

# CONCORDIA CONNECTION

Stay connected to our church, school, and community.

## Week of January 18, 2026

### 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:** The lesson this week is “Handmade,” as students study the creation of Adam and Eve. God creates man in His own image with His own hands and breathes in him His own breath. Formed from the dust of the ground, Adam needs more than just animal companionship. So our heavenly Father makes the perfect complement to man, creating woman from Adam’s rib, and places them in the garden. *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

**Adult Bible Study:** “May the Lord Bless You.” Everyone THINKS they want blessings—but along with blessings come responsibilities because purpose is assigned to every blessing. When our blessings are not used for the purpose that God intends, they may become ... curses. By the mercies of God, we are also provided the tools to reverse curses. In the end, our Lord is able to reverse all our curses so that we can look forward to His eternal blessings. *Join Pastor Paul Mehl in the school gym Sundays from 9:15–10:15 am.*

**High School Sunday School:** What are the Rules of Engagement (pun intended) in relationships, dating, even marriage? In a world littered with broken relationships and hurt people how can young people find a healthy & fulfilling relationship? God gives us answers and examples which we will be studying for the next 8 weeks. Join us in the Youth Room (church office basement) for study & fellowship this winter, led by Russ Kruse.

**The Lutheran Hour:** This week’s message by Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler is, “Outstanding Universal Value”. 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](http://lhm.org)), or listen with Spotify, iHeart Radio, Alexa, or Google Home.

**Ingrid Deborah Rudowske,** daughter of Matthew and Sarah Rudowske, will be received into our Lord’s kingdom through Holy Baptism in the 8 am service today. Ingrid’s sponsor is Tanner Gossman.

**Missing Keys:** If you have borrowed a key from the church office for any of the church properties (church, office, conference center) please return them to the church office ASAP.

**ChurchVoice Surveys:** Help us grow together! In the coming weeks, you will receive a brief survey invitation by email or text from ChurchVoice. These short surveys help our leadership understand how to better fulfill our mission and disciple our congregation. *For questions, please contact our Pastors or the Board of Elders.*

#### 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

**Subscriptions for *The Lutheran Witness*** (envelope included in your 2026 packet) are \$21. Please make checks payable to St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, as the church is billed monthly. Subscriptions must be turned in through the offering plate or to the church office by Monday, February 2.

**Men’s Club** will meet at 7pm on Tuesday, January 20. All are welcome to attend the meeting.

**Does your group need a fundraiser?** Parish Fellowship is looking for a group to host the Lent Meal on Wednesday, March 4. Contact the church office if you are interested (660-463-2291).

**2026 Funeral Fellowship Lunch** monthly calendars are available in your pigeonhole in the Church Narthex. Most are assigned a month or two to work or bring food for a funeral. You may or may not be called every time there is a funeral in your month. It depends on how many people are expected. **Check your pigeonhole for this information.** Many thanks to the 200+ volunteers who say “yes” when asked to help provide food for a bereaved family.

**2026 Altar/Chancel Flowers:** Do you have a special event you’d like to recognize, or want to beautify our sanctuary for Sunday worship with altar or chancel flowers? Sign up on the Flower Chart hanging in the church narthex to let the Altar Guild know when to expect them. *Contact the Altar Guild or church office if you have any questions.*

**The 2026 Gifts of Grace** auction is asking for 1940’s memorabilia to be put on display at the auction. Example of items:  
- Sheet Music, musical instruments, record players, etc.  
- WW2 related items - uniforms, satchels, boots, helmets, equipment, flyers, flags, etc  
- Fashion items - hats, jewelry, shoes  
- Anything authentic to early/mid 1940’s.  
All items will be cared for and labeled appropriately so they can be returned to rightful owner. If you would like to include a brief description/history of item that would add a very special element to this year’s auction. If you have items available for loan please call Laura Eckhoff @ 816-719-4865.

**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](http://lutheransforlife.org).*

**Spotlighting Stewardship:** “I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc., is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little. If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our charitable expenditure excludes them” (C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* [New York: Macmillan, 1960], 81–82).

**March 14, 2026 - Save the Date for the St. Paul's Lutheran School 2026 Gifts of Grace Benefit Auction!** BIG BAND BASH! “Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord” – Psalm 98:4. Inspired by the music, vintage vibes, and spirit of the WWII-era, this year’s theme reminds us to lift our hearts and voices in gratitude and joy. Check out our website! [splsauktion.afrogs.org](http://splsauktion.afrogs.org) Tickets go on sale on our website February 2nd!

**MO Scholars:** You can use your state tax dollars to support Lutheran education. Learn more and get started at [mo.lcms.org/mo-scholars](http://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](http://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:** “Our task is to make sure that our fellow Lutherans and our neighbors know how much God loves us just as we are. Look at this fingerprint: God made each of us unique. There is no one else just like you. God knew you before you were born (Jeremiah 1:5). He knitted you together in your mother’s womb. You were fearfully and wonderfully made, and God had a plan for your life even before you took a breath in this sinful, beautiful world that He created for you (Psalm 139:13-16).” *Diane Albers, President of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life*  
• [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

**Pancakes and Pitch Party:** Trinity Lutheran Men’s Club will be having their annual Pancake Supper today, 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:*

10:30 am Sunday: 470; GSCC: 54; Monday: 20  
Sunday School: 27

*Tithes and Offerings:*

Home: \$36,841.05; Missions \$1,360.65  
Grade School: \$119; Building: \$40  
Comfort Dog: \$774.35; Home Improvement: \$142.52  
Debt reduction: \$300; Portals of Prayer: \$25  
Growing by God’s Grace: \$25; Sunday School: \$1  
Youth: \$20; HSFA: \$50

## THIS WEEK

**January 18**

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

**January 19**

Church Office Closed  
9 am | LifeLight

**January 20**

10 am | LifeLight  
1:30 pm | Staff Meeting  
7 pm | Men’s Club

**January 21**

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

**January 22**

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

**January 23**

10 am | GSCC Bible Study

**January 25**

8 am | Worship  
9:15 am | Education Hour  
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

[stpaulsconcordia.org](http://stpaulsconcordia.org) | [office@stpaulsconcordia.org](mailto:office@stpaulsconcordia.org) | [facebook.com/stpaulsconcordiamo](https://facebook.com/stpaulsconcordiamo)

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