

THIS WEEK @SPLDECATUR

Sunday 12/30

9:15 am Education Classes (Children, Youth, Adults)

Monday 12/31

Tuesday 1/01 **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** ELC/SPL Offices Closed

Wednesday 1/02

Thursday 1/03

6:30 am Men's Bible Study (Large Conference Room)

8:30 am Women's LIFT Group (Dining Room)

Friday 1/04

4:30 pm Wedding Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Saturday 1/05

Message: "How to Survive and Thrive"

7:00 am ManUP Men's Ministry: Men's Fraternity (The Loft)

7:30 am Motivated by More Exercise (SPL)

10:00 am AA Big Book Study (Room 122)

2:00 pm Lange/Anderson Wedding

4:00 pm Praise Team Worship Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

6:00 pm Contemporary Worship (SPL Kids - 6:30pm)

Sunday 1/06

Message: "How to Survive and Thrive" (Epiphany)

9:15 am Education Classes (Children, Youth, Adults)

9:15 am Sunday Confirmation Class Resumes (Great Room)

11:45 am SPL Christmas Decor Removal (Sanctuary/Fellowship Area)

Monday 1/07

8:15 am Classes Resume - Lutheran School Association



6:00 PM & 10:30 AM WORSHIP

December 29 & 30, 2018

PASTOR ERIC TRICKEY

PASTOR MARK GEARIG

PASTOR BILL GRUENINGER



Thought Before Worship

And that is the wonder of all wonders, that God loves the lowly.... God is not ashamed of the lowliness of human beings. God marches right in. Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Call to Worship

Hark the Herald Angels Sing/King of Heaven

Welcome & Announcements

Invocation

Opening Praise

Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)

O Holy Night

Confession and Absolution

Heavenly Father, You made us for a purpose, we admit to You that we often fail to recognize or live up to that purpose. We hurt You and others with our speech, our actions or our thoughts, and we leave undone the work You have set apart for us. Forgive us Lord. Renew us and lead us to be more like You.

Words of Institution (Saturday Only)

Celebrating the Lord's Supper (Saturday Only)

If you have not communed with us before, please read "Our Belief: Receiving the Lord's Supper" located on the back page. We encourage families to commune together. Prayer Ministers will be at the back of the Worship Center to pray with you during this time.



TRY SOMETHING NEW IN THE NEW YEAR

We've made a few changes to the ways you can give online at SPL - fewer clicks and more options! It's easy - Visit

SPLDECATUR.ORG and click GIVING from our home page to access online giving via debit or credit card. If you'd like to set up an ACH or repeating gift option, contact Lisa Lovekamp at 217-423-6955 for a login for The Front Porch at SPL.

December Actual Giving

\$316,988 as of 12/25

December Budgeted Giving

\$240,098 as of 12/25

2018 Annual Budget =

\$2,360,500

Year to date shortage =

\$121,042

WE WORSHIP...

Last Weekend in Worship: 753

Christmas Eve Worship: 1210

Christmas Day Worship: 174

Four Week Worship Average: 809

...BETTER TOGETHER!

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.

CONNECT WITH US & SHARE YOUR STORY

Visit our website at spldecat.org

Find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/stpaulsdecat](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsdecat)

Follow us on Twitter & Instagram at [@SPLDecatur](https://www.instagram.com/SPLDecatur)

View our Live Stream at spldecat.org/media



LOVE GOD. BUILD THE HOME. CHANGE THE WORLD.

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DECATUR, IL 62526
PH: 217-423-6955

SPLDECATUR.ORG

Communion Songs (Saturday Only)

Clean

What A Beautiful Name

Prayers of the Church & The Lord's Prayer

A handout with this week's prayers is available at the back of the Worship Center for those who would like to continue to pray for these concerns.

Offering

Light of the World

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.

Message

"Every Heart a Manger"
Pastor Bill Grueninger

Blessing

Closing Song

Reckless Love

*Blessings to you and
your family in the
New Year!*

BECAUSE OF

Bethlehem

MESSAGE NOTES

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

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR
Flowers on the Altar are placed to the glory of God in celebration of the 46th Wedding Anniversary of Sue and Dane Henry.

F3: Family-Faith-Formation • REGISTER NOW
Get equipped in the new year! The Winter Session of F3 is January 9 - February 27 at SPL, meeting Wednesdays at 6:30pm. Classes for Adults, Youth, Kids, including Loving Our Kids on Purpose, Made for a Mission, Bible Study: Hebrews, Lutheranism 101, Lead Where You Are: EAGER to Share, plus classes for youth and children. Register now at SPLDECATUR.ORG & in the Fellowship Area.

Mission: Texas • January 12-20 (CHANGE OF DATES)
Come along with Gene Mueller for a pop-up mission trip back to Rockport, Texas happening January 12-20, 2019. Especially looking for construction workers, but anyone welcome. Contact Pastor Mark for info at pastormark@spldecatour.org.

Membership @SPL • February 3
Interested in Membership at SPL? Ready to take the next step? Our next Membership class session is happening on Sunday, February 3rd (12:00-4:00pm in the Dining Room). Learn all about what it means to be a committed member of this family of faith. Registration is available online at SPLDECATUR.ORG or by contacting Lisa Lovekamp at lisa@spldecatour.org or 217-423-6955.

NEW MEMBER MENTORS: We'll also need a few more New Member Mentors for our next Membership class - if you were interested but not able to participate in the last group, please contact Pastor Mark Gearig (pastormark@spldecatour.org or 217-423-6955). A training session will be offered in January.

ADULTS

SPL Women • Opportunities for You
BIBLE STUDY: All women are welcome to gather for "Front Porch Conversations: Starting Point" on Tuesday mornings at 10:30am in the Family Room. Contact Sarah in the Church Office at 217-423-6955 for information.
CONNECTION & ENCOURAGEMENT: Come meet the first Thursday of each month with the Women's LIFT Group for a time of fellowship, crafting, sharing of interests, and more. Meets in the Dining Room beginning at 8:30am.

SPL ManUp Men's Ministry • Saturdays
Men of all ages - come to The Loft on Saturday mornings at 7:00am to engage in our study of "Men's Fraternity" and deepen your "build the home" skills. Questions? Contact Michael Peer at peerpressure70@gmail.com

SPL KIDS

SPL KIDS
Worship: Saturday Evening/Sunday Morning (During Message Time): Ages 6 weeks-3 years (Nursery), 3 years-K (Rm 206), 1st-4th grade (Great Rm) 5th-6th Junior Leaders will leave with children (must have attended training)
Sunday Education (9:15am): PreK-K (Room 206), Gr. 1-4 (Room 213), Gr. 5-6 (Room 211); Building Blocks-Parents/Caretakers/Children 0-3yrs (Rm 203)
JUNIOR LEADERS: LoftTime 3:30-5:30pm Wednesdays - Resumes 1/9

SPL YOUTH

SPL YOUTH
All Youth Gr. 7 - 12 Welcome: Sunday Mornings at 9:15am [Meets in The Loft]
SPL Youth Wednesday Night @The Loft (6:30pm weekly)
Youth Gr. 7-8 Confirmation Classes resume Sunday 1/6 and Wednesday 1/9
SAVE THE DATE for the Confirmation Retreat February 1-2, 2019
Junior/Senior High LoftTime: Tuesdays/Thursdays 3:30-5:30pm Resumes 1/8
WINTER JAM 2019 - Save the Date for January 27 in St. Louis! More details coming soon. Contact Pastor Bill for info (pastorbill@spldecatour.org).

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

RED LETTER LIVING

WEEKLY CHALLENGE:
Talk to your family about how God has uniquely given you a gift to use for His purposes. Make a plan together to use your gifts in the new year.

#REDLETTERCHALLENGE #SPLDECATUR