

THIS WEEK @SPLDECATUR

Sunday 12/15

9:15 am Christmas Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
 10:30 am SPL Kids Children's Christmas Worship
 12:00 pm **HopeFULL Backpack Project Packing Party** (Dining Rm)

Monday 12/16

Tuesday 12/17

5:30 am Get Moving - Walk/Run @SPL (5:30-9:00am)
 5:30 am Motivated by More Exercise (SPL Field House)
 3:30 pm SPL Youth LoftTime (Grade 7-12 - The Loft)

Wednesday 12/18

12:15 pm Midweek Advent Worship (*Join us for lunch following*)
 5:30 pm Advent Dinner: Pasta Bar
 6:30 pm Midweek Advent Worship

Thursday 12/19 Handbell Ensemble 5:30pm/Adult Choir 6:30pm

5:30 am Get Moving - Walk/Run @SPL (5:30-9:00am)
 5:30 am Motivated by More Exercise (SPL Field House)
 6:30 am Men's Bible Study (Conference Room)
 1:00 pm Hinz Bible Study (Conference Room)

Friday 12/20

Saturday 12/21 Message: "While We Wait: Longing for Love"

7:00 am ManUP Men's Ministry (The Loft)
 7:00 am Get Moving - Walk/Run @SPL (7:00-9:00am)
 7:30 am Motivated by More Exercise (SPL Field House)
 10:00 am AA Big Book Study (Room 122)
 4:00 pm Contemporary Praise Team Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
 6:00 pm Contemporary Worship

Sunday 12/22 Message: "While We Wait: Longing for Love"

3:00 pm Pick-Up Basketball (Field House)

Monday 12/23

6:30 pm Christmas Eve Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

CHRISMONS ON THE TREE

Each week of Advent we will share with you one of our new Chrismon or "Christ Monogram" ornaments lovingly hand-made by ladies in our congregation this year.

THIS WEEK: "IXTHUS: The Fish"

The Greek word for Fish is "IXTHUS". Those letters are also an acronym for Jesus Christ Son of God Savior. The fish is one of the most ancient of Christian symbols.



Actual Giving Year to Date

\$ 2,067,041 as of 12/08

Budgeted Giving year to Date

\$ 2,163,340

Year to Date Shortage = \$96,299

2019 Annual Budget = \$2,356,000

WE WORSHIP BETTER TOGETHER!

Last Weekend in Worship: 741
 Four Week Worship Average: 730

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.*

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Visit our website at spldecatour.org

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

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

View our Live Stream at spldecatour.org/media



6:00 PM & 10:30 AM WORSHIP

December 14 & 15, 2019

PASTOR ERIC TRICKEY

PASTOR MARK GEARIG

PASTOR BILL GRUENINGER

WE CONFIDENTLY AND JOYFULLY
 LOOK FORWARD TO SHARING
 GOD'S GLORY. ROMANS 5:2

Thought Before Worship | Third Sunday of Advent

"Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God."

— Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Call to Worship

Emmanuel (God With Us Forever)

Welcome & Announcements

Invocation

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Reader: Today we light the first, second, and third candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, and the third candle is JOY.

Scripture: Isaiah 55:12 – You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

Prayer: Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with your joy, and help us shine as a light to the world. Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete. Amen.

Opening Praise

Rejoice

O Come All Ye Faithful

Confession and Absolution

Mighty and powerful God, Your Word says, "Rejoice always." Forgive us for sulking about the things that don't go right. Your Word says, "Pray without ceasing." Forgive us for the days we don't think about You. Your Word says, "Give thanks in all circumstances," but our thankfulness is fleeting because we think we deserve blessings. Your Word says "Hold fast to what is good," while we hold fast to sinful ways of thinking and acting. Forgive us. Make us new. In Jesus' name. Amen



LOVE GOD. BUILD THE HOME. CHANGE THE WORLD.

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 DECATUR, IL 62526
 PH: 217-423-6955

SPLDECATUR.ORG

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 available at the back of the Worship Center to pray with you during this time.

Words of Institution (Saturday only)

Communion Songs

Offering

What Child Is This

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 (Children will not be dismissed for SPL Kids Worship today)

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. Our staff will pray over any items you include in the prayer portion located on the back of your card.

Message "While We Wait: Journey for Joy" (Saturday)
Pastor Bill Grueninger
"Holy Family" (Sunday Only)
Presentation by SPL Kids

Blessing

Closing Song Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)

HopeFULL Backpack Project - PACKING PARTY

Please join us in the Dining Room following 10:30am worship to help fill 150 backpacks and bless our Decatur Kids Bags of Hope students and their families!

WHILE WE WAIT

MESSAGE NOTES

Series of horizontal lines for message notes.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

Flowers on the Altar are placed to the glory of God and in celebration of Mike Hooge's birthday, by Linda Hooge.

WEEKLY NUDGE

Talk with someone this week about which dial you are strongest in and which dial you need to focus on more.



hopeFULL Backpack Project • Packing Party December 15
Annually since December 2016, SPL has sent HOPE home for the holidays during the winter break to the children we serve through Decatur Kids Bags of Hope. **COME JOIN US FOR THE PACKING PARTY after 10:30 am worship!** We're filling 150 Backpacks with food, hats, cards, and gift cards. Donations still welcome.

Get Moving @SPL • This Month
Grab your walking or running shoes and come out to SPL for a Walk/Run Group on Tuesday & Thursday mornings (5:30-9:00AM) and Saturday mornings (7:00-9:00AM). Come anytime and walk indoors or outdoors. Multiple routes mapped out and available for you (provided by the Facilities Engagement team).

F3 Winter Session & The Rooted Experience • January 2020
Discover how you are rooted in Christ in your own faith walk this January - connect with the Rooted Experience in worship and in a small group setting. Groups available Sunday & Monday evening, Tuesday daytime, Wednesday during Winter F3 time beginning Jan. 8th and other days of the week. (Learn more at SPLDECATUR.ORG/Rooted)
Additional classes like a large group Bible Study on 2 Corinthians with Pastor Wray and options with SPL Youth and SPL Kids are also available. Register now in the Fellowship Area or online at SPLDECATUR.ORG.

Mission: St. Louis 2020 • Register by January 31
You can be one of the 100! Register by 1/31 for MISSION: ST. LOUIS happening June 21-26, 2020 at Extreme Faith STL. Dig in to an incredible serve experience and get equipped for making a difference in your own community. Connect with Pastor Mark & Pastor Bill (423-6955). REGISTER at SPLDECATUR.ORG

BE PRESENT THIS CHRISTMAS @SPL
Midweek Advent Worship - December 18 at 12:15pm & 6:30pm
Christmas Eve Worship "The Greatest Carol Ever Sung" 6:00 & 8:00pm
Christmas Day Worship "The Coming King" at 10:00am

SPL ADULTS

SPL WOMEN

Bible Study • Mondays 6:00pm | Tuesdays 10:30am (Watch for updates)
WORKSHOP "Healthy Eating Made Simple" - JANUARY 12th at 1:30pm
Led by Wellness Coach Melanie Brown, come learn how to set goals in the new year to fuel your body properly, learn how to organize your kitchen and food, and hear tips on how to eat the way God intended us to eat.

SPL ManUP MEN'S MINISTRY

Men's Bible Study • Saturday mornings 7:00am, The Loft
Bible Study • Thursdays 6:30am, Conference Room

SPL KIDS

SPL KIDS

Worship & Sunday Education - Classes will not meet this weekend and children will not be dismissed due to Children's Christmas Worship and rehearsals.
5th/6th Grade LoftTime: Resumes on January 8th (during Winter F3)

SPL YOUTH

SPL YOUTH

Youth Gr 9-12 • Sunday Mornings at 9:15am in The Loft
Confirmation Gr 7 & 8 • Sundays at 9:15am (Rm 122)
LoftTime Gr 7-12 • Tuesdays (when school in session) 3:30-5:30pm
Wednesday Night @ TheLoft • Weekly at 6:30pm
Grab dinner (5:30pm), eat in The Loft, then Worship together (6:30pm) in Advent

ELC & LSA

ST. PAUL'S EARLY LEARNING CENTER

ARE YOU A WORLD CHANGER? St. Paul's ELC is seeking YOU to be a part of our teaching family to make an impact on young children and families in our community. Classroom Positions available. Contact Kim Newingham at 424-9183.

LUTHERAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Winter Break: Students will be dismissed at noon on Friday 12/20 and will return to school for the spring semester on Monday, January 6th.
LEAP for LSA: Save the date and plan to join us for the LSA Dinner Auction happening on Leap Day, February 29th. Watch for more information in the weeks ahead.