

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.	Esther Kindt
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Gail Atkins
	9:00 a.m.	Cathy Kieliszewski
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Anita Laub
	9:00 a.m.	Justin and Ashley MacKay
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Patti Byce
	9:00 am.	Nancy St. Onge, Barb Szczesniak
		Owen Werth, Jeff Ciupka
<u>ACOLYTE</u>	5:30 p.m.	Alayna Krey
	9:00 a.m.	Emily Smith
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Marty Cantleberry and Laurie Stafford

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



February 25, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.
February 26, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

The First Sunday in Lent

February 25, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.

February 26, 2023 - 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 journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way 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 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (Red) #504

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 Wednesday Lent Services continue weekly and the next one is on March 1st. There will be two opportunities for you to worship that day:

* 12:30 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, with a Lenten Soup preceding the service at 12:00

* 6:00 p.m. for the Ecumenical Service at First United Methodist Church. There will be a soup supper at 5:00 p.m. preceding the worship service.

Please grab the beige Trifold in the Narthex, which has the entire schedule for Lent and Easter.

The Forget-Me-Nots will next meet on Tuesday, March 7 at 1:00 in the multi-purpose room.

We will gather to visit and play a favorite game. You may bring a snack to share. I will have pop, coffee and water available. Please bring a friend. We hope to see you there! *Ann Hardesty* (989-590-2055)

We will have a Baked Potato Bar on Saturday, March 18th, after the 5:30 p.m. service.

Come and enjoy baked potatoes with numerous choices of toppings and ice cream and toppings. Also, there will be a Chinese raffle. If you would like to donate an item for the raffle, please call Dennis Dzieszinski (989-464-7112) or Tim Moggie (989-884-2332). The 3M Men in Motion for Ministry group is putting on this event. We hope to see you there!

Come join us for weekend Fellowship. On Saturday Night we meet before the service at 4:30 for coffee and baked goods until 5:20. Fellowship for the 9:00 service and the 10:30 service will occur in-between the service time. Everyone is invited to join us.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: FEBRUARY 26—MARCH 5, 2023	
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service & Children's Church and C.I.A. (Youth) – 10:30 a.m.;
<u>MON.</u>	AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Tech Talks – 11:00 a.m.; Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 6:00 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Air Rifle – 5:30 p.m.; Boy Scouts – 6:30 p.m.
<u>WED.</u>	Women's Breakfast (at JJ's) – 7:30 a.m.; AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Yoga 101 – 11:00 a.m.; Wednesday Lent Lunch and Worship – 12:00 p.m.; Pastor John's Book Study – 1:00 p.m.; Choir – 4:00 p.m.; Ecumenical Service (at First United Methodist Church) – 6:00 p.m. <i>(preceded by a soup supper at 5:00)</i>
<u>THURS.</u>	Men's Breakfast (at JJ's) – 7:00 a.m.; Chair Yoga – 3:00 p.m.; Air Rifle Team – 5:30 p.m.; Recovery Yoga – 5:30 p.m.; Pastor John's Book Study – 5:30 p.m.; Nena's Bible Study – 5:30 p.m.; Singles – 6:30 p.m.
<u>FRI.</u>	AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.; Narcotics Anonymous – 6:00 p.m.
<u>SAT.</u>	AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship/HC – 5:30 p.m. <i>(Girl Scout Weekend)</i>
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m. <i>(Girl Scout Weekend)</i> ; 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: Marty Peterson, Charles Atkinson, Judy Hand, Nancy Bredeweg, Peter Goodreau, Ron Compeau, Lori Ludwig, Mary Kuhl, Adam Schmidt, Myra Gapske, Brandon Urban, Judy Burley, Keeley Knapp, Don Urban Sr., Billiejo Foster, Philip Donakowski, Jerry Swanson, Annette Wade, Mya Hall, Larkin Kerby, John Wegmeyer, Gus Schultz, Elaine Kingsbury, Sally Barney, Joel Foster, Nancy Chrzan, Phyllis Robb, Eugene Brooks, Bodo Hanson, Sutton Badder, Marian Dove, Dolores Sumerix, Audrey Reck, Deb Lange, Bernice Menck, and Karen Wallace. We also remember our homebound members. They are: Geraldine Wyman, Harriet Burke, Virginia Kraft, Deb Lange, Phyllis Robb, Delores Stevens, and Norm Dutcher. *(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: St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Au Gres, Rev. Max Miller

We pray for the Dynamic Ministries here at St. Paul Lutheran Church. This week we specifically pray for the Soul Sisters Women’s Group.

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

<u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u>			<u>END OF JANUARY</u>		<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Saturday (02/11)	5:30 p.m.	105	Income	21,945.97	21,947.95
Sunday (02/12)	9:00 a.m.	55	Expenses	<u>31,490.88</u>	<u>31,490.88</u>
	10:30 a.m.	<u>23</u>	Difference	(9,544.91)	(9,544.91)
Total		183			

Pastor John and Miss Nena have planned **Lenten Educational Opportunities, that will run February 22nd – April 5th!** Pastor John’s Class meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. and Miss Nena’s class also meets on Thursdays at 5:30 PM. Pastor John will do a Book Study “On Death and Dying” by Kubler Ross, and Miss Nena will do a Bible Study - “Fierce” by Jennifer Cowart (DVD). Please call the office if you plan to attend so we know how to plan/books to order. Thank you.

Our February Service Activity is Hinks Elementary School. The items needed are: Underwear – boys size small (6) and girls size 8 and 10; Socks – boys med/large, girls med/large; Pants – boys size 10; Gloves – medium/large. Please leave your donation items on the altar. Thank you for your generosity.

Life Line Screening, the nation’s leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer another screening at our church on Friday, March 24th. The four screenings they offer are non-invasive and painless, and take about 60-90 minutes. You can register for an appointment now by calling 1-800-640-6307 or visit LLSA.SOCIAL/HC. There is one reduced screening ticket available on a first call basis to the church office.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, 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: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

¹Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near— ²a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains, a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

¹²Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³ rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ¹⁴ Who knows whether he will not turn and relent and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God? ¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶ gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her canopy. ¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar, let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, “Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’ ”

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

PSALM: Psalm 51:1-17 (Read Responsively)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. **Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.** Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 20b-6:10

^{20b} **We entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

^{6:1} **As we work together with him, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ² For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation! ³ We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴ but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: in great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵ beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶ in purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷ truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸ in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors and yet are true, ⁹ as unknown and yet are well known, as dying and look—we are alive, as punished and yet not killed, ¹⁰ as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing everything.**

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

Gospel Acclamation

“Return 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: Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. **Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”

(Red) #618

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love. **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”

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

“Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise”

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

¹“Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶“And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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

(Please be seated)

SERMON

“Where Is your Heart”

Pastor John

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

(Red) #325

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

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

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 good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. **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.

EUCHARISTIC BLESSING

LORD'S PRAYER

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