

CONCORDIA CONNECTION

Stay connected to our church, school, and community.

Week of December 7, 2025

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

401 S. Main Street, Concordia, MO 64020

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

Sunday School: In today's Bible lesson, students study the amazing account of "An Enemy Converts." On the road to Damascus, Saul encounters the risen Lord, who converts him from a persecutor of the Church to its greatest missionary—Paul. God sends Ananias to lay hands upon the temporarily blinded Saul, baptizing him in the name of the living God. Despite the disciples' distrust of Saul's motives, Barnabas speaks boldly on Saul's behalf. *Discuss, "How does the conversion of Saul change the history of the world?"* Sunday School meets from 9:15–10:15 am in the following grade school classrooms:

- Age 3 – Pre-K | South Classroom 104
- Kindergarten – Grade 1 | South Classroom 205
- Grades 2–3 | South Classroom 201
- Grades 4–5 | South Classroom 203
- Grades 6–8 | North Classroom 302

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 of Worship at the Time of Jesus." How did Jesus worship? What was worship like at the Temple in Jerusalem at the time of Jesus? *Clint Colwell leads this study today at 9:15 am in the gym.*

The Lutheran Hour: This week's message by Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler is, "Chosen for What?". 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.

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.

2026 Contribution Envelopes are available in the church narthex. If you give online and no longer wish to receive a box of envelopes, please contact the church office (660-463-2291).

Preschool – Grade 2 Singing at Holy Cross Today: May God bless our SPLS students and families as they join the saints at Holy Cross in Emma for worship this morning. *"Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the godly" (Ps 149:1 ESV).*

Midweek Advent Services: Worship each Wednesday in Advent (December 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.

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.

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!

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.

SPLS Christmas Concert: Please join us for the annual SPLS Christmas Concert on December 9 at 6:30 pm in the gymnasium.

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: "In Matthew's perspective, 'watchfulness' concerning the end time is not defined by speculation about the end time (which is expressly discouraged) but precisely in doing the will of God as taught by Jesus, the consistent ethical message of the gospel as a whole" (Donald Senior, *The Gospel of Matthew* [Abingdon, 1997], 162).

MO Scholars: You can use your state tax dollars to support Lutheran education. *Learn more and get started at mo.lcms.org/mo-scholars.*

Thrivent members: you have access to up to 2 Thrivent Action Teams per calendar year. Each action team can be used for up to \$250 to put towards fundraisers, servant events, or educational activities. If you still have an action team(s) available this calendar year and don't know what to put it towards, please contact the school office at school@stpaulsconcordia.org.

December Ministry Partner: The Lutheran Student Center at UCM is a recognized student organization of the University of Central Missouri that has been building up students in faith since 1946. Dinner and Bible study are offered each Thursday during the Fall and Spring semesters. The Lutheran Student Center is a place to make friends, get answers to hard questions, learn more about God and the Bible, learn how to apply the teachings of Jesus to everyday life, and to have somewhere to rest when life gets crazy. *Learn more at ucm-lsc.org.*

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. To date in 2025, the funeral fellowship group has served 17 luncheons with a total of approximately 1290 people served. Many hands help make this happen. 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 4 pm to 8 pm on Friday, December 12 and from 11 am to 7 pm on Saturday, December 13. For more information, please contact christmas-market@splhs.org or visit our website at <https://splhs.org/sup-port/christkindlesmarkt/>.

Available at the School Office:

- Christian greeting cards for various occasions are for sale. A box of 12 is \$8; a box of 24 is \$13.
- We keep gift cards in stock to over 50 different stores, restaurants, gas stations, etc. The school gets a % back for each gift card purchased!

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

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

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

LAST WEEK

Attendance:

8 & 10:30 am Sunday: 230, 214; GSCC: 47
Mid-Week Advent: 36, 194

Tithes and Offerings:

Home: \$29,485.59; Missions \$913.67
Grade School: \$175; Youth: \$20
Comfort Dog: \$74.52; Leckband: \$10
Home Improvement: \$172.52; SPLHS: \$50
Debt Reduction: \$425; Christmas Meal Bags: \$100
World Missions: \$3,212.50; Orphan Grain Train: \$25

THIS WEEK

December 7

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

December 8

8:15 am | SPLS Prayer Partners
7 pm | Worship with Communion

December 9

1:30 pm | Staff Meeting

December 10

8:30 am | SPLS Chapel
10 am | Midweek Advent Worship
5:30 pm | Ladies Aid #1 Advent Meal (Lasagna)
7 pm | Midweek Advent Worship
8 pm | Joyful Sounds Choir
8 pm | Church Council

December 11

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

December 12

10 am | GSCC Bible Study

December 13

9 am | Family Life Cookie Walk

December 14

8 am | Worship
9:15 am | Education Hour
9:30 am | GSCC Worship
10:30 am | Worship with Communion
1:30 pm | Pub/Homeschool Confirmation Class
3 pm | SPLHS Christmas Concert

PASTOR "ON CALL"

In case of pastoral emergency
(660) 580-5483