

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)

Kris Vraney—Office - admin1@stpaulsuccwausau.org

Tania Schwarze—Media Tech – web@stpaulsuccwausau.org

William Day—Chancel Choir Director

Carol Seefeldt—Bell Choir Director

George Felty— Organist

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 Wilhams

Church Council Officers:

President- Nora Schultz 715-574-5854

Vice-Pres- Colette Brill 715-574-1239

Secretary- Allison Dean 715-574-5275

Treasurer- Gail Rowell 715-581-9452

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

DECEMBER 2025 COMMUNICATOR

Search Committee Update

Dear Members of St. Paul's,

After a discouraging dry spell, the Search Committee was very pleased to receive a new profile a few weeks ago. At the time of writing this, we have had 2 Zoom interviews with this new candidate which went very well. By the time you read this, a 3rd interview, on-site here in Wausau, will have taken place. I trust that interview will be/was good as well. Regardless of what happens with this current candidate, we have Supply Pastors lined up through Christmas and all the way to spring of next year. In the event that it doesn't work out with our current candidate, we will seek a new Interim Pastor to help bring a little continuity back to Sunday services.

As a congregation, we're living out the words to the old Sunday School favorite "I am the church, you are the church, WE are the church together", as we all participate and move forward with plans and events during this transitional period. It is encouraging to see everyone continue to show up not only on Sunday mornings, but any other time we're called upon to be of service to St. Paul's.

We, as a committee, are honored that you have placed your trust in us to discern who we feel would be best suited to lead St. Paul's as we move into the future in the "new" downtown Wausau area. Please pray for the committee and the

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...Search Committee Update (continued)

candidates that everything will work out according to God's plan for us.

Thanks,

Nate Helke

And now a message from our Visitation Pastor, Christopher Ewan

Advent and Christmas

I believe it was October 29 that I saw my first Christmas decoration of the season, a five-foot tree with white lights in the gift shop of Wausau hospital. Days later I heard Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas Is You" on the radio, a song which by now we've probably heard a dozen times and by Christmas Day will have heard a hundred times more. After deer hunting is over and the Thanksgiving turkey is but a memory, the signs and sounds of the cultural Christmas season ratchets up through the whole month of December. But when the big day comes, the conversation quickly turns to New Year's resolutions, our plans for 2026, and the Christmas trees are out on the curb by January 1.

The Church takes a different approach to Christmas. Our Church year begins with Advent, a four-week season where we prepare our hearts and minds for Jesus's birth in Bethlehem. We'll read the prophet Isaiah's prophecies about the promised messiah to the Jewish people. We'll watch John baptize his followers with water and listen to his promise that a man would follow him who would baptize people with the Holy Spirit. We'll hear the story of an angel appearing to Joseph, convincing him to stick with his betrothed, Mary.

Ministries Schedule



Readers

12/07 Cathy Taschler
12/14 Children's program
12/21 Craig Clausen
12/24 6:00 Need Volunteer
 9:00 Need Volunteer
12/28 Need Volunteer

Media

12/07 Gerry Brummond
12/14 Travis Schubring
12/21 Chuck Romanowski
12/24 6:00 pm Chuck
 Romanowski
 9:00 pm Gerry
 Brummond
12/28 Gerry Brummond

Scrip Sales

12/7 Gerry Brummond
12/14 Carla Elliott
12/21 Pam Helke
12/28 Josh Reissmann

Ushers

12/7 Team 4
12/14 Team 5
12/20 Team 6&7
12/21 Team 8
12/24 Team 9 6:00 pm
 Team 1 9:00 pm
12/24 Team 2
12/28 Team 3

COMMUNION SET-UP AND CLEAN-UP
Gary & Marie Kickbusch
For December 7, 2025





Are you looking for gift ideas for:

Hairdresser/Barber · Postal Carrier

Teacher · Bus Driver · Coach

Boss · Co-worker

**Parent/Grandparent who doesn't want
more "stuff"**

Neighbor · Student · Those hard to buy for

**Do your Christmas shopping and support
St. Paul's with a gift of a St. Paul's UCC Gift
Card! To ensure delivery by
Dec. 24, please order by Dec. 7.**

An order form is enclosed.

****Elf Shop Donations****

*We are accepting new and gently used items for the
children's Elf Shop. We are in need of men's gifts.
Items can be dropped off in the office by December 11.*

We'll share in the anticipation of the coming messiah, the hope of the Jewish people. When Christmas comes, we'll celebrate it not just for a day or two, but for twelve days. After that, the Church will enter the season of Epiphany, when we find out who this baby born in Bethlehem really is, and what his relationship to God is. Epiphany is really an extended reflection on why we celebrate Jesus's coming into the world in the first place, on why Christmas is such a big deal. The Epiphany season ends with Ash Wednesday, which this year is February 18.

When New Year's comes and all the Christmas songs have disappeared from the radio, the Church will be right smack dab in the middle of making meaning out of Jesus's birth. My grandparents kept their Christmas tree up until February. I think they did so because they liked to have the beautiful lights brighten up the darkness of winter. But after thinking about it, I think they were on to something!

Have a blessed Advent and
Christmas season!

-Christopher Ewan



Leading us in worship in December will be:

Dec 7	Pastor Jill Christopherson
Dec 14	Led by our youth
Dec 21	Pastor Ann Larrabee
Dec. 24	Christopher Ewan
Dec 28	Michael Loomis

Dollars and Sense from the Finance Committee:

Thank you to all who have pledged their gifts to St. Paul's UCC for 2026. If you have not turned in your pledge card, there is still time to do so. Pledge cards are available in the narthex or from the office. Thank you for your prayerful support.

Just as the angels proclaimed the coming of our Savior, let us take this time of preparation to proclaim the many blessings we share as members and friends of St. Paul's United Church of Christ. Whether it be:



the desire to have a positive impact on our community,

the joy of fellowship, or

the worship of this baby coming to us in a manger,

God has provided us with so many blessings. We give thanks for all of you who have returned to St. Paul's UCC the time, the talent, and the financial support that make all of our ministries possible. Best wishes for hope, peace, joy, and love to all of you this Christmas Season.

Blessings, Your Finance Committee.

Financial Report for October 2025:

Current Giving:

October 2025	\$13,070.00
Monthly Goal	\$20,000.00
Year to Date:	\$160,679.90
Year to Date Goal:	Under budget by \$39,320.00

Staff Support Expenses: Under budget by \$91,345.24

Administrative Expenses: Under budget by \$10,996.66

Program Expenses: Under budget by \$3,757.57

Property Expenses: Over budget by \$7,054.74 (without cleaning service expense, would be under budget by \$5,695.26)

DECEMBER



BIRTHDAYS

12/01	Mason Schultz	12/19	Andrew Wunsch
12/01	Maxwell Schultz	12/20	Adam* Hall
12/01	Judith Zachmeyer	12/20	Bruce Olbrantz
12/02	Jill Taylor	12/20	Kristine Wrigley
12/02	Matthew Voigt	12/21	Kaia Behle
12/03	Landan Riehle	12/21	Jennifer Schwede
12/04	Erin Hackel	12/22	Rita Kellman
12/05	David Jehn	12/22	Barbara Talbot
12/06	Joseph (Jr.) Lohmar II	12/23	Dale Albrecht
12/06	Bonnie Thiel	12/23	Gary Kickbusch
12/07	Brayden Behnke	12/23	Holly Liebelt
12/09	Patrick Zachmeyer	12/23	Noel Preuss
12/10	William Panzigrau	12/24	Kierra Olson-Hoeppner
12/11	Rebecca Behle	12/25	Heidi Iwen
12/11	Gerald Doepke	12/26	Andrew Eberhardy
12/11	Sandra Ferg	12/26	Jackie Ferber
12/11	Ayla Texale	12/27	Megan Harris
12/12	Bretsyn Furger	12/27	Patricia Heise
12/12	Daniel Olmsted	12/27	Jack Nelson
12/14	Katie Hall	12/27	Avery Resch
12/15	John Eberhardy	12/28	Crystal Sanders
12/16	Marvin Behle	12/29	Jonathan Genrich
12/16	Barbara Fraser-Herrekas	12/29	Marion Kmiecik
12/16	Rebecca Gardner	12/29	Rebecca* Lang
12/16	Arianna VanOrder	12/29	Mark Schubring
12/17	Donna Clements	12/30	Debra Conklin
12/17	Carole Degner	12/31	Rose Arger
12/17	Lori Helke	12/31	Levi Aschbrenner
12/17	Clifford Henke Jr.	12/31	Ana Baez
12/18	David Seidler	12/31	Brendan Brummond

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

St. Paul's Annual

Festive Sweater Contest

Sunday, December 21st

During 9am Worship



****MITTEN TREE DAY****

**Please Wear (Or Bring) Hats,
Mittens, Scarfs to Donate to Our
Tree After Worship!**

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

November was a busy month at church! Thank you to the 20+ people who showed up on a Saturday morning to “bring in the greens” and decorate the sanctuary and other spaces for Advent and Christmas. It was so good to have young people, including Confirmation and Sunday School students, hauling in trees and helping with the decorating. Keep in mind that we’ll also need volunteers to **undecorate** everything when the time comes in January.

The Mission Committee put in some extra hours processing generous donations of food from local grocery stores, so much so that we are postponing the “Bags of Love” campaign until January, when we will need to replenish our food supplies. Thank you for all your work boxing, carrying, sorting, and bagging all those materials! Meanwhile, the Finance Committee worked hard putting together a draft of next year’s church budget. Finally, the Search Committee has been faithfully reading through ministerial profiles and interviewing candidates.

Thank you to all who gave their time and talents to the church this November!

Marshfield Clinic– Weston needs volunteers!

Volunteer opportunities are available for all levels of ability. Whether you want to work in the gift shop or coffee shop, surgical waiting area, as an escort or with pet therapy, we have a place for you. Whatever your talent, you can do amazing things as a volunteer.

Reach out to Volunteer Services at 715-393-2605.



Attention

St. Paul's Food Pantry operates twice per month.

The dates for December will be 11th and 18th.

We are closed for Christmas Day.

We will be open again on: 2nd and 4th

Thursdays in 2026

Hours of Operation: 9:00 am-Noon

Walk-up: Welcome both operational days

Drive-up: Limited to once a month

Diaper Distribution: Once per month per family.

In person distribution only. NO carry-outs for others.

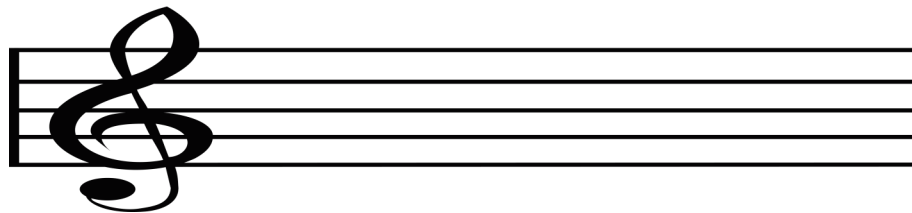
Church Dartball League Update

The St. Paul's Hornets and St. Paul's Packers seasons have begun. 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.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Hornets</u>	<u>Packers</u>
12/1	Away/St. Matthews	Away/Immanuel Baptist
12/8	Home/Wesley	Home/St. Michaels
12/15	Home/Peace	Away/St. Andrews
12/22	Away/Good Shepherd	Away/St. Stephens
12/29	Home/Covenant Comm	Home/Mt. Olive



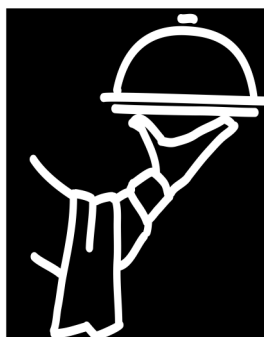
Sharing their musical talents in church will be:

Dec. 14 Starburst Choir Dec. 25 6pm Youth Bells

Dec. 25 9pm Senior Bells and Chancel Choir

Some of the greatest sermons that have ever been preached were preached by the singing of a song." -Spencer W. Kimball

Thank you to all who took material to make Christmas blankets for our Christmas dinner guests. Please return the blankets by Nov. 30. We could also use a few more monetary donations to help cover the costs of the blankets. Thank you for brightening the Christmas of our guests at the Community Christmas Dinner.



Diner's Club will resume in January of 2026 at Wausau Mine 3904 Stewart Ave. Wausau January 16, 2026 at 6:00.

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

DECEMBER AT ST. PAUL'S THROUGH THE YEARS...

On **December 1, 1930**, Rev. Frederick Schaer, who served the church as pastor from 1888-1909, died at his home in Clatsop County, Oregon. Rev. Frederick Schaer's brother, Rev. C. Schaer, also served St. Paul's, from 1885-1888.

St. Paul's hosted a Community Hymn Sing on **December 15, 1985**.

The **Rev. Dale Wolfgram**, a Son of St. Paul's, celebrated the 40th anniversary of his ordination on **December 29, 1985**. Rev. Wolfgram was Pastor Ann Larrabee's grandfather; his portrait hangs in the hallway by the elevator.

In **1956**, at least 65,867 attended services at St. Paul's throughout the year. More than 1,000 people attended Sunday services each week!

What a difference a hundred years makes! In **1863**, St. Paul's had only one wedding all year. In **1962**, there were 24.

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

December Confirmation Dates

December 3: Confirmation 6:00-7:00

December 5: Wausau Holiday Parade, drop off kids in Marathon Park 5:45. Parade begins at 6:30.

December 10: Confirmation 6:00-7:00

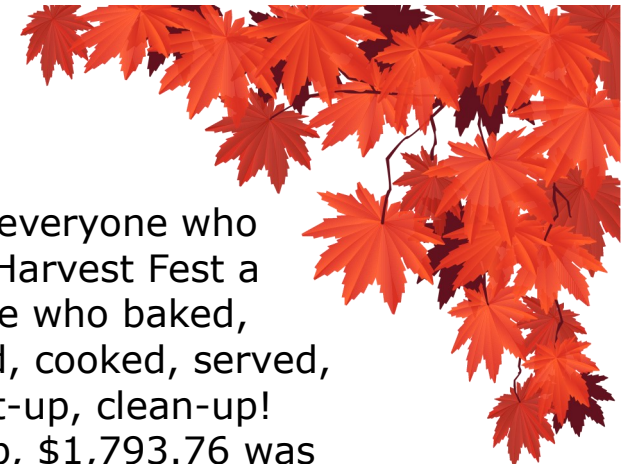
December 13: Practice for Kids Service Skit, 11:00-1:00

December 14: Confirmation and Sunday School Skit at 9:00 service

December 17: Confirmation 6:00-7:00

IN THE NEW YEAR

For **January, February, and March**, we will be offering **communion of 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 three months. Pastor Jill Christopherson will also be doing our Easter Sunday Communion on April 5, 2026 at both the 7:00 am and 9:00 am services. Thank you for your understanding.



Thank you to everyone who helped make Harvest Fest a success—those who baked, crafted, priced, cooked, served, welcomed, set-up, clean-up! With your help, \$1,793.76 was raised for the Bell Tower Fund. AMAZING! Thank you all for your generosity!

Experience the Magic of Christmas this Year With
St. Paul's United Church of Christ- Wausau

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

December 24th: 6pm & 9pm

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

426 Washington St., Wausau 54403

**Come Home This Christmas.
We Are Waiting For YOU.
*All Are Welcome!**



**Don't spend Christmas alone. Don't miss out on the
true meaning of the season. Join us to remember.**

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

St. Paul's UCC Christmas Poinsettias 2025

Those wishing to order a poinsettia plant(s) are asked to complete the form below and return it, along with \$20.00 (per plant) to the church office. **All orders and money need to be into the church office by Sunday, December 14, 2025.**

All memorials will be listed in the Christmas bulletins.
You may take your plant anytime after the December 24 9:00 pm Late Service.

Please note the number of plants you wish to order of each color at \$20 per plant.

____ Red

____ Tri-Colored

____ Total Plants Ordered

Ordered by:

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Cash Included _____ **Check #** _____

In **memory** of: _____

OR -

In **honor** of: _____

Given By: _____

Plants may be taken home after the Christmas Eve Service unless other arrangements are made at the time of ordering.

Breakfast With Santa Saturday, Dec 13th

Breakfast Served:
8am to 11am

All Are Welcome!

**Join Us
for St.
Paul's
Annual
FREE
Holiday
Breakfast
with
Santa!**



**Crafts for the Whole Family.
Photo opportunities with Santa!

St. Paul's United Church Of Christ
426 Washington St., Wausau, WI 54403
www.stpauluccwausau.org

Help St. Paul's UCC Make a Difference THIS Christmas!

**December 6th
10a-6p**



**Bell
Ringing at
Walmart-
Pharmacy
Door**

**4300 Rib
Mtn. Dr.,
Wausau**

Wausau Christmas Parade Friday, Dec. 5th @ 6:30pm



**St. Paul's UCC Float Work Date:
November 30th - 10am 'til Done.**
***Parent Help Appreciated!**

**St. Paul's United Church
of Christ's Annual**

Community Christmas Dinner

**December 25th
12pm - 2pm
St. Paul's UCC
426 Washington Street
Wausau, 54403**

**Don't spend Christmas alone. Join Us for a
FREE Christmas Dinner with Your Community!**

**Christmas Worship Times:
Dec. 24th: 6pm & 9pm**

Dinner: Turkey, Ham, Sides, & Dessert / Cost: FREE
Please Use the Back Door (5th Street Entrance)

LIVING RIVER Christmas CONCERT

*Celebrate our Savior's Birth with
Living River at St. Paul's UCC*

**Saturday,
Dec. 20th @ 7pm**



St. Paul's United Church of Christ

**426 Washington St., Wausau WI 54403
Www.StPaulUCCwausau.org 715.842.3733**