

8:00 AM WORSHIP

DECEMBER 29, 2024

PASTOR ROB GOODWIN
PASTOR MARK GEARIG
PASTOR BILL GRUENINGER

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN IS A CHURCH WHERE
THOSE LONGING FOR A *DIFFERENT* LIFE
FIND A *GRACE-FILLED* LIFE IN JESUS.



1 BACHRACH COURT | DECATUR, IL 62526

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WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

380 HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Refrain
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.
Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-47
Text and tune: Public domain

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

INVOCATION

Pastor In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation **Amen.**

EXHORTATION

LSB 151

Pastor If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Congregation **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

CONFESSION OF SINS

LSB 151

Pastor Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

Congregation **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

ABSOLUTION

LSB 151

Pastor Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation **Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

KYRIE

Assistant In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation **Lord, have mercy.**

Assistant For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation **Lord, have mercy.**

Assistant For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Assistant For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Assistant Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Congregation Amen.

Sit

THIS IS THE FEAST

LSB 155

Refrain

☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15

Assistant This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Colossians 3:12-17

Assistant This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB 156

☐ Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL READING

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

Congregation Glory to You, O Lord.

Reading *Luke 2:22-40*

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation Praise to You, O Christ.

393 INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY



1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new



Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt.
Text and tune: Polish
Text and tune: Public domain

Sit

SPL KIDS WORD

SERMON

CHRISTMAS CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, who sent His Son as my Savior on Christmas. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, announced by angels, worshiped by shepherds, adored by wise men. He lived to suffer, die and rise again, to free me from sin, death and the power of the devil. I believe in the Holy Spirit, who has brought me to faith in the Christ of Christmas, by whose continuous work in my heart, I am ever led to lay before the feet of Christ the treasures of my love and all I am and have. I live under Him as my King, now and forever. Amen.

OFFERING

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

LSB 160

Pastor The Lord be with you.

Congregation And also with you.

Pastor Lift up your hearts.

Congregation We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
Congregation **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE (FULL)

Pastor It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 161



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 162

Pastor Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Congregation **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

LSB 163

Pastor The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Congregation **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

LSB 163



Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

364 AWAY IN A MANGER *sts. 1, 3*

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay
 The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
 Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.
 The stars in the sky — looked down where He lay,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,
 The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

Text (st. 1): Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.
 Tune: James K. Murray, 1841-1905
 Text and tune: Public domain

384 OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN *sts. 1, 4-5*

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
 4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His
 Δ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly
 gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him
 Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing
 He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that
 And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
 And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -
 have been, And that fu - ture years shall see
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

Stand

THE DISMISSAL

Pastor The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

Congregation Amen.

387 JOY TO THE WORLD

sts. 1, 4



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.
Text and tune: Public domain

BENEDICTION

LSB 166

Pastor The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Congregation Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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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.

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.

OPERATIONS

ATTENDANCE

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

DATES AVAILABLE FOR FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR 2025

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.*

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 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.

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 at 11:30 AM

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