

CONCORDIA CONNECTION

Stay connected to our church, school, and community.

Week of January 4, 2026

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.*

Sunday School & Bible Class will be on Christmas break from December 21 – January 4, 2026. Classes will return on Jan. 11.

Adult Bible Study: 9:15am Bible Class hour this week will take place! If spending more time in the word of God is on your list for 2026, you'll want to join Beth Lange to learn more about a special resource that will help. It is especially wonderful if you've ever read something and wondered - "what did that even mean?" All are invited. If you are already signed up you are encouraged to come to get more insight on how to use this resource called The Bible Recap.

The Lutheran Hour: This week's message by Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler is, "Knowing and Being Known in a New Year". 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.

ChurchVoice Congregation Survey: We care deeply about understanding the hearts and minds of the people we serve. We believe that listening well helps us grow together in faith, strengthen relationships, and better fulfill our mission. In the coming weeks, you'll receive a brief survey invitation from ChurchVoice—by email or text (if your information is up to date in our records). It takes only a few minutes to complete and will help our leaders understand what's working well, where we can grow as a congregation, and how we can better disciple you and your family. We plan to send these short surveys a few times a year, and these will be intentionally staggered—not everyone will receive the survey at the same time. *If you have questions, please contact Pastor Michael, Pastor Andrew, or a member of our Board of Elders.*

Help keep our contact list up to date. Change happens. If you have a different phone number, cancelled your landline, moved to a new address, or have a new email, please contact the church office at 660-463-2291 or office@stpaulsconcordia.org to ensure our records accurate.

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.



Special Worship Schedule January 11:

9:30 am | Good Shepherd Care Community Worship

10:30 am | Worship with Holy Communion

There will be no 8 am service. Sunday morning education for all ages will be at 9:15–10:15 am. Everyone is encouraged to learn together, worship together, eat together, and discuss our ministry together at the Town Hall Forum and special voters meeting which will follow the 10:30 am service and potluck lunch.

Forum & Special Voters Meeting Material Available: Plan now to participate in our annual Town Hall Forum on Sunday, January 11. There will be one service at 10:30 am, and a potluck luncheon and Forum will follow. The Forum will provide ministry updates from our elected leadership and staff. Along with the Forum, we will also have a special voters meeting to consider the following: 1) To Provide Preliminary Approval of the Phase 1A Concept for the Narthex Addition, and, pending approval of the first resolution, 2) To Approve LCEF to Lead a Ministry Expansion Capital Campaign in Spring 2026. *Copies of the Narthex Phase 1A Concept Recommendation as well as copies of the two resolutions to be considered were sent with our weekly Friday email on December 26, and paper copies can be picked up in the narthex or church office.*

New Driver Milestone: In anticipation of all teens turning 16 this year, the Family Life Team would like to invite these teens and their parents to a celebration on Sunday, January 11. This is the first milestone of the new year! There will be several speakers addressing the teens and their newfound privilege of driving. This celebration will be held in the back room of the Parish office during the Sunday School hour from 9:15-10:15. We can't wait to see you there!

Planning Ahead:

February 18 | Ash Wednesday Worship, 10 am & 7 pm

March 14 | Gifts of Grace School Auction

April 5 | Easter Sunday Worship, 6, 8, & 10:30 am

April 10–19 | SHINE! Servant Event

May 3 | Confirmation Sunday, 10:30 am

May 31 | Annual Meeting

Women's Noon Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, Jan. 7.

Spotlighting Stewardship: A real family pitches in to help. Thanks to all who made our Advent and Christmas worship and special events possible: Altar Guild, musicians, Family Life Ministry Team, AV Team, the Maggert family and those who shared 28 Christmas meals, contributors, the 29 singers who went Christmas caroling, and so many others! *We are a family of faith, working together to make a Christ-centered difference.*

Looking for a way to serve? We need individuals to help clear our church steps and walkways. Whether you are willing to lead this team for winter 2025–26 or want to be on call for snow events, please contact the church office.

January Ministry Partner: Lutherans For Life works to equip Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices for life at all ages and stages. Our local chapter offers support to New Beginnings Women's Center in Warrensburg. Learn more at lutheransforlife.org.

MO Scholars: You can use your state tax dollars to support Lutheran education. Learn more and get started at mo.lcms.org/mo-scholars. MO Scholars helps families to attend a private school, including Christian schools like St. Paul's (SPLS) and Saint Paul Lutheran High School (SPLHS). Students can qualify if they are coming from a public school, have an IEP or are in kindergarten or 1st grade. SPLS enrollment information will come early in 2026, and learn about SPLHS at splhs.org/admissions/tuition-financial-aid.

LifeLight: "Were you there when they crucified my Lord?" (LSB 456) The answer is both yes and no. Yes, as Romans 6:3–4 tells us, "All who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death" But no, we were not eye witnesses. The Apostle John, on the other hand, saw it all. Join a Winter 2026 LifeLight class as John, in his last ten chapters, shares his view of what Jesus has done for us. Two weekday classes will again be offered, their times and leaders are listed below. Both classes will meet in the Church Office meeting room. Study booklets may be purchased in the church office for \$10 each. Kathy Schnakenberg, Mondays at 9:00 a.m.—Beginning Jan. 19 Joanne Reinke, Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.—Beginning Jan. 20

Life Quote: "Your story might not look as extraordinary as Esther's. It might not be as exciting as David's or as tumultuous as Rahab's or as terrifying as Mary's. But you don't have to be extraordinary for God to work through you. He can accomplish great things through something as unassuming as prayer or as simple as a meal for a new mother." *Grace MacPherson – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

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.*

Pancakes and Pitch Party: Trinity Lutheran Men's Club will be having their annual Pancake Supper on Sunday, January 18, in the school cafeteria, serving 4:30 – 6:30 pm, then hosting a Pitch Party beginning at 7:00 pm. All are invited!

LAST WEEK

Attendance:

8 & 10:30 am Sunday: 271, 97; GSCC: 46
Children's Christmas Eve: 894; Lessons & Carols: 155
Christmas Day: 370

Tithes and Offerings:

Home: \$42,712.43; Missions \$4,215.65
Grade School: \$324; Building: \$45
Comfort Dog: \$192.02; Leckband: \$255
Home Improvement: \$102.52; SPLHS: \$40
Youth: \$20; School Lunch: \$10
LBT: \$40; Debt Reduction: \$300
Lutherans for Life: \$100

THIS WEEK

January 4

8 am | Worship with Communion
9:30 am | GSCC Worship
10:30 am | Worship with Communion

January 6

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

January 7

8:30 am | SPLS Chapel
12 pm | Women's Bible Study

January 8

6:30 am | Men's Bible Study at SPLHS
6 pm | Handbell Choir
7 pm | Joyful Sounds Choir

January 9

10 am | GSCC Bible Study

January 11

9:15 am | Education Hour
9:30 am | GSCC Worship
10:30 am | Worship with Communion
12 pm | Pot Luck Dinner & Town Hall Meeting

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."