

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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

WITNESS

JULY 12 WORSHIP ATTENDANCE • 813

5:00pm worship • 90

8:00am worship • 233

9:30am worship • 186

11:00am worship • 182

Living Stone worship • 122

ONLINE VIEWING

Sanctuary: 143 • Living Stone: 28

Approximately 274 total online viewers

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JULY 19

Worship Services

Parent/Student Confirmation Mtg., Noon, YR

MONDAY, JULY 20

Monday Morning Men's Bible Study, Zoom

Elders Study, 6:30 pm, Conf. Room

TUESDAY, JULY 21

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

THURSDAY, JULY 23

FRIDAY, JULY 24

Bulletin Assembly, 9am, LL4

SATURDAY, JULY 25

Worship Service, 5pm

SUNDAY, JULY 26

Worship Services

Voters' meeting, Noon, Sanctuary

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* e-letter.

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

MINISTRY EXPANSION CAMPAIGN

Total Commitments: \$14,585,612 • Gifts received to date: \$9,686,172

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MISSIONS CORNER

JULY MISSION OF THE MONTH • Dr. Haragewen Kinde serves in her native Ethiopia, where she is helping the Ethiopian Evangelical Church, Mekane Yesus (“House of Jesus”), establish a Lutheran university. Our support for Dr. Kinde’s work is helping to bring the Gospel to college-age students in Ethiopia and to encourage their growth in the Christian faith.

NOW HIRING

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

SCHOOL PT LUNCH CUSTODIAN • Seeking a dependable, service-oriented part-time lunch custodian to help maintain a clean, safe, and welcoming environment for students, staff, church members, and visitors during the school lunch period. This position is responsible for cleaning and sanitizing dining areas, assisting with lunchroom setup and breakdown, and supporting the overall cleanliness of school and church facilities. Inquire with Steve Brosch at sbrosch@stpaulsdp.org.

SCHOOL ASSISTANT COOK • Part-time assistant cook preparing and serving school meals, who enjoys working with children. Hours approx. 8am–1:30pm on school days. Inquire with Dawn Walker at dwalker@stpaulsdp.org.

LCMS COMMUNITY NEWS

SEMINARY FAMILY: VEHICLE NEED

A seminary family is in need of a safe, budget-friendly vehicle to support their daily vocations and pastoral formation. If anyone has a dependable car they are selling affordably or looking to part with, it would be an immense blessing to our family during the remainder of our seminary journey; contact Jeremiah Bauer at 561-405-5241. Thank you for your prayers and consideration.

CONCORDIA MUSIC CONSERVATORY • Hiring an Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director; inquire by July 25 to marketing@cmc-music.org. More in *Weekly Word*.

GIVING

Annual offering budget \$3,375,996

Budget year-to-date (2 weeks) 129,846

Received year-to-date 124,549

Difference actual/budget -5,297

Weekly amount needed 65,029

Received last week 61,550

CONSTRUCTION LOAN BALANCE

Current debt \$8,589,650

Gifts received July 2026 to date \$33,799

SAINT PAUL'S

THE GOOD NEWS

SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2026

TODAY

PARENT/STUDENT CONFIRMATION MEETING: 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR

Sun., July 19 • Noon-1pm • Youth Room

Confirmation is a formative milestone for youth in the church as they grow in their understanding of God’s Word and receive faithful teaching and pastoral care. Please plan to attend an informational Confirmation meeting for parents and students, including both (a) rising 7th or 8th graders who do not attend St. Paul’s day school, and (b) rising 8th graders who attend St. Paul’s School. We will be mapping out the curriculum, expectations, and important dates for the 2026/27 school year.

THE WEEK AHEAD: JULY 20-26

★NEW: VOTERS' MEETING FOR SENIOR PASTOR CALL

Sun., July 26 • Noon • Sanctuary • Details, next page.

★NEW: PRAYERS FOR YOUTH MISSION TEAM

Departing on Saturday, July 25, our high school mission team — nine youth from five different schools — will depart for Niagara Falls, New York, along with youth coordinator Becky Blake and adult leader Jamie Hoover. St. Paul’s teens will spend the week serving in both community home improvement projects and in children’s ministry. Join us in praying for a safe and joyful trip as they share God’s grace and compassion with communities in need.

YOUTH MISSION TEAM'S JULY LUGGAGE TAG FUNDRAISER

Display in Ballas Lobby • Meet youth on Sundays between services

Our teens are in the final stretch of fundraising and invite the congregation’s support in their luggage-tag appeal.

Here’s how it works: Our display board in the narthex is filled with luggage tags, each marked with a different donation amount. Grab a tag(s) and return it with cash or check to the drop box at the church receptionist counter, or donate online at bit.ly/StP-give. Because our youth look forward to sending you a postcard from Niagara Falls, please include your name and address.

WHAT’S NEW?

NEWS JUST ADDED

1. Voters’ meeting for call • July 26

2. Pastor Pottschmidt returns call

3. Prayers: Youth mission trip departs July 25

4. Update: Care & Connect Week and Fill-a-Backpack progress reports

5. Welcome new staff members

6. Update: Aug. 9 Dedication Sunday details

REMINDERS

Fill-a-Backpack collection ends July 26

Sign up to serve for Care & Connect Week by July 26

LARGE-PRINT

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

FILL-A-BACKPACK FOR KIDS IN NEED

48% FILLED: COLLECTING THROUGH SUN., JULY 26

Ready, set, learn! We’re aiming to share 200 fully stocked backpacks filled with all the supplies students need to study, learn, and thrive in the classroom. Our backpack drive provides impactful support to underprivileged students in the Dutchtown/Marquette Park community.

To see wish list details and mark off supplies you’ll bring (new items only, please), visit our signup page at bit.ly/StP-pack2026, use the QR code at right, or use the button on our website’s News page.

Drop off to the Ballas lobby anytime through Sunday, July 26.

Collection concludes next Sunday

Thank You! 51 families have already donated 2778 of 5800 needed school items



VOTERS' MEETING

★ NEW: VOTERS' MEETING FOR SENIOR PASTOR CALL Sun., July 26 • Noon • Sanctuary



St. Paul's senior pastor call committee has called for a congregational voters' meeting with the recommendation of bringing forth two candidates' names to the congregation for consideration and a vote. Please continue to pray for our call process and for both candidates and their families.

Read details about proxy voting, for those unable to attend, on our website's *Member Portal* > *Pastor Call* page, as well as a review of the candidates and their backgrounds. Three emails with additional details were sent to congregation members July 11, July 14, and July 15. (Member portal password: *gracealone*)

CALL NEWS

★ NEW: PASTOR POTTSCHMIDT RETURNS CALL

As previously reported, Pastor Michael Pottschmidt returned St. Paul's call and was led to stay at his current call at St. Paul's in Concordia, Missouri. While disappointing, we believe that it is God's will and that God has a different man chosen to be our next senior pastor.

Read Pastor Pottschmidt's letter to the call committee and St. Paul's congregation on our website's *Member Portal* > *Pastor Call* page.

DEDICATION SUNDAY AUGUST 9

★ UPDATE: MORNING WORSHIP & DEDICATION

Guest preacher at all services: Rev. Glen Thomas

- 8:00am Sanctuary worship service
- **No 9:30am worship service, Bible classes, or Sunday school will be held. No Saturday, Aug. 8 worship held.**
- 9:20-10:30am Dedication service
- 10:45am Living Stone worship service
- 11:00am Sanctuary worship service, including school teacher commissioning

9:20AM • COURTYARD GATHERING & RIBBON CUTTING

Full congregation gathers outside for ribbon cutting and doxology, proceeding through vestibules into new facilities.

9:25AM • DEDICATION IN GYM

All gather in the gym for the dedication of each part of our new ministry expansion (Gym, Saints Hall, The Commons, Meisch Music Suite, classrooms) with dedication prayer litanies and hymns.

9:45AM • RECEPTION & PRAYER WALK

Refreshments and fellowship, prayer walk opportunity, self-guided tours with station hosts.

10:25 CLOSING IN SAINTS HALL

Gather in Saints Hall for the closing hymn.



WELCOME NEW STAFF

JOEL STOPPENHAGEN

We welcome Joel Stoppenhagen, **Assistant Kantor** and organist, who serves among us in worship life at St. Paul's, lending his exceptional musical gifts to our rich heritage of music ministry including choir, orchestra, and music instruction.



MARY THEISS

Mary Theiss joins our family ministry umbrella under Director Sharon Shearman in a new part-time position as **Care Ministry Coordinator**. As a nurse, Mrs. Theiss' work will support wellness and congregational care initiatives.



ANTHONY DeVASTO

We're grateful for the skills that Anthony DeVasto brings as **Technical Arts Coordinator**, in a recently-added part-time staff position dedicated to audio visual, livestreaming, and technical implementation.



★ NEWS JUST ADDED IS NOTED WITH A STAR



JOIN OUR WEEK OF SERVICE

JULY 26 TO AUGUST 2

Care and Connect Week invites our St. Paul's community to come together through meaningful service and simple acts of kindness. Every volunteer spot becomes a moment to support others and strengthen connections.

Explore projects and sign up to make a difference at bit.ly/StP-Care26, via the QR code below, or via the button on our website's *News* page.

Volunteers receive a complimentary 2026 t-shirt.



SIGN UP FOR C&C



Any Day

Pray at home (34+ spots open)



Sunday, July 26 • Noon-2pm + lunch (All spots full: thank you!)

Make cross necklaces for Forged by Fire Ministries



Monday, July 27 • 6:30-8pm (8 spots open)

Craft handmade cards for our card-mailing ministry



Monday, July 27 • 10am or 1pm (18 spots open)

Assist with archives at Concordia Historical Institute at Sem



Tuesday, July 28 • 3-5pm (2 spots open)

Pack and sort food at St. Louis Food Bank



Tuesday, July 28 • 4:30-7:30pm (All spots full: thank you!)

Wednesday, July 29 • 4:30-7:30pm (All spots full: thank you!)

Cook/serve dinner at Ronald McDonald House



Wednesday, July 29 • 9-11am (7 spots open)

Clean and polish our church building



Thursday, July 30 • 11am-1pm (All spots full: thank you!)

Assemble school backpacks for communities in need

60 of 64 spots open at CFNA



Thursday, July 30 • various times (26 spots open)

Friday, July 31 • various times (34 spots open)

Work at Christian Friends of New Americans facility and choose from 7 service opportunities (details online) including laying carpet squares, removing wallpaper, painting, sorting donations, constructing racks, landscaping/weeding, or refugee learning skills



Friday, July 31 • 7:45am-3:45pm (3 spots open)

Work at Habitat for Humanity construction site



Saturday, Aug. 1 • 8-10am (2 spots open)

St. Paul's gardening/landscaping tasks