

**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>PASTOR</u>		Rev. John Shipman
<u>ORGANIST</u>		Marvis McNeil
<u>CHOIR DIRECTOR</u>		Marty Cantleberry
<u>ASSISTING MINISTER</u>	5:30 p.m.	Dawn Grzeskowiak
	9:00 a.m.	Phil Wickstrom
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Dawn Grzeskowiak
	9:00 a.m.	Phil Wickstrom
<u>HEAD USHER</u>		Roy Wekwert
<u>USHERS &amp; GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Dennis and Sherry McDonald
	9:00 am.	Kathy Burton, Tim Moggie
		Dennis Dziesinski, Barb Szczesniak
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Sue Robb or Joan Smolinski
	9:00 a.m.	Mary Courtney
<u>CHILDREN’S CHURCH LEADERS</u>		Bonnie Duby, Karen Wekwert, Sue Robb
<u>LITTLES’ WORSHIP CENTER LEADERS</u>		Joanne Huggler, Rita Chase
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Ginger Bohlen, 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. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Alpena, MI 49707  
Phone 989-356-1658  
[www.stpaul.org](http://www.stpaul.org)  
*A Stephen Ministry Congregation*



*2026 Theme: “Be Our Vision Lord”*

**January 31, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**February 1, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.**

**The Adventure Club will host Karaoke on Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>** from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. We will be singing Karaoke and dancing. Come, be part of this wonderful expression of fun within this intergenerational educational experience. The Adventure Club welcomes everyone from 1-105 years old.

**The Church will celebrate Shrove Tuesday with a Pancake Supper on** Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 –5:30 p.m. We will be serving sausage as well. Everyone is invited and there will be a free will offering.

**Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>.** Please join us to worship that day: 12:25 p.m. worship at St. Paul Lutheran Church, with a Lenten Soup preceding the service at 12:00 p.m. The theme is “Dust and Hope.” The imposition of ashes and Holy Communion will be part of the service. **We are looking for people/groups that will be able to do one of the Lenten lunches.** Call the church office and schedule a Wednesday that works for you/ group. There will be Ecumenical Service at Grace Lutheran Ash Wednesday at 6:00. Soup Supper at 5:30 p.m.

**Pastor John and Miss Nena’s *Lent Educational Opportunities will run from February 18<sup>th</sup> through March 25<sup>th</sup>.*** Pastor John’s classes meet on Wednesdays at 1:00 and 5:30 p.m. and Miss Nena’s class meets on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. Pastor John will hold a Book Study on “Psalms – Prayers of the Heart” by Eugene Peterson and Miss Nena will lead a Book Study on “Life Source: 5 Session Course on Prayer for Lent.” Join us!

**Mexican Night** - The Stewardship Committee will again host a Mexican Night on Saturday, February 21, following the 5:30 service. There will be a limited number of no-cost tickets available (135). Please contact the church office for your tickets. A Free-Will Offering will be collected for the meal. There will be a Chinese raffle and 50/50 raffle. If you would like to help with a dessert or raffle item, please reach out to one of the committee members - or call Dennis at 464-7112 or Lori at 590-8568.

**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 Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. Please call 1-800-324-9458 to register or visit LLSA.SOCIAL/HSCA. Two discount tickets are available.

**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.

**Needed:** We are in need of large ice cream pails with lids. If you have some to donate please put them in the kitchen. Thank you.

**We are also looking** for teachers and helpers for Children’s Church. You are usually scheduled once a month. Please contact Kathy Burton if interested in serving, 989-464-8943 or kathyburton@yahoo.com.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: <i>FEBRUARY 1 – 8, 2026</i>	
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC– 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00; Contemporary Service/Children’s Church/C.I.A. - 10:30
<u>MON.</u>	AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Line Dancing–2:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts–4:00 p.m.; E.T.A. Group–5:30 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Cub Scouts–5:30 p.m.; Education – 5:30 p.m.; Scouting America– 6:30 p.m.
<u>WED.</u>	Breakfast Belles – 7:30 a.m.; AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Prayer Shawl – 10:30 a.m.; Choir Practice – 4:30 p.m.; Movie Night ( <i>Ordinary Angels</i> ) – 6:00 p.m.
<u>THURS.</u>	3M Men’s Breakfast (JJs)- 7:00 a.m.; Chair Yoga – 3:00 p.m.; Singles – 5:30 p.m.
<u>FRI.</u>	AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.
<u>SAT.</u>	AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship Service – 5:30 p.m.
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC– 9:00 a.m. ( <i>Scout Sunday</i> ); Fellowship – 10:00; Contemporary Service/Children’s Church/ C.I.A. - 10:30 a.m.

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

**WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:**

Milt Paquette – health issues	Mary Crockitt – health issues	Sally Wong – health issues
Bennett Gilmet – medical issues	Anne Eaton – health issues	Donita M. – health issues
Cathy Murtha – medical issues	Alan Marwede– future surgery	Joanne Kindt – health issues
Lianna Kruttlin – health issues	Storm Yakes – medical issues	Cheryl Daher–awaiting surgery
Kevin Reiser – health issues	Greg Dziesinski- health issues	Lisa Dziesinski-health issue
Darlene Ackerman – health issues	Joel Foster – health issues	Adam Schmidt- health issues
lary Smith – unspecified	Phyllis Robb-unspecified need	Billie Jo Foster – health issues Ma-
Carol Kuhl – health issues	Margaret Lucian – health issues	Lee Werth—health issues
Ric Schmidt – recovery from surgery	Ann Martin – medical issues	Dena Stevens – health issues
Tina Yeager – health issues	John Wegmeyer– health issues	Nancy Yahne –surgery
	Nancy St. Onge – health issues	

ARMED SERVICES: 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 Dziedzic, 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: Bethany Lutheran Church, Northport, Rev. Chrysanne Timm.  
**We pray for the Dynamic Ministries here at St. Paul Lutheran Church.** This week we specifically pray for the Adventure Club.

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

Saturday 01/24	5:30 p.m.	55
Sunday 01/25	9:00 a.m.	92
	10:30 a.m.	<u>53</u>
	Total	200

**END OF DECEMBER**

Income	87,469.20
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>36,797.80</u>
Difference	50,671.40
Investment Income for 2025	\$28,843.00

**YEAR TO DATE**

424,363.81
<u>398,945.30</u>
25,418.51
\$28,843.00

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

**The February Service Activity is Hinks Elementary.** Items needed: boys’ pants size 6 -12, older boy and older girl shoes size 5 & 6, ChapStick, small bottles of lotion, kid’s shampoo, kid’s conditioner. Please leave your items on the altar. Thank you for your generosity.

**The Forget-Me-Nots will meet on Tuesday, February 3** for lunch and visiting in the church Dining Hall. Please bring your own lunch. Coffee and tea will be available. Hope to see you there.

**All are invited to our February Video Educational Experience on Wednesday, February 4th at 6:00 p.m.** We will be watching “Ordinary Angels” and a meal will be provided with discussion throughout.

**Save the Date!** The next **Dynamic Duo Couples Retreat** will be Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

**Boy Scout Troop 92 invites you to join us for a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser** on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Come on out for a delicious meal and support our local Boy Scout Troop.

**GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**  
**The 4th Sunday after Epiphany**  
**January 31, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**February 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, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

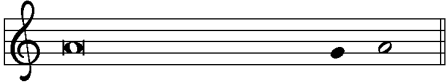
Mighty God, lover of justice,  
**you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. 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** “As We Gather at Your Table” (Red) #522

**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.**


KYRIE




In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



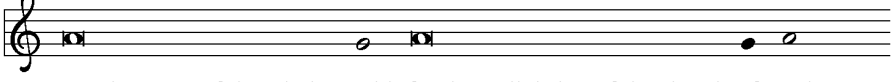
Lord, have mer - cy.




For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.




Lord, have mer - cy.



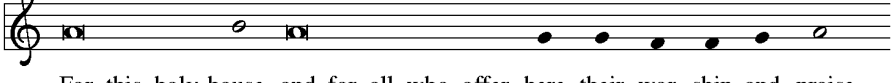
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



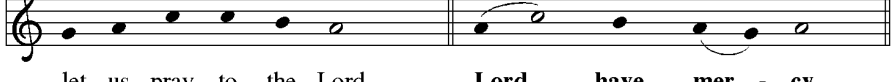
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



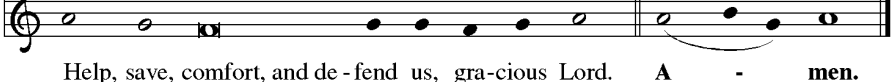
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN      “The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”      (Red) #551

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do Justice. Love mercy.  
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”

Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -  
one what God has done. Let all who seek the  
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.  
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: Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

*Refrain*  
Assisting minister

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

All

1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us  
free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and  
strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the  
hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and  
might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

### FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8

<sup>1</sup>Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. <sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. <sup>3</sup>'O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! <sup>4</sup>For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. <sup>5</sup>O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.'

<sup>6</sup>'With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? <sup>7</sup>Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?' <sup>8</sup>He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

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

### PSALM: Psalm 15 (Read Responsively)

O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

**Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart;**

## 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 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.

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

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 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 - dores you! My  
San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zon te a - do - ra! Mi

F G C Am F G<sup>7</sup> 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.

who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbours;  
**in whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honour those who fear the Lord;**  
**who stand by their oath even to their hurt;**  
who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be moved.

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31** (Sunday 9:00 a.m.)

<sup>18</sup> For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written, ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.’  
<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.  
<sup>26</sup> Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> in order that, as it is written, ‘Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.’

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 -



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

**GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:  
<sup>3</sup>‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
<sup>4</sup>‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.  
<sup>5</sup>‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.  
<sup>6</sup>‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.  
<sup>7</sup>‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.  
<sup>8</sup>‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.  
<sup>9</sup>‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.  
<sup>10</sup>‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
<sup>11</sup> ‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> 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**

“This Little Light of Mine”  
This little light of mine  
I'm gonna let it shine  
This little light of mine  
I'm gonna let it shine  
This little light of mine  
I'm gonna let it shine  
Let it shine let it shine let it shine

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*(Please be seated)*  
SERMON

“Be Glad”      Pastor John Shipman

*(Please stand)*  
HYMN OF THE DAY

“Oh, Praise the Gracious Power”      (Red) #651

**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**      Merciful God,  
receive our prayers.

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**