

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

Mary Anderes—Office - admin2@stpaulsuccwausau.org

Tania Schwarze—Media Tech - web@stpaulsuccwausau.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 Wilharms

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

January 2026 COMMUNICATOR

Confirmation Retreat a Success

Back in November, the Confirmation students from St. Paul's joined youth from Waupun, Mineral Point, Oconomowoc, and Kewaskum UCC churches at the Wisconsin Conference's Fall Confirmation Retreat at Daycholah Center in beautiful Green Lake. Our youth participated in teambuilding activities with the other youth groups, Bible studies and scavenger hunts outside, chapel services and music inside the warm worship space, and free time to play volleyball, foosball, air hockey, and board games.

According to our students, they really appreciated the opportunity to meet and work with the fifty or so other students at the retreat, as well as get to know the camp counselors who facilitated many of the activities. They made good, thoughtful contributions to small group discussions about issues where our faith and current events cross paths, topics like homelessness, favoritism, peer pressure, and alienation.



Evenings were full of games, sports, trivia, art projects, and free reading. And of course, the food was fantastic! We were treated to buffet-style ham and potatoes, salad and dessert
(continued next page)

Confirmation Retreat continued...

bar, sausages and eggs, and other goodies throughout the weekend.

Thank you to all who supported our Youth and Confirmation program financially by purchasing cookie dough and giving monetary donations. You help to make events like the Confirmation Retreat possible through your generosity. And thank you to **Melissa Clay-Reissmann** for chaperoning, taking pictures, and assisting in retreat activities this year!

Submitted by Christopher Ewan



Ministries Schedule



Readers

1/04 Gail Rowell
1/11 Cathy Taschler
1/18 Gayle Woller
1/25 Need Volunteer

Media

1/04 Chuck Romanowski
1/11 Travis Schubring
1/18 Jim Magurie
1/25 Gerry Brummond

COMMUNION SET-UP AND CLEAN-UP

Dustin & Megan Resch

January 18, 2026

Scrip Sales

1/04 Bev Romanowski
1/11 Kurt Seefeldt
1/18 Andy Witt
1/25 Jerry Woller

Ushers

01/04 Team 4
01/11 Team 5
01/18 Team 6
01/25 Team 7



Leading us in worship in January will be:

01/04/2026	Chris Ewan
01/11/2026	Chris Ewan
01/18/2026	Pastor Jill Christopherson
01/25/2026	Michael Loomis

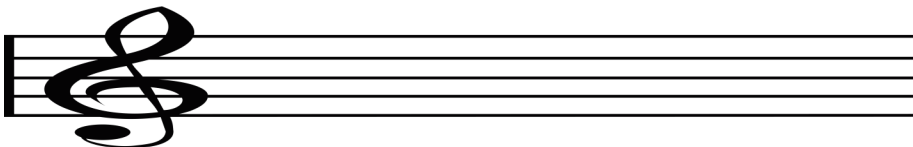
NEW IN SPRING OF 2026

For **January, 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 three months. Pastor Jill Christopherson will also be doing our Easter Sunday Communion



Confirmation Class

Sunday, January 4: 10:15-11:15
Sunday, January 11: 10:15-11:15
Wednesday, January 21: 6:00-7:00
Wednesday, January 28: 6:00-7:00



Sharing their musical talents in church will be:
1/11 Starburst Choir 1/18 Youth Bells
1/25 Senior Bells

Dollars and Sense from the Finance Committee

SCRIP: As a new year begins, please consider a resolution to purchase more scrip in 2026! As we look at all of the ways we can support our church – scrip is an easy, cost-effective way to do so. For every card you purchase, the church earns \$\$\$!

By purchasing scrip and making purchases at selected stores and restaurants, every gallon of gas you purchase, every dozen eggs you buy, every meal you enjoy, every piece of paper toweling – all goes to help the church.

We have not sold as many scrip cards as in previous years; so, we want to get 2026 off to a great start! Our goal is to sell \$10,500 in scrip in January. Please help us out by purchasing a scrip card today!

Tax Savings: There may be tax saving options available for charitable distributions. Please check with your tax advisor to see if any would apply for your situation.

Many blessings to you all in the new year from your
Finance Committee

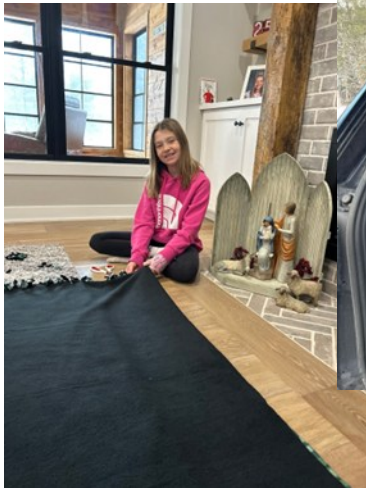
Financial Report for November 2025:

Current Giving:

November 2025	\$16,877.00
Monthly Goal	\$20,000.00
Year to Date:	\$177,556.90
Year to Date Goal:	Under budget by \$42,443.10

Staff Support Expenses: Under budget by \$101,653.08
Administrative Expenses: Under budget by \$11,146.46
Program Expenses: Over budget by \$1,370.30
Property Expenses: Over budget by \$5,703.22 (without cleaning service expense, would be under budget by \$2,796.78)

Thank you to all who took material to make Christmas blankets for our Christmas dinner guests or made a monetary donation. Thank you for brightening the Christmas of our guests at the Community Christmas Dinner.



JANUARY



BIRTHDAYS

01/01 Josie Bartishofski
 01/01 Sarah Bartishofski
 01/01 Todd Bartishofski
 01/01 Zoe Barfishofskin
 01/01 Pauline Georges
 01/01 Marjorie Hapke
 01/01 Casie Hierominus
 01/01 Sally Magrecke
 01/02 Michael Conklin
 01/02 Kurt Seefeldt
 01/04 Zach Hieronimus
 01/04 Alan Schrieber
 01/04 Jan Wieman
 01/05 Clifford Cebula
 01/05 Karena Seefeldt
 01/09 Robert Herreka
 01/09 Denise Koy
 01/09 Jonathan Lipscomb
 01/11 Darlene Eberhardy
 01/11 Joshua Eberhardy
 01/11 Kole Ferge
 01/13 Harrison Clark
 01/13 Marissa Pontzloff
 01/14 Brenda Gore
 01/14 Avery Hinner

01/16 Jane Jensen
 01/17 Tracey Riiser
 01/18 Antony Raab
 01/20 Carrrie Hutton
 01/21 Brad Dobratz
 01/21 Kathleen Glimm
 01/21 Sawyer Harris
 01/22 James Kroeplin
 01/23 Dennis De Lonay
 01/23 Nicholas Morehouse
 01/23 Jerry Morrow
 01/24 David Junkerman
 01/25 Patsy Brown
 01/26 Alexis Pasholk
 01/27 Gerald Brmmond
 01/27 Ann Junkerman
 01/27 Manda Newman
 01/27 Sydney Sturm
 01/28 Calvin Tercha
 01/28 Beth VanOrder

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

And many more from Your Church Family

Year End Giving Announcement:

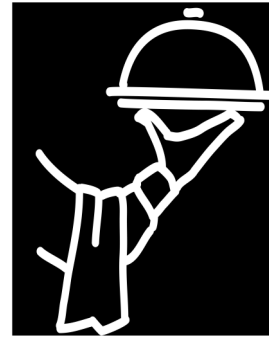
Just a friendly reminder, as we begin a new year,

- If you are mailing 2025 contributions, they must be postmarked by December 31, 2025. Anything postmarked with a 2026 date, must be recorded as a 2026 donation.
- If you are dropping off 2025 contributions, they must be received in the office before 3:00 pm on Wednesday, December 31, 2025.
- Electronic donations must be received by the church account on or before December 31, 2025.
- Scrip profit donations will be recognized on scrip purchased on or before December 31, 2025.
- If you are pre-paying your 2026 pledge in 2025, you must indicate this in a note with your donation so we may update your pledge status accordingly. Please be sure to have your donation postmarked by December 31, 2025.
- If we receive a donation by Dec. 31, 2025 or postmarked in 2025, even if it is donated in a 2026 offering envelope, it will be recorded in 2025.

The following will be reported as 2026 donations:

- Any donations postmarked after December 31, 2025 (even if donated in a 2025 envelope or with a check dated in 2025).
- Any donations received by the office, other than by mail, after 3:00 pm on Dec. 31, 2025 (even if donated in a 2025 envelope or with a check dated in 2025).
- Scrip profit donations for scrip purchased on or after January 1, 2026.
- All electronic donations deposited into the church account in 2026.

As always, if you have any questions in regards to the deductibility of your contributions, please consult with your tax advisor. Thank you!



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.

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 operates
twice per month.**

**The dates for January
will be the 8th and 22nd.**

We will be open on the
Second and Fourth Thursdays

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 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

1/5 Home/Mt. Olive

1/12 Away/St. Michaels

1/19 Home/St. Marks

1/26 Away/Packers

Packers

Home/Covenant Comm

Away/St. Matthews

Home/St. Michaels

Home/Hornets

Update from the Search Committee

Dear Members of St. Paul's United Church of Christ,

Unfortunately, the on-site meeting that had been scheduled for November 29th did not take place. The candidate that we were working with was already farther along in the process with a different church and has accepted a call from them instead. It was unfortunate timing.

While this is an upsetting turn of events, it has provided us, as a committee, with valuable experience which allows us to be quicker with our evaluation process. We're able to discern pros and cons more easily and we have better established baselines to compare against. All of these things allow us to move through the process more efficiently. Although this is discouraging in the short term, we are optimistic that our best candidate yet is still out there looking for us and we'll be able to react quickly when we find them.

In the meantime, we do have Supply Pastors set up through Easter. The Search Committee will be meeting in the start of the New Year to discuss our next steps to move forward.

Thanks,

Nate Helke,
Search Committee Chairperson

A Special Thank You

To Elite Auto of Weston

**They had a food drive at Thanksgiving and
donated the proceeds to our Food Pantry! It is greatly
appreciated.**

Do you have any 2025 invoices or items to be reimbursed for?

Pleased turn in any 2025 expenses to the office by 9:00 am on Jan. 5th. We will be closing the books on 2025 at that time. Thank you for your help.

Meeting

Just a friendly reminder that the St. Paul's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 25 at 9:00 am. Besides voting on the budget, and electing additional council members, we will be discussing repairs to the Bell Tower.

A letter was mailed to every family with additional information on what repairs are needed, and the costs involved. If you did not receive the letter, please call the church office at 715-842-3733, or email the church office at admin1@stpaulsuccwausau.org, and we can get you a copy of the informative letter.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Whew! December was a busy month at St. Paul's. There was a lot of decorating, preparing the float for the Wausau Holiday Parade, the Children's Christmas program, more decorating, the Living River concert, Salvation Army bell ringing, more decorating, Breakfast with Santa, the Elf Shop, a Festive Sweater contest, the Christmas Day community dinner, more decorating, Advent Sunday services, Christmas Eve services, and... more decorating.

If we were to thank each person who played a part in making it all happen, half the church directory would be included here. For brevity's sake, we'll highlight the contributions of a handful of folks who helped out in December: Jim and Joan Mielke for lending their trailer for the church's parade float; Gerry Brummond, for use of his gas generator and for maintaining the church van; Confirmation students and parents for braving the cold and handing out flyers at the Holiday Parade; the Ladies of St. Paul's for organizing the Elf Shop; the Helke family for organizing and cooking for Breakfast with Santa; the Mission Committee and volunteers, both from St. Paul's and outside the church, who served the Christmas Day dinner; all the ushers and musicians who contributed their time and talents to our Advent and Christmas services; and, last but not least, to all our decorators. Thanks to all of you!

Who was Lewis H. Hall?



If you've ever had to open the Choir Room door, you've bumped into this plaque on the door. In case you can't make out the text, it reads, "The Choir Room Furnishings in loving memory of **Lewis H. Hall.**" Fumbling for the keys in my pocket, I often thought, "Who was Lewis H. Hall?"

According to his obituary posted on a genealogy page, Lewis Harmon Hall was a pioneer in many ways. He was born in 1881 outside of Marathon City to a farming family, and after his school days were over, Lewis briefly worked as a farmer, blacksmith, and carpenter. His entrepreneurial career took off after he moved to Wausau in 1904. While managing his own bicycle shop on 3rd Avenue, Lewis and a partner brought the first load of automobiles to Wausau in 1906.

A few years later, he joined Fred Schubring in establishing the Schubring Motor Car Company. In 1911, Lewis and some partners constructed a prototype automobile they called the "Wausau Flyer" (see picture below). While the vehicle never went into production, Lewis deepened his connections to the growing automobile industry,

becoming a dealer for Packard, Velie, and Maxwell cars, as well as building his own garage. Later, he would establish the Hall Oil Company, dealing in gas, motor oils, kerosene, and lubricants. In addition to his business interests, Lewis was also a pioneer in aviation, in 1928 flying a ski-equipped plane from Wausau to Rhinelander in a then-record 42 minutes.

Who was Lewis H. Hall? I suppose you could say he was early 20th-century Wausau's version of Mark Cuban, a man who embraced the technological and social changes of his time and carved out a name for himself in the growing Wausau business community. And after he died in 1961, his heirs donated the money to outfit the Choir Room in the new St. Paul's church. His obituary fails to note whether he sang tenor or bass.

Submitted by Christopher Ewan

