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-WeeklyWord

WITNESS

Nov. 15 Worship Attendance • 926

5:00pm worship • 119
8:00am worship • 252
9:30am worship • 161
10:45am worship • 224
Living Stone worship • 170

Online Viewing

Sanctuary: 202 • Living Stone: 86
Approximately 461 total online viewers

CALENDAR

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

Monday, November 23
Monday Morning Men's Bible Study, Zoom
LWML Quilting Group, 9am, FH
Trustee Mtg., 3pm, Conf. Room
Choir Rehearsal, 7pm

Tuesday, November 24

Wednesday, November 25
Church Office closes at noon and returns Monday Nov. 30
Thanksgiving Eve Worship, 7pm

Thursday, November 26
Thanksgiving Day Worship, 10am

Friday, November 27
Christmas Decorating, 4:30pm

Saturday, November 28
Worship Service, 5pm

Sunday, November 29
Hanging of the Green: Advent Begins
Worship Services

NEW: 2027 Offering Envelopes Now Available

New offering envelopes may be picked up in the Ballas lobby (west), labeled by family name. Please stop by to collect yours to prepare for the new year. For those who prefer to schedule giving online, visit bit.ly/StP-give.

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 (20 weeks)	1,298,460
Received year-to-date	1,156,113
Difference actual/budget	-142,347
Weekly amount needed	69,371
Received last week	49,801

Debt Reduction

Current debt	$9,410,150
Gifts received July 2026 to date	$57,011

MINISTRY EXPANSION CAMPAIGN TOTAL COMMITMENTS

$14,585,612 • Gifts received to date: $10,230,816

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

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.

Auction Donations, Sponsors, Ticket Waitlist

We are grateful for your support of *Beads, Bids & Blessings:* Tickets have sold out, but waitlist tickets are available online. The auction team is seeking item donations, including gift cards, experiences, sports tickets, themed baskets, and more. Details at bit.ly/STPSAUCTION2027. Read more in our *Weekly Word* e-letter.

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*

THE GOOD NEWS

NOVEMBER 22, 2026

TODAY

Music at St. Paul's • ***Cantata Vespers • 3pm***

THE WEEK AHEAD: NOV. 23-29

Christmas Decorating & Dinner

Fri., Nov. 27 • 4:30-6:30pm
Progress report: Seeking 21 more helpers



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.

Serving at Ronald McDonald House

Fri., Nov. 27 • 4:30pm



Progress report: Seeking 7 more helpers • 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.

Hanging of the Green: Advent Begins Sun., Nov. 29



MUSIC AT ST PAUL'S

Sun., Nov. 22 • 3pm

Vespers for Christ the King

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.

WHAT'S NEW?

NEWS JUST ADDED

1. Hanging of the Green • Nov. 29
2. Midweek Advent services & theme
3. LINK 21+ Friendsgiving • Dec. 4
4. Missionary presentation • Dec. 6
5. Gift tree for CFNA • Return by Dec. 6
6. Small-setting Communion • Dec. 7
7. Christian readers group • Dec. 8
8. Music at St. Paul's: Service of Lessons & Carols • Dec. 12 & 13
9. Extra links for Thrivent Giving Tuesday on Dec. 1
10. Updated: Mission board flyer
11. 2027 Offering envelopes (back page)

REMINDERS

• Giving Tuesday is Dec. 1

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



ACTIVITIES

NEW: "LINK" 21+ Friendsgiving



Fri., Dec. 4 • 6pm • RSVP by Dec. 2
Join us for fellowship, food, and thankful hearts at the LINK friendsgiving meal!

- RSVP by Dec. 2 to Joel Stoppenhagen at jstoppenhagen@stpaulsdp.org to attend and for more details.
- What is "LINK"? LINK is St. Paul's young adult group for ages 21+ that gathers for social meetups, Christian fellowship, Bible studies, and service projects. Friends are always welcome.

NEW: Visiting Missionary Presentation

Sun., Dec. 6 • 9:30am • LL3
"From folk religion to missionary" • Rev. Ed and Yin Lim, natives of Singapore, came from a Chinese folk religious background and became Christians in their teens through the work of Lutheran missionaries. Now they are missionaries themselves in a large East Asia city. Come hear their story and about their current work. It promises to be fascinating!

NEW: Christian Readers Group

Tues., Dec. 8 • 7pm • FH
Join us in December as we read Henri Nouwen's *Making All Things New*. 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.

NEW: Small-Setting Communion

Mon., Dec. 7 • Noon • Special monthly worship with Communion for members who may prefer to avoid large crowds or who manage mobility issues.

ADVENT BEGINS
Hanging of the Green

Sunday, Nov. 29 • Sanctuary & Living Stone

The joyous season of Advent begins with our "Hanging of the Green" services next Sunday. We see the familiar and cherished symbols of the church season make their first appearance: the Advent wreath and its candles, nave wreaths, blue altar cloths and banners, and the chancel Christmas trees, which are lit during the service as the congregation sings, "Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!"

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES & DINNERS

Wed., Dec. 2 & 9 • 11am & 6pm
Advent Dinners 4:45-5:45pm • Saints Hall

Wednesday morning and evening midweek Advent services invite us to prepare our hearts through Word and Sacrament.

Advent Sermon Theme: "Decorating for Christmas"

Based on the Chrismon ornaments that we use to decorate our church Christmas trees.

(Please note that midweek services on Wed., Dec. 16 at 11am & 6pm are the School Christmas Program. An off-site evening dine-out fundraiser will be held)

GIVING TUESDAY IS DECEMBER 1

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

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.

- Quickly find St. Paul's listing on Thrivent's website through the shortcut at *bit.ly/StP-Thrivent*
- Learn how to make your donation eligible at *thrivent.com/give* under the FAQ/Making a Donation section

THANK YOU FROM THE BOARD OF MISSIONS

Updated Flyer Link | 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 in our flyer at the east lobby welcome center, via QR code at right, or at bit.ly/3UBUObb.



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAUL'S

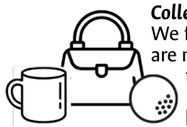
Breakfast in Bethlehem



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 • Drop off to church, school, and ECC lobbies.
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.

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 Gift Tree Benefiting CFNA Children



Return gifts by Sun., Dec. 6
Displayed in our church lobby is a small Christmas tree with gift tags suggesting gifts from the wish lists of 15 immigrant and refugee children served by Christian Friends of New Americans. You're invited to choose a tag and shop for the suggested Christmas gift. Please return wrapped gift, with the tag, and place in the plastic bin marked CFNA by Dec. 6.

NEW: Music at St. Paul's • Service of Lessons and Carols



Sat., Dec. 12 (5pm worship service) & Sun., Dec. 13 at 4pm
By the glow of candlelight, the congregation will have opportunities to sing familiar Christmas hymns and carols of the season, with Scripture readings and musical selections by the choirs and instrumentalists of St. Paul's. Find peace and joy this Advent season, and as we hear the Good News of Christmas: Jesus Christ was born for you!

Christmas Caroling to At-Home Members



Sat., Dec. 19 • Noon • FH
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.

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