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

March 1
In-Person Worship Total • 969
Wed. Lenten midweek • 250
5:00pm worship • 64
8:00am worship • 244
9:30am worship • 141
11:00am worship • 194
10:45am Living Stone worship • 76

Online Viewing
Sanctuary: 188 • Living Stone: 45
Approximately 373 total online viewers

CALENDAR

Sunday, March 8
Worship Services
MASP Valparaiso Chorale Concert, 7pm

Monday, March 9
Morning Men's Bible Study, 6am, Zoom
LWBS Leaders Mtg., 9am, Conf. Room
LWML Quilting Group, 9am, FH
LWML Luncheon, 12:30pm, Offsite
Monday Night Confirmation, 5:30pm, YR
Social Ministry, 6:30pm, Conf. Room
MomCo After Dark Meetup, 7pm, YR

Tuesday, March 10
Call Committee Mtg., 6:30pm, Conf. Rm.

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

Thursday, March 12
Christian Readers Group 7pm, FH
Living Way Evening Mtg., 7pm, Conf. Rm.

Friday, March 13
Bulletin Assembly, 9am, LL4

Saturday, March 14
Worship Service, 5pm

Sunday, March 15
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

Book of Acts • Music Room
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 (35 weeks)	2,227,750
Received year-to-date	2,069,508
Difference actual/budget	-158,242
Weekly amount needed	72,958
Received last week	48,098

Construction Loan Balance

Current debt	$5,086,347
Gifts received July 2025 to date	$31,688

Ministry Expansion Campaign
Total Commitments: $14,585,612 • Gifts received to date: $8,832,769

EMPLOYMENT

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

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.

LCMS COMMUNITY NEWS

Church Worker Study Grants

Applications due April 15 • Learn more in our *Weekly Word* e-letter and at *bit.ly/4rCVHv2*

Girl Scout Cookies Sales

Through March 15 • Sundays 9-9:30am • Lobby + Online Orders

Calling all Girl Scout cookie lovers! Cookie season is here, 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 below), 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.

QR CODES: QUICK LINKS

Golf Tournmt. — 2026 Golf Tournament
VBS Registration — St. Paul's VBS
Lenten Webpage — Lent & Holy Week
Girl Scout Cookies

THE GOOD NEWS

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026

VALPARAISO CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Sunday, 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.

TODAY

Farewell Reception for Thompsons

9:00-9:30am • Fellowship Hall

Girl Scout Cookie Booth

Through March 15 • Sundays 9-9:30am • Lobby + Online • Details on back page.

THE WEEK AHEAD: MARCH 9-15

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*.

LWML Luncheon 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. March's book is J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Return of the King*.

★ **News Just Added Is Noted with a Star**

WHAT'S NEW?

NEWS JUST ADDED

1) Call committee March update
2) Golf tournament registration now open
3) LWML Spring Rally • March 21

REMINDERS

- VBS registrations are filling quickly; reserve your space today!
- Easter flower orders due March 9

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 Fellowship Breakfast as we offer our warmest blessings and farewells to Pastor Thompson and his family; today marks Pastor's final day at St. Paul's.

Message Banners

Look for two farewell message banners, along with markers, on display for congregation members to write prayers and well-wishes for the Thompsons.

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."

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"
- Sun., March 8 message: "Peace"

Wed. Midweek Services: 11am & 6:15pm
- Wed., March 11: "Breaking Down the Gates" (Is. 44:1-8)
- Midweek Sermon Series: "Singing With the Exiles"

Wednesday Dine-Out: Chick-fil-A
- Wed., March 11 • 11am-7pm • Chick-fil-A Des Peres
- When placing your order through the Chick-fil-A app, select *Community Care Event* and enter the code "ST PAULS." App orders work for dining in the restaurant, 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.
- Sponsored by St. Paul's Board of Missions and supporting mission work in Germany.

Save the Date: Easter Egg Hunt
Sat., April 4 • 10am • ECC Campus

BIBLE STUDIES

Foundation Class Lenten Series
Sundays • 9:30am • FH
"Singing With the Exiles," based on Isaiah 40–55, explores some of the best-known, most cherished, and significant texts in the Bible.

Book of Acts
Sundays • 9:30am • Music Room
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 for the mission of Christ.

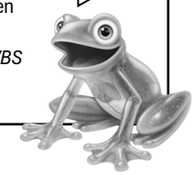
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

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.)

VBS registrations are filling quickly; reserve your spot today!

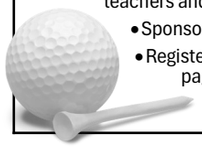


ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

★Registration Now Open
Mon., April 27 • 11am • The Courses at Forest Park

We look forward to seeing you at our annual school golf tournament fundraiser! It's time to register and support our 2026 golf tournament. We appreciate your support and would love for you to join us at the event, which includes lunch, a dinner auction, beverage carts, a putting contest, awards, and a raffle.

- Tournament proceeds will help with technology upgrades for our teachers and classroom furniture.
- Sponsorship opportunities are available.
- Register at *bit.ly/StP-golf26*. (See QR code on back page, or registration button on our website's *News* 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*.

CALL COMMITTEE

★NEW: Committee Receives 60 Candidate Names
The third round of committee work has begun with a new call committee. We must thank the prior call committee for nearly two years of diligent, prayerful consideration of candidates. As is customary, the previous call committee has been honorably released, and a new call committee was approved in a voters' meeting on February 1, 2026.

The new call committee held its first meeting on February 10, with circuit leader Pastor Scott Jonas taking the committee through the call process.

The week of February 16, the committee received 60 names submitted by the Missouri District and St. Paul's congregation and has begun considering possible candidates from this list.

Find comprehensive information and updates on St. Paul's call process on our website's *Member Portal > Pastor Call* webpage.

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.*

GROUPS & SERVICE

★NEW: LWML Spring Zone Rally
Sat., March 21 • 8:30-11:45am • Off-site
All Women in Mission are invited to the spring rally tea party hosted at Concordia-Kirkwood. Join women from neighboring congregations for fellowship and inspiration; see the flyer for program details at *bit.ly/4ua52fI*. To register, call or text Norma Schroll, Concordia Women's Guild Society Chair, at 314-477-6145.

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 at *bit.ly/StP-RMH*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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.