

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
426 Washington St. Wausau, WI 54403

Christopher—Visitation Minister 715-680-0083

(Emergency calls after office hours only)

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Tania Schwarze—Media Tech – web@stpauluccwausau.org

William Day—Chancel Choir Director

Carol Seefeldt—Bell Choir Director

George Felty—Organist

Stephanie Reyes—Housekeeper

Pastoral Support Committee: Tamara Sillars, Nate Helke,
Nora Schultz, Bill Panzigrau, Carla Elliott

Search Committee Members: Marie Martens, Tamara Sillars,
Matt Volhard, Rita Kellman, Nate Helke, Carol Seefeldt,
Josh Reissmann, Nora Schultz, Kateland Sillars, Allison Dean,
David Wilharm

Church Council Officers:

President- Nora Schultz

Vice-President- Colette Brill

Secretary- Allison Dean

Treasurer- Gail Rowell

Office Hours: 8:00 – 3:00 (Mon-Thurs) 8:00 – 12:00 (Fri)

Office Phone: (715) 842-3733

Our Website: www.stpauluccwausau.org

CCLI License: 3121320 & 20363711

One License: A-724784

Please note: Sunday Services are available on Public Channel Spectrum 980 or TDS 14. *Weekly Sunday Services begin on Tuesdays at Noon; Wednesday at 5pm; Thursdays at 8am; and Sundays at 9:30 am.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ – Wausau, WI

February 2026

COMMUNICATOR

The Lenten Season Begins

I'm writing this letter on January 22, when tomorrow's forecasted high is -13 degrees Fahrenheit and its low is -23. It's hard to think of spring, of the hope for new life and vitality, when you're living in the dead of winter. And yet, there are already signs that winter won't last forever. It's no longer pitch dark by 5:00 p.m., and with every passing day in January, we'll get an extra three minutes of daylight. The days are slowly but surely growing longer.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18. The word "Lent" has its roots in the Old English word "lencten", from which we get words like "length" and "lengthen". As the days lengthen and grow during the Lenten season, so too are we called to lengthen and grow in the Spirit as we heed Jesus's call to repent of our sins and believe in the good news of God's grace and forgiveness.

At our Wednesday night services during Lent, we'll draw inspiration from previous generations of Christians who have contributed to the faith through their words and deeds. In the Wednesday night sermons, we'll take a closer look at the following six individuals whose faith helped them accomplish, endure, write, compose, and lead in the challenging times in which they lived:

February 25: Martin Niemoller, the Lutheran pastor who defied Hitler and endured seven years in Nazi concentration camps.

(continued on next page)

March 4: **William Tyndale**, a biblical scholar and Reformation leader who was martyred, whose English translation of the Bible set the foundation for the later King James Version.

March 11: **Julian of Norwich**, a 14th century English mystic, whose Revelations of Divine Love became a spiritual classic.

March 18: **Dorothy Day**, a radical journalist, author, and social activist whose work was rooted in her adopted Catholic faith.

March 25: **Abraham Lincoln**, the President whose unorthodox faith sustained him through personal tragedy while leading our country through the crucible of the Civil War.

April 1: **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, America's foremost leader in the Civil Rights Movement, whose Christian faith formed his method of nonviolent protest.

Please join us this Lent as we deepen our faith from the stories and inspiration of Christians who came before us. Lenten services at St. Paul's are at 3:30 and 6:00, with a meal in the Guild Hall from 4:15-5:30. I hope to see you there! Christopher Ewan

February Confirmation Class Dates

Wednesday, February 4: 6:00-7:00
Wednesday, February 11: 6:00-7:00
Wednesday, February 18: 6:45-7:45
Wednesday, February 25: 6:45-7:45

Beginning Wednesday, February 18 and continuing through Wednesday, April 1, there will be a 6:00 worship service, followed by an hour of Confirmation class that will run through 7:45. Students and their families are encouraged to attend and participate in the Lenten services (reading, ushering, etc.) and enjoy a meal served in the Guild Hall from 4:15—5:30.

Ministries Schedule



Scrip Sales

| | |
|------|----------------|
| 2/1 | Gerry Brummond |
| 2/8 | Carla Elliott |
| 2/15 | Pam Helke |
| 2/22 | Josh Reissmann |

Readers

| | |
|------|----------------|
| 2/1 | Cathy Taschler |
| 2/8 | Need Volunteer |
| 2/15 | Craig Clausen |
| 2/22 | Need Volunteer |

Ushers

| | |
|------|--------|
| 2/1 | Team 8 |
| 2/8 | Team 9 |
| 2/15 | Team 1 |
| 2/22 | Team 2 |

Media

| | |
|------|------------------|
| 2/1 | Chuck Romanowski |
| 2/8 | Gerry Brummond |
| 2/15 | Jim Maguire |
| 2/22 | Travis Schubring |



Communion Set-up/Clean-up

Feb. 15 Randy & Kathy Buedding
Feb 18 3:30 & 6:00 Dennis & Carla Elliott
Feb 25 3:30 Nora Schultz
6:00 Nora Schultz & Shirley Van Slatte

Leading us in worship in February will be:

| | |
|------|----------------------------|
| 2/1 | Chris Ewan |
| 2/8 | Chris Ewan |
| 2/15 | Pastor Jill Christopherson |
| 2/18 | Chris Ewan (Ash Wednesday) |
| 2/22 | Michael Loomis |

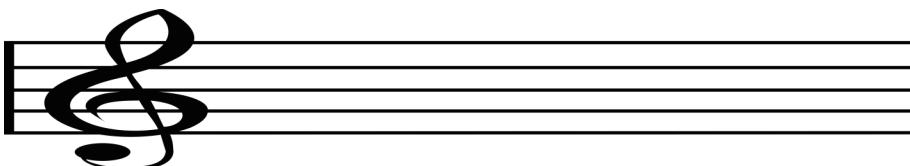
COMMUNION THIS SPRING

For **February, and March**, we will be offering **communion the third Sunday** of the month to accommodate a new worship schedule. Christopher Ewan will be preaching the first and second Sundays of the month. Pastor Jill Christopherson will be preaching the third Sunday. Michael Loomis will be preaching the fourth Sunday of those months. Pastor Jill Christopherson will also be serving our Easter Sunday Communion on April 5 both the 7:00 am and 9:00 am services.

Please join us at Christ's table.

Marathon County Public Library
Friends of the Library
Book Sale
February 5-7, 2026

See details at friends@mcpl.us



Sharing their musical talents in church will be:
2/01 Chancel Choir 2/08 Starburst Choir
2/15 Youth Bells 2/25 Senior Bells

Dollars and Sense from the Finance Committee:

Lent is a time for reflection and transformation. We take a deeper look into the lessons taught to us by our Savior, the sacrifices made for us, and the blessings brought to us through His resurrection. As you continue your time of reflection, please consider your support of St. Paul's UCC. Whether by time, by talent, or your financial support, your gifts are truly appreciated by our members and our community. Thank you for your continued prayerful support of St. Paul's UCC.

Financial Report for December 2025:

Current Giving:

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| December 2025 | \$32,325.00 |
| Monthly Goal | \$20,000.00 |
| Year to Date: | \$218,381.90 |
| Year to Date Goal: | Under budget by \$21,618.10 |

Staff Support Expenses: Under budget by \$112,643.31

Administrative Expenses: Under budget by \$11,967.99

Program Expenses: Over budget by \$423.20

Property Expenses: Over budget \$5,133.22
(without cleaning service under budget by \$10,616.78)

Gratitude Expressed:

A thank you so much for all of your organization, cooking and serving for the Christmas meal. Your care and compassion for our community members are immeasurable.

I truly appreciated being part of your group of volunteers!

*With gratitude,
Kathleen Bader*

February at St. Paul's through the Years...

Rev. W. H. Ortwein began his tenure at St. Paul's as Assistant Pastor on February 1, 1942. In 1945, Rev. Ortwein became Senior Pastor and remained with the church until his retirement in 1978.

You've likely bought a used car in your life, but how about a used organ? On February 7, 1898, St. Paul's bought a used pipe organ from St. Paul's Evangelical Church in Chicago for the whopping sum of \$500.

In February of 1915, St. Paul's welcomed a new Choir Director, Lulu Stuhlfauth.

February 22, 1863, was a Communion Sunday, where thirty members partook of the Lord's Supper.

The Mother's Club published a church cookbook back in February 1978.

Source: The 125th Calendar of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 1988.

FEBRUARY



BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|-------|-------------------|
| 02/01 | Susan Schmidt |
| 02/01 | Amanda Voigt |
| 02/03 | Brent Brandenburg |
| 02/03 | Dana Perkins |
| 02/03 | Lindsay Seefeldt |
| 02/04 | Vincent Newman |
| 02/04 | Roger Rothmeyer |
| 02/04 | Robyn Steponik |
| 02/05 | Floyd Dean |
| 02/05 | Laura Horgan |
| 02/05 | Melvin Konkol |
| 02/06 | Hadley Seefeldt |
| 02/06 | Maggie Seefeldt |
| 02/06 | Kirt Zemke |
| 02/07 | William Day |
| 02/07 | Andrew Witt |
| 02/08 | Tiffany Luebke |
| 02/09 | Tanner Hall |
| 02/09 | Chelsie Pagel |
| 02/09 | Rose Seidler |
| 02/10 | Austin Luebke |
| 02/10 | Josh Reissmann |
| 02/10 | Nora Schultz |
| 02/10 | Vanessa Tieman |
| 02/10 | Laura Witt |
| 02/12 | Helen Hutton |
| 02/13 | Stacey Baez |
| 02/14 | Alice Garves |

| | |
|-------|---------------------|
| 02/15 | Susanne Hanke |
| 02/15 | Paul Vesely |
| 02/16 | Antonio Baez |
| 02/16 | Christopher Flatter |
| 02/16 | Daniel Genrich |
| 02/18 | Andrew Cruz |
| | Lillegard |
| 02/20 | George Felty |
| 02/20 | Ruth Hafeman |
| 02/20 | Becky Riiser |
| 02/21 | Abby Konkol |
| 02/22 | James Kanitz |
| 02/22 | Broedy Kowalski |
| 02/22 | Donna Seehafer |
| 02/23 | Angel Texale |
| 02/23 | Randy Wimmer |
| 02/24 | Brennan Straw |
| 02/25 | Karen Krueger |
| 02/25 | Dana Kulas |
| 02/25 | Julie Preuss |
| 02/25 | Debra Vesely |
| 02/26 | Nancy Schumacher |
| 02/26 | Sarah Zeinert |
| 02/27 | Eric Schwarze |
| 02/27 | Steven Seefeldt |
| 02/28 | Pamela Helke |
| 02/28 | Robert Kersten |
| 02/28 | Theron Luedtke |
| 02/29 | Kevin Cooning |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
and best wishes for many more
from Your Church Family!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

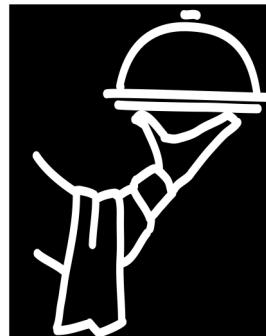
I was amazed at the great number of volunteers who helped undecorate the church on Saturday, January 17. We got the trees, bows, wreaths, and other decorations tucked away in the garage and storage spaces in little more than an hour, with celebratory donuts and coffee afterwards. Thank you to everyone who made a big task smaller with their efforts!

The Building and Grounds Committee has determined that work needs to be done on the church's bell tower to keep it safe and viable. Jerry Woller did a great job explaining what needs to be done and what it will cost at the Annual Meeting.

Speaking of the Annual Meeting, thank you to the committee members who submitted the reports that made up the Annual Report on the life and finances of the congregation. Thanks to **Nora and Jay Schultz** and **Tania Schwarze** for their work in putting the Annual Report together.

The Financial Review Committee was busy examining the church's books at the end of the year, making sure our t's were crossed and i's dotted. Thanks to **Josh Reissmann, Jim Maguire, Sue Maguire, Gordie Hintze, Andy Witt, and Gail Rowell** for all their work!

Finally, have you checked out the display case at the bottom of the stairs from the narthex to the Guild Hall? **Geri Seidler, Caitlyn Horgan, and Mary Petersen** curated a Valentine's Day-themed display of decorations, cards, and figurines from decades past. If you plan on making a homemade Valentine's card for your sweetheart, you're likely to find some good ideas from the display! - Christopher Ewan



Diner's Club

at 2510

2510 Stewart Ave. Wausau

February 20 at 6:00.

Please sign up or call the office at 715-842-3733 if you plan on attending.

News from the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ

The Wisconsin Conference offers additional information on many ministries including:

- Aging in Grace newsletter
- Becoming the Beloved Community - Resources and tools, wisdom and insight
- Creation Care / Kairos Call to Action News
- Damascus Project News
- Generosity Forward Newsletter: Resources for your Stewardship initiatives
- Immigration Justice Working Group Email List
- Palestine Justice newsletter
- Racial Justice Task Force Email List
- Wisconsin Conference Life - Semi-monthly Conference e-newsletter
- Youth Ministries News

Please check out their website at <https://wcucc.org/> for further information.

Attention



St. Paul's Food Pantry will be open every Thursday thru March 26 while supplies last. We were blessed with a number of donations. Thank you to Sally Scinto, Jan Beck, and Jay Schultz for helping distribute these items.

Hours of Operation: 9:00 am-Noon

Walk-up: Welcome all operational days

Drive-up: Limited to twice per month

Diaper Distribution: Once per month per family.
In person distribution only. NO carry-outs for others.

Join Us For
**Wednesday Night
Lenten Worship
3:30pm & 6pm**



Church Dartball League Update

The St. Paul's Hornets and St. Paul's Packers seasons are well underway. Anyone who is interested is welcome to join. We play at 7:00 pm on Mondays. Please contact Gerry Brummond or Gary Helke if you are interested.



| Date | Hornets | Packers |
|------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 2/2 | Away/Redeemer | Away/Good Shepherd |
| 2/9 | Home/St. Matthews | Home/Immanuel |
| 2/16 | Away/Wesley Meth. | Home/St. Michaels |
| 2/23 | Away/Peace | Away/St. Andrews |

Lenten Meals Served Wednesday Evenings

After our 3:30 pm Lenten Services, we will be serving a meal from 4:15-5:30. There is not a fee; however, a goodwill donation towards the committee serving is truly appreciated.

Meals will be hosted by:

| | |
|------|--------------------------------|
| 2/18 | Church Council |
| 2/25 | Ladies of St. Paul's |
| 3/4 | Mission Committee |
| 3/11 | Music Committee |
| 3/18 | Building and Grounds Committee |
| 3/25 | Finance Committee |
| 4/1 | Altar Guild |

Please join us for great food and fellowship!

Family Game Day

Sunday, February 1st: 10:30-1pm

Bring Your Favorite Game to Play & Snack To Share! We will play games in upstairs dining room area.



Pizza & Soda Provided- Sign Up Today!

Looking for a way to remember those college students, grandchildren, or others who have been sweet to you this year? Purchase some scrip cards from St. Paul's! They make great Valentine's gifts to those who would appreciate a tank of gas, some free groceries, or a quick meal. See our wonderful volunteers on Sundays!



Updates from the Annual Meeting:

Thank you to everyone who attended the annual meeting. The resolution to repair the Bell Tower passed by a vote of 52-1. Jerry Woller is already working with the contractor, and work will begin in the late summer of this year.

We also elected a new council member. Charlotte Doescher will be joining the Council. Lori Helke, Dustin Resch, and Wes Helke were elected to second terms. The 2026 budget was passed by a vote of 51-1.

Council officers were elected in the Re-organizational Meeting. Nora Schultz was elected President, Colette Brill—Vice President, Allison Dean-Secretary, and Gail Rowell-Treasurer.

Due to security concerns, we will not print the Council Officers phone numbers in future bulletins and newsletters. However, they do want you to know they are available to address your joys and concerns about St. Paul's. If you ever need their phone number or email, please call the office. Contact information will be given out to members upon your request. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Thank you to Nora Schultz for leading the meeting, Jerry Woller for the presentation on the tower, Allison Dean, Gail Rowell, and Nate Helke for their reports, and Colette Brill for leading us in the benediction. Also, a big thanks to Gary Helke and his crew for a great breakfast!



Summer Camp Registration Is Open!



Registration for Summer Camp at Daycholah Center opened on January 12. Camp Daycholah offers a joyful, unplugged experience where children and youth build friendships, grow in confidence and spirit, and connect with nature. Families are encouraged to register early at: WWW.UCCI.ORG

Kasten Memorial Scholarship Applications

Due February 27, 2026

Attention all high school seniors who are members of St. Paul's UCC:

Kasten Memorial Scholarships are available to those high school graduates looking to continue their education. Scholarship applications are on the table outside of the Parlor. Please turn them in by Feb. 27 for consideration by our Scholarship Committee.



Thinking about attending camp this year?

Registration is open, and St. Paul's would love to help you with the cost. Marilyn Steffen Memorial Camp Scholarships are available to members of St. Paul's UCC. It is a once per year scholarship of \$100 towards camp expenses at camps through the Wisconsin Conference of the UCC. Three locations are available—Daycholah Center on Green Lake, Moon Beach, and Cedar Valley.

If you and/or a loved one are interested in attending the variety of camps available, please pick up a Steffen Scholarship application today!