St. Paul Lutheran Church
Worship Service

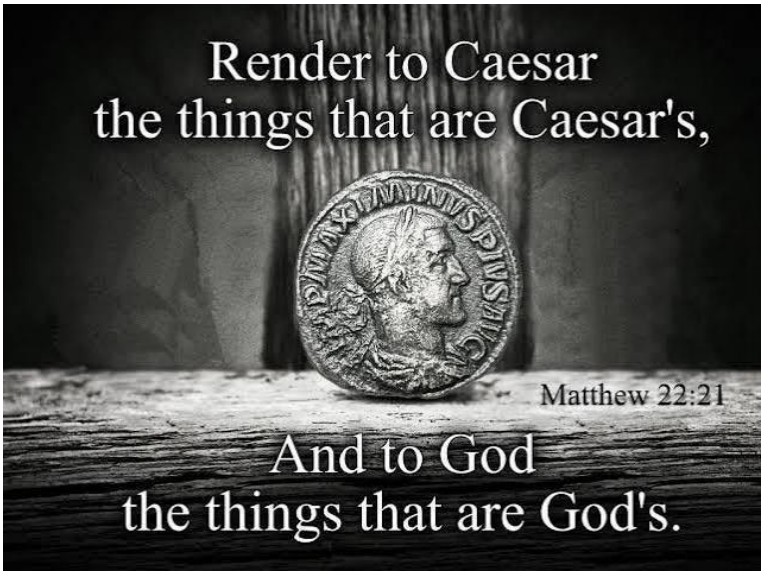
celebrates and shares God's love and compassion

727 S. 2nd, Alpena, MI 49707

Phone 989-356-1658

www.stpaul.org

A Stephen Ministry Congregation



October 18, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 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 "God Is Here!" (Red) #526

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.

Prayer of the Day
Let us pray. Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)
FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1-7
[1]Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed: [2] I will go before you and level the mountains, will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, [3] I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. [4] For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. [5] I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, [6] so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. [7] I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things.

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

PSALM: Psalm 96:1-9 (Read Responsively)
O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.
For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.
Honour and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.
Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 ***(Sunday 9:00 a.m. service)***
Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace. [2] We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly [3] remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. [4] For we know, brothers

and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, [5] because our message of the gospel
came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full
conviction; just as you know what kind of people we proved to be among you for your
sake. [6] And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you
received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, [7] so that you became an example to
all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. [8] For the word of the Lord has sounded forth
from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place where your faith in God
has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. [9] For the people of those
regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to
God from idols, to serve a living and true God, [10] and to wait for his Son from heaven,
whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

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

(Please Stand)

Gospel Acclamation



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

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 22:15-22

15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. 16 So they sent their
disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere,
and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you
do not regard people with partiality. 17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay
taxes to the emperor, or not?' 18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why are you putting
me to the test, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin used for the tax.' And they brought
him a denarius. 20 Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' 21 They
answered, 'The emperor's.' Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things
that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' 22 When they heard this, they
were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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

© 2001 Lillenas Publishing Company (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.); David McDonald
For use solely with the SongSelect Terms of Use. All rights Reserved. www.ccli.com; CCLI License No. 2311887

(Please be seated)
SERMON Pastor Bob Case

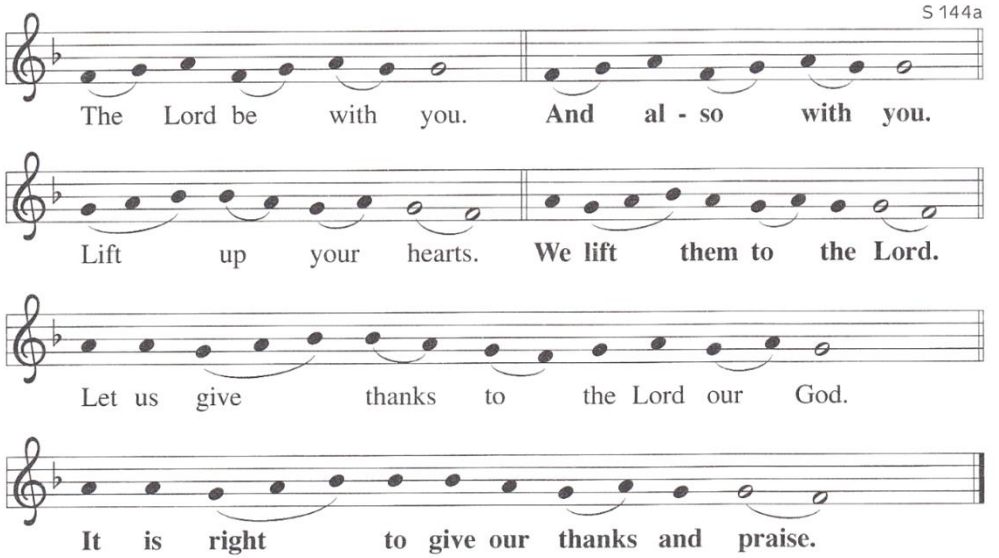
(*Please stand*)
HYMN OF THE DAY "Take My Life, That I May Be" (Red) #685

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

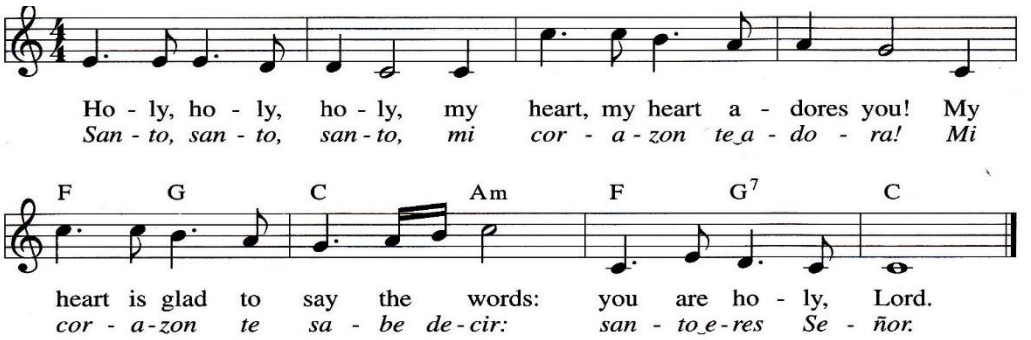
SHARING OF THE PEACE
The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

(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



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



EUCHARISTIC BLESSING

LORD'S PRAYER

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

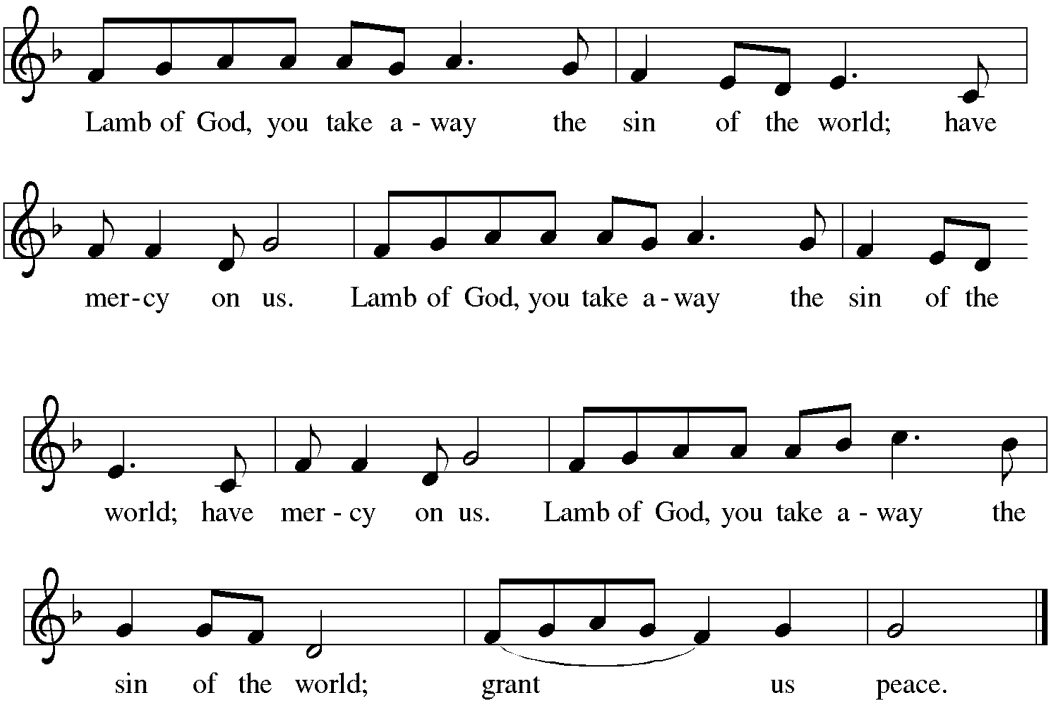
People: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine 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"



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"



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 "God of Grace and God of Glory" (Red) #705

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS103345

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

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS: Johnathan O. – health issues
Morgan Kibbe & Baby Colton
Alan Courtney – health issues
Jesse O'Neil – health issues
Nancy St. Onge – health issues
Mollie Skiba – health issue
Sandra Christopherson – unspecified
Jeff Wittenburg – medical
Luke Boyk—health issues
Chuck Piontkowski – health
Joel Foster – health issues
John Wegmeyer– health issues
Dena Stevens – health issues
Lisa Dziesinski-health issue
Mary Boomer-Scott – health
Ann Martin – medical issues
Billie Jo Foster – health issues
Phyllis Robb - unspecified

(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: St. John Lutheran Church, Baroda, Supply Pastors.

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

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

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE				**END OF AUGUST**		**YEAR TO DATE**
Saturday	10/10	5:30 a.m.	36	Income	14,857.87	185,006.29
Sunday	10/11	9:00 a.m.	38	G & M Loan	20,000.00	20,000.00
		10:30 a.m.	26	Expenses	22,395.07	212,156.16
		Total	100	Difference	(7,537.20)	(27,149.87)

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

Commitment Cards are available in the back of the church for those who missed getting one on Commitment Weekend. Please fill one out and put in the offering plate or drop off at the church office.

The October Service Activity is Ella White Elementary School. Items needed: Sweatpants/leggings sizes 6-14, underwear – sizes 6-14, tennis shoes – all kids sizes, and snacks for students (any type of prepackaged snack item is beneficial). Please leave your donations on the altar. Thank you.

Scouting America Troop 92 invites you to a Breakfast Fundraiser at St. Paul Lutheran Church on Sunday, October 18th, 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Free will offering. All you can eat plus take-out options

The Annual Congregational Meeting is today, October 18th, following the 9:00 a.m. service. Please join us.

The Adventure Club is going to have some Fun Fall Activities at the Johnson Camp (10606 Indian Reserve Road) on today, October 18th. There will be pumpkin carving, wagon rides and yummy snacks. ***The Adventure Club welcomes everyone from 1 - 105 years old.***

Next weekend we will collect the noisy offering for the Boys and Girls Club, so bring your change!

The Taste from Home Ministry will be mailing out Military packages to six recipients on October 19th. Donations of non-perishable foods or personal items would be much appreciated. Please drop items off to Linda's office no later than the morning of October 19th.

We will be participating again in the community Trunk or Treat event, which will be held behind City Hall on Friday, October 23rd from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Join us that night! We are also in need of candy donations. Just drop them off at the office. Please call Chuck or Katrina at 989-590-3354 with questions.

Everyone is invited to a Birthday Open House in honor of Dorothy Carr on her 102nd birthday. It will be held on October 24th from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Turning Brook, Building 2. If you have any questions, please call Karen at 419-466-8733.

The Forget-Me-Nots will be attending the matinee performance of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" at the Alpena Civic Theatre on Sunday, October 25. Please call Ann Hardesty (989-590-2055) by Thursday, October 22, if you want a ticket.

We will be packing food for the Feeding Kids Ministry on Monday, October 26th at 5:30 p.m. at the old Sunset School, 1421 Hobbs Drive. Please call Sherry McDonald if you have questions at 260-414-3613.

The Soul Sisters will be Kayaking on Wednesday October 28th, weather permitting. We will meet at Sytek Park at 5:30 p.m. and launch at 6:00 p.m. **On Monday, November 16th**, the Soul Sisters will gather to fill out Christmas cards. More details to come.

The St. Paul Christmas Bazaar is November 7th from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose room, with our famous "Turkey Noodle Casserole" being served from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Tickets for the **l**uncheon are available at the church office. Bazaar items may be dropped off on Friday, November 6th from 9:00-4:00. If you have any questions, call Esther Kindt at 989-471-2274.

Fellowship is in need of cookies to be served before the Saturday Service and between the Sunday services. We thank you for your generous donations in the past and for the future. There is also a need for some gluten free cookies. We are looking for volunteers to host a Sunday morning, once a month.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: OCTOBER 18 - 25, 2026	
SUN.	Scouting America Fundraiser Breakfast – 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; Worship/HC – 9:00; Annual Meeting–following service; Fall Festival (at Johnson Camp–10606 Indian Reserve Road) – 1:00
MON.	Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 4:00 p.m.; Trust Fund Meeting – 4:15 p.m.; E.T.A. Group – 5:30 p.m.; A Taste from Home – 6:00 p.m.
TUES.	Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Senior Leaders – 5:30 p.m.; Church Council – 6:00 p.m.; Scouting America – 6:30 p.m.
WED.	Breakfast Belles – 7:30 a.m.; Stephen Ministry Training – 4:30 p.m.; Choir – 4:30 p.m.
THURS.	3M Men's Breakfast - 7:00 a.m.; Stitched Together – 10:00 a.m.; Open Line Dance – 1:00 p.m.; Chair Yoga – 3:15 p.m.
FRI.	Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.; Trunk or Treat (Alpena City Hall) – 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
SAT.	Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship/HC – 5:30 p.m.
SUN.	Worship/HC - 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service/Children's Church/C.I.A. (Youth) - 10:30 a.m.; Forget-Me-Nots (Matinee) – 2:00 p.m.

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

MINISTERS	The People of God
ORGANIST	Marvis McNeil
CHOIR DIRECTOR	Marty Cantleberry
ASSISTING MINISTER	Scott Parkham
LECTOR	Shirley Jones
FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS	Carla Steinke
HEAD USHER	Roy Wekwert
USHERS & GREETERS	Paul Kieliszewski, Dennis Dziesinski Barb Szczesniak, Owen Werth
ALTAR CARE	Sue Robb and Carol Kindt

We thank all participants for enriching our worship service.