

### 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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### PARTICIPANTS

#### MINISTERS

#### PASTOR

#### ORGANIST

#### CHOIR DIRECTOR

#### ASSISTING MINISTER

5:30 p.m.  
9:00 a.m.

#### LECTOR

5:30 p.m.  
9:00 a.m.

#### FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS

5:30 p.m.  
9:00 a.m.

#### USHERS & GREETERS

5:30 p.m.  
9:00 a.m.

#### ACOLYTE

5:30 p.m.  
9:00 a.m.

#### ALTAR CARE

The People of God

Rev. John Shipman

Marvis McNeil

Marty Cantleberry

Iris Arthur

Phil Wickstrom

Gail Atkins

Phil Wickstrom

Patti Byce, Myra Gapske

Laurie Stafford

Patti Byce

Owen Werth, Richard Miller

Paul Kieliszewski, Barb Szczesniak

Emily Smith

Alex Wickstrom

Karen Hamann, Sue Robb

*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*



October 21, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.  
October 22, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.



**GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**  
**The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost**  
**October 21, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**October 22, 2023 - 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 God, the one who forms us, + Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Steadfast and faithful God,  
**you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world’s violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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**                      “All Are Welcome”                      (Red) #641

**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.**

**The Forget-Me-Nots will meet on Tuesday, November 7.** We will gather in the church dining hall at 1:00 to visit and enjoy some favorite snacks. If you would like to bring a favorite game, please do so.

**There will be a Men’s Retreat on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** at 1921 Long Rapids Road. Our theme is “Visions of Leadership for Men. There is no cost associated with this event. We will explore God’s promises for community and fellowship for men. Ages 18 – 100 are invited.

**All are invited to our November Video Educational Experience on November 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** We will be watching “God’s Not Dead” and a meal will be provided with discussion throughout.

**The St. Paul Christmas Bazaar is November 4<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose room,** with our famous “Turkey Noodle Casserole” being served from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Tickets for the luncheon are now available for sale either at the church office or bazaar member, or you may get them before or after services this weekend. To honor our former chairperson – Lori Ludwig, we are splitting our “tithe” money between the two places she served graciously for so many years, the Friendship Room at St. Bernards and Trinity Sunday Supper. You may drop off your donated items on Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please call Esther at 989-471-2274.

**Sue Keyes and Shirley Jones are going through training as Stephen Leaders.** Please keep them in your prayers for their training and leadership.

**Come join us for weekend Fellowship.** On Saturday Night we meet before the service at 4:30 for coffee and baked goods until 5:20. Fellowship for the 9:00 service and the 10:30 service will occur in-between the service time. Everyone is invited to join us.

**There will be a Float Meeting on Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>** at 1:30 p.m. in the lounge. Come join us.

**All are invited to the Fall Auction Fundraiser at Trinity Episcopal Church** (124 E. Washington Ave.) on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Sloppy Joes, nachos, hotdogs, and fresh apple cider is available by donation. Silent Auction from 5:00 – 6:45 p.m., and the Live Auction starts at 7:00 p.m.

<b>WEEK AT A GLANCE: OCTOBER 22 – 29, 2023</b>	
SUN.	Sunday Worship/HC–9:00; Fellowship–10:00; Contemporary Service/Children’s Ch./C.I.A.– 10:30
MON.	Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; E.T.A. – 5:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 6:00 p.m.; A Taste from Home – 6:00 p.m.
TUES.	Dinner on a Doorknob – 9:00 a.m.; Air Rifle Team –5:30; Cub Scouts – 5:30; Boy Scouts – 6:30 p.m.
WED.	Breakfast Belles (at JJ’s) – 7:30 a.m.; St. John Bible Study (Pastor John) – 1:00 & 5:30 p.m.; “Joshua - Winning the Worry Battle” Study (Nena) – 5:30 p.m.; Choir – 6:00 p.m.
THURS.	3M Men’s Breakfast (at JJ’s) – 7:00 a.m.; Stitched Together – 11:00 a.m.; Float Meeting (Lounge) – 1:30 p.m.; Chair Yoga – 3:00 p.m.; Recovery Yoga – 5:30 p.m.; Air Rifle Team–5:30 p.m.
FRI.	Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.; Boy Scouts Soup & Pie Dinner – 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.; Community Trunk R Treat Event – 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
SAT.	Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship/HC – 5:30 p.m.
SUN.	Sunday Worship/HC – 9:00; Fellowship – 10:00; Contemporary Service & Children’s Ch.– 10:30

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

**WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:** Art Hoffmeyer, Doreen Britton, Dixie Prevost-Creveir, Nate Cosbitt, Liz Smith, Warren MacNeil, Sue Kaiser, Shirley Kowalski, Barbara Carlson, John Wegmeyer, Marty & Liz Smith, Loccia Fifield, Andy Beagle, Phyllis Robb, Jillian Kerby, Frank, Sarah Moe Melching, Brendia Mantea, Allison Dutcher, Dolores Libka, David Reeves, Julie Troy, Geri Hanson, Billiejo Foster, Gus Schultz, Elaine Kingsbury, Sally Barney, Joel Foster, Eugene Brooks, Bodo Hanson, Sutton Badder, Marian Dove, Dolores Sumerix, Audrey Reck, 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: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Holland, Rev. Jessica Rivera-Walker

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

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

<u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u>			<u>END OF SEPTEMBER</u>		<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Sunday (10/15)	9:00 a.m.	86	Income	25,476.35	240,458.99
			Expenses	<u>29,233.48</u>	<u>262,763.65</u>
			Difference	(3,757.13)	(22,304.66)

**We will be taking part in the community Trunk R Treat again this year,** which will be held Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. So, if you would like to donate candy, please drop it off at the church.

**A Taste from Home group will be assembling packages to Military Members** with a Fall theme (apple cider mix, pumpkin cookies, hats, mittens, fall leaves, etc.) on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you would like to donate items please have them to the church by then. Thank you.

Boy Scout Troop 92 invited you to join us for a **Soup & Pie Dinner on Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>** from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Prices are \$10 for Adult, \$6 for children (10 and under), \$28 for a family of four and children under 4 are free. You can buy tickets from any of the Boy Scouts or pick them up in the church office on Thursday mornings from Joanne, if possible. Come and enjoy a selection of delicious home-made soups and desserts!

**Reminder: Next weekend we will collect the noisy offering,** and continue to do so the last weekend of every month. The money collected will support children in foster care to attend summer camp. Don’t forget to bring your change!

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

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray. Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him— and the gates shall not be closed: <sup>2</sup> I will go before you and level the mountains; I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron; <sup>3</sup> I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. <sup>4</sup> For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name; I give you a title, though you do not know me. <sup>5</sup> I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, <sup>6</sup> so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. <sup>7</sup> I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things.

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

**PSALM: Psalm 96:1-9 (Read Responsively)**

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
**Sing to the Lord; bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.**  
Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.  
**For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.**  
For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.  
**Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**  
Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.  
**Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.**  
Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

**SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 (Sunday 9:00 a.m.)**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.  
<sup>2</sup> We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly <sup>3</sup> remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup> because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup> And you became imitators

of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup> so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup> For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. <sup>9</sup> For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God <sup>10</sup> and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

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.**

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray: Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

**MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

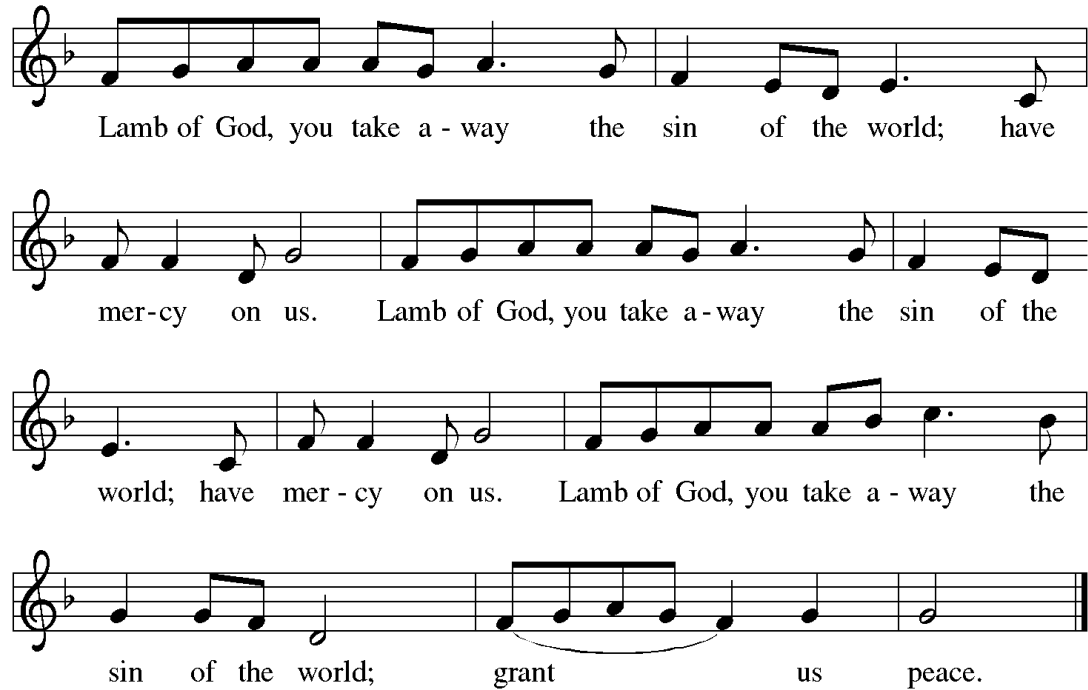
**BENEDICTION**

SENDING HYMN                      “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”                      (Red) #834

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. God is at work in you.  
**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.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22**

<sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. <sup>16</sup> So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. <sup>17</sup> Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” <sup>18</sup> But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup> Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup> Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” <sup>21</sup> They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” <sup>22</sup> When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

The Gospel of Our Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Children’s Message**

**“Jesus Loves Me”**

Jesus loves me this I know  
For the Bible tells me so  
Little ones to Him belong  
They are weak but He is strong  
Yes Jesus loves me. Yes Jesus loves me  
Yes Jesus loves me the Bible tells me so

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*(Please be seated)*

SERMON

“Sincerity”

Rev John Shipman

*(Please stand)*

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Take My Life, That I May Be”

(Red) #685

**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

God of grace,  
hear our prayer.

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

## OFFERING

## OFFERING PRAYER

*(Please stand)*

*(Sung at the 9:00 a.m. service.)*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

S 144a



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

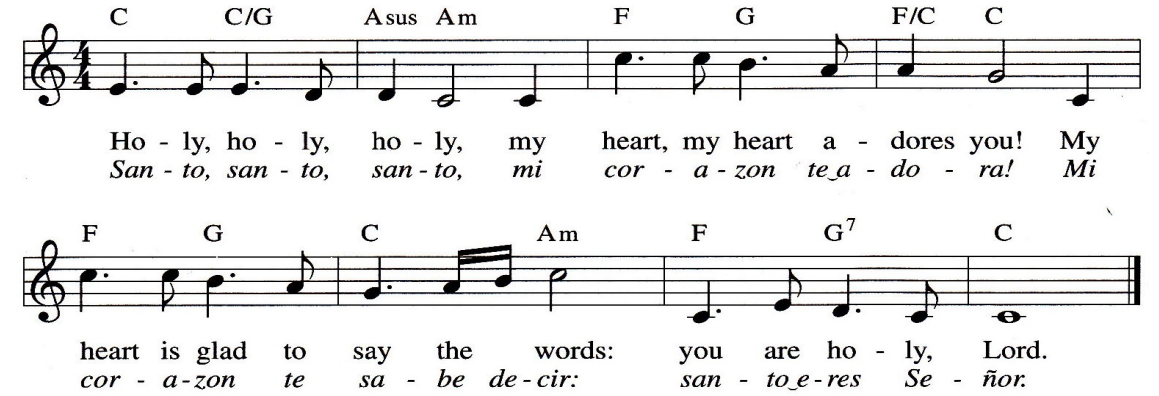
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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



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"