



SPL NEWS

DECEMBER 22, 2024

10:30 AM

OUR MISSION

*St. Paul's Lutheran is a church where those longing for a **different** life find a **grace-filled** life in Jesus.*



Scripture

Micah 5:2-5a

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-56

Worship Songs

Hope Has Come

God So Loved

Behold Our God

Without Hesitation

Hark The Herald Angels Sing

DATES AVAILABLE FOR FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR 2025 CALENDAR

The 2025 Flowers on the Altar calendar is beginning to fill up but there are still plenty of dates. Claim yours now and when it approaches, you will get a call to remind you. Look for the calendar in the Fellowship Area and sign up now. Questions? Contact Scott Powers, 217-423-6955, spowers@spldecatour.org

END OF YEAR DONATIONS

We are thankful for the offerings and donations given by the St. Paul's family throughout the year. Just a reminder that all offerings and donations to St. Paul's that you intend for 2024 must be in (or postmarked) by December 31, 2024. The Church Office will be closed from Monday, December 30-Friday, January 3. For your convenience during that time, there will be a drop box inside the Early Learning Center doors on the east side of the building available from 8 AM to 4 PM.

Please note: the ELC is also closed on January 1 and all doors will be locked that day.

A SIMPLE WAY TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE

Are you ready to make a difference and share God's love? We need YOU to join our Upwards Hospitality Team! Whether you can greet guests, serve at concessions, or lead devotions, your time and energy will help us create a welcoming and uplifting experience for everyone beginning this January. Sign up today by scanning the QR code or clicking on the Upwards logo at the bottom of our website's homepage. Let's come together to show Christ's love in action—your help makes all the difference!



ROOTED EXPERIENCE RETURNS IN JANUARY

Plan on starting off the new year with something unique and powerful: the Rooted Experience. This impactful 10-week experience is an opportunity to have a fresh encounter with Jesus and His purpose for your life and it will begin the **week of January 19**. Watch for registration opening soon.

PREPARING FOR F3: FAMILY-FAITH-FORMATION

Get set because we are putting together a variety of opportunities to connect and grow in January 2025! The new 6-week session of F3 will begin Wednesday, **January 22**, with multiple class options including Membership @SPL. There's something for all ages! Save yourself cooking and dishes - come for the dinner at 5:30 PM. Classes start at 6:30 PM. Put it in your calendar now and watch for registration to open after the holidays.



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SPLDECATUR.ORG

PASTOR ROB GOODWIN
PASTOR MARK GEARIG
PASTOR BILL GRUENINGER

SPL & ELC HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The St. Paul's Lutheran Church Office will be closed December 24-25, and December 30-January 3.
The Early Learning Center will be closed December 24-25, and January 1.

SERVE FAMILIES BY HELPING SPL KIDS WITH F3

SPL Kids is looking for help during F3 in January 2025. We will need volunteers to team up and supervise play in the Field House and oversee kids upstairs as they play board games, socialize, etc. from 6:20-7:30. Contact Erica Davies edavies@spldecatour.org 217-423-6955.

COMING UP AT SPL

DECEMBER 24 - **CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP** 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM

DECEMBER 25 - **CHRISTMAS WORSHIP** 10:00 AM

JANUARY 1 - **NEW YEARS DAY** Church and ELC Offices Closed

JANUARY 4 - **UPWARD** Team & Parent Meeting Day

JANUARY 11 - **UPWARD** Game Day at SPL, 3rd-8th grade

JANUARY 18-19 - **CONFIRMATION RETREAT**

JANUARY 22 - **F3 BEGINS**



FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

Flowers on the Altar and the Sanctuary are placed to the glory of God by the congregation of St. Paul's Lutheran Church rejoicing at the conclusion of Advent and the arrival of Christmas.

WE WORSHIP BETTER TOGETHER

Last weekend attendance in person:	398
Last weekend attendance online:	82
Average attendance for the last 4 weeks:	479

GIVING 2024

2024 Budget Goal:	\$2,170,000
YTD Giving:	\$1,724,723.70 (79.48% of budget goal)
Last Week's Offering:	\$28,232.09
Amount needed to meet 2024 budget goal:	\$445,276.30
Amount needed weekly through 12/29:	\$445,276.30

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, 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 real presence of Jesus' Body and Blood in, with, and under 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 during worship. Grape juice is located at the center of the tray for those who need it. Children who have not taken Communion Class are invited to come forward and receive a blessing but should refrain from receiving the bread and wine. (Communion class is offered to those in 6th grade or older).

If you have any questions or concerns about Communion, please talk with a Pastor after service.

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