

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday 12/20

- 9:15 am Christmas Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 9:20 am Education Time / Children's Worship Rehearsal
- 10:30 am Contemporary Worship - Children Leading Worship
- 12:00 pm Christmas Caroling (Meet in Room 122)
- 3:00 pm LSA 5th-8th Grade Christmas Concert (@LSA Gym)

Monday 12/21

Tuesday 12/22

- 5:45 am Fitness at First Exercise Class (Rm 122) *All Welcome!*
- 12:00 pm Classes dismissed for Christmas Break at LSA
- 6:30 pm All Musicians/Vocalist Christmas Eve Rehearsal

Wednesday 12/23 No School - Break Begins at LSA

- 2:00 pm Ozier Baptism (Sanctuary)
- 3:00 pm Boyd Baptism (Sanctuary)

Thursday 12/24 Christmas Eve - Church Office & ELC Closed

- 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship "A Baby Changes Everything"
- 8:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship "A Baby Changes Everything"

Friday 12/25 Christmas Day - Church Office & ELC Closed

- 10:00 am Christmas Day Worship "Worth the Wait"

Saturday 12/26 NO Regular Worship Service

Sunday 12/27 No regular 8:00am or 10:30am worship - one service only

- 8:00 am All Musicians/Praise Team Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 10:00 am Celebration Worship - Senior Pastor Installation
- 11:15 am Reception Luncheon (Fellowship Area - following worship)

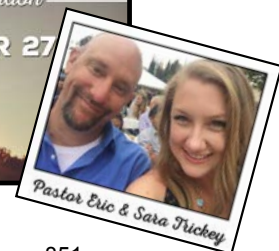
Sounds of the Season - Concerts at LSA

Enjoy the sounds of the Christmas Season! LSA 5th-8th Grade Concert is Sunday, December 20th at 3:00pm (LSA Gym).

Join us on
SUNDAY,
DECEMBER
27th
10:00AM



Luncheon to follow in the Fellowship Area
(Please bring a side dish to share)



We Worship...

Last Week in Worship: 851
4 Week Avg. Regular Attendance: 796

...Better Together!

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 20th** *Worship together - led by the NEXT generation!*
Children's Christmas Worship (10:30am - Led by SHiNe Ministry)
- Christmas Caroling** (hosted by SHiNe, Meet @12:00pm-Room 122)
- December 22nd** *Choir/Praise Team/Children's Choir/All Musicians*
Rehearsal for Christmas Eve Worship (6:30pm @Sanctuary)
- December 24th** "A Baby Changes Everything"
Christmas Eve Worship (6:00pm & 8:00pm @SPL)
- December 25th** "Worth the Wait"
Christmas Day Worship (10:00am @SPL)
- December 27th** *No Worship Saturday, December 26th*
Senior Pastor Installation (One Service 10:00am @SPL)
Luncheon for Pastor Eric Trickey & family (Following worship)
- December 31st**
New Year's Eve Worship (7:00pm @SPL)
- January 6th** Registration available online at spldecat.org
F3: Family-Faith-Formation Winter Session Begins (1/6-2/3)

CONNECT WITH US!

Visit our updated website at spldecat.org

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/stpaulsdecat

Follow us on Twitter at [@SPLDecatur](https://twitter.com/SPLDecatur)

View our Live Stream at stpaulsdecat.org/sermon.net

Subscribe to our SPL E-Updates at <http://eepurl.com/bu3tgl>



10:30 AM WORSHIP
DECEMBER 20, 2015

Pastor Doug Bender
Pastor Wray Offermann



When they had seen him, they SPREAD the WORD concerning what had been TOLD them about THIS CHILD, and all who HEARD it were AMAZED at what the shepherds SAID to them.

LUKE 2:17-18

Prayer Before Worship

Heavenly Father, sometimes we are afraid of what might come to us, but we know that You are by our side. Please help us know that You are always with us, even when we are afraid. In Your gracious name we pray, Amen.

Call to Worship

Welcome

Invocation

Worship Feature

We Have a Savior (Dance)

Jesus Loves Me

Opening Praise

Hark the Herald Angels Sing (King of Heaven)

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:8-18

O Holy Night

Worship Feature

The Least of These

Message

"Shepherds: From Unclean to Honored Guests"

Luke 2:8-18



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

1 BACHRACH CT. | DECATUR, IL 62526

PH: 217-423-6955 | INFO@SPLDECATUR.ORG

SPLDECATUR.ORG

BUILD THE HOME, CHANGE THE WORLD.

Confession and Absolution

Dear God, You promise that when we take our sins to You, You take them away from us. You know that I am weak and need so much help in my life. You tell me that when I am weak You are strong in me. So I confess all my sins, where I have done wrong. Please take them away and give me the joy of Your salvation, that Baby born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Savior. In His name we pray, Amen.

Offering

Our offerings, gifts, and tithes are returned to Jesus in response to His sacrificial love for us. During the offering time, please complete one of the worship cards found in the pew in front of you and pass it to the center aisle.

Adore Him

Prayers of the Church

A handout with this week's prayer concerns is available at the Usher's Booth for those who would like to continue to pray about these concerns.

The Lord's Prayer

Blessing

Closing Song

Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)

Invite others to experience Christmas Worship at St. Paul's!

Personal invite cards available at the back of the sanctuary.

A Baby Changes Everything - Christmas Eve at 6:00 & 8:00pm
Worth the Wait - Christmas Day at 10:00am

Thank you to all of the children and families who participated in serving in worship and leading today's service!

Christmas Caroling - SING WITH US!

Sponsored by SHiNe & THRIVE ministries - All are welcome to come together for a time of Christmas Caroling on 12/20 (TO-DAY). Come to Room 122 at 12:00pm for a light lunch and card making, then we will go out caroling in the community.

SEEKING HELP? FIND IT HERE.

This time of year can be challenging, with the stress of the holiday season, family issues, or perhaps dealing with loss. If you are seeking help in these areas, contact Jarvis Howe, Director of Counseling & Family Ministry at SPL. He offers Christ-centered counseling services for individuals, couples, families, and children. Call 217-423-6955 for an appointment (ask for Jarvis).

Reserve Your Holiday Poinsettias Today!

Three sizes available, limited quantities - \$5/\$10/\$15

Flowers on the Altar

Flowers on the altar are to the glory of God and in celebration of the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ, and all He has given to us.

Our Belief: Receiving the Lord's Supper

The Apostle Paul wrote, "A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup." (1 Corinthians 11:28) In order to examine yourself before attending the Lord's Supper, when offered, ask yourself the following questions:

1. Do I believe I am a sinner, and am I sorry for my sins?
2. Do I believe Jesus, by His death, offers me forgiveness for all my sins?
3. Do I believe I receive the body and blood of Jesus in and with the bread and wine? (*They are not merely symbolically present.*)
4. Do I truly desire to turn from my sinful ways?

If you are able to answer "yes" to these questions, we invite you to join us for the Lord's Supper, when offered. Children and adults who cannot answer affirmatively are invited and encouraged to come forward for a blessing but should refrain from receiving the bread and wine.*

**For those who are unable, or prefer not to consume wine, cups with white grape juice are located in the center of the communion trays.*

MESSAGE NOTES

"The Birth of Change: Shepherds"

Community Life Discussion Questions are available along with the weekly Prayer Concerns at the back of the sanctuary.

YEAR END...NEW BEGINNINGS

Don't miss out on these special worship opportunities here at St. Paul's as we approach the new year:

-**SENIOR PASTOR INSTALLATION**: Celebrate the installation of Senior Pastor, Eric Trickey in one service at 10:00am on 12/27 (NO Saturday worship on 12/26 or regular services on 12/27) Reception to follow - please bring a side dish (chicken provided)

-**NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP**: Join us on Thursday, December 31st at 7:00pm and worship together as we close out 2015.

CHRISTMAS EVE REHEARSALS

All Musicians and Vocalists (including Children's Choir, Adult Choir, Handbells, Wind Ensemble, and Praise Team) should be present for the final music rehearsal for Christmas Eve on Tuesday, December 22nd at 6:30pm in the sanctuary. (Handbell Choir will meet at 6:00pm.)

CHILDREN'S & YOUTH MINISTRY CORNER

Follow @SHiNeSPL

Children's Ministry: SHiNe with us on Sundays at 9:20am (Saturday 6:15pm) for children's education time. PreK-K meet in 206. 1st-4th Gr. meet in 203 to start. Gr. 5/6 meet in the Choir Room.

Children's Christmas Worship: December 20th @10:30am. Final rehearsal Sunday 12/20 at 9:20am, worship at 10:30am. Contact Jennifer Power with any questions at 217-423-6955.

BUILDING BLOCKS: Class for Parents/Caretakers and Babies to 3 year olds on Sundays at 9:20am in Room 211. Contact Jennifer Power at 423-6955 or jennifer@spldecatour.org for info.

Youth Ministry: THRIVE Senior High Youth Sundays at 9:20am (Rm 122) (pastordoug@spldecatour.org).

Join us for F3 Wednesdays starting January 6, 2016!