

## 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](http://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**

### Witness: Dec. 14

**In-Person Worship Total • 1,336**

Wednesday Advent Service • 199

Living Stone worship • 95

8:00am worship • 175

9:30am worship • 124

11:00am worship • 134

Sat., 5:00pm Lessons & Carols • 334

Sun., 4:00pm Lessons & Carols • 275

**Online Viewing**

**Sanctuary:** 189 • **Living Stone:** 32

Approximately 354 total online viewers

### Giving

Annual offering budget \$3,309,800

Budget year-to-date (24 weeks) 1,527,600

Received year-to-date 1,211,896

Difference actual/budget -315,704

Weekly Amount Needed 74,925

Received last week 90,376

**Construction Loan balance**

Current debt \$ 3,505,851

Gifts received July 2024 to date \$ 21,313

### Calendar

**Sunday, Dec. 21**

Worship Services

**Monday, Dec. 22**

Morning Men's Bible Study, 6am, Zoom

**Tuesday, Dec. 23**

Church Office closed at noon for

Christmas Break

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm

**Wednesday, Dec. 24**

Christmas Eve. Services

3pm, 4:30pm, 8pm and 10:30pm

**Thursday, Dec. 25**

Christmas Day Service, 10am

**Friday, Dec. 26**

**Saturday, Dec. 27**

No Saturday Service

**Sunday, Dec. 28**

Sanctuary services 8am and 10am

Living Stone 10:45am

Note: No Bible study, no Sunday school,

no Fellowship Breakfast

### 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*.

### Ministry Expansion Campaign

Total Commitments: \$14,585,612 • Gifts received to date: \$7,545,877



### Employment

Visit our church website for job details: [stpaulsdesperes.org/news/employment](http://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: January Mission of the Month:** Tyler McMiller (update in Jan. 11 news)

### 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 News

**LCMS Synod Nominations** • 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; find a description of the duties of each office at [www.lcms.org/convention/governance/nominations](http://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 are 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.

### 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) 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.



## THE GOOD NEWS

Saturday, December 20 and

**Sunday, December 21, 2025**

### The Weeks Ahead: Dec. 22-Jan. 11

#### Church Office Closed for Holidays

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

#### 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.

#### NEW: Small-Setting Communion

**Mon., Jan 5 • Noon** • Special monthly worship service with Communion for members who may prefer to avoid large crowds or who have mobility issues.

#### NEW: Fellowship Group Luncheon & Bingo

**Wed., Jan. 7 • Noon • Off-site**

All are welcome! Join us in the new year for bingo and lunch (TBD). RSVP to Sharon Lutz at 314-713-3087 or Glenda Smith at 314-570-6284. During construction, we meet at Zion Lutheran Church, 531 Meramec Station Rd., in Valley Park.

### Pastor Call Update

#### 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.

### Reminders

- *Updated:* Dec. 27 & 28 schedule changes
- Register for "Ignite Your Why"

### News Just Added

*7 new listings; 8 repeated listings*

- Men's Bible study • New topic begins Jan. 5
- Small-setting Communion • Jan. 5
- Fellowship Group luncheon • Jan. 7
- Christian readers group • Jan. 13
- Bach Cantata • Jan. 25
- Serving at R. McDonald House • Jan. 25
- Clothing drive concludes
- January Mission of the Month

### Extending a Warm Christmas Welcome

*In just a few days, we have the privilege of welcoming over 1000 new guests and visitors into our church family for Christmas worship. At Christmas, our attendance doubles, a blessing that reflects the joy of the season.*

*Among these worshipers will be neighbors rediscovering worship, congregation members finding their way back, and visiting relatives joining families for Christmas.*

*May each of us greet new faces with a warm smile and extend a hand of fellowship, sharing the love of Christ.*

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR’S WORSHIP

Holy Communion at all Christmas and New Year’s services

CHRISTMAS EVE  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

3:00 PM

Will be livestreamed at  
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. Heath Trampe

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

POST-CHRISTMAS  
WORSHIP CHANGES

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27  
No 5:00pm Saturday evening service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

Two Sanctuary worship services will be scheduled  
at 8:00 and 10:00am (note time change)

Living Stone worship will remain at 10:45am

No Sunday School, Bible classes,  
or fellowship breakfast will be held

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM OUR CHURCH STAFF



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



News Added This Week

NEW: Christian Readers Group

Tues., Jan. 13 • 7pm • Conf. Room  
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. January’s book is Burreson and Hoeltker’s *Lay Me in God’s Good Earth*.

NEW: Serving at Ronald McDonald House

Sun., Jan. 25 and Wed., Feb. 11 • 4:30pm  
When families of seriously ill children stay at the Ronald McDonald House in Des Peres, our members show care by cooking a homestyle meal for these guests visiting our community. Come cook with us in the RMH kitchen: Sign up at [bit.ly/StP-RMH](http://bit.ly/StP-RMH)

NEW: Trinity Lutheran Clothing Drive Concluded

Trinity Lutheran thanks all who donated clothing and essential items for those in need; your generosity has helped keep others warm and more comfortable during this cold weather. Thank you for being a blessing to our community.

Bach Cantata Vespers

Sunday, January 25 • 3:00pm

Music at St. Paul’s cordially invites you to Cantata Vespers with the American Kantorei chorus and orchestra. The service of Evening Prayer will feature music from Cantatas 72, 73, and 111 by Johann Sebastian Bach. The Kantorei, under the directorship of Dr. Maurice Boyer, specializes in the performance of J. S. Bach’s sacred choral works in the original German, accompanied by orchestra. The event is complimentary, with a freewill offering, and is open to the public.



NEW: Join Men’s Bible Study  
on Monday Mornings

Starting Jan. 5 • 6-7am • Zoom

By Dr. Mark Bender

Men of St. Paul’s, begin Monday mornings in 2026 with an hour-long study of Scripture viewed through the Lutheran lens of interpretation. Under discussion will be the *Formula of Concord*, one of the foundational writings of Lutheran theology. We will be using *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, A Reader’s Edition of the Book of Concord, Second Edition*.

You may wonder: why not study a book of the Bible? The first sentence of the *Formula* declares, “We believe, teach, and confess that the only rule and norm according to which all teachings, together with *all* teachers, should be evaluated and judged (2 Timothy 3:15-17) are the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures of the Old and New Testament.” The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod ascribes to the entirety of the Book of Concord. Sadly, not all “Lutheran” church bodies do, nor do they hold the Bible as the inherent, infallible Word of God. So, it is incumbent on us to return to the norm of our Christian witness as Lutherans.

Leading our study will be Rev. Jerrold Eickmann, Professor Emeritus of Systematic Theology, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. *The Book of Concord* was a major component of Jerry’s instruction during his tenure as a professor. His approach to the material will result in clear and applicable conversation and discussion.

The class (aka: MMMBS) meets via Zoom 6:00-7:00am. If you have questions, contact Mark Bender ([mark.bender51@gmail.com](mailto:mark.bender51@gmail.com)). Mark can assist you with Zoom protocol and with the purchase of a copy of the *Book of Concord* at the reduced price of \$27. The first session will be on Monday, January 5, 2026.



Conference

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