

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

Trinity Thiry—Faith Formation Director

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

Vice-Pres- 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

SEPTEMBER 2025 COMMUNICATOR

Bible Study Starts September 17th

Bible Study will meet **Wednesdays from 10:30-12:00** in the parlor starting on **September 17**. During the first two sessions in September, we will be look at the readings from the lectionary in more depth, as well as find out what topics in the Bible, Church history, and theology the group is more interested in learning about.

Subjects we have covered in past studies include:

- German theologians under the Nazis;
- Martin Luther and the Reformation;
- The Confessing Church;
- The Problem of Suffering;
- Jesus in the Koran;
- Historical and Philosophical Conceptions of Heaven;
- Various Spiritual Classics such as Augustine's *Confessions* and Thomas a Kempis' *Imitation of Christ*;
- In-depth studies of individual books of the Bible.

If you've got subjects you'd like to study further, please bring your ideas to our Bible Study!

Attendance is not required at every session. Just bring an inquisitive spirit with an open mind and heart. I look forward to seeing you there!

Blessings,
Chris Ewan

St. Paul's in September through the Years...

September 6, 1979, the first Children's Message was given during Sunday service.

September 9, 1918, the English language was first used in church services. As was the case in many German-speaking congregations, the U.S. entry into WWI on the side of the Allies prompted the switch to using English in worship services.

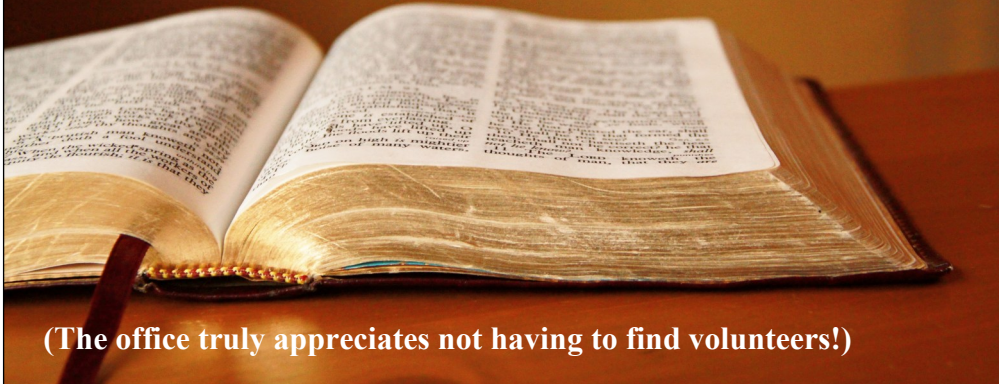
September 12, 1966, Marie Miller retired after having served as principal organist for forty-six years.

September 12, 1982, the Rev. William Kaseman was installed as Associate Pastor, with an evening reception to celebrate the occasion.

September 21, 1864, St. Paul's celebrated its first marriage ceremony, pronouncing Frederick Haas and Bertha Kroeplin husband and wife.

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

We are looking for volunteers to read the scriptures, opening prayer, and call to worship during worship services this fall. Many dates are open. Please sign up outside the parlor. THANK YOU SO MUCH!



(The office truly appreciates not having to find volunteers!)

Ministries Schedule



Readers

09/07 Craig Clausen
09/14 Need Volunteer
09/21 Cathy Taschler
09/28 Need Volunteer

Media

09/07 Church Picnic
09/14 Travis Schubring
09/21 Chuck Romanowski
09/28 Gerry Brummond

COMMUNION SET-UP AND CLEAN-UP

Sept. 14: Shirley Van Slate
& Susan Kroeplin

Scrip Sales

09/07 Josh Reissmann
09/14 Bev Romanowski
09/21 Kurt Seefeldt
09/28 Andy Witt

Ushers

09/07 Team 9
09/14 Team 1
09/21 Team 2
09/28 Team 3



Leading us in worship in September will be:

Sept. 7	Chris Ewan
Sept. 14	Pastor Jill Christopherson
Sept. 21	Chris Ewan
Sept. 28	Chris Ewan

Message from our Faith Formation Director



It is an exciting time for the youth at St. Paul's as we begin preparations for the 2025-2026 school year. On Wednesday, Aug. 27th I met with the parents and students in our

confirmation class. We discussed expectations, set dates for the Rite of Confirmation, talked about the Confirmation retreat, and other activities we will do throughout the year.

Our attention now turns to our Sunday School program. At the picnic on Sept. 7th, we will have games and a bouncy house. Please be sure to introduce yourselves to me and register your children for the upcoming Sunday School year. We will begin Sunday School classes on Sept. 14th. Ages 3 and above are welcome to attend.

On Sept. 28th, we will have a special service honoring all students, educators, school administrators, aides, volunteers, and school staff, from those in both public school and our Sunday School. Kids are encouraged to bring their backpacks as we will be offering a special blessing upon them as well. Bibles will be presented to our 3 year olds, second graders, and fifth graders.

I look forward to seeing you at the picnic!

Blessings, Trinity

St. Paul's United Church of Christ's Annual Church Picnic September 7th At Riverside Park

*"The worship most
acceptable to God comes
from a Thankful and
cheerful heart."*



10am Worship
***Noon Meal & Live Music**
***Recommended Donation:**
\$12/Person for Ages 5 & Up.

Call: (715) 842-3733 To Register.

1st Day of Sunday School
September 14th
9:15 am

WHO'S READY FOR
SUNDAY SCHOOL?



**Watch for further
information on our
Neighbors in Need Offering
collected Oct. 5th**



Thank You!

A special thank you to everyone who attended and/or volunteered at our 2025 Joint-UCC VBS program in July. We had over a dozen children attending each session as well as some parents/care givers. The 4 week program kicked off with a cookout at Peace UCC. The 2nd week was at St. Paul's UCC and we learned all about the huge ark God told Noah to build, how old Noah was when he built it, and how long it took him to build. Week 3 was at Grace UCC where we learned about all the animals Noah put in the ark and what their living conditions were like and how long they were in the ark. We concluded the last week of vbs at Peace UCC where we learned about the end of the flood, the significance of the raven & dove, as well as God's promise and the rainbow. Overall it truly was an amazing experience for all involved. Thank You!



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



09/01	Gail Konkol	09/16	Andrew Baken
09/02	Phyllis Riiser	09/16	Clarence Jaecks
09/03	Aiden Bridgewater	09/16	Lisa Rechek
09/03	Sarah Harmon	09/16	Gayle Woller
09/03	Todd Heise	09/17	Donna Krause
09/03	Laurie Meyer	09/17	Jay Schultz
09/03	Timothy Mielke	09/18	Rachel Maguire
09/04	Eric Doescher	09/18	Sandra Riehle
09/04	Shana Ferge	09/19	Nancy Beilke
09/04	Addison Resch	09/19	Cierra Georges
09/05	Terry Gwidt	09/20	Gary Helke
09/05	Timothy Hinner	09/21	Ethan Aschbrenner
09/06	Samuel Tercha	09/21	Patrick Conklin
09/07	Tyler Behnke	09/21	Bailey Konkol
09/07	Vivienne Reissmann	09/21	Carl Ruenger
09/08	Nathaniel Helke	09/22	Mike Ferber
09/09	Evan Hammerstrom	09/22	Dawn Genrich
09/09	Evelyn Hammerstrom	09/22	Steven Hanke
09/09	Stephanie Hornung	09/22	Casey Helke
09/09	Michael Perkins	09/22	Janet Zwifelhofer
09/10	Joan Dolloff	09/23	Barbara Behle
09/10	Gordon Fries	09/23	Richard Domka
09/10	Judith Fries	09/24	Donna Schuh
09/11	Brenda Koch	09/26	Christine Heise
09/11	Susan Raab	09/27	Danielle Ballschmieder
09/12	Caitlyn Horgan	09/28	Pamela Aschbrenner
09/12	James Riehle	09/28	Denise Beilke
09/13	Mary Splitt	09/28	Theresa Graveen
09/13	Judith Wolfe	09/29	Richard Eckerle
09/14	Jeffrey Buettner	09/29	Paige Kasprzyk
09/14	Tyler Crawford	09/29	Larry Krueger
09/14	Adam Konkol	09/29	Virginia Slomske
09/15	Mykell Alvarez	09/30	Sharon Fenske
09/15	Jessica Lang	09/30	Sandra Lipscomb
09/15	Brenda Pontzloff		

Dollars and Sense from the Finance Committee

Greetings! Thank you to all those who have supported our brat stand and fair stand. It is through these additional programs, that we are able to increase the funds available to continue our many worship and mission activities.

Our scrip program is also a cost effective way to support our church as well. We all need gas and groceries, and scrip cards are a way to make those purchases assist the church.

Another way the saints of our church have ensured the future ministries of St. Paul's UCC is by remembering us in their planned giving and estate planning. August was National Make-A-Will month. This is just a friendly reminder to keep your important documents up to date, to reflect how YOU wish your affairs to be handled.

Thank you to all those who have maintained their giving during the busy summer months. We look forward to the exciting programming in the fall!

Blessings,
YOUR Finance Committee

Financial Report for July 2025:

Current Giving:	\$11,912.00
Monthly Goal	\$20,000.00
Year to Date:	\$119,795.36
Year to Date Goal:	\$140,000.00—behind goal \$20,204.64

Staff Support Expenses: Under budget by \$55,743.68

Administrative Expenses: Under budget by \$12,117.54

Program Expenses: Under budget by \$2,929.45

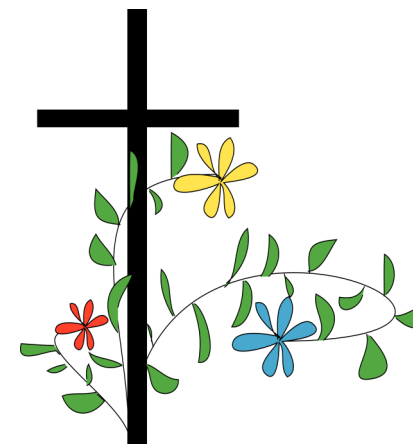
Property Expenses: Over budget by \$539.27 (without cleaning service expense, would be under budget by \$7,710.73)

Official Acts of the Church:

Memorials received by the church:

In Memory of Carol Brandenburg to the Food Pantry:

\$25 by Charles and Beverly Romanowski
\$25 by William and Susan Katt
\$50 by Susan Raab
\$20 by Gary and Marie Kickbusch
\$100 by Donald and Susan Schmidt
\$100 by John and Laverne Rondeau
\$25 by William and Sandra Panzigrau
\$25 by Carol Seefeldt
\$50 by Gerald and Susan Jung
\$25 by Daryl Wallenfelz
\$25 by Trish Wolfe
\$25 by Mary Petersen
\$40 by Mark and Betty Martino
\$25 by Donna Pagenkopf
\$20 by the Markowicz Family
\$120 by Family and Friends



**Explore Door County
With Us!
September 20, 2025**

SATURDAY
September 20, 2025
Bus departs 8am

Points of Interest:

- *Harvest Fest at Sturgeon Bay
- *Grandma Tommy's
- *Charlie's Smokehouse
- *Door County Distillery
- *Lautenbach's Orchard
- *Fish Boil at Pellitier's

With five state parks, eleven lighthouses and 300 miles of shoreline, this 70-mile long sliver of land that juts out into Lake Michigan combines pristine scenery with renowned galleries, shops, & amazing accommodations. It is no surprise it is considered one of the top 10 vacation destinations in North America!

Join St. Paul's UCC on September 20, 2025 as we explore this beautiful national treasure!

Our Door County itinerary is full! We will hunt for treasures in one-of-a-kind shops & galleries, visit a traditional Door County Winery & Vodka Distillery, Dine at an award-winning restaurant, & see a variety of amazing sights!

Cost is \$85 per person for transportation only. Shopping and meals not included.



Attention

St. Paul's Food Pantry operates twice per month: on the Second and Fourth Thursdays each month.

We will be open again on:

Thursdays Sept. 11 and Sept. 25

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.

Diner's Club

FRIDAY

Sept. 19th

6pm

At: Chet & Emil's

Restaurant

(388 Main St,
Birnamwood, WI 54414)

***Call 842-3733 to Signup.**



The Clauson Family Music Show

WE NEED TO SELL 4 TICKETS FOR THE GOSPEL SHOW!

TICKETS ARE PREPAID

The Clauson Family Gospel Hour

An afternoon of inspirational entertainment featuring Gospel music, hymns and inspirational songs.

Thursday, September 4th. Cost is \$85.00 per person.

4 seats available. Van leaves St. Paul's at 10:30 am

A Clauson Christmas on the Farm

Thursday November 6th. Cost is \$85.00 per person.

ONLY 1 Seat Left! Van leaves St. Paul's at 10:30 am

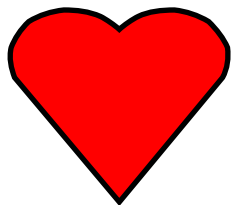
Dartball begins September 22

Fall and winter are on the way. There is no need to spend all your time at home watching TV. There is an interchurch dartball league in the Wausau area. There are sixteen teams that play dartball at thirteen area churches.

St. Paul's has two teams: the St. Paul's Hornets and the St. Paul's Packers. Teams play on Monday nights starting September 22 and continues through mid-March with a banquet to follow.

This is an opportunity to get out and enjoy some fun, camaraderie, and even some competition. If anyone would like more information, please contact Gerry Brummond or Gary Helke.





With a
grateful
heart...



Dear St. Paul's congregation, members, and friends, You are all missed! Thank you for the beautiful lawn ornament, cake and positive thoughts and wishes. I miss you all! God Bless, Brenda



Thank You!

I hope everyone was able to enjoy at least one brat, burger, or chicken breast sandwich at the Brat Stand this summer. Even with a few Wednesday afternoons cancelled due to rain, the Brat Stand was a financial and social success for the church. While different church committees took turns helping serve and sell food at the stand, a dedicated team of volunteers worked each week to prepare condiments, set up, grill the food, and take down the stand. For all their hard work this summer, we thank **Larry Krueger, Karen Krueger, Nora Schultz, Jay Schultz, Chuck Romanowski, and Gerry Brummond**. Thank you all for your dedication!

Each Monday or Tuesday morning, a team of counters works with Kris Vraney to count and register Sunday's offering, and so we thank **Sue Raab, Jim Maguire, and Nancy Junkerman** for keeping track of the greenbacks!

If you've called the church in the morning recently, you might have been greeted by a new voice. **Kerry Gruening** has been volunteering in the office, answering calls, sending out mail, and bringing some cheer. She's been a great blessing!

Thank you to all our volunteers who help make the activities at St. Paul's happen! — Chris Ewan

What's a "Klink Beetle"?

These days, church members and visitors drop their offering envelopes and cash into silver plates carried by the ushers, with nary a sound made. Some folks cut out the ushers entirely and instead give electronically. But in days of yore, a nickel and a dime bought something, and so most parishioners brought coins for their offering (see Luke 21:1-4).



According to St. Paul's historian Mary Petersen, the ushers would walk down the aisles and collect the offering with "klink beetles", poles with velvet-like bags on the end of them. Each coin would make a "klink" sound when dropped in the bag. According to Mary, the klink beetles were replaced with wicker baskets when she was a child. The klink beetle pictured above is enjoying retirement in the church's vault, and makes occasional appearances in historical displays.



Kerry Gruening and Chris Ewan learn the hard way that klink beetles do not "klink" without the generous support of the congregation...

In 2010, I was fortunate enough to be asked to accompany Our Saviors Lutheran Church of Merrill, on an Immersion Experience & Mission Trip to the Pine Ridge Reservation in Pine Ridge, SD. It was a life-changing experience.



During the service on August 17, Pastor Dan Johnson shared his experiences as Director of the Reconciliation Center. He spoke of the extreme poverty and deprivation that few American citizens know exist or do little to reconcile.

The Reservation is in Shannon County, SD, for years the third-poorest county in America. Tribal members there live far below the average poverty level; average per capita income is \$8,768 and unemployment runs as high as 75%. There are few employers (hospital, school district, gas stations) as private businesses do not see the reservation as profitable, so there are very few employers to provide jobs.

The basics that we enjoy every day, they often go without; electricity, running water, washers & dryers, as laundry is done in kitchen sinks. As many as 20 people live in a 3-bedroom house with one bathroom. Some will garden for food, but the soil is so poor that it is difficult to grow vegetables & the hungry often steal their produce for sustenance. Children can receive toys from the Reconciliation Center because there is barely enough money for food. The average life expectancy of an adult male on Pine Ridge is 48 years. Starvation is common.

What we consider impoverished conditions far across the globe, actually exist on many American Indian Reservations. We have been offered a gift; an opportunity to experience & learn from another culture that is only two states away. The Immersion Experience now being offered runs for one week- October 6-10 (Mon-Fri), costs \$250 per person, & currently has 10 openings. The experience will open your eyes to the needs of the Lakota Indians, so we may in turn do as Christ asks us to through kindness, acceptance, and donations.

Bob & I are registered for the Immersion Experience in Oct. Please consider joining us. If you are not available, please consider making a monetary donation. They may be made by writing "Pine Ridge" on your envelope or the memo line of your check.

You can also give online through our church website.



We are also looking for donated items, and assistance putting together hygiene kits for the homeless (small soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, & comb, wrapped in a towel & tied with string) that we will carry with us to SD in October as an offering from St. Paul's UCC.

To donate directly to the Reconciliation Center through their Amazon Wishlist, please go to their website. You can also register for the Immersion Experience on the Center's website via a separate link. All that is required is a \$50 deposit upon registration & the rest to be paid later. The Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center website is pineridgereconciliationcenter.org, or you may email Pastor Dan directly at pineridge.center@gmail.com.

Thank you, and have a blessed day,
Sally Scinto

