

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

PASTOR

ORGANIST

CHOIR DIRECTOR

LECTOR

3:30 p.m.

5:30 p.m.

8:00 p.m.

USHERS & GREETERS

3:30 p.m.

5:30 p.m.

ALTAR CARE

Patti Byce and Laurie Stafford

The People of God

Rev. John Shipman

Marvis McNeil

Marty Cattleberry

Barb Szczesniak

Shirley Jones

Scott Parkham

We thank all participants for enriching our worship service.

St. Paul Lutheran Church

celebrates and shares God's love and compassion

727 S. 2nd, Alpena, MI 49707

Phone 989-356-1658

Fax 989-356-3206

www.stpaul.org

A Stephen Ministry Congregation



*December 24, 2023
3:30, 5:30 and 8:00 p.m.*





The beautiful decorations are given this Christmas to the Glory of God,
the memory of loved ones and in honor of loved ones as follows:

In Memory of:

Ken Weiler from Dixie Weiler
David Connon from Dixie Weiler
Winnie Kirchoff from Clint Kirchoff and family
Vivian Kirchoff-Wurmlinger from Clint Kirchoff and family
Shawn O'Donnell-Straley from Steve Straley
Richard, Joan and Jere Straley from Steve Straley
Warren and Doris Peterson from Sally and Gary VanMassenhove
Marilee Peterson from Sally and Gary VanMassenhove
Matilda Ohlrich from Sally and Gary Vanmassenhove
Doug Nehring from the Old Decorating Squad
My husband, Norman Seguin from Mariette
Ilse and Gus Kuhl from Mary, George, and Carol Kuhl
Loved ones from Iris and Robert Arthur
Beloved friends, Bob Wegmeyer and his daughter, Susan Crowell from Mollie Skiba
Skiba Family Members from Mollie Skiba
Powers Family Members from Mollie Skiba
Krause Family Members from Mollie Skiba
Marion and Robert Seguin from Barb, Paul, Phil and Kathy and family
Dorothy and Gerald Girard from Barb, Paul, Phil and Kathy and family
Fritz Stafford from Janet and family
Melvin Huggler from Joanne Huggler and Todd Mercure
Harold and Ruth Zaske from Joanne Huggler and Todd Mercure
Ada and Edward Precour from Barbara Crittenden
Bruce "Red" and Hazel Crittenden from Barbara Crittenden
Richard and Michael Brown from Barbara Crittenden
Chuck Geisbuhler from Rudy and Marie Kowalski
Evelyn and Tom Dziesinski from Tom and Connie Stafford
Eugene and Doris Stafford from Tom and Connie Stafford
My husband, Jim Smithem, from Nancy Smithem
My dad, Donald Wyman, from Nancy Smithem
Donald Bromund from his wife Marjorie
Karen Bisson from Jeff, Kristin and Brett Ciupka
Irving and Virginia Christopherson from Ivan and Barb Sumerix and family
Wilbert and Lillian Scheske and Ron, Deb and Donna from Mike and Linda Collins

In Honor of:

Pastor John and Nena Shipman



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
Christmas Eve † 3:30, 5:30 & 8:00 p.m.
December 24, 2023

Prelude

(Please stand and face the cross)

Processional Hymn "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

Christmas Litany *(read responsively)*

P: The light shines in the darkness,

C: and the darkness has not overcome it.

P: The Word became flesh and lived among us,

C: and we have beheld Christ's glory.

P: To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C: in the Word was life and the life was the light of all people.

Greeting

Tonight Christ is born: Alleluia, alleluia! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Leader: Glory to God in the highest!

People: Peace to God's people on earth!

Leader: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

People: Thanks be to God.



Join us for our Christmas Day

Worship Service

December 25

9:00 a.m.



On December 31st we will have a Unity Service at 9:00 a.m.

(There will be no other services next weekend.)

Please note: The church office will be closed December 25th - January 1st.

We will be back in the office on Tuesday, January 2nd.

Blessing

May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

“Joy to the World”



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re-
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav-ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor-row grow nor thorns in-
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev-'ry heart pre-pare him
songs em-ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless-ings
na-tions prove the glo-ries of his righ-teous-



room and heav'n and na-ture sing, and heav'n and na-ture
plains re-peat the sound-ing joy, re-peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won-ders of his love, and won-ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na-ture sing.
joy, re-peat, re-peat the sound-ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won-ders, won-ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

(You may be seated)

First Reading Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-- on them light has shined. ³ You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴ For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading Titus 2:11-14

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹² training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

(Please stand)

Holy Gospel Luke 2:1-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the second chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon "Treasured Promises" Pastor John Shipman

Hymn of the Day "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885
 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787-1863

C 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, grant us peace.

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

L: Let us pray: On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C: Amen.

Candle Lighting (*Please tip only the unlit candle*)

Hymn "Silent Night"

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,
 with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain
 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
 Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

Nicene Creed

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.

Responsive Prayer

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world. Amen.

Offering/Offertory

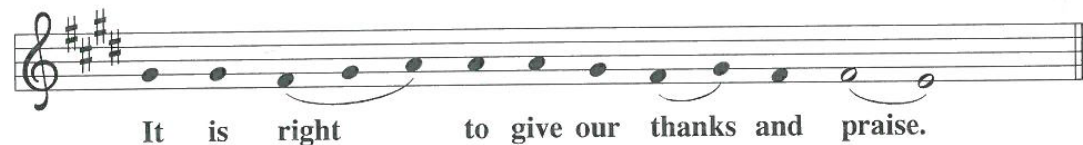
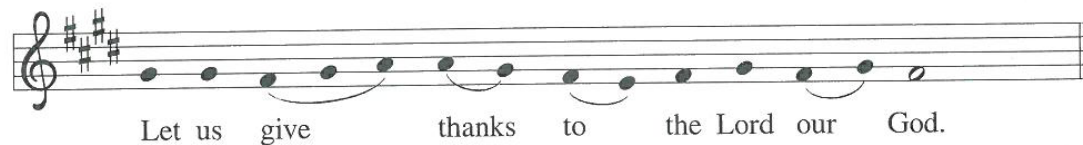
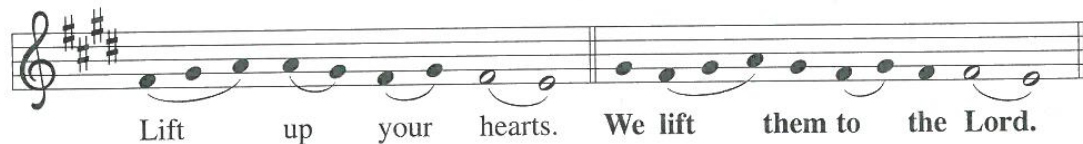
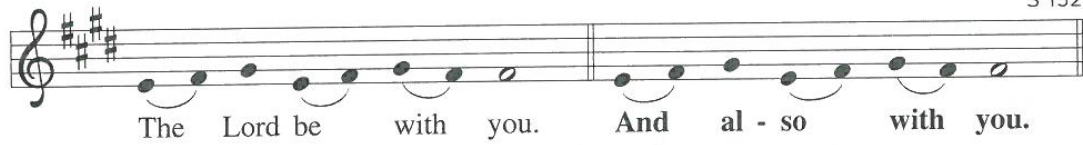
Offering Prayer

L: Let us pray: God with us: You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name.

People: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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Eucharistic Prayer

Pastor: . . .Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pastor: . . .We look with hope for his coming.

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: . . .Bring the gift of peace on earth

People: Come, Holy Spirit.

Pastor: . . . One God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**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.

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. Communion will be by intinction. Wine, grape juice, and wafers are available. Please dip your wafer into either the chalice of wine or grape juice. Those not receiving Communion are invited forward for a blessing.

Invitation to Communion

Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let every heart receive your Savior.

Lamb of God