

### 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.

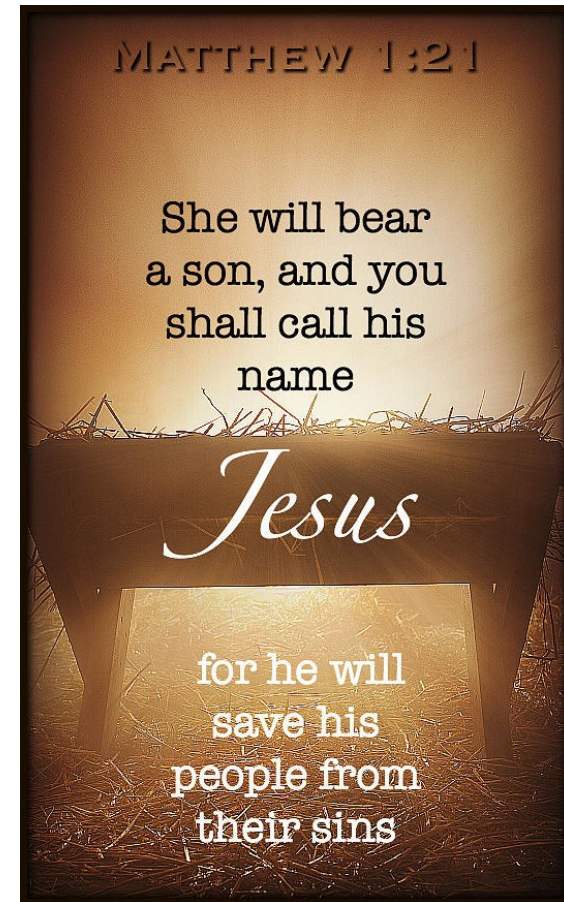
There are **restrooms** located in the basement of this building and on the ground floor of the hallway leading to our fellowship hall and on each floor of the educational building.

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<u>PARTICIPANTS</u>		
<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.	Alayna Krey
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Sue Keyes
	9:00 a.m.	Alayna Krey
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Patti Byce, Myra Gapske
	9:00 a.m.	Laurie Stafford
<u>USHERS &amp; GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Cindy Tchorzynski
	9:00 am.	Steve and Andrea Dutcher
		Paul Kieliszewski, Richard Miller
<u>ACOLYTE</u>	9:00 a.m.	Evan McDonald
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Patti Byce and Laurie Stafford

*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. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Alpena, MI 49707  
Phone 989-356-1658  
[www.stpaul.org](http://www.stpaul.org)  
*A Stephen Ministry Congregation*



**December 17, 2022 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**December 18, 2022 - 9:00 a.m.**

Please send Adam or Pastor John photos and videos of your Christmas lights. They will be posted on Facebook and used during the livestream.

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Services will be at 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 24th. Holy Communion will be served at all services. If you would like to serve as an usher, acolyte, or cross-bearer for one of the Christmas Eve services, please sign up today on the sheet in the Narthex. Thanks!

Please join us for our Christmas Day Worship on December 25th at 9:00 a.m.

We will have a Unity Service on January 1st at 9:00 a.m. Please note, there will be no other services that weekend.

Usher Training sessions are being offered on every Saturday and Sunday in January (except January 1st). Pastor John will meet with you an hour before the worship service. Come at the time/day that best suits you.

The Forget-Me-Nots will meet on Tuesday, January 3 at noon in the multi purpose room for lunch and social time. Please bring your own lunch. Coffee, tea, water and a dessert will be provided.

There will be an Acolyte Training class on Wednesday, January 11th at 5:00 p.m. Anyone interested in serving in this way is welcome to attend.

Everyone is invited to join us for a January Video Educational Experience on January 11th at 6:00 p.m. We will be watching "Courageous" and having discussion afterward. A meal will be provided. Please call the church office if you are coming, which will help us in our planning for food. Thanks.

Mark your calendars for our next Women's Retreat on January 27th. Our theme is "Leaders in the Bible and what we can learn from them." The event will take place at 1921 Long Rapids Road and there is no cost associated with this event. We will explore God's promises for community and fellowship for Women. Ages 18 – 100 are invited to discover God's faithfulness in your faith journey.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: DECEMBER 18–25, 2022	
<u>SUN.</u>	Sunday Worship/HC–9:00; Fellowship–10:00; Contemporary Service & Children's Church–10:30 a.m.; The Adventure Club Christmas Caroling – 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
<u>MON.</u>	Tech Talks–11:00 a.m.; Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 6:00 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Cub Scouts - 5:30 p.m.; Air Rifle Team – 5:30 p.m.; Boy Scouts - 6:30 p.m.
<u>WED.</u>	Women's Breakfast–7:30 a.m.; Advent Service and Lunch – 12:00 p.m.; Book Study (Pastor John) 1:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Book Study (Nena) – 5:30 p.m.; Choir Practice – 6:00 p.m.
<u>THURS.</u>	Men's Fellowship (JJs) – 7:00 a.m.; Stitched Together – 11:00 a.m.; Chair Yoga – 3:00 p.m.; Air Rifle Team – 5:30 p.m.; Yoga – 5:30
<u>FRI.</u>	Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.; Narcotics Anonymous – 6:00 p.m.
<u>SAT.</u>	Christmas Eve Worship Services – 3:30, 5:30 and 8:00 p.m.
<u>SUN.</u>	Christmas Day Worship Service – 9:00 a.m.

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

**WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:** Keeley Knapp, Don Urban Sr., Billiejo Foster, Donna Burton, Jimmy Abend, Cheryl Rosbeck, George Morley, Steve Zbytowski, Austin Scull, Peter Roznowski, Paula Baker, Lucille Hanna Withum, Philip Donakowski, June Sylvester, Aggie Woloszyk, Jerry Swanson, Annette Wade, Zay, Lisa Hilberg, Sandra Christopherson, Larkin Kerby, William Taylor, John Wegmeyer, Gus Schultz, Elaine Kingsbury, Sally Barney, Joel Foster, Nancy Chrzan, Phyllis Robb, Eugene Brooks, Bodo Hanson, Sutton Badder, Marian Dove, Dolores Sumerix, Eleanor Schellie, Audrey Reck, Deb Lange, Bernice Menck, and Karen Wallace. *(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: St. Peter Lutheran Church, Unionville, Rev. Jeffrey Bonn

**We pray for the Dynamic Ministries here at St. Paul Lutheran Church.** This week we specifically pray for the volunteers who change the sign weekly.

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

<u><b>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</b></u>			<u><b>END OF OCTOBER</b></u>		<u><b>YEAR TO DATE</b></u>
Wed. (12/07)	12:25 p.m.	36	Income	26,834.54	254,657.10
Saturday (12/10)	5:30 p.m.	69	Expenses	<u>27,421.62</u>	<u>265,480.75</u>
Sunday (12/11)	9:00 a.m.	62	Difference	(-587.08)	(-10,823.65)
	10:30 a.m.	<u>25</u>			
		192			

**Advent Educational Opportunities will run through December 21<sup>st</sup>.** Pastor John's Class meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM and 5:30 p.m. and Miss Nena's class also meets on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM. Pastor John will hold a Book Study on "To Know and Follow Jesus" by Thomas Hart and Miss Nena will lead a Book Study on "I Second that Emotion: Untangling Our Zany Feelings" by Patsy Clairmont.

**Join us for the last Wednesday Advent Services,** December 21, from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. We have a meal at noon followed by a short service at 12:25. Come and share this time of preparation.

**The Adventure Club will go Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.** Please join us at the church as we head out to share God's love with our voices in the community. Please call the church office to sign up, which will help us with planning.

**The church office will be closed the week after Christmas, December 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>.** We will be back in the office on Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Pastor John is aware of people who are in need of help during the Christmas season.** If you're able to help meet the needs of those in our community, a contribution to the Good Samaritan Fund would be a wonderful and much appreciated way of sharing God's compassion and love with others.

**GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**  
**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**December 17, 2022 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**December 18, 2022 - 9:00 a.m.**

*Congregational responses are printed in bold;* Additional items for the 9:00 a.m. service only are printed in blue.)

**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 Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be God's name forever. **Amen.**

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of new beginnings,

**we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. 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** "Blessed Be the God of Israel" (Red) #250

**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.**

## KYRIE



**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



**B** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**B** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**B** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

## SERMON NOTES



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: Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BENEDICTION**


SENDING HYMN      “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”      (Red) #631

**DISMISSAL**

God in peace. Christ is near.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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**HYMN OF PRAISE**



*Refrain*  
*Assisting minister*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.  
*All*  
1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us  
free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and  
strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.  
*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.  
2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the  
hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and  
might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain  
has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

Pastor: Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we wait and dream for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior. **Amen.**

*Light four candles.*

*(Please be seated)*

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16**

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

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

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.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

C C/G Asus Am F G F/C C

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 G<sup>7</sup> 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 for those who prefer it.

"Lamb of God"

**PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (Read Responsively)**

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

**before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!**

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

**O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?**

You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.

**You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.**

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

**But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.**

Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

**Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

**SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup> the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup> including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup> To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(Please Stand)*

**Gospel Acclamation**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

**GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25**

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

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

*(Please be seated)*

SERMON

"Sacred Dreams"

Pastor John Shipman

*(Please stand)*

HYMN OF THE DAY

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

(Red) #257

**Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed**

**People: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

**OFFERING IS BEING RECEIVED IN THE BACK & THE FRONT OF THE CHURCH BUILDING**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. **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.

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff has a tempo marking of 144. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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: