CONCORDIA CONNECTION

Stay connected to our church, school, and community.

Week of November 22, 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.*

Children are welcome. We encourage children of all ages to be active participants in our worship. Children can sing, pray, stand, and sit with other worshipers. *Jesus knows that children tend to wiggle and make noise, so please don't be embarrassed by it, and we will do our best to welcome, smile, encourage, help, and bless you all.* Please know that while you are caring for your children, the rest of us will be rejoicing in Jesus' words, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God" (Lk 18:16 ESV). Children's bulletins are available from an usher, and a cry room is located at the back of the sanctuary.

Sunday School: "The Fearless Shepherd" is the title for today's lesson. As their armies remain encamped against one another, the Philistines send for their champion, Goliath, to challenge the Israelites. The Israelites fear to challenge the giant. Young David expresses dismay at the soldiers' lack of trust in God. Confident that the Lord will give him victory, David uses his sling and knocks Goliath to the ground before cutting off Goliath's head with the giant's own sword. *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: God's World Series is coming, and it's going to be epic! So what is your role in the most serious event in history. Join us in studying your end times in your God's loving and protective embrace. *This class meets at 9:15 am in the youth room (the basement of the church office)*.

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 "You Are Alone."

Altar Flowers Today are given to the glory of God in celebration of Stan & Kathryn Oetting's 50th wedding anniversary.

Thanksgiving Worship: Gather with your church family to give thanks to God and sing His praise:

Wednesday, November 25, at 7 pm
Thursday, November 26, at 9:30 am

"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!" (1 Chronicles 16:34 ESV).

The Lutheran Hour: This week's message by Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler is, "Trees in Winter". 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.

The Wednesday noon Bible study will NOT meet on Nov 25; they will resume on Dec 2.

Caregivers Support Group meets this Tuesday, Nov 24, at 9 am in the Conference Center.

Upcoming Events:
December 2, 9, 16 | Advent Midweek Worship, 10 am/7pm
December 8 | SPLS Christmas Concert, 6:30 pm
December 12 | Family Life Cookie Walk, 9 am
December 13 | SPLHS Singing Saints Concert, 3 pm

Holidays Are Holy Days: See a full calendar of special worship services and events for the Advent and Christmas seasons. *Visit stpaulsconcordia.org/advent-christmas, scan the QR code, or pick up a copy in the narthex or church and school offices.*

Revising Cost Estimates: Pearce Construction is reviewing revised cost estimates with our Campus Team and SFS Architecture as we move through the design development stage for our Phase 1A narthex project. This will update numbers first shared in September 2025 with new estimates based on current costs and conversations with potential subcontractors. These conversations are ongoing.

Advent Family Sunday School: As we look towards the season of Advent, preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ, Family Life would like to invite all families with Sunday school age children to attend an Advent Family Sunday School on November 29 in the school gym. This event will take place during the Sunday school hour from 9:15–10:15. We will have an activity planned for you that you won't want to miss! See you there!

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 12. 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!

St. Paul's is hiring a part-time custodian for the church. Responsibilities include cleaning before/after services (Sundays, midweek, funerals and weddings). Starting wage is $15.00/hr. If interested, please contact Julie Bonar.

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).

Christian greeting cards are available in the school office. $8 for a box of 12; $14 for a box of 24. Christmas cards, birthday, sympathy, encouragement, and more!

SPLS partners with Raise Right to offer gift cards from hundreds of retailers, restaurants, and more! You pay face value, and a percentage of each purchase goes back to SPLS. We keep gift cards on hand year-round, but our next order will be placed December 3. Need something specific? Place your order by then, and it will arrive before Christmas! Get some Christmas shopping done while supporting SPLS!

November Ministry Partner: Lutheran Church Charities (LCC) works throughout the United States and internationally in bringing the mercy, compassion, presence, and proclamation of Jesus Christ to those suffering and in need. Thomas Comfort Dog is one of more than 130 LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs serving in more than 27 states. We are also an affiliate of LCC's Hearts of Mercy and Compassion (HMC) ministry. HMC provides a physical and spiritual symbol through the giving of hearts and crosses to families and friends who have suffered a loss or are experiencing the illness of a loved one. *Learn more at lutheranchurchcharities.org*.

Card Shower Celebrating 50 Years of Service to Christ
On December 15, 2026, Rev. Dr. Leslie J Mitkos, Jr will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of his ordination as a pastor in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Pastor Mitkos' family is organizing a card shower and would like to invite members of his former congregations and friends to join in celebrating this special milestone. If you would like to send a card congratulating Pastor Mitkos on this wonderful anniversary, please mail it by **DECEMBER 1** to:

Rev. Dr. Leslie Mitkos
911 S. Main Street
Concordia, MO 64020

If you would like to make a gift in his honor, The Rev. Dr. Leslie John and Dr. Yvonne Marie Mitkos student aid scholarship resides at Concordia Seminary St. Louis. For more information, please contact Concordia Seminary Advancement at 1-800-822-5287 or email advancement.csl.edu. Let's help make this milestone extra special by sharing our congratulations and appreciation for his years of ministry!

Together: Faith+Mission+Life Expansion Campaign
Commitments: $2,473,994 | Gifts received to date: $658,190
Designated Funds: $1,746,833* | Project Cost: $5.7 million
**Growing by God's Grace Endowment Fund as of 9/30/26*

LAST WEEK

Attendance:
8 & 10:30 am Sunday: 253, 172; GSCC: 43
Sunday School: 33; High School SS: 2; Adult Bible Study: 40

Tithes and Offerings:
Home: $25,824.35; Missions: $2,402.84; Sunday School: $14.25
Comfort Dog: $42.50; Youth: $20; Building: $20
Home Improvement: $318.44; Grade School: $54.62
Christmas Meal Bags: $2,000; Leckband Fund: $100
LERT: $25; School Lunch Fund: $10

THIS WEEK

November 22
8 am | Worship
9:15 am | Education Hour
9:30 am | GSCC Worship
10:30 am | Worship with Communion

November 23
8:15 am | SPLS Prayer Partners
9 am | LifeLight Bible Study
6:30 pm | DivorceCare
7 pm | Worship with Communion

November 24
9 am | Caregivers Support Group
10 am | LifeLight Bible Study
1 pm | Orphan Grain Train
7 pm | Elders

November 25
7 pm | Thanksgiving Eve Worship with Communion

November 26
Church Office Closed
9:30 am | Thanksgiving Worship with Communion

November 27
Church Office Closed

November 29
8 am | Worship
9:15 am | Education Hour
9:30 am | GSCC Worship
10:30 am | Worship