

CONCORDIA CONNECTION

Stay connected to our church, school, and community.

Week of November 30, 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.*

Advent Family Sunday School: As we look towards the season of Advent, preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ, Family Life would like to invite all families with Sunday school age children to attend an Advent Family Sunday School TODAY, November 30 in the school gym. This event will take place during the Sunday school hour from 9:15–10:15. We will have an activity planned for you that you won't want to miss! See you there!

Youth Bible Study: "That's in the Bible?!" Have you ever wondered about some of the stories found in the Bible? In this class, we'll study some of the more unusual stories in Scripture and find out how they apply to our lives today. *High school youth Bible study meets at 9:15 am in the youth room (lower level of the church office).*

Adult Bible Study: "The World Jesus Was Born Into." Take a look at who were the people of the Nativity story and what was the world like in the region of Israel at the time of Jesus' birth. *Clint Colwell leads this study today at 9:15 am in the sanctuary.*

The Lutheran Hour: This week's message by Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler is, "Rise and Shine". 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.

Don't Miss the Latest News: Receive our church's email newsletter (every Friday in addition to special announcements, prayer requests, and updates). *Sign up at stpaulsconcordia.org/news or scan the QR code.*



O Come Let Us Adore Him: See a full calendar of special worship services and events for the Advent and Christmas seasons. *Visit stpaulsconcordia.org/advent-christmas or scan the QR code.*



The Wednesday Women's Bible Study will not meet during the month of December. Study will resume at noon on January 7.

Midweek Advent Services: Worship each Wednesday in Advent (December 3, 10, and 17) at 10 am or 7 pm. A meal is served at 5:30 pm in the school gym, and evening services include a special children's message and will be preceded by an Advent/Christmas hymn sing.

Baptismal Recognitions: This month, we shared God's gifts in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism with Bill Ivie on November 8 and with Chris Visentin and Silas Visentin (infant son of Chris and Abby Visentin) on November 22. "[God] saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:5–7 ESV).

Decorating the sanctuary for the Advent & Christmas season will occur Saturday, December 6, at 8:30 am. All are welcome! Get yourself into the holiday spirit by preparing our building to celebrate the birth of Christ!

Cookie Walk: Family Life will once again be hosting a cookie/candy walk in St. Paul's Lutheran School gymnasium for the purpose of generating funds needed for resources that are given to families at our Milestone celebrations. The date set for this event is Saturday morning, December 13. Please come and support this event by purchasing treats for the holidays! We will also be needing donations of cookies and candy, so please call the church office (660-463-2291) if you are willing to help. Doors open at 9:00 am. Thank you for your support!

Planning Ahead:

December 21 | Christmas Caroling, 2 pm
December 24 | Children's Christmas Service, 6 pm
December 24 | Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 9:30 pm
December 25 | Christmas Day Worship, 9:30 am
December 31 | New Year's Eve Worship, 7 pm
January 11, 2026 | Town Hall Forum

Spotlighting Stewardship: "The basis for charity, then, is clearly found in God's charity and love for his people. True charity is done by those who have first experienced God's grace and favor, since it is motivated by God's deeds of salvation and forgiveness. Love for neighbor follows from love for God, which in turn follows from God's love for us" (Andrew Bartelt in *A Cup of Cold Water: A Look at Biblical Charity* [Concordia Seminary, 1996], 39).

Friday 12/5 is PTL night at El Patron! Grab a flyer outside the school office and dine in or carry out from 4:00pm - close on Friday, and El Patron will make a donation to PTL!

The school office has Christian greeting cards for sale. A box of 12 is \$8, a box of 24 is \$13. Boxes include Christmas, birthday, sympathy, congratulations, thank you, wedding, encouragement, get well, and more.

Christmas Dinners: On December 6 we will once again be handing out our Christmas Dinners. Approximate cost is \$50 per meal for a family. If you would like to contribute to this event or request a meal bag on behalf of someone, please see Melissa at the church office. It brings us all great joy to help families out at this time of year. The meals will need to be picked up at the Conference Center at 9 am on December 6.

Don't forget you can purchase gift cards through the school office! We keep gift cards in stock to over 50 different stores, restaurants, gas stations, etc. An order will be placed on Friday, December 5. If there's specific gift cards you'd like ordered, please reach out to the school office. The order will be available for pickup the following week. The school gets a % back for each gift card purchased!

Funeral Fellowship – providing lunch for bereaved St. Paul's families: Thank you to the many volunteers who have helped serve and bring food for funeral lunches. We are updating our calendar of volunteers for 2026. If you have been on the list but need to make a change, please contact one of us. We are also in need of additional servers and food providers. If you have not been on the list, please contact us to see where you can serve. The Funeral Fellowship Coordinators: Karen Heins (417-234-2343), Yvonne Mitkos (217-602-7531), Sharon Oetting (660-641-5889), Elva Snider (573-353-6152).

Third Party Donations: Please note that as of January 1, 2026, the church will no longer be able to accept third party donations on behalf of other organizations such as Saint Paul Lutheran High, Orphan Grain Train, Lutherans for Life, Lutheran Bible Translators, and Mission of Christ Network. Donations to other organizations should be made directly to the organization through their respective online giving options or by mailing a check to the organization's address. This change ensures charitable donations are made in accordance with IRS requirements. The church will still accept donations for church related and dedicated funds such as Altar Guild, Comfort Dog, Fount of Every Blessing Endowment, St. Paul's Lutheran School, St. Paul's Lutheran Youth Group, etc. *This change is for external organizations only.* If you would like a full list of our general and dedicated accounts, please contact the church office. Please review your online giving as well. *Any questions regarding this change, please contact Julie Bonar at jebonar@stpaulsconcordia.org or 660-463-2291.*

Come and visit the sixth annual Saint Paul Christkindlesmarkt in Concordia. The market will be open from 4pm to 8pm on Friday, Dec. 12th and from 11am to 7pm on Saturday, December 13th. For more information, please contact christmas-market@splhs.org or visit our website at <https://splhs.org/support/christkindlesmarkt/>. We look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Market!

Christmas Gift Guide: Christmas is just around the corner! Have you started creating your list? The Concordia Publishing House (CPH) 2025 Gift Guide can help you find the perfect Christ-centered gift for anyone on your list. This year's guide is packed with amazing new children's book they'll love and books for adults to enrich their faith lives. Take a look through the Gift Guide and start making your list today. Visit cph.org/christmas-gift-guide or pick up a copy in the narthex or church office.

LAST WEEK

Attendance:

8 & 10:30 am Sunday: 337, 152; GSCC: 45
Sunday School: 37

Tithes and Offerings:

Home: \$30,602.31; Missions \$1,793.69
Grade School: \$224; Building: \$35
Comfort Dog: \$217.50; Leckband: \$105
Home Improvement: \$352.52; SPLHS: \$130
LBT: \$25; Sunday School: \$24
Youth: \$10; Orphan Grain Train: \$25
School Lunch: \$10; Christmas Meal Bags: \$860
Lutherans for Life: \$50

THIS WEEK

November 30

8 am | Worship
9:15 am | Education Hour
9:30 am | GSCC Worship
10:30 am | Worship

December 1

8:15 am | SPLS Prayer Partners
7 pm | Church Council

December 2

1:30 pm | Staff Meeting
7 pm | Ladies Aid #1

December 3

8:30 am | SPLS Chapel
10 am | Midweek Advent Worship
5:30 pm | PTL Advent Meal (Taco Bar)
7 pm | Midweek Advent Worship
7 pm | Joyful Sounds Choir

December 4

6:30 am | Men's Bible Study at SPLHS
8 pm | Handbell Choir

December 5

10 am | GSCC Bible Study

December 6

8:30 am | Decorating the Sanctuary
9 am | Christmas Meal Bag Pick-up

December 7

8 am | Worship with Communion
9:15 am | Education Hour
9:30 am | GSCC Worship
10:30 am | Worship

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

stpaulsconcordia.org | office@stpaulsconcordia.org | facebook.com/stpaulsconcordiamo

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