	

Bank Accounts - As of:

	10/31/25	YTD Change	Comments
<u>Fund in SPOS Joint Checking</u>	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
<u>General Checking</u>	\$220,677	\$40,035	\$168,141
<u>Designated Funds in Checking</u>			
Building Fund	18,038	\$16,678	0
Comfort Quilts	1,805	\$1,079	726
Community Benevolence Fund	248	\$115	116
Designated Memorials	4,510	\$370	4,953
Fair Trade Sales	457	(\$19)	566
Thrivent Choice	2,025	\$795	1,151
Mobile Food Pantry	10,544	\$632	8,219
Sunday School	735	(\$177)	912
Youth Group	11,701	\$129	11,532
Total Funds in Checking	\$271,741	\$59,636	\$197,317
<u>Other Accounts</u>			
Events/Fund Raiser Acct	3,177	12	3,333
Needles for Needs Acct	2,037	298	3,313
Scrip Acct	7,337	(4,801)	5,729
Total Other Accounts	\$12,551	-\$4,492	\$12,375
Total - All Accounts	\$284,291	\$55,145	\$209,692
<u>Mortgage Balance</u>		\$0	\$74,314

2025 Pastor Expense - Budgeted

\$67,960

2025 YTD Supply Pastor Expense

\$4,465

Mission Statement:

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

St. Paul's 2025 Church Council

Harley Cook	715-612-2906	cookharley59@gmail.com
Stacey Dassow, Youth Representative		
Amber Fettes	715-965-2830	afettes21@gmail.com
Kathy Hackbarth	715-965-2407	kathyhackbarth@gmail.com
Heidi Haynes, President	715-965-6154	heidi_haynes@yahoo.com
Gail Heurung, Secretary	715-316-2788	gheurung@gmail.com
Marie Koerner, Financial Secretary	715-965-6328	4-koerners@charter.net
Chris Konieczny	715-965-8312	chriskonieczny85@gmail.com
Tony Schumacher, Vice-President	715-581-9488	anthonytylerschumacher@gmail.com
Carrie Zirngible	715-493-1696	cczirn@gmail.com
Tina Dassow, Treasurer		tinadassow@gmail.com

Continued prayers and support for the families of Carol Kasperek, Courtlyn Rabska, and Linda Zielke.


BOUNTIFUL THANKSGIVING



gifts are due back to church by December 17. Thank you to all who have purchased gifts or have given a monetary donation.

Thank you to Rita Emmerich for sponsoring the December newsletter.

St. Paul's December 2025 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>December 14</p>	1	2 9:00 a.m. Needles for Needs 6:00 p.m. Cub & Boy Scouts / Girl Scouts	3 4:00 p.m. Confirmation 6:00 p.m. Advent Service	4 11:00 a.m. Linda Zielke Celebration of Life	5 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting	6
7 9:15 am. Worship/ Communion Sunday School	8 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts	9 9:00 a.m. Needles for Needs 11:30 a.m. Quilter's Luncheon	10 4:00 p.m. Confirmation 6:00 p.m. Advent Service 6:45 p.m. Church Council	11	12 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting	13 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Drop off items for bake /craft sale
14 8:00 a.m. Choir 9:15 am. Worship Communion Sunday School Christmas Program Bake & Craft Sale	15	16 9:00 a.m. Needles for Needs 6:00 p.m. Cub & Boy Scouts / Girl Scouts	17 11.15 a.m. Ladies Lunch Bunch 4:00 p.m. Confirmation 6:00 p.m. Advent Service	18 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Mobile Food Pantry	19 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting	20
21 9:15 am. Worship/ Communion	22 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts	23 9:00 a.m. Needles for Needs	24 2:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas No Services today	26 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting	27
28 8:00 a.m. Choir 9:15 am. Worship/ Communion 6:00 p.m. Suicide Support Group	29	30 9:00 a.m. Needles for Needs	31 New Year's Eve	<div> Joyful Chimers rehearsals: December 7 & 14 at 5:00 p.m. Location: Our Saviour's Perform for St. Paul's on December 28 </div>		

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

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The Parish Pulse

A monthly newsletter for friends and family of
Our Saviour's Lutheran of Holway and
St. Paul's Lutheran of Medford

December 2025

Sunday Worship

Our Saviour's Worship - 8:00 a.m.
St. Paul's Worship - 9:15 a.m.

Contact

Barb Krug - 715-965-5696, barbkrug@charter.net
Parish Administrator - Nancy Jones
Our Saviour's - secretary.saviourschurch@gmail.com
St. Paul's - stpaulslutheranmedford@gmail.com

