

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.

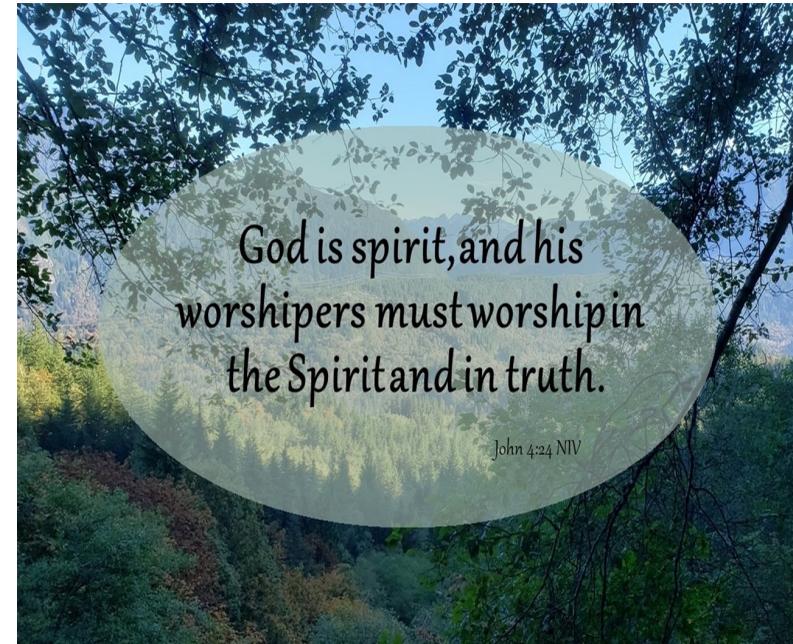
St. Paul welcomes all to the Communion Table. Christ is the Host and the Meal. Come, taste, and see that the Lord is good. Grape juice is available for those who prefer it rather than wine. Children and those choosing not to receive Holy Communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

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>PASTOR</u>		Rev. John Shipman
<u>ORGANIST</u>		Marvis McNeil
<u>CHOIR DIRECTOR</u>		Marty Cantleberry
<u>ASSISTING MINISTER</u>	5:30 p.m.	Carol Kindt
	9:00 a.m.	Phil Wickstrom
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Sue Keyes
	9:00 a.m.	Phil Wickstrom
<u>HEAD USHER</u>		Roy Wekwert
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Dennis and Sherry McDonald
	9:00 a.m.	Jeff Ciupka, Ryan Panknin
		Dennis Dziesinski, Cathy Kieliszewski
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Sue Robb
	9:00 a.m.	Joanne Huggler, Rita Chase
<u>CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS</u>		Nena Shipman, Jean Johnson
		Joanne Huggler, Rita Chase
<u>LITTLES' WORSHIP CENTER LEADERS</u>		Andrea Dutcher and Evie Bicker
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Sandy Samp, Laurie Stafford, 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



2026 Theme: "Be Our Vision Lord"

March 7, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
March 8, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The Third Sunday in Lent
March 7, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
March 8, 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 forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water

Christ offers: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope

in the world: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to

come forth to life: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

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 "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty" (Red) #533

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.

We will again be having our delicious Baked Potato & Ice Cream Bar on Saturday, March 14th, after the Saturday service. Come and enjoy baked potatoes with numerous choices of toppings, and ice cream with toppings. There is no cost, but you do need a ticket. They are available in the church office. If you would like to donate an item to the Chinese raffle, please contact Dennis or Lori Dzieszinski.

The Forget-Me-Nots will not meet on the first Tuesday in March. We will be attending the matinee performance at Alpena Civic Theatre on Sunday, March 15. The comedy, "Finding Gladys," will be presented. Contact Ann Hardesty if you have any questions at 989-471-5304.

We will be packing food for the Feeding Kids Ministry on Monday, March 16th at the old Sunset School, 1421 Hobbs Drive, at 5:30 p.m. Call Sherry if you are willing to help or have any questions, 260-414-3613.

Soul Sisters will meet March 17th at 5:30 in room 207 to sign Easter cards for shut-ins at Besser Living and Turning Brook. A light snack will be served as we celebrate this opportunity to share the message of the resurrection with others in our community. Please contact Shirley 989-464-6472 or Val 989-916-5560 if you plan on attending this event. If you would like to donate Easter cards bring them with you or drop them off at the church office. This is a Soul sisters event but all ladies of St. Paul are welcome to participate.

Everyone is invited to join us as we honor Pastor John and Nena in a Celebration of Ministry at JJ's on Sunday, March 22nd from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings will offer non-invasive and painless health screenings at St. Paul Lutheran Church on Tuesday, March 24th. Please call 1-800-324-9458 to register or visit LLSA.SOCIAL/HSCA.

On Saturday, April 4th, the Adventure Club is again planning an Easter Egg Hunt for our community within our building. We would love donations of grass for baskets, candy, and items to be included in our family friendly baskets for the raffle. These items can be dropped off at the office. *Thank you.*

WEEK AT A GLANCE: MARCH 8 – 15, 2026	
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service/Children's Church/C.I.A. - 10:30 a.m.
<u>MON.</u>	AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 4:00 p.m.; E.T.A. Group – 5:30 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Gratitude Lunches – 9:00 a.m.; Recovery Yoga – 5:00 p.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Scouting America – 6:30 p.m.
<u>WED.</u>	Breakfast Belles – 7:30 a.m.; AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Lent Lunch and Service – 12:00 p.m.; Pastor John Bible Study – 1:00 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.; Choir Practice – 4:00 p.m.; Ecumenical Service/Soup Supper (First United Methodist Church) – 5:30 p.m.; Nena's Book Study – 5:30 p.m.
<u>THURS.</u>	3M Men's Breakfast (JJs) - 7:00 a.m.; Open Line Dance – 1:00 p.m.; Chair Yoga – 3:00 p.m.; Stephen Ministry – 3:30 p.m.; Trust Meeting – 4:30 p.m.
<u>FRI.</u>	AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.
<u>SAT.</u>	AARP Taxes – 8:00; Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship Service – 5:30 p.m.; Baked Potato Night – 6:30
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00; Contemporary Service/Children's Church/C.I.A. - 10:30 a.m.; Forget-Me-Nots Matinee – 2:00 p.m.

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

<u>WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:</u>	Patricia Nelson - grief	Laura Fair – fell
David McNeil–upcoming surgery	Milt Paquette – health issues	Chad Hamill – health issues
Bennett Gilmet – medical issues	June Sylvester – fractured back	Kevin Atkinson – health issues
Kevin Atkinson – health issues	Storm Yakes – medical issues	Kioni Peoples family - grief
Dixie Crevier – health issues	Greg Dzieszinski- health issues	Lisa Dzieszinski-health issue
Kevin Reiser – health issues	Joel Foster – health issues	Adam Schmidt- health issues
Cathy Murtha – medical issues	Phyllis Robb-unspecified need	Billie Jo Foster – health issues
Malary Smith – unspecified	Margaret Lucian – health issues	Lee Werth—health issues
Carol Kuhl – health issues	Ann Martin – medical issues	Dena Stevens – health issues
John Wegmeyer– health issues	Alan Marwede–health issues	Mike H. - illness

(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: Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Portage, Rev. Martha Porter-Reid.

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

<u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u>		<u>END OF JANUARY</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Wednesday 02/25 12:30 p.m.	31	Income 21,227.40	21,227.40
Saturday 02/28 5:30 p.m.	118	Expenses 34,674.00	34,674.00
Sunday 03/01 9:00 a.m.	35	Difference (13,446.60)	(13,446.60)
10:30 a.m.	<u>38</u>		
Total	222		

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

The March Service Activity is Pied Piper School. Items needed: coloring and activity books, markers, large crayons, Kleenex, hand sanitizer, and Clorox wipes. Fidget toys would also be great for the students. Please leave your items on the altar. Thank you for your generosity.

Please join us for the Wednesday Lent Worship Services - March 11, 18 & 25. The worship at St. Paul Lutheran Church 12:25 p.m., with a Lenten Soup preceding the service at 12:00 p.m. The theme is "Dust and Hope." **We are looking for people/groups that will do the Maundy Thursday soup supper.** Call the church office and to volunteer. The Ecumenical Activity this week, March 11 will be held at the First United Methodist Church at 6:00. with a Soup Supper at 5:30 p.m.

Pastor John and Miss Nena's Lent Educational Opportunities run through March 25th. Pastor John's classes meet on Wednesdays at 1:00 and 5:30 p.m. and Miss Nena's class meets on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. Pastor John is holding a Book Study on "Psalms-Prayers of the Heart" by Eugene Peterson and Miss Nena is leading a Book Study on "Life Source: 5 Session Course on Prayer for Lent."

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴ So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵ The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

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

PSALM: Psalm 95 (Read Responsively)

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! **Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods. **In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.** The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice!

Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,

when your ancestors tested me and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work. **For forty years I loathed that generation and said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they do not regard my ways."**

Therefore in my anger I swore, "They shall not enter my rest."

SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11 (Sunday 9:00 a.m.)

¹Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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

(Please Stand)

Gospel Acclamation

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
 mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
 stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

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

“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.
 Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and
 lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
 giv - ing. A - men, a - men.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ’s body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”

(Red) #618

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.
Thanks be to God.

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"

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

GOSPEL: John 4:5-42

⁵So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." ²⁶Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

²⁷Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" ²⁸Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹"Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³²But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" ³⁴Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done."⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

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

"The Depth of God's Love"

Pastor John Shipman

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

(Red) #623

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

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

(Please stand)

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And also 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.