

SCHOOL NEWS

★NEW: TEACHER ACCEPTS DESIGNATION

We truly appreciate the time so many of you took to vote to Call Shayla Fackler to be a teacher in our K-8 school upon acceptance of her designation. We are pleased to let you know that she has accepted her designation to teach here next year! To God be the glory!

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. Our 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.

K-8 SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

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!

The priority enrollment period — for church members, ECC/PDO families, and siblings of current St. Paul's students — closes Jan. 25, with community enrollment opening on Jan. 26. Contact Joanna Hoeltge at jhoeltge@stpaulsdp.org to check availability and schedule a tour. More at stplutheranschool.org/admissions.

SERVICE & SUPPORT

★NEW: FEB. IS PEANUT BUTTER MONTH

Why not add an extra jar or two of peanut butter to your grocery cart to share with others in need? Our Social Ministry team will deliver peanut butter to the two community-based food pantries we support and to Concordia Seminary. Collection tables will be located in the church's east and west entrance lobbies, as well as in school and ECC lobbies.

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.

MUSIC ANNOUNCEMENT

★NEW: STOPPENHAGEN NAMED ASSISTANT KANTOR

St. Paul's is pleased to announce that Mr. Joel Stoppenhagen has accepted the position of Assistant Kantor. With thanksgiving, we celebrate Mr. Stoppenhagen's exceptional musical gifts and strong Lutheran identity as this five-year vacancy comes to a close. He will complete his Master of Sacred Music at Notre Dame before joining us in July 2026.



WEATHER

WHERE TO FIND WEATHER CLOSURES

Please note that all St. Paul's Church weather announcements and closures can always be found on our website's landing page and *News* page, as well as on Facebook and Instagram.

CURING CONCRETE & SALT PRECAUTIONS

Our new east-side sidewalks and parking pavers are unsalted this winter, with other snow and ice safety measures in place. Fresh concrete must cure without salt the first winter. The permeable paver parking spots are part of a government-mandated drainage system where salt is prohibited.

GROUPS & EVENTS

★NEW: FELLOWSHIP GROUP TOURS CHOCOLATE CO.

Wed., Feb. 4 • Off-Site

Join us for a guided tour of the *Chocolate Chocolate Chocolate Company* production facilities where Bissinger's chocolates are made; the free tour is limited to 20 people (5025 Pattison Ave., 63110). Contact Sharon Lutz (314-713-3087) or Glenda Smith (314-570-6284) for RSVP and details.

★NEW: LWML GAME NIGHT

Mon., Feb. 9 • 6pm • Off-Site

All ladies are warmly invited to join the LWML for an evening of bunco, fellowship, and a soup supper (meal provided) at the Ridgeview Place Clubhouse (1701 Ridgeview Circle Dr., 63021). Contact Joanne Smith at 314-956-0085 for more information.



LOOKING TO LENT

Ash Wednesday	February 18
Wed. Midweek Services	Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25
Palm Sunday	March 29
Passion Vespers: Music at St. Paul's	March 31 at 7:30pm
Maundy Thursday	April 2
Good Friday	April 3
Easter Egg Hunt	Sat., April 4 at 10am
Easter Sunday	April 5

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



BIBLE STUDY HIGHLIGHTS

BIBLE STUDY SERIES ON 1 CORINTHIANS

It's not too late to join Living Way Bible Study for our winter/spring series exploring 1 Corinthians, which launched last week. Each week's lesson is reinforced with a three-fold format of small group discussion, lecture time, and at-home study questions. Choose Wednesday morning or Thursday evening sessions. Read more at bit.ly/StP-LWay.

NEW
SERIES

"FAITH ON THE MOUNT" SERIES

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 Sunday morning series continues throughout the season of Epiphany, concluding before Lent.

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.



24TH ANNUAL MEN'S BREAKFAST

SAT., FEB. 28 • 8AM
GREENBRIAR HILLS COUNTRY CLUB
REGISTER BY FEB. 18

All men of St. Paul's, along with their neighbors, relatives, friends, and coworkers, are invited to enjoy this morning of fellowship and faith, featuring keynote speaker Rev. John Fale, and a delicious breakfast buffet at our annual men's breakfast event. \$25/person.

Register through our website *News* page or at bit.ly/Mens-Brk26

PARKING MAPS

WHERE TO FIND PARKING NEWS

St. Paul's website *News* page always includes detailed parking information and construction-related updates, plus aerial parking maps and entrance diagrams.

THANK YOU

★NEW: MITES IN ACTION: THANK YOU

Lutheran Women in Mission thank you! Our first collection week-end raised \$187.29 toward LWML mission grants, bringing our 2026 total to \$263.81. Full mite box? Drop it off anytime in the large mite box on the east lobby information counter. Next collection week-end: March 28–29.

★NEW: CLOTHING DRIVE THANKS

"The clothing, coats, and items from your very generous winter drive continue to fly out our window six days a week here at Trinity. The volunteers who work the 'Soup Alley' window wanted to share the joy and gratitude we experience with our less fortunate patrons here in Souland at Historic Trinity Lutheran. It's truly a blessing to partner with you in being the hands of Christ!" ~ Rosalie and Terry Wilke, *Soup Alley* volunteers

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") and review our insert in today's worship folders.