ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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

WITNESS

Nov. 8 Worship Attendance • 1019

5:00pm worship • 79
8:00am worship • 381
9:30am worship • 122
10:45am worship • 326
Living Stone worship • 111

Online Viewing

Sanctuary: 225 • Living Stone: 73
Approximately 477 total online viewers

CALENDAR

Sunday, November 15
Worship Services
New Members Received, 10:45am, Sanc.

Monday, November 16
Monday Morning Men's Bible Study, Zoom
LWBS Leaders Mtg., 9am, Conf. Room
LWML Quilting Group, 9am, FH
Mission Board Mtg., 6pm, FH
Elders Study, 6:30pm, Conf. Room

Tuesday, November 17

Wednesday, November 18
Living Way Bible Study, 9am
SPY Youth Group K-8, 5:30pm, school
Choir Rehearsal, 7pm

Thursday, November 19
MomCo MeetUp, 9am, FH
Card-Making, 6pm, Music Room
Living Way Bible Study, 7pm, Conf. Rm.

Friday, November 20
Bulletin Assembly, 9:00am, LL4

Saturday, November 21
Worship Service, 5pm

Sunday, November 22
Worship Services
MASP Cantata Vestpers, 3pm, Sanc.

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

GIVING

Annual offering budget	$3,375,996
Budget year-to-date (19 weeks)	1,233,537
Received year-to-date	1,106,312
Difference actual/budget	-127,225
Weekly amount needed	68,778
Received last week	47,425

Debt Reduction

Current debt	$9,410,150
Gifts received July 2026 to date	$55,542

MINISTRY EXPANSION CAMPAIGN TOTAL COMMITMENTS

$14,585,612 • Gifts received to date: $10,192,356

NOVEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH

Rev. Tyler McMiller serves as an LCMS missionary in Italy, providing Word and Sacrament ministry, Bible study, catechism instruction, and pastoral support to Lutherans across the country. He also mentors men preparing for Lutheran pastoral ministry and helps geographically scattered believers establish house churches.

SCHOOL NEWS

Now Hiring: ***After-School SPLASH Program*** • Details at bit.ly/StP-Jobs.

MOScholars Tax Credit

You can make a difference by directing your Missouri state tax dollars to support families and receive a tax credit in return. Read more in our *Weekly Word* e-letter or at mo.lcms.org/tax-credit.

NEW: Auction Waitlist + Item Donations



Sat. Feb. 6 • 6:00 p.m. • DoubleTree Westport

The St. Paul's School Auction is SOLD OUT! A Waitlist Ticket option is now available online for those still hoping to attend *Beads, Bids & Blessings: An Evening on the Bayou.* The auction committee is incredibly grateful for the support of our community!

There are other ways to participate in the auction. With a full house coming to support our school, we are looking for auction item donations, including gift cards, wine and bourbon, backyard entertaining items, sports tickets, family experiences, vacation stays, golf packages, electronics, home items, and other unique experiences. Have something to donate? We would love to hear from you! Donations will be accepted through January 6, 2027, and may be dropped off at the church or school office.

• More information at bit.ly/STPSAUCTION2027

THE GOOD NEWS

NOVEMBER 15, 2026

TODAY

NEW: Welcome New Members

Today • 10:45am • Sanctuary • With thanksgiving, we welcome 63 new members to our St. Paul's family via adult Confirmation and transfer. After the service, please stop by the Ballas lobby to say hello and introduce yourself to our new friends!

Christmas Shoebox Collection Concludes Sun., Nov. 15



Thank you for your participation in Operation Christmas Child, where your shoeboxes filled with gifts and supplies are delivered with the message of the Gospel around the world!

THE WEEK AHEAD: NOV. 16 - 22

LWML Girls' Night Out

Mon., Nov. 16 • 6pm • Offsite

Before the holidays are in full swing, take a break from your busy schedule and join Lutheran Women in Mission for an evening of fellowship. Enjoy appetizers, snacks, and sweet treats while socializing with your St. Paul's sisters. Go to bit.ly/LWMLgno for location, additional details, and to sign up.

SPY Youth Group Night: 1st-8th

Wed., Nov. 18 • 5:30-7:30pm • Saints Hall & School
Service Project: Assemble "Blessing Bags" for At-Home Members

First through eighth graders of the congregation, don't miss monthly SPY nights (St. Paul's Youth)! Engaging in youth group activities helps young people build a strong foundation of faith, foster friendships, join in meaningful discussions, grow through service projects — and just have fun together! Evenings start in Saints Hall and rotate by age groups for the night.

• ***Youth and parent volunteer sign-up at bit.ly/StPyouth***
• ***Progress report (as of Nov. 12): Chaperones = 13***

Monthly Card-Making Night

Thurs., Nov. 19 • 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 $15/person materials fee. Register by 5pm on Nov. 16 so materials can be prepped: bit.ly/StP-Cardmaking.

NEW: Thank You from the Board of Missions

Your generosity put $160,220 to work supporting 26 missions this past fiscal year! Through church operating funds, Mission of the Month giving, and the Meisch estate funds, our congregation is helping extend Christ's love and care far beyond our church walls. The board sincerely thanks you for your faithful support and partnership in mission. See additional information on our flyer at the east lobby welcome center.

WHAT'S NEW?

NEWS JUST ADDED

1. Welcome new members • Nov. 15
2. $3M Thrivent matching on Dec. 1
3. Women's Advent event • Dec. 6
4. Christmas Caroling • Dec. 19
5. Update: Auction waitlist & donations
6. Mission board thank you • $160K
7. Update: Family ministry farewell
8. Clip & Save: Advent dates

REMINDERS

• Christmas shoeboxes due Nov. 15
• Register for card-making by Nov. 16

LARGE-PRINT

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

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

Thanksgiving Eve
Wed., Nov. 25 • 7pm

Thanksgiving Day
Thurs., Nov. 26 • 10am





MUSIC AT ST PAUL'S

Vespers for Christ the King
Sun., Nov. 22 • 3pm

Music at St. Paul's cordially invites you to Cantata Vespers for Christ the King with the American Kantorei chorus and orchestra. The service of Evening Prayer will feature music from Cantatas 35, 39, and 96, by Johann Sebastian Bach. The American Kantorei, under the directorship of Dr. Maurice Boyer, specializes in the performance of J. S. Bach's sacred choral works in the original German, accompanied by orchestra. The event is complimentary, with a freewill offering, and is open to the public.

SERVICE & SUPPORT

Serving at Ronald McDonald House

Fri., Nov. 27 • 4:30pm

When families of seriously ill children stay at Ronald McDonald House in Des Peres, our members show care by cooking a home-style meal for these guests visiting our community. Come cook with us in the RMH kitchen: Sign up at *bit.ly/StP-RMH*.

NEW: One Day Only: Thrivent $3 Million Giving Boost/Match

Giving Tuesday is Dec. 1. For one day only, donations made through Thrivent's giving platform will receive a boost — up to a $1-for-$1 matching ratio — through Thrivent's $3 million grant pool. Donors do *not* need to be Thrivent clients to give. Multiply your giving dollars in support of the organizations you care about most, including St. Paul's. Learn how to make your donation eligible at *thrivent.com/give* under the FAQ/Making a Donation section.

ADVENT: SAVE THE DATES

Clip and Save

- **Hanging of the Green** • Advent Begins • *Sun., Nov. 29*
- **Midweek Advent Services**
  Wed., Dec. 2 & 9 • 11am & 6pm • Dinner 4:45-5:45pm
- **Breakfast in Bethlehem & Gabriel's Gift Shop** • *Sat., Dec. 5 • 8:30am*
- **Women's Advent by Candlelight** • *Sun., Dec. 6 • 6:30pm*
- **School Christmas Program (3rd-4th)** • *Tues., Dec. 8 • 6:30pm*
- **Music at St. Paul's • Service of Lessons & Carols**
  Sat., Dec. 12 (5pm worship service) & Sun., Dec. 13 at 4pm
- **School Christmas Program (K-2nd)** • *Living Stone • Dec. 13 • 10:45am*
- **School Christmas Program (5th-8th)** • *Wed., Dec 16 • 11am & 6pm*
- **Christmas Caroling to At-Home Members** • *Sat., Dec. 19 • Noon*

God's Blessings

by Sharon Shearman, Director of Family Ministry



St. Paul's is filled with brothers and sisters in Christ who have been bestowed by our Lord with gifts and talents to equip them to serve in our faith family and community. Since joining our ministry staff in 2022, Kathy Stoddard has been faithfully utilizing her God-given gifts and talents in numerous ways as Assistant to the Director of Family Ministry.

Kathy will be missed tremendously! She has left an indelible mark on those of us on the family ministry team who have had the privilege of working closely with her. Even though Kathy served part-time, she accomplished a vast amount. Her attention to detail, research, and organizational skills were evident throughout all her areas of responsibility. She was always prayerfully pondering ways to improve upon ministry details as well as beautify our church and facilities. Kathy was always willing to take on new assignments, eager to take the initiative to complete any task. From overseeing the coffee bar in Fellowship Hall, creating signage, assisting with Family Ministry events, assembling the backdrop for our Mother's Day/Graduation celebration, coordinating the card-writing ministry, prepping for the Sunday School classes, and serving as the Campaign Manager for our recent ministry expansion, Kathy's ministry contribution has been significant. She is a dear sister in Christ, whose calming presence, positive attitude, and cheerfulness will be missed by all on staff.

We rejoice with Kathy as she begins this new season in life and anticipate that the Lord will continue to make a tremendous impact on others through her.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAUL'S

Christmas Decorating & Dinner

Fri., Nov. 27 • 4:30-6:30pm

Help make St. Paul's merry and bright! Catch the Christmas spirit as we put up wreaths, lights, Christmas trees, and ornaments — including our special Chrismon ornaments. We'll decorate the sanctuary, our new Living Stone space in Saints Hall, and east and west church lobbies. Youth, adults, and families are all invited for this annual tradition with a complimentary light dinner.

- Sign-up at bit.ly/47yWcfh or through the button on our website's *News* page.

Breakfast in Bethlehem

Sat., Dec. 5 • 8:30-10:30am • *Flyer at bit.ly/StP-BBflyer26*

Join us for a morning in celebration of the first Christmas during this beloved annual St. Paul's tradition. Savor a delicious hot breakfast and festive music announcing the birth of the Christ child. A variety of family activities will be featured, including a nativity photo zone, crafts, cookie walk, Christmas bingo, strolling Christmas carolers and costumed characters, a service project, and Gabriel's Gift Shop, where children can buy gifts for their family!

- $15 per person. Registrations and payments will be secured on a first-come, first-served basis until we reach capacity of 375 total guests; no walk-ins.
- Register at bit.ly/StP-BB26 or through the button on our website's *News* page.
- Many volunteers make for a successful event! Please consider lending a helping hand at bit.ly/StP-BBhelp26.

Gift Donations for Gabriel's Gift Shop

Collecting Nov. 1 - Dec. 4

We fill Gabriel's Gift Shop — part of the Breakfast in Bethlehem morning — with donations from the congregation and are now collecting new and like-new gifts for parents, grandparents, and other loved ones. The shop is a favorite stop for children, where all treasures are sold for $1. (Please note that child-age gifts are not needed.)

- Suggestions include re-gifted items, jewelry, purses, books, home decor, Christmas items, trinkets, ornaments, books, sport items, golf balls, ties, mugs, picture frames, games, soaps and bath items, or personalized items that say "Mom," "Dad," "Grandma," etc.
- Find drop-off bins in the church, school, and ECC lobbies.

NEW: Women's Advent by Candlelight

Sun., Dec. 6 • 6:30pm (Doors open at 6pm) • Saints Hall & The Commons

Join the ladies of St. Paul's for a special evening by the glow of the candlelight as we begin Advent in a spirit of worship, inspiration, and peace. Prepare for Jesus is an opportunity for women of all ages and girls eight and older to set aside the busy holiday season and focus on Christ. We will enjoy an inspirational message, "A Light in the Darkness," special music, fellowship, decorated tables, and light refreshments. Invite your family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and other sisters in Christ.

- The event is hosted by the ladies of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) and is complimentary, with a freewill offering to support their mission work.
- Register at bit.ly/StP-PFJ or through the button on our website's *News* page.

NEW: Christmas Caroling to At-Home Members

Sat., Dec. 19 • Noon

Let's bring a little Christmas joy to the doorsteps of our valued at-home members who may not be able to join us for Christmas services this year, due to mobility limitations. No singing experience required! Carolers will meet at church for lunch, hot cocoa, and Christmas cookies, and will form into groups who will visit a short list of nearby homes and care facilities, also delivering blessing bags made by our youth group. We look forward to the invitation to carol at West County Center after the visits, for carolers whose schedules allow.

- Sign-up at bit.ly/StP-Carol26 or through the button on our website's *News* page.