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 10, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.

October 11, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
October 10, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
October 11, 2026 - 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 the holy Trinity, + one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through + Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN "Gather Us In" (Red) #532

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.

Prayer of the Day
Let us pray. Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)
FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:1-9
[1]O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. [2] For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. [3] Therefore strong peoples will glorify you, cities of ruthless nations will fear you. [4] For you have been a refuge to the poor a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, [5] the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. [6] On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. [7] And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; [8] he will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. [9] It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

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

PSALM: Psalm 23 (Read Responsively)
The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:1-9 ***(Sunday 9:00 a.m. service)***
[1] Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand

firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.
2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. 3 Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.
4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
8 Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.
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 READING: Matthew 22:1-14

1 Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 2 'The kingdom of heaven may be
compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent his slaves to call
those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. 4 Again he
sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my
dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come
to the wedding banquet." 5 But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another
to his business, 6 while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. 7 The
king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. 8
Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. 9 Go
therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." 10
Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and
bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.
11 'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing
a wedding robe, 12 and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding
robe?" And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and
foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of
teeth." 14 For many are called, but few are chosen.'

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 Pastor Bob Case

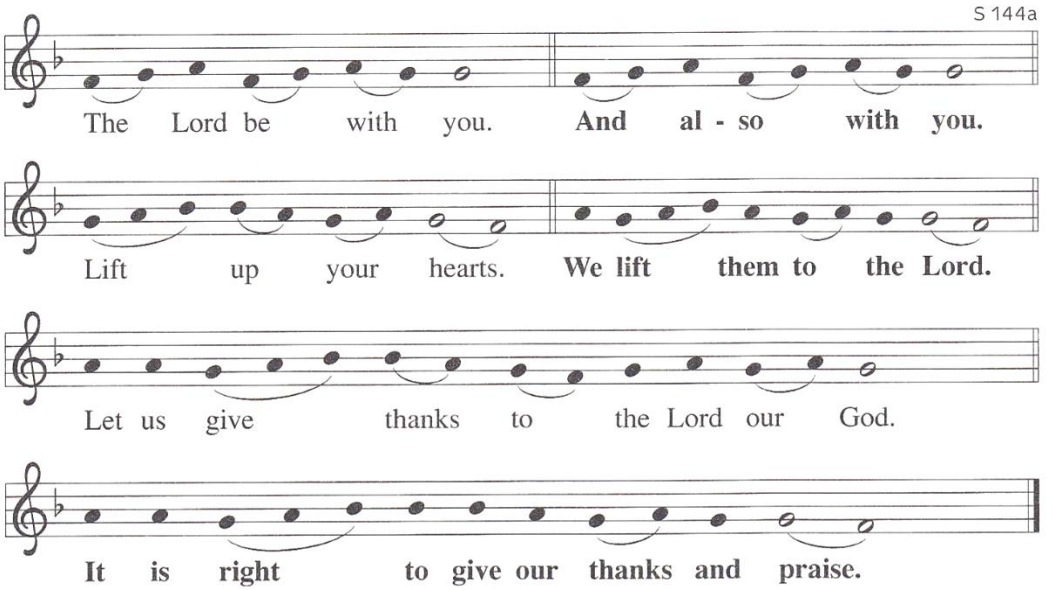
(*Please stand*)
HYMN OF THE DAY "Let Us Go Now to the Banquet" (Red) #523

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.**

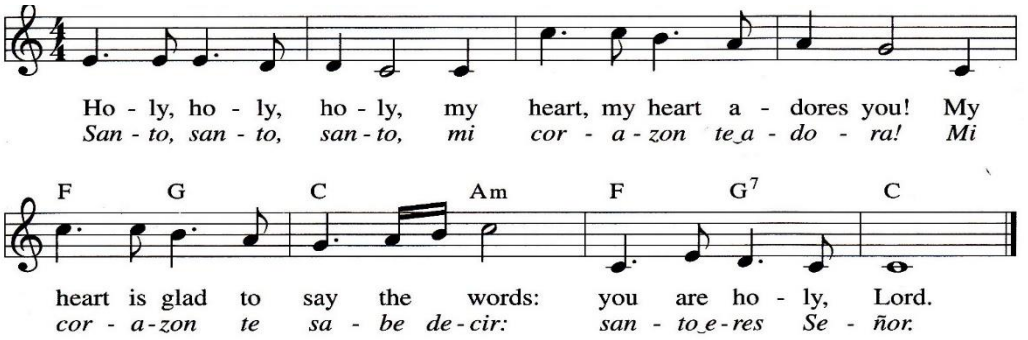
(Please stand)
OFFERING PRAYER
God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **Amen.**

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



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



EUCHARISTIC BLESSING

LORD'S PRAYER

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

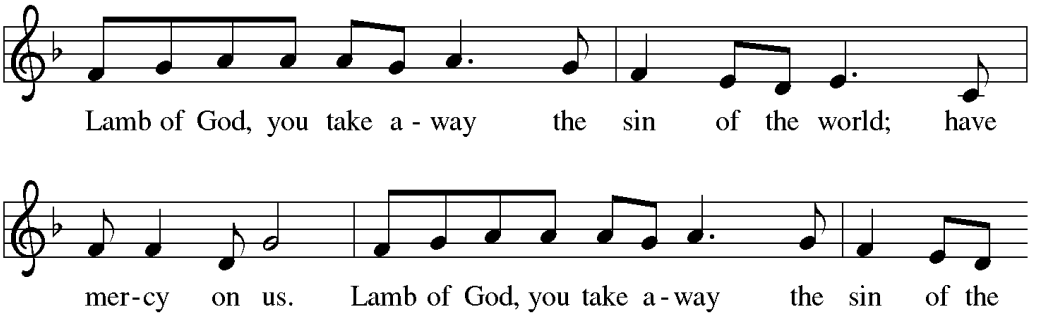
People: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine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

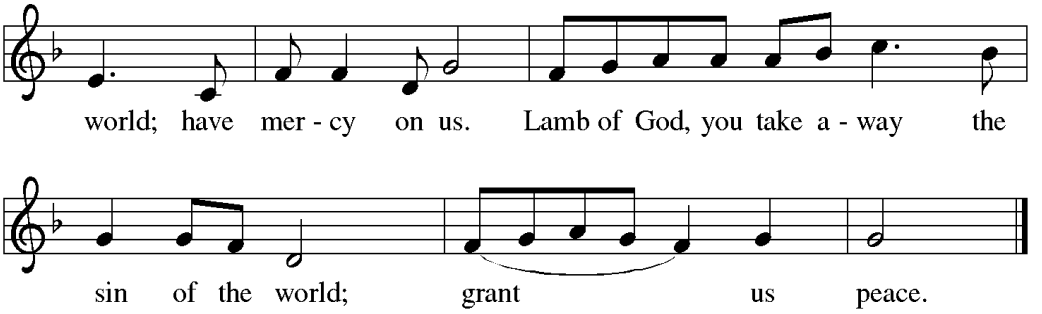
(Pleased be seated)

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 in the middle circle for those who prefer it. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.

"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"



POST COMMUNION PRAYER
Let us pray: Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN "Sent Forth by God's Blessing" (Red) #547

DISMISSAL
Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
Thanks be to God.

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

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

Kathy Prevo – medical issues
Alan Courtney – health issues
Jesse O'Neil – health issues
Nancy St. Onge – health issues
Mollie Skiba – health issue
Sandra Christopherson – unspecified
Joel Foster – health issues
Johnathan O. – health issues
Morgan Kibbe & Baby Colton
Luke Boyk—health issues
Chuck Piontkowski – health
Adam Schmidt–health issues
John Wegmeyer– health issues
Lisa Dziesinski-health issue
Billie Jo Foster – health issues
Dena Stevens – health issues
Jeff Wittenburg - medical
Mary Boomer-Scott – health
Cindy DeRosia – health
Ann Martin – medical issues
Chad Hamill – health issues
Phyllis Robb - unspecified

(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. Thanks.)

We remember our prayer partners in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Alpena, Supply Pastors.

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

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

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE			
Saturday	10/03	5:30 a.m.	40
Sunday	10/04	9:00 a.m.	60
		10:30 a.m.	40
		Total	140

END OF AUGUST		**YEAR TO DATE**
Income	14,857.87	185,006.29
G & M Loan	20,000.00	20,000.00
Expenses	22,395.07	212,156.16
Difference	(7,537.20)	(27,149.87)

Commitment Cards are available in the back of the church for those who missed getting one on Commitment Weekend. Please fill one out and put in the offering plate or drop off at the church office.

The October Service Activity is Ella White Elementary School. Items needed: Sweatpants/leggings sizes 6-14, underwear – sizes 6-14, tennis shoes – all kids sizes, and snacks for students (any type of prepackaged snack item is beneficial). Please leave your donations on the altar. Thank you.

Scouting America Troop 92 invites you to a Breakfast Fundraiser at St. Paul Lutheran Church on Sunday, October 18th, 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Free will offering. All you can eat plus take-out options

The Soul Sisters will be Kayaking on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in October, October 14th & 28th, weather permitting. There should be an abundance of God's beauty, with the leaves changing colors. We will meet at Sytel Park at 5:30 p.m. and launch at 6:00 p.m.

We will be participating again in the community Trunk or Treat event, which will be held behind City Hall on Friday, October 23rd from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Join us that night! We are also in need of candy donations. Just drop them off at the office. Please call Chuck or Katrina at 989-590-3354 with questions.

The Forget-Me-Nots will be attending the matinee performance of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" at the Alpena Civic Theatre on Sunday, October 25. Please call Ann Hardesty (989-590-2055) by Thursday, October 22, if you want a ticket.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be next Sunday, October 18th at 9:00 a.m. Plan now to join us. There will only be one service (Sunday 9:00 a.m.) that weekend. Packets are available this weekend in the Narthex, one per family. Please review prior to the meeting.

Mark Your Calendars! The Adventure Club is going to have some Fun Fall Activities at the Johnson Camp (10606 Indian Reserve Road) on Sunday, October 18th. There will be pumpkin carving, wagon rides and yummy snacks. Please RSVP by October 11th, to help us plan. The Adventure Club welcomes everyone from 1 to 105 years old.

The Taste from Home Ministry will be mailing out Military packages to six recipients on October 19th. Donations of non-perishable foods or personal items would be much appreciated. Please drop items off to Linda's office no later than the morning of 10-19-26.

Everyone is invited to a Birthday Open House in honor of Dorothy Carr on her 102nd birthday. It will be held on Saturday, October 24th from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Turning Brook, Building 2. If you have any questions call Karen at 419-466-8733.

We will be packing food for the Feeding Kids Ministry on Monday, October 26th at 5:30 p.m. at the old Sunset School, 1421 Hobbs Drive. Please call Sherry McDonald with questions at 260-414-3613.

Fellowship is in need of cookies to be served before the Saturday Service and between the Sunday services. There is also a need for some gluten free cookies. Also, we are looking for a volunteer to serve as a host for Sunday mornings, once a month.

If you are interested in becoming a new member, please call the church office at 989-356-1658.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: OCTOBER 11 -18, 2026

SUN.	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service/Children's Church/C.I.A. (Youth) - 10:30 a.m.
MON.	Alpena Peace Community – 1:00 p.m.; Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 4:00 p.m.; E.T.A. Group – 5:30 p.m.
TUES.	Gratitude Lunches – 9:00 a.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Treasury Meeting – 6:00 p.m.; Scouting America – 6:30 p.m.
WED.	Breakfast Belles – 7:30 a.m.; Stephen Ministry Training–4:30 p.m.; Soul Sisters Kayaking – 5:30
THURS.	3M Men's Breakfast - 7:00 a.m.; Stitches of Joy – 10:00 a.m.; Open Line Dance – 1:00 p.m.; Chair Yoga – 3:15 p.m.
FRI.	Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.
SAT.	No Service. Join us for 9:00 a.m. worship tomorrow followed by the Annual Meeting
SUN.	Scouting America Fundraiser Breakfast–8:00–12:00; Worship/HC – 9:00; Annual Meeting – following service; Fall Festival (Johnson Camp–10606 Indian Reserve Rd.) – 1:00 p.m.

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		The People of God
ORGANIST		Marvis McNeil
CHOIR DIRECTOR		Marty Cantleberry
ASSISTING MINISTER	5:30 p.m.	Dawn Yakes
	9:00 a.m.	Barb Szczesniak
LECTOR	5:30 p.m.	Dawn Yakes
	9:00 a.m.	Cheri Fletcher
FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS	5:30 p.m.	Joan Smolinski
	9:00 a.m.	Joanne Huggler, Rita Chase
HEAD USHER		Roy Wekwert
USHERS & GREETERS	5:30 p.m.	Tim and Barb Smith
	9:00 a.m.	Jesse and Jessica O'Neil
		Tim Moggie, Ryan Panknin
CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS		Rita Chase, Joanne Huggler
LITTLES' WORSHIP CENTER LEADERS		Ophelia Steinke, Cathy Kieliszewski
ALTAR CARE		Sue Robb and Carol Kindt

We thank all participants for enriching our worship service.