

## THIS WEEK @SPLDECATUR

### Sunday 12/22

- 9:15 am Education Classes (*Children, Youth, Adults*)
- 9:15 am Adult Christmas Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 3:00 pm Pick-Up Basketball (Field House)

### Monday 12/23

- 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### Tuesday 12/24 ELC/SPL Offices Closed

- 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship: *"The Greatest Carol Ever Sung"*
- 8:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship: *"The Greatest Carol Ever Sung"*

### Wednesday 12/25 MERRY CHRISTMAS! ELC/SPL Offices Closed

- 10:00 am Christmas Day Worship: *"The Coming King"*

### Thursday 12/26

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

### Friday 12/27

### Saturday 12/28 Message: "Rooted in Christ"

- 7:00 am ManUP Men's Ministry (The Loft)
- 10:00 am AA Big Book Study (Room 122)
- 4:00 pm Contemporary Praise Team Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 6:00 pm Contemporary Worship

### Sunday 12/29 Message: "Rooted in Christ"

- 8:00 am Traditional Worship
- 10:30 am Contemporary Worship
- 3:00 pm Pick-Up Basketball (Field House)

## CHRISMONS ON THE TREE

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

### THIS WEEK: "Kingdom Ball with Cross"

The orb represents the earth and the cross over it reminds us that the world needs Christ. It is also known as the Cross of Victory signifying that Jesus is triumphant over anything we can face in the world.



### Actual Giving Year to Date

\$ 2,117,514 as of 12/15

### Budgeted Giving year to Date

\$ 2,227,560

Year to Date Shortage =  
\$110,046

2019 Annual Budget =  
\$2,356,000

## WE WORSHIP BETTER TOGETHER!

Last Weekend in Worship: 753  
Four Week Worship Average: 722

## 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](http://spldecat.org)

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

Follow us on Twitter & Instagram at @SPLDecatur

View our Live Stream at [spldecat.org/media](http://spldecat.org/media)



## 6:00 PM & 10:30 AM WORSHIP

December 21 & 22, 2019

PASTOR ERIC TRICKEY

PASTOR MARK GEARIG

PASTOR BILL GRUENINGER

ANDTHEWORDBECAMEFLESHANDDWELTAMONGUS.

JOHN 1:14

## Thought Before Worship | Fourth Sunday of Advent

"The world does not understand theology or dogma, but it understands love and sympathy. --Dwight L. Mood

### Call to Worship

Noel

### Welcome & Announcements

### Invocation

### Lighting the Advent Wreath

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

Scripture: John 13:34 – Jesus said to them, I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Prayer: Loving God, your mercy and compassion endure forever. Open our hearts, that we may receive your love; and following the example of your Son, spread that love to a love-starved world. Through Jesus Christ, who loved us to the end. Amen.

### Opening Praise

Even So Come

### Confession and Absolution

Almighty Father; we enter Your presence confessing the things we try to conceal from You and the things we try to conceal from others. We confess the heartbreak, worry, and sorrow we have caused, that make it difficult for others to forgive us, the times we have made it easy for others to do wrong, the harm we have done that makes it hard for us to forgive ourselves. Lord have mercy and forgive us through Christ. Amen.



LOVE GOD. BUILD THE HOME. CHANGE THE WORLD.

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