

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 17 & 18

IN-PERSON WORSHIP TOTAL • 695

5:00pm worship • 85
8:00am worship • 187
9:30am worship • 176
11:00am worship • 159
10:45am Living Stone worship • 88

ONLINE VIEWING

Sanctuary: 258 • Living Stone: 68
Approximately 522 total online viewers

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JAN. 25

Worship Services
Voters' Mtg, Noon, Sanctuary
Bach Cantata Vespers Concert, 3pm

MONDAY, JAN. 26

Morning Men's Bible Study, 6am, Zoom
LWML Quilting Group, 9am, FH
Trustee Mtg., 3pm, Conf. Room
Monday Night Conf. Class, 5:30pm, YR
Mission Board Mtg., 6pm, FH

TUESDAY, JAN 27

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 28

Living Way Bible Study, 9am
SPY High School Meetups, 5:30pm, YR
SPY Starters Meetups, 5:30pm, School
Choir Rehearsal, 7pm

THURSDAY, JAN. 29

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

FRIDAY, JAN. 30

Bulletin Assembly, 9am, LL4

SATURDAY, JAN. 31

Worship Service, 5pm

SUNDAY, FEB. 1

Worship Services

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 (29 weeks) 1,845,850

Received year-to-date 1,771,343

Difference actual/budget -74,507

Weekly Amount Needed 66,890

Received last week 68,903

CONSTRUCTION LOAN BALANCE

Current debt \$4,692,040

Gifts received July 2024 to date \$27,229

MINISTRY EXPANSION CAMPAIGN

Total Commitments: \$14,585,612 • Gifts received to date: \$8,049,275



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.

PASTOR NOMINATIONS

St. Paul's is seeking nominations from the congregation as we look to call our next senior pastor. 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.

MISSIONS

JANUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH: TYLER MC MILLER

Read more in our *Weekly Word* e-letter.

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 newlutheranh highschoo l.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 25, 2026



SUNDAY

CONGREGATIONAL VOTERS' MEETING

Sun., Jan. 25 • Noon • Sanctuary

Attend the voters' meeting to approve appointing a new Call committee for our next senior pastor. Those asked to serve on our senior pastor Call committee are:

Al Koepke (committee chairman), John Krause (congregation president), Tim Unger (chairman, Board of Elders), Jeff Arndt, Camilla Grone, Kathy Harder, Rehema Kavugha, Paul McCain, Kristen Muehler, Laura Oak, Hugh Reynolds (non-voting), Louis Vandeloehct, and Mark Yaeger. Ex-officio committee members: Dawn Walker, Matt Gerhardt, and St. Paul's pastors.

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.

THE WEEK AHEAD: JAN. 26-FEB. 1

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK • Jan. 25-31 • Read more, next page.

★ NEW: CHICK-FIL-A DINING FUNDRAISER

Wed., Jan. 28 • 11am-7pm • Des Peres

Join us at the Des Peres Chick-fil-A as we raise support for our high school youth group's mission trip to Niagara Falls this summer.

- When placing your order through the Chick-fil-A app, select *Community Care Event* and enter the code "STPAULS" for our youth group to earn 20%. App orders work for dining in the restaurant, the drive-through, or carryout.
- Please note that verbal orders at the counter or drive-through are not eligible for the fundraiser unless placed through the app.

★ NEW: "SPY STARTERS" 1ST-4TH GRADE YOUTH NIGHT

Wed., Jan. 28 • School Building

All first through fourth graders in the congregation are invited to January's event — a time for faith-building foundations, friendships, fun, music, food, and games! Our theme is "building on a solid foundation," based on Matthew 7:24-27, with our song of the month and motions being "Build My Life" by Pat Barrett (watch at bit.ly/4pRD98L). We'll also enjoy a visit from a popular four-legged friend!

- Parents, we need your help for a fun and safe event; please sign up to chaperone this month or in coming months at bit.ly/SPYstarter-chap
- To attend, children must be pre-registered at bit.ly/SPY-1-4. Please be sure to come inside the main school entrance to sign your child in upon arrival and sign them out at departure. Signup buttons are always on our website's Families > Youth Ministry tab.

★ NEW: SMALL-SETTING COMMUNION

Mon., Feb. 2 • Noon • Special monthly worship service with Communion for members who may prefer to avoid large crowds or who have mobility issues.

★ NEWS JUST ADDED IS NOTED WITH A STAR

WHAT'S NEW?

NEWS JUST ADDED

- 1) Stoppenhagen named assistant kantor
- 2) Chick-fil-A fundraiser • Jan. 28
- 3) 1st-4th grade youth night • Jan. 28
- 4) Small-setting Communion • Feb. 2
- 5) Fellowship Group tours chocolate factory • Feb. 4
- 6) LWML game night • Feb. 9
- 7) Teacher accepts designation
- 8) Lent: Save-the-dates
- 9) February peanut butter collection
- 10) Thank you: Mite collection
- 11) Thank you: Clothing drive
- 12) Where to find weather news
- 13) Where to find parking updates

REMINDERS

- Priority K-8 school enrollment for members closes Jan. 25
- Request *Lutheran Witness* magazine by Feb. 2 (back page)

LARGE-PRINT

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



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@stpaulsd.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



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 YOUS

★NEW: MITES IN ACTION: THANK YOU

Lutheran Women in Mission thank you! Our first collection weekend 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 weekend: 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 Soulard 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.

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.



"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.