

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.

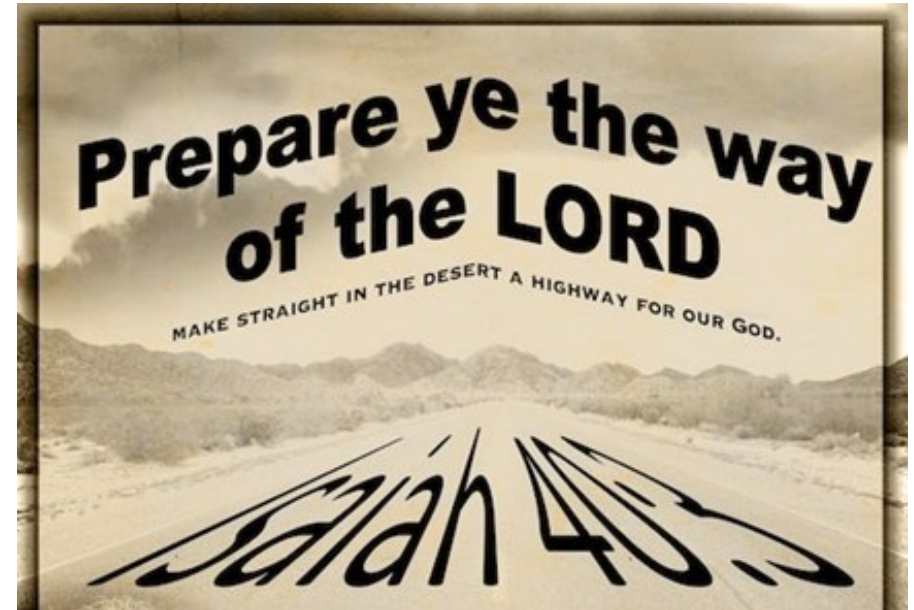
St. Paul welcomes all to the Communion Table. Christ is the Host and the Meal. Come, taste, and see that the Lord is good. Grape juice is available for those who prefer it rather than wine. Children and those choosing not to receive Holy Communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

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. 9:00 a.m. Shirley Jones
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m. 9:00 a.m. Elaine Kingsbury Kathy Burton
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m. 9:00 a.m. Sue Robb, Jodie Lahti Janice Boboltz
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m. 9:00 a.m. Patti Byce Ryan Panknin, Amy Sharp Dennis and Lori Dziesinski
<u>ACOLYTE</u>	9:00 a.m. Evan McDonald
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>	Laurie Stafford and Patti Byce

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



December 4, 2021 - 5:30 p.m.
December 5, 2021 - 9:00 a.m.

Advent Educational Opportunities started December 1 and will run through the 23. Pastor John's Class meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM and Miss Nena's class meet on Thursdays at 6:30 PM. Both last 1 hour. Pastor John is holding a Book Study on "Letters from Prison" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Miss Nena is leading a Bible Study "She Smiles Without Fear." Please call the office so we know how to plan/books to order. Thank you.

The Adventure Club is a new educational vision that meets twice a month, on the first and third Sundays from 5:30 –6:30 p.m. The will meet next on Sunday, December 5th at 5:30 p.m. The theme will be "Preparation Celebration." Join us for fun, adventure, and food within this intergenerational educational experience for ages 1 – 105!

We are decorating the Sanctuary and Multi-purpose rooms on Wednesday, December 8th at 2:00 p.m. Please join us! We sure hope some men will come help too!

The December Service Activity is Hope Shores Alliance. Items needed: Gift cards for gas or food, any amount appreciated. Please place your items on the altar.

The Forget-Me-Nots will not have a meeting on the first Tuesday of December, but will gather instead on Sunday, December 12 at 2:00 pm for the Civic Theatre performance of "Church Ladies Away in the Basement." I reserved 27 tickets and we were given a group rate of \$14 per ticket. I have the tickets and you can get your ticket and pay me next time you see me or just before the performance. If you have not ordered a ticket and would like to attend, call the box office between 3:00 and 6:00, Mon. – Thurs. at 989-354-3624. If you have any questions please call Ann Hardesty at 989-471-5304.

The **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services** will be at 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Friday, December 24th. Holy Communion will be served at all services.

Please join us for our Christmas Day Worship on December 25th at 10:00 a.m.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: DECEMBER 5–12, 2021	
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Jr/Sr. High Sunday school–10:30; Contemporary Service & Children's Church– 10:30 a.m.; Adventure Club – 5:30 p.m.
<u>MON.</u>	Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 6:00 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Education Committee – 5:30 p.m.; Prayer Shawl – 6:00 p.m.; Boy Scouts – 6:30 p.m.
<u>WED.</u>	Advent Service and lunch – 12:00 p.m.; Book Study – 1:00 p.m. (<i>Pastor John</i>); Stephen Ministry – 5:30 p.m.
<u>THURS.</u>	Men's Fellowship– 7:00 a.m.; Yoga – 2:30 & 5:30 p.m.; Outreach – 5:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 6:00 p.m.; Bible Study (<i>Miss Nena</i>) – 6:30 p.m.
<u>FRI.</u>	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; Fellowship–10:00; Jr/Sr. High Sunday School – 10:30; Worship & Children's Church – 10:30 a.m.; Forget Me Nots – Civic Theatre – 2:00 p.m.

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

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS: Stacey Mikesch, Tim, Dawn, and Mitchel Havercroft, Kenneth and June Sylvester, Gary Rich, Karen Morton, Kelci Ghiata, Skyler Kilcrease, Jim Miller, Erin Sharp, Randy Donakowski, John Tinker, Gladys Kelsey, Nathan LeTourneau, Maryanna Miller, Bodo Hanson, Pete Creguer, Roy Sommerfeld, Howard & Gloria Lumsden, Dorothy Carr, Melissa Smith, Sutton Badder, Marian Dove, Dolores Sumerix, Amy Waite, Charlie Busuttil, Eleanor Schellie, Megan Schleben, Audrey Reck, Tim Grossman, Deb Lange, Bernice Menck, Annette Jones, and Karen Wallace. **ARMED SERVICES:** Michael Emington, Dominick Christou, Sawyer Hein, Rachael Mayes, Brandon Sloan, Lauren Hoeksema, Alexander Gould, Andrew Hein, Mandy Killingbeck, Jacqueline Crimmins, Ashley (Dingman) Grant, Charles Tudor, Abigail Miller, Justin A. Smith, and Maragely Hein.

We remember our prayer partners in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod: Bethany Lutheran Church, Kaleva, Rev. Zachary Nelson.

This week we join in prayer with the other LARCC parishes (Grace Lutheran, Trinity Episcopal, First Congregational UCC, All Saints Parish) for the Youth and Family Ministry at Grace Lutheran Church.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE		END OF OCT.	YEAR TO DATE
Saturday (11/27) 5:30 p.m.	57	Income 26,514.41	252,615.69
Sunday (11/28) 9:00 a.m.	35	Expenses <u>26,707.26</u>	<u>249,864.70</u>
10:30 a.m.	<u>13</u>	Difference (192.85)	2,750.99
Total	105		

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL are given in memory of Bob Seguin, we love and miss you, from Barb, Kathy, and families.

ADDITIONAL FLOWERS are given in honor of Amanda and Matt Urban on their wedding, December 4th, from Skeeter and Val Urban.

ADDITIONAL FLOWERS are given in celebration of the life of Theresa Stoppa.

Advent is a time of preparation for the arrival of Jesus at Christmas. This year we will have Advent Services on Wednesdays at 12:00 – 12:45 p.m. The remaining services are on December 8, 15 & 22. We begin with a meal at 12:00 and after dining we have a short service at 12:25. Come and share this special time of preparation for the Christ Child.

If you would like to donate funds to go toward enhancing decorations for the sanctuary at Christmas as a memorial to loved ones or in honor of someone, forms are available for you to fill out in the Narthex and in the church office. The names of the memorials will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletins. *The deadline to take names and donations is December 15th.*

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 Second Sunday of Advent
December 4, 2021 - 5:30 p.m.
December 5, 2021 - 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 holy Trinity, + one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait,

in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace.

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

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

(Red) #264

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

SERMON NOTES



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.

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. Al - le - lu - ia.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. **Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (Red) #254

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.



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Stir up your hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

Light two candles.

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

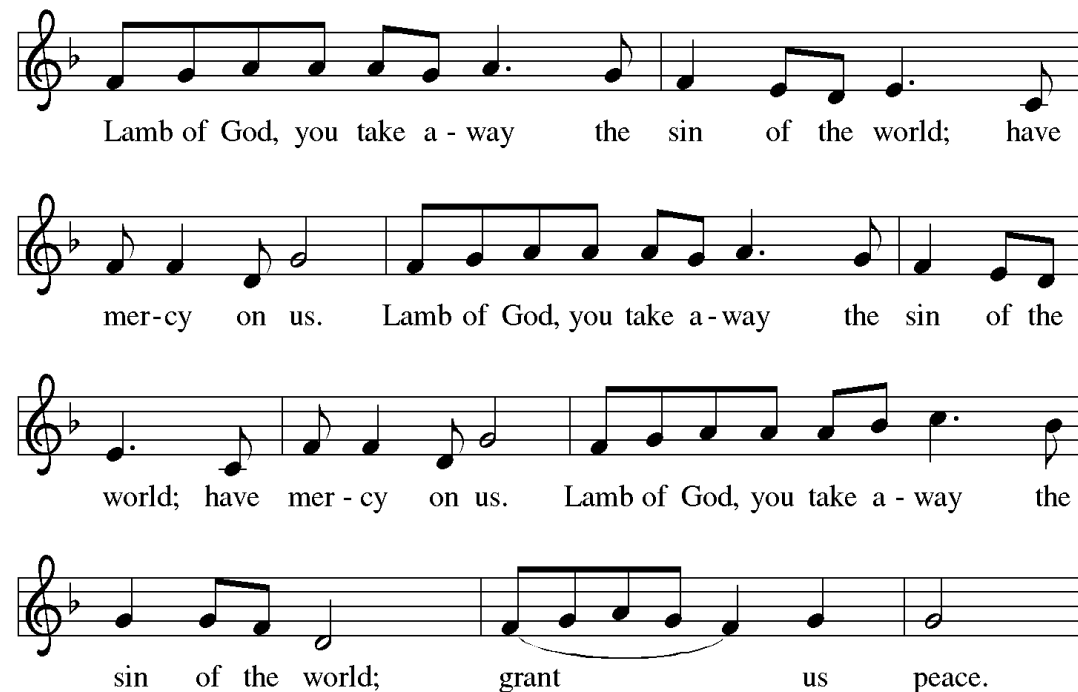
People: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine 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”



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 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.

EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING

LORD'S PRAYER

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

PSALM: Luke 1:68-79 (Read Responsively)

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant,

the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us

that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear,

in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,

to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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 -

Hal - le - lu - jah.

lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

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

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

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

(Please be seated)

SERMON

"Crying Out"

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

(Red) #249

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

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. **Amen.**

(Please stand)

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING