

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 24 (NO SUNDAY SERVICE)

IN-PERSON WORSHIP TOTAL • 52

5:00pm worship • 52
8:00am worship • n/a
9:30am worship • n/a
11:00am worship • n/a
10:45am Living Stone worship • n/a

ONLINE VIEWING

Sanctuary: 535 • Living Stone: n/a
Approximately 856 total online viewers

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, FEB. 1

Worship Services
Voters' Mtg, Noon, Sanctuary
Bach Cantata Vespers, 7pm

MONDAY, FEB. 2

West-Side/Ballas Access Closure
Morning Men's Bible Study, 6am, Zoom
LWML Quilting Group, 9am, FH
Small-Setting Communion, Noon
Trustee Mtg., 3pm, Conf. Room
Monday Night Conf. Class, 5:30pm, YR
Elders, 6:30pm, FH
Church Council, 7:30pm, FH

TUESDAY, FEB. 3

Wednesday, Feb. 4
Living Way Bible Study, 9am
Senior Fellowship Luncheon, offsite
SPY High School Meetups, 5:30pm, YR
Choir Rehearsal, 7pm

THURSDAY, FEB. 5

MomCo Meetups, 9am, FH
Living Way Evening Mtg., 7pm, Conf. Rm.

FRIDAY, FEB. 6

Bulletin Assembly, 9am, LL4
Middle School Youth Event, 6:30pm, YR

SATURDAY, FEB. 7

Worship Service, 5pm

SUNDAY, FEB. 8

Worship Services
8th Grade Confirmation Family Class,
9:30am, LL1-LL2

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 (30 weeks) • 1,909,500

Received year-to-date • 1,816,528

Difference actual/budget • -92,972

Weekly Amount Needed • 67,876

Received last week • 45,185

CONSTRUCTION LOAN BALANCE

Current debt • \$ 4,692,040

Gifts received July 2024 to date • \$ 27,454

MINISTRY EXPANSION CAMPAIGN

Total Commitments: \$14,585,612 • Gifts received to date: \$8,068,835



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

FEBRUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH

Seminary for Foreign Leaders • Our gifts assist with education costs for Concordia Seminary's international students, helping to ensure ongoing global Gospel proclamation. When these students earn their advanced degrees and return to their home countries as professors and church leaders, they have key roles in spreading the Gospel message.

JANUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH

• Total collected for Tyler McMiller: \$3,264

LCMS NEWS

★ NEW: CHILDREN'S CHOIR FESTIVAL WITH ST. PAUL'S SCHOLA CANTORUM

Fri., Feb. 6 • 6:30 p.m. • Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus, Concordia Seminary

You are invited to a Service of Evening Prayer. This service serves as the culminating event of the Children's Choir Festival taking place earlier that day. The festival brings together four Lutheran school choirs from the surrounding area for a day of rehearsal and instruction under the guidance of guest clinician Joshua Pedde. The choirs will then join together in song for the evening service. St. Paul's Schola Cantorum, a select ensemble of choristers in grades six through eight, is honored to participate. Joshua Pedde, Executive Artistic Director of the Indianapolis Children's Choir, serves as a Lutheran church musician.

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.)

THE GOOD NEWS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026



SUNDAY

CONGREGATIONAL VOTERS' MEETING

Sun., Feb. 1 • 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 Vandeloest, and Mark Yaeger. Ex-officio committee members: Dawn Walker, Matt Gerhardt, and St. Paul's pastors.

BACH CANTATA VESPERS

SUNDAY, FEB. 1 • 7:00PM

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.

THE WEEK AHEAD: FEB. 2 – 8

★ NEW: WEST-SIDE/BALLAS ACCESS CLOSURE

Beginning Mon., Feb. 2 • Surface grading work to begin; details on next page.

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.

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.

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.

★ NEWS JUST ADDED IS NOTED WITH A STAR

WHAT'S NEW?

NEWS JUST ADDED

- 1) Christian readers group • Feb. 10
- 2) Cook at McDonald House • Feb. 11
- 3) Ash Wednesday • Feb. 18
- 4) Ash Wed. jambalaya dinner • Feb. 18
- 5) Lenten services and sermon themes
- 6) Cardmaking night • Feb. 19
- 7) Community News: Sem Children's Choir Festival • Feb. 6 (back page)

REMINDERS

- West/Ballas drive closes Feb. 2
- Request *Lutheran Witness* magazine by Feb. 2
- Synod nominations due Feb. 18 (back page)

LARGE-PRINT

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

LENT

Ash Wednesday February 18 at 11am & 6:15pm
 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 FridayApril 3
 Easter Egg Hunt.....Sat., April 4 at 10am
 Easter Sunday.....April 5

★ NEW: ASH WEDNESDAY • LENT BEGINS

Wed., Feb. 18 • 11am & 6:15pm • Communion
 We warmly welcome you to join us in worship this Lenten season, beginning on Ash Wednesday. The imposition of ashes begins 15 minutes prior to the start of services, and also after services.

★ NEW: ASH WED. JAMBALAYA DINNER

Kettle-cooked on-site by Chip Newman, a native of New Orleans and jambalaya competitor. Jambalaya is offered to go, in take-out containers, from our Ballas lobby (while supplies last), supporting our youth group mission trip.

★ NEW: WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICES

11am & 6:15pm • Sanctuary
 Each Wednesday in Lent, St. Paul's offers midweek services with Communion. "Singing With the Exiles" is the theme of our Wednesday Lenten journey. The inspiration for the theme is drawn from Concordia Commentary on Isaiah 40-55 by Dr. R. Reed Lessing, with a special focus on some of the best-known, most cherished, and theologically significant texts in the Bible. These chapters teach an orientation to the Lord, and to the world, that Jesus endorsed, sharpened, and laid as the foundation for the Christian Church.

★ NEW: SUNDAY LENTEN SERMON SERIES: "CROSS WORDS"

Join in discovering the power of the cross in your life!
 During the Season of Lent, our pastors will be preaching on the assigned epistle reading from Romans. Each week we will focus on a "Cross-Word" from the reading. Feb 22: Justified • March 1: Raised • March 8: Peace • March 15: Adopted • March 22: Released.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

★ NEW: WEST-SIDE/BALLAS ACCESS CLOSURE

SURFACE GRADING WORK TO BEGIN

Beginning Mon., Feb. 2

To prepare for future parking and new driveways, site pre-paving work will begin Monday. This work is an important step bringing us closer to the completion of our construction project and ensuring that the west entrance is ready for Easter.

- The church's Ballas entrance driveway, west covered drop-off lane, and its six parking spaces will be closed for 4-6 weeks.
- Please use our east covered entrance for drop-offs.
- When walking to church from the school parking lot, please use the new sidewalk along the east side of our buildings, adjacent to Des Peres Park, instead of the Ballas Road sidewalk.
- The west entrance doors and lobby will continue to be accessible via the sidewalk from the crosswalk from Edward Jones.
- Expected completion by Easter.
- Read our emailed announcement about the closure, including more details and maps, at cta.cc/4pYlfn or QR code.

WHERE TO FIND PARKING NEWS

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

**24TH ANNUAL
MEN'S BREAKFAST**
SATURDAY, 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, QR code at right, or at bit.ly/Mens-Brk26

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

MUSIC ANNOUNCEMENT

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.

GROUPS & MEETINGS

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

★ NEW: CHRISTIAN READERS GROUP

Tues., Feb. 10 • 7pm • FH

Led by Rev. Dr. Kent Burreson, the group reads across a variety of genres, exploring Christian themes and how literature informs Christian faith and life. February's book is Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* (original 1818 version).

★ NEW: CARD-MAKING NIGHT

Thurs., Feb. 19 • 6-9pm • Music Room

Enjoy an evening of creativity and conversation, crafting three beautiful make-and-take cards. Register bit.ly/StP-Cardmaking by 5pm by Feb. 16 (so materials can be prepped). \$12/person.

BIBLE STUDY HIGHLIGHTS

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN LIVING WAY STUDY

You're invited to join our winter/spring series exploring First Corinthians, which launched two weeks ago. 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 on our website *Bible Studies* tab or at bit.ly/StP-LWay.

FOUNDATION "FAITH ON THE MOUNT" SERIES

Sundays • 9:30am • FH

MONDAY MORNING MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Mondays • 6am Via Zoom • Book of Concord

SERVICE & SUPPORT

FEBRUARY 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 are located in the church's east and west entrance lobbies, as well as in school and ECC lobbies.

★ NEW: COOK AT RONALD McDONALD HOUSE

Wed., Feb. 11 • 4:30pm

When families of seriously ill children stay at the Ronald McDonald House in Des Peres, our members show care by cooking a homestyle meal for these guests visiting our community. Come cook with us in the RMH kitchen: Sign up at bit.ly/StP-RMH.

SEEKING TRIVIA NIGHT SPONSORSHIPS & GIFT DONATIONS

For our first-ever "Faithful Four" trivia night held February 28 (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.

ENROLLMENT

K-8 SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Community Enrollment Open

Over the course of nearly 18 decades, generations of students have grown in Christian confidence and academic excellence at St. Paul's! To check availability and schedule a tour, contact Joanna Hoeltge at jhoeltge@stpaulsdp.org. Learn more at stplutheranschool.org/admissions.