

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.

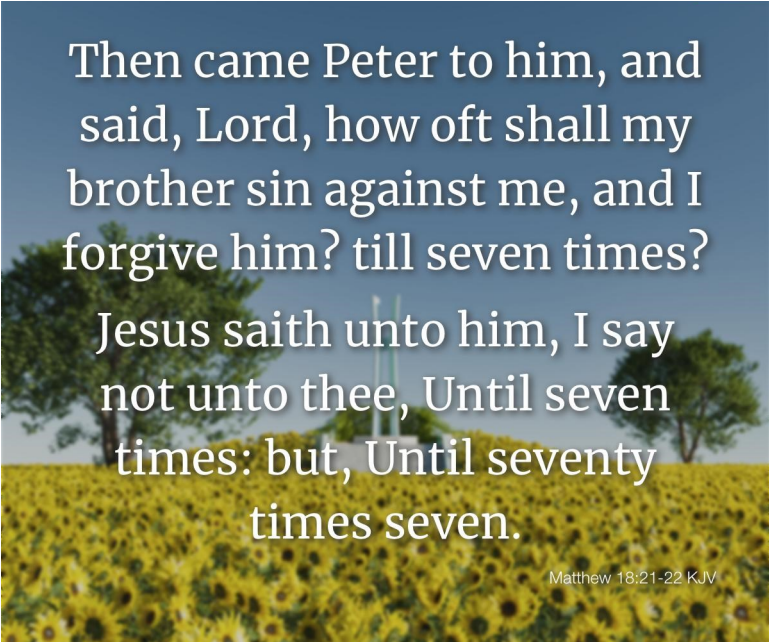
There are **restrooms** located in the basement of this building and on the ground floor of the hallway leading to our fellowship hall and on each floor of the educational building.

<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.	Shirley Jones
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Gail Atkins
	9:00 a.m.	Shirley Jones
<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.	John & Linda Snyder
	9:00 a.m.	Jesse & Jessica O’Neil
		Tim Moggie, Paul Kieliszewski
<u>CHILDREN’S CHURCH LEADERS</u>		Joanne Huggler, Rita Chase, Katelyn Sims
<u>LITTLES’ WORSHIP CENTER LEADERS</u>		Ophelia Steinke, Cathy Kieliszewski
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Ginger Bohlen 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:
Harvest Dinner



September 12, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
September 13, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 12, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
September 13, 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, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.
Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through + Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN “You Are Holy” (Red) #525

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.

Choir rehearsals will be starting up again on Wednesday, September 16, at 4:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. We would love to have some new members added this year. If you love to sing, please consider joining us. The ability to read music is not required. If you are interested but the time or day of the week doesn’t work for you, we can be flexible. Please contact Marty Cantleberry at 989-255-2194

The Bazaar/canning ladies are almost out of rings for canning jars. If you have any to donate, please drop them off at the church. *Thank you!*

The September Service Activity is Lincoln Elementary School. Items needed: Washable markers, colored pencils, #2 pencils, paper, 2 pocket folders, dry erase markers, glue sticks, Kleenex, and disinfecting wipes. Please leave your donations on the altar. Thank you.

The Stewardship Committee is planning our Commitment Weekend for September 19th & 20th. Please prayerfully consider your pledge for our 2027 budget.

St. Paul Harvest Dinner is coming up quick! It will be held on Thursday, September 24th. The doors will open at 4:15 p.m. and there will be two settings, 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., with take-outs available from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Tickets are available at the church office or online.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, October 18th at 9:00 a.m. Plan now to join us. There will only be one service (Sunday 9:00 a.m.) that weekend.

We have some weekends open for Altar Flowers. If you are interested in putting flowers on the altar in memory or honor of someone or of a special occasion, just put your name on the chart in the Narthex under the date you would like them. Then call the church office and let them know what you would like to have printed in the bulletin. The cost is \$20.00. Thanks.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: <i>SEPTEMBER 13–20, 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.
<u>MON.</u>	Alpena Peace Community – 1:00 p.m.; Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 4:00 p.m.; E.T.A. Group – 5:30 p.m.; Christmas Bazaar Meeting – 5:30 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Gratitude Lunches – 9:00 a.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Senior Leaders – 5:30 p.m.; Church Council - 6:00 p.m.; Scouting America – 6:30 p.m.
<u>WED.</u>	Breakfast Belles – 7:30 a.m.; Kitchen Krew – 10:00 a.m.; Stephen Ministry Training – 4:30 p.m.; Choir – Practice - 4:30 p.m.
<u>THURS.</u>	3M Men’s Breakfast - 7:00 a.m.; Open Line Dance – 1:00 p.m.; Chair Yoga – 3:00 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 a.m.

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

<u>WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:</u>			Johnathan O. – health issues	Dena Stevens – health issues
Kathy Prevo – medical issues			Adam Schmidt – health issues	Cindy DeRosia – health
Alan Courtney – health issues			Tina Chrzan - surgery	Mary Boomer-Scott – health
Eleanor Coddington – health issues			Garrett Chrzan – surgery	Jesse O’Neil – health issues
Nancy St. Onge – health issues			Ann Martin – medical issues	Yvonne McQuarrie – health
Mollie Skiba – health issue			John Wegmeyer– health issues	Chad Hamill – health issues
Kevin Reiser – health issues			Lisa Dziesinski-health issue	Phyllis Robb-unspecified need
Joel Foster – health issues			Billie Jo Foster – 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: Covenant Hospital Pastoral Care Department, Saginaw, Deacon Kathy Born.

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

<u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u>				<u>END OF JUNE</u>		<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>	
Saturday	09/05	5:30 a.m.	36	Income	30,413.77	145,880.52	
Sunday	09/06	9:00 a.m.	32	G & M Loan	20,000.00	20,000.00	
		10:30 a.m.	17	Expenses	17,187.95	172,917.68	
		Total	85	Difference	3,225.82	(27,037.16)	

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

On Sunday, September 13th, our congregation will commission Jared Bicker and Jim Kucharek as Stephen Ministers. These dedicated men have been training and are about to begin their caring ministry among us here at St. Paul's. We thank God for all our Stephen Ministers and pray that God will bless their ministries.

If you are interested in becoming a new member, please call the church office at 989-356-1658.

Upcoming Meetings: The Christmas Bazaar group will meet on Monday, September 14th at 5:30 p.m. in the lounge. The Kirchen Krew meeting will be Wednesday, September 16th at 10:00 a.m. in the Dining Room. Mark your calendars and we will see you then.

Sunday, September 13, 2026, congregations of the ELCA will join together for our annual day of service, “God’s work. Our hands.” Participating in service projects is one way to celebrate who we are as the ELCA—one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. “God’s work. Our hands” is an extension of the work you do every day to make your community a better place.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph’s brothers said, ‘What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?’ ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, ‘Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷“Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.” Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.’ Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, ‘We are here as your slaves.’ ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, ‘Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.’ In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

PSALM: Psalm 103:8-13 (Read Responsively)

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. **He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger for ever.** He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. **For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love towards those who fear him;** far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us. **As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.**

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12(Sunday 9:00 a.m. service)

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰ Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.' ¹² So then, each of us will be accountable to 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 - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - 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 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' ²² Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

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: Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN "I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me" (Red) #860

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
Thanks be to God.

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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”

 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.

²³ ‘For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.’ ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.” ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, “Pay what you owe.” ²⁹ Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you.” ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, “You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?” ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.’

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

Children’s Message

“This Little Light of Mine”

This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine let it shine let it shine

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(Please be seated)

SERMON

“How Much is Enough?”

Pastor Rosie Gibson

Commissioning Stephen Ministers

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Our Father, We Have Wandered”

(Red) #606

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.

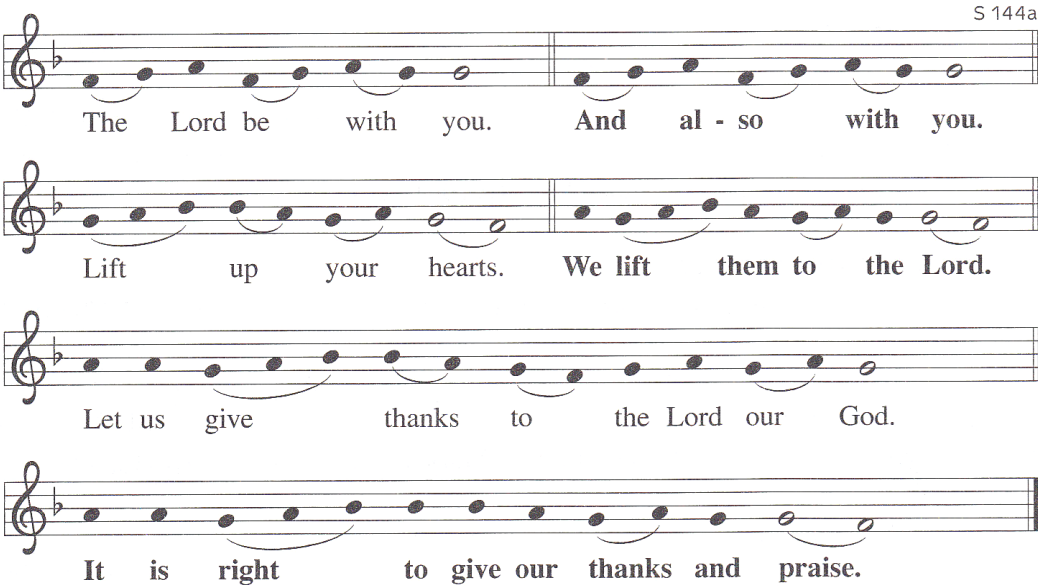
(Please stand)

OFFERING PRAYER

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.

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

S 144a



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

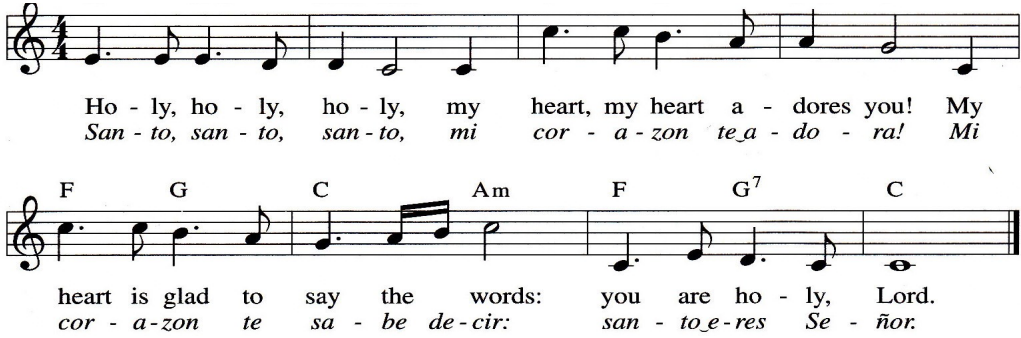
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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"