

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.	Scott Parkham
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Iris Arthur
	9:00 a.m.	Cathy Kieliszewski
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Patti Byce, Myra Gapske
	9:00 a.m.	Laurie Stafford
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Bruce Anschuetz
	9:00 am.	Paul Kieliszewski, Richard Miller Barb Szczesniak, Kathy Burton
<u>ACOLYTE</u>	5:30 p.m.	Evan Peterson
	9:00 a.m.	Emily Smith
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Laurie Stafford and Marty Cantleberry

We thank all participants for enriching our worship service.

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Worship Service

celebrates and shares God's love and compassion

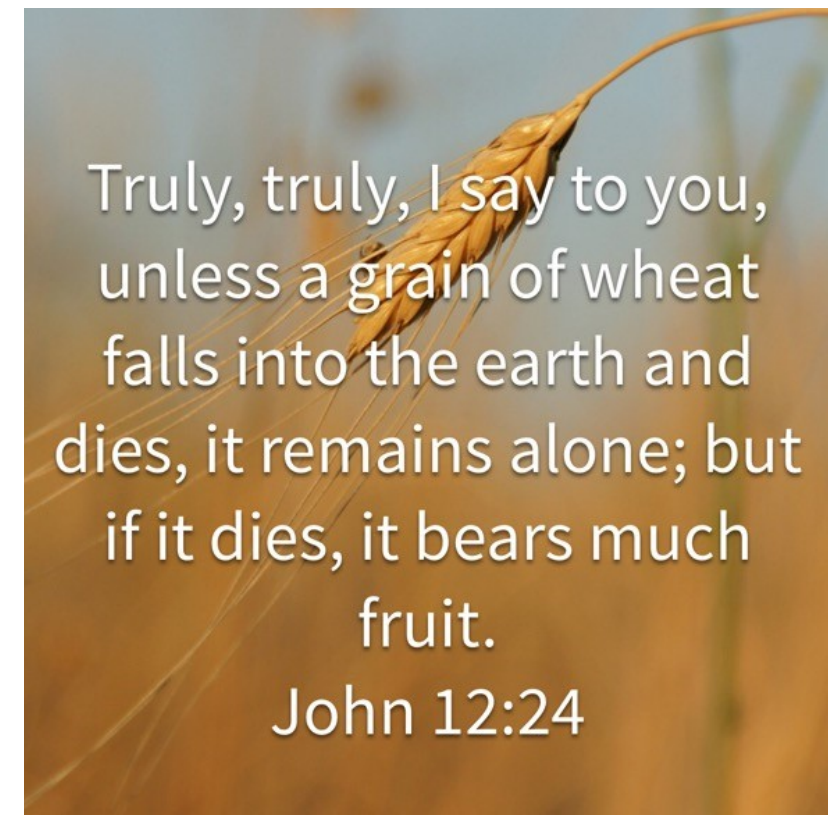
727 S. 2nd, Alpena, MI 49707

Phone 989-356-1658

www.stpaul.org

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Monthly Ministry Highlight:
Stewardship



Truly, truly, I say to you,
unless a grain of wheat
falls into the earth and
dies, it remains alone; but
if it dies, it bears much
fruit.

John 12:24

March 16, 2024 - 5:30 p.m.

March 17, 2024 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

The Fifth Sunday of Lent
March 16, 2024 - 5:30 p.m.
March 17, 2024 - 9:00 a.m.

Congregational responses are printed in bold.

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 holy Trinity, + one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. 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 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (Red) #803

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.

If you would like to order an easter flower in honor or in memory of someone, there are order forms in the Narthex or church office to fill out. The deadline to get your order in is March 25th.

The next Soul Sister's event will be a fun evening of fellowship, featuring a delicious taco dinner and signing of Easter Cards is planned for Monday, March 18th beginning at 5:30 p.m. Please RSVP to either Val Urban (989-916-5560) or to Shirley Jones (989-464-6472) to ensure we have enough tacos!

Join us for the Holy Week Services. They are as follows: Palm Sunday we will have our three regular week-end services; Maundy Thursday Service & Luncheon (St. Paul) - 12:00 p.m.; Ecumenical Maundy Thursday at Trinity Episcopal Church, March 28th, at 7:00, preceded by a Soup Supper at 6:00; Good Friday Services, March 29th, Tre-Ore Service (at First United Methodist Church) from 12:00-1:00. There will be an evening service at 6:00 (at St. Paul), followed by the movie "The Passion" at 7:00. Easter Sunday, March 31st, we will have three services: A Sunrise Service at 6:30, Liturgical Service at 9:00 a.m. and Contemporary Service at 10:30. There will be an Easter Breakfast after the 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service.

The Forget-Me-Nots will meet on Tuesday, April 2 at noon at the Jesse Besser Museum. Please bring a lunch to have before we tour the Museum. In order for the staff to set up enough tables, please call Ann at 989-590-2055 to let her know if you are planning to attend. You are welcome to bring a friend to the gathering.

Mark your calendars! **The Church Rummage Sale** dates are set for June 13-15! Start thinking about what items you would like to donate. We will again be accepting clean used clothing and shoes for our sale. If you have any questions please call Andrea at 989-354-3651.

If you are interested in purchasing a St Paul sweatshirt contact Joanne 989-356-6532 or Sherry, 989-356-9600.

We are excited to announce that our church's Stephen Ministry is gearing up for training sessions starting in late April. These 2-1/2 hour classes offer a unique program that equips you with the skills and empathy needed to make a positive impact on the lives of others. There is still time to apply! If you feel drawn to this ministry or have questions, please contact a Stephen Leader (Iris Arthur, Nena Shipman, Judy Beyer, Sue Keyes, Shirley Jones) or speak with one of our Stephen Ministers (Esther Kindt, Patti Byce, Sue Robb, Carolynne Wegmeyer) for more information and guidance on the application process.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: MARCH 17–24, 2024

<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service & Children's Church- 10:30 a.m.
<u>MON.</u>	AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; E.T.A.—5:30 p.m.; Soul Sisters (multipurpose room) – 5:30 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 6:00 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Cub Scouts – 5:30; Air Rifle– 5:30; Senior Leaders – 5:30; Church Council – 6:00 p.m.; Boy Scouts– 6:30 p.m.
<u>WED.</u>	Breakfast Belles Women's Breakfast (at JJ's) – 7:30 a.m.; AARP Taxes- 8:00; Lent Soup & Service – 12:00; Book Study – PJ – 1:00 p.m.; Choir Practice – 5:00 p.m.; Ecumenical Service at St. Paul Lutheran Church – 7:00 p.m., preceded by a Soup Supper at 6:00 p.m.
<u>THURS.</u>	3M Men's Breakfast–7:00 a.m.; Chair Yoga–3:00 p.m.; Air Rifle Team–5:30; Recovery Yoga– 5:30 p.m.; Book Study– Pastor John – 5:30 p.m.; Book Study – Nena – 5:30 p.m.
<u>FRI.</u>	AARP Taxes – 8:00; Line Dancing – 11:00; Alpena Line Dance Club—5:00 p.m.; Life Line Screenings
<u>SAT.</u>	AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship/HC – 5:30 p.m.
<u>SUN.</u>	Palm Sunday Worship/HC – 9:00; Fellowship – 10:00; Contemporary Service & Children's Church – 10:30

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

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:	Bill Hoppe – health issues	Tim Grossman – health issues
Tammy Stoutenburg-unspecified need	Annette Wade – medical issues	Art Hoffmeyer- heart issues
Bodo Hanson–health issues	Laura Kieliszewski – health	Joel Foster – health concerns
Barb Hoffmeyer – health issues	John Wegmeyer – health issues	Eugene Brooks–health issues
Laurie Stafford – health issues	Dale Rex – in accident	Gary Villeneuve – health issues
Rosalie Turske – health issues	Marian Dove– unspecified need	Phyllis Robb-unspecified need
Karen Wallace – unspecified need	Dolores Libka–unspecified need	Taylor Smetak – in accident
Cameron – health issues	Ryan Duby – healing	David Reeves – health issues
Adam Schmidt – health issues	Hazel Bonnard – health issues	Doreen Britton – health issues
Ken Hemming – health issues	Anita Laub – medical issues	Joanne Kindt – health issues
Brandon Urban – health issues	Marvis McNeil – health issues	Haley & Russ First– unspecified
Harriet Burke – unspecified need	Dena Stevens – health issues	Dixie Creiver – health issues
Tim Grossman—health issues	Chris Smetak—health issues	Tom & Beth Mackinnon-health

(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: Trinity Lutheran Church, Midland, Rev. Jeffrey Gramza, Senior Pastor and Rev. Danielle Shealy, Associate Pastor

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

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

<u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u>		<u>END OF JANUARY</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Wednesday (3/06) 12:25 p.m.	44	Income 20,200.66	20,200.66
Saturday (03/09) 5:30 p.m.	62	Expenses <u>28,059.04</u>	<u>28,059.04</u>
Sunday (03/10) 9:00 a.m.	35	Difference (7,858.38)	(7,858.38)
10:30 a.m.	<u>24</u>		
Total	165		

The March Service Activity is Pied Piper School. *Items needed:* coloring books, crayons, washable markers, healthy snacks, wet ones, and Kleenex. Please leave items on the altar. Thank you for your generosity.

Wednesday Lent Services continue. There are two opportunities for you to worship on March 20th.
 * 12:25 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, with a Lenten Soup preceding the service at 12:00 p.m.
 * 7:00 p.m at the Ecumenical Service at St. Paul Lutheran Church. There will be a soup supper beginning at 6:00 preceding the worship service.

We are having an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 30th at noon. Donations of family friendly baskets for the raffle can be dropped at the office. Thank you for your help.

The Girl Scout exhibit is still at the Besser Museum. Come see it before it closes on Easter Sunday.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, 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 51:1-12 (Read Responsively)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgement.

Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:5-10 (Sunday 9:00 a.m. service)

⁵ So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, ‘You are my Son, today I have begotten you’; ⁶ as he says also in another place, ‘You are a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek.’

⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his

reverent submission.⁸ Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered;⁹ and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him,¹⁰ having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

Gospel Acclamation

“Return to the Lord”



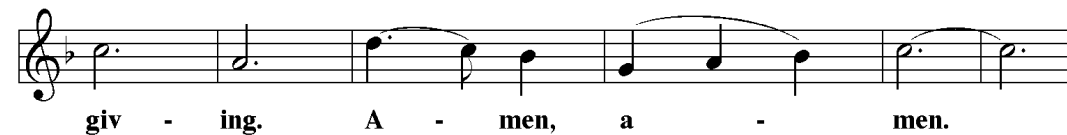
The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Glory to You, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING: John 12:20-33

²⁰ Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’ ²² Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³ Jesus answered them, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

²⁷ ‘Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—“Father, save me from this hour”? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your



POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

(Red) #545

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread.

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.

name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’²⁹ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, ‘An angel has spoken to him.’³⁰ Jesus answered, ‘This voice has come for your sake, not for mine.’³¹ Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out.³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.’³³ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

“Speak with God”

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

(Red) #325

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

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name.

Amen.

(Please stand)

(Sung at the 9:00 a.m. service.)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

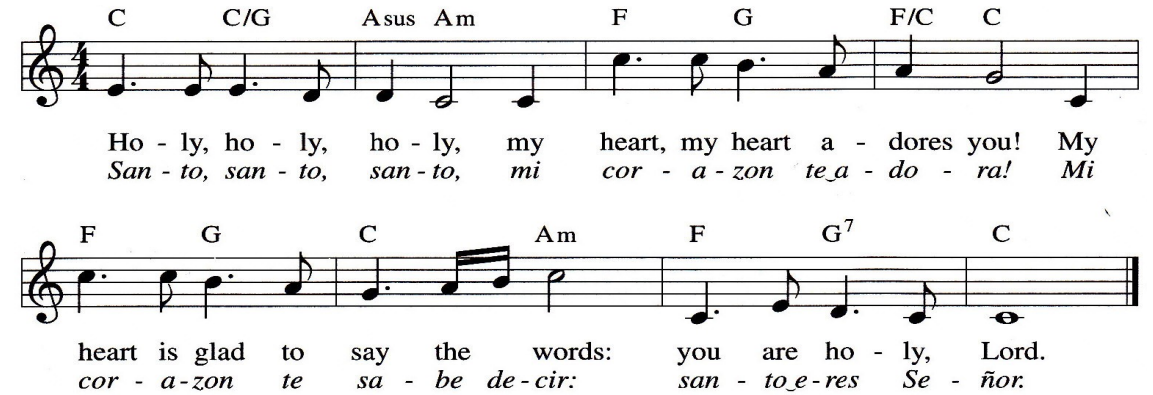
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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:

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:

**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"