

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

<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.	Shirley Jones
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Carol Kindt
	9:00 a.m.	Kathy Burton
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Patti Byce, Myra Gapske
	9:00 a.m.	Laurie Stafford
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Dennis & Sherry McDonald
	9:00 am.	Cathy Kieliszewski
		Jeff Ciupka, Paul Kieliszewski
<u>ACOLYTE</u>	5:30 p.m.	Emily Smith
	9:00 a.m.	Odessa Morrison
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Carol Kindt and Marty Cantleberry

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:
Christian Education



February 17, 2024 - 5:30 p.m.

February 18, 2024 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

The First Sunday of Lent

February 17, 2024 - 5:30 p.m.

February 18, 2024 - 9:00 a.m.

Congregational responses are printed in bold.

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 writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus. **Amen.**

Held in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. 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 “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me” (Red) #325

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.

The Adventure Club will host Karaoke on February 18th from 1:00 - 3:00 PM. We will be singing Karaoke and dancing. Come, be part of this wonderful expression of fun within this intergenerational educational experience. The Adventure Club welcomes everyone from 1-105 years old.

Pastor John and Miss Nena have planned Lent Educational Opportunities that will run February 14th – March 20th. Pastor John’s classes meet on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. and Miss Nena’s class meets on Thursdays at 5:30 PM. Pastor John is holding a Book Study on “Let Go, Let God” by John E. Keller and Miss Nena leads a Book Study on “Chasing Vines: Finding Your Way to an Immensely Fruitful Life” DVD by Beth Moore. Please join us.

Wednesday Lent Services continue. There are two opportunities for you to worship on February 21st.
* 12:25 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, with a Lenten Soup preceding the service at 12:00 p.m.
* 7:00 p.m at the Ecumenical Service at St. Paul Lutheran Church. There will be a soup supper beginning at 6:00 preceding the worship service.

The Soul Sisters will be going out to dinner on Tuesday, February 27th. Please join us at Mangos at 5:30 p.m. Please call Shirley Jones (989-464-6472) by February 23rd if you are able to join us.

Reminder: Next weekend we will collect the noisy offering, which will support children in foster care to attend summer camp. Do not forget to bring your change!

Save the Date: **We will again be having our delicious Potato Bake on Saturday, March 16th,** after the Saturday service. Come and enjoy baked potatoes with numerous choices or toppings, and ice cream with toppings. Write this date on your calendar and plan now to attend. Tickets are available at the church office or scan the QR code and sign up online.



The next meeting of the Forget-Me-Nots will be on Tuesday, March 5, at the 19th Hole Restaurant. Please call Ann at 989-590-2055 to make a reservation by Friday, March 1st. Interest was shown in the Alpena Civic Theatre production of “And Then There Were None.” Contact Joanne by Sunday, March 3rd, if you are interested in seeing this play. She will collect the money and purchase tickets for the 2:00pm Sunday, March 10th matinee performance.

Annie Olsen has transitioned from Medilodge to Touch of Country, which is located at 486 S. Oliver Street. She may have visitors. Please keep her in your prayers during this time of transition.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: FEBRUARY 18–25, 2024	
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service & Children’s Church – 10:30 a.m.; Adventure Club Karaoke – 1:00 p.m.
<u>MON.</u>	AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; E.T.A. – 5:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 6:00 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Cub Scouts– 5:30 p.m.; Air Rifle– 5:30 p.m.; Senior Leaders – 5:30 p.m.; Church Council – 6:00 p.m.; Boy Scouts– 6:30
<u>WED.</u>	Breakfast Belles Women’s Breakfast (at JJ’s) – 7:30 a.m.; AARP Taxes- 8:00 a.m.; Lent Soup & Service – 12:00 p.m.; Book Study – PJ – 1:00 p.m.; Choir Practice – 4:30 p.m.; Ecumenical Service at St. Paul Lutheran – 7:00 p.m., preceded by a Soup Supper at 6:00 p.m.
<u>THURS.</u>	3M Men’s Breakfast–7:00 a.m.; Stitched Together – 11:00 a.m.; Chair Yoga–3:00 p.m.; Air Rifle Team–5:30; Recovery Yoga– 5:30 p.m.; Book Study– Pastor John – 5:30 p.m.; Book Study – Nena – 5:30 p.m.
<u>FRI.</u>	AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.; Alpena Line Dance Club–5:00 p.m.
<u>SAT.</u>	AARP Taxes–8:00 a.m.; 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 & Children’s Church – 10:30 a.m.

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

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:	Bill Hoppe – health issues	Evelyn Green - surgery
Tammy Stoutenburg-unspecified need	Annette Wade – medical issues	Art Hoffmeyer- heart issues
Danielle Lawrence – health issues	Bodo Hanson–health issues	Tom Woizeschske–health issues
Barb Hoffmeyer – health issues	John Wegmeyer – health issues	Eugene Brooks–health issues
Marty & Liz Smith – home sells	Bill Kimball – health issues	Gary Billeneuve – health issues
Rosalie Turske – health issues	Marian Dove– unspecified need	Phyllis Robb-unspecified need
Karen Wallace – unspecified need	Dolores Libka–unspecified need	Ann Haske – health issues
Cameron – health issues	Karen Wekwert – healing	Brandon Urban – health issues
Adam Schmidt – health issues	Hazel Bonnard – health issues	Doreen Britton – health issues
Ken Hemming – health issues	Anita Laub – medical issues	Todd Mercure – medical issues
Brandon Urban – health issues	Marvis McNeil – health issues	Dena Stevens—health issues
Haley & Russ First – unspecified need	Harriet Burke – unspecified need	

(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: Trinity Lutheran Church, Manton, Rev. Bill Huether.

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

CONDOLENCES TO: the family and friends of Barbara Carlson, who joined our Lord in eternity February 11th.

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

<u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u>			<u>END OF DECEMBER</u>		<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Saturday (02/10)	5:30 p.m.	55	Income	69,165.77	367,522.95
Sunday (02/11)	9:00 a.m.	65	Expenses	<u>31,919.18</u>	<u>349,656.86</u>
	10:30 a.m.	<u>50</u>	Difference	37,246.59	17,866.09
Total		170			

The February Service Activity is Hinks Elementary School. Items needed: Girl socks (sizes 10-3), ladies sock (sizes 5-10), Playdoh, red pens, dry erase markers, scotch tape rolls, 3 ring binders (smaller size—1/2” or 3/4”), and Velcro. Thank you for your generosity. Please leave items on the altar.

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) is helping seniors with their taxes. St. Paul Lutheran Church will sponsor their efforts again this year by allowing this agency to use part of our building. You may schedule an appointment by calling 989-278-8104.

Don’t miss this unique opportunity! The Stephen Ministry Program is looking for caring men and women to train and become Stephen Ministers. Training will begin soon. More information will be available after every worship service February 17-18. Please join the Stephen Leaders in the lounge after one of the services to receive more information about the program. We need you!

We are hopping towards spring and the Easter Egg Hunt open to the community. Donations of candy and family friendly baskets for the raffle can be dropped at the office. Thank you for your help.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, 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: Genesis 9:8-17

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹ ‘As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.’ ¹² God said, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³ I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.’ ¹⁷ God said to Noah, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.’

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

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10 (Read Responsively)

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness’ sake, O Lord!

Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. **All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:18 - 22 (Sunday 9:00 a.m. service)

¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

(Please Stand)

Gospel Acclamation

“Return to the Lord”

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. Mark. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

GOSPEL READING: Mark 1:9-15

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

(Red) #503

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread.

Thanks be to God.

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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 voices 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.

¹² And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³ He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵ and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’

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

Children’s Message “I Love to Tell the Story”

I love to tell the story
’Twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old old story
Of Jesus and His love

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(Please be seated)
SERMON

“Blessings and Temptations”

(Please stand)
HYMN OF THE DAY

“Thy Holy Wings”

(Red) #613

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 PRAYER

Let us pray. Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name.

Amen.

(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