

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.

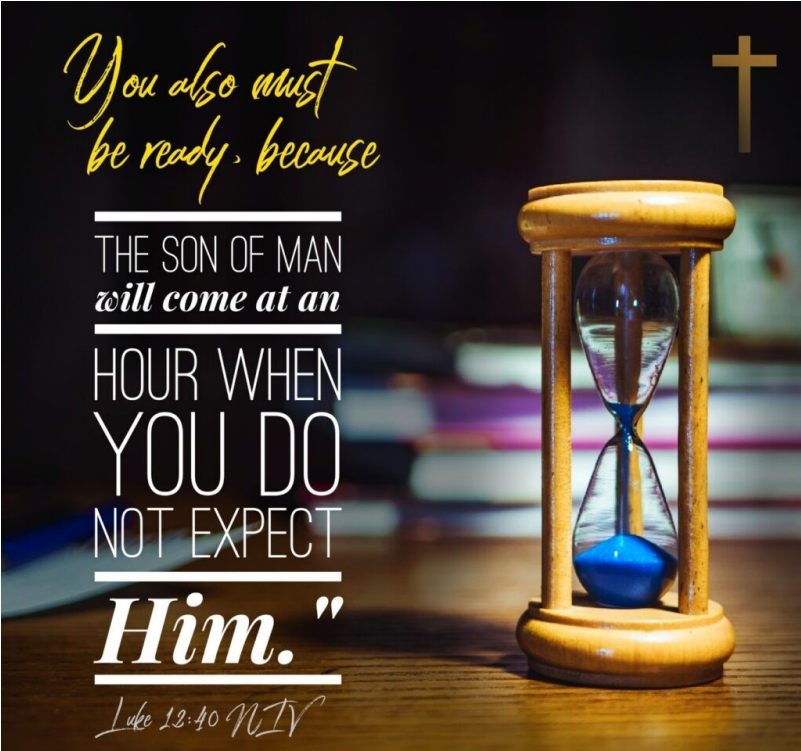
There are **restrooms** located in the basement of this building and on the ground floor of the hallway leading to our fellowship hall and on each floor of the educational building.

<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.	Scott Parkham
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Myra Gapske
	9:00 a.m.	Scott Parkham
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Joan Smolinski
	9:00 a.m.	Joanne Huggler, Rita Chase
<u>HEAD USHER</u>		Roy Wekwert
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Dawn Grzeskowiak, Michael Yakes
	9:00 am.	Jesse and Jessica O’Neil
		Ryan Panknin, Kathy Burton
<u>CHILDREN’S CHURCH LEADERS</u>		Joanne Huggler, Rita Chase
		Ashley MacKay, Jean Johnson
<u>LITTLES’ WORSHIP CENTER LEADERS</u>		Danielle McDonald & Youth Group
		Cathy Kieliszewski
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Patti Byce 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:
Personnel Committee



August 9, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.
August 10, 2025 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
August 9, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.
August 10, 2025 - 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

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. 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 “Shout to the Lord” (Red) #821

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.

Join the Dynamic Duo Couple Ministry at the Shipmans (1921 Long Rapids Road) for a Wine Tasting on Friday, August 22nd, from 6:00—8:00 p.m. Bring your favorite bottle of wine (or 2) and an appetizer or dessert to share. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Wekwert or Amy Wickstrom.

Seek and Find Adventure: Come out to the County Fair this year from August 9th-17th. Pastor John is going to see if you can find him there. If you find him, you will win an elephant ear. Pastor John will put the information on Facebook when he arrives, and he departs. Hope to see you seek and find him there.

Reminder: The first Christmas Bazaar kick-off meeting will be on Monday, August 11th, at 5:30 p.m. in the lounge. Everyone is welcome.

The Soul Sisters are kayaking on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month this summer. We meet at Sytek Park at 5:30 p.m. So, in August we will meet next on August 12th and 26th. All women are invited to join us. If you have any questions, please call Sue Robb at 989-590-7611.

Pastor John and Nena are inviting you to come to their house (1921 Long Rapids Road) for a fireside chat on Sunday, August 31st from 5:00-7:00 p.m. We will sit by the firepit near the river (or in the house or gazebo) and talk about life, hope, grace and the love of God (no agenda). This is a gift from Nena and I, so nothing is required to be part of this experience. Come for 15 minutes or for 2 hours.

Worship on the Beach. We will celebrate 2 more times this summer at our beach property. The last Saturday of each month (August 30 and September 27) at 7:00 p.m. You are invited to bring a friend, a beverage of choice, a lawn chair, snacks and a joyful spirit. Saturday night services will continue at 5:30 p.m. We will carpool from the church and travel to the beach property at 6:30 p.m. The service and time of fellowship will last from 7:00-9:00 p.m. If there is rain, we will reschedule.

Join us for a Bowling Event “Strikes Spark Compassion” on Friday, September 12, 2025, at the Thunder Bowl Lanes. Please come out to bowl (\$60) 4-person team, be a lane sponsor (\$75) or an event sponsor (\$100). With the bowling you get a pizza and a pitcher of pop. Chinese Raffle and 50-50 during the event. This is a fund raiser for St. Paul Church for weather-proofing the church with the bid being \$60,000.00. This needs to be done to keep the moisture out of the brick and mortar, which is leaking into the church. Questions? Please contact the church office or Val Urban, 989-916-5560.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: <i>AUGUST 10—17, 2025</i>	
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service and Children’s Ch. - 10:30
<u>MON.</u>	Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; E.T.A. Group – 5:30 p.m.; Bazaar Planning Meeting – 5:30 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Stewardship – 3:30 p.m.; Education – 5:30 p.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Soul Sisters Kayaking – 5:30 p.m.; Scouting America – 6:30 p.m.; Narcotics Anonymous – 8:30 p.m.
<u>WED.</u>	Breakfast Belles – 7:30 a.m.
<u>THURS.</u>	3M Men’s Breakfast – 7:00 a.m.; Open Line Dance – 1:00 p.m.; Stephen Ministry – 3:30 p.m.; Outreach – 3:30 p.m.; Yoga 101 – 5:00 p.m.
<u>FRI.</u>	Newsletter Deadline; Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.
<u>SAT.</u>	Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship/HC – 5:30 p.m.
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service and Children’s Ch. - 10:30

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

<u>WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:</u>	Don Barnard-surgery & recovery	Alan Marwede – health issues
Joan Smolinski – knee surgery	Lisa Creguer – cancer treatments	Sarah Henry – heart surgery
Dave Szejbach – medical concern	Jeanne Phillips – health issues	Gary Lumsden - surgery
Karen Wallace – unspecified need	Debra Gapske – health issues	Vicki Carlson – health issues
Amy Sharp – medical concerns	Eugene Brooks– health concerns	Alex Gonzales-medical concerns
Mark Christou – health issues	David McNeil – health issues	Randy Krebs—health issues
Adam Schmidt- health issues	Gary—medical concerns	Art Hoffmeyer - heart issues
Laura Kieliszewski – health issues	Jan Plamondon – grief	Chad Hamill – health issues
Lisa Cook – surgery	Ann Martin – medical issues	Phyllis Robb-unspecified need
Margaret Lucian – health issues	Shelly Hoffmeyer– shoulder	John Wegmeyer– health issues
Dena Stevens – health issues	Annette Wade – medical issues	Laura Cussen – stroke
Cruz – health issues	Carol – medical concerns	Lee Werth—health issues

(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. Thank you.)

We remember our prayer partners in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod: Trinity Lutheran Church, Hillsdale, Pastor Kara Shaw

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

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE		END OF JUNE	YEAR TO DATE
Saturday (08/02) 5:30 p.m.	55	Income 36,225.99	177,439.06
Sunday (08/03) 9:00 a.m.	62	<u>Expenses 44,453.02</u>	<u>195,632.16</u>
10:30 a.m.	<u>51</u>	Difference (8,227.03)	(18,193.10)
Total	168		

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

CONDOLENCES TO: the family and friends of Frieda Pinkert, who joined our Lord in eternity July 29, 2025. Her funeral service was held on August 5th at Bannan Funeral Home.

CONDOLENCES TO: the family and friends of Mabel Townsend, who joined our Lord in eternity August 6, 2025.

The August Service Activity is Besser Elementary School. Items needed: Expo markers, pencils, crayons, colored pencils, markers, notebooks, glue, water bottles, Kleenex, Clorox wipes, headphones, Post-it notes, colored popsicle sticks, manilla folders, Ziploc bags (snack or sandwich size), red pens, pencil cap erasers, brown or white lunch paper bags, stickers, Dum Dums suckers, snacks, Playdough, paper towels, sponges, ice packs, band aids, coffee filters (to hold snacks), Dollar Tree gift cards (used to purchase incentives for the classroom), socks, underwear (all sizes) hair ties, sweat pants (smaller sizes) and plastic folders with three prongs in the center. Please leave your donations on the altar. Thank you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-6

¹After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.’ ²But Abram said, ‘O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?’ ³And Abram said, ‘You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.’ ⁴But the word of the Lord came to him, ‘This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.’ ⁵He brought him outside and said, ‘Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.’ Then he said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ ⁶And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

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

PSALM: Psalm 33:12-22 (Read Responsively)

Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.

The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all humankind.

From where he sits enthroned he watches all the inhabitants of the earth—

he who fashions the hearts of them all, and observes all their deeds.

A king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

The war horse is a vain hope for victory, and by its great might it cannot save.

Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love,

to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and shield.

Our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.

Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents,

as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, ‘as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.’
¹³ All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

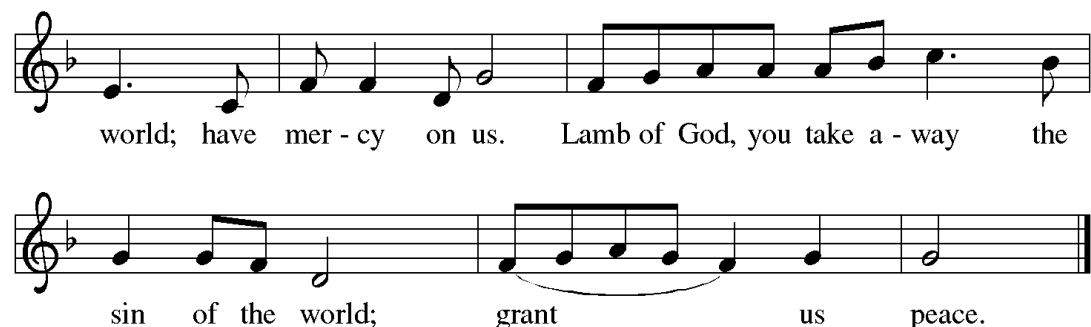
BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN “Lead Me, Guide Me” (Red) #768

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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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”



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

GOSPEL READING: Luke 12:32-40

³² ‘Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵ ‘Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶ be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹ ‘But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.’

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

“Dressed For Action”

Rev. John Shipman

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“O Master, Let Me Walk with You”

(Red) #818

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 PRAYER

(Please stand)
 (Sung at the 9:00 a.m. service.)
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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

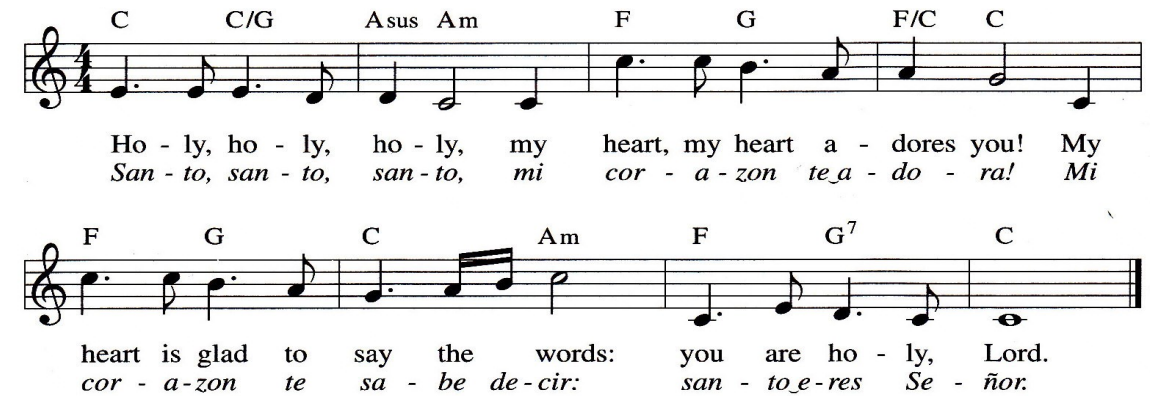
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING

LORD'S PRAYER

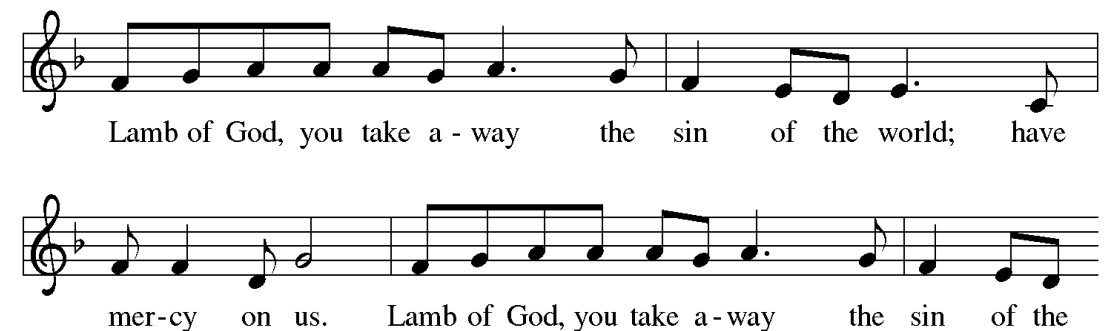
Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

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