



**1 PETER 2:5-9**

YOU YOURSELVES LIKE  
LIVING STONES ARE  
BEING BUILT UP AS  
A SPIRITUAL HOUSE

*Welcome*

to Living Stone! Jesus Christ is the  
living stone through whom we receive  
forgiveness, life, and salvation.  
We are glad you are here, as we  
gather for worship centered in  
Word and Sacrament.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Thanksgiving for the wedding of Bailey Carleton and Cameron  
Mash, son of Mike and Liz Vinsand (Sept. 5)

Thanksgiving for the 40th wedding anniversary of Bob and  
Jeanne Grone (Sept. 6)

Thanksgiving for the 35th wedding anniversary of Mark and  
Kathy Harder (Sept. 7).



### PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Thomas S. Schlund • Senior Pastor  
Rev. Tanner S. Wade • Associate Pastor  
Rev. Paul T. Prange • Visitation Pastor

### MUSIC STAFF

Matthew Gerhardt • Kantor  
Joel Stopenhagen • Asst. Kantor  
Whitney Wade • Living Stone Music Dir.

### SCHOOL STAFF

Dawn Walker • School Principal  
Jessica Bangert • ECC Director  
Andrea Bluhm • PDO Director

### FAMILY MINISTRY

Sharon Shearman • Director

### CORE VALUES

**Faithful in Christ** • Jesus is the center of  
our biblical foundation, Gospel message,  
and the Lutheran Confessions

**Confident in Christ** • Jesus generously  
provides all that we need for daily and  
eternal life

**Joyful in Christ** • Jesus is our source of joy  
that transcends our daily circumstances

**Connected in Christ** • Jesus' love moves us  
to serve the community and one another

**Vision Statement** • To be devoted  
followers of Jesus Christ, passionate about  
sharing the Gospel in word and deed

**Mission Statement** • Strengthen the  
saved; save the lost

### WORSHIP

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m. • Sunday 10:45 a.m. Living Stone

### ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

12345 Manchester Road, Des Peres, MO 63131 • 314.822.0447

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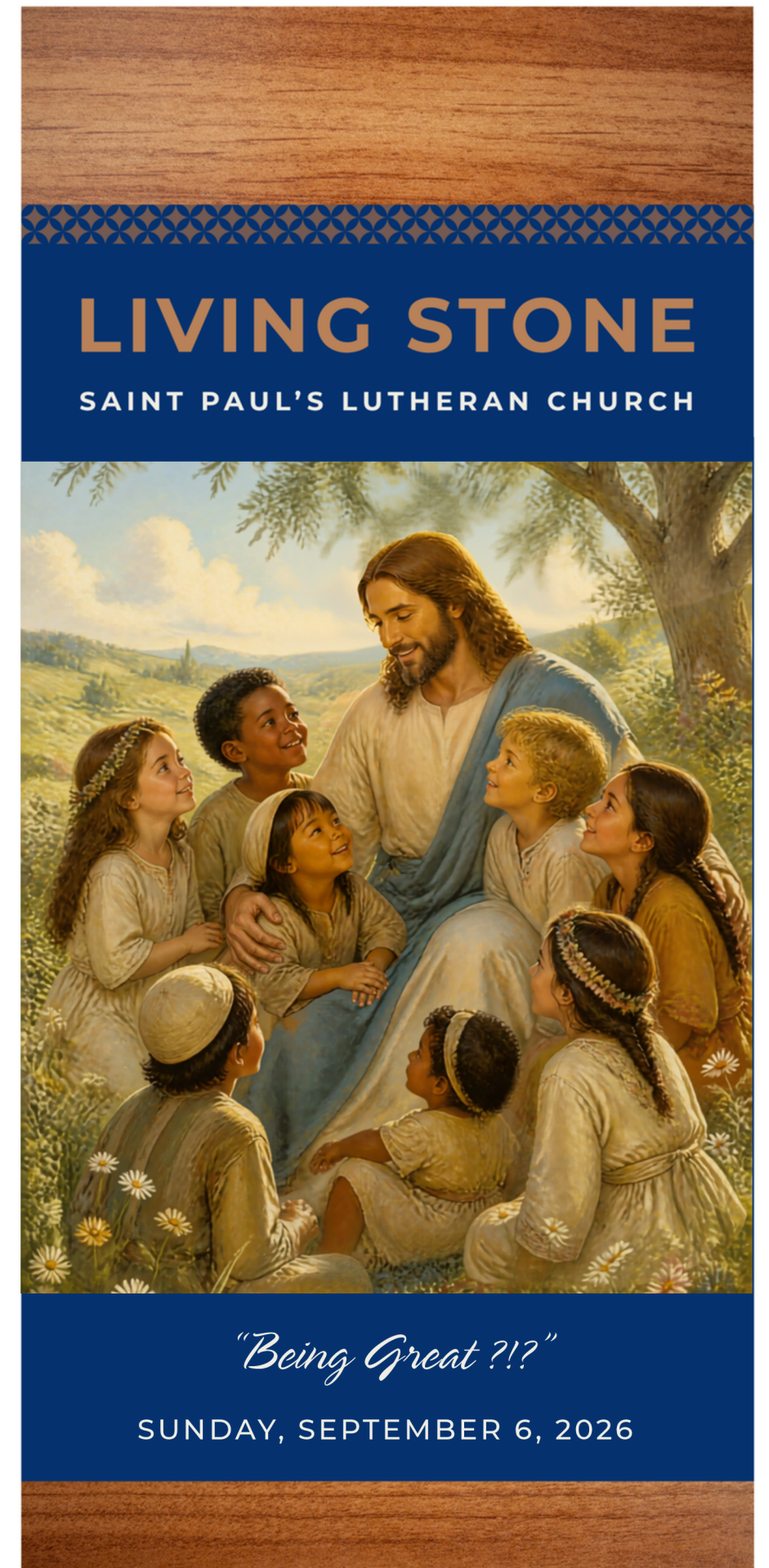
Connection Card



Prayer Request



Giving



# LIVING STONE

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

*"Being Great !!?"*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

# ORDER OF SERVICE

Greeting  
Opening Song • “Your Love Awakens Me”  
Invocation & Prayer of the Day  
First Reading  
Second Reading  
Holy Gospel  
Responsive Psalm  
Song of the Day • “Reckless Love”  
Sermon • “Being Great?!?”  
Song of Response “Great Are You Lord”  
Apostles’ Creed  
Confession of Sins and Absolution  
Children’s Message  
Offering & Offertory Song • “Surrounding Me”  
Announcements & Ministry Minute  
Prayer of the Church  
The Lord’s Prayer  
Benediction  
Closing Song • “Build Your Kingdom Here”

Preaching: Pastor Schlund • Liturgist: Pastor Wade  
Audio • Ries Hoover  
ProPresenter: Kevin Rudzinski • Video: Anthony Devasto  
Instrumentalists • Acoustic guitar: Mike Peper;  
Electric guitar: Valerie Winkler; Bass: Mark Stoddard;  
Percussion: Steve Brosch; Piano: Mark Yaeger  
Vocals • Leslie Rudzinski; Valerie Winkler; Whitney Wade

## FIRST READING

### Ezekiel 33:7–9

“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from My mouth, you shall give them warning from Me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

## SECOND READING

### Romans 13:1–10

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the Law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the Law.

## HOLY GOSPEL

### Matthew 18:1–20

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” And calling to Him a child, He put him in the midst of them and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

“Whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

“Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven. For the Son of Man came to save the lost. What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of My Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I among them.”

## RESPONSIVE PSALM

### Psalm 32:1-7

P Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,  
C whose sin is covered.  
P Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,  
C and in whose spirit there is no deceit.  
P For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away  
C through my groaning all day long.  
P For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;  
C my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.  
P I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity;  
C I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.  
P Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found;  
C surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.  
P You are a hiding place for me; You preserve me from trouble;  
C You surround me with shouts of deliverance.  
A Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.