

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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

WITNESS

MARCH 22
IN-PERSON WORSHIP TOTAL • 839
Wed. Lenten midweek • 153
5:00pm worship • 122
8:00am worship • 187
9:30am worship • 156
11:00am worship • 137
10:45am Living Stone worship • 84
ONLINE VIEWING
Sanctuary: 183 • Living Stone: 49
Approximately 371 total online viewers

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MARCH 29
PALM SUNDAY
Worship Services; children's procession

MONDAY, MARCH 30
Morning Men's Bible Study, 6am, Zoom
LWML Quilting Group, 9am, FH

TUESDAY, MARCH 31
Passion Vespers, 7:30pm
Call Committee Mtg., 6:30pm, Conf. Rm.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1
Choir Rehearsal, 7pm

THURSDAY, APRIL 2
MomCo Meetups, 9am, FH
Maundy Thursday Services: 11am, 7pm

FRIDAY, APRIL 3
Good Friday Services: 12:05, 5pm, 7pm
Bulletin Assembly, 9am, LL4

SATURDAY, APRIL 4
Easter Egg Hunt, 10am, ECC Campus
No Saturday worship service

SUNDAY, APRIL 5
EASTER SUNDAY
Worship Services
Sanctuary: 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am
Living Stone: 9:30am

SUNDAY CLASSES

BIBLE STUDY HOUR • 9:30AM
BOOK OF ACTS • MUSIC ROOM
Simulcast live on 850AM and KFYO.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 (38 weeks)	2,418,700
Received year-to-date	2,194,668
Difference actual/budget	-224,032
Weekly amount needed	79,652
Received last week	28,574

CONSTRUCTION LOAN BALANCE
Current debt \$6,077,079
Gifts received July 2025 to date \$33,211

MINISTRY EXPANSION CAMPAIGN

Total Commitments: \$14,585,612 • Gifts received to date: \$8,975,175



EMPLOYMENT

- 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.
 - Visit our church website for job details: stpaulsdesperes.org/news/employment.

ST. PAUL'S COMMITTEE NEWS

APRIL MISSION OF THE MONTH: Pastor Alexey Shepelev, WordRUS

CALL UPDATE & MINISTRY WORK

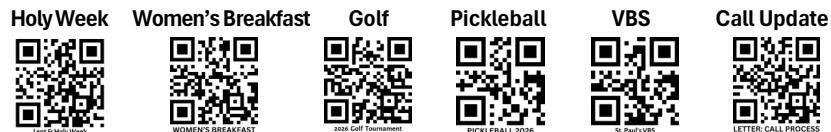
St. Paul's congregational president and elders chairman have shared an update on the pastoral call process, our two vacancies, and ministry plans during this period of transition, including FAQs. Read the congregational letter, sent March 18, at conta.cc/40ARKoH (QR code below).

LCMS COMMUNITY NEWS

CHURCH WORKER STUDY GRANTS

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

QR CODES: QUICK LINKS



THE GOOD NEWS

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026



TODAY

LWML QUARTERLY MITE BOX COLLECTION

March 28 & 29 • Every coin counts! Supporting national mission grants.

“WHAT WE BELIEVE” CLASS

Beginning Sun., March 29 • 9:30am • FH

Delve into what the Bible teaches in our spring “What We Believe” class. All are welcome, whether to refresh your understanding or to learn something new. Meeting for six Sundays, our pastor-led class offers a comfortable setting and comprehensive teaching on foundational tenets of the Lutheran faith, including Christ, Baptism, Communion, the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, and more.

FOUNDATION CLASS JOINS FORCES THIS SPRING

Beginning March 29, our weekly Foundation class will meet together with our new “What We Believe” class for six sessions to dive deeper into the core of their faith and knowledge of God's Word — while maintaining the familiar format and fellowship found in Foundation. We invite our regulars to renew their Catechism learning while meeting new friends and supporting those who are learning about the Lutheran faith.

HOLY WEEK HOSPITALITY

Holy Week and Easter bring many visitors to St. Paul's. Each of us in the congregation is blessed with the opportunity to extend a gracious welcome — offering a “hello,” a friendly smile, and the hospitality that makes our church feel like home.

WHAT'S NEW?

NEWS JUST ADDED

- Christian readers group • April 7
- Small-setting Communion • April 13
- Card-making night • April 16
- Women's Friendship Breakfast • April 25
- Principal's letter on school staffing
- Now hiring: Summer camp counselors and preschool maternity sub

REMINDERS

- Church worker study grant applications due April 15 (see back page)

LARGE-PRINT

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

NEW: EASTER OFFICE CLOSURE

In observance of Easter, the church office will be closed from noon on Good Friday through Easter Monday, reopening April 7.

PALM SUNDAY • MARCH 29

SANCTUARY: 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM • LIVING STONE: 10:45AM

Congregation members are welcomed to take palm branches.

CHILDREN'S PALM PROCESSIONAL: All children are invited to join in a processional with palm branches in all Sunday morning services during the opening hymn. Parents are welcome to process with younger children, if preferred.

BEFORE THE SERVICE, children and parents will gather in the west lobby for Sanctuary services — or in the back of the Music Room for Living Stone — to collect palm branches and to follow the pastor in procession.

THE PROCESSION will proceed up the center aisle, then turn outward, moving down the perimeter aisles, where children will rejoin parents in the pews.

★ NEWS JUST ADDED IS NOTED WITH A STAR



HOLY WEEK



PALM SUNDAY

March 29

8:00*, 9:30, 10:45*, 11:00am

With children's palm processional



PASSION VESPER

Tuesday, March 31 • 7:30pm



MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 2

11:00am

7:00pm with stripping of the altar



GOOD FRIDAY

April 3

12:05-12:50pm lunch hour service

5:00pm*

7:00pm Tenebrae service



EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 4 • 10:00am • ECC



EASTER SUNDAY

April 5

Sanctuary: 8:00*, 9:30, 11:00am

Living Stone: 9:30am*

WORSHIP NOTES

Holy Communion at all services except Good Friday

No Saturday service on April 4

No Fellowship Breakfast, Sunday school, or Bible classes are held on Easter

*Livestreamed services

STPAULSDESPERES.ORG/LENT

See QR code on back page

PASSION VESPERS

HOLY WEEK • TUESDAY, MARCH 31 • 7:30PM
AMERICAN KANTOREI

Please join us in worship as Music at St. Paul's and the American Kantorei present the 1725 version of Johann Sebastian Bach's *St. John Passion*. Bach's monumental setting brings the Passion narrative from John's Gospel into sharp focus as we journey through Holy Week.

This version features movements added and altered by Bach himself. Soloists, choir, and instrumentalists will be featured.

The evening of sacred music is complimentary, with a freewill offering, and is open to the public.



EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, APRIL 4 • 10AM • ECC CAMPUS

Community Event • Make family memories together at our Easter egg hunt! All children, from babies to second graders (0-8 years), are invited to this annual favorite, where children will hunt for filled eggs, and enjoy a special Easter message. The egg hunt is complimentary with no advance registration required, and is open to the community.

Staggered Hunts • Egg hunt fun for all ages! Hunts are staggered so parents don't miss a moment. Babies and little ones will find eggs across a large grassy lawn. Next, young children will discover eggs throughout our playground that features a teepee, canoe, tunnel, and playhouse! The oldest will have an adventure searching for eggs among our naturalized, tree-lined playground trails.

Parking • Parking is available on the upper and lower Early Childhood Center parking lots, as well as in the adjacent St. Paul's Cemetery (one driveway to the north). We recommend allowing extra time for parking before activities begin.

Hosted by St. Paul's and our MomCo group.



SEMINARY TREAT BAG COLLECTION

Collecting Through Sun., April 12 LWML Assembly Day • Mon., April 13 • 1pm • FH

St. Paul's LWML group is collecting snacks (nuts, dried fruit, jerky, cookies, chips, granola bars, snack cakes, candy bars) to assemble 32 treat bags for Concordia Sem. pastoral and deaconess students in anticipation of Call Day, as part of the Mo. District's "Shine" servant event. Drop off snacks — in individual or full-size packaging — through April 12 to the purple LWML box in the east lobby. All are welcome to join us for assembly and note writing on April 13.



WOMEN'S FRIENDSHIP BREAKFAST

Saturday, April 25 • 8:30am (Doors open at 8am)
\$25 per person • Register by April 20
Greenbriar Hills Country Club

Gather with the women of St. Paul's for a morning of friendship, fellowship, music, uplifting messages, and a delicious breakfast buffet. Plan to attend our 26th annual spring gathering with friends, family, colleagues, and neighbors (ages 8 and older). Our keynote speaker is Rehema Kavugha, St. Paul's member and Director of Synod Relations at the Lutheran Church Extension Fund. Her message, "Let's TALK about it," explores how TALK can help us connect to ourselves, connect to others, and equip us to honor God by serving others. Acclaimed vocalist, Erin Bode, returns as our musical guest.

• Register at bit.ly/StP-WomensBrk or scan QR code on back page.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

★ NEW: MARCH SCHOOL STAFFING HIGHLIGHTS

Our school principal, Dawn Walker, has shared a letter with staffing updates for next year, including two new teacher hires and progress on remaining open positions. Read her full message at bit.ly/41peCOy and in our *Weekly Word* e-letter.

★ SMALL-SETTING COMMUNION

Mon., April 13 • Noon • Please note that April's service moves to the 13th, as church is closed on Easter Monday. Special monthly worship service with Communion for members who may prefer to avoid large crowds or who have mobility issues.

NEXT SPY STARTERS IN APRIL

Due to Lent and other conflicting activities, our 1st-4th youth group will not meet in March, but will be back April 29.

EVENTS & GROUPS

★ NEW: CHRISTIAN READERS GROUP

Tues., April 7 • 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. April's book is James McBride's *The Color of Water*.



★ NEW: CARD-MAKING NIGHT

Thurs., April 16 • 6-9pm • Music Room

Enjoy an evening of creativity and conversation, crafting three simply beautiful cards ready to send to family and friends. All supplies provided in \$12/person materials fee. Register at bit.ly/StP-Cardmaking by 5pm on April 13 so materials can be prepped.



PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

Sun., April 12 • 1-5pm • Free

Join us for a pickleball tournament at PaddleUp Pickleball Club in Chesterfield! Up to 28 two-player teams are invited for an afternoon of fun, fellowship, and friendly competition. Open to members of all skill levels — so whether you're experienced or brand new, we encourage you to join in! Sign up with a partner at bit.ly/4rZJJ7 or scan QR code on back page.



GOLF TOURNAMENT

Mon., April 27 • 11am • The Courses at Forest Park

Tee up your support for our annual school golf tournament! Enjoy lunch, a dinner auction, beverage carts, a putting contest, awards, and a raffle. Proceeds support school technology and furniture; sponsorships available. Register at bit.ly/StP-golf26 or scan QR code on back page.



NOW HIRING

★ NEW: SUMMER CAMP COUNSELORS

Now hiring full-time summer camp counselors for our K-7 program! Applicants must be at least 18 years old and have a love for working with children. Education majors are encouraged to apply; join us for a fun and meaningful summer in a faith-filled environment, including exciting field trips! Please inquire with Nikki Wildman at summer@stpaulsdp.org.

★ NEW: PRESCHOOL MATERNITY SUB

We are seeking a caring and dedicated maternity leave substitute teacher for our Preschool 3 classroom in August and September. This position is a wonderful opportunity to support our early childhood ministry, nurture young learners, and share God's love each day. Please inquire with Jessica Bangert at jbangert@stpaulsdp.org.

TECHNICAL ARTS COORD. • See back page.

