

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

Calendar

Sunday, Nov. 23
Worship Services
Monday, Nov. 24
Morning Men’s Bible Study, 6am
Monday Confirm. Class, 5:30pm, YR
GriefShare, 6pm, LL4
Choir Rehearsal, 7pm
Tuesday, Nov. 25
Wednesday, Nov. 26
Thanksgiving Worship Service, 7pm
Thursday, Nov. 27
Thanksgiving Worship Service, 10am
Friday, Nov. 28
Christmas decorating & dinner, 4:30pm
Saturday, Nov. 29
Worship Service, 5pm
Sunday, Nov. 30
Worship Services
Hanging of the Green: Advent Begins

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*.

Witness: Nov. 16

In-Person Worship Total • 780
Living Stone worship • 97
5:00pm worship • 101
8:00am worship • 240
9:30am worship • 152
11:00am worship • 190
Online Viewing
Sanctuary: 156 • Living Stone: 40
Approximately 314 total online viewers

Giving

Annual offering budget \$3,309,800
Budget year-to-date (20 weeks) 1,273,000
Received year-to-date 975,619
Difference actual/budget -297,381
Wkly. amt. needed to meet budget 72,943
Received last week 63,856

Construction Loan balance
Current debt \$2,508,816
Gifts received July 2024 to date \$19,042

Ministry Expansion Campaign

Total Commitments: \$14,585,612 • Gifts received to date: \$7,353,980



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
Registration is now open at bit.ly/43DXaaE. Join us for the first-ever St. Paul's community trivia night benefiting our "Faithful Four" — our church, school, ECC, and PDO. Get ready for fun, facts, and friendly competition!

Use Your Tax Dollars to Support Lutheran Education

Learn more and get started at mo.lcms.org/mo-scholars.

Missions Corner

November Mission of the Month • Mozambique church planting.

Military Ministry

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.

Community News

NEW: Seminary's Advent Lessons and Carols Service

Tues., Dec. 2 • 7pm • Concordia Seminary Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus
You are invited to a special service featuring music performed by the Seminary Chamber Choir, Laudamus, St. Louis Lutheran Chorale, Concordia Seminary Children’s Choir, Concordia Seminary Youth Choir, and talented instrumentalists. You will see familiar faces from St. Paul's in all of the choirs. A reception will follow in Koburg Hall.



THE GOOD NEWS

Saturday, November 22 and
Sunday, November 23, 2025

Sunday

Foundation Study on Confession and Absolution

Nov. 23 • 9:30am • FH

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

The Week Ahead: Nov. 24-30

NEW: Quilting Group Reminder • No meeting on Mon., Nov. 24.

Christmas Decorating & Dinner

Fri., Nov. 28 • 4:30-6:30pm



Twelve helpers still needed • 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’s News page.

NEW: Happy Third Birthday, Zion Comfort Dog

Nov. 28 marks Zion’s third birthday, as she continues serving with her team in Christian comfort ministry, joining Tabby Comfort Dog in bringing care to our community.



Sun., Nov. 30 • Advent Begins

With the *Hanging of the Green* next Sunday, we see the familiar and cherished symbols of the church season make their first appearance: the Advent wreath and its candles, greenery, 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!”

Join Us in Christmas Season Volunteering



We’re grateful for the gift of time our congregation members give to St. Paul’s this Advent season — please consider sharing your time and talents. 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.

Reminders

- Helpers still needed to decorate church on Black Friday
- ECC priority enrollment closes Dec. 15

News Just Added

8 new listings; 13 repeated listings

- Children’s gift tree • Due Dec. 8
- ECC priority enrollment for congregation members
- Take survey about potential Lutheran West High School
- Nov. 28 is Zion’s birthday
- 2026 offering envelopes available
- ECC hiring substitute teachers
- Quilters do not meet on Nov. 24
- Feb. 28 trivia registration now open
- *Community News*: Seminary Advent service • Dec. 2

Thanksgiving Worship

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.





News Added This Week



NEW: Christmas Gifts for CFNA Children

Select a tag, wrap a gift!

Collecting Through Dec. 8 • East Lobby

Wish lists for children in need at Christian Friends of New Americans are written on ornament tags for you to choose. Please look in the east lobby for the small tabletop Christmas tree loaded with tags. Choose an item and bring back the wrapped gift to be placed in the red tote labeled "CFNA Christmas Gifts."

NEW: ECC Priority Enrollment for Church Members

Deadline: Mon., Dec. 15 at 5pm

As a St. Paul's Church member, you receive priority consideration for enrollment at St. Paul's Early Childhood Center. If you have a younger child (ages 10 weeks to 4 years old) and would like to be considered for the upcoming school year, please complete the "Intent to Enroll" form online at bit.ly/ECC-enroll. While we are not always able to accommodate every request, completing the form by the deadline ensures your family receives priority in our placement process. We look forward to the opportunity to partner with you!

NEW: 2026 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.

NEW: Input Sought for Potential Lutheran West High School

The Lutheran High School Development Committee of West St. Louis County is exploring the launch of a new Lutheran high school in West St. Louis County. They would like your input in this early phase of the process. Please scan this QR code and complete the survey or go to newlutheranhighschool.com. Further questions can be directed to St. Paul's members Andrew Foley and Rob Claus, as well as Pastor Wade, who have served on the development committee over the past year.

NEW: ECC Substitute Teachers Wanted!

The ECC is looking for substitutes to help out from time to time. Enjoy flexible hours, spend your day engaging with curious, energetic kids, and be part of the laughter, learning, and daily adventures that make our classrooms so lively! Contact Jessica Bangert at jbangert@stpaulsdp.org.



Meetings & Groups

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.

Seasonal Worship

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 • 10:30pm candlelight, choir & orchestra

Christmas Day • Thurs., Dec. 25

10am • Guest preacher Rev. Dr. Heath Trampe

Seasonal Worship Web Page

www.stpaulsdesperes.org/seasonal

Seasonal Events Web Page: Info & Signups

www.stpaulsdesperes.org/news

Christmas Collection



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.)

We're running lower than normal on gift shop items. Please drop off any "treasures" soon

Advent & Christmas



Breakfast in Bethlehem

Sat., Dec. 6 • 8:30-10:30am

Update: 82% filled • 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 above).
- Many volunteers are needed for a successful event! Please consider lending a helping hand; sign up through our website *News* page (QR code above).



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 our website's *News* page (QR code above).



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



Music at St. Paul's

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

Rejoice, refresh, renew! Read more on our website's *Music* page.



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 that will visit a short list of nearby homes and care facilities, and West County mall (optional); we'll also deliver blessing bags. Sign up at bit.ly/StP-Carol or through the button on our website's *News* page (QR code above.)