

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.

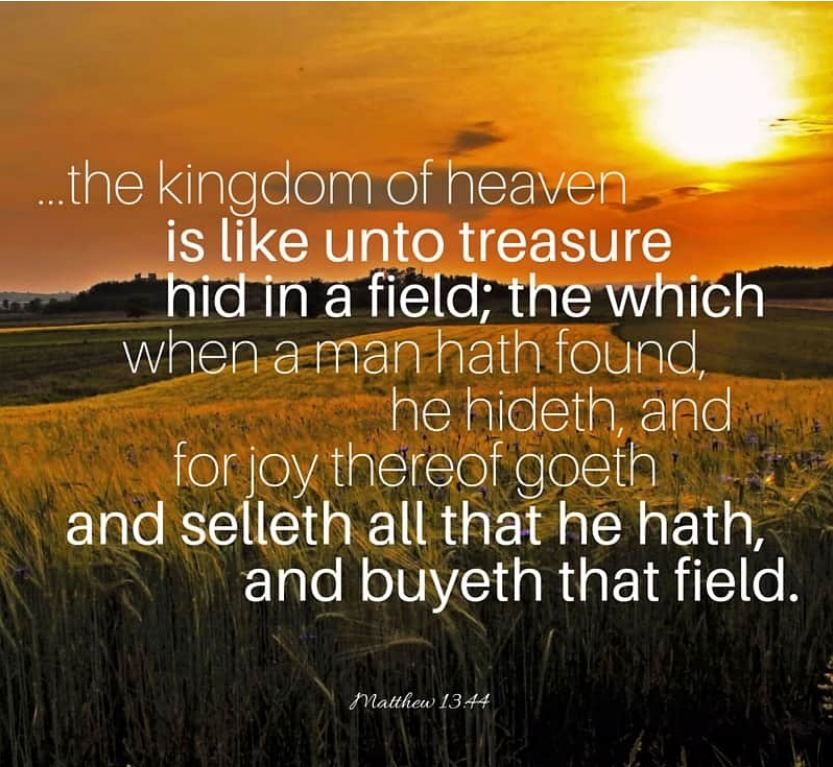
There are **restrooms** located in the basement of this building and on the ground floor of the hallway leading to our fellowship hall and on each floor of the educational building.

<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.	Carol Kindt
	9:00 a.m.	Cathy Kieliszewski
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Anita Laub
	9:00 a.m.	Janice Boboltz
<u>HEAD USHER</u>		Roy Wekwert
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Dennis and Sherry McDonald
	9:00 a.m.	Richard Miller, Ryan Panknin
		Paul Kieliszewski, Dennis Dziesinski
<u>CHILDREN’S CHURCH LEADERS</u>		Jesse and Jessica O’Neil, Cathy Kieliszewski
<u>LITTLES’ WORSHIP CENTER LEADERS</u>		Paused for Summer
<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 25, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
July 26, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 25, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
July 26, 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. Re-
store 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 “Gather Us In” (Red) #532

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.

“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 Forget-Me-Nots will meet for a picnic lunch and conversation on Tuesday, August 4th at noon at the church picnic grounds, weather permitting. Please bring your lunch and a beverage. Hope to see you there. If you need a ride or have any questions, please call Ann at (989) 590-2055.

Mark Your Calendars! The next ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY MDOT clean-up will be on Sunday, August 16th. We will meet at the church at 12:00 p.m. to view a video before venturing out for the clean-up. Come, join us!

The Altar Care ministry could use additional people serving. If you are interested, you can contact Carol Kindt at 989-356-9642. Thank you.

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.

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

WEEK AT A GLANCE: <i>JULY 26—AUGUST 2, 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.; VBS Prep (Kitchen) – 1:00 p.m.; Line Dancing - 2:00 p.m.; E.T.A. Group - 5:30 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Recovery Yoga – 5:00 p.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Vacation Bible School (Splash Pad) – 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.; Scouting America – 6:30 p.m.
<u>WED.</u>	Breakfast Belles – 7:30 a.m.; Stephen Ministry Training – 4:30 p.m.; Vacation Bible School (Splash Pad) – 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
<u>THURS.</u>	3M Men’s Breakfast - 7:00 a.m.; Chair Yoga – 11:00 a.m.; Open Line Dance–1:00 p.m.; Vacation Bible School (Splash Pad) – 5:30 – 7:30 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 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; 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>	Garrett Chrzan – surgery	Tina Chrzan - surgery
Kathy Prevo – medical issues	Adam Schmidt – health issues	Cindy DeRosia – health
Alan Courtney – health issues	David McNeil–health issues	Mary Boomer-Scott – health
Eleanor Coddington – health issues	Lee Szczesniak–medical issues	Malary Smith – unspecified
Dorothy Carr – health issues	Alice Meredith - unspecified	Ann Martin – medical issues
Travis Schmidt – health issue	John Wegmeyer– health issues	Chad Hamill – 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	Yvonne McQuarrie – health

We also remember our homebound member, Phyllis Robb. (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: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Traverse City, Rev. Paul Busekist

We pray for the Dynamic Ministries here at St. Paul Lutheran Church. This week we specifically pray for the Altar Care ministry.

<u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>END OF MAY</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Saturday 07/18 5:30 a.m. 43	Income 19,689.51	125,486.75
Sunday 07/19 9:00 a.m. 45	<u>Expenses</u> 23,722.11	<u>155,734.73</u>
10:30 a.m. 17	Difference (4,032.60)	(30,247.98)
Total 105		

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL (foot of the cross) are given in celebration of all those who have July Birthdays from Chuck and Katrina Schweinsberg.

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.

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

The Soul Sisters are kayaking on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month this summer. In August they will meet next on August 12th and 26th at Sytek Park. Questions? Please call Sue at 989-354-8673.

Reminder: Next Sunday is Popcorn/Movie Day for Children’s Church! Adults can sneak some too.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, ‘Ask what I should give you.’ ⁶ And Solomon said, ‘You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today.’ ⁷ And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?’

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, ‘Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

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

PSALM: Psalm 119:129-136 (Read Responsively)

Your decrees are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.
The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.
With open mouth I pant, because I long for your commandments.
Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your custom towards those who love your name.

Keep my steps steady according to your promise, and never let iniquity have dominion over me.
Redeem me from human oppression, that I may keep your precepts.
Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes.
My eyes shed streams of tears because your law is not kept.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39 (Sunday 9:00 a.m. service)

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be

conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, ‘For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.’

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

3

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

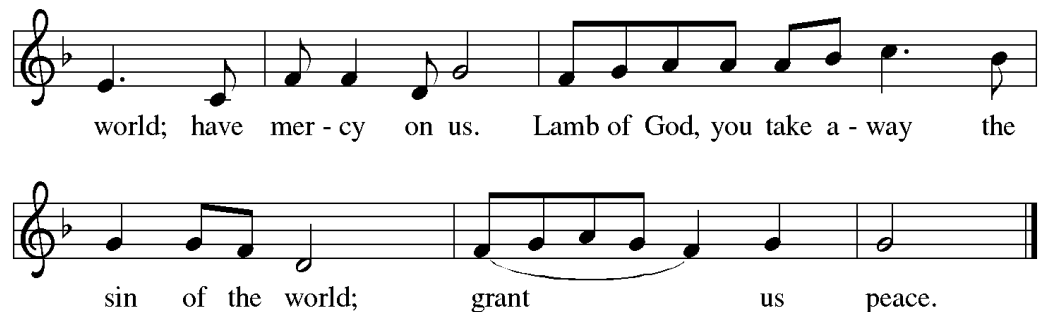
BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN “God of Grace and God of Glory” (Red) #705

DISMISSAL

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

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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”



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

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

³¹ He put before them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.’

³³ He told them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.’

⁴⁴ ‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ ‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ ‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ ‘Have you understood all this?’ They answered, ‘Yes.’ ⁵² And he said to them, ‘Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.’

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

Children’s Message/Noisy Offering

“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 Scott Torkko

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Be Thou My Vision”

(Red) #793

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.

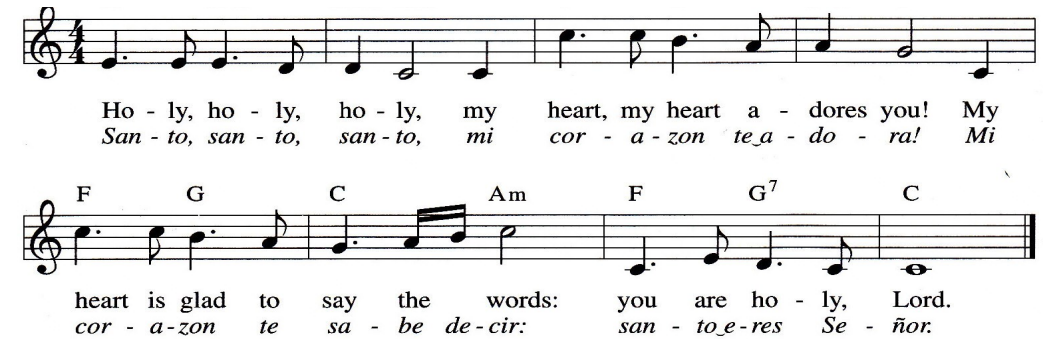
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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:

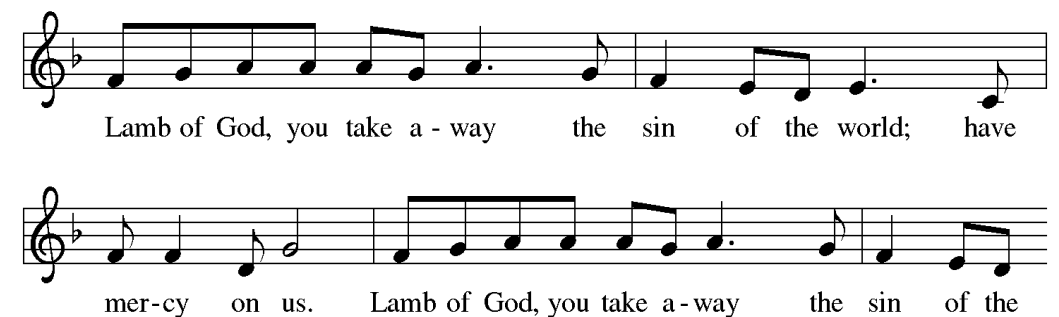
**People: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.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