St. Paul Lutheran Church
Worship Service

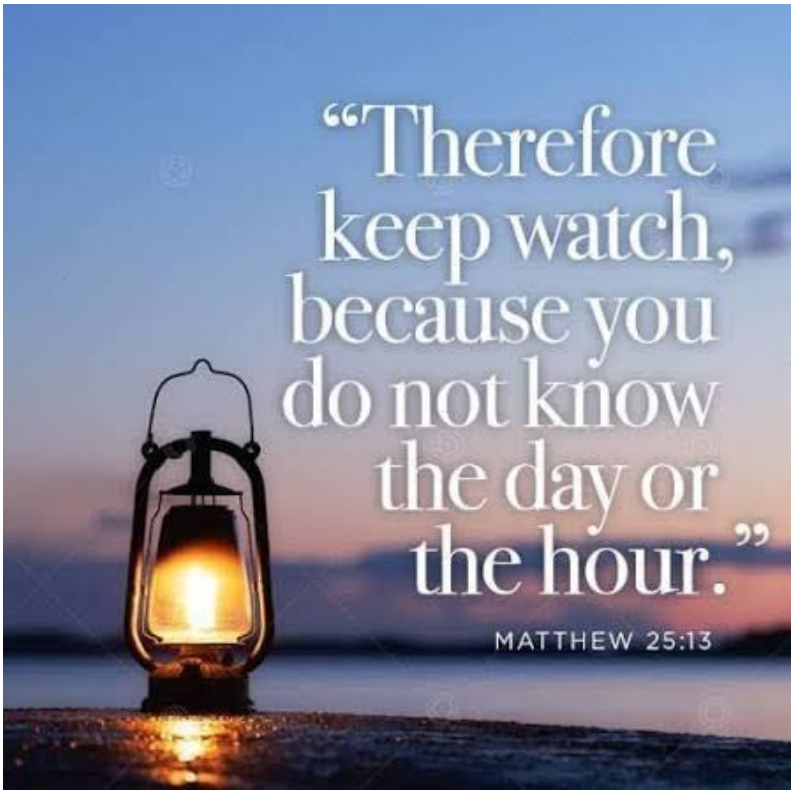
celebrates and shares God's love and compassion

727 S. 2nd, Alpena, MI 49707

Phone 989-356-1658

www.stpaul.org

A Stephen Ministry Congregation



November 7, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
November 8, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The 24th Sunday after Pentecost
November 7, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
November 8, 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 "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" (Red) #244

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. O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)
FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24
18 Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is
darkness, not light, 19 as if someone fled from a lion and was met by a bear or went into the
house and rested a hand against the wall and was bitten by a snake. 20 Is not the day of the
Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?
21 I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. 22 Even
though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them, and
the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. 23 Take away from
me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. 24 But let justice
roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

PSALM: Psalm 70 (Read Responsively)
Be pleased, O God, to deliver me. O Lord, make haste to help me!
Let those be put to shame and confusion who seek my life. Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor who desire to hurt me.
Let those who say, "Aha, Aha!" turn back because of their shame.
Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. Let those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"
But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay!

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 ***(Sunday 9:00 a.m. service)***
13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have
died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe
that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who
have died. 15 For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive,
who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died.
16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the
sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17
Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to
meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage
one another with these words.

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 25:1-13

[1]"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3] When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4] but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5] As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. [6] But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7] Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. [8] The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9] But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' [10] And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. [11] Later the other

young women came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ [12] But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ [13] Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

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 “When Peace like a River” (Red) #785

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.**

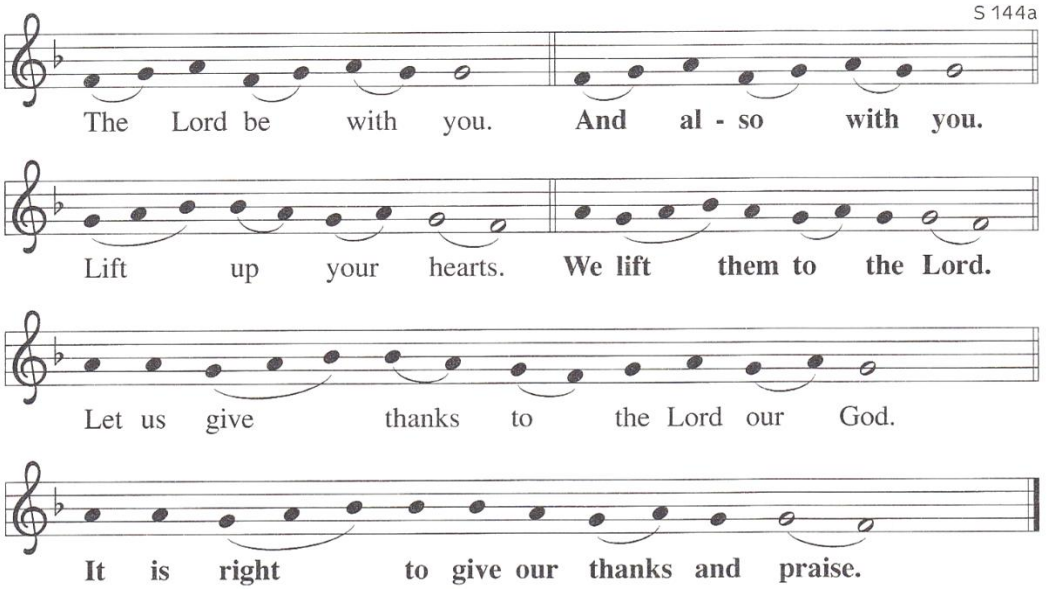
(*Please stand)*

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.**

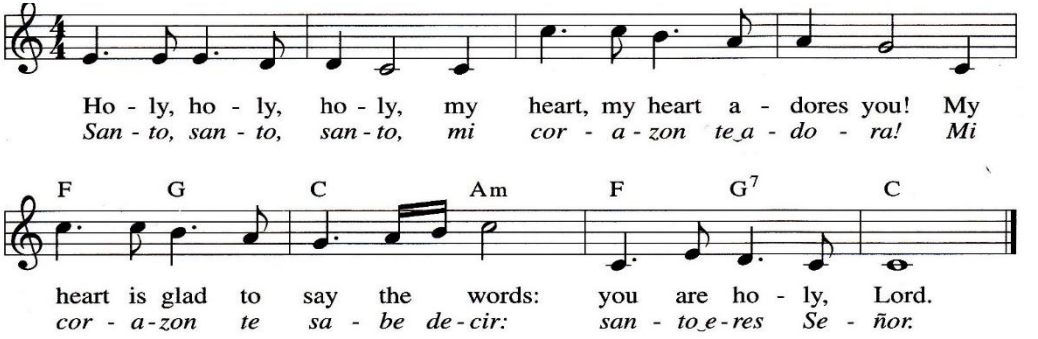
(Sung at the 9:00 a.m. service.)

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:

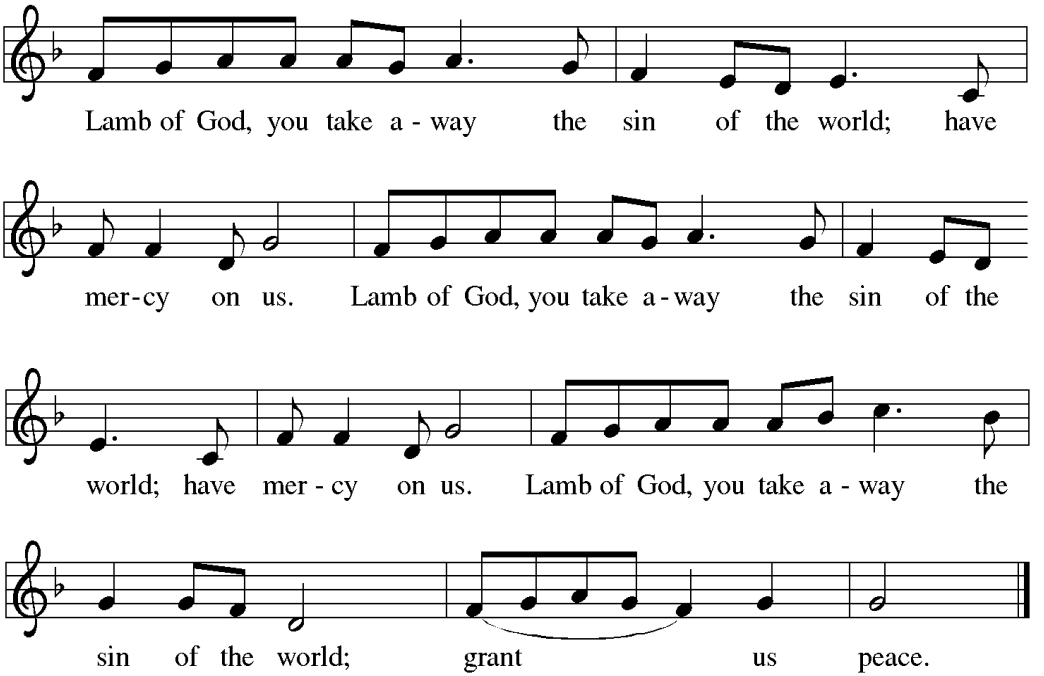
People: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine 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 "Soon and Very Soon" (Red) #439

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: Penny Mason – medical, Adam Schmidt - health, Ronda Dickinson – health, Kathy Prevo – health issues, Chad Hamill - health, Morgan Kibbe & Baby Colton, Jeff Wittenburg – medical, Tom Peters - surgery, Alan Courtney – health issues, Ted Sommerfeld – health, Mary Boomer-Scott – health, Dena Stevens – 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, Lisa Dziesinski-health issues, Luke Boyk—health issues

(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.

We remember our prayer partners in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod: Messiah Lutheran Church, Bay City, Rev. Timothy Jahn.

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

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

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE			**END OF AUGUST**		**YEAR TO DATE**
Saturday 10/31	5:30 a.m.	30	Income	14,857.87	185,006.29
Sunday 11/01	9:00 a.m.	49	G & M Loan	20,000.00	20,000.00
	10:30 a.m.	30	Expenses	22,395.07	212,156.16
	Total	109	Difference	(7,537.20)	(27,149.87)

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 church office.

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.

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 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! ***On December 2nd, the Soul Sisters will gather at Twin Acres/19th Hole*** at 6:00 p.m. for dinner. Everyone is responsible for their own dinner/tip. Please RSVP by November 30th at noon if you plan to attend. Please update your email address with Patti Byce by texting 989-335-0336 or at bycep138@gmail.com.

Karen Wekwert and Amy DeRosia have volunteered to be our Float Coordinators for the Holiday Parade. We need candy donations. If you want to donate some, please just drop it off at the church.

If you would like to have altar flowers in honor, memory, or celebration of a special person or occasion, please sign up on the flower chart located in the narthex. Then, call the church office and let them know what you would like to print in the bulletin on that date. There are currently lots of dates available and the cost is only $20.00.

This year we will have Advent Services on Wednesdays at 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. on December 2nd , 9th, 16th, and 23rd. 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. Just call the church office and let us know what Wednesday works for you. Thank you.

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 Wednesday, December 9th. Please call 1-800-324-9458 to register or visit LLSA.SOCIAL/HSCA.

We are joining the Feeding Kids Ministry of Resurrection Lutheran Church in supporting the kids in Alpena Community by doing a BIG CEREAL BOX DRIVE! The goal is to have 300 boxes by December 13th. You may drop off your cereal boxes in the Sanctuary by the altar.

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

WEEK AT A GLANCE: NOVEMBER 8 - 15, 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.	Alpena Peace Community – 1:00 p.m.; Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 4:00 p.m.; E.T.A. Group – 5:30 p.m.
TUES.	Gratitude Lunches – 9:00 a.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Treasury Meeting – 6:00 p.m.; Scouting America – 6:30 p.m.
WED.	Breakfast Belles – 7:30 a.m.; Choir – 4:30 p.m.; Newsletter Deadline
THURS.	3M Men's Breakfast - 7:00 a.m.; Open Line Dance – 1:00 p.m.; Chair Yoga – 3:15 p.m.; Stephen Ministry 3:30 p.m.
FRI.	Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.
SAT.	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.	Iris Arthur
	9:00 a.m.	
LECTOR	5:30 p.m.	Iris Arthur
	9:00 a.m.	
FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS	5:30 p.m.	Sue Robb
	9:00 a.m.	Joanne Huggler, Rita Chase
HEAD USHER		Roy Wekwert
USHERS & GREETERS	5:30 p.m.	Dennis and Sherry McDonald
	9:00 a.m.	Barb Szczesniak, Dennis Dziesinski
		Jesse and Jessica O'Neil
CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS		Joanne Huggler, Rita Chase, Laycie Paquette
ALTAR CARE		Marty Cantleberry and Pat Cornelius

We thank all participants for enriching our worship service.