

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.	Carol Kindt
	9:00 a.m.	Shirley Jones
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Myra Gapske
	9:00 a.m.	Shirley Jones
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Joan Smolinski
	9:00 a.m.	Joanne Huggler
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Dennis and Sherry McDonald
	9:00 a.m.	Lori & Dennis Dziesinski
		Tim Moggie, Jeff Ciupka
<u>ACOLYTE</u>	5:30 p.m.	Odessa Morrison
	9:00 a.m.	
<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

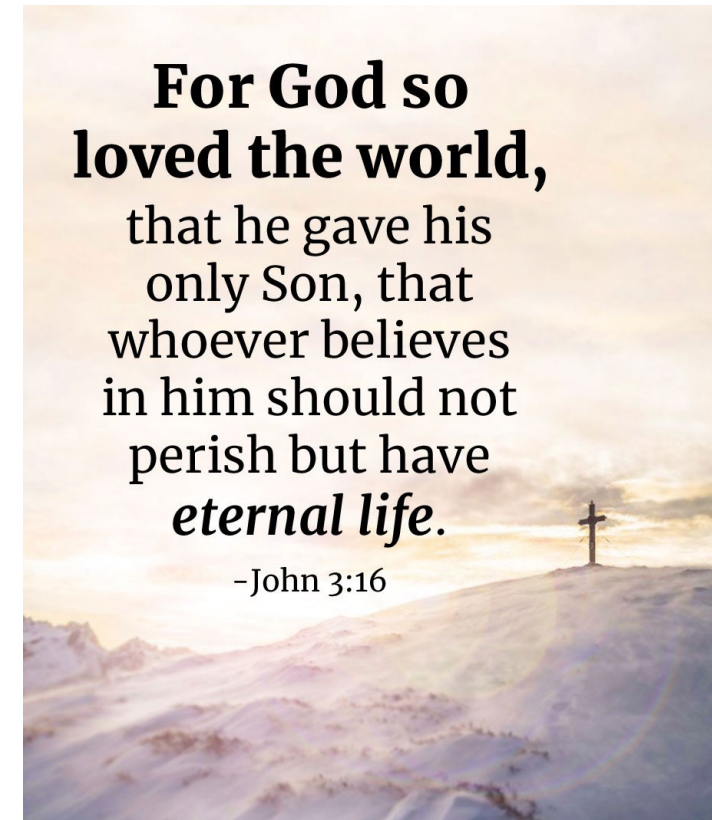
www.stpaul.org

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Monthly Ministry Highlight:
Stewardship

**For God so
loved the world,
that he gave his
only Son, that
whoever believes
in him should not
perish but have
*eternal life.***

-John 3:16



March 9, 2024 - 5:30 p.m.

March 10, 2024 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

The Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 9, 2024 - 5:30 p.m.
March 10, 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 "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" (Red) #335

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.

Pastor John and Miss Nena's Lent Educational Opportunities will run through March 20th. Pastor John's classes meet on Wednesdays at 1:00 and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. and Miss Nena's class meets on Thursdays at 5:30 PM. Pastor John is holding a Book Study on "Let Go, Let God" by John E. Keller and Miss Nena leads a Book Study on "Chasing Vines: Finding Your Way to an Immensely Fruitful Life" DVD by Beth Moore.

We are hopping towards spring and the Easter Egg Hunt open to the community. It will be held on Saturday, March 30th at noon. Donations of candy and family friendly baskets for the raffle can be dropped at the office. **We will be having an "Egg Stuffing Day on Monday, March 11** at 11 am. Come help fill the Easter Eggs with Candy for the Easter Egg Hunt."

SALT (Sisters Abiding in Light and Truth) is meeting on the 15th of March, 6:00 PM for coffee (free) at Biggby, 224 E. Chisholm Street. This is for younger women who are 18-45. Come and be inspired, share your ideas and be open to God's possibilities.

Save the Date: **We will again be having our delicious Potato Bake on Saturday, March 16th**, after the Saturday service. Come and enjoy baked potatoes with numerous choices or toppings, and ice cream with toppings. If you don't need your tickets, contact the office so someone else can use them. Thank you.

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) by March 15th to ensure we have enough tacos!

Life Line Screening will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at St. Paul Lutheran Church on Friday, March 22nd, 2024. A package of four screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered. The special package pricing for all 4 screenings is \$149. To register for your appointment call 1-800-640-6307 or visit LLSA.SOCIAL/HC.

Anyone interested in purchasing a St Paul sweatshirt contact Joanne Huggler at 989-356-6532 or Sherry McDonald at 989-356-9600.

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.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: MARCH 10—17, 2024

<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service & Children's Church- 10:30
<u>MON.</u>	AARP Taxes – 8:00; Egg Stuffing – 11:00 a.m.; Line Dancing – 2:00; E.T.A.-5:30 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 6:00 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Gratitude Lunches – 9:00 a.m.; Stephen Ministry – 10:00 a.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Air Rifle– 5:30 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.; Trust Committee – 5:30 p.m.; Ecumenical Service at First Presbyterian 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; Book Study – Pastor John – 5:30 p.m.; Book Study – Nena – 5:30 p.m.
<u>FRI.</u>	Newsletter Deadline; AARP 8:00; Line Dancing–11:00; Alpena Line Dance Club–5:00; S.A.L.T. (Biggby) – 6
<u>SAT.</u>	AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship/HC – 5:30 p.m.; Baked Potato Bar – 6:30
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC–9:00 a.m.; Fellowship–10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service & Children's Ch.–10:30 a.m.

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
Danielle Lawrence – health issues	Bodo Hanson–health issues	Laura Kieliszewski – health
Barb Hoffmeyer – health issues	John Wegmeyer – health issues	Eugene Brooks–health issues
Laurie Stafford – health issues	Bill Kimball – health issues	Gary Villeneuve – health issues
Rosalie Turske – health issues	Marian Dove– unspecified need	Phyllis Robb-unspecified need
Karen Wallace – unspecified need	Dolores Libka–unspecified need	Ann Haske – health issues
Cameron – health issues	Karen Wekwert – 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	Todd Mercure – medical 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
Chris Smetak—health issues	Joel Foster – health concerns	

(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: Christ Lutheran Church, Michigan City, Rev. Robert Martin

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

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 (2/28)	12:25 p.m.	39	Income 20,200.66
Saturday (03/03)	5:30 p.m.	76	Expenses <u>28,059.04</u>
Sunday (03/04)	9:00 a.m.	47	Difference (7,858.38)
	10:30 a.m.	<u>42</u>	(7,858.38)
Total		204	

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 13th.

* 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 First Presbyterian Church. There will be a soup supper beginning at 6:00 preceding the worship service.

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) is helping seniors with their taxes. St. Paul Lutheran Church will sponsor their efforts again this year by allowing this agency to use part of our building. You may schedule an appointment by calling 989-278-8104.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, 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: Numbers 21:4-9

⁴ From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵ The people spoke against God and against Moses, ‘Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.’ ⁶ Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, ‘We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.’ So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the Lord said to Moses, ‘Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.’ ⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

PSALM: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (Read Responsively)

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble

and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction;

they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress; he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction.

Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to human-kind.

And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10 (Sunday 9:00 a.m. service)

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient³ All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us

alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus;⁷ so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus.⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹ not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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

(Please Stand)
Gospel Acclamation
 “Return to the Lord”

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
 mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
 stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

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

GOSPEL READING: John 3:14-21

¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.
¹⁶ ‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.
¹⁷ ‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgement, that the

Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and
 lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
 giv - ing. A - men, a - men.

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 “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” (Red) #779

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.

light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.’

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

“Come to The Light”

(Please stand)
HYMN OF THE DAY

“Lift High the Cross”

(Red) #660

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.

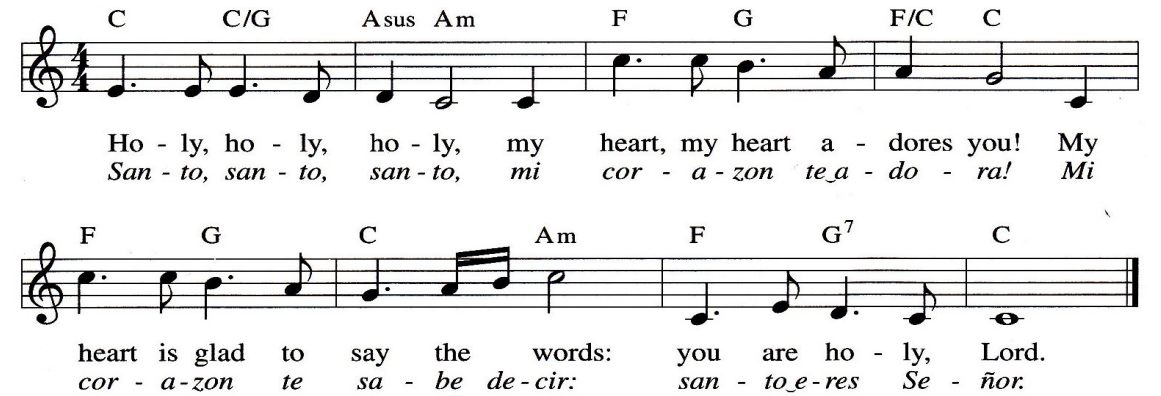
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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"