

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.

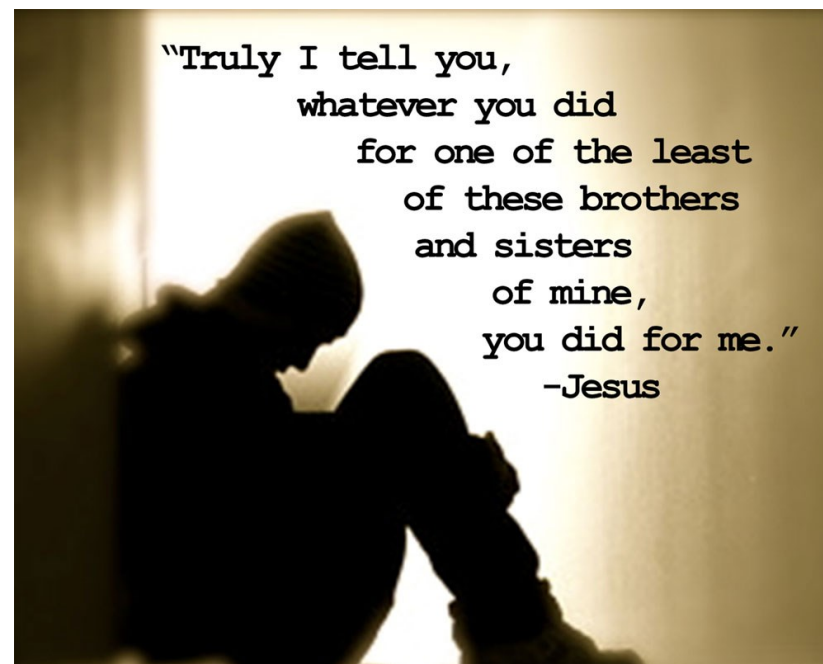
There are **restrooms** located in the basement of this building and on the ground floor of the hallway leading to our fellowship hall and on each floor of the educational building.

PARTICIPANTS

<u>MINISTERS</u>		The People of God
<u>PASTOR</u>		Rev. John Shipman
<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.	Shirley Jones
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Myra Gapske
	9:00 a.m.	Danielle McDonald
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Anita Laub
	9:00 a.m.	Nancy Clark, Angie Parrish
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Patti Byce
	9:00 a.m.	Jesse and Jessica O'Neil
		Owen Werth
<u>ACOLYTE</u>	5:30 p.m.	Evan Peterson
	9:00 a.m.	Alayna Krey
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Marty Cantleberry, Pat Cornelius, 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



November 25, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.
November 26, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.



GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
Christ the King Sunday
November 25, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.
November 26, 2023 - 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, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen.**

Holy One,
we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!” (Red) #634

GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Help is needed to decorate the church building for Christmas. We will meet on Tuesday, December 5th beginning at 2:00 p.m. Please call Donna Kensa or the office if you can help. *Thank you.*

This year we will have Advent Services on Wednesdays at 12:00 – 1:00 on December 6th, 13th, & 22nd. We will have a meal at noon followed by a short service at 12:25. Come and share this time of preparation for the Christ Child. We need volunteers to help prepare a simple meal.

The Forget-Me-Knots will meet for lunch on Tuesday, December 5 at noon at the 19th Hole Restaurant. Please call Ann Hardesty (590-2055) to let her know if you will attend. We hope to see you there.

For December, the Gratitude Lunches will be donating supplies to three animal shelters, along with cookies for those that take care of the animals. So, we are looking for donations of paper towels, bleach, dish soap, clump free cat litter, grain-free dog or cat food, Purina One dog or cat food, clean used towels or any monetary donations. Please drop them off at Nena’s office by December 11th. Call Val Urban if you have any questions, 989-356-4613.

Pastor John and Miss Nena have planned Advent Educational Opportunities, that will run December 6th – 20th. Pastor John’s Class will meet on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM and 5:30 p.m. and Miss Nena’s class will also meet on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM. Pastor John will hold a Bible Study on 1st, 2nd, 3rd John and Miss Nena will lead a Book Study on “66 Ways God Loves You” by Jennifer Rothschild. Please sign up.

The Soul Sisters will be gathering on Monday, December 11th at 5:30pm in the Multi-purpose room. Enjoy soup, salad and dessert for dinner. After eating we will sign Christmas cards for residents at Turning Brook Assisted Living, Besser Senior Living Community and St. Paul’s homebound members. Join us for food, fun and fellowship! Please RSVP to Val at 989-916-5560 or Shirley at 989-464-6472 by December 8th.

Life Line Screening, the nation’s leading provider of preventive health screenings will offer non-invasive and painless health screenings at St. Paul Lutheran Church on Monday, December 18th. A package of four screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered for \$149.00. Please call 1-800-640-6307 to register or visit LLSA.SOCIAL/HC. Two discount tickets are available.

Please note: 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.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: NOVEMBER 26 – DECEMBER 3, 2023	
<u>SUN.</u>	Sunday Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00; Contemporary Service & Children’s Church – 10:30
<u>MON.</u>	Newsletter Assembly – 9:00 a.m.; Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; E.T.A.– 5:00 p.m.; Air Rifle Team – 5:30 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 6:00 p.m.; Taste from Home – 6:00 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Dinner on a Doorknob – 9:00 a.m.; Senior Leaders – 5:30 p.m.; Air Rifle Team – 5:30 p.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Church Council – 6:00 p.m.; Boy Scouts – 6:30 p.m.
<u>WED.</u>	Breakfast Belles (at JJ’s) – 7:30 a.m.; Choir – 6:00 p.m.
<u>THURS.</u>	3M Men’s Breakfast (JJ’s) – 7:00 a.m.; Stitched Together – 11:00 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.; Air Rifle Team – 5:30 p.m.
<u>SAT.</u>	Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship/HC – 5:30 p.m.
<u>SUN.</u>	Sunday Worship/HC – 9:00; Fellowship – 10:00; Contemporary Service & Children’s Church – 10:30 a.m.

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

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS: Bev Huard, Tammy Stoutenburg, Irma Becker, Annette Wade, Doreen Britton, Art Hoffmeyer, Dixie Prevost-Crevier, Nate Cosbitt, Warren MacNeil, Sue Kaiser, Shirley Kowalski, Barbara Carlson, John Wegmeyer, Marty & Liz Smith, Lorrie Fifield, Phyllis Robb, Dolores Libka, David Reeves, Julie Troy, Geri Hanson, Billiejo Foster, Gus Schultz, Elaine Kingsbury, Sally Barney, Joel Foster, Eugene Brooks, Bodo Hanson, Sutton Badder, Marian Dove, Dolores Sumerix, Audrey Reck, Bernice Menck, and Karen Wallace. We also remember our homebound members. They are: 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: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Jackson, Rev. Kate Schroeder

We pray for the Dynamic Ministries here at St. Paul Lutheran Church. This week we specifically pray for our AARP Taxes Assistance Group.

CONDOLENCES TO: the family and friends of William Townsend who joined our Lord in eternity November 17, 2023. His memorial service will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church on November 27th at 2:00.

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

<u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u>			<u>END OF SEPTEMBER</u>		<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Saturday (11/18)	5:30 p.m.	45	Income	25,476.35	240,458.99
Sunday (11/19)	9:00 a.m.	59	Expenses	<u>29,233.48</u>	<u>262,763.65</u>
	10:30 a.m.	<u>38</u>	Difference	(3,757.13)	(22,304.66)
Total		142			

The November Service Activity is Thunder Bay Jr High School. Items needed: Small Healthy Snacks (pre-packaged snacks such as granola bars, fruit snacks, crackers, pretzels, etc.), Hygiene products (small shampoos, conditioners, small deodorants, toothpaste and toothbrushes; Clothing (black leggings/sweatpants, tee-shirts-unisex, sweatshirts/warmer sweaters; School Supplies (plain two pocket folders, binders, and notebooks. Please leave items on the altar. Thank you for your generosity.

The remaining items from the Christmas bazaar are in the dining room until the end of the month. Please check out the items that would make great Christmas gifts and check out the jams still looking for a good home. If you would like to pick up the items you brought, do so by the end of the month.

Don't miss this celebration! On Sunday, December 3rd at the 9:00 a.m. service Shirley Jones and Susan Keyes will be commissioned as new Stephen Leaders in our Stephen Ministry Program. Come and be a part of this celebration and please pray for them as they take on their new role.

Gently used clothing is in room 207, across from Jackie's office. Stop by and pick up what you can use.

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

¹¹For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. ¹²As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I the Lord have spoken.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 95:1-7 (Read Responsively)

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23 (Sunday 9:00 a.m.)

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great

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 for those who prefer it.

“Lamb of God”

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.

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”

**Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -
one what God has done. Let all who seek the**

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46

³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’ ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life.”

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

Children’s Message/Noisy Offering

“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

“Open the Eyes of Our Hearts”

Rev John Shipman

(Please stand)
HYMN OF THE DAY

“Jesus Shall Reign”

(Red) #434

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 Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

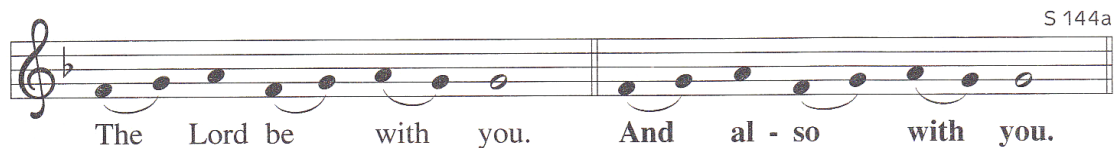
OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

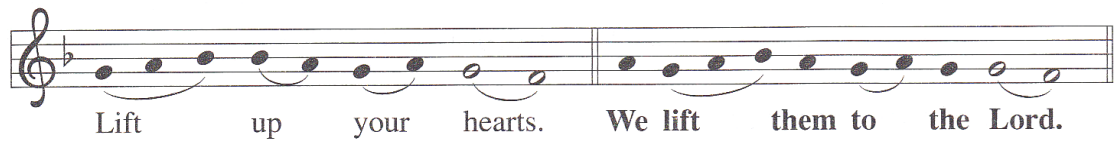
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(Sung at the 9:00 a.m. service.)

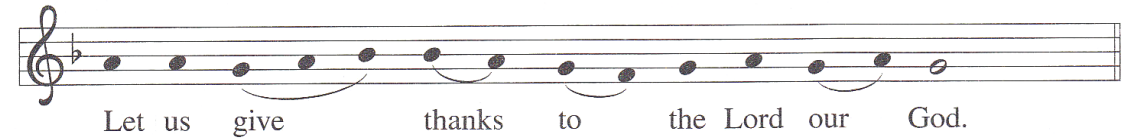
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And also 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 unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord



C C/G Asus Am F G F/C C

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - does 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.

(Please be seated)

HOLY COMMUNION