

Explore & Serve St. Louis

Information for a Mission Trip to the Gateway City



I am the gate[way].
All who come through me will be saved. John 10:9

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Thank you for considering St. Louis as a possible site for your upcoming mission trip. Like so many places throughout the US, St. Louis needs the presence of Christ exhibited through those who are called to serve. Whether you are looking to provide or participate in a specific ministry - construction and home repair; backyard bible clubs; homeless ministry; serving the hungry – or simply come with open hands to serve where needed, we appreciate and welcome you to the Gateway City.

This booklet and the information within was compiled by Kirkwood Baptist Church but by no means should be seen as exhaustive or exclusive. Our only hope is that it can be a starting point for you as you think, plan, and pray about serving St. Louis.

Like many other church youth groups, we typically planned our mission trips out of town ... and for very good reasons. Traveling to a new place and experiencing a new part of the world can be exciting for youth. Meeting new people who may be different from you can open up the youth's worldview and help them discover more about themselves. And, moving out of one's comfort zone can often create the space God needs to work in the life of a youth.

However, in 2009, we decided to stay home and discover what God wanted to show us in our own backyard. And discover we did. God showed our youth corners of their own city which they did not know exist; corners where homeless slept, corners where children dodged gun shots, corners where women and children escaped violence, corners where people sorted food for the hungry, corners where the most appealing expressions of faith came from the least appealing people, corners where God's presence was desperately needed, corners where the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.

Now we invite you to our backyard. To be the gate[way] through which others in our city might find the love and hope of Jesus Christ.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Daniel Johnson, Associate Pastor for Students at Kirkwood Baptist at 314-965-2349 or djohnson@kirkwoodbaptist.org.

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Transportation

Air Travel

Lambert-St. Louis International Airport is owned and operated by the City of St. Louis. Lambert serves most major commercial airlines including Air Canada, Airtran, American, Continental, Delta, Frontier, Great Lakes, Midwest Connect, Northwest, Southwest, United, US Airways, and USA 3000 Airlines. Location: 11 miles northwest of downtown St. Louis along I-70 between I-170 and I-270. Find out more at www.flystl.com/flystl.

Public Transportation

The **MetroLink** light rail system extends 46 miles from either Lambert-St. Louis International Airport or from Shrewsbury to Shiloh-Scott (Air Force Base), Illinois, stopping along the way at major retail, business, recreational, and cultural centers, as well as the Convention Center, America's Center. Fare is \$3.75 outbound from airport stations; \$2.25 elsewhere. For more information, visit www.metrostlouis.org or call Transit Information: (314) 231-2345 in Missouri, (618) 271-2345 in Illinois.

MetroBus Fare: \$2.00. One day pass, \$7.50, valid on all MetroBus and MetroLink light rail routes; Weekly pass, \$23.50; Monthly pass, \$68. Children under 5 ride free. Children 5-12, the elderly and disabled pay \$1.00. For more information: www.metrostlouis.org.

Railroads

Amtrak services the St. Louis area with rail passenger service to downtown St. Louis and additional stops in Kirkwood, MO and Alton, IL - not all trains serve these stations. Visit www.amtrak.com for schedules and pricing.

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Lodging

Churches

- **Kirkwood Baptist Church** – 211 North Woodlawn Avenue, Kirkwood
 - Contact: www.kirkwoodbaptist.org / (314) 965-2349
- **Third Baptist Church** – 620 North Grand Blvd., St. Louis
 - Contact: www.third-baptist.org / (314) 533-7340

Universities

- **Missouri Baptist University** – One College Park Drive, Creve Couer
 - Contact: www.mobap.edu / (314) 392-2387
- **Saint Louis University** – One Grand Blvd, St. Louis
 - Contact: www.slu.edu / (314) 977-6338
- **Fontbonne University** – 6800 Wydown Blvd, Creve Couer
 - Contact: www.fontbonne.edu / (314) 889-1411
- **Webster University** – 240 Edgar Road, Webster Groves
 - Contact: <http://webster.edu/housing/conference.shtml> / (314) 246-2031
- **University of Missouri – St. Louis** – One University Blvd., St. Louis
 - Contact: <http://www.umsl.edu/services/asdconf> / (314) 516-4346
- **Eden Theological Seminary** - 475 E. Lockwood Ave., Webster Groves, MO
 - Contact: www.eden.edu/Campus/Overnight%20Stays.aspx / 314-918-2534

Other

- **Camp Wyman** – 600 Kiwanis Drive, Eureka, MO
 - Contact: www.wymancenter.org / (636) 938-5245
- **Toddhall Retreat Center** – 320 Todd Center Drive, Columbia, IL
 - Contact: www.toddhallrc.org / (618)-281-8180
- **Marianist Retreat and Conference Center** – 4000 Highway 109, Eureka, MO
 - Contact: www.mretreat.org / (636) 938-5390
- **LaSalle Retreat Center** – 2101 Rue De LaSalle, Glencoe, MO
 - Contact: www.lasalleretreat.org / (636) 938-5374
- **Pallottine Renewal Center** – 15270 Old Halls Ferry Road, Florissant, MO
 - Contact: www.pallottinerenewal.org / (314) 837-7100

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Other cont.

- **Mercy Center** – 2039 North Geyer Road St. Louis, Frontenac, MO
 - Contact: www.mercycenterstl.org / (314)966-4686

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Things to Do “beyond the mission”

There’s so much to see and do in St. Louis but here are a few “must-see options.”

1. Ride to the top of the [Gateway Arch](#), 630-feet over the Mississippi River.
2. Follow the footsteps of explorers Lewis & Clark at various historic attractions.
3. Explore [Forest Park’s](#) 1,300 acres of lakes, walking paths and attractions.
4. Drive Old Route 66 and visit some of the “Mother Road’s” fascinating stops.
5. Enjoy world-class free attractions, including the [Art Museum](#), [Zoo](#), [Science Center](#), [Anheuser-Busch Brewery](#), [Grant’s Farm](#), and the [History Museum](#).
6. Marvel at the [Missouri Botanical Garden](#), one of the world’s top public gardens.
7. Explore the [Magic House](#), [City Museum](#) and other kid-friendly attractions.
8. Visit an ancient Indian civilization at [Cahokia Mounds](#).
9. Cheer for the MLB’s [Cardinals](#), NFL’s [Rams](#) and NHL’s [Blues](#).
10. Enjoy a taste of St. Louis by visiting some of the places that give St. Louis it’s unique flavor. [Ted Drewe’s](#) Frozen Custard, [Serra’s Pizzeria](#), [Imo’s Pizza](#), [The Hill](#) (Italian), [Fitz’s Root Beer](#), Sweetie Pies (soul food), [Crown Candy](#), [Gus’ Pretzels](#), [Hodaks](#) (chicken), [Super Smokers](#) BBQ, [Annie Gunn’s](#), [Chuck-A-Burger](#), [Pappy’s](#) (BBQ), [City Diner](#), [Goody Goody Diner](#), and many more.
11. Count the mosaics at the beautiful [Cathedral Basilica](#) of Saint Louis.
12. Experience live blues music.
13. Get your motor running at the [Museum of Transportation](#) or [Gateway International Raceway](#).
14. Take in the art at the [Citygarden](#), [Laumeier Sculpture Park](#), the [Contemporary Art Museum](#), the [Pulitzer Foundation](#) for the Arts and [The Sheldon](#) Concert Hall.

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15. Re-discover your heritage at the [Old Courthouse](#), [Black World History Museum](#) and [Faust Historic Village](#).
16. Take a tour or take in a show at the [Fox Theatre](#).
17. Attend one of the area’s unique fairs or festivals.
18. Get an adrenaline rush on the world-class roller coasters and thrill rides at [Six Flags St. Louis](#).
19. Talk to the animals at [Purina Farms](#), the [Wild Canid Survival Center](#), the [World Bird Sanctuary](#) and the [St. Louis Zoo](#).
20. [Cruise](#) the mighty Mississippi River on the Tom Sawyer or Becky Thatcher paddle wheeler.
21. Get extreme or just have a blast at [Demoliton Ball](#), [Paint Ball](#), [Swing-A-Round Fun Town](#), [Upper Limits](#), [Skyzone](#), or the [Caveman Zipline](#).

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Mission Opportunities

There are numerous mission project opportunities within the St. Louis area. If you have not already arranged your mission projects, the following list includes some mission organizations that you might consider. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Listed in alphabetical order:

- **Beyond Housing** - Beyond Housing is one of the St. Louis region's leading providers of housing and support services for low-income families and homeowners.
 - Contact: www.beyondhousing.org / (314) 533-0600
- **The Bridge** – operating out of Centenary Church in the city of St. Louis, The Bridge offers immediate support and services to the homeless including meals, hygiene supplies, showers, restrooms, and shelter while also working to help individuals get out of the cycle of poverty. Ask about “The Trail”; and eye opening look into the life of the homeless in St. Louis.
 - Contact: www.centenarystl.org / (314) 421-3136
- **Christian Activities Center** (East St. Louis) - Children and youth (6-18) pour through CAC's doors every weekday at 3:30pm and stay in our care till 8pm. Each child is offered a healthy after school snack, hot dinner meal, homework help, computer training, fine arts classes, recreation, medical care and life enhancement (mentoring, Girls Night, Guys Night, Bible study, devotions, etc.) In addition, CAC sends children to summer camps and on mission trips (Belize, Canada, New York, and Florida).
 - Contact: www.cacesl.org / (618) 874-5615
- **Gateway 180** - Gateway 180 is the largest 24-hour emergency shelter for single women and families in the state of Missouri. The shelter provides 110 beds and three home-cooked meals a day to residents. In adverse weather conditions, the shelter opens additional beds to meet the needs of homeless women and children in the community. In addition, more than 100 lunches are distributed each day to homeless and low-income people.
 - Contact: www.gateway180.org / (314) 231-1515
- **Gateway Greening (City Seeds)** – The City Seeds mission is to foster self-sufficiency in addicted and chronically mentally ill homeless; increase production and distribution of locally grown fresh food for low-income residents, and provide nutrition and food preparation/preservation programs.
 - Contact: <http://www.gatewaygreening.org/CitySeeds.asp> / (314) 588-9600
 -
- **Grace Hill Settlement** – works in partnership with neighbors and stakeholders to identify the social and economic challenges in North and South St. Louis, and establish families and communities that are strong and self-sustaining.
 - Contact: www.gracehill.org / (314) 584-6957

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- **Habitat for Humanity** – volunteer opportunities with home projects and at the ReSTORE.
 - Contact: www.habitatstl.org / (314) 371-0400
- **Hope Unlimited** - exists to introduce at-risk youth in the metropolitan St. Louis area to Jesus Christ and to equip them with the skills to become productive members of society.
 - Contact: www.hopeunlimitedkirkwood.org / (314) 821-2999
- **Lewis Place Historical Preservation, Inc** – community based housing and community development organization committed to serving the Lewis Place neighborhood.
 - Contact: www.lewisplacestl.org / (314) 535-1354
- **Kirkwood Baptist Bosnian Ministry** – serving refugees and immigrants of the former Yugoslavia that reside in St. Louis.
 - Contact: Sasha and Mira Zivanov / (314) 583-3307 / uamsasa@charter.net
- **North Grand Community Services** – promotes dignity of low-income persons and the community in which they share by developing affordable housing, employment and training opportunities for youth, and other initiatives.
 - Contact: www.ngns.org / (314) 535-6467
- **Northside Community Center** – provides social and support services for the most “at risk” residents of the Greater Ville neighborhood including seniors, unemployed, teens, minority youth, homeless and transients.
 - Contact: www.northsidecommunitycenter.net / (314) 531-4161
- **Nurses for Newborns** - exists to provide a safety net for families most at-risk through home visiting by experienced, registered nurses who provide healthcare and resources and teach positive parenting skills. The overall goal is to prevent child abuse and neglect and infant mortality.
 - Contact: www.nfnf.org / (314) 544-3433
- **Operation Brightside** - the region's oldest and most comprehensive not-for-profit cleaning and greening initiative, enriches and beautifies St. Louis by restoring, maintaining and growing the community landscape.
 - Contact: www.stlouis.missouri.org/501c/brightside/ / (314) 772-4646
- **Operation Food Search** - Operation Food Search has become the largest distributor of free food in the bi-state area helping to feed the region's poor. Operation Food Search distributes more than 1.5 million pounds of food and household items to 250 community partner agencies that in turn feed 100,000 poor people every single month. Nearly half the recipients are children.
 - Contact: www.ofsearch.org / (314) 726-5355
- **Peter and Paul Community Services** – an ecumenical human service agency committed to providing immediate and transitional housing and supportive services to the homeless, especially those experiencing mental illness, HIV/AIDS, and drug and alcohol addiction.
 - Contact: www.ppcsinc.org / (314) 588-7111

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- **Salvation Army Harbor Light** - Homeless and drug rehabilitation services.
 - Contact: (314) 652-3310
- **St. Louis Area Foodbank** - Our mission is to feed hungry people by distributing food through our partner agencies, and to educate the public about the problems of hunger.
 - Contact: www.stlfoodbank.org / (314) 423-6100
- **St. Patrick's Center** - the largest provider of homeless services in Missouri, with more than 20 programs assisting more than 9,000 persons annually who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. We help individuals and families move from homelessness to independence in a measurable, cost-effective manner.
 - Contact: www.stpatrickcenter.org / (314) 802-0681
- **St. Vincent de Paul** – provides personal assistance to people facing economic, emotional or spiritual crisis.
 - Contact: www.svdpstlouis.org / (314) 881-6032
- **Sunshine Ministries** - is committed to providing high-quality Christian social services to the poor and needy of St. Louis by offering healing from the past, help for the present, and hope for the future.
 - Contact: www.sunshineministries.org / (314) 231-8209
- **Webster-Kirkwood Shepherd's Center** - an interfaith volunteer organization that provides programs and services for older adults, enabling those adults to remain vital and independent through promoting positive aging.
 - Contact: www.shepherdscenter-wk.org / (314) 961-2669