ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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

WITNESS

Nov. 22 Worship Attendance • 774

5:00pm worship • 98
8:00am worship • 228
9:30am worship • 154
10:45am worship • 156
Living Stone worship • 138

Online Viewing

Sanctuary: 215 • Living Stone: 68
Approximately 453 total online viewers

CALENDAR

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

Monday, November 30
Monday Morning Men's Bible Study, Zoom
LWBS Leaders Mtg., 9am, Conf. Room
LWML Quilting Group, 9am, FH

Tuesday, December 1

Wednesday, December 2
Living Way Bible Study, 9am
Advent Services, 11am & 6pm,
Advent Dinner, 4:45pm, Saints Hall
Choir Rehearsal, 7pm

Thursday, December 3
MomCo Meetups, 9am, FH
Living Way Bible Study, 7pm, Conf. Room

Friday, December 4
Bulletin Assembly, 9am, LL4

Saturday, December 5
Breakfast in Bethlehem, 8:30am
Worship Service, 5pm

Sunday, December 6
Worship Services
Prepare for Jesus, 6:30pm, Saints Hall

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's *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

GIVING

Annual offering budget	$3,375,996
Budget year-to-date (21 weeks)	1,363,383
Received year-to-date	1,183,097
Difference actual/budget	-180,286
Weekly amount needed	70,739
Received last week	26,984

Debt Reduction

Current debt	$9,410,150
Gifts received July 2026 to date	$57,351

MINISTRY EXPANSION CAMPAIGN TOTAL COMMITMENTS

$14,585,612 • Gifts received to date: $10,288,045

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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Find all community news and area LCMS event listings in our *Weekly Word* e-letter.

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

- **School Christmas Program (3rd-4th)** • *Tues., Dec. 8 • 6:30pm*
- **School Christmas Program (K-2nd)** • *Living Stone • Dec. 13 • 10:45am*
- **School Christmas Program (5th-8th)** • *Wed., Dec 16 • 11am & 6pm*

THE GOOD NEWS

NOVEMBER 29, 2026

TODAY

NEW: Agnus Dei Greeting Cards & Gifts

Sun., Nov. 29 • 9am • Ballas Lobby
Sun., Dec 13 • 9am • South window corridor adjacent to The Commons

Agnus Dei Liturgical Arts, with artist Kelly Uffenbeck of the congregation, will display religious art prints, liturgical greeting cards, and illustrated hymn books for sale this Christmas season.

THE WEEK AHEAD: NOV. 30 - DEC. 6

Midweek Advent Services & Dinner • ***Wed., Dec. 2*** • *Details, next page*

LAST DAYS: Gift Donations for Gabriel's Gift Shop

Collecting Through 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 of 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.

"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 to attend and for more details: jstoppenhagen@stpaulsdp.org.

- What is "LINK"? Get connected with 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.

Breakfast in Bethlehem • ***Sat., Dec. 5*** • *Details, next page*

Women's Advent by Candlelight • ***Sun., Dec. 6*** • *Details, next page*

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!

WHAT'S NEW?

NEWS JUST ADDED

1. Happy 4th birthday, Zion
2. Agnus Dei gifts • Nov. 29
3. Christmas shoebox thanks
4. Advent dinner menu • Dec. 2
5. Poinsettia orders • Due Dec. 12

REMINDERS

- Giving Tuesday is Dec. 1
- Last week for Gabriel's Gift Shop donations
- RSVP for LINK Friendsgiving by Dec. 2

LARGE-PRINT

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

TODAY

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 today. 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!"

GIVING TUESDAY IS DECEMBER 1

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

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES

Wednesdays: Dec. 2 & 9 • 11am & 6pm Worship

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

ADVENT DINNERS

Wednesday night dinners during Advent are a tradition at St. Paul's — a time to gather before evening services and enjoy fellowship among the congregation. We have a delicious menu lineup planned and invite you to join us as we look forward to the return of church dinners, now in our beautiful new Saints Hall.

Wed., Dec. 2 • 4:45-5:45pm • Saints Hall

Menu by chef Brad Krueger: Pasta con broccoli with chicken, fresh tossed salad, garlic breadsticks, and dessert. Hosted by and supporting MomCo (freewill dinner offering).

ADVENT SERMON THEME

"Decorating for Christmas," drawn from the Chrismon ornaments adorning our church Christmas trees, and their symbolism.

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

SHOEBOX THANKS

You made it happen — thank you! From Des Peres to more than 100 countries around the world, 384 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes will be launched with the Gospel message of CHRISTmas.



ACTIVITIES

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.

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.

COMFORT DOG MINISTRY

NEW: Happy Birthday, Zion!



Zion Comfort Dog celebrated her fourth birthday yesterday, on Nov. 28. Now in her second year of service at St. Paul's, Zion and her team serve in Christian care outreach to our community, along with Tabby Comfort Dog.

2027 Offering Envelopes 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.

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.

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.

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.

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!

NEW: Chancel Poinsettia Orders

Order by Sun., 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 or through the button on our website's *News* page.

Christmas Caroling to At-Home Members

Sat., Dec. 19 • Noon • FH

Progress report: Seeking 50+ more carolers

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.