

ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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

WITNESS

SEPT. 27 WORSHIP ATTENDANCE • 723

5:00pm worship • 94
8:00am worship • 271
9:30am • 85
10:45am worship • 134
Living Stone worship • 139

ONLINE VIEWING

Sanctuary: 179 • Living Stone: 72
Approximately 402 total online viewers

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

Worship Services
Area Life Chain, 2pm, meet at church

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

What We Believe, 6:30pm, FH

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

Living Way Bible Study, 9am
Choir Rehearsal, 7pm

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

Living Way Bible Study, 7pm, Conf. Rm.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

Bulletin Assembly, 9am, LL4

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

Worship Service, 5pm

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

Worship Services
MomCo After Dark Meetups, 6:30pm,
Music Room

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 web-site News page and *Weekly Word* e-letter.

SUNDAY CLASSES

BIBLE STUDY HOUR • 9:30AM

GOSPEL OF MARK • SAINTS HALL
Simulcast live on 850AM and KFUO.org

FOUNDATION • FELLOWSHIP HALL
Topical, discussion-based study

SUNDAY SCHOOL • SCHOOL ROOMS

• Little Lambs: 205 • Preschool: LL2
• K/1st: LL7 • 2nd/3rd: 106 • 4th/5th: 104
• 6th-8th: 210 • 9th-12th: Youth Room

MINISTRY EXPANSION CAMPAIGN

Total Commitments: \$14,585,612 • Gifts received to date: \$10,011,249



MISSIONS

NEW: OCT. MISSION OF THE MONTH: Panama Mission work includes church planting and revitalization, pastoral and deaconess formation, and support for congregations such as Redeemer Lutheran Church in Balboa. Sept. MOTM total \$3,952

WALKTHROUGH ACCESS

To support Sunday morning flow, the school building and expansion-wing corridor will be open from 7:30am to 12:20pm on Sundays for indoor walk-through access between the north parking lot (school’s flagpole entrance) through the southwest courtyard vestibule.

COMMUNITY NEWS: FUNDRAISERS

MEMORIAL BENEFIT EVENT: “RISE WITH CHRIS”
Sun., Oct. 4 • 5-8pm • Topgolf, Chesterfield

Join in an evening of fun golf games, dinner, and fellowship, which supports “Rise with Chris” in memory of congregation member Chris Handy. This event will benefit and help establish a *Celebrate Recovery* ministry at St. Paul’s. Visit www.risewithchris.org for tickets, sponsorships, donations, and to learn more about its vision of turning loss into hope through faith, community, and recovery. Flyer at bit.ly/RWC-26

MARKWAY STRONG TRIVIA NIGHT
Sat., Nov. 7 • 6pm • Lutheran High School South

Join Markway Strong in memory of congregation member Glenn Markway for a fun night of trivia and fellowship benefiting Friends of Kids with Cancer. Contact Carol Markway (314-954-3448, cmarkway@swbell.net) to reserve a table or donate cash/gift cards. See flyer for details at bit.ly/46NXkgZ



RISE WITH CHRIS

GIVING

Annual offering budget \$3,375,996
Budget year-to-date (13 weeks) 843,999
Received year-to-date 777,372
Difference actual/budget -66,627
Weekly amount needed 66,631
Received last week 43,843

DEBT REDUCTION

Current debt \$9,410,150
Gifts received July 2026 to date \$46,820



THE GOOD NEWS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2026

TODAY

★ NEW FOUNDATION SERIES BEGINS
Sundays • Oct. through Dec. • 9:30am • FH
Led by Dr. Gerry Bode on Oct. 4

"What's the BIG Deal? A Study of Luther's Large Catechism." • Join our pastors and seminary faculty for a deeper exploration of *Luther's Large Catechism* and its wisdom for our faith and daily life. Together, we will dive deeper into the Ten Commandments, Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer, Holy Baptism, and Lord's Supper, discovering how these familiar teachings have bigger implications for your life today than you might have originally thought when you were in Confirmation class.

LIFE CHAIN ON ST. PAUL'S CORNER
Sun., Oct. 4 • 2-3pm



Gather with members of our faith family and other local congregations to stand for the protection of unborn children and their mothers in a visual statement that the church supports the sanctity of all life. The Des Peres/Kirkwood Life Chain happens at St. Paul's intersection, on the corner of Manchester and Ballas Roads. Annually, on the first Sunday in October, Life Chain invites churches in each city and town across North America to stand for life: www.lifechain.org

• St. Paul's congregation members: Please meet in the Ballas lobby (west) to start, and to receive signs made by our students.

THE WEEK AHEAD: OCT. 5-11

★ NEW: SMALL-SETTING COMMUNION
Mon., Oct. 5 • Noon

Special monthly worship service with Communion for members who may prefer to avoid large crowds or who have mobility issues.

★ NEW: QUARTERLY MITE BOX COLLECTION
Sat. & Sun., Oct. 10-11

Fill a Box, Fuel a Mission: Please bring your mite box, loose change, or cash and place your offering in the large mite box in the narthex or The Commons. Your gifts help fund mission grants, supporting a national goal of \$2,622,270 and a Missouri District goal of \$341,200. Thank you for helping share God’s love through mission.



MOVIE NIGHT

MOMS' NIGHT OUT: MOVIE IN SAINTS HALL
Thurs., Oct. 8 • Doors open 7pm • Movie at 7:30pm

Ready for a “reel” good time? Moms of all ages are invited for a movie night in our new Saints Hall, shown on the jumbo projection screen. Join us for a fun 90s throwback and showing of "Runaway Bride" — so bring a friend, join the fun, and come dressed in cozy clothes or PJs.

The complimentary event is hosted by our MomCo motherhood group, who will provide snacks and a dirty soda bar; please, no outside food or drinks. RSVP at bit.ly/StP-movie26 or through the link on our website's News page, to help our MomCo hosts plan refreshment numbers.

All ages welcome



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

KINDERGARTEN KICKOFF

THURS., NOV. 12 • 5:30 OR 6:15PM
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Do you have a child who will be eligible for kindergarten next school year? RSVP now for the St. Paul's 2027-2028 Kindergarten Kickoff via QR code or at bit.ly/StP-K27. What to expect:

- Learn all about kindergarten and life at St. Paul's from teachers, principal, pastors, and others.
- Tour the K-8 school building, including the brand new gymnasium, Meisch Music Suite and Saints Hall — with surprises along the way for your rising kindergartner!
- Take advantage of having the first opportunity to enroll in our half- and full-day kindergarten programs.
- Enjoy fellowship and refreshments.



ACTIVITIES

CHRISTIAN READERS GROUP

Tues., Oct. 20 • 7pm • Music Room

Join us in October as we read *The Truth Will Set You Free: Samuel L. Hoard*. Led by Rev. Dr. Kent Burrenson, the group reads across a variety of genres, exploring Christian themes and how literature informs Christian faith and life. See the year's book schedule on our website's *Ministries > Get Connected* page.

SEEKING AUCTION SPONSORS AND DONATIONS

Sat., Feb. 6, 2027 • Westport DoubleTree

Get ready for Beads, Bids & Blessings in February! We're looking for sponsors and donations for our live and silent auctions. Your generosity directly supports



St. Paul's Lutheran School and helps us provide an exceptional, Christ-centered education for our K-8 learners. Partner with us and help make a difference! Read more online at bit.ly/STPSAUCTION2027

REFORMATION FEST

REFORMATION BRAT & PIE FRY • SUN., OCT. 25 • NOON-2PM

It's back — it's *wunderbar* — and ready to settle into its new home. The Brat and Pie Fry makes a comeback after a two-year construction hiatus, filling our beautiful new expansion wing and courtyard. Join the festivities at St. Paul's Reformation celebration featuring German specialties and themed activities.



Homemade pie bar • German food by Chef Krueger (*bratwurst, homemade potato salad, hearty applesauce, fresh pretzels, brat bar with sauerkraut and all the fixings. Hot dogs and chips for kids*) • Fitz's root beer on tap • Cider • Ginger beer • Scavenger hunt • Printing press craft • Fall-themed inflatable games • "Indulgence Bar" candy station • Strolling Luther • Accordion & fiddle players • Giveaways.

Pies & Helpers: This festive event runs on volunteer power. Like to bake? Sign up to bring a pie! A variety of fun volunteer positions are available; event volunteers receive our popular limited-edition shirt. Sign up at bit.ly/StP-Fest26, via QR code, or through our website's News page.



free volunteer t-shirt

★ NEW: JOIN OUR PDO SUBSTITUTE TEAM!

Looking for extra spending money while the kids are at school? St. Paul's Parents' Day Out is seeking friendly, dependable substitutes, as needed, on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8am to 12:45pm. Enjoy a fun morning with our staff and littlest learners while supporting this wonderful ministry! Contact director Andrea Bluhm at abluhm@stpaulsdp.org if interested.

NAMETAG REMINDER

In order to help Pastor Schlund and our assisting seminarians put a face with a name, please remember to wear your St. Paul's nametag during services. Your help is greatly appreciated!



★ NEW: CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES

Return by Sun., Nov. 15

Send a Christmas gift of hope around the world! Operation Christmas Child collects and distributes shoeboxes filled with gifts, supplies, and the message of the Gospel in a 12-lesson Bible study to children in need in 150+ countries. Complimentary empty shoeboxes are in the narthex. Three ways to help:

1) Pray for the project's success.

2) Fill a shoebox with gifts, school supplies, and personal care items.

Suggestions: Start with one "wow" item such as a doll, large toy, soccer ball/pump, toy truck, stuffed animal, or musical instrument. Then fill in with items like markers, crayons, a toothbrush, puzzle, rump rope, stickers, yo-yo, Frisbee, binoculars, hat, and more. Check our website's News page for video links and packing suggestions.



3) Contribute to St. Paul's shoebox ministry for the purchase of additional shoeboxes, supplies, and transportation expenses.

\$10 MILLION GIVING MILESTONE REACHED

St. Paul's celebrates reaching a \$10 million giving milestone in our *Tell the Wonders He Has Done* ministry expansion campaign, now just under three years into our five-year initiative. October brings significant news as we reach two-thirds of our \$15 million goal, reflecting God's abundant provision and the congregation's joyful generosity in expanding worship, fellowship, music, and ministry spaces.

Since the project's completion and opening in June 2026, these new spaces have already strengthened our community life together and enriched the ministry we share as God's people — continuing the legacy of His faithfulness, since 1849.

SERVICE & SUPPORT

CONFIRMATION PRAYER PARTNERS

Join this special prayer ministry to be matched with a Confirmand and pray for them this school year. Prayer partners' identities are revealed on the Profession of Faith night in April. Read more at bit.ly/StP-Conf-pray and register online or with the church office.

FABRIC DONATIONS FOR QUILTERS

Your spare cotton fabric yardage or bed sheets are used by our quilters' group to construct warm quilts for families in need throughout the St. Louis region; drop off to the quilting room door at the east end of Fellowship Hall.

WINTER CLOTHING COLLECTION

St. Paul's is an area collection site for Trinity Souldard's homeless outreach that helps clothe and feed those in need. Needed items include scarves, hats, blankets, sweatshirts, coats, shoes/boots/socks, jeans, backpacks, etc. (no dressy adult clothing or kids' clothing needed). Find collection bin in the Ballas lobby.

GRIEFSHARE:

"SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS"

Sat., Oct. 24 • 10am-Noon • FH

Join us for a GriefShare gathering offering Christ-centered comfort and practical guidance for those facing the holidays after loss. We'll discuss how to deal with emotions, what to do about traditions, and finding hope for the future; family and friends are welcome. Register for the complimentary session at bit.ly/4doDRqw, through our website's News page, or RSVP to Kathy Riesmeyer at riesmeyer-erk@icloud.com or 314-303-2937.



"CARING FOR THE CAREGIVER" EVENT

Thurs., Oct. 15 • 10am-Noon

Hosted by EverTrue (Lutheran Senior Services) and held at St. Paul's, you're invited for an encouraging and informative conversation for caregivers. Whether you're supporting a spouse, parent, or friend, caregivers often find themselves managing appointments, medications, tasks, family dynamics, and unexpected challenges — all while balancing their own responsibilities and well-being. Register and read more at evertrueliving.org/caring-for-the-caregiver; flyers at our info counter.