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.

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Visit our website at spldecatur.org
Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/stpaulsdecatur
Follow us on Twitter & Instagram at @SPLDecatur
View our Live Stream at spldecatur.org/media



6:00 PM & 10:30 AM WORSHIP

December 21 & 22, 2019

PASTOR ERIC TRICKEY
PASTOR MARK GEARIG
PASTOR BILL GRUENINGER



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.



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Confession Response

Yes I Will

Celebrating the Lord's Supper

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

Communion Songs

Behold Him

Adore

Goodness of God

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 I Wonder as I Wander (Handbell Ensemble) - Sunday Only 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: Longing for Love" Pastor Eric Trickey

Blessing

Closing Song

Hark the Herald Angels Sing with King of Heaven

BE PRESENT THIS CHRISTMAS @SPL

Welcome your friends and family to SPL for Christmas Worship!

Christmas Eve Worship "The Greatest Carol Ever Sung" 6:00 & 8:00pm Christmas Day Worship "The Coming King" at 10:00am

WHILE WE WAIT	MESSAGE NOTES

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

Flowers on the Altar are placed to the glory of God and in celebration of our many blessings, by Karen Oesch. Glory to God in the Highest!

WEEKLY NUDGE

Do something loving for someone that you find it difficult to love every day this week of Christmas.



Special Events

F3 Winter Session & The Rooted Experience • Register Now 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) [Pick up your Rooted book and sign up by December 28/29 at SPL]

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.

Get Moving @SPL • New Times in January

Grab your walking or running shoes, bring a friend, and come out to SPL for a Walk/Run Group Monday-Friday mornings (6:00-9:00AM) and Saturday mornings (7:00-9:00AM) beginning January 6th. Come anytime and walk indoors or outdoors. Multiple routes mapped out and available for you. All are welcome!

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

Position Available • Apply by January 12

Interested in using your creative gifts in ministry? SPL is now adding a part time Internal Communications Coordinator (estimated 20 hrs/wk) to the team. Descriptions available at the Church Office and at SPLDECATUR.ORG. Interested persons should submit resume/letter/references to SPL by January 12th.

SPL WOMEN

SPL ADULTS

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: Saturday Evening/Sunday Morning (During Message Time): Ages 6 weeks-3 years (Nursery), 3 years-K (Rm 206), 1st-4th Grade (Great Rm) Sunday Education (9:15am): PreK-K (Room 211), Gr. 1-4 (Great Room), Gr. 5-6 (Family Rm); BUILDING BLOCKS-Parents/Caretakers/Children 0-3yrs (Rm 203) *No Sunday 9:15am Classes on Sunday, December 29th

5th/6th Grade LoftTime: Resumes on January 8th (during Winter F3) SPL Kids F3: Classes resume Wednesday 1/8 - Register at SPLDECATUR.ORG

SPL Kids Family Fun Night • February 7th 6-8pm Watch for updates at facebook.com/groups/SPLKids & via email.

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) - January 5th LoftTime Gr 7-12 • Tuesdays 3:30-5:30pm - Resumes January 7th Wednesday Night @ TheLoft • Resumes January 8th

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: School resumes 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 ticket information in the weeks ahead.

