

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](https://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. 14**  
Worship Services  
MASP Lessons & Carols, 4pm  
**Monday, Dec. 15**  
Morning Men’s Bible Study, 6am  
Mission Board Mtg., 6pm, FH  
MomCo After Dark Meetups, 7pm,  
Music Room  
**Tuesday, Dec. 16**  
**Wednesday, Dec. 17**  
Middle School Advent Services, 10am,  
6:15pm, Dine-out fundraiser  
SPY High School Meetup, 5:30pm,  
Choir Rehearsal, 7pm  
**Thursday, Dec. 18**  
MomCo Meetups, 9am, FH  
**Friday, Dec. 19**  
Bulletin Assembly, 9am, LL4  
**Saturday, Dec. 20**  
Christmas Caroling  
Worship Service, 5pm,  
**Sunday, Dec. 21**  
Worship Services

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: Dec. 7

**In-Person Worship Total • 967**  
Wednesday Advent Service • 222  
Living Stone worship • 80  
5:00pm worship • 117  
8:00am worship • 224  
9:30am worship • 169  
11:00am worship • 155  
**Online Viewing**  
**Sanctuary: 158 • Living Stone: 40**  
Approximately 317 total online viewers

Giving

Annual offering budget	\$3,309,800
Budget year-to-date (23 weeks)	1,463,950
Received year-to-date	1,121,520
Difference actual/budget	-342,430
Weekly Amount Needed	75,458
Received last week	73,535

**Construction Loan balance**  
Current debt \$ 3,505,851  
Gifts received July 2024 to date \$ 20,747

Ministry Expansion Campaign

Total Commitments: \$14,585,612 • Gifts received to date: \$7,496,730



Employment

Visit our church website for job details: [stpaulsdesperes.org/news/employment](https://stpaulsdesperes.org/news/employment)  
• Early Childhood Center: Substitute Teacher; Afternoon Shifts  
• K-8 School Substitute Teacher; Homework Club

Missions Corner

**December Mission of the Month •** Christian Friends of New Americans

NEW: Missionary Shepelev Health News

For many years, St. Paul’s has helped to support the missionary work of Pastor Alexey Shepelev in Russia. Unfortunately, Alexey has been diagnosed with cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy. But his work continues and is even expanding through WordRus, the mission society that supports Alexey’s Gospel outreach among speakers of Russian and other Slavic languages. Read his latest newsletter in our *Weekly Word* e-news.

LCMS Synod Leadership Nominations

**NEW:** As part of the 2026 LCMS Synod Convention, each LCMS congregation is encouraged to nominate up to two pastors to serve in each of the following offices: Synod President, First Vice-President, and Regional Vice-President; a description of the duties of each office is available at [www.lcms.org/convention/governance/nominations](https://www.lcms.org/convention/governance/nominations). Each St. Paul’s voting member may submit only one ballot, and members are invited to nominate a pastor for each of the three offices. Paper ballots and a collection box can be found at our east lobby information counter (email options TBA). Prior to the February 18 nomination deadline, St. Paul’s will nominate the two names that have received the most nominations for each office.



THE GOOD NEWS

Saturday, December 13 and  
**Sunday, December 14, 2025**

Sunday

Homemade Christmas Cookies from Girl Scouts

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.

The Week Ahead: Dec. 15-21

Christmas Card Tree

**Due by 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. The card tree is coordinated by the LWML.
- 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.

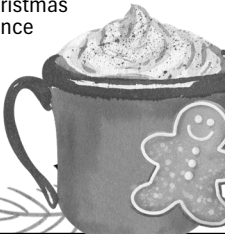
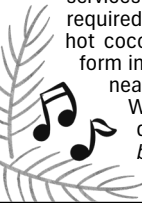


Christmas Caroling  
to At-Home Members



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](https://bit.ly/StP-Carol) or via QR code above.



Reminders

- ECC priority enrollment closes Dec. 15
- Cards for the Card Tree due Dec. 18
- See Dec. 27 & 28 worship schedule changes

News Just Added

- 5 new listings; 9 repeated listings
- Submit nominations for senior pastor
  - Church office holiday schedule
  - Church newsletter holiday schedule
  - Missionary Shepelev news (back page)
  - LCMS district nominations (back page)



Service of Lessons  
and Carols

**Music at St. Paul’s  
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 rush, busyness, and bustle of the season, and be refreshed by the peace of Christmas — the light of Christ’s coming

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



*“O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant.”  
Christ is the heart and center of Christmas. Gather with us for Christmas Eve  
and Christmas Day services as we joyfully welcome our Savior’s birth.*

**Advent & Christmas details on Website: [stpaulsdesperes.org/seasonal](http://stpaulsdesperes.org/seasonal)**

## ADVENT WORSHIP & DINING

### FINAL MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17

**10:00 AM & 6:15 PM**

Presented by 5th-8th grade school classes

### DINE-OUT FUNDRAISER • PORANO ITALIAN WED., DEC. 17 • 11AM - 9PM

- Hosted by and supports St. Paul's youth group, which earns 15% on orders.
- Des Peres Porano at 13323 Manchester Rd., 63131.
- Please mention St. Paul's when placing your order or use code “DONATE” at the kiosk.

## WORSHIP CHANGES

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

No 5:00pm Saturday evening service

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

Two sanctuary worship services are scheduled at 8:00 and 10:00am

Living Stone will remain at 10:45am

No Sunday School or Bible classes

Fellowship breakfast will be scheduled as usual from 9:00-9:30am

## CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR’S WORSHIP

### CHRISTMAS EVE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

**3:00 PM**

Will be livestreamed at  
[stpaulsdesperes.org/media](http://stpaulsdesperes.org/media)

**4:30 PM**

**8:00 PM**  
Candlelight

**10:30 PM**  
Candlelight with choir  
and orchestra

### CHRISTMAS DAY THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

**10:00 AM**

With choir and brass  
Guest preacher Rev. Dr. Health Trampe

### NEW YEAR’S EVE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31 • 5:00 PM

Holy Communion at all  
Christmas and New Year’s services

WEBSITE NEWS PAGE, SIGN-UP LINKS, AND NEWS SUBMISSION FORM AT [STPAULSDESPERES.ORG/NEWS](http://STPAULSDESPERES.ORG/NEWS)



## Pastor Call Update

### NEW: Pastoral Call Committee Seeks Your Input

St. Paul’s is assembling a new Senior Pastor Call Committee shortly after Christmas. In order to speed up the Call process, we are currently seeking nominations for senior pastor from the congregation. Official Missouri District nomination forms will be available in paper format starting this Sunday at the east lobby information counter. We value everyone’s input as we seek God’s will on calling our next senior pastor.

As is customary, the previous Call Committee has been honorably released, and our leadership and congregation extend their thanks and deep appreciation for the 2024-2025 committee’s dedicated months of service in this vocation, trusting that the Lord continues to guide His Church in the Call process.

## Announcements

### NEW: Church Office Closed for Holidays

In observance of Christmas and New Year’s, the church office will be closed from Tues., December 23, at noon, reopening on Mon., January 5.

### NEW: Church Newsletters on Christmas Vacation

With the church office closed for the holidays, our *Good News* and *Weekly Word* newsletters will also be on a short “vacation.” The Good News will not be published on Dec. 28 or Jan. 4, but don’t worry — they’ll be back in the new year. The next edition of the *Weekly Word* e-news will arrive in inboxes on Mon., January 5, and the next printed Good News will return in worship folders on Sun., January 11.

### 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 PICP, we are following required standards. Rest assured, alternative snow and ice removal measures are in place to keep the area safe.



### “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 at [bit.ly/3KGJXHJ](http://bit.ly/3KGJXHJ) or by contacting Pastor Wade. • Flyer at [bit.ly/48uocCY](http://bit.ly/48uocCY)



## 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](http://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](mailto:abluhm@stpaulsdp.org)) to schedule a tour today!

### 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](http://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.

