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



October 31, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.

November 1, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
All Saints' Day
October 31, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
November 1, 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, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.

Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN "For All the Saints" (Red) #422, vs. 1,2,3

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.

Prayer of the Day
Let us pray. Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)
FIRST READING: Revelation 7:9-17
9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every
nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before
the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. 10 They cried out in a loud
voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!"
11 And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living
creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 singing,
"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen." 13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying,
"Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" 14 I said to him, "Sir,
you are the one who knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of
the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the
Lamb. 15 For this reason they are before the throne of God and worship him day and night
within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. 16 They will
hunger no more and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat,
17 for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to
springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

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

PSALM: Psalm 34:1-10, 22 (Read Responsively)
I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.
O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.
I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.
Look to him, and be radiant, so your faces shall never be ashamed.
This poor soul cried and was heard by the Lord and was saved from every trouble.
The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him and delivers them.
O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.
O fear the Lord, you his holy ones, for those who fear him have no want.
The young lions suffer want and hunger, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-3 ***(Sunday 9:00 a.m. service)***

[1] See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. [2] Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. [3] And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

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

(Please Stand)

Gospel Acclamation



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

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 5:1-12

[1]When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. [2] And he began to speak and taught them, saying:
[3] "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
[4] "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
[5] "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
[6] "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
[7] "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
[8] "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
[9] "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
[10] "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
[11] "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. [12] Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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

Children's Message "Jesus Loves Me"

Jesus loves me this I know
For the Bible tells me so
Little ones to Him belong
They are weak but He is strong
Yes Jesus loves me. Yes Jesus loves me
Yes Jesus loves me the Bible tells me so

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(Please be seated)
SERMON Pastor Bob Case

(*Please stand*)
HYMN OF THE DAY "Shall We Gather at the River" (Red) #423

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.

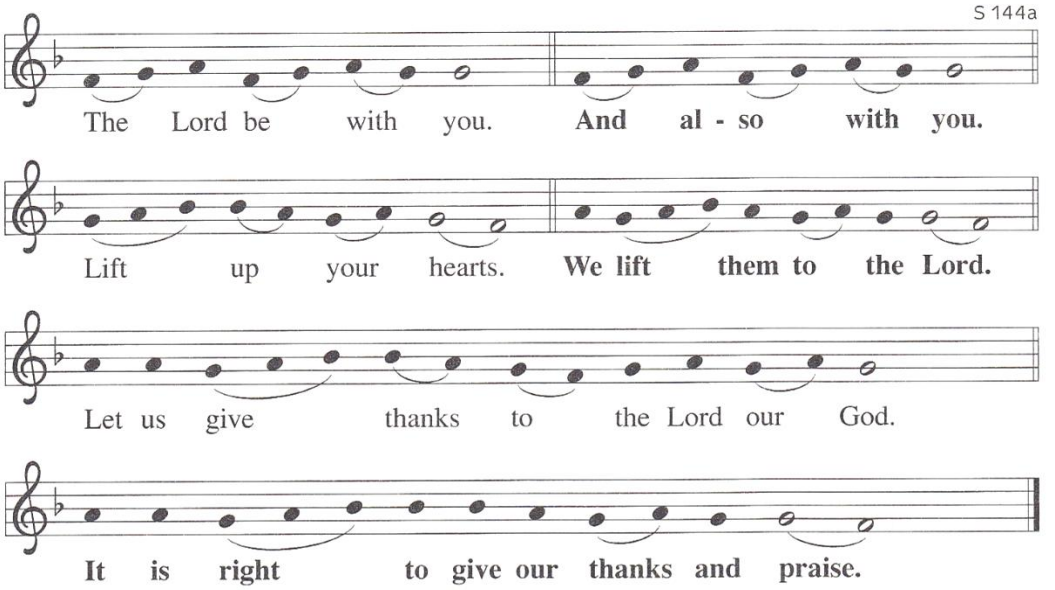
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy *catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.
***Universal**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

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

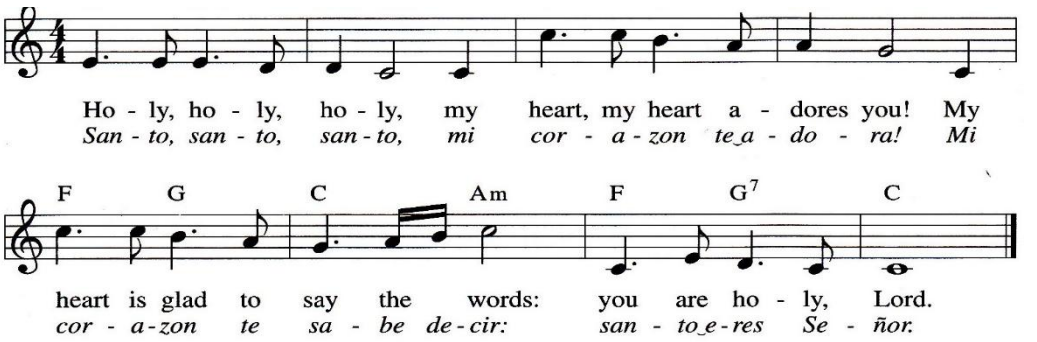
(*Please stand)*
OFFERING PRAYER
Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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



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



EUCHARISTIC BLESSING

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

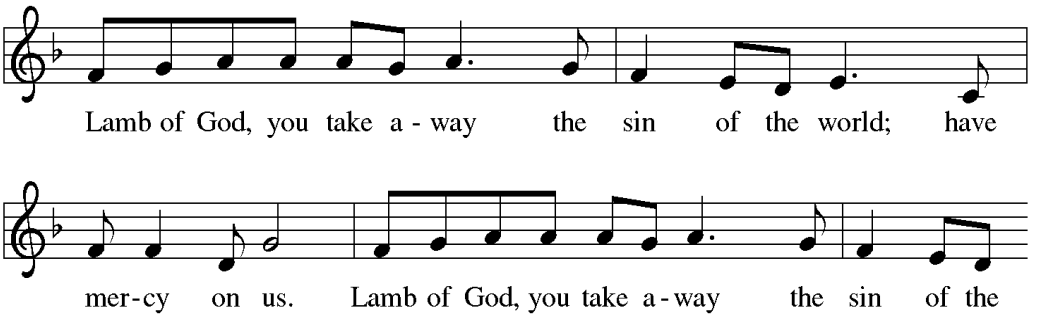
People: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine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

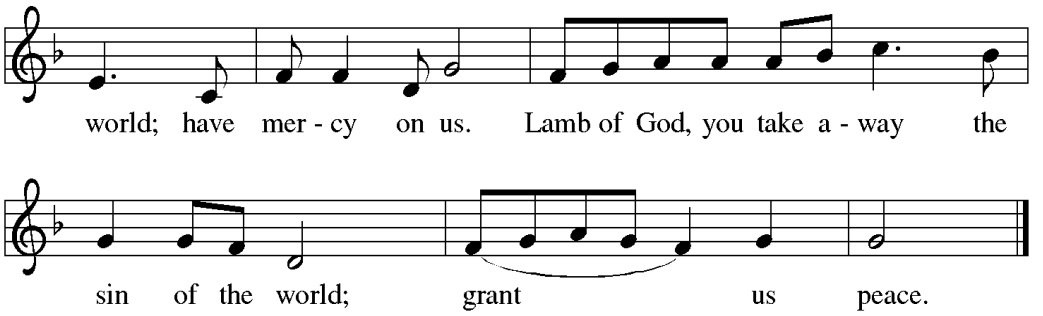
(Pleased be seated)

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"





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"



POST COMMUNION PRAYER
Let us pray: Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. **Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN "For All the Saints" (Red) #422, vs. 4,5,6,7

DISMISSAL
Go in peace. Encourage one another.
Thanks be to God.

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

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS: Ronda Dickinson – health Dena Stevens – health issues
Morgan Kibbe & Baby Colton Jeff Wittenburg – medical Tom Peters - surgery
Alan Courtney – health issues Ted Sommerfeld – health Mary Boomer-Scott – health
Johnathan O. – health issues Chuck Piontkowski – health Ann Martin – medical issues
Yvonne McQuarrie – health issues Joel Foster – health issues Billie Jo Foster–health issues
Mollie Skiba – health issue John Wegmeyer – health Phyllis Robb - unspecified
Sandra Christopherson – unspecified Lisa Dziesinski-health issues Luke Boyk—health issues
ARMED SERVICES: Cayden Wekwert, Katie Copping, Jake Przysiecki, Noah Hardesty, Dominick Christou, Sawyer Hein, Rachael Mayes, Brandon Sloan, Andrew Hein, Justin A. Smith, Maragely Hein, Amelia Berles, Josh Gapske, Nicole Stafford, Chuck Dziedizic, and Dale Kirkendoll. *(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: Trinity Lutheran Church, Battle Creek, Supply Pastors.

We pray for the Dynamic Ministries here at St. Paul Lutheran Church. This week we specifically pray for the E.T.A. Group (Empowerment through Accountability).

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL (foot of the cross) are given in memory of Bob and Marion Seguin from Barb, Kathy and family.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE			
Saturday	10/24	5:30 a.m.	33
Sunday	10/25	9:00 a.m.	59
		10:30 a.m.	38
		Total	130

END OF AUGUST		YEAR TO DATE
Income	14,857.87	185,006.29
G & M Loan	20,000.00	20,000.00
Expenses	22,395.07	212,156.16
Difference	(7,537.20)	(27,149.87)

Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour when going to bed on Saturday, October 31st. Daylight Saving Time ends November 1st.

Commitment Cards are available in the back of the church for those who missed getting one on Commitment Weekend. Please fill one out and put in the offering plate or drop off at the office.

The November newsletter is printed and in the Narthex this weekend. Please stop by the box in the Narthex and pick up yours. We are hoping this will cut down on our postage costs. Also, if you would like to be added to the digital list, email Jackie, jackie@stpaul.org and let her know.

St. Paul's Eucharistic Ministry: We have trained Eucharistic Ministers who will take communion kits to shut-ins on a regular basis. Questions? Contact Esther Kindt at 471-2274.

The St. Paul Christmas Bazaar is November 7th from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose room, with our famous "Turkey Noodle Casserole" being served from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Tickets for the luncheon are available at the church office, or before church services this weekend and next. Bazaar items may be dropped off on Friday, November 6th from 9:00-4:00. If you have any questions, call Esther Kindt at 989-471-2274.

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

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

Fellowship is in need of cookies to be served before the Saturday Service and between the Sunday services. We thank you for your generous donations in the past and for the future. There is also a need for some gluten free cookies. Also, we are looking for a volunteer to serve as a host for Sunday mornings, once a month.

The Forget-Me-Nots will meet for lunch at noon on Tuesday, November 3 at JJ's. Please call Ann Hardesty at 989-590-2055, if you are able to join us that day. This helps the staff prepare for our arrival. We hope you can join us for lunch and conversation.

The Soul Sisters invite you to their annual **Christmas Card Signing on Monday, November 16th, at 6:00 p.m.** Water and pop will be available, and feel free to bring a snack!

WEEK AT A GLANCE: NOVEMBER 1- 8, 2026

SUN.	Worship/HC - 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service/Children's Church/C.I.A. (Youth) - 10:30 a.m.
MON.	Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 4:00 p.m.; E.T.A. Group – 5:30 p.m.; Bazaar Set-Up
TUES.	Forget-Me-Nots (JJs) – 12:00 p.m.; Church Council – 5:30 p.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Scouting America – 6:30 p.m.; Bazaar Set-Up
WED.	Breakfast Belles – 7:30 a.m.; Choir – 4:30 p.m.; Education – 5:30 p.m.; Property – 5:30 p.m.; Bazaar Set-Up
THURS.	3M Men's Breakfast - 7:00 a.m.; Prayer Shawl – 10:30 a.m.; Open Line Dance – 1:00 p.m.; Chair Yoga – 3:15 p.m.; Singles – 5:30 p.m.; Bazaar Set-Up
FRI.	Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.; Christmas Bazaar Set-Up
SAT.	Christmas Bazaar – 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (Luncheon served 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.); Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship/HC – 5:30 p.m.
SUN.	Worship/HC-9:00; Fellowship–10:00; Contemporary Service/Children's Ch./C.I.A. - 10:30

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		The People of God
ORGANIST		Marvis McNeil
CHOIR DIRECTOR		Marty Cantleberry
ASSISTING MINISTER	5:30 p.m.	Carol Kindt
	9:00 a.m.	Barb Szczesniak
LECTOR	5:30 p.m.	Myra Gapske
	9:00 a.m.	Barb Szczesniak
FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS	5:30 p.m.	Sue Robb Joan Smolinski
	9:00 a.m.	Janice Boboltz
HEAD USHER		Roy Wekwert
USHERS & GREETERS	5:30 p.m.	John and Linda Snyder
	9:00 a.m.	Cathy Kieliszewski, Owen Werth Roy Wekwert, Jeff Ciupka
CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS		Karen Wekwert, Sue Robb, Amy DeRosia
ALTAR CARE		Sue Robb and Carol Kindt

We thank all participants for enriching our worship service.