

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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

WITNESS

FEBRUARY 15
IN-PERSON WORSHIP TOTAL • 803
5:00pm worship • 90
8:00am worship • 246
9:30am worship • 173
11:00am worship • 220
10:45am Living Stone worship • 74
ONLINE VIEWING
Sanctuary: 185 • Living Stone: 52
Approximately 379 total online viewers

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, FEB. 22
Worship Services

MONDAY, FEB. 23
Morning Men's Bible Study, 6am, Zoom
LWBS Leaders Mtg., 9am, Conf. Room
LWML Quilting Group, 9am, FH
Trustee Mtg., 3pm, Conf. Room
Monday Night Confirmation, 5:30pm, YR

TUESDAY, FEB. 24
Call Committee Mtg., 6:30pm, Conf. Rm.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25
Lenten Worship, 11am & 6:15pm
Living Way Bible Study, 9am
Choir Rehearsal, 7pm

THURSDAY, FEB. 26
SPY Starters Event, 5:30pm, School
Living Way Evening Mtg., 7pm, Conf. Rm.

FRIDAY, FEB. 27
Bulletin Assembly, 9am, LL4

SATURDAY, FEB. 28
Men's Breakfast, 8am, Greenbriar Hills CC
Worship Service, 5pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 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 (33 weeks)	2,100,450
Received year-to-date	1,969,515
Difference actual/budget	-130,935
Weekly amount needed	70,541
Received last week	39,446

CONSTRUCTION LOAN BALANCE
Current debt \$5,086,347
Gifts received July 2024 to date \$29,278

MINISTRY EXPANSION CAMPAIGN

Total Commitments: \$14,585,612 • Gifts received to date: \$8,770,706



EMPLOYMENT

Visit our church website for job details: stpaulsdesperes.org/news/employment. Now hiring:
• Early Childhood Center: Subs; Afternoon Shifts • K-8 School: Subs.

SAVE THE DATE

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Mon., April 27 • 11am • Forest Park Golf Course
We look forward to seeing you at our annual school golf tournament fundraiser! Watch for more details and the registration form in early March.

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.

QR CODES: QUICK LINKS

MEN'S BREAKFAST



Men's Breakfast Registration

LENTEN WEBPAGE



Lent & Holy Week

GIRL SCOUT COOKIES



SUNDAY

"DINNER FOR EIGHT" SOCIAL GROUPS

Register by Sun., Feb. 22

A great, easy way to meet other church members or stay connected with long-time church friends. "Dinner for Eight" groups gather monthly, March through October, to enjoy good food and fellowship. Each household takes turns hosting or selecting a restaurant — as fancy or casual as your group prefers. Register online by Feb. 22 at bit.ly/stpdinnerfor8 or through our website's News page. Questions: Contact organizer Carrie Patterson at carriepatt1960@gmail.com or by text message at 314-609-0988.

★ NEW: GIRL SCOUT COOKIES SALES

Feb. 22 to March 15 • Sundays 9-9:30am • Lobbies + Online Orders

Calling all Girl Scout cookie lovers! Cookie season is back, and St. Paul's Troop 1867 has all your favorites for \$6 a box. Swing by the Sunday lobby booths, order online (see QR code on back page), or contact troop leader Tricia Johnson (pbjohnston09@hotmail.com, 314-780-3383). Donations are also welcomed. Orders will be delivered to the church office, and the troop will let you know when they're ready for pickup.



THE WEEK AHEAD: FEB. 23-MARCH 1

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

Thurs., Feb. 26 • 5:30pm-7pm • School

All 1st-4th graders of the congregation are invited for a time of friendship, faith-building foundations, fun, music, food, and games! Our focus will be on the song of the month, "Holy Forever," by Chris Tomlin; find the song and motions at bit.ly/40eUFcG

- Due to Lent, our Feb. and March events have switched to Thursdays.
- To attend, children must be pre-registered at bit.ly/SPY-1-4. Parents, we need your help for a fun and safe event; please sign up to chaperone at bit.ly/SPYstarter-chap for current or upcoming months. Signup buttons are always on our website's *Families > Youth Ministry* tab.

★ NEW: SMALL-SETTING COMMUNION

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

★ PASTOR THOMPSON ACCEPTS CALL TO FROHNA, MO

FAREWELL RECEPTION • Sun., March 8 • 9:00-9:30am • FH

In February, Pastor Thompson received Divine Calls from two Lutheran congregations, in addition to his current call to St. Paul's. After prayerful contemplation, he has been led to accept the call to serve at Concordia Lutheran Church in Frohna, MO. In his Feb. 17 letter to the congregation (read at conta.cc/4rqDYai), Pastor Thompson writes, "It has been a privilege to serve you at St. Paul's since 2022. You welcomed my family and me into your midst and cared for us."

MARCH 8 RECEPTION: Join us during the Fellowship Breakfast hour as we offer our warmest blessings and farewells to Pastor Thompson and his family. Pastor Thompson's final Sunday at St. Paul's is March 8.



★ NEWS JUST ADDED IS NOTED WITH A STAR

THE GOOD NEWS
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026





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



LENT

READ MORE ABOUT LENT AND HOLY WEEK WORSHIP, MIDWEEK SERVICES, AND DINE-OUT DAYS ON OUR LENTEN WEBPAGE AT

stpaulsdesperes.org/lent

See QR code on back page

THIS WEEK IN LENTEN WORSHIP

SUNDAY SERMON SERIES: "CROSS WORDS"

- Sunday, Feb. 22 message: "Justified"

WED. MIDWEEK SERVICES: 11AM & 6:15PM

- Wed., Feb. 25: "He Only Has Eyes for You" (Is. 43:1-7)
- Midweek Sermon Series: "Singing With the Exiles"

WEDNESDAY DINE-OUT: LION'S CHOICE

- Wed., Feb. 25 from 4-8pm • Des Peres
- When ordering, please present the fundraising flyer (view at bit.ly/4tgHFk0 or on our Lenten webpage; flyers can also be found at our reception info counter)
- Sponsored by and supporting MomCo

LENTEN DEVOTION BOOKLETS

Devotion booklets are available in a basket in our east lobby. Please enjoy a complimentary copy for your Lenten-season reflections as we rejoice in the hope of the cross.

WED. MIDWEEK SERMON SERIES

"Singing With the Exiles" explores Isaiah 40-55 and some of the best-known, most cherished, and theologically significant texts in the Bible.

"CROSS WORDS" SUNDAY SERMON SERIES

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.



FEBRUARY IS PEANUT BUTTER COLLECTION MONTH

COLLECTING THROUGH SUNDAY, MARCH 1

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 the school and ECC lobbies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

★ NEW: VBS: SAVE THE DATE

July 13-17, 2026 • 9am-Noon • Age 3 to 4th grade



At "Rainforest Falls" VBS, children will play, explore, create, and learn about God's love and promises. Watch for registration to open soon! We rejoice that our beautiful new ministry facilities will be open and ready to welcome children and families to VBS 2026. Please note that this year the month shifts to July.

PASTOR SCHUDDE IN ISRAEL THROUGH MARCH 2

Please keep Pastor and Kris Schudde in your prayers during their travel with an Israel-Egypt Biblical Tour that includes 23 others from across the country and a Lutheran Bible translator from Ethiopia.

BIBLE STUDY HIGHLIGHTS

★ NEW: FOUNDATION CLASS BEGINS LENTEN SERIES

Sundays • 9:30am • FH

Our Lententide Bible study series, "Singing With the Exiles," based on Isaiah 40-55, explores 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 POSITION OPENING AT ST. PAUL'S: TECHNICAL ARTS COORDINATOR

As we prepare to move into our new ministry facility, St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School is introducing a part-time Technical Arts Coordinator. This role supports worship, school, and ministry events through audio, video, livestream, and lighting while leading volunteers and enhancing the use of our new space.

If you are interested or know of a qualified candidate, please contact Whitney Wade at wwade@stpaulsdp.org.



SATURDAY, FEB. 28 • 8AM

MEN'S BREAKFAST

GREENBRIAR HILLS COUNTRY CLUB
REGISTER BY FEB. 22

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 a keynote speaker and a delicious breakfast buffet. \$25/person.

- We welcome Rev. John Fale presenting "The Merciful Service of Jesus: Foretold, Fulfilled, Flourishing" and speaker Brian Hoeltge.
- Register through our website News page, QR code on back page, or at bit.ly/Mens-Brk26

Registration extended through Feb. 22

MUSIC

VALPARAISO CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Sun., March 8 • 7pm

Music at St. Paul's welcomes you to an evening with the Valparaiso University Chorale and Chamber Orchestra during the ensemble's March tour. The program brings together inspirational works by J. S. Bach, Felix Mendelssohn, Emma Lou Diemer, Palestrina, Philip Stopford, and Eric Whitacre. Highlights include two works for choir and orchestra — Bach's *Der Herr denket an uns*, BWV 196, and Whitacre's Five Hebrew Love Songs. The event is complimentary, with a freewill offering, and is open to the public.



GROUPS & EVENTS

★ NEW: FELLOWSHIP GROUP AT BREWERY & CAMPBELL HOUSE

Wed., March 4 • After 11am Service
Our fellowship group will enjoy a trip to Schlafly's Brewery for lunch and then a tour of the historic Campbell House (1508 Locust St., 63103). Following the 11am Lenten service, we will carpool to Schlafly's. For reservations, please call Sharon Lutz at 314-713-3087 or Glenda Smith at 314-570-6284.

★ NEW: CHRISTIAN READERS GROUP

Thurs., March 12 • 7pm • FH
Led by Rev. Dr. Kent Bureson, the group reads across a variety of genres, exploring Christian themes and how literature informs Christian faith and life. February's book is J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Return of the King*.

SCHOOL NEWS

NEW: TEACHER RECEIVES TOP AWARD

2026 LEA Distinguished Lutheran Early Childhood Teacher
Melinda (Mindy) Hanke, a kindergarten teacher at St. Paul's Lutheran School, was selected to receive the Lutheran Education Association's 2026 Distinguished Lutheran Early Childhood Teacher Award. We celebrate this honor with her and give thanks for the blessing she is to our school community. See LEA's full letter of commendation linked in the *Weekly Word* e-letter.



CONSTRUCTION

WEST-SIDE/BALLAS ACCESS CLOSED FOR GRADING

- Pre-paving work and grading have begun in preparation for future parking and new driveways.
- The church's Ballas entrance driveway, west covered drop-off lane, and its six parking spaces will be closed for 4-6 weeks, with completion expected before Easter.
- Please use east-side covered entrance for drop-offs.
- To walk from the school parking lot to church, we recommend using the new east-side sidewalk adjacent to the park.
- St. Paul's website News page always includes detailed parking information, plus aerial parking maps and entrance diagrams.