

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.

<u>PARTICIPANTS</u>		
<u>MINISTERS</u>		The People of God
<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.	Shirley Jones
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Iris Arthur
	9:00 a.m.	Cathy Kieliszewski
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Sue Robb
	9:00 a.m.	Mary Courtney
<u>HEAD USHER</u>		Roy Wekwert
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	John & Linda Snyder
	9:00 a.m.	Joanne Huggler, Richard Miller
		Jeff Ciupka, Ryan Panknin
<u>CHILDREN’S CHURCH LEADERS</u>	Karen Wekwert, Sue Rob, Cathy Kieliszewski	
<u>LITTLES’ WORSHIP CENTER LEADERS</u>	Jesse & Jessica O’Neil	
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>	Ginger Bohlen 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:
Harvest Dinner



September 5, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
September 6, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 5, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
September 6, 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.

TEMPLE TALK - Call Committee

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 “Earth and All Stars!” (Red) #731

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.

Mark your calendar for Sunday, September 13, 2026, when congregations of the ELCA will join together for our annual day of service, “God’s work. Our hands.” Participating in service projects is one way to celebrate who we are as the ELCA—one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. “God’s work. Our hands” is an extension of the work you do every day to make your community a better place. We look forward to working with you on Sept. 13!

The September Service Activity is Lincoln Elementary School. Items needed: Washable markers, colored pencils, #2 pencils, paper, 2 pocket folders, dry erase markers, glue sticks, Kleenex, and disinfecting wipes. Please leave your donations on the altar. Thank you.

The Stewardship Committee is planning our Commitment Weekend for September 19th & 20th. Please prayerfully consider your pledge for our 2027 budget.

St. Paul Harvest Dinner is coming up quick! It will be held on Thursday, September 24th. The doors will open at 4:15 p.m. and there will be two settings, 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., with take-outs available from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Tickets are available at the church office or online.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be 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. The deadline to get your financial budget for the annual report into the church office is Tuesday, September 8th.

St. Paul’s Eucharistic Ministry: We have trained Eucharistic Ministers who will take communion kits to shut-ins on a regular basis. Questions? Contact Esther Kindt at 471-2274.

Please note: **The Church Office will be closed on Labor Day, Monday September 7th.**

WEEK AT A GLANCE: <i>SEPTEMBER 6—13, 2026</i>	
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service/Children’s Church/C.I.A. (Youth) - 10:30 a.m.
<u>MON.</u>	Labor Day; Church Office Closed
<u>TUES.</u>	Recovery Yoga – 5:00 p.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Treasury Meeting -6:00 p.m.; Scouting America – 6:30 p.m.
<u>WED.</u>	Breakfast Belles – 7:30 a.m.; Stephen Ministry Training – 4:30 p.m.; Soul Sisters Kayaking – 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.; Stephen Ministry – 3:30 p.m.; Outreach—5:30 p.m.
<u>FRI.</u>	Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.
<u>SAT.</u>	Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship Service/HC– 5:30 p.m.
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC–9:00; Fellowship – 10:00; Contemporary Service/Children’s Church/C.I.A. - 10:30

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

<u>WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:</u>		
Johnathan O. – health issues	Dena Stevens – health issues	
Kathy Prevo – medical issues	Adam Schmidt – health issues	Cindy DeRosia – health
Alan Courtney – health issues	Tina Chrzan - surgery	Mary Boomer-Scott – health
Eleanor Coddington – health issues	Garrett Chrzan – surgery	Jesse O’Neil – health issues
Nancy St. Onge – health issues	Ann Martin – medical issues	Yvonne McQuarrie – health
Mollie Skiba – health issue	John Wegmeyer– health issues	Chad Hamill – health issues
Kevin Reiser – health issues	Lisa Dziesinski-health issue	Phyllis Robb-unspecified need
Joel Foster – health issues	Billie Jo Foster – health issues	

ARMED SERVICES: Cayden Wekwert, Katie Copping, Jake Przysiecki, Noah Hardesty, Dominick Christou, Sawyer Hein, Rachael Mayes, Brandon Sloan, Andrew Hein, Justin A. Smith, Maragely Hein, Amelia Berles, Josh Gapske, Nicole Stafford, Chuck Dziedzic, and Dale Kirkendoll. *We also remember our homebound member, Phyllis Robb. (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: Christ Lutheran Church, Wyoming, Pastor Rob Schmidt.

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

<u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u>				<u>END OF JUNE</u>		<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>	
Saturday	08/29	5:30 a.m.	46	Income	30,413.77	145,880.52	
Sunday	08/30	9:00 a.m.	49	G & M Loan	20,000.00	20,000.00	
		10:30 a.m.	<u>24</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>17,187.95</u>	<u>172,917.68</u>	
		Total	119	Difference	3,225.82	(27,037.16)	

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

On Sunday, September 13th, our congregation will commission Jared Bicker and Jim Kucharek as Stephen Ministers. These dedicated men have been training and are about to begin their caring ministry among us here at St. Paul’s. We thank God for all our Stephen Ministers and pray that God will bless their ministries.

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

The Bazaar/canning ladies are almost out of rings for canning jars. If you have any to donate, please drop them off at the church. *Thank you!*

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked ones, you shall surely die’, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: ‘Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?’ ¹¹ Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

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

PSALM: Psalm 119:33-40 (Read Responsively)

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end.

Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.

Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it. Turn my heart to your decrees, and not to selfish gain.

Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; give me life in your ways. Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those who fear you.

Turn away the disgrace that I dread, for your ordinances are good.

See, I have longed for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life.

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14(Sunday 9:00 a.m. service)

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, ‘You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet’; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of

light; ¹³ let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

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

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 18:15-20

¹⁵ ‘If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.’

BENEDICTION

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

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

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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”

Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -
one what God has done. Let all who seek the
Lord re - jice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
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: 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

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 LaRae Retenbar

(Please stand)
HYMN OF THE DAY “When We Are Living” (Red) #639

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.**

(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

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

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.**

(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"

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.