

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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

WITNESS

FEBRUARY 22 IN-PERSON WORSHIP TOTAL • 1,191

Ash Wednesday • 523
5:00pm worship • 105
8:00am worship • 192
9:30am worship • 106
11:00am worship • 181
10:45am Living Stone worship • 84

ONLINE VIEWING

Sanctuary: 194 • Living Stone: 68
Approximately 419 total online viewers

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

Worship Services

MONDAY, MARCH 2

Morning Men's Bible Study, 6am, Zoom
LWBS Leaders Mtg., 9am, Conf. Room
LWML Quilting Group, 9am, FH
Small-Setting Communion, Noon
Monday Night Confirmation, 5:30pm, YR
Elders, 6:30pm, FH
Church Council, 7:30pm, FH

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

Call Committee Mtg., 6:30pm, Conf. Rm.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

Bulletin Assembly, 9am, LL4
SPY Middle School night, 6:30pm, YR

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

Worship Service, 5pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

Worship Services
MASP Valparaiso Choir Concert, 7pm

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

BOOK OF ACTS • MUSIC ROOM
Simulcast live on 850AM and KFUD.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 (34 weeks)	2,164,100
Received year-to-date	2,014,089
Difference actual/budget	-150,011
Weekly amount needed	71,984
Received last week	44,574

CONSTRUCTION LOAN BALANCE

Current debt	\$5,086,347
Gifts received July 2024 to date	\$31,059

MINISTRY EXPANSION CAMPAIGN

Total Commitments: \$14,585,612 • Gifts received to date: \$8,809,801



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 soon.

MARCH MISSION OF THE MONTH

Congregation Chai v'Shalom, a Lutheran congregation in Dogtown, led by Rev. Kevin Parviz, reaches out to the Jewish population of St. Louis to help them see Jesus as the Messiah. **February Mission of the Month total collected = \$3,655**

LCMS COMMUNITY NEWS

★ NEW: SEMINARY HYMN FESTIVAL

Sun., March 1 • 4pm • Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus, Concordia Seminary
You are invited to "The Only Son from Heaven," featuring the hymns of Lisa Clark and Katie Schuermann at Concordia Seminary. The hymn festival will be led by Dr. Sam Eatherton at the organ, Laudamus, St. Louis Lutheran Chorale, Concordia Seminary Youth Choir, and instrumentalists. Dr. Jon Vieker will provide commentary. Reception to follow.

QR CODES: QUICK LINKS

VBS REGISTRATION



St. Paul's VBS

LENTEN WEBPAGE



Lent & Holy Week

GIRL SCOUT COOKIES



THE GOOD NEWS SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026



TODAY

★ NEW: SEMINARY HYMN FESTIVAL

Sun., March 1 • 4pm • Concordia Sem. • Details on back page.

GIRL SCOUT COOKIES SALES

Through 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 Johnston (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.



MARCH 1:
LAST
DAY OF
PEANUT
BUTTER
DRIVE

WHAT'S NEW?

NEWS JUST ADDED

- 1) VBS registration is now open
- 2) Building progress report
- 3) 5th/6th grade youth night • March 6
- 4) LWML meeting • March 9
- 5) Order Easter flowers & ferns by March 9
- 6) Meals at Ronald McD House • March 22
- 7) Door codes issued for groups
- 8) LWML church worker study grants
- 9) *Community News*: Seminary hymn festival • March 1

REMINDERS

- Peanut butter drive concludes today

LARGE-PRINT

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

FAREWELL RECEPTION

Sun., March 8 • 9:00-9:30am • FH

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.



PASTOR THOMPSON ACCEPTS CALL TO FROHNA, MO

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."

THE WEEK AHEAD: MARCH 2-8

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.

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: SPY 5TH/6TH GRADE YOUTH NIGHT

Fri., March 6 • 6:30-8pm • Youth Room

Grounded and growing! The middle school years are a key time for faith formation and forging friendships, and our SPY Middle School group (short for St. Paul's Youth) is filled with relatable devos and conversation — and of course, games, fun, and food!

- Youth and parent signup at via bit.ly/SPY-5-6 or our website's *Families > Youth Ministry* tab. Parents, we need your chaperone help for a fun and safe event.
- Please park/enter at church's east entrance due to Ballas driveway closure.



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 Stophord, 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.

★ NEWS JUST ADDED IS NOTED WITH A STAR



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"

- Sun., March 1 message: "Raised"

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

- Wed., March 4: "Marked" (Is. 44:1-5)
- Midweek Sermon Series: "Singing With the Exiles"

WEDNESDAY DINE-OUT: TAZIKI'S

- Wed., March 4 • 4-8pm • Taziki's in Des Peres
- Dine in and mention *St. Paul's School Eighth Grade* when ordering. For app orders or online orders (tazikis.com) select the "Spirit Night" pop-up to add it to your cart during checkout.
- Hosted by and supporting St. Paul's School's eighth-grade class in support of their Chicago class trip.

★NEW: EASTER FLOWERS & FERNS

Order Yours by Mon., March 9



Join in making our worship spaces and church chancel beautiful for Easter. Congregation members may purchase lilies (\$13.50), tulips (\$11), and ferns (\$27) that will decorate St. Paul's for Easter, and which can be taken home to enjoy after the final Easter service. Order forms are at the welcome center and online at bit.ly/3P2KXrp.

FOUNDATION CLASS 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 significant texts in the Bible.

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.

SAVE THE DATE: EASTER EGG HUNT

Sat., April 4 • 10am • ECC Campus



VBS REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

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

This summer, step through the mist into "Rainforest Falls" VBS, overflowing with waterfalls and colorful creatures! Kids plunge into a life-long adventure, discovering the nature of God, and exploring what it means to be rooted in relationship with their creator, a safe place in life's storms.



We rejoice that our beautiful new ministry facilities will be open and ready to welcome children and families to VBS in 2026!

Info and registration at stpaulsdesperes.org/VBS (See QR code on back page.)

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 ministry space.



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

★NEW: DOOR CODES ISSUED FOR GROUPS

St. Paul's recently upgraded the systems that control the door locks. New group codes were issued a few weeks ago; codes will be updated on a yearly basis per the policy adopted by the Board of Trustees. Please contact the leader of your group or a member of the ministry staff if you have any questions. Thank you.

★NEW: CHURCH WORKER STUDY GRANTS

Applications due April 15, 2026 • The Lutheran Women's Missionary League, Missouri District, offers 2026-2027 grants for students preparing for full-time church work through LCMS universities or seminaries. Grants are based on financial need and commitment to Christian service. Read more at bit.ly/4rCVHv2 for application information.



BUILDING TIMELINE

SUMMER '24 AUTUMN WINTER SPRING '25 SUMMER AUTUMN WINTER MARCH 2026 SPRING 2ND QUARTER '26



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



GROUPS & SERVICE

★NEW: LWML MEETING WITH DEACONESS THOMPSON

Mon., March 9 • 12:30 pm • LHM Annex

Join the LWML for a salad bar lunch and presentation. Please bring salad toppings to share; lettuce and dressing will be provided. At 1:00pm, Deaconess Jessica Thompson will lead a presentation highlighting Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries' maternity home vision. For info, contact Denise Reinsel at 314-607-2675.

CHRISTIAN READERS GROUP

Thurs., March 12 • 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 J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Return of the King*.

★NEW: SERVE MEALS AT RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

Sun., March 22 • 4:30-6:30pm

When families of seriously ill children stay at the Ronald McDonald House in Des Peres, St. Paul's can show care and compassion by making a home-cooked meal for these guests visiting our community. Come cook with us in the RMH kitchen, together with our school's LJHA honor society. Sign up link coming soon.

BIBLE STUDIES

★NEW: BOOK OF ACTS SERIES BEGINS

Sundays • 9:30am • Music Room

Simulcast on **KFUO 850AM radio**

Rev. Dr. David Smith leads our study of Acts, exploring Christ's ongoing work through His apostles — the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the growth of the early Church, and the spread of the Gospel. In this study, we will learn how God builds, strengthens, and sends His people through His Word and Sacraments for the mission of Christ.

BUILDING COMMITTEE THANKS

Our Building Committee has prepared a progress report on the impressive work underway in our new ministry facilities. Their continuing leadership, expertise, and years of dedicated service help ensure our expansion reflects St. Paul's ministry vision and long-term needs.

BUILDING PROGRESS



SAINTS HALL • The first floor features a spacious, vaulted beamed space called Saints Hall that serves as a worship space, school cafeteria, and also a fully-functional performance center with a stage and Living Stone altar area. The complexity of this area, both in its artistic design and the inclusion of theatrical lighting and audio/visual capabilities, will take several more months to complete.

MUSIC SUITE • The William Meisch Music Suite is progressing toward completion. The suite includes two large rooms with high ceilings — for band, choir, and music classes — outfitted with four soundproof practice rooms, several storage areas for instruments, and an office. Completion of the music suite is expected next month; flooring issues have caused a short delay.

GYM & COMMONS • The regulation-size gymnasium is nearly complete, except for bleachers and floors, with the seven-week wood flooring installation beginning next week. The modern kitchen nears completion with the installation of appliances and equipment starting next week. The Commons — a spacious fellowship gathering space adjacent to Saints Hall — is being tiled in the next two weeks. The perimeter's windowed corridors are about 75% complete.

CLASSROOMS & KITCHEN • The first floor is also outfitted with a kitchen, mothers' room, restrooms, concession area, PE teacher's office, and locker rooms. Two large rooms — one on the first floor and one on the second — offer the flexibility to be divided into four classrooms; their electrical, lighting, and ceiling work is complete. Classroom carpet will be installed in the next few weeks. The second floor features two collaboration spaces and two restrooms. The restrooms were recently tiled and painted, with plumbing fixtures and partitions to be completed in the next few weeks. Collaboration spaces are complete and await final paint and flooring.

BASEMENT • The 3000-square-foot basement storage area was painted last week, and concrete will be sealed in the next few weeks.

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS • All new schools built in Missouri require backup generator power and a safe room. The safe room was completed with Phase 1, and the generator will be installed next week; power should be available within the next six weeks.

EXTERIOR • The west side asphalt will be completed by Easter, weather permitting. The Church Council recently approved the resurfacing of our remaining old parking areas; paving will begin after school is out in May 2026.

PERMITS • Prior to completion, McClure Engineering will be performing a commissioning process to verify the proper performance of various mechanical and electrical systems throughout the building. The plan for completion of the occupancy permit is currently scheduled for mid-May 2026.