

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.

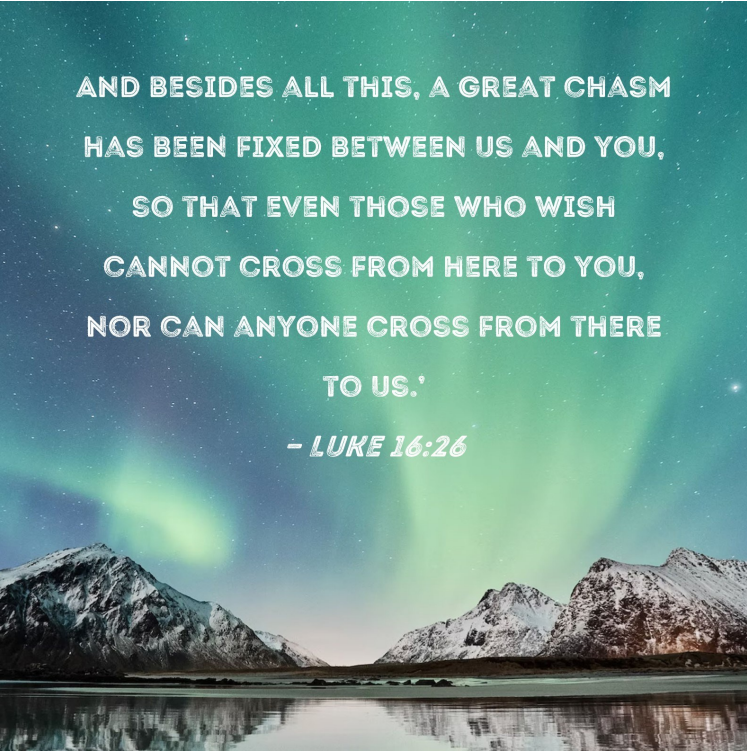
There are **restrooms** located in the basement of this building and on the ground floor of the hallway leading to our fellowship hall and on each floor of the educational building.

<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.	Carol Kindt
	9:00 a.m.	Dawn Grzeskowiak
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Sue Keyes
	9:00 a.m.	Shirley Jones
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Anita Laub
	9:00 a.m.	Janice Boboltz
<u>HEAD USHER</u>		Roy Wekwert
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Patti Byce, Jimmy Nensewitz
	9:00 am.	Jeff Ciupka, Richard Miller
		Kathy Burton, Paul Kieliszewski
<u>CHILDREN’S CHURCH LEADERS</u>		Jesse and Jessica O’Neil
		Kathy Burton, Nena Shipman
<u>LITTLES’ WORSHIP CENTER LEADERS</u>		Ophelia Steinke, Ashley MacKay
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Ginger Bohlen 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:
Harvest Dinner



September 27, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.
September 28, 2025 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.
September 28, 2025 - 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 maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.**

Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God,
we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. 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 “God of Grace and God of Glory” (Red) #705

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.

Pastor John and Nena are celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary in September. We are inviting everyone we know to come out for the fireside chat on September 28th at their house (1921 Long Rapids Road) from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Come and celebrate with us. Food, drinks, laughter and sharing stories will be provided. If you would like to bring a dish to pass we would celebrate this gift.

Pastor John will offer a blessing on your pet from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 4th, at the church building. All are welcome to take part in this blessing event.

The Single’s Retreat is set for October 10th at 6:00 p.m. at 1921 Long Rapids Road. Come explore the vision of “Being Single and having Faith, Hope and Love in a Digital Age.” There is no cost. All singles, ages 18-100, are invited.

The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, October 19th, right after the 9:00 a.m. service. Please note: There will be only one service (Sunday 9:00 a.m.) that weekend. Packets will be available by October 5th in the Narthex.

The Adventure Club is going to have some Fun Fall Activities at the Johnson Camp (10606 Indian Reserve Road) on Sunday, October 19th. There will be pumpkin carving, wagon rides and yummy snacks. Please RSVP by October 10th, to help us plan. The Adventure Club welcomes everyone from 1 to 105 years old.

Join the Dynamic Duo Couple Ministry for “The Leisurely Olympics” at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, October 24th. The Dynamic Duo Ministry is a couple focused small group. Call the church office to sign up.

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 Nena’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.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: SEPTEMBER 28—OCTOBER 5, 2025	
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service and Children’s Church/ C.I.A. – 10:30 a.m.; 40 th Wedding Anniversary Fireside Chat – 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
<u>MON.</u>	Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 4:00 p.m.; E.T.A. – 5:30 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Scouting America – 6:30 p.m.; Narcotics Anonymous – 8:30 p.m.
<u>WED.</u>	Breakfast Belles – 7:30 a.m.; Prayer Shawl – 10:30 a.m.; Pastor John’s Book Study – 1:00 & 5:30 p.m.; Nena’s Bible Study – 5:30 p.m.; Property Committee – 5:30 p.m.
<u>THURS.</u>	3M Men’s Breakfast – 7:00 a.m.; Open Line Dance – 1:00 p.m.; Chair Yoga – 3:00 p.m.; Choir Practice – 4:30 p.m.; Yoga 101 – 5:00 p.m.; Singles 5:30 p.m.
<u>FRI.</u>	Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.
<u>SAT.</u>	Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship/HC – 5:30 p.m.
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m. Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service and Children’s Church – 10:30 a.m.; 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>	Bob Christou – knee surgery rec.	Joyce Piper-Ross - healing
Lisa Creguer – cancer treatments	Cody Franklin - leukemia	Sharon Tinker-knee surgery rec.
Debra Gapske – health issues	Chad Hamill– health issues	Carol Kuhl—health issues
Karen Wallace–unspecified need	Annette Wade – medical issues	Dena Stevens – health issues
Lee Werth—health issues	Gary Lumsden – surgery	Art Hoffmeyer - heart issues
Ric Schmidt – recovery from surgery	John Wegmeyer– health issues	Karen Schwochow – strength
Adam Schmidt- health issues	Don Barnard —recovery	George Sneden-health issues
Laura Kieliszewski – health issues	Phyllis Robb-unspecified need	Laura Cussen – stroke
Ann Martin – medical issues	Margaret Lucian – health issues	David McNeil – 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. Thank you.)

We remember our prayer partners in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod: Bethany Lutheran Church, Kaleva, Rev. Ken Johnson and Rev. Zac Nelson.

We pray for the Dynamic Ministries here at St. Paul Lutheran Church. This week we specifically pray for the Pew Filler Volunteers.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	END OF JUNE	YEAR TO DATE
Saturday (09/20) 5:30 p.m. 59	Income 36,225.99	177,439.06
Sunday (09/21) 9:00 a.m.	<u>Expenses 44,453.02</u>	<u>195,632.16</u>
10:30 a.m. 59	Difference (8,227.03)	(18,193.10)
Total		

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

Join us for our Autumn Educational Opportunities, which runs through October 22. Pastor John is holding a Book Study on “Death and Dying” and Miss Nena is leading a Bible Study on “Reckless Love: Jesus’ Call to love our Neighbor” Each class length will be 1 hour. Pastor John’s Class meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 and 5:30 p.m. and Miss Nena’s class meets on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. ***Come join us.***

The September Service Activity is Lincoln Elementary School. Items needed: washable markers, colored pencils, #2 pencils, paper, 2 pocket folders, dry erase markers, glue sticks, Kleenex, and disinfecting wipes. Please leave your donations on the altar. Thank you.

Worship on the Beach. We will one more time this season at our beach property, September 27, at 7:00 p.m. You are invited to bring a friend, a beverage of choice, a lawn chair, snacks and a joyful spirit. Saturday night services will continue at 5:30 p.m. We will carpool from the church and travel to the beach property at 6:30 p.m. The service and time of fellowship will last from 7:00-9:00 p.m. If there is rain, we will reschedule.

Please join us for our next Highway Pickup on Sunday, September 28th. We will meet at the church at noon to view a video before heading out. All are welcome.

Reminder: Next Sunday is Popcorn/Movie Day for Children’s Church! Adults can sneak some too.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

^{1a}Alas for those who are at ease in Zion, and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria,
⁴Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory, and lounge on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock, and calves from the stall; ⁵ who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp, and like David improvise on instruments of music; ⁶ who drink wine from bowls, and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! ⁷ Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

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

PSALM: Psalm 146 (Read Responsively)

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!
I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.
Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.
When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.
Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God,
who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith for ever;
who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.
The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
The Lord will reign for ever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

⁶ Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; ⁸ but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹ But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge

people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

¹¹ But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made[b] the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶ It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honour and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷ As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share' ¹⁹ thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.
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 -
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 CANTICLE

“Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise”

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN “I’m So Glad Jesus Lifted Me” (Red) #860

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.
Thanks be to God.

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(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.

Musical notation for the Holy Communion song. The lyrics are: 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.

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

Musical notation for the song. The lyrics are: 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.

Musical notation for the song. The lyrics are: lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

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

GOSPEL READING: Luke 16:19-31
¹⁹ ‘There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ He called out, “Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.” ²⁵ But Abraham said, “Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.” ²⁷ He said, “Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house— ²⁸ for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.” ²⁹ Abraham replied, “They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.” ³⁰ He said, “No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.” ³¹ He said to him, “If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.””

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

Children’s Message/Noisy Offering
“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

(Please be seated)
SERMON

“Great Chasms”

Rev. John Shipman

(Please stand)
HYMN OF THE DAY

“Gather Us In”

(Red) #532

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,
receive our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

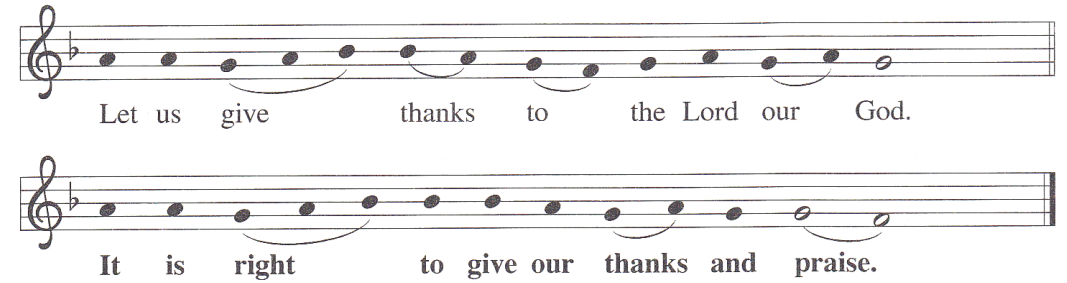
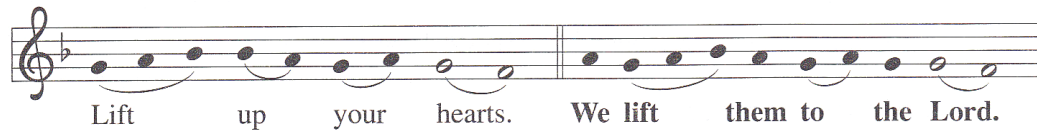
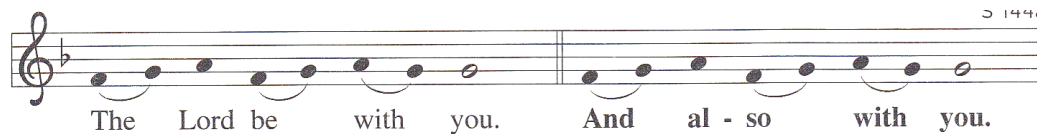
The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always. And also with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

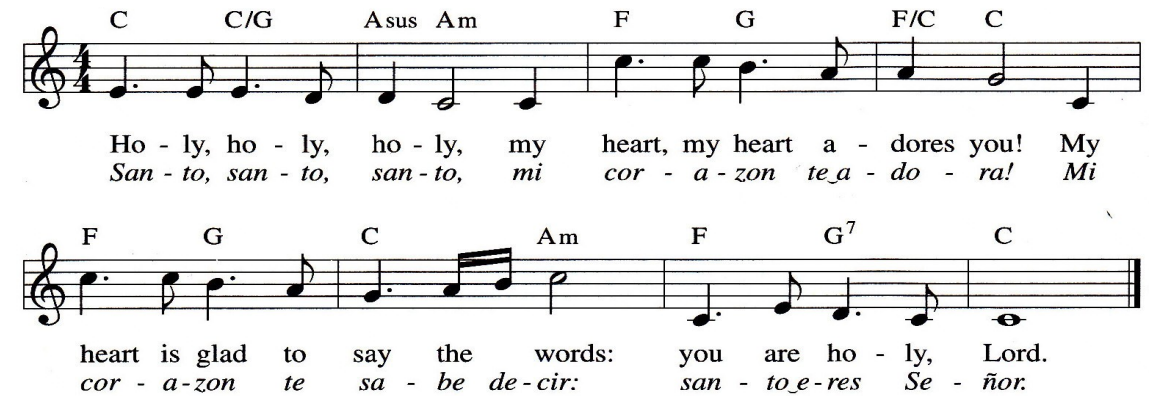
(Please stand)

(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
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.**