

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

12345 MANCHESTER RD. • DES PERES, MO 63131 • 314.822.0447

www.stpaulsdesperes.org • church@stpaulsdp.org www.stplutheranschool.org • school@stpaulsdp.org

Subscribe to our *Weekly Word* e-letter at bit.ly/StP-WeeklyWord

WITNESS

JANUARY 10-11

IN-PERSON WORSHIP TOTAL • 810

5:00pm worship • 96

8:00am worship • 225

9:30am worship • 158

11:00am worship • 215

10:45am Living Stone worship • 116

ONLINE VIEWING

Sanctuary: 178 • Living Stone: 57

Approximately 376 total online viewers

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JAN. 18

Worship Services

MONDAY, JAN. 19

Morning Men's Bible Study, 6am, Zoom

LWML Quilting Group, 9am, FH

Monday Night Conf. Class, 5:30pm, YR

Mission Board Mtg., 6pm, FH

Elders Study, 6:30pm, Conf. Rm.

TUESDAY, JAN 20

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21

Living Way Bible Study, 9am

SPY High School Meetups, 5:30pm, YR

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm

THURSDAY, JAN. 22

Living Way Evening Mtg., 7pm, Conf. Rm.

FRIDAY, JAN. 23

Bulletin Assembly, 9am, LL4

SATURDAY, JAN. 24

Worship Service, 5pm

SUNDAY, JAN. 25

Worship Services

Bach Cantata Vespers Concert, 3pm

HOW TO SUBMIT NEWS

News Due by 9am Wednesdays

Activity leaders are invited to submit news with our easy submission form. Look for the "Submit News" buttons at the top of our website News page and *Weekly Word*.

SUNDAY CLASSES

BIBLE STUDY HOUR • 9:30AM

GOSPEL OF MATTHEW • MUSIC RM.

Simulcast live on 850AM and KFUO.org

FOUNDATION • FELLOWSHIP HALL

Topical, discussion-based study

SUNDAY SCHOOL • SCHOOL ROOMS

Preschool: Room LL2; K/1st: LL7;

2nd/3rd: 106; 4th/5th: 104;

6th-8th: Art Rm.; 9th-12th: Youth Rm.

LITTLE LAMBS • School Room 103

GIVING

Annual offering budget \$3,309,800

Budget year-to-date (28 weeks) 1,782,200

Received year-to-date 1,702,440

Difference actual/budget -79,760

Weekly Amount Needed 66,973

Received last week 77,000


CONSTRUCTION LOAN BALANCE

Current debt \$ 4,692,040

Gifts received July 2024 to date \$ 26,471

MINISTRY EXPANSION CAMPAIGN

Total Commitments: \$14,585,612 • Gifts received to date: \$8,018,390



EMPLOYMENT

Visit our church website for job details: stpaulsdesperes.org/news/employment. Now hiring:

• Early Childhood Center: Subs; Afternoon Shifts • K-8 School: Subs; Homework Club.

MISSIONS

NEW: JANUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH: TYLER MCMILLER

Pastor McMiller serves in Italy, where he is providing spiritual care and catechetical instruction for a number of Italians who discovered Lutheranism online; is mentoring Italian men who are studying online to become pastors; and is providing Word and Sacrament ministry to small groups of Lutherans in the region. An LCMS missionary, Tyler's goal is to help geographically isolated believers establish house churches wherever they live.

LCMS NEWS

SYNOD NOMINATIONS DUE BY FEB. 18:

St. Paul's members may nominate pastors for Synod President, First VP, and Regional VP via paper forms at our information center. The top two nominees for each office will become St. Paul's nominees. Read more in our *Weekly Word* e-letter. (First published 12/11/25.)

SURVEY ON LUTH. WEST HIGH SCHOOL:

A steering committee (including St. Paul's members Pastor Wade, Andrew Foley, and Rob Claus) is assessing interest in a new Lutheran high school in west St. Louis County via a survey at newlutheranhighschool.com. Read more in our *Weekly Word* e-letter. (First published 11/20/25.)

RECEIVE LUTHERAN WITNESS MAGAZINE

Reply by Mon., Feb. 2 for Subscription • *Lutheran Witness* is the official magazine for the laypeople of the LCMS. To add or remove your name to the April 2026-March 2027 subscription list, please contact Renee in the church office (314-822-0447) by Feb. 2. Suggested donation to offset the cost incurred by St. Paul's is \$21.



THE GOOD NEWS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026

SUNDAY

MITE BOX COLLECTION

Small Gifts, Big Impact • Help support district and national mission grants through Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML). During the weekend of January 17-18, bring your mite box, loose change, or cash, and place your gifts in the large mite box in the narthex. Learn how every mite makes a difference at lwml.org/mission-grants and missourilwml.org/mission-grants.

“FAITH ON THE MOUNT” SERIES

Sundays • 9:30am • FH

Our Foundation Bible study series, "Faith on the Mount," looks at the specific mountains upon which God acted in miraculous ways for His people — from Mount Carmel to Mount Calvary. The series continues throughout the season of Epiphany, concluding before Lent.

THE WEEK AHEAD: JAN. 19-25


JOIN OUR FIRST CORINTHIANS STUDY

Living Way Series Begins Jan. 21 & 22

New year: new resolutions. Ever wanted to deepen your faith life or start a habit of Bible reading? Then dig into scripture with us in 2026. Beginning mid-January, we start a new semester in First Corinthians. Living Way is filled with people who are both new to the Bible and well-versed, who are of all ages, and who attend weekly or just come when they can. Friends are welcome.

• Join us Wednesday mornings or Thursday evenings; childcare is available.

• Register and read more about our 2026 series on 1 Corinthians on our website Bible Studies tab or at bit.ly/StP-LWWay.



★NEW: SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL VOTERS' MEETING

Sun., Jan. 25 • Noon • Sanctuary

Attend the voters' meeting to appoint a new Call committee for senior pastor.

★NEW: NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK BEGINS

January 25-31 • Read more on next page.

MEMBERS ENJOY PRIORITY K-8 SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Jan. 19-25 Only • After the congregational priority enrollment week, all available student spots will open to the community on Jan. 26. Read more, next page.

Key dates

★ NEWS JUST ADDED IS NOTED WITH A STAR

WHAT'S NEW?

NEWS JUST ADDED

1) National Lutheran School Week begins

2) Voters' meeting • Jan. 25

3) Men's Breakfast • Feb. 28

4) *Tell the Wonders* campaign reaches \$8 giving milestone

5) Church officers begin terms in 2026

6) Meet your elders: website listing

7) Updated: Trivia night sponsorships

8) SPY Starters seeks parent chaperones

REMINDERS

• Priority K-8 school enrollment opens Jan. 19

LARGE-PRINT

• Find the large-print *Good News* included inside our large-print worship folders (please see an usher)

BACH CANTATA VESPERS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

3:00PM

Music at St. Paul's cordially invites you to Cantata Vespers with the American Kantorei chorus and orchestra. The service of Evening Prayer will feature music from Cantatas 72, 73, and 111 by Johann Sebastian Bach. The Kantorei, under the directorship of Dr. Maurice Boyer, specializes in the performance of J. S. Bach's sacred choral works in the original German, accompanied by orchestra.

The event is complimentary, with a freewill offering, and is open to the public.





Website news page, sign-up links, and news submission form are at stpaulsdesperes.org/news



SCHOOL NEWS

★ NEW: NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

January 25-31

National Lutheran Schools Week is a special week when, across the country and at St. Paul's, we celebrate the heritage of our Lutheran education ministry. This year's national theme is "Let's make a joyful noise to the Lord!" (Ps. 98:4).

The week's special activities include a Bible Bee, prayer journals, exploring the "Set Apart to Serve" curriculum, themed games and music, preparing surprises for our preschoolers, writing letters to students in Africa, dress-down days, a mission collection, an escape room challenge, and more.

ENROLLMENT

K-8 PRIORITY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Priority Enrollment Opens Mon., Jan. 19
Community Enrollment Opens Jan. 26

Over the course of nearly 18 decades, generations of students have grown in Christian confidence and academic excellence at St. Paul's! We yearn to tell future generations of students the wonders God has done for them (Ps. 78).

St. Paul's church members, ECC and PDO families, and siblings of current St. Paul's students are invited to apply for the 2026-2027 school year during the priority window of January 19-25.

Beginning January 26, remaining spots in the program will be available to new families. Contact Joanna Hoeltge, jhoeltge@stpaulsdp.org, to check availability and schedule a tour. More information: stplutheranschool.org/admissions.

PDO ENROLLMENT FOR MEMBERS

Priority Enrollment Opened Mon., Jan. 12
Community Enrollment Opens Tues., Jan. 20

As a church member, you have priority enrollment for Parents' Day Out, which serves children ages 3 months to 5 years, before we open enrollment to the community. Priority enrollment opens Monday, January 12! Email director Andrea Bluhm (abluhm@stpaulsdp.org) for more information. Learn more about PDO ministry at stplutheranschool.org/parents-day-out.



SERVICE AND SUPPORT

★ UPDATED: SEEKING TRIVIA NIGHT SPONSORSHIPS & GIFT DONATIONS

For our first-ever "Faithful Four" trivia night in February (benefiting church, school, ECC, and PDO), tickets are sold out, but sponsorship opportunities are available. Donations are welcomed, such as sporting tickets, experiences, restaurant or salon gift cards, a day at your farm or lake house, a cleaning service gift card, car wash — be creative! Goods, talents, and fun are all appreciated. For more information, contact Laura Siebenman at laura.siebenman@gmail.com.

CHURCH OFFICERS

★ NEW: CHURCH OFFICERS BEGIN TERMS IN 2026


We give thanks to God for our newly elected and appointed officers who begin their terms of service in January 2026. They include John Krause, congregational president; Tim Unger, Board of Elders chairman; James Blake, Board of Stewardship chairman; and Cory Ahlbrand, Church Council secretary. We pray God's abundant blessing upon these new officers as they begin their service.

Officers and chairmen continuing in service include Jon Burford, Church Council vice president; Rick Berndt, Board of Education chairman; Kris Bueltmann, Board of Missions chairman; Mike Lutz, Board of Trustees chairman; and Matt Brickler, treasurer.

We thank those who have completed their terms — Mark Cannon (president), Ken Ohlemeyer (elders chair), Tim Cash (stewardship chair), and Julie Natzke (council secretary).

★ NEW: MEET YOUR ELDERS

The Board of Elders works alongside the pastors in providing for the spiritual care of the congregation and serves in the congregation based on zones, organized alphabetically by family surname. Find our 16 elders listed on our *Member Portal* > *Elder* tab (password: "gracealone").



★ NEW: SAVE THE DATE

MEN'S BREAKFAST

SAT., FEB. 28 • 8AM

GREENBRIAR HILLS COUNTRY CLUB

Keynote speaker Rev. John Fale. Registration opens next week.

YOUTH GROUP

★ NEW: SPY STARTERS CHAPERONES NEEDED

Wed., Jan. 28 • 5:30pm-7pm • School Building

Parents of SPY Starters (1st-4th grade youth group), we need volunteers for this month's upcoming event on Jan. 28 and the months to follow. These events would not be possible without you. Please sign up for any dates you are able to assist at bit.ly/SPYstarter-chap. Be on the lookout for the youth participant sign-up within the next week.

PASTOR CALL

CALL COMMITTEE & PASTOR NOMINATIONS

St. Paul's has assembled a new Senior Pastor Call Committee, and we are seeking nominations for senior pastor from the congregation. Official Missouri District nomination forms are available in paper format at the east lobby information counter. We value everyone's input as we seek God's will on calling our next senior pastor.



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

MONDAY MORNING MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Mondays • 6-7am
via Zoom

By Dr. Mark Bender



Men of St. Paul's, begin Monday mornings in 2026 with an hour-long study of Scripture viewed through the Lutheran lens of interpretation. Under discussion will be the Formula of Concord, one of the foundational writings of Lutheran theology. We will be using Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, A Reader's Edition of the Book of Concord, Second Edition.

You may wonder: why not study a book of the Bible? The first sentence of the Formula declares, "We believe, teach, and confess that the only rule and norm according to which all teachings, together with all teachers, should be evaluated and judged (2 Timothy 3:15-17) are the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures of the Old and New Testament." The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod ascribes to the entirety of the Book of Concord. Sadly, not all "Lutheran" church bodies do, nor do they hold the Bible as the inherent, infallible Word of God. So, it is incumbent on us to return to the norm of our Christian witness as Lutherans.

Leading our study will be Rev. Jerrold Eickmann, Professor Emeritus of Systematic Theology, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. The Book of Concord was a major component of Jerry's instruction during his tenure as a professor. His approach to the material will result in clear and applicable conversation and discussion.

The class (aka: MMMBS) meets via Zoom 6:00-7:00am. If you have questions, contact Mark Bender (mark.bender51@gmail.com). Mark can assist you with Zoom protocol and with the purchase of a copy of the Book of Concord at the reduced price of \$27. The first session began on Monday, January 5.