

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-subscribe

Sunday Classes

Bible Study Hour • 9:30am

Gospel of Matthew • 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 Room; 9th-12th: Youth Rm.

Little Lambs • School Room 103

Witness: Nov. 9

In-Person Worship Total • 715

Living Stone worship • 81

5:00pm worship • 103

8:00am worship • 173

9:30am worship • 139

11:00am worship • 219

Online Viewing

Sanctuary: 161 • Living Stone: 38

Approximately 323 total online viewers

Giving

Annual offering budget \$3,309,800

Budget year-to-date (19 weeks) 1,209,350

Received year-to-date 911,763

Difference actual/budget -297,587

Wkly. amt. needed to meet budget 72,668

Received last week 55,392

Construction Loan balance

Current debt \$2,508.516

Gifts received July 2024 to date \$18,420

Ministry Expansion Campaign

Total Commitments: \$14,585,612 • Gifts received to date: \$7,323,134



Calendar

Sunday, Nov. 16

Worship Services

Voters’ Mtg., Noon, Sanctuary

Monday, Nov. 17

Morning Men’s Bible Study, 6am

LWML Quilting Group, 9am, FH

LWBS Leaders Mtg., 9am, Conf. Room

Monday Confirm. Class, 5:30pm, YR

GriefShare, 6pm, LL4

Mission Board Mtg., 6pm, FH

Elders Study, 6:30pm, Conf. Room

Tuesday, Nov. 18

Wednesday, Nov. 19

Living Way, 9am

SPY High School Meetup, 5:30pm, YR

SPY Starters Meetup, 5:30pm, School

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm

Thursday, Nov. 20

MomCo Meetups, 9am, FH

Card-Making, 6pm, Music Room

Living Way Evening, 7pm, Conf. Room

Friday, Nov. 21

Bulletin Assembly, 9am, LL4

Saturday, Nov. 22

Worship Service, 5pm

Sunday, Nov. 23

Worship Services

Employment

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

- Church: Facilities Maintenance Technician
- Early Childhood Center: Substitute Teacher; Afternoon Shifts
- K-8 School Substitute Teacher; Homework Club

School Support

Trivia Night at the Lodge • Sat., Feb. 28, 2026

Save the date for an unforgettable trivia night, coming this February, hosted by and supporting our School, ECC, and PDO. Get ready for fun, facts, and friendly competition!

Use Your Tax Dollars to Support Lutheran Education

Taxpayers to the state of Missouri — individuals and businesses — can direct up to 50% of state taxes to Lutheran education. The MOScholars tax credit program allows the Missouri District to convert tax dollars into scholarships for qualifying students attending LCMS schools statewide, including some at our own St. Paul's Lutheran School! Reserving tax credits is easy and can be completed online in minutes; learn more and get started at mo.lcms.org/mo-scholars. Questions? Contact Leah Sieveking at 314-590-6211 or leah.sieveking@mo.lcms.org.

Missions Corner

November Mission of the Month • Mozambique church planting and pastoral education, directed by Rev. Airton Schroeder, who works with the Lutheran seminary in Pretoria, South Africa, to train pastors for the fast-growing Lutheran church in Mozambique.



THE GOOD NEWS

Saturday, November 15 and

Sunday, November 16, 2025

Sunday

Christmas Shoebox Collection • Concludes today

Thank you for joining in “Operation Christmas Shoebox” this year as we send the gift of hope around the world to children in need in 150+ countries, packed with the message of the Gospel. Details on our website’s *News* page.

NEW: Foundation Study on Confession and Absolution

Nov. 16 & 23 • 9:30am • Fellowship Hall

Join us in Foundation Bible Study for our new topic, "Confession and Absolution," as we explore the practice of confession, the gift of forgiveness, and God's mercy. The two-week series will offer a thoughtful look at how we acknowledge sin and receive grace.

Regular Voters’ Meeting

Sun., Nov. 16 • Noon • Sanctuary

A regular voters' meeting will be held, covering board and council elections, a building report, and a financial review of the previous fiscal year. Agenda and bios can be reviewed on our website; find links on our website’s *News* page.

Christian Friends of New Americans Sewing Display

Sun., Nov. 16 • Narthex

CFNA will be selling lovely handmade pieces that are crafted by Afghan women in CFNA sewing classes. They make wonderful gifts for Thanksgiving, Christmas, or other special events. Even more, each item serves as a gentle reminder to keep our Afghan sisters and their families in your prayers.

Buckmans Are Guest Speakers on Refugee Ministry

Sun., Nov. 16 • 9:30am • Church LL3

Reaching the Hearts and Minds of Refugees in Our Community: Rev. Al and Carol Buckman share insights drawn from 25 years of experience with CFNA and working alongside refugees. They welcome questions and will offer guidance on engaging with this important ministry, sharing involvement opportunities for people of all ages.

The Week Ahead: Nov. 17-23

NEW: SPY Starters Youth Event

Wed., Nov. 19 • 5:30pm-7:00pm • School building

Our SPY Starters (St. Paul’s Youth) for 1st-4th graders is all about faith-building foundations, friendships, fun, music, and games! We’ll learn a new song with motions, “Gratitude” by Brandon Lake, and enjoy pizza. Parents, make sure your kids are part of the excitement at our next event!

- To attend, children must be pre-registered at bit.ly/SPY-1-4. We need your help for a fun and safe event; please sign up to chaperone at bit.ly/3WV3pCH. Signup buttons are always on our website’s Families > Youth Ministry tab.

Monthly Card-Making Night

Thurs., Nov. 20 • 6-9pm • Music Room

Enjoy an evening of creativity and conversation, crafting three beautiful make-and-take cards. Register at bit.ly/StP-Cardmaking by 5pm on Nov. 17 so materials can be prepped; \$12/person.

Reminders

- Christmas shoeboxes due today
- Register for card-making by Nov. 17

News Just Added

8 new listings; 16 repeated listings

- New Foundation Bible study topic
- SPY Starters event • Nov. 19
- Update: Thanksgiving guest preacher
- Fellowship group luncheon • Dec. 3
- Update: Prepare for Jesus details • Dec. 7
- Order chancel poinsettias by Dec. 12
- Advent volunteers
- Christmas worship times added

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*.



News Added This Week

NEW: Fellowship Group Luncheon & Music

Wed., Dec. 3 • Noon • Off-site

Piano students from St. Paul's Lutheran School will entertain our group, following a chicken dinner catered by Young's Restaurant. RSVP by Dec 1 to Sharon Lutz at 314-713-3087. During construction, we meet at Zion Lutheran Church, 531 Meramec Station Rd., in Valley Park.

NEW Chancel Poinsettia Orders

Order by Dec. 12 • Help make our church chancel festive for the celebration of Christ's birth with the purchase of poinsettias. Each potted poinsettia is \$7.50, and you may choose to take a plant home after our 10am **Christmas Day service**. **Order yours at the church office or online at bit.ly/3JudhRq**



Seasonal Worship

Worship schedule & Advent events are also featured on our website

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Eve • Wed., Nov. 26 • 7pm

Thanksgiving Day • Thurs., Nov. 27 • 10am

Both services: Holy Communion, festival music, and choir

St. Paul's welcomes Thanksgiving guest preacher Rev. John Fale, who has served at the International Center as Associate Executive of LCMS World Relief and Human Care, as Executive Director of LCMS Office of International Mission, and as a chaplain and pastoral counselor to missionaries and their families. Previously, Rev. Fale served as Director of Pastoral Care at a Nebraska hospital and as a parish pastor.

Advent Begins

Hanging of the Green • Sun., Nov. 30

Midweek Advent Services • Wed., Dec. 3, 10, 17 • 10am & 6:15pm

Christmas

Christmas Eve • Wed., Dec. 24.

3pm • 4:30pm • 8pm Candlelight • 10pm candlelight, choir & orchestra

Christmas Day • Thurs., Dec. 25

10am • Guest preacher Rev. Dr. Heath Trampe



Service & Support

NEW: Christmas Volunteering • Faith in Action

We're grateful for the gift of time our congregation members give to St. Paul's this Advent season. Whether decorating our church for Christmas, caroling to our at-home members, volunteering at Breakfast in Bethlehem, or donating items for Gabriel's Giftshop — your help can be especially impactful this time of year. Thank you!

Military Ministry: Submit Names

St. Paul's is honored to support our military families. If you have a family member or loved one actively serving in the Armed Forces, we look forward to including them in prayers and sending care packages from our congregation. Please contact the church office at 314-822-0447 to provide their details.

Serve with the Altar Guild

Altar guild members prepare and maintain the sacred vessels, linens, and altar items used in our worship services. On Communion Sundays, guild members help with preparation, setting up, and cleaning up. We invite you to join us to serve in either the Sanctuary (contact Sue Franson at 314-498-1005) or Living Stone (contact Dyan Chong at 314-583-2771).

- **Laundry Helpers:** The Altar Guild is also seeking help with laundering and ironing/rolling our Fair Linen altar cloths, or if you have a cleaner you'd recommend, we'd be happy to follow up. Contact Sue Franson at 314-498-1005.

Advent & Christmas



Gift Donations for Gabriel's Gift Shop

Collecting Through Dec. 5

We fill Gabriel's Gift Shop 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 during the Dec. 6 Breakfast in Bethlehem morning, where all treasures are sold for \$1.

- Find drop-off bins in the church, school, and ECC lobbies.
- Suggestions include jewelry, purses, books, home decor, Christmas items, trinkets, ornaments, books, sports items, golf balls, ties, mugs, picture frames, games, soaps and bath items, re-gifted items, or personalized items that say "Mom," "Dad," "Grandma," etc. (Please note that child-age gifts are not needed.)



Music at St. Paul's

Service of Lessons & Carols • Sat., Dec. 13 & Sun., Dec. 14

Read more about the services on our website's *Music* page.



Church Christmas Decorating & Dinner

Fri., Nov. 28 • 4:30-6:30pm

Help make St. Paul's merry and bright! Catch the Christmas spirit as we put up the church Christmas trees, lights, wreaths, and our special "Chrismon" ornaments. Youth, adults, and families are all invited for this annual tradition with a complimentary light dinner. Sign up at bit.ly/47yWcfh or through our website *News* page (QR code at upper right).



Breakfast in Bethlehem

Sat., Dec. 6 • 8:30-10:30am

Join us for a morning in celebration of the first Christmas during this beloved annual St. Paul's tradition. Savor a delicious 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, Christmas carolers, and Gabriel's Gift Shop, where children can buy gifts for their family!

- \$10 per person. Limited capacity to 300 total guests (no walk-ins). Registrations and payments will be secured on a first-come, first-served basis until we reach capacity. Register through the button on our website's *News* page (QR code at upper right).
- Many volunteers are needed for a successful event! Please consider lending a helping hand; sign up through our website *News* page (QR code at upper right).



NEW: Prepare for Jesus: Women's Advent by Candlelight

Sun., Dec. 7 • 6:30pm (Doors open at 6pm) • Limited capacity

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, "Do You Know the Baby?," 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 (QR code at upper right).



Christmas Caroling to At-Home Members

Sat., Dec. 20 • Noon-5pm • Lunch Included

Let's bring a little Christmas joy to the doorsteps of our valued at-home members who are not physically able to attend Christmas services at church this year. 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. Sign up at bit.ly/StP-Carol or through the button on our website's *News* page (QR code at upper right).