

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, Dec. 7

Worship Services

Prepare for Jesus, 6:30pm, FH

Monday, Dec. 8

Morning Men’s Bible Study, 6am

LWML Quilting Group, 9am, FH

LWML Mtg., 12:30pm, FH

Tuesday, Dec. 9

Christian Readers Group, 7pm, Conf. Room

Wednesday, Dec. 10

Advent Services, 10am, 6:15pm,

Dine-out fundraiser

SPY High School Meetup, 5:30pm,

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm

Thursday, Dec. 11

Friday, Dec. 12

Bulletin Assembly, 9am, LL4

Saturday, Dec. 13

Worship Service, 5pm, MASP Lessons &
Carols

Sunday, Dec. 14

Worship Services

MASP Lessons & Carols, 4pm

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. 30

In-Person Worship Total • 740

Living Stone worship • 91

5:00pm worship • 36

8:00am worship • 218

9:30am worship • 234

11:00am worship • 161

Online Viewing

Sanctuary: 275 • Living Stone: 62

Approximately 539 total online viewers

Giving

Annual offering budget \$3,309,800

Budget year-to-date (22 weeks) 1,400,300

Received year-to-date 1,047,985

Difference actual/budget -352,315

Weekly Amount Needed 75,394

Received last week 31,173

Construction Loan balance

Current debt \$2,508,816

Gifts received July 2024 to date \$20,193

Ministry Expansion Campaign

Total Commitments: \$14,585,612 • Gifts received to date: \$7,427,539



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.

Missions Corner

December Mission of the Month • *Christian Friends of New Americans* outreach ministry to immigrants and refugees in the greater St. Louis area.

November Mission of the Month Collections • Mozambique church planting: \$3,831

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.

2026 Offering Envelopes

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.

Community News

Community news appears in our Weekly Word e-letter. New highlights include:

- **St. Louis Children's Choir Concert** • Dec. 7 • 4pm • Powell Hall
- **Ambassadors of Harmony Concert** • Dec. 12-14 • Touhill at UMSL



THE GOOD NEWS

Saturday, December 6 and

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Sunday



Prepare for Jesus: Women’s Advent by Candlelight

Tonight • 6:30pm (Doors open at 6pm)

Foundation Study for Advent

Sundays Through 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.

The Week Ahead: Dec. 8-14

NEW: Kantor Gerhardt on KFUO Radio

Mon., Dec. 8 • 9am • KFUO 850am or kfuo.org

Tune in Monday for KFUO’s “Coffee Hour” show to hear Kantor Matt Gerhardt interviewed about our music ministry and next weekend’s Service of Lessons and Carols. St. Paul’s is KFUO’s “church of the week.”

NEW: LWML Christmas Fellowship & Service Project

Mon., Dec. 8 • 12:30/1pm • FH

Join us early at 12:30 with a brown bag lunch if you’d like. At 1:00, we’ll assemble military care packages: please bring a dozen bar cookies, protein bars, or other items that ship well (see newsletter for suggestions). We will fellowship with Christmas treats and also have supplies to make cross necklaces for Forged by Fire.



Christmas Gifts for CFNA Children

Return by Mon., Dec. 8 • East Lobby • All gift tags have been taken: thank you for your generosity!

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*.

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

NEW: Homemade Christmas Cookies from Girl Scouts

Sun., Dec. 14 • Lobbies

Please stop by the church lobbies between services, where St. Paul’s Girl Scout Troop will be offering homemade Christmas cookies, and will be accepting freewill offerings to support the troop.



Reminders

- Return gift for CFNA children’s gifts by Dec. 8
- Poinsettia orders due by Dec. 12
- ECC priority enrollment closes Dec. 15

News Just Added

10 new listings; 16 repeated listings

- Kantor on KFUO • Dec. 8
- LWML Christmas meeting • Dec. 8
- Scouts’ homemade cookies • Dec. 14
- Christmas card tree
- Advent devotion booklets
- East entrance concrete & salt
- LWML delivers 200 quilts
- Pastor Schudde continues
- Shoebox thank you
- “Ignite Your Why” Young adult conference • Jan. 3



News Added This Week

NEW: Christmas Card Tree

Through Thurs., Dec. 18

Share a Christmas card greeting with the congregation while supporting our Altar Guild. Here's how it works: Instead of purchasing extra Christmas cards and stamps for St. Paul's friends, many families like to donate that cost instead and save the time of addressing cards! We'll hang your holiday card on our Ballas lobby tree and list your name as a participant in the card fundraiser, displayed on large Christmas thank-you banners in the narthex.

- This year, all proceeds will help the Altar Guild in funding "Fair Linen" altar cloths.
- Please mail or drop off your card and donation to the church office; those received by Dec. 18 will be displayed on the Christmas banners.
- The card tree is coordinated by the LWML.



NEW: Free Advent Devotion Booklets

Advent devotion booklets are available in a basket in the Ballas Lobby. Please enjoy a complimentary copy for your Advent reflections as we rejoice in the hope of our Savior's birth.

NEW: Curing Concrete & Salt Precautions

You may have noticed that the new east-side sidewalks and parking pavers are unsalted. This is intentional: the concrete needs time to fully cure, and salt can cause damage during its first winter. The east parking area uses *permeable interlocking concrete pavement (PICP)*, which serves as a government-mandated stormwater drainage system. Because regulations prohibit salt use on these surfaces, we are following required standards. Rest assured, alternative snow and ice removal measures are in place to keep the area safe.



NEW: LWML Quilts Delivered Before Snowy Weather

St. Paul's LWML group delivered 200 handmade quilts just before the snowy weather hit the St. Louis region. They partnered with Bethlehem Lutheran, Trinity Lutheran, Soulard, and First Steps Back Home in St. Charles, a faith-based non-profit public charity serving the homeless and working poor in St. Charles, Lincoln, and Warren Counties in Missouri.

NEW: Pastor Schudde Continues at St. Paul's

We are pleased to announce that Pastor Schudde will continue serving St. Paul's as our vacancy senior pastor, as our elders and church council have voted to extend Pastor's contract through May. His faithful leadership has been a blessing and an invaluable gift during this season of prayerful consideration as we await our next senior pastor.

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.

NEW: "Ignite Your Why" Young Adult Conference

Sat., Jan. 3 • 8:30am-3:30pm • Off-Site

Pastor Wade is involved with an impactful conference for young adults, and encourages college students home on break, and all those age 18-30, to attend. Are you a young adult navigating what it means to follow Jesus in today's world? At IYW, you'll be equipped to live out your faith with courage and clarity through engaging sessions, real-life stories, and practical tools. Connect with other young adults who are passionate about making Christ known in their daily lives. Location: Lutheran High School South; register online or by contacting Pastor Wade.

- Register at bit.ly/3KGJXHJ • Flyer at bit.ly/48uocCY



Service of Lessons and Carols

Music at St. Paul's
Saturday, Dec. 13 at 5pm
Sunday, Dec. 14 at 4pm

By shimmering candlelight, the congregation will have opportunities to sing familiar Christmas hymns and carols of the season, with scripture readings, and musical offerings by the choirs and instrumentalists of St. Paul's.

Come away from the noise, the hectic pace, and the pressures of the season, and be refreshed and renewed by the message of the heavenly angels: *The Savior, Jesus Christ, was born for you.*

Please join us and invite your family and friends. Complimentary with a freewill offering. A cookie and punch reception will follow.

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 right.)



Midweek Advent Services

Wednesdays • Dec. 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."

Dec. 10 Advent Dining • Panera • 4-8pm

- Hosted by and supports St. Paul's eighth-grade class, which earns 25%
- Des Peres Panera at 13275 Manchester Rd., 63131
- In the cafe, please show a digital copy of the flyer (at bit.ly/448YkLH) or bring in a printed copy to ensure St. Paul's receives credit
- When placing kiosk, app, or web orders, use the promo code "FUND4U"



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



Advent Worship • Web Page

www.stpaulsdesperes.org/seasonal

Advent Events • Info & Signups

www.stpaulsdesperes.org/news



School News

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!

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!

Trivia Night

Sat., Feb. 28, 2026 • Location: the Lodge

- 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!

Input Sought for Potential Lutheran West High School

A steering committee is exploring launching a new Lutheran high school in west St. Louis County. The five-minute survey at newlutheranhighschool.com (see QR code) is the first public step in gauging community interest; your voice matters! Learn more from St. Paul's congregation members who are serving on the development committee: Pastor Wade, Andrew Foley, and Rob Claus.

