

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.

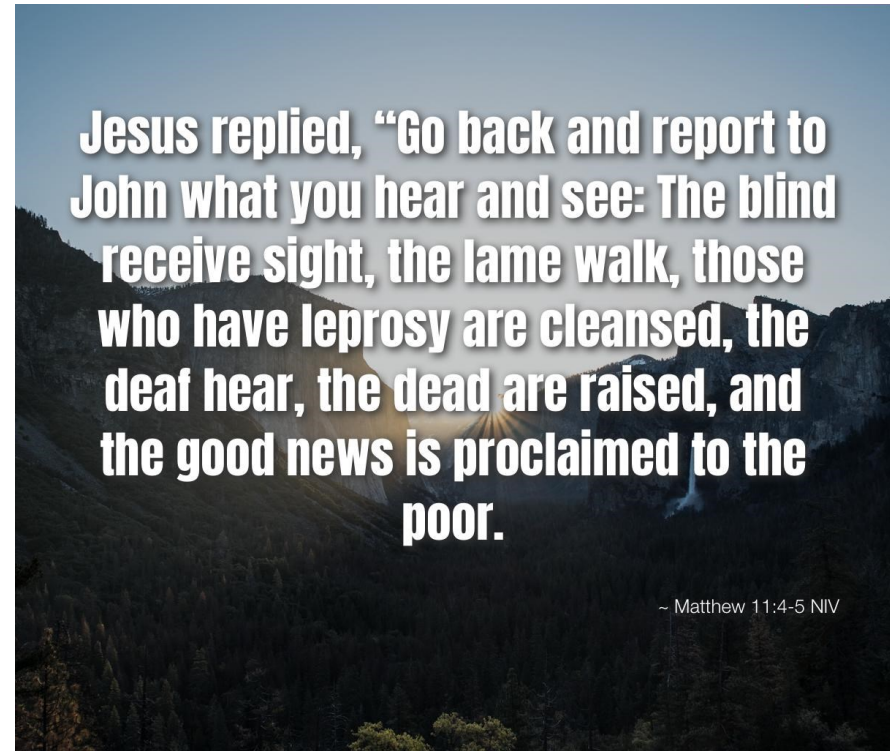
St. Paul welcomes all to the Communion Table. Christ is the Host and the Meal. Come, taste, and see that the Lord is good. Grape juice is available for those who prefer it rather than wine. Children and those choosing not to receive Holy Communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

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. Shirley Jones
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m. Carol Kindt 9:00 a.m. Shirley Jones
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m. Barb Crittenden, Geri Hanson 9:00 a.m. Joanne Huggler
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m. Bruce Anschuetz 9:00 am. Nancy Smithem, Barb Szczesniak Jeff Ciupka, Tim Moggie
<u>ACOLYTE</u>	9:00 a.m. Evan Peterson
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>	Patti Byce and Laurie Stafford

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



December 10, 2022 - 5:30 p.m.
December 11, 2022 - 9:00 a.m.

Join us for the remaining Wednesday Advent Services at 12:00 – 1:00, December 14 & 21. We have a meal at noon followed by a short service at 12:25. Come and share this time of preparation.

The Soul Sisters will be meeting for Dinner and Fellowship on Tuesday, December 13th, 5:30 p.m., at Twin Acres 19th Hole. Be prepared to pay for your meal. The Toys for Tots are still looking for baked goods for the “continuous” bake sale. If you would like to contribute, bring your baked good(s) with you on Tuesday.

The Adventure Club will go Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 18th at 5:00 p.m. Please join us at the church as we head out to share God’s love with our voices in the community. Call the church office to sign up, which will help us with planning.

If you would like to donate funds to go toward enhancing decorations for the sanctuary at Christmas as a memorial to loved ones or in honor of someone, forms are available for you to fill out in the Narthex and in the church office. The names of the memorials will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletins. *The deadline to take names and donations is December 15th.*

Please send Adam or Pastor John photos and videos of your Christmas lights. They will be posted on Facebook and used during the livestream.

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Services will be at 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 24th. Holy Communion will be served at all services. Please join us for our **Christmas Day Worship** on December 25th at 9:00 a.m.

If you would like to serve as an usher, acolyte, or cross-bearer for one of the Christmas Eve services, please sign up today on the sheet in the Narthex. Thanks!

Usher Training sessions are being offered on every Saturday and Sunday in January (except January 1st). Pastor John will meet with you an hour before the worship service. Come at the time/day that best suits you.

There will be an Acolyte Training class on Wednesday, January 11th at 5:00 p.m. Anyone interested in serving in this way is welcome to attend.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: DECEMBER 11 – 18, 2022	
<u>SUN.</u>	Sunday Worship/HC–9:00; Fellowship–10:00; Contemporary Service & CC and C.I.A. (Youth) - 10:30 a.m.
<u>MON.</u>	Tech Talks–11:00 a.m.; Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 6:00 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Gratitude Lunches – 9:00 a.m.; Stephen Ministry – 2:15 p.m.; Stewardship – 5:00 p.m.; Cub Scouts - 5:30 p.m.; Boy Scouts - 6:30 p.m.
<u>WED.</u>	Women’s Breakfast–7:30 a.m.; Advent Service and Lunch – 12:00 p.m.; Book Study (Pastor John) 1:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Choir Practice – 3:00 p.m.; Book Study (Nena) – 5:30 p.m.; Life Line Screening
<u>THURS.</u>	Newsletter Deadline; Men’s Fellowship (JJs) – 7:00 a.m.; Dinner on a Doorknob – 9:00 a.m.; Chair Yoga – 3:00 p.m.; Yoga – 5:30 p.m.
<u>FRI.</u>	Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.; Narcotics Anonymous – 6:00 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.; The Adventure Club Christmas Caroling – 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

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

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS: Keeley Knapp, Don Urban Sr., Billiejo Foster, Donna Burton, Jimmy Abend, Cheryl Rosbeck, George Morley, Steve Zbytowski, Austin Scull, Peter Roznowski, Paula Baker, Lucille Hanna Withum, Philip Donakowski, June Sylvester, Aggie Woloszyk, Jerry Swanson, Annette Wade, Zay, Lisa Hilberg, Sandra Christopherson, Larkin Kerby, William Taylor, John Wegmeyer, Gus Schultz, Elaine Kingsbury, Sally Barney, Joel Foster, Nancy Chrzan, Phyllis Robb, Eugene Brooks, Bodo Hanson, Sutton Badder, Marian Dove, Dolores Sumerix, Eleanor Schellie, Audrey Reck, Deb Lange, Bernice Menck, and Karen Wallace. *(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: Augustana Lutheran Church, Tustin, Rev. Sharon Van Dam, Supply

We pray for the Dynamic Ministries here at St. Paul Lutheran Church. This week we specifically pray for the volunteers who stock the pews with needed supplies for worship.

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL (foot of the cross) are given with thanks be to God from Marie and Rudy Kowalski.

<u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u>		<u>END OF OCTOBER</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Wednesday (11/30) 12:25 p.m.	24	Income 26,834.54	254,657.10
Saturday (12/03) 5:30 p.m.	62	Expenses <u>27,421.62</u>	<u>265,480.75</u>
Sunday (12/04) 9:00 a.m.	51	Difference (-587.08)	(-10,823.65)
10:30 a.m.	<u>17</u>		
	154		

Advent Educational Opportunities will run through December 21st. Pastor John's Class meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM and 5:30 p.m. and Miss Nena's class also meets on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM. Pastor John will hold a Book Study on "To Know and Follow Jesus" by Thomas Hart and Miss Nena will lead a Book Study on "I Second that Emotion: Untangling Our Zany Feelings" by Patsy Clairmont. Please call the office so we know how to plan/books to order.

Our December Service Activity is Hope Shores Alliance. The items needed are gift cards for food, groceries and gas. Please leave your donation items on the altar, preferable before December 15th, so they will have time to shop before Christmas. Thank you for your generosity.

We would like to thank all the people who volunteered, purchased, or donated items to the 2022 Christmas Bazaar. We recently met to disperse the funds. We are donating \$13,100.00 to the new flooring for the Sanctuary, and we are tithing \$700.00 to the Sgt. Lunch Memorial Fund and \$700.00 to TBJH Outreach Program. Thank you and God bless. *The Bazaar Committee*

If you love to bake, help is needed for the Toys for Kids Bake Sales. Call Donna Kensa if interested, 989-464-5385.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The Third Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2022 - 5:30 p.m.
December 11, 2022 - 9:00 a.m.

Congregational responses are printed in bold; Additional items for the 9:00 a.m. service only are printed in blue.)

Welcome! Celebrations of birthdays, Anniversaries and a time to welcome our guests. The offering will be received at the back and front of the church building. We ask that you fill out the communion card and place it in the offering plate in the front or back of the church before you depart the church.

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Please Stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be God's name forever. **Amen.**

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,
we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. 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 "He Came Down" (Red) #253

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



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



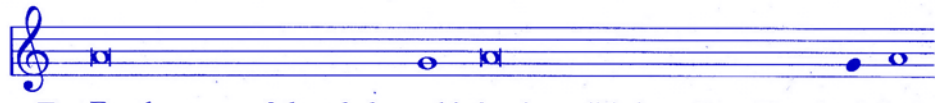
B Lord, have mer - cy.



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



B Lord, have mer - cy.



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



and for the uni-ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



B Lord, have mer - cy.

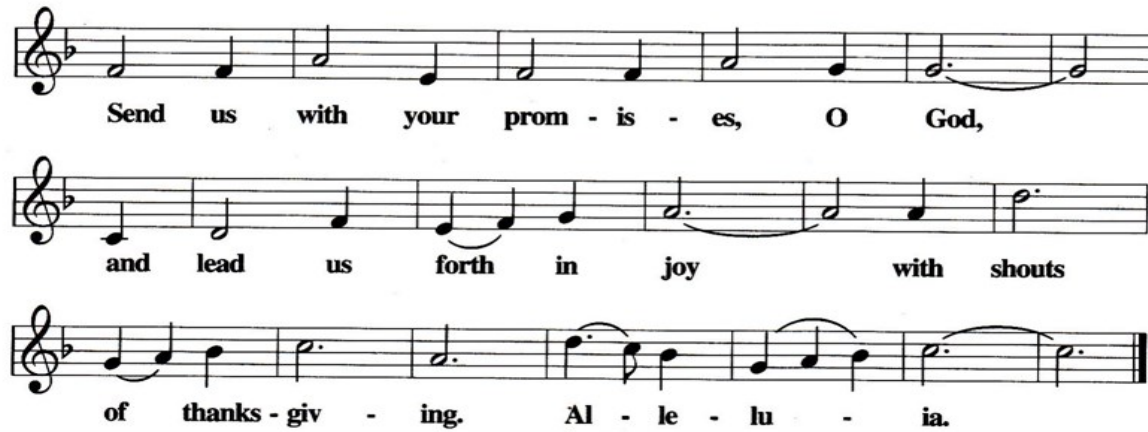


A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

SERMON NOTES



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: Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

“Joy to the World”

(Red) #267

DISMISSAL

God in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God.

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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. Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow. You bring water to parched ground and life out of death. Bless us as this light grows, and send sorrow and sighing to flee away. Give strength and patience, trusting that you are true to your promises. Transform the lives of all who suffer with your wonders near at hand. **Amen.**

Light three candles.

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.” ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.

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 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

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"

PSALM: Psalm 146:5-10 (Read Responsively)

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 forever;**

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 forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to You, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴ Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ ¹¹ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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

(Please be seated)

SERMON

“Go And Tell”

Pastor John Shipman

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Hark, the Glad Sound!”

(Red) #239

Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed

People: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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.**

OFFERING IS BEING RECEIVED IN THE BACK & THE FRONT OF THE CHURCH BUILDING

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

(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: