

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.

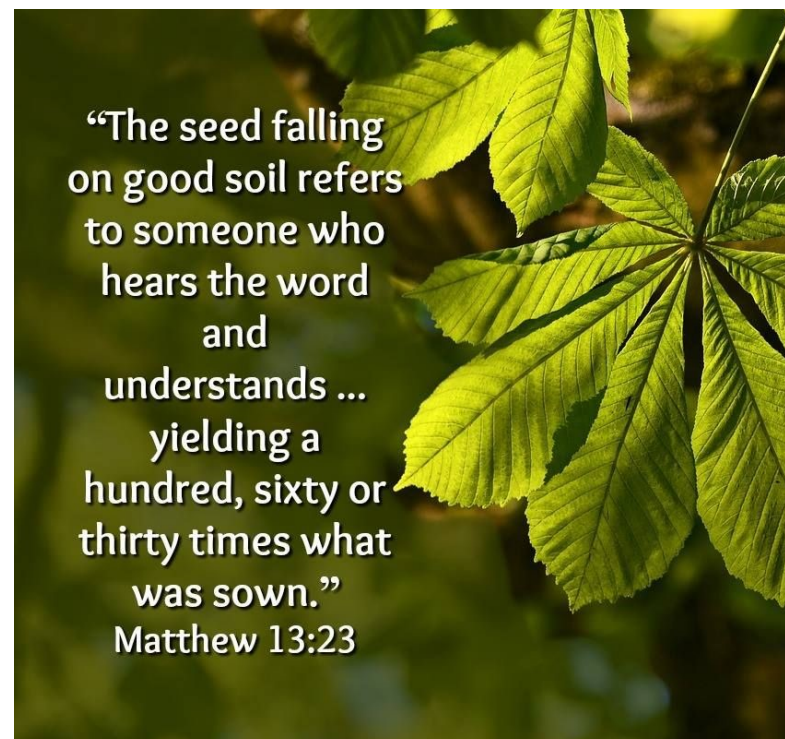
There are **restrooms** located in the basement of this building and on the ground floor of the hallway leading to our fellowship hall and on each floor of the educational building.

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.	Phil Wickstrom
	9:00 a.m.	Barb Szczesniak
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Myra Gapske
	9:00 a.m.	Danielle McDonald
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Patti Byce, Myra Gapske
	9:00 a.m.	Laurie Stafford
<u>USHERS &amp; GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Bruce Anschuetz
	9:00 a.m.	Tim Moggie, Cathy Kieliszewski
		Nancy Smithem, Richard Miller
<u>ACOLYTE</u>	5:30 p.m.	Odessa Morrison
	9:00 a.m.	Harley Steinke
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Marty Cantleberry 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. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Alpena, MI 49707  
Phone 989-356-1658  
[www.stpaul.org](http://www.stpaul.org)  
*A Stephen Ministry Congregation*



**July 15, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**July 16, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.**

**GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**  
**The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**  
**July 15, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**July 16, 2023 - 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**

Blessed be the holy Trinity,+ one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Righteous God,  
**we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. We have squandered your blessings. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

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**                      “You Are Holy”                      (Red) #525

**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.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray. Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**Worship on the Beach.** We will celebrate the final Saturday of each month (July 29, August 26 and September 30) 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. We will carpool from the church and travel to the beach property at 6:30. The service and time of fellowship will last from 7:00-9:00. If there is rain, we will reschedule.

**Our July Service Activity is the Little Food Pantry at Grace Lutheran Church/Alpena AND New Life Lutheran Church/Spruce.** Items needed: macaroni & cheese, individual breakfast cereal, nonperishable milk, pancake mix, syrup, paper towels, toilet paper, baby foods, bread, quick easy meals for one, meat in pouches, canned meat, microwavable meals, canned fruits & vegetables, snacks for kids, peanut butter & jelly, and feminine hygiene products. Please leave items on the altar. Thank you.

**Pastor John and Nena are inviting you to come to their house for a Fireside Chat** on July 30<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 -7:00. We will sit by the firepit by 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.

**Save the following dates for an evening Adventure Club Vacation Bible School - “Splash into God’s Word!”** On Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday, August 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, St. Paul will be holding an evening VBS from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. It will be held at the Starlite Pavilion (next to the Splash Pad), on Lake Huron- along State Street. Mark your calendars now and think of kids you can invite. **We are looking for a few great servant leaders to help.** Please contact the office to volunteer.

**Also, you are invited to join us for VBS preparation days.** They are: Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:20 – 11:30 and 5:30 – 7:30 and Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. We will be preparing craft packets and activities supplies.

**Empty grocery bags are needed.** If you have some, please drop them off at the church office.

<b>WEEK AT A GLANCE: JULY 16–23, 2023</b>	
<u>SUN.</u>	Sunday Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service & Children’s Church – 10:30 a.m.; The Adventure Club (at church picnic grounds) - 12:00 p.m.
<u>MON.</u>	Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; E.T.A. – 5:00 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	VBS Preparation – 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., and 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.; Soul Sisters and Forget-Me-Not’s Garden Walk at Donna Kensa’s – 2:00-7:00 p.m.; Air Rifle Team – 5:30 p.m.; Boy Scouts – 6:30
<u>WED.</u>	Women’s Breakfast (at JJ’s) – 7:30 a.m.
<u>THURS.</u>	Men’s Breakfast (at JJ’s) – 7:00; Air Rifle Team–5:30 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>	Sunday 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.

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

**WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:** Josh Paulsen, Julie Troy, Krissy, Carol Grabow, Cathy Moe, Patty Jo (Morton) Wenzel, Logan Spengler, Cathy Beigaey, Marty Bennett, Maxine Miller, William Bushey, Mary Senchuk, Laura Kieliszewski, David Hunt, Bob Laity, Beth Moore, John Wegmeyer, Annette Wade, Tom Christou, Geri Hanson, Mya Hall, Keeley Knapp, Don Urban Sr., Billiejo Foster, Gus Schultz, Elaine Kingsbury, Sally Barney, Joel Foster, Nancy Chrzan, Phyllis Robb, Eugene Brooks, Bodo Hanson, Sutton Badder, Marian Dove, Dolores Sumerix, Audrey Reck, Bernice Menck, and Karen Wallace. *(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: Zion Lutheran Church, Freeland, Rev. Andreas Teich.

**We pray for the Dynamic Ministries here at St. Paul Lutheran Church.** This week we specifically pray for the Gratitude Lunches team.

**CONDOLENCES TO:** the family and friends of Eleanor Irene Sumerix who joined our Lord in eternity July 7, 2023. Her funeral will be held Saturday, July 22nd at the Bannan Funeral Home, at 11:00 a.m.

We know that God’s Love protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. **Today the flowers on the altar are given in the recognition and celebration of Margaret Welk Kimball Kirby** for sharing the love of God for 100 years. On this, the anniversary of the day God called Margaret to life, we rejoice.

<u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u>			<u>END OF APRIL</u>		<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Saturday (07/08)	5:30 p.m.	75	Income	25,356.51	98,273.31
Sunday (07/09)	9:00 a.m.	56	Expenses	<u>23,113.99</u>	<u>116,902.33</u>
	10:30 a.m.	<u>23</u>	Difference	2,242.52	(18,629.02)
Total		154			

**The Soul Sisters and The Forget-Me-Nots are meeting on July 18<sup>th</sup>,** at Donna Kensa’s house, where she will host a Garden Walk from 2:00-7:00 p.m. Her address: 3385 M-32, Alpena, approximately 2 miles from the light at Walmart, left hand side – set back in the woods. Come and enjoy this relaxing evening of beauty, fellowship, and fun. The Forget-Me-Nots will carpool out there. Meet at the church at 3:00 p.m.

**Are you ready for some fresh grilled hotdog and brats?** Meet us at the Picnic Grounds on Sunday July 16 beginning at noon until ????. The Adventure Club will provide meat, grill masters and drinks. If you wish, bring a dish to pass, swimsuit, lawn chair and your enthusiasm as we swim, play volleyball and relax in God’s creation with God’s people.

*(Please be seated)*

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-13**

<sup>10</sup>For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. <sup>12</sup>For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. <sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle, and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

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

**PSALM: Psalm 65:9-13 (Read Responsively)**

You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it.

**You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.**

You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

**The pastures of the wilderness overflow; the hills gird themselves with joy;** the meadows clothe themselves with flocks; the valleys deck themselves with grain; they shout and sing together for joy.

**SECOND READING: Romans 8:1-11 (Sunday 9:00 a.m.)**

<sup>1</sup>Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed, it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

**Thanks be to God.**

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The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

<sup>1</sup>That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell

## POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

“Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise”



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: We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BENEDICTION

#### SENDING HYMN

“Send Forth by God’s Blessing”

(Red) #547

among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.<sup>8</sup> Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.<sup>9</sup> If you have ears, hear!”

<sup>18</sup> “Hear, then, the parable of the sower.<sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path.<sup>20</sup> As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy,<sup>21</sup> yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.<sup>22</sup> As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing.<sup>23</sup> But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

The Gospel of Our Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

*(Please be seated)*

SERMON

“Sown In The Heart”

Rev John Shipman

*(Please stand)*

HYMN OF THE DAY

“As Rain from the Clouds”

(Red) #608

### 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

## OFFERING PRAYER

(Please stand)

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

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

S 144a

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.

Detailed description: This block contains four staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.' The second staff continues the melody with lyrics: 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff has lyrics: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff has lyrics: '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.

Detailed description: This block contains two staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: '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'. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics: '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.**

(Please 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.

Detailed description: This block contains four staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: '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.**