

CONCORDIA CONNECTION

Stay connected to our church, school, and community.

Week of February 15, 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.*

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 TODAY, 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.*

Adult Bible Study: The book of Exodus is one of the most important books of the Old Testament, where God called, rescued, and loved his people, Israel. Join the pastors, Sundays at 9:15am in the school gym, as we learn how this book still applies to us and teaches us about God's great love for us in Christ.

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. Michael Schutz is, "Up and Down the Mountain". 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.

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: Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37–39 ESV).

Marriage Retreat 2026: Save the date for this year's marriage retreat: April 17–19. The Rev. Dr. Justin Hannemann from GracePoint Institute for Relational Health in Omaha, Nebraska, will once again lead this year's retreat. *Additional details will be shared soon.*

Nominating Committee: There is still time to suggest a name for the 2026 Nominating Committee; *please contact Vice President Joel Oetting by February 22.* Our Nominating Committee will develop a slate of candidates for leadership positions to be elected at our Annual Meeting on May 31. According to our by-laws, "the committee shall contain a majority of non-Church Council members, shall function for one (1) year only, and shall include the Senior Pastor and one elder appointed by the Board of Elders."

2026 Estimate of Giving: As you prayerfully consider your financial contribution to our congregation this year, please return the Estimate of Giving form. You may place it in the box in the narthex, mail it to the church office, or drop it by the office. Specific pledges are only seen by our Business Manager and Admin. Assistant for your contribution record-keeping. The total number of pledges and total dollars pledged are used by our church leadership to help inform our budget for the next fiscal year. *If you have questions, please contact the church office.*

Midweek Lenten Services: Worship Wednesdays in Lent (February 18 – March 25) 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. Immediately prior to the Ash Wednesday services on February 18, anyone who wishes to receive the imposition of ashes (the mark of ashes in the shape of the cross on their forehead) may do so at the front of the sanctuary. *Visit stpaulsconcordia.org/lent-easter for our full schedule.*

3rd Grade Catechism Milestone: In keeping with our commitment to encourage and equip families to be the primary faith teachers in the home, it is our privilege to invite the 3rd graders and their parents to celebrate a special milestone event in their lives. On February 22, during the education hour (9:15-10:15), the parents and their children will be invited to attend an equipping event in the church office. Parents and their children will also be asked to come forward during the worship service so that they might be lifted up in prayer. The Catechism is a very useful tool to help Christian parents teach their children how the Bible applies to their lives. "I have no greater joy than to hear my children are walking in the truth." 3 John 4

SPLS Enrollment: Enrollment at St. Paul's Lutheran Grade School is now open for the 2026–27 school year! If you have a student currently enrolled, you should receive information via email and from your student. If you are interested in enrolling a new student, please contact the school office by phone 660-463-7654 or via email at school@splsconcordia.org. *SPLS nurtures and equips compassionate, wise, Christian leaders for a life of purpose and service to make a positive impact in the world.*

It's back! Fun, fellowship, and volleyball! Ladies, gather your teams for 5 weeks of league play in March. This year we will divide teams into recreational and competitive levels. It's free! Register at tinyurl.com/2026volleyball. Contact Julie Bonar (jeb-onar@stpaulsconcordia.org) or Sarah Sullivan (ssullivan@splhs.org) if you have any questions.

February Ministry Partner: Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) equips Gospel proclamation at home and abroad and offers free resources to help you in your daily walk. *Visit lhm.org/discover-lhm to learn more, to donate, and receive a free gift.*

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.

Life Quote: “The message of Jesus’ transfiguration—the fact that Jesus is God and Savior—has the power to transfigure you, to give you metamorphosis, to transform you from a bug to a butterfly! That’s what metamorphosis means. So, this week—and forever!—live a new life, one worthy of Christ, in whose sunshine and light, in whose transfiguration, you now bask.”

Rev. Paul Marggraf – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Pancake Supper: Concordia Senior Center is hosting a Pancake Supper on Thursday, February 17, from 5–7 pm (710 S. Main St.). The menu includes pancakes, sausage, biscuits and gravy, fruit, orange juice and coffee. A free-will donation will be collected at the door.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Ernestville, is sponsoring a Chili-Soup Dinner TODAY, February 15, from 11 am – 1 pm in the church basement. The proceeds will be used for the St. Paul’s Elementary School Tuition Program.

Chili & Soup Dinner - Come enjoy dinner at SPLHS in the Weis Gym Annex on Thursday, February 19, from 5–7 pm. Servants of the Saints will have soup, veggies, dessert and drinks for a free-will donation.

Pitch Party: St. Paul’s Men’s Club will host a zone pitch party on February 22 in the church office meeting room. A light supper will be served at 6:00 pm with cards following at 7:00 pm.

Saint Paul Lutheran High School Drama Department is producing the play *Mandate for Murder* by Pat Cook with permission from Eldridge Publishing Co. The dates of our performances are March 20th and 21st at 7pm. There is no admission fee, but a free will donation would be appreciated! During intermission we will offer \$0.50 cookies and \$1 water in the back of the chapel. We hope to see you there!

LAST WEEK

Attendance:

8 & 10:30 am Sunday: 351, 120; GSCC: 48; Monday: 13
Sunday School (PS – Gr. 8): 31

Tithes and Offerings:

Home: \$32,807.79; Missions: \$2,442.77
Growing by God’s Grace: \$25; Youth: \$20
Comfort Dog: \$12.50; Grade School: \$219.62
Building: \$40; Home Improvement: \$215.47
School Lunch Program: \$500; Sunday School: \$2
Portals of Prayer: \$20; HSFA: \$50

THIS WEEK

February 15

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

February 16

9 am | LifeLight Bible Study
6 pm | Altar Guild at the Conference Center

February 17

10 am | LifeLight Bible Study
1:30 pm | Staff Meeting

February 18

8:30 am | SPLS Chapel
10 am | Ash Wednesday Worship with Communion
12 pm | Women’s Bible Study
5:30 pm | PTL Lenten Meal – Taco Bar
7 pm | Ash Wednesday Worship with Communion
8 pm | Joyful Sounds Choir

February 19

6:30 am | Men’s Bible Study at SPLHS
2 pm | GSCC Communion
6 pm | Handbell Choir

February 20

10 am | GSCC Bible Study

February 22

8 am | Worship
9:15 am | Education Hour
9:30 am | GSCC Worship
10:30 am | Worship with Communion
6 pm | Men’s Club Pitch Party

CHURCH OFFICE
M-F: 8 am – Noon; 1 – 5 pm
(660) 463-2291

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

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

SCHOOL OFFICE
M-F: 8 am – 3:30 pm
(660) 463-7654

PASTOR “ON CALL”
In case of pastoral emergency
(660) 580-5483