

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.

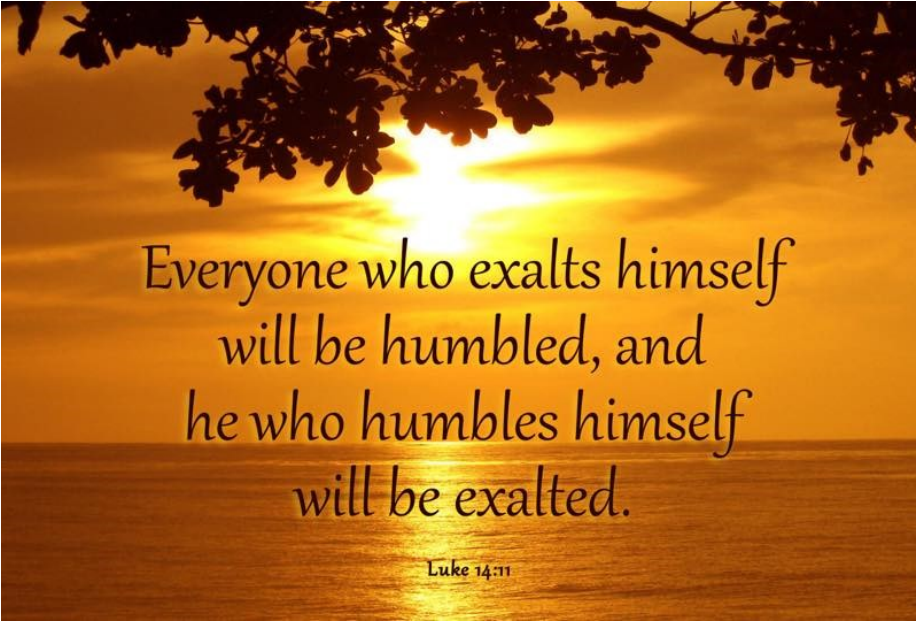
| PARTICIPANTS | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| MINISTERS | | |
| PASTOR | | |
| ORGANIST | | |
| CHOIR DIRECTOR | | |
| ASSISTING MINISTER | 5:30 p.m. | The People of God |
| | 9:00 a.m. | Rev. John Shipman |
| LECTOR | 5:30 p.m. | Marvis McNeil |
| | 9:00 a.m. | Marty Cattleberry |
| FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS | 5:30 p.m. | Scott Parkham |
| | 9:00 a.m. | Shirley Jones |
| HEAD USHER | | Scott Parkham |
| USHERS & GREETERS | 5:30 p.m. | Cheri Fletcher |
| | 9:00 am. | Sue Robb |
| | | Joanne Huggler |
| | | Roy Wekwert |
| CHILDREN’S CHURCH LEADERS | | Patti Byce, Jimmy Nensewitz |
| | | Roy Wekwert, Kathy Burton |
| | | Jesse and Jessica O’Neil |
| LITTLES’ WORSHIP CENTER LEADERS | | Ashley MacKay, Cathy Kieliszewski |
| ALTAR CARE | | Bonnie Duby, Nena Shipman |
| | | Jesse and Jessica O’Neil |
| | | Patti Byce and Carol Kindt |

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:
Personnel Committee



August 30, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.
August 31, 2025 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 30, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.
August 31, 2025 - 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

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. 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 “O Beautiful for Spacious Skies” (Red) #888

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.

Choir rehearsals will be starting again on Thursday, September 4, at 4:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. We would love to have some new members added this year. If you love to sing, please consider joining us.

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran is sponsoring, **“A Salute to our Veterans”** on Saturday, September 6th from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. a free meal will be provided to all veterans. Zoo’s Tasty EatZ will be set up in our parking lot.

Join us September 6th & 7th for T-Shirt Weekend/Friendship Weekend/God’s Work Our Hands Weekend. Wear your favorite T-shirt and invite a friend!

Pastor John will lead a Stroll through the Tombstones at Evergreen Cemetery on September 7th at 6:00 p.m. Please come with stories to share about loved ones, stories about Alpena and how others shaped our history.

The Forget-Me-Nots will meet on Tuesday, September 9th at the church picnic grounds at noon. Please bring a lunch and beverage. If you need a ride, please call Ann Hardesty at 989-590-2055.

The Soul Sisters are kayaking on September 9th and 23rd. We will meet at Sytek Park at 5:30 p.m. All women are invited to join us. If you have any questions, please call Sue Robb at 989-590-7611.

“Strikes for Compassion” Fundraiser will be held on Friday, September 12. See the insert for all the details.

Attention all men! Mark your calendars for the upcoming “Men’s Night,” which will be held on Wednesday, September 17th at 6:00 p.m. at the church. All men are encouraged to join us for this fun evening.

The Band of Brothers are going to an Alpena High School football game on September 19th against Cadillac. This is a home game, and we will meet at the gate at 6:30 p.m. The game time is 7:00 p.m. Come and be part of this dynamic Men’s Ministry.

Join us for our Autumn Educational Opportunities, which will run September 17 through October 22. Pastor John will hold a Book Study on “Death and Dying” and Miss Nena will lead a Bible Study on “Reckless Love: Jesus’ Call to love our Neighbor” Each class length will be 1 hour. Pastor John’s Class will meet on Wednesdays at 1:00 and 5:30 p.m. and Miss Nena’s class will also meet on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. Please call the office so we know how to plan/books to order. Thank you.

| WEEK AT A GLANCE: <i>AUGUST 31—SEPTEMBER 7, 2025</i> | |
|--|---|
| <u>SUN.</u> | Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service and Children’s Church – 10:30 a.m.; Fireside Chat – 5:00 p.m. |
| <u>MON.</u> | Labor Day; Church Office Closed |
| <u>TUES.</u> | Education – 5:30 p.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Scouting America – 6:30 p.m.; Narcotics Anonymous – 8:30 |
| <u>WED.</u> | Breakfast Belles – 7:30 a.m.; Prayer Shawl – 10:30 a.m.; Property Committee – 5:30 p.m. |
| <u>THURS.</u> | 3M Men’s Breakfast – 7:00 a.m.; Open Line Dance – 1:00 p.m.; Chair Yoga – 3:00 p.m.; Choir Practice – 4:30 p.m.; Yoga 101 – 5:00 p.m.; Singles – 5:30 p.m. |
| <u>FRI.</u> | Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m. |
| <u>SAT.</u> | A Salute to our Veterans (Parking Lot)- 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.; Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship/HC – 5:30 p.m. (<i>T-Shirt/Bring a Friend</i>) |
| <u>SUN.</u> | Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m. (<i>T-Shirt/Bring a Friend</i>); Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service and Children’s Church – 10:30 a.m. (<i>T-Shirt/Bring a Friend</i>); C.I.A. – 10:30 a.m.; God Work. Our Hands ; A Stroll through the Tombstones (Evergreen Cemetery) - 6:00 p.m. |

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

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

| | | |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Lisa Creguer – cancer treatments | Bob Christou – knee surgery rec. | Joyce Piper-Ross - healing |
| Debra Gapske – health issues | Cody Franklin - leukemia | Sharon Tinker-knee surgery rec. |
| Karen Wallace–unspecified need | Vicki Carlson – health issues | Alan Marwede—health issues |
| Lee Werth—health issues | Annette Wade – medical issues | Dena Stevens – health issues |
| Joan Smolinski – knee surgery recovery | Gary Lumsden – surgery | Art Hoffmeyer - heart issues |
| Adam Schmidt- health issues | John Wegmeyer– health issues | Karen Schwochow – strength |
| Laura Kieliszewski – health issues | Don Barnard—recovery | George Sneden-health issues |
| Ann Martin – medical issues | Phyllis Robb-unspecified need | Laura Cussen – stroke |
| | Margaret Lucian – health issues | David McNeil – health issues |

We also remember our homebound members. They are Geraldine Wyman, Phyllis Robb, and Norm Dutcher. *(Prayer is the best medicine and we are prepared to pray indefinitely for folks. Would you help the church office keep our list current? Unless we know otherwise, our normal practice is to remove names after a month. Thank you.)*

We remember our prayer partners in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod: Bread of Life Lutheran Church, Hudsonville, Pastor David Besse.

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

| WORSHIP ATTENDANCE | | END OF JUNE | | YEAR TO DATE |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Saturday (08/23) 5:30 p.m. | 56 | Income | 36,225.99 | 177,439.06 |
| Sunday (08/24) 9:00 a.m. | 61 | <u>Expenses</u> | <u>44,453.02</u> | <u>195,632.16</u> |
| 10:30 a.m. | <u>39</u> | Difference | (8,227.03) | (18,193.10) |
| Total | 156 | | | |

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

Worship on the Beach - We will celebrate 2 more times this summer at our beach property. The last Saturday of each month (August 30 and September 27) at 7:00 p.m. You are invited to bring a friend, a beverage of choice, a lawn chair, snacks and a joyful spirit. Saturday night services will continue at 5:30 p.m. We will carpool from the church and travel to the beach property at 6:30 p.m. The service and time of fellowship will last from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

The Annual Meeting is October 19th. The deadline to get your budgets and reports to the office is September 3rd.

St. Paul Harvest Dinner is coming up quick! It will be held on Thursday, September 25th. The doors will open at 4:30 p.m. and serving begins at 5:00 p.m. There is a sign-up sheet in this weekend’s bulletin for items needed.

CIA (Christians in Action) will be starting up Sunday September 7th during the 10:30 service. We will meet each week on the 3rd floor in the youth room. All teens in 6th-12th grades are invited to attend.

Pastor John and Nena are inviting you to come to their house (1921 Long Rapids Road) for a fireside chat on Sunday, August 31st from 5:00-7:00 p.m. We will sit by the firepit near the river (or in the house or gazebo) and talk about life, hope, grace and the love of God. Come for 15 minutes or for 2 hours.

Reminder: Next Sunday is Popcorn/Movie Day for Children’s Church! Adults can sneak some too.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Proverbs 25:6-7

⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king’s presence or stand in the place of the great;
⁷ for it is better to be told, ‘Come up here’, than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

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

PSALM: Psalm 112 (Read Responsively)

Praise the Lord! Happy are those who fear the Lord, who greatly delight in his commandments.

Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures for ever.

They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.

It is well with those who deal generously and lend, who conduct their affairs with justice.

For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered for ever.

They are not afraid of evil tidings; their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.

Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.

They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor; their righteousness endures for ever; their horn is exalted in honour.

The wicked see it and are angry; they gnash their teeth and melt away; the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

¹Let mutual love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴Let marriage be held in honour by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, ‘I will never leave you or forsake you.’ ⁶So we can say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?’ ⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.

¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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

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

GOSPEL READING: Luke 14:1, 7-14

¹On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

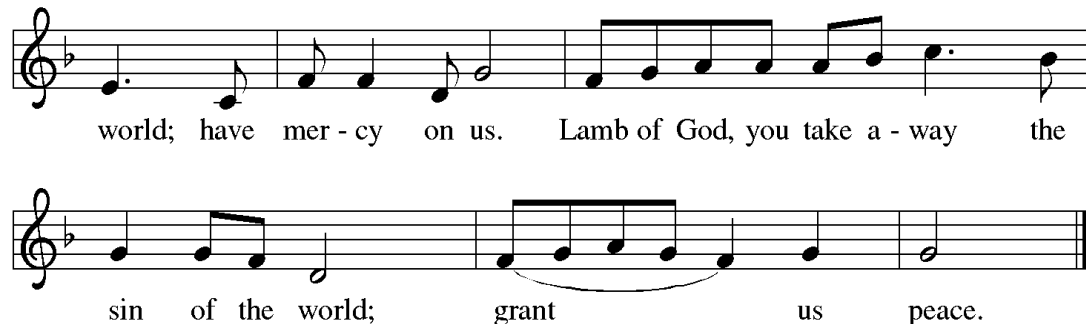
BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” (Red) #836

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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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”



⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable. ⁸ ‘When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, “Give this person your place”, and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, “Friend, move up higher”; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.’ ¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, ‘When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.’

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

Children’s Message/Noisy Offering

“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

“Faithful Dinner Essentials”

Rev. John Shipman

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“As We Gather at Your Table”

(Red) #522

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

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



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

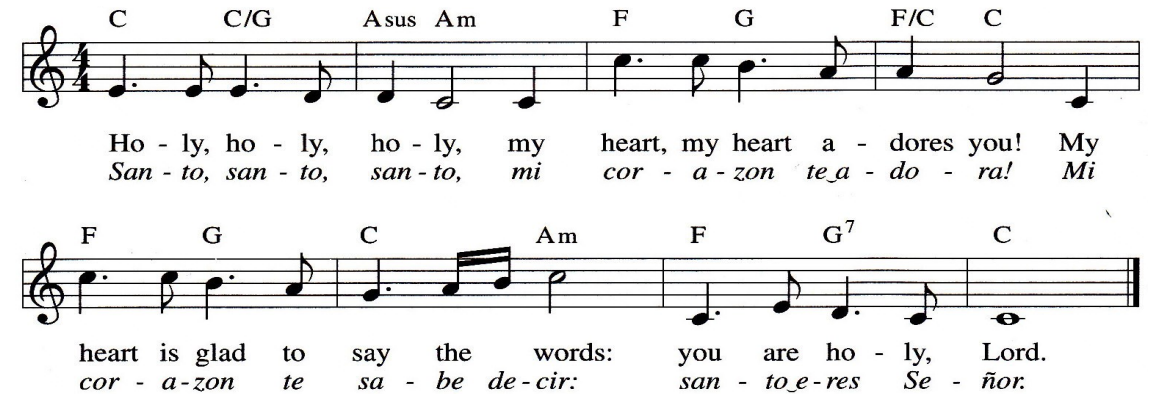
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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

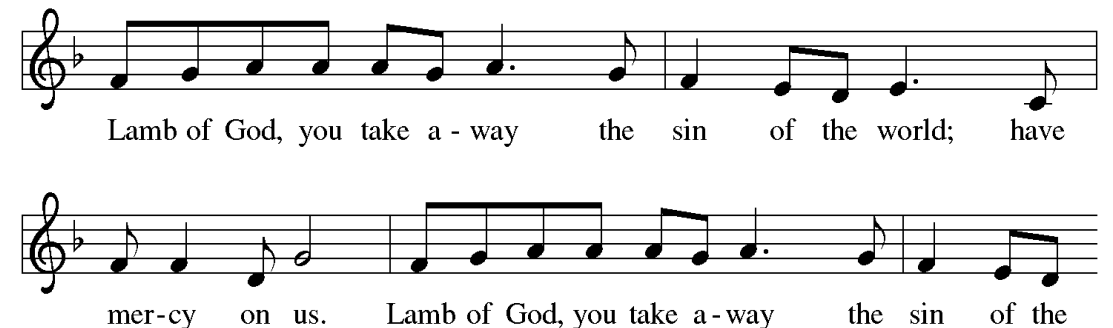
Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

**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"



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