

CONCORDIA CONNECTION

Stay connected to our church, school, and community.

Week of January 25, 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: Today, we will study God's covenant with Abram in "A Sign and a Promise." God reassures Abram of His promise to bless the earth through Abram's offspring. God changes his name from Abram ("exalted father") to Abraham ("father of many nations") and institutes circumcision as the sign of His continued covenant with Abraham. Despite Abraham and Sarah's advanced age, God promises they will have a son of their own. *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. Daniel Paavola is, "Cross Words – Words of Power". 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.

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.*

National Lutheran Schools Week: This week we celebrate the ministry of Lutheran Schools, including our own and Saint Paul Lutheran High School. Disciples of Jesus learn and grow each day in Lutheran schools like ours. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) congregations and schools operate 1,600+ early childhood centers and preschools serving over 100,000 children. Additionally, 800+ elementary schools enroll approximately 78,000 students. Over 650 of these sites are accredited by National Lutheran School Accreditation. (Our school and SPLHS are both accredited through NLSA.) There are also more than 130 domestic and international Lutheran high schools. Our school will celebrate with daily devotions together, fun activities, a special offering, and dress-up days. We will also host a special chapel service this Wednesday at 9 am, which will include Trinity, Alma, and Immanuel, Higginsville. *Learn about our National Lutheran Schools Week events in the January 14 "Blue Jay Bulletin" available at stpaulsconcordia.org/school.*

MO Scholars: You can use your state tax dollars to support Lutheran education. Learn more and get started at mo.lcms.org/mo-scholars. SPLS enrollment information will come soon, and learn about SPLHS at splhs.org/admissions/tuition-financial-aid.

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.*

2025 Contribution Statements have been mailed. If you have questions about your statement or would like a copy emailed to you, please contact the church office.

Spotlighting Stewardship: "The financial needs of the church do not exceed the financial possibilities of its members" (J.H.C. Fritz, *Pastoral Theology* [Concordia, 1945, 2nd edition, revised], 258).

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).

1912 Ladies Aid Souper Bowl Sale: The 1912 Ladies Aid will be having a soup sale from 9 am – Noon, or while supplies last, on Sunday, February 8. A free-will offering will be collected to help support Mission Projects throughout the year. You can either pick up soup in the gym or drive through the alley behind the elementary school from 5th Street and pick it up at the kitchen door. Your choice of Vegetable Beef or Chicken Tortilla soup will be available in quart size, to go, microwavable containers.

Lent Family Sunday School: As we begin the journey into the season of Lent, please plan to attend the Family Sunday School event located in the gym on February 15, during the education hour (9:15–10:15). Sunday School age children and their parents are invited to attend this event. Families can look forward to participating in activities that will help them to focus on the Lenten season as well as share some family time together in God's Word. Come and see what special things we have planned for you! *For a full schedule of our 2025–26 Family Life Ministry Milestones and special events, visit stpaulsconcordia.org/familylife.*

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

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: splsauction.afrogs.org! Tickets go on sale on our website February 2!

The 2026 Gifts of Grace Auction is asking for 1940s 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; and
- Anything authentic to early/mid 1940s.

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 at 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. *Learn more at lutheransforlife.org.*

Life Quote: "The One who gives us our new beginning in Baptism is the same God who fashioned us and gave us our first beginning in the womb. It is God who brings forth life. It is God who created us, who 'knits us together,' so that we are 'intricately and wonderfully made.' Some say that the Bible never mentions abortion, and thus we should not speak against it. How far from the truth! The decisive moral truth of what Scripture teaches is this: Human beings are such from fertilization. And—it is a sin to shed innocent blood." *Rev. Paul Clark, Lutherans For Life of Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

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.

Orphan Grain Train: To support our local Orphan Grain Train center (Missouri West Collection Center), financial donations can be put in Kenneth Nierman's pigeonhole, taken to the church office, or mailed to Kenneth Nierman, 30148 Emma Rd, Concordia, MO 64020. Checks should be made out to Orphan Grain Train. Donations will be sent to the main office in Norfolk, NE and deposited in the Missouri West account. A record of your donation will be given to you at the end of the year if wanted for tax purposes. Anyone interested in helping with this ministry can attend the monthly workday on the last Tuesday of each month at 1 pm.

LAST WEEK

Attendance:

8 & 10:30 am Sunday: 281, 168; GSCC: 54
Sunday School (PS – Gr. 8): 33

Tithes and Offerings:

Home: \$26,395.42; Missions: \$1,357.43
Growing by God's Grace: \$75; Youth: \$45
Comfort Dog: \$1,806.81; Leckband Scholarship: \$100
Portals of Prayer: \$19; Building: \$40
SPLS: \$684.00; Home Improvement: \$200.02
SPLHS: \$335.74

THIS WEEK

January 25

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

January 26

8:15 am | SPLS Prayer Partners
9 am | LifeLight Bible Study
7 pm | Worship with Communion

January 27

9 am | Dementia Support Group
10 am | LifeLight Bible Study
1 pm | Orphan Grain Train
1:30 pm | Staff Meeting
4:15 pm | Comfort Dog Ministry
7 pm | Elders

January 28

9 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 30

10 am | GSCC Bible Study

February 1

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."