

ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

12345 Manchester Rd. • Des Peres, MO 63131 • 314.822.0447

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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. 30
Worship Services
Hanging of the Green: Advent Begins

Monday, Dec. 1
Morning Men’s Bible Study, 6am
LWML Quilting Group, 9am, FH
Small-Setting Communion, Noon
Monday Confirm. Class, 5:30pm, YR
Elders, 6:30pm, FH

Tuesday, Dec. 2
Wednesday, Dec. 3
Advent Services, 10am, 6:15pm,
 dinner offsite
Fellowship Luncheon, Noon, offsite
SPY High School Meetups, 5:30pm,
Choir Rehearsal, 7pm

Thursday, Dec. 4
MomCo Meetup, 9am

Friday, Dec. 5
Bulletin Assembly, 9am, LL4

Saturday, Dec. 6
Breakfast in Bethlehem, 8:30am
Worship Service, 5pm

Sunday, Dec. 7
Worship Services
Prepare for Jesus., 6:30pm, FH

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. 23

In-Person Worship Total • 836
Living Stone worship • 87
5:00pm worship • 132
8:00am worship • 227
9:30am worship • 204
11:00am worship • 186

Online Viewing
Sanctuary: 156 • **Living Stone:** 32
Approximately 301 total online viewers

Giving

Annual offering budget	\$3,309,800
Budget year-to-date (21 weeks)	1,336,650
Received year-to-date	1,016,812
Difference actual/budget	-319,967
Weekly Amount Needed	73,967
Received last week	41,193

Construction Loan balance
Current debt \$ 2,508,816
Gifts received July 2024 to date \$ 19,707

Ministry Expansion Campaign

Total Commitments: \$14,585,612 • Gifts received to date: \$7,400,943



Employment

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

- Early Childhood Center: Substitute Teacher; Afternoon Shifts
- K-8 School Substitute Teacher; Homework Club

Now Hiring: ECC Substitute Teachers

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.

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.

Community News

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 29 and

Sunday, November 30, 2025

Sunday

Today • Advent Begins

With the *Hanging of the Green* today, 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!”

NEW: Foundation Study for Advent

Sun., Nov. 30-Dec. 21 • 9:30am • FH
In our four-week Advent series, "The Final Four," we'll trace unfolding themes across Scripture through the final four Old Testament prophets — Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi — fitting the spirit of Advent preparation.

NEW: Popcorn Sale Benefits Youth Mission Trip

Sun., Nov. 30 • 9am • Ballas Lobby
Popcorn for a purpose! The youth group’s “Double Good” brand popcorn fundraiser does double duty: you enjoy award-winning, ultra-premium popcorn, and 50% of every bag ordered supports our youth group and their mission trip this summer to Niagara Falls. Choose from popular flavors like ranch, cheddar, kettle corn, caramel, spicy queso, butter, and more. Get poppin’ and don’t miss the five-day-only sale, starting this Sunday at 9:00am. Order online at bit.ly/Pop-25 or look for the high school table in the west lobby on Sunday. Great for stocking stuffers: orders will arrive just in time for Christmas!

NEW: Agnus Dei Greeting Cards & Gifts

Sun., Nov. 30 • 9am • Ballas Lobby
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: Dec. 1-7

NEW: Small-Setting Communion

Mon., Dec. 1 • Noon
Special monthly worship service with Communion for members who may prefer to avoid large crowds or who have mobility issues.

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.

Breakfast in Bethlehem & Prepare for Jesus

Dec. 6 & 7 • Both Christmas events are next weekend: Read more on the next page and finalize your event registration, or volunteer as a helper.

Reminders

- Bring gifts for Gabriel's Giftshop by Dec. 5
- Return gift for CFNA tree by Dec. 8
- RSVP by Dec. 1 for Fellowship Christmas luncheon
- ECC priority enrollment closes Dec. 15

News Just Added

7 new listings; 17 repeated listings

- Advent Bible study in Foundation
- Youth popcorn sale (5 days only)
- Agnus Dei gift display
- Parents' Day Out tours
- Small-setting Communion • Dec. 1
- Christian readers group • Dec. 9
- Christmas shoebox thanks



News Added This Week

NEW: Christian Readers Group

Tues., Dec. 9 • 7pm • Conf. Room

Led by Rev. Dr. Kent Bureson, the group reads across a variety of genres, exploring Christian themes and how literature informs Christian faith and life. December's book is Stephen Hower's *The Man in the Middle*.

NEW: Christmas Shoebox Thanks

You made it happen — thank you! From Des Peres to more than 100 countries around the world, 312 shoeboxes will be launched with the Gospel message of CHRISTmas. Special thanks to Pastor Wade, who helped initiate a collection with Lutheran High School South that yielded an additional 146 shoeboxes that arrived at St. Paul's.

School News

NEW: Parents' Day Out Tours Happening Now!

PDO enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year begins in January. As a church family, you will have priority. Contact Andrea Bluhm (abluhm@stpaulsdp.org) to schedule a tour today!

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!

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.

Announcements

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.



Midweek Advent Services

Wednesdays: Dec. 3, 10, 17
10am & 6:15pm

Advent Worship • Join us for Wednesday morning and evening midweek Advent services as we prepare our hearts this Advent season for the coming of our Savior; our sermon theme will be "The Songs of Advent."

Advent Dinners • St. Paul's continues its tradition of Wednesday congregational Advent dinners, but due to 2025 construction and space constraints, this year dining will switch offsite to dine-out fundraiser days at area restaurants.

Dec. 3 Advent Dining • Shake Shack • 10:30am - 10pm

- Our first Wednesday dine-out fundraiser day is hosted by and supports St. Paul's MomCo group, which earns 25% on orders.
- Dine at the Des Peres Shake Shack and mention "Donation Day" at the register or drive-through, or use promo code "DONATE" when placing app, web, or kiosk orders. Address: 13239 Manchester Rd, 63131.

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

Christmas Collections



Christmas Gifts for CFNA Children

Collecting Through Dec. 8 • East Lobby

Select a tag, wrap a gift! 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."



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.)

All gift collections conclude in the next 5-8 days



Advent Events



Breakfast in Bethlehem

Sat., Dec. 6 • 8:30-10:30am

Update: 68% 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 at bit.ly/43P5BA7 or through 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.)