

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday 12/6

- 9:20 am New Member Welcome Brunch (Fellowship Area)
- 2:00 pm Kubow Shepherd Group Christmas Caroling
- 6:30 pm THRIVE Community group mtg. (Bender Home)

Monday 12/7

Tuesday 12/8

- 5:45 am Fitness at First Exercise Class (Rm 122) *All Welcome!*
- 7:00 am SPL Foundation Meeting (Conference Room)
- 6:00 pm Lay Ministry Meeting (Great Room)

Wednesday 12/9 *ELC Scholastic Book Fair Begins (thru 12/13)*

- 10:30 am Ministry to Mature (Conference Room)
- 12:15 pm Midweek Advent Worship (Traditional)
- 5:30 pm Midweek Advent Dinner: Assorted Casseroles
- 6:00 pm SHiNe Children's Christmas Rehearsals (Rm 122)
- 6:30 pm Midweek Advent Worship (Contemporary)

Thursday 12/10 *Handbells 5:30pm, Winds 6:30pm, Choir 7:00pm*

- 5:45 am Fitness at First Exercise Class (Rm 122) *All Welcome!*
- 6:30 am Barr Men's Bible Study (Conference Room)
- 5:30 pm Discipleship Team Meeting (Conference Room)
- 6:30 pm ELC "Christmas In Our Jammies" Program (Sanctuary)

Friday 12/11

- 7:00 pm THRIVE Alive Jr/Sr High Open Gym Night @LSA

Saturday 12/12 *Message: "From Anger to Grace"*

- 2:30 pm SHiNe Children's Christmas Rehearsals (Rm 122)
- 4:00 pm SPL Praise Team Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 6:00 pm Contemporary Worship

Sunday 12/13 *Message: "From Anger to Grace"*

- 8:00 am Traditional Worship
- 9:20 am Education Time / Christmas Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 am Contemporary Worship
- 3:00 pm LSA K-4 Elementary Christmas Concert (@LSA Gym)

SING WITH US THIS CHRISTMAS

Interested in singing Christmas Eve?
Come to rehearsals Sundays at 9:15am or
Thursday evenings in the sanctuary.

We Worship...

Last Week in Worship: 840
4 Week Avg. Regular Attendance: 799

...Better Together!

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 9th** ("No Perfect Tree" - Also December 16th)
Midweek Advent Worship (Worship 12:15/6:30pm Dinner 5:30pm)
- December 9th-13th** *Books!...a perfect Christmas gift!*
ELC Scholastic Book Fair (ELC South Entrance Lobby)
- December 10th** "Christmas In Our Jammies!"
ELC Christmas Program (6:30pm @SPL Sanctuary)
- December 11th**
THRIVE ALIVE Jr. & Sr. High Open Gym Night (7-11pm @LSA)
- December 20th** *Everyone welcome to come!*
Children's Christmas Worship (10:30am - Led by SHiNe Ministry)
Christmas Caroling (hosted by SHiNe, Meet @12:00pm-Room 122)
- 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)
Reception for Pastor Eric Trickey & family (Following worship)
- December 31st**
New Year's Eve Worship (7:00pm @SPL)
- January 6th**
F3: Family-Faith-Formation Winter Session Begins

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

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

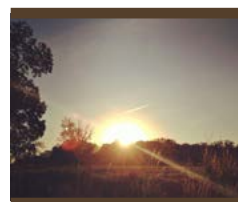
Subscribe to our SPL E-Updates at <http://eepurl.com/bu3tgl>



PROMISE:
From Jerusalem to a Child

6:00 PM & 10:30 AM WORSHIP
DECEMBER 5 & 6, 2015

Pastor Doug Bender
Pastor Wray Offermann



ARISE, SHINE,
for your LIGHT has COME,
and the GLORY OF THE LORD
RISES upon you.
Isaiah 60:1

Prayer Before Worship

Gracious Father, I come to You to give You my hopes and expectations. I know that You are moving around me through Your Spirit, and are moving within me through Your Son. I pray that in my worship You would open my eyes to see the glory that unfolds before me; that this season of life is about the gift of Christ, God made man. Bless our worship of You. May it be ever pleasing in Your sight. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Call to Worship

He Shall Reign Forevermore

Welcome

Invocation

Opening Praise

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Message

"Promise: From Jerusalem to a Child"

Isaiah 60:1-6



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 of Sins

Dear Father, I so easily focus my attention on the ways I want life to go. I want the quick fix, and I want it on my terms. Many times, Lord, I ignore Your Will and the ways You are working in this world. Because of my circumstances and my own doing, my life gets flipped upside-down. And this causes anger and frustration. I confess that my sin clouds my judgement, and it pulls me away from you. Forgive me Father, for Jesus' sake. 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.

Noel

New Member Welcome (Sunday 10:30am Only)

Words of Institution (Saturday 6:00pm Only)

Celebrating the Lord's Supper (Saturday 6:00pm Only)

If you have not communed with us before, please read "Our Belief: Receiving the Lord's Supper" located on the following page. We encourage families to commune together. Prayer Ministers are available at the front and back of the sanctuary during this time.

Communion (Saturday 6:00pm Only)

What Child Is This

Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)

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)

REMINDER: All Angel Tree gifts must be returned to SPL by **Wednesday, December 9th.**

Join us for Midweek Advent Worship "No Perfect Tree" Wednesdays at 12:15pm & 6:30pm (Dinner 5:30pm)

Welcome New Members!

At the 10:30am worship service, we celebrate as we welcome these new members and their families to our SPL church family: Emily Barker, Tim & Becky Gleason, Robert & Peg Hays, Letizia Howe, Darrah Hulva, Dean & Sarah Jones, Aireal Jurgens, Marjorie Carnahan, Joe & Kami Moody, Heidi Parrott, Tanya Smith, and Bradley & Jennifer Swartz. Glory to God!

The SPL Angel Tree Needs YOU!

Help others enjoy Christmas this year! Many angels still remain on the Angel Tree, available in the Fellowship Area. Won't you consider filling one of these needs? All gifts should be returned by Dec. 9th. Questions? Call Beth Simminger at 217-423-6955.

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 thanksgiving for the godly life of Jeanine M. Hodson and in loving memory of her birthday, by Theresa Lyons and her family.

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: Promise"

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

WORSHIP AT SPL - WHAT'S AHEAD IN DECEMBER

There are several opportunities to connect with God and one another through worship in the weeks ahead:

-MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP: Wednesdays in December (12/9, 12/16) at 12:15pm (Traditional) & 6:30pm (Contemporary), with dinner served weekly at 5:30pm (Fellowship Area).

-CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP: "A Baby Changes Everything" Thursday, December 24th at 6:00 & 8:00pm.

-CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP: "Worth the Wait" Friday, December 25th at 10:00am.

-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: Thursday, December 31st 7:00pm

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. Rehearsals Saturdays 3:30-5:00pm (dance), Wednesdays 6:00-6:25pm (readers). Final rehearsal Sunday 12/20 at 9:20am. 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@spldecatur.org for info.

Youth Ministry: THRIVE Senior High Youth Sundays at 9:20am (Rm 122) (pastordoug@spldecatur.org). **THRIVE ALIVE** Jr/Sr High Open Gym Night at LSA - 12/11 from 7:00-11:00pm @LSA Gym