



1301 Hogan Lane • Waco, Texas 76705

**Sunday Worship**  
8:00am & 10:30am

**Sunday School &  
Bible Class**  
9:15am

**Church office**  
254.799.3211

**Church Fax**  
254.412.0529

**On the Web**  
[www.splcwaco.com](http://www.splcwaco.com)

**Senior Pastor**  
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**Associate Pastor**  
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**Deaconess**  
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Steve Randolph  
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**St. Paul Lutheran WacoTx**



**Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
*The Church on the Highway... Where Life and Jesus Intersect*

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**Third Sunday in Advent**  
**December 16, 2018**

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*“Be thoughtful - be silent - be reverent; for this is the house of the Lord. Before the service, speak to the Lord; During the service, let the Lord speak to you; After the service, speak to one another.”*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**REGISTRATION CARDS:** Welcome! We worship in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. May God bless you as we gather before the throne of heaven. Members, please remember to fill out a “White Registration Card” so we can have a proper soul-accounting, and Guests, please sign the guest book and complete a “Yellow Visitor Card” located in the hymnal rack. Please place your completed card in the card collection slot at the end of each pew (center aisle side).

**LIVE STREAMING OF WORSHIP SERVICES:** Our 10:30 am Sunday worship service is streamed live on the Internet. To view this service, or previous 10:30 am services, go to the church Web site at [www.splcwaco.com](http://www.splcwaco.com), click on the link “LIVE STREAMING” on the home page, and select which service you would like to view.

**HOLY COMMUNION** is being celebrated in our worship this morning. If you are not a member of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and you desire to commune, we ask that you speak to a pastor or an elder before the service. An alcohol-removed wine (*distinguished by its lighter color*) is offered in the center of each communion tray as an option. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request during distribution at the altar. The Common Cup will also be offered with each table. If you do not take an individual cup, a pastor will serve the Chalice.

**REMEMBER OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN PRAYER:**

Please see the News & Events insert for complete list of prayer needs.

**FLOWERS** were placed on our altar today to the glory of God by Brent & Jennifer Brown in thankfulness and celebration of 23 years of marriage.

## PRAYER BEFORE DIVINE WORSHIP

Almighty, everlasting God, Your Son has assured forgiveness of sins and deliverance from eternal death. Strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit that our faith in Christ may increase daily and that we may hold fast to the hope that on the Last Day we shall be raised in glory to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### ORDER OF DIVINE WORSHIP

*(Please silence your cell phones and mobile devices during our worship time.)*

#### Pre-service Music

#### Welcome and Announcements

#### Opening Hymn, 387: "Joy to the World"

#### Invocation

Pastor: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Response: Amen.**

#### Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

Pastor: On this Third Sunday in Advent we light the candle of Joy. Isaiah wrote, "And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." (Isaiah 35:10)

*(The Third Advent Candle is lit.)*

**Response: Jesus said, "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." (John 15:11)**

#### Confession and Absolution (based on Psalm 85, ESV)

Pastor: LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**Response: You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin.**

Pastor: You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.

**Response: Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us!**

Pastor: Almighty God to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Response: Amen.**

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteous.

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

Pastor: Most merciful God:

**Response: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy upon us. Liberate us from the captivity of sin through your forgiveness; bind up our broken hearts with your grace; and free us to proclaim your favor to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, by Christ's authority and command, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Response: Amen.**

**Litany of Response** (based on Psalm 85, ESV)

Pastor: Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

**Response: Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,**

Pastor: For he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

**Response: Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.**

**Hymn of Response: "In Christ Alone"**

In Christ alone, my Hope is found, He is my Light, my Strength, my Song;  
This Cornerstone, this Solid Ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease,  
My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless Babe.  
This gift of love, and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save;  
'Til on that cross, as Jesus died, the wrath of God, was satisfied,  
For every sin on Him was laid, here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground, His body lay, Light of the World by darkness slain.  
Then bursting forth, in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands, in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His, and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry, to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of Man, can ever pluck me from His hand, (PAUSE)  
'Til He returns, or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand;

Here in the power of Christ - I'll stand!

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**Prayer of the Day**

**Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle Reading: Philippians 4:4-7**

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Reading: Luke 7:18-28**

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Response: Praise to you, O Christ!**

**Nicene Creed**

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Hymn of the Day, 349: "Hark the Glad Sound"**

**Sermon: "What is God Getting You for Christmas?".....Zephaniah 3:14–20  
Pastor Krueger**

## Offering

## Prayer of the Church

## Lord's Prayer

## Words of Institution

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (1 Cor. 11:26)

**Response: Amen. Come Lord Jesus.** (Rev. 22:20)

## Distribution

### Hymns during Distribution

**Hymn, 353:** "Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring"

**Hymn, 384:** "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

## Post Communion Prayer

## Benediction

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

**Response: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn, 352:** "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"

## Post-service Music

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## MEETING AND ACTIVITY NOTICES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 16-23, 2018

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

10:00 a.m.: Quilting Group (Parish Hall)

11:00 a.m.: Home School Chapel Service/Lunch (Youth Room)

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

6:30 a.m.: Men's Bible Study Fellowship/Breakfast (Parish Hall)

10:00 a.m.: Tri-Cities Ministries

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

10:30 a.m.: Ladies Bible Study Group (Conference Room)

12:00 p.m.: Advent Worship

6:30 p.m.: Advent Worship

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

7:00 a.m.: Lawn/Building Maintenance

9:00 a.m.: Circuit 18 Winkel Pastor Conference (Grace, Mart)

6:00 p.m.: Children's Christmas Rehearsal and Party

6:30 p.m.: Young Adults Bible Study (Slow Rise Slice House, 7608 Woodway Dr.)

7:00 p.m.: Tone Chimes Rehearsal

7:30 p.m.: Instrumentalist Rehearsal

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

*Deadline to Sign-up for Youth Trip to Six Flags (Youth Room)*

### SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday: Proverbs 15-18

Monday: Proverbs 19-21

Tuesday: Proverbs 22-24

Wednesday: Proverbs 25-28

Thursday: Proverbs 29-31

Friday: Ecclesiastes 1-3

Saturday: Ecclesiastes 4-6