

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.

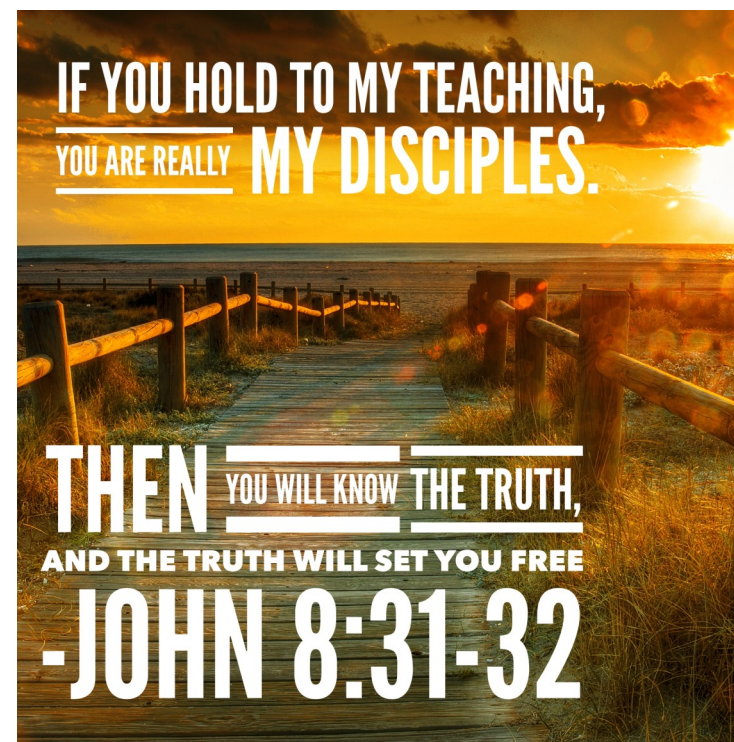
There are **restrooms** located in the basement of this building and on the ground floor of the hallway leading to our fellowship hall and on each floor of the educational building.

PARTICIPANTS

<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.	Barb Szczesniak
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Carol Kindt
	9:00 a.m.	Alayna Krey
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Anita Laub
	9:00 a.m.	Nancy Clark, Angie Parrish
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Bruce Anschuetz
	9:00 a.m.	Dennis & Lori Dzieszinski
		Jesse & Jessica O’Neil
<u>ACOLYTE</u>	5:30 p.m.	Odessa Morrison
	9:00 a.m.	Harley Steinke
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Karen Hamann, Sue Robb

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



October 28, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.
October 29, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.



GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
Reformation Sunday
October 28, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.
October 29, 2023 - 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 God, the one who forms us, + Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Steadfast and faithful God,
you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world’s violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” (Red) #504

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.

Join Mark Jackson and David Miller for a Thrivent workshop on Investments and Financial Planning on Wednesday, November 1st at 6 pm. Please sign up on the app or with the office.

Reminder: The Singles are meeting on Thursday, November 2nd, at 6:00 p.m.

The Forget-Me-Nots will meet on Tuesday, November 7. We will gather in the church dining hall at 1:00 to visit and enjoy some favorite snacks. If you would like to bring a favorite game, please do so.

Everyone is invited to the **Adventure Club Swim Party** on Sunday, November 12, from 1:00—3:00 p.m. at the Plaza Pool. Come and be part of this free, wonderful expression of fun. Bring your spirit of adventure and hope as you explore and share your faith through fun and adventure within this inter-generational educational experience. The Adventure Club welcomes everyone from 1-105 years old.

Come join us for weekend Fellowship. On Saturday Night we meet before the service at 4:30 for coffee and baked goods until 5:20. Fellowship for the 9:00 service and the 10:30 service will occur in-between the service time. Everyone is invited to join us.

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.

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.

Please note: The **Epiphany Dessert** event will be January 6, 2024 after the Saturday service. We need volunteers to make desserts and/or host a table. Please contact Doreen is interested, at 989-916-9172.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: OCTOBER 29—NOVEMBER 5, 2023	
<u>SUN.</u>	Sunday Worship/HC – 9:00; Fellowship – 10:00; Contemporary Service & Children’s Church – 10:30 a.m.
<u>MON.</u>	Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; E.T.A. – 5:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 6:00 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Air Rifle Team –5:30 p.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Boy Scouts – 6:30 p.m.
<u>WED.</u>	Breakfast Belles (at JJ’s) – 7:30 a.m.; Thrivent Financial Workshop – 6:00 p.m.; Property Committee – 5:30 p.m.; Choir—6:00 p.m.
<u>THURS.</u>	3M Men’s Breakfast (at JJ’s) – 7:00 a.m.; Chair Yoga – 3:00 p.m.; Recovery Yoga – 5:30 p.m.; Air Rifle Team—5:30 p.m.; Singles@St.Paul – 5:30 p.m.
<u>FRI.</u>	Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.; Men’s Retreat – 6:00 p.m.
<u>SAT.</u>	Christmas Bazaar –10 - 2; Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship/HC – 5:30 p.m.—Blessing of Hunters
<u>SUN.</u>	Sunday Worship/HC – 9:00 – Blessing of Hunters; Fellowship – 10:00; Contemporary Service & Children’s Church – 10:30 a.m.

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

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS: Art Hoffmeyer, Doreen Britton, Dixie Prevost-Crevier, Nate Cosbitt, Warren MacNeil, Sue Kaiser, Shirley Kowalski, Barbara Carlson, John Wegmeyer, Marty & Liz Smith, Lorrie Fifield, Andy Beagle, Phyllis Robb, Jillian Kerby, Frank, Sarah Moe Melching, Allison Dutcher, Dolores Libka, David Reeves, Julie Troy, Geri Hanson, Billiejo Foster, Gus Schultz, Elaine Kingsbury, Sally Barney, Joel Foster, Eugene Brooks, Bodo Hanson, Sutton Badder, Marian Dove, Dolores Sumerix, Audrey Reck, Bernice Menck, and Karen Wallace. We also remember our homebound members. They are: Geraldine Wyman, Harriet Burke, Virginia Kraft, Phyllis Robb, and Norm Dutcher. *(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: Peace Lutheran Church, Holland, Rev. Clay Bates.

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

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

<u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u>			<u>END OF SEPTEMBER</u>		<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Saturday (10/21)	5:30 p.m.	59	Income	25,476.35	240,458.99
Sunday (10/22)	9:00 a.m.	69	Expenses	<u>29,233.48</u>	<u>262,763.65</u>
	10:30 a.m.	<u>32</u>	Difference	(3,757.13)	(22,304.66)
Total		160			

There will be a Men’s Retreat on November 3rd at 6:00 p.m. at 1921 Long Rapids Road. Our theme is “Visions of Leadership for Men. There is no cost associated with this event. We will explore God’s promises for community and fellowship for men. Ages 18 – 100 are invited.

All are invited to our November Video Educational Experience on November 8th at 6:00 p.m. We will be watching “God’s Not Dead” and a meal will be provided with discussion throughout.

The St. Paul Christmas Bazaar is November 4th from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose room, with our famous “Turkey Noodle Casserole” being served from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Tickets for the luncheon are now available for sale either at the church office or bazaar member, or you may get them before or after services this weekend. You may drop off your donated items on Friday, November 3rd from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please call Esther at 989-471-2274.

The Blessing of Hunters service will be on the weekend of November 4th & 5th. All hunters are asked to wear blaze orange and to leave their weapons at home. The service of blessing is a reminder of God’s hope found in the hunt. Come and know God’s blessing during this special time in God’s creation.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

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

PSALM: Psalm 46 (Read Responsively)

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,
 though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. Selah
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice; the earth melts.

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.
Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

“Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth.”

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28 (Sunday 9:00 a.m.)

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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 PRAYER

Let us pray: Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

“The Church of Christ, in Every Age”

(Red) #729

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

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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.

lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

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

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

³¹ Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free?’”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

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

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(Please be seated)

SERMON

“Freedom Isn’t Free”

Rev John Shipman

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Built on a Rock”

(Red) #652

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,
 hear our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE
 The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always.
 And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

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

S 144a

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 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"