

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. Iris Arthur 9:00 a.m. Esther Kindt
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m. Gail Atkins 9:00 a.m. Barb Szczesniak
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m. Sue Robb 9:00 a.m. Janice Boboltz
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m. Dennis and Sherry McDonald 9:00 am. Nancy St. Onge, Ryan Panknin Dennis and Lori Dziesinski
<u>ACOLYTE</u>	9:00 a.m. Alayna Krey
<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



Matthew 3:11 WEB

I indeed baptize you in water for repentance, but he who comes after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit.

December 3, 2022 - 5:30 p.m.

December 4, 2022 - 9:00 a.m.

The Bazaar wrap-up meeting will be Monday, December 5th, at 5:30 p.m. in the lounge.

Join us for the Wednesday Advent Services at 12:00 – 1:00, December 7, 14 & 21. We have a meal at noon followed by a short service at 12:25. Come and share this time of preparation.

Help is needed to decorate the church building for Christmas. We will meet on Monday, December 5th beginning at noon. Please call Donna Kensa or the office if you can help. *Thank you.*

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 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.

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.*

Pastor John is aware of people who are in need of help during the Christmas season. If you’re able to help meet the needs of those in our community, a contribution to the Good Samaritan Fund would be a wonderful and much appreciated way of sharing God’s compassion and love with others.

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.

Appreciation and gratitude to those people who donated pies to the Friendship Room for their Thanksgiving Feast. We are always grateful to take our church out into the community by being God’s Hands and Feet. Grateful for this outreach opportunity, initiated by the Forget-Me-Nots. The pies were greatly appreciated by the Friendship Room Staff and...of course, the patrons!

WEEK AT A GLANCE: DECEMBER 5 - 11, 2022	
<u>MON.</u>	Tech Talks–11:00 a.m.; Decorating – 12:00 p.m.; Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; Bazaar Wrap-Up Meeting – 5:30 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 6:00 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Forget-Me-Nots (19 th Hole) – 12:00 p.m.; Education Committee – 5:30 p.m.; Cub Scouts - 5:30 p.m.; Prayer Shawl– 6:00 p.m.; Boy Scouts - 6:30 p.m.; Trust Committee –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 and 5:30; Book Study (Nena) – 5:30 p.m.; Property Committee – 5:30 p.m.; Choir Practice – 6:00
<u>THURS.</u>	Men’s Fellowship (JJs) – 7:00 a.m.; Chair Yoga – 3:00 p.m.; Outreach – 5:00 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 and C.I.A. (Youth)– 10:30 a.m.

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

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS: 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. **ARMED SERVICES:** Michael Emington, Dominick Christou, Sawyer Hein, Rachael Mayes, Brandon Sloan, Andrew Hein, Lauren Hoeksema, Alexander Gould, Mandy Killingbeck, Jacqueline Crimmins, Ashley (Dingman) Grant, Charles Tudor, Justin A. Smith, and Maragely Hein.

We remember our prayer partners in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Traverse City, Rev. Paul Busekist

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

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL (foot of the cross) are given in memory of Bob Seguin, we love and miss you, from Barb, Kathy, and families.

CONDOLENCES TO: the family and friends of Hattie Sheppler, who joined our Lord in eternity November 24, 2022. Her funeral was held at St. Paul Lutheran Church on December 3, 2022.

<u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u>			<u>END OF OCTOBER</u>		<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Saturday (11/26)	5:30 p.m.	54	Income	26,834.54	254,657.10
Sunday (11/27)	9:00 a.m.	52	Expenses	<u>27,421.62</u>	<u>265,480.75</u>
	10:30 a.m.	<u>25</u>	Difference	(-587.08)	(-10,823.65)
		131			

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.

The Forget-Me-Knots will next meet for lunch on Tuesday, December 6 at noon at the 19th Hole Restaurant. Please call Ann Hardesty (989-590-2055) to let her know if you will attend. We hope to see you there. **The Alpena County Library will again be sponsoring Blizzard of Books.** If you would like to give a book to a child in our community, please bring a book with you. The books are wrapped at the library and given to the Salvation Army for Christmas gifts to families with young children.

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.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The Second Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2022 - 5:30 p.m.
December 4, 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 "Prepare the Royal Highway" (Red) #264

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

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A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



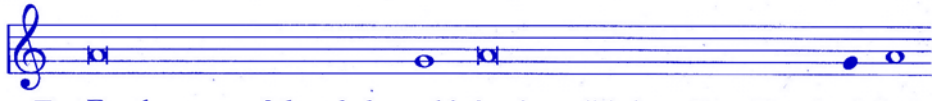
B Lord, have mer - cy.



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

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: 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

“All Earth Is Hopeful”

(Red) #266

DISMISSAL

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

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.



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; 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 gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit’s fire. Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth. **Amen.**

Light two candles.

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. Return of the Remnant of Israel and Judah ¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

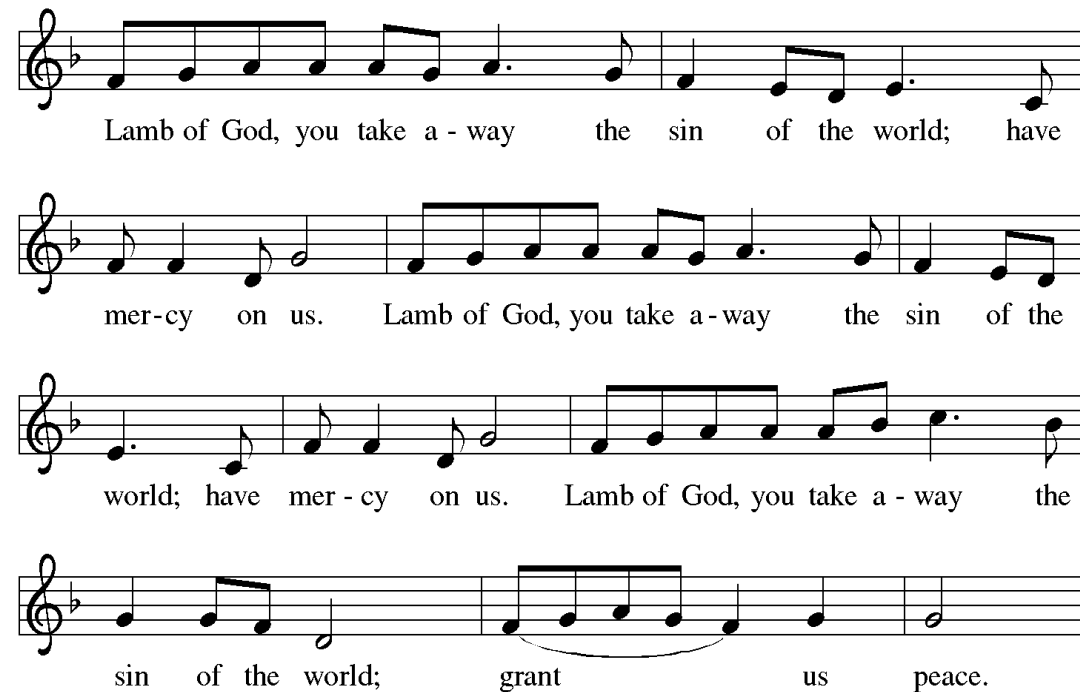
People: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine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



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”

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

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

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:

PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 (Read Responsively)

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.
May he judge your people with righteousness and your poor with justice.
 May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.
May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.
 May he live while the sun endures and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.
 In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.
 Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth.
 Amen and Amen.

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

⁴ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name"; ¹⁰ and again he says, "Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people"; ¹¹ and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; ¹² and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope." ¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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: Matthew 3:1-12

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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

(Please be seated)
SERMON

“In Those Days”

Pastor John Shipman

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

(Red) #249

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