

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.

<u>PARTICIPANTS</u>		
<u>MINISTERS</u>		The People of God
<u>ORGANIST</u>		Marvis McNeil
<u>CHOIR DIRECTOR</u>		Marty Cantleberry
<u>ASSISTING MINISTER</u>	5:30 p.m.	Iris Arthur
	9:00 a.m.	Barb Szczesniak
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Iris Arthur
	9:00 a.m.	Cheri Fletcher
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Patti Byce, Myra Gapske
	9:00 a.m.	Carla Steinke
<u>HEAD USHER</u>		Roy Wekwert
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Patti Byce and Jimmy Nensewitz
	9:00 a.m.	Tim Moggie, Owen Werth
		Jesse and Jessica O’Neil
<u>CHILDREN’S CHURCH LEADERS</u>	Kathy Burton, Jean Johnson, Lacie Paquette	
<u>LITTLES’ WORSHIP CENTER LEADERS</u>	Paused for Summer	
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>	Sandy Samp and Carol Kindt	

We thank all participants for enriching our worship service.

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Worship Service
celebrates and shares God’s love and compassion
727 S. 2nd, Alpena, MI 49707
Phone 989-356-1658
www.stpaul.org
A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Monthly Ministry Highlight:
Worship Committee Ministry



July 18, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
July 19, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 18, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
July 19, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.

*Congregational responses are printed in **bold**.*

Welcome! Celebrations of birthdays, anniversaries and a time to welcome our guests. We ask that you fill out the communion card and place it in the offering plate.

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Please Stand)
CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity,+ one God, whose compassion endures forever.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” In the name of God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God’s love. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN “Praise and Thanksgiving” (Red) #689

GREETING

Pastor: The free gift of grace in Jesus Christ, the reconciling love of God, and the life and peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

The Call Committee has given council members questions to approve. It will then be given to the congregation. They will be placed in the newsletter and also available online as well as an insert in the weekly church bulletin. This is a way for the Call Committee to gain an overview of what members are looking for in a Pastor.

“Tidal Wave of Love” Summer Vacation Bible School is scheduled for the evenings of July 28 – 30, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. We will meet at the Starlite Beach Splash Park in Alpena for tons of fun and sharing God’s love with others. Please come join us and think of little ones you would like to invite.

The Forget-Me-Nots will meet for a picnic lunch and conversation on Tuesday, August 4th at noon at the church picnic grounds, weather permitting. Please bring your lunch and a beverage. Hope to see you there. If you need a ride or have any questions, call Ann at (989) 590-2055.

Mark Your Calendars! The next ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY MDOT clean-up will be on Sunday, August 16th. We will meet at the church at 12:00 p.m. to view a video before venturing out for the clean-up. Come, join us!

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 Linda’s 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.

We are pleased to announce that Jared Bicker and Jim Kucharek have started their training to become Stephen Ministers. Please keep them, and the Stephen Leaders in your prayers during this important time.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: <i>JULY 19—26, 2026</i>	
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service/Children’s Church/C.I.A. (Youth) - 10:30 a.m.
<u>MON.</u>	VBS Prep – 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.; Alpena Peace Community – 1:00 p.m.; Line Dancing - 2:00 p.m.; E.T.A. Group - 5:30 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Recovery Yoga – 5:00 p.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Senior Leaders – 5:30 p.m.; Church Council – 6:00 p.m.; Scouting America – 6:30 p.m.
<u>WED.</u>	Breakfast Belles – 7:30 a.m.; Stephen Ministry Training – 4:30 p.m.; Soul Sister Kayaking (Sytek Park) – 5:30 p.m.
<u>THURS.</u>	3M Men’s Breakfast - 7:00 a.m.; Stitched Together – 10:00 a.m.; Open Line Dance – 1:00 p.m.
<u>FRI.</u>	Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.
<u>SAT.</u>	Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship Service/HC– 5:30 p.m.
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service/Children’s Church/C.I.A. - 10:30 a.m.

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

<u>WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:</u>	Garrett Chrzan – surgery	Tina Chrzan - surgery
Alan Courtney – health issues	David McNeil–health issues	Mary Boomer-Scott – health
Shelly Hoffmeyer – recovery	Lee Szczesniak–medical issues	Malary Smith – unspecified
Dorothy Carr – health issues	Lee Werth—health issues	Ann Martin – medical issues
Travis Schmidt – health issue	John Wegmeyer– health issues	Patricia P. - health issues
Dixie Crevier – health issues	Lisa Dziesinski-health issue	Dena Stevens – health issues
Kevin Reiser – health issues	Joel Foster – health issues	Billie Jo Foster – health issues
Phyllis Robb-unspecified need	Nancy St. Onge – health issues	Yvonne McQuarrie – health

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

We remember our prayer partners in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod: St. John’s Lutheran Church, Three Rivers, Rev. Vicky Blough.

We pray for the Dynamic Ministries here at St. Paul Lutheran Church. This week we specifically pray for the Worship Committee.

<u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>END OF APRIL</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Saturday 07/11 5:30 a.m. 37	Income 24,273.97	104,903.09
Sunday 07/12 9:00 a.m. 48	Transferred/G & M 10,000.00	
10:30 a.m. <u>17</u>	<u>Expenses</u> 27,918.08	<u>130,423.82</u>
Total 102	Difference 6,355.89	(25,520.73)

CONDOLENCES TO: the family and friends of Carolynne Wegmeyer, who joined our Lord in eternity July 9th, 2026. Her funeral was held on July 18th at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

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

Our July Service Activity is the Little Food Pantry at Grace Lutheran Church. Items Needed: macaroni & cheese, individual breakfast cereal, non-perishable milk, pancake mix, syrup, paper towels, toilet paper, baby foods, bread, quick easy meals for one, meat in pouches, canned meat, microwavable meals, canned fruits and vegetables, snacks for kids, peanut butter & jelly, and feminine hygiene products. Please leave your donation items on the altar and thank you so much for your generosity.

If you are interested in becoming a new member, please call the church office at 989-356-1658.

The Soul Sisters are kayaking on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month this summer. So, for July they will meet next on July 22nd at Sytek Park. Questions? Please call Sue at 989-354-8673.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Beautiful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. ⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. ⁸Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 86:11-17 (Read Responsively)

Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name for ever.

For great is your steadfast love towards me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

O God, the insolent rise up against me; a band of ruffians seeks my life, and they do not set you before them.

But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant; save the child of your serving-maid.

Show me a sign of your favour, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame, because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25 (Sunday 9:00 a.m. service)

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)
Gospel Acclamation

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Send us with your prom - is - es, O God,
and lead us forth in joy with shouts
of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

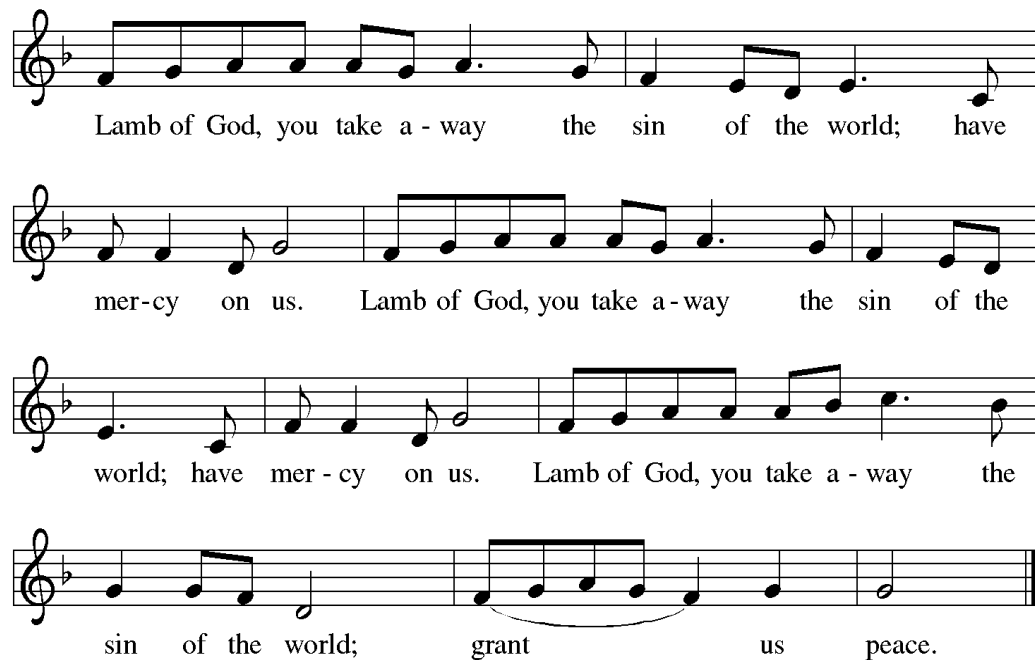
BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN “As Saints of Old” (Red) #695

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

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Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

“Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise”



The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

²⁴ He put before them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, “Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?” ²⁸ He answered, “An enemy has done this.” The slaves said to him, “Then do you want us to go and gather them?” ²⁹ But he replied, “No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”’ ³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, ‘Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.’ ³⁷ He answered, ‘The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

The Gospel of Our Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Children’s Message

“I Love to Tell the Story”

I love to tell the story
'Twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old old story
Of Jesus and His love

© Public Domain: Arabella Catherine Hankey | William Gustavus Fischer

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Pastor LaRae Ruetenbar

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

(Red) #693

Confession of Faith: The Apostles’ Creed

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.
 He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy *catholic Church,
 the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.
 *Universal

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH God of grace,
 hear our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE
 The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always. And also with you.

(Please stand)

OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

(Sung at the 9:00 a.m. service.)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

S 144a



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

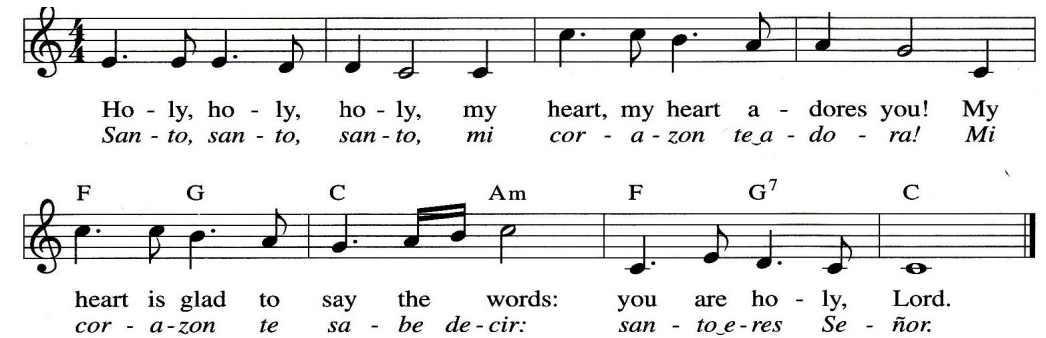
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise . . . (concluding) we praise your name and join their un-
 ending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My
 San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zon te a - do - ra! Mi

F G C Am F G⁷ C

heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, Lord.
 cor - a - zon te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res Se - ñor.

EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we 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.**

(Pleased be seated)

HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Christ is both the host and the meal. Come, taste and see that the Lord is good. Those not receiving Communion are invited forward for a blessing. There is grape juice in the middle circle for those who prefer it. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.

"Lamb of God"