

Worship Notes for Visitors & Members

Welcome to worship - Welcome to all, and especially to our visitors, we are glad you are here today, and hope that you will worship with us again soon and often. Please fill out an attendance card and place it in the offering plate. These will aid our record-keeping. Thank you. Large print bulletins are available from an usher in the narthex. *"It is good to worship the Lord together, and to come into his presence with thanksgiving."* Psalm 95

Welcome children - Jesus said "Let the children come to me." Children are welcome and encouraged to worship here at St. Paul. We rejoice that they are among us; however, if you need it, our nursery is available at all services and you can hear the service on audio. An usher will guide you.

St. Paul welcomes all to the Communion Table. Christ is the Host and the Meal. Come, taste, and see that the Lord is good. Grape juice is available for those who prefer it rather than wine. Children and those choosing not to receive Holy Communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

There are **restrooms** located in the basement of this building and on the ground floor of the hallway leading to our fellowship hall and on each floor of the educational building.

PARTICIPANTS

MINISTERS

PASTOR

ORGANIST

CHOIR DIRECTOR

ASSISTING MINISTER

LECTOR

USHERS & GREETERS

ALTAR CARE

The People of God
Rev. John Shipman
Marvis McNeil
Marty Cattleberry

Roy Wekwert, Ryan Panknin, Jesse & Jessica O'Neil
Patti Byce and Laurie Stafford

We thank all participants for enriching our worship service.

St. Paul Lutheran Church celebrates and shares God's love and compassion

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www.stpaul.org

A Stephen Ministry congregation



De-

ember 31, 2023

9:00 a.m.

The **Epiphany Dessert** event will be January 6, 2024 after the Saturday service. We need volunteers to make desserts and/or host a table. Please contact Doreen if interested, at 989-916-9172.

All are invited to our January Video Educational Experience on January 10th at 6:00 p.m. We will be watching “Breakthrough” and a meal will be provided with discussion throughout.

The Forget-Me-Nots will not meet on Tuesday, January 2. We will gather on Saturday, January 20 at 2:00 pm to attend a special event to honor the Girl Scouts of America at the Jesse Besser Museum. Our troop from St. Paul will be represented. If you have not visited the Museum recently, this will be a good time to tour the museum and also support the Girl Scout troop affiliated with St. Paul.

Mark your calendars for our next Women’s Retreat on Friday, January 26th. Our theme is “Vision of Leadership for Women.” The event will take place at 1921 Long Rapids Road and there is no cost associated with this event. We will explore God’s promises for community and fellowship for women. Ages 18 – 100 are invited to discover God’s faithfulness in your faith journey.

If you would like to make further donations to the Cancer Center, for patients undergoing treatment we are needing packaged nuts, crackers with peanut butter or cheese, rice crispy treats, candy bars, Jolly Rancher hard candies, oatmeal packets, pudding snacks. Please drop them off at Miss Nena’s office.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: DECEMBER 31, 2023—JANUARY 7, 2024	
<u>SUN.</u>	Unity Service – 9:00 a.m.
<u>MON.</u>	Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; E.T.A.—5:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 6:00 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Forget-Me-Nots – 12:00 p.m. (church) – 12:00 p.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Air Rifle – 5:30 p.m.; Prayer Shawl – 6:00 p.m.; Boy Scouts – 6:30 p.m.
<u>WED.</u>	Women’s Breakfast (at JJ’s) – 7:30 a.m.; Property Committee – 5:30 p.m.; Choir – 6:00 p.m.
<u>THURS.</u>	Men’s Breakfast – 7:00 a.m.; Chair Yoga – 3:00 p.m.; Air Rifle Team—5:30 p.m.; Recovery Yoga – 5:30 p.m.
<u>FRI.</u>	Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.; Alpena Line Dance Club—5:00 p.m.
<u>SAT.</u>	Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship/HC – 5:30 p.m.
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service & Children’s Church – 10:30 a.m.

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WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS: Don Urban Sr.—health needs Kevin Langerfield - recovery
Tammy Stoutenburg - unspecified need Annette Wade – medical issues Art Hoffmeyer – heart issues
Danielle Lawrence – health issues Bodo Hanson—health issues David Reeves – health issues
Barbara Carlson –unspecified need John Wegmeyer – health issues Eugene Brooks—health issues
Marty & Liz Smith – home sells Alisha Freese - illness Sutton Badder—unspecified need
Jake Shipman – accident Karen Wallace—unspecified need Marian Dove— unspecified need
Phyllis Robb - unspecified need Dolores Libka – unspecified need

We also remember our homebound members. They are: Harriett Kelm, Dixie Weiler, Elaine Kingsbury, Geraldine Wyman, Harriet Burke, Virginia Kraft, Phyllis Robb, and Norm Dutcher.

(Prayer is the best medicine and we are prepared to pray indefinitely for folks. Would you please help the church office keep our list current? Unless we know otherwise, our normal practice is to remove names after a month. Thank you for your partnership in prayer.)

We remember our prayer partners in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod: Ascension Lutheran Church, Kentwood, Rev. Michael Wernick

We pray for the Dynamic Ministries here at St. Paul Lutheran Church. This week we specifically pray for the Men in Motion Breakfast Group.

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL (foot of the cross) are given to the glory of God.

Save the date – Saturday, January 20th! The Stewardship Committee will again be hosting a PASTA NIGHT following the Saturday 5:30 p.m. service. Plan to come and enjoy good food, fellowship, and fun. A Chinese auction and 50/50 raffle will be part of the evening. If anyone would like to donate raffle items, please contact Dennis or Lori Dziesinski at 989-464-7112 or 989-590-8568. This year we are requiring people to get a ticket. The tickets will have no cost, but will help with making sure we have enough food or not too much. Get your ticket from committee members or at the church office.

The Scholarship Committee is grateful to those that have brought in their bottle returns, we ask that you keep them coming! The bottle returns can be placed in the janitorial closet next to the elevator on the Mirre Street side, there is a sign on the door to prevent confusion.

The church office will be closed New Year's Day, January 1st. We will be back in the office on Tuesday, January 2nd.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

1st Sunday in the season of Christmas

Lessons and Carols Unity Service

December 31, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

WELCOME

Call to Worship: The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, born of Mary, be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Gathering Hymn

“The First Noel”

(Red) #300, vs. 1-3

CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE

L: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

L: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

C: We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

L: To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C: In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray. All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lessons and Carols

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1–5, 14–18

“The First Noel”

(Red) #300, vs. 4-5

SECOND READING: Micah 5:2–5a

O Little Town of Bethlehem

(Red) #279

THIRD READING: Luke 1:26–35, 38

Of the Father’s Love Begotten

(Red) #295, vs. 1& 3

FOURTH READING: Luke 2:1-7

Away in a Manger

(Red) #278

FIFTH READING: Luke 2:8–14

Angels from the Realms of Glory

(Red) #275 (verses 1,2,4)

SIXTH READING: Luke 2:15-20

Silent Night

(Red) #281

SEVENTH READING: Matthew 2:1-11

What Child Is This

(Red) #296

EIGHTH READING: John 1:1–14

Joy to the World

(Red) #267, vs. 1 & 3

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

L: Glory to God in the highest,

C: and peace to God's people on earth.

L: Blessed are you, Prince of peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

C: Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

L: Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

C: Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

L: Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

C: Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of the Christ of Bethlehem be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Offering/Offertory

Offertory Prayer

L: Let us pray: God with us: You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Gathered into one by the Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**People: 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

BLESSING

May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

(Red) #290

Silent Prayer

Dismissal

L: Christ is with you. Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude