

Pastor Michael Pottschmidt
514 S. Magdalena Street
Concordia, MO 64020

July 11, 2026

St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School
12345 Manchester Road
Des Peres, MO 63131

Dear Call Committee and Members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School:

I am writing to let you know that after prayerful consideration I have decided to return your call to me and remain in ministry at St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School in Concordia. I was truly honored and humbled to receive the call to be St. Paul's Des Peres' next senior pastor. Vickie, Evelyn Grace, Annika, and I are deeply grateful for the conversations we shared; your love for our Savior Jesus and your heartfelt desire to share that love is evident.

St. Paul's Des Peres is at an exciting place in its 177-year history, and I would have been excited to be a part of the future God has in store there. I could imagine the sounds of the growing number of students filling the new classrooms, members greeting friends old and new in The Commons, worshipers receiving God's grace and returning praise in Saints Hall, learners experiencing the gift of music in the new music suite. The staff, leaders, and members are eager to faithfully share the Gospel. Nevertheless, I feel a responsibility to continue to lead St. Paul's in Concordia as we make inroads in engaging our community, equipping more members for ministry, continuing our school's growth, and moving forward in the construction-phase of our new narthex/commons.

Relying upon God's grace and mercy, we can say with King David, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want" (Psalm 23:1 KJV). While your search for your next senior pastor continues, I pray that you find comfort and peace in the all-sufficient care of Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd. The past, the present, and the future are in His good and gracious hands, and in all things, we trust the Lord will provide. I know God has prepared a new pastor for you; may He give you patience and wisdom as He leads you toward that outcome.

Your fellow servant of our Savior,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael Pottschmidt", with a stylized, flowing script.

Pastor Michael Pottschmidt

cc: Rev. Dr. R. Lee Hagan, President, LCMS Missouri District
Rev. Scott Jonas, Circuit Visitor, Circuit 20
Rev. Joel Kurz, Circuit Visitor, Circuit 7
Rev. Mark Schudde, Vacancy Senior Pastor