

# SPL NEWS

DECEMBER 29, 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

Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:22-40

### Worship Songs

Praise You Anywhere

Glory Honor Power

A Thousand Hallelujahs

Holy Spirit w/ Here As In Heaven

The Blessing

### **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](mailto: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.*

### **YOUR HOSPITALITY TAKES US UPWARD**

Upward provides a positive, healthful, spiritual sports experience for kids in 3rd-8th grade. The new season begins in January and we need you to help make this season a success. Can you give a couple hours on a Saturday? Join our Upward Hospitality Team to greet guests, serve at concessions, or lead devotions. 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!



### **TAKE THE ROOTED EXPERIENCE THIS 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**. Registration opens next weekend.

### **PREPARING FOR F3: FAMILY-FAITH-FORMATION**

Get set because we are putting together a variety of opportunities to connect and grow beginning 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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PASTOR ROB GOODWIN  
PASTOR MARK GEARIG  
PASTOR BILL GRUENINGER

## SPL & ELC HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

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

## PUTTING AWAY THE DECORATIONS

Next week on Sunday, January 5th, after the 10:30 AM service we will be taking down the Christmas decorations in our church. Your helping hands - for about an hour - will help make the job go quickly.

## NEW BIBLE STUDY STARTING JANUARY 9

LUKE IN THE LAND by *Kristi McClelland* will be the basis for a 7 session video series led by Ken & Lois Hinz. The class meets on alternating weeks: the 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month beginning on Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 1:00pm. Each session will feature revealing snapshots from the Gospel of Luke that will challenge the way you read the accounts of Jesus. Study Guide: \$23

## COMING UP AT SPL

- JANUARY 1 - **NEW YEARS DAY** Church and ELC Offices Closed
- JANUARY 4 - **UPWARD** Team & Parent Meeting Day
- JANUARY 4 - **TAKING DOWN** Christmas decorations after 10:30 am worship
- JANUARY 11 - First **UPWARD Game Day** at SPL
- JANUARY 18-19 - **CONFIRMATION RETREAT**
- JANUARY 18 - Women's **ART FREEDOM** Workshop
- JANUARY 19 - First week of **ROOTED EXPERIENCE**
- JANUARY 22 - **F3 BEGINS**



## FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

Flowers on the Altar are placed to the glory of God by John & Linda Sendzik in celebration of their 61st wedding anniversary.

## WE WORSHIP BETTER TOGETHER

Last weekend attendance in person:	477
Last weekend attendance online:	101
Average attendance for the last 4 weeks:	425
Christmas Eve attendance:	858
Christmas Morning:	90

## GIVING 2024

2024 Budget Goal:	\$2,170,000
YTD Giving:	\$1,774,607.29 (81.78% of budget goal)
Last Week's Offering:	\$49,883.59
Amount needed to meet 2024 budget goal:	\$395,392.71

## 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.*

## CONNECT WITH US & SHARE YOUR STORY

Visit our website at [SPLDECATUR.ORG](http://SPLDECATUR.ORG)  
Find us on Facebook at [FACEBOOK.COM/STPAULSDECATUR](https://FACEBOOK.COM/STPAULSDECATUR)  
Follow us on Insta/YouTube at [@SPLDECATUR](https://@SPLDECATUR)  
View Live Stream at [SPLDECATUR.ORG/WATCH](http://SPLDECATUR.ORG/WATCH)  
Learn about our Early Learning Center at [ELCDECATUR.ORG](http://ELCDECATUR.ORG)