

CONCORDIA CONNECTION

Stay connected to our church, school, and community.

Week of October 18, 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: “The Downfall Wall” is the title of this week’s lesson. Confident in their wall, the people of Jericho shut themselves up inside the city. Following God’s unusual battle plan, Joshua gathers the priests, trumpets, ark of the covenant, and people. Six days they march once around the city, then seven times on the seventh day, giving a shout at the conclusion of the last circuit. The city walls come tumbling down, and the Israelites wipe out the citizens and livestock while plundering precious metals for the tabernacle. Yet Rahab and her family are spared. *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

Sunday school students should not be dropped off or released to go their classroom until immediately prior to 9:15 am.

High School Sunday School: Vickie Pottschmidt and Rachel Martens will lead this morning’s study. *Meet in the Youth Room (lower level of the church office) at 9:15 am.*

Adult Bible Study: “Ten Lies Satan Loves to Tell.” The Devil’s most dangerous weapon isn’t brute force—it’s deception. This class will expose specific lies Satan uses to erode your trust in God, distort your identity, and drive you toward despair or pride. Each session discusses one lie and the core fear that motivates us to believe it before turning to the comforting truth of Jesus in Scripture. This class is based on the book of the same title by Rev. Andrew R. Jones, available at cph.org. *Our pastors lead this class Sundays from 9:15–10:15 am in the gym.* Today’s lie is “Life Will Be Better if You Seize More Control.”

Spotlighting Stewardship: “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s” (Matthew 22:21 ESV).

The Lutheran Hour: This week’s message by Pastor Ryan Tinetti is, “The Heart of the Matter”. 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.

Upcoming Events:

October 23–24 | Regional Comfort Dog Gathering
October 25 | Sixth Grade Stewardship Milestone
October 25 | Piano Concert, Dr. Jerrode Marsh, 3 pm
November 2 | SPLS Grandparents Day
November 8 | Kindergarten Bible Milestone
November 25/26 | Thanksgiving Eve/Day Worship
November 29 | Family Advent Sunday School

NEW Thursday Morning Men’s Bible Study: A study based on the previous Sunday’s sermon will meet on Thursday mornings at 9 am at Seven Days Diner in Concordia. *All are welcome.*

Selecting Possible Finishes: Last week, members of our Campus Team met with the Senior Interior Designer from SFS Architecture to explore possible finishes for our Phase 1A narthex, including paint colors, trim, tile and carpet, lighting, and plumbing fixtures, etc. These preliminary selections will help produce more detailed pricing for our project beyond the initial estimates. In addition to durability, selections will be made to unify the new space to our existing sanctuary building.

St. Paul’s is hiring a part-time evening custodian (approx. 10 hours/week) to care for the church office and lower level of the school. If interested, please contact Julie at jebonar@stpaulsconcordia.org.

6th Grade Stewardship Milestone: Family Life would like to invite 6th graders and their parents to attend a special milestone celebration on Sunday, October 25, during the Sunday School hour (9:15–10:15) in the back room of the Parish Office. This milestone will focus on how to be a good steward of the blessings that God has given to you. Come and learn what this might look like in your home. There will be a presentation as well as a special gift to help you in your stewardship plan. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!

Comfort Dog Regional Gathering: Comfort Dogs from Missouri and Southern Illinois will gather in Concordia October 23–24, hosted by Team Thomas. Volunteers and donations are needed for food, beverages, setup, serving, and cleanup. *To help or donate, visit signupgenius.com/go/508044CAAAC22A4F85-65927849-comfort or call the church office.*

Next Friday and Saturday Team Thomas will host a group of Comfort Dogs and their teams. They will be meeting, training, and enjoying fellowship with one another and the dogs. On Saturday from 1:30–2:30 there will be a “Meet and Greet” where you may see the dogs and interact with them and their handlers. Weather permitting, this will take place at Saint Paul Lutheran High School in the grass across from the gym. At 2:30 the dogs will be able to play on the softball field, where they can be “just dogs.” *Team Thomas and all the dogs will be happy to see you.*

Grandparents ~ Save the Date! St. Paul’s Elementary is hosting our annual Grandparents’ Day on Monday, November 2, 2026. Invitations have been sent home with students to deliver or mail to their grandparent(s) or a special guest. Please note the RSVP deadline is MONDAY, October 19! Contact the school office 660-463-7654 or Mrs. Larsen, saralarsen@splsconcordia.org, with any questions.

Missing Dishes? Check the church office; there are a number of dishes leftover from funeral lunches.

Join Us for Community Group! Do you desire deeper community through fellowship and God's Word? Here's an opportunity to join us! On Wednesdays, October 28, November 4, November 11, and November 18, we'll gather for food, fellowship, and a time of study based on *The Questions Christians Hope No One Will Ask*. We'll meet in the back of the church office. Dinner begins at 5:30 pm, followed by the study at 6:15 pm. Bring the whole family! Food will be provided, and children will be supervised on the playground during the study. We hope you'll join us!

Piano Concert: Dr. Jerrode Marsh will play a piano concert here at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Sunday, October 25, at 3 pm in the sanctuary. We celebrate God's goodness and our new grand piano. Please join us for a concert featuring classical piano music and some hymn arrangements. Watch for more concerts coming in our Celebration Concert Series.

Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month: During this month, many families grieve for babies they were never able to know and see grow-up into children and adults. Please pray for our families who are grieving this loss. There are some extra resources sheets that were made available in May with our miscarriage memorial service that are now in the narthex. Please feel free to pass along or keep if they are helpful.

Name Tags Help Us Connect: Name tags significantly help connection in churches by fostering a welcoming environment, reducing the fear of forgetting names, and accelerating relationship-building among members and visitors. As the body of Christ, we walk in love because Jesus first loved us and calls us to love one another. Knowing one another's names is the first step to connection. So let's help foster connection by wearing your name tag! If you lost your name tag or never got one, then all you need to do is fill out a card for a name tag in the narthex and pop it in the box! Or connect with Cindy Rodewald or Elisa Oetting and we can help make sure you get one. Or call the church office and let Melissa know you need a new name tag. First time name tags are free for members and regular attenders starting with high school age. Replacement magnetic name tags we ask for a \$2 donation or you can get a pin on tag for free. Small children can utilize the stick-on name tags in the pews.

Please join us at Holy Cross, Emma, for our annual Tuition Brunch on Sunday, November 8, to raise funds for tuition expenses. We will be serving brunch from 10 am – noon (or until we run out of food) with free-will donation at the door. Feel free to join us for 9 am church beforehand and enjoy music from Trinity, Alma, students. Hope to see you there!

Together: Faith+Mission+Life Expansion Campaign
Commitments: \$2,473,994 | Gifts received to date: \$585,167
Designated Funds: \$1,756,400* | Project Cost: \$5.7 million
**Growing by God's Grace Endowment Fund as of 6/30/26*

LAST WEEK

Attendance:

8 & 10:30 am Sunday: 304, 152; GSCC: 63; Monday: 15
Sunday School: 19; High School SS: 6; Adult Bible Study: 39

Tithes and Offerings:

Home: \$24,832.26; Missions: \$894.32; Sunday School: \$8
Comfort Dog: \$60; Youth: \$20; Building: \$20
Home Improvement: \$215.47; Grade School: \$119.62
HSFA: \$50; Leckband Scholarship: \$125

THIS WEEK

October 18

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

October 19

8:15 am | SPLS Prayer Partners
9 am | LifeLight Bible Study
6:30 pm | DivorceCare

October 20

10 am | LifeLight Bible Study

October 21

8:30 am | SPLS Chapel
12 pm | Women's Bible Study
6:30 pm | Compassionate Care Ministry

October 22

6:30 am | Men's Bible Study at SPLHS
9 am | Unshakable Bible Study
9 am | Men's Study at 7 Days Diner
6 pm | Handbells
7 pm | Joyful Sounds Choir

October 23

10 am | GSCC Bible Study

October 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

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