

CONCORDIA CONNECTION

Stay connected to our church, school, and community.

Week of July 20, 2025

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

401 S. Main Street, Concordia, MO 64020

Welcome! We are delighted you are worshiping with us today. *If you are a guest, please introduce yourself to one of the pastors.*

Please register your attendance. Everyone is asked to sign the friendship folder at the center aisle of each row. If you are a guest, please print your address, phone number and/or email so we may better serve you.

Join Us for an In-Depth Study of Luke 15: The parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son are some of Jesus' most beloved teachings. Whether you're already familiar with these stories or hearing them for the first time, we invite you to dive deeper with the pastors during the Sunday morning education hour. This study will be guided in part by *The Cross & the Prodigal* by Kenneth E. Bailey. We hope to see you in the gym for this enriching time of reflection and learning!

The Lutheran Hour: This week's message by Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler "God's Plan = Jesus". Listen on the radio at 10 am, KMMO (1300 AM) or 10 am, KSIS (1050 AM). You can also listen anytime online, on your mobile device through the free app (available at lhm.org), or listen with Spotify, iHeart Radio, Alexa, or Google Home.

Altar Flowers Today are given to the glory of God by Roger & Vickie Kirchhoff in celebration of their 25th wedding anniversary.

Financial Update:

- Thank you for the special offerings given for the end of Fiscal Year 2024–25 matching gifts. \$13,420 was given in addition to the initial \$25,000 gift.
- Your generous response to God's grace and \$210,263 of an estate gift designated for debt reduction helped us end the year with income equal to our expenses.
- Our new fiscal year began July 1. The 2025–26 budget approved by the voters at the Annual Meeting includes a reduction in expenses from last year but still requires an overall 17% increase in giving to continue preaching, teaching, and reaching through the ministry of our church and school and for our community.
- If we all participate to support our shared work, this increase in giving we each will share is just over \$600 in 2025–26 or \$12 per week.
- Learn about ways to give at stpaulsconcordia.org/give.
- *Want more information?* Contact the church office.

Nick Bowles, Maciah Keith and their children Nash Alan Ray and Averi Mikael will be received into our Lord's kingdom through Holy Baptism in the 10:30 am service today. Nash and Averi's sponsors are Amanda & Jamie Keld.

Upcoming Events:

August 10 | Back-to-School Pool Party, 6–8 pm

August 17 | SPLHS Opening Service, 2 pm

August 19 | SPLS First Day of School

The Wednesday Women's Bible Study will not be meeting during the month of July. Sessions will resume on Wednesday, August 6 at 12 pm.

Thank you to all who contributed food items and your time in service for the CMI Ice Cream Social, to everyone who provided yard games for the Friday night Party on the Lawn, and to everyone who prayed for CMI or supported the conference in any way. Thank you! Many missionaries extend their thanks for our community's love and service. What a blessing it is to join with Mission of Christ Network and Lutheran Bible Translators' international mission right here in Concordia! Please keep both organizations and their mission partners in prayer as they go back across the world to proclaim Christ!

Sr. High Youth Group would like to extend a heartfelt **THANK YOU** to our St. Paul's family for your generosity over the last year of fundraising for our trip to the 2025 Youth Gathering in New Orleans. We kindly ask that you keep our group in your prayers as we travel, deepen our faith during Bible Studies and instructional sessions and as we serve the city of New Orleans during our servant event, may we be a blessing to everyone we meet while in New Orleans!

Spotlighting Stewardship: "Comparison seduces us to obsess over what is withheld while blinding us to the myriad blessings God has given for our enjoyment" (Jeff Manion, *Satisfied* [Zondervan, 2013], 74)

Weekly Men's Bible Study: Gather each Thursday morning from 6:30–8:00 am for breakfast and Bible study. During the summer, the group meets at Topsy's and during the school year at the SPLHS Dining Hall. Although organized by Holy Cross in Emma, this study includes participants from various local congregations (including our own), and currently Pastor Andrew and Pastor Michael are leading the study. *Men, consider this your invitation to join us, and invite a friend to join you as we grow in God's Word together.*

Wheelchair Pushers Needed on Fridays from 9:15 – 10:45 am at Good Shepherd Care Community for Bible study. Meet in the Chapel.

Help at SPLS: After the Annual Meeting, many of you answered the call to serve St. Paul's Lutheran School. **Thank you!** We will reach out with more details closer to the start of the school year. If you didn't have a chance to sign up, or weren't sure when you are available, please let us know by signing up in the narthex or calling the school office at 660-463-7654.

July's Ministry Partner: Mission of Christ Network (MCN) is a Christian outreach organization, grounded in a Lutheran understanding of mission, that enables lay workers to effectively work in God's mission cross-culturally. Right now, over fifty MCN mission partners are serving in 18 countries around the world. Learn more at missionofchrist.org.

New Sign: The new electronic sign for our church and school is going up. This sign is taller than the previous sign, allowing for better visibility when cars are parked along the curb. A traffic study shows that nearly 2,000 cars drive by each day on Main Street, and this new sign will allow us to show the life and ministry of our church and school. Funds for the new sign have come from designated gifts and proceeds of the 2025 Gifts of Grace Benefit & Auction.

Thrivent members have access to 2 Thrivent Action Teams per year - up to \$250 per team, or \$500 that can be used towards events, projects, fundraisers, etc. If you haven't used, or don't plan to use, your 2025 Action Teams - please contact the school office as we have numerous projects they can be applied towards (new chapel hymnals, paint, athletics, classroom materials, and much more). If you're a Thrivent member but don't know how to apply, please stop by the school office!

Coaches Needed! SPLS is looking for an assistant soccer coach for the fall as well as a head and assistant basketball coach for 7/8 boys. Coaching applications can be found in the school office. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

Do you love Saint Paul Lutheran High School and want to give back with your time and talents? This summer, we are launching a new approach to campus improvement, and we need your help! Instead of one Saints Workday, we are spreading out the projects and seeking passionate volunteers to lend a hand throughout the season. Projects include painting, electrical, automotive, landscaping, and MORE!! Whatever your strengths, there's a place for you to help on campus this summer. To learn more, please contact Sarah Sullivan at ssullivan@splhs.org or call 600-463-2238 ext. 232. Let's work together to make our campus shine!

Contribute to Missouri District MO Scholars Fund and Support Lutheran Education!

A MOScholars tax credit is equal to 100% of an eligible donation, not to exceed 50% of the donor's state tax liability for the tax year the credit is claimed. MOScholars tax credits may be carried forward for four (4) subsequent tax years. The tax credit is not sellable, transferrable, or refundable. For more information or to reserve your tax credit, visit <https://mo.lcms.org/tax-credit/> or use the QR code.



LAST WEEK

Attendance:

8 & 10:30 am Sunday: 252, 241; GSCC: 48; Monday: 17

Tithes and Offerings:

Home: \$23,143.90; Missions \$1,338.74

Grade School: \$22.99; Youth: \$75

Comfort Dog: \$42.50; Leckband: \$80

SPLHS: \$30; Building: \$35

Home Improvement: \$147.52; LBT: \$138.21

Debt Reduction: \$50; Lutheran Leadership Education: \$100

Mission of Christ: \$50; Orphan Grain Train: \$25

THIS WEEK

July 20

8 am | Worship with Communion

9:15 am | Adult Bible Study

9:30 am | GSCC Worship

10:30 am | Worship

July 22

10 am | Dementia Support Group

7 pm | Elders

July 25

10 am | GSCC Bible Study

July 27

8 am | Worship

9:15 am | Adult Bible Study

9:30 am | GSCC Worship

10:30 am | Worship with Communion

CHURCH OFFICE

M-F: 8 am – Noon; 1 – 5 pm
(660) 463-2291

SCHOOL OFFICE

M-F: 8 am – 3:30 pm
(660) 463-7654

PASTOR "ON CALL"

In case of pastoral emergency
(660) 580-5483

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"Making a Christ-centered difference in our community and world today and for eternity."