

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.

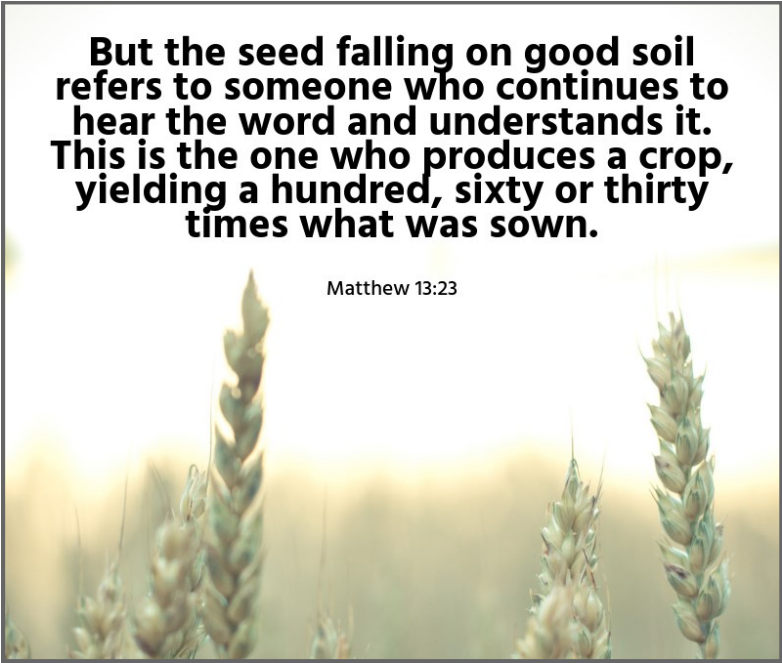
There are **restrooms** located in the basement of this building and on the ground floor of the hallway leading to our fellowship hall and on each floor of the educational building.

<u>PARTICIPANTS</u>		
<u>MINISTERS</u>		The People of God
<u>ORGANIST</u>		Marvis McNeil
<u>CHOIR DIRECTOR</u>		Marty Cantleberry
<u>ASSISTING MINISTER</u>	5:30 p.m.	Carol Kindt
	9:00 a.m.	Phil Wickstrom
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Sue Keyes
	9:00 a.m.	Phil Wickstrom
<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.	Maryanne Kucharek
	9:00 a.m.	Richard Miller, Ryan Panknin
		Barb Szczesniak, Cathy Kieliszewski
<u>CHILDREN’S CHURCH LEADERS</u>		Joanne Huggler, Rita Chase, Bonnie Duby
<u>LITTLES’ WORSHIP CENTER LEADERS</u>		Cathy Kieliszewski, Mary Courtney
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Sandy Samp 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:
Worship Committee Ministry



July 11, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
July 12, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 11, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
July 12, 2026 - 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, whose compassion endures forever.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” In the name of God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God’s love. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty” (Red) #533

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.

Evie Bicker and Jared Bicker are recipients of this year’s St. Paul Scholarships. Evie will be attending A.C.C. to finish her nursing degree and Jared will be attending Seminary. The presentation is taking place at the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, July 12th. We send out hearty congratulations to them both!

Are you ready for some fresh grilled hot dogs and hamburgers? Meet us at the Picnic Grounds on Sunday, July 12, beginning at noon until ????. This is our annual Church Picnic and 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.

“Tidal Wave of Love” Summer Vacation Bible School is scheduled for the evenings of July 28 – 30, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. We will meet at the Starlite Beach Splash Park in Alpena for tons of fun and sharing God’s love with others. Please come join us and think of little ones you would like to invite.

The Call Committee met last week and we are off to a good start. We will be asking the congregation for input soon. We are praying for a smooth process and prayers from the congregation.

Upcoming Meetings: The Worship Committee will meet on Tuesday, July 14th at 3:30 p.m., in the lounge. **The Stewardship Committee** will meet on Tuesday, July 14th, at 5:00 p.m., in the lounge.

We are pleased to announce that Jared Bicker and Jim Kucharek have started their training to become Stephen Ministers. Keep them, and the Stephen Leaders in your prayers during this important time.

If you would like to make further donations to the Cancer Center, for patients undergoing treatment we are needing packaged nuts, crackers with peanut butter or cheese, rice crispy treats, candy bars, Jolly Rancher hard candies, oatmeal packets, pudding snacks. Please drop them off at Miss Linda’s office.

The Scholarship Committee is grateful to those that have brought in their bottle returns, we ask that you keep them coming! The bottle returns can be placed in the janitorial closet next to the elevator on the Mirre Street side, there is a sign on the door to prevent confusion.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: <i>JULY 12 – 19, 2026</i>	
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service/Children’s Church/C.I.A. (Youth) - 10:30 a.m.; The Adventure Club Church Picnic – 12:00 p.m.
<u>MON.</u>	Alpena Peace Community – 1:00 p.m.; Line Dancing - 2:00 p.m.; E.T.A. Group - 5:30 p.m.; Personnel – 6:00 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Worship Committee – 3:30 p.m.; Recovery Yoga – 5:00 p.m.; Stewardship – 5:00 p.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Scouting America – 6:30 p.m.
<u>WED.</u>	Newsletter Deadline; Breakfast Belles – 7:30 a.m.; Stephen Ministry Training – 4:30 p.m.
<u>THURS.</u>	3M Men’s Breakfast - 7:00 a.m.; Open Line Dance–1:00 p.m.
<u>FRI.</u>	Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.
<u>SAT.</u>	Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship Service/HC– 5:30 p.m.
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00; Fellowship –10:00; Contemporary Service/Children’s Church/C.I.A. - 10:30

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

<u>WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:</u>		
Yvonne McQuarrie – health	Lee Szczesniak–medical issues	
Alan Courtney – health issues	David McNeil–health issues	Mary Boomer-Scott – health
Shelly Hoffmeyer – recovery	Tina Yeager – health issues	Malary Smith – unspecified
Dorothy Carr – health issues	Lee Werth—health issues	Ann Martin – medical issues
Travis Schmidt – health issue	John Wegmeyer– health issues	Patricia P. - health issues
Dixie Crevier – health issues	Lisa Dzieszinski-health issue	Dena Stevens – health issues
Kevin Reiser – health issues	Joel Foster – health issues	Billie Jo Foster – health issues
Phyllis Robb-unspecified need	Nancy St. Onge – 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. Thanks.)

We remember our prayer partners in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Sutton’s Bay, Rev. Jonathan Reid.

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

<u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u>				<u>END OF APRIL</u>		<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Saturday	07/04	5:30 a.m.	21	Income	24,273.97	104,903.09
Sunday	07/05	9:00 a.m.	41	Transferred/G & M	10,000.00	
		10:30 a.m.	<u>17</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>27,918.08</u>	<u>130,423.82</u>
		Total	79	Difference	6,355.89	(25,520.73)

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL (foot of the cross) are given in loving memory of my husband, Milton “Bodo” Hanson, from his wife, Geri Hanson.

ADDITIONAL FLOWERS are given in memory of Margaret Kimball Kirby, on her birthday, from Bill Kimball.

Our July Service Activity is the Little Food Pantry at Grace Lutheran Church. Items Needed: macaroni & cheese, individual breakfast cereal, non-perishable 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 and vegetables, snacks for kids, peanut butter & jelly, and feminine hygiene products. Please leave your donation items on the altar and thank you so much for your generosity.

After today, the Little Worship’s Nursery will be pausing for the summer.

The Soul Sisters are kayaking on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month this summer. So, for July they will meet next on July 22nd at Sytek Park. Questions? Please call Sue at 989-354-8673.

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.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰For 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, ¹¹so 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. ¹²For 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. ¹³Instead 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. service)

¹ There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ 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, ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ 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, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ 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. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in

you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ 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.

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

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

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: ‘Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them

DISMISSAL
Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

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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: Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

(Red) #679

up.⁵ 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.⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away.⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.⁹ Let anyone with ears listen!’

¹⁸ ‘Hear then the parable of the sower.¹⁹ 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.²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;²¹ 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.²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing.²³ 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.

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

© Public Domain: Arabella Catherine Hankey | William Gustavus Fischer

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Pastor LaRae Ruetenbar

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“As Rain from the Clouds”

(Red) #508

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.**

(Please stand)
OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**

(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.

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

F G C Am F G⁷ C

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 in the middle circle for those who prefer it. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.

"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.**