

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                       |           |  |
| PASTOR                          |           |  |
| ORGANIST                        |           |  |
| CHOIR DIRECTOR                  |           |  |
| ASSISTING MINISTER              | 5:30 p.m. |  |
|                                 | 9:00 a.m. |  |
| LECTOR                          | 5:30 p.m. |  |
|                                 | 9:00 a.m. |  |
| FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS           | 5:30 p.m. |  |
|                                 | 9:00 a.m. |  |
| HEAD USHER                      |           |  |
| USHERS & GREETERS               | 5:30 p.m. |  |
|                                 | 9:00 am.  |  |
| CHILDREN’S CHURCH LEADERS       |           |  |
| LITTLES’ WORSHIP CENTER LEADERS |           |  |
| ALTAR CARE                      |           |  |

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

Monthly Ministry Highlight:  
Harvest Dinner



September 13, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.  
September 14, 2025 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD  
The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 6, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.  
September 7, 2025 - 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, our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.**

Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful and loving God,  
**we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.**\

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 “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High” (Red) #857

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.**

**Fall into service at the Fall Fresh Up Event at St. Paul on Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – noon.** We will be working to make the inside of the building sparkle. Please join us for fellowship, service and a free lunch.

**Everyone is invited to join us for The Adventure Club Fishing Frenzy on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>.** It will be held at Paxton Quarry from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Bring your own fishing gear and extras for others, if you have some. Join us!

**The Soul Sisters are kayaking** on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will meet at Sytek Park at 5:30 p.m. All women are invited to join us. If you have any questions, please call Sue Robb at 989-590-7611.

**St. Paul Harvest Dinner is coming up quick!** It will be held on Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. The doors will open at 4:30 p.m. and serving begins at 5:00 p.m. Tickets are available at the church office or online.

**Worship on the Beach.** We will one more time this season at our beach property, September 27, 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 p.m. We will carpool from the church and travel to the beach property at 6:30 p.m. The service and time of fellowship will last from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. If there is rain, we will reschedule.

**Please join us for our next Highway Pickup on Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>.** We will meet at the church at noon to view a video before heading out. All are welcome.

**Pastor John and Nena are celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in September. We are inviting everyone we know to come out for the fireside chat on September 28th at their house (1921 Long Rapids Road)** from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Come and celebrate with us. Food, drinks, laughter and sharing stories will be provided. If you would like to bring a dish to pass, we would celebrate this gift.

**The Cub Scouts will be selling popcorn** on September 28<sup>th</sup> and October 5<sup>th</sup> at the 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. services.

**The Stitches of Joy has been canceled for September** due to a scheduling conflict at the shop. We will resume meeting in October.

**Pastor John will offer a blessing on your pet** from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, at the church building. All are welcome to take part in this blessing event.

| WEEK AT A GLANCE: <i>SEPTEMBER 14–21, 2025</i> |   |
|--|---|
| <u>SUN.</u>                                    | Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service and Children’s Ch./C.I.A. – 10:30   |
| <u>MON.</u>                                    | Line Dancing – 2:00 P.M.; Girl Scouts – 4:00 p.m.; E.T.A. – 5:30 p.m.; Feeding Kids Ministry (Sunset School) – 5:30 p.m.  |
| <u>TUES.</u>                                   | 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.; Trust Fund Committee– 4:00 p.m.; Pastor John’s Book Study– 1:00 & 5:30 p.m.; Choir – 4:30 p.m.; Nena’s Bible Study – 5:30 p.m.; Men’s Night – 6:30 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.; Yoga 101 – 5:00 p.m.   |
| <u>FRI.</u>                                    | Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.; Band of Brothers at Alpena Football Game – 6:30 p.m.   |
| <u>SAT.</u>                                    | Fall Fresh-Up – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship/HC – 5:30 p.m.  |
| <u>SUN.</u>                                    | Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m. Fellowship –10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service and Children’s Church–10:30 a.m.; C.I.A. – 10:30 a.m.; The Adventure Club (Paxton Quarry) – 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.      |

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

|   |                                  |                                 |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b><u>WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:</u></b>   | Bob Christou – knee surgery rec. | Joyce Piper-Ross - healing      |
| Lisa Creguer – cancer treatments  | Cody Franklin - leukemia         | Sharon Tinker-knee surgery rec. |
| Debra Gapske – health issues  | Chad Hamill– health issues       | Carol Kuhl—health issues        |
| Karen Wallace–unspecified need  | Annette Wade – medical issues    | Dena Stevens – health issues    |
| Lee Werth—health issues   | Gary Lumsden – surgery           | Art Hoffmeyer - heart issues    |
| Ric Schmidt – recovery from surgery   | John Wegmeyer– health issues     | Karen Schwochow – strength      |
| Adam Schmidt- health issues   | Don Barnard—recovery             | George Sneden-health issues     |
| Laura Kieliszewski – health issues  | Phyllis Robb-unspecified need    | Laura Cussen – stroke           |
| Ann Martin – medical issues   | Margaret Lucian – health issues  | David McNeil – health issues    |
| <i>(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. Thank you.)</i> |                                  |                                 |

**We remember our prayer partners** in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod: Lutheran Church of the Savior, Kalamazoo, Pastor Alexander Steward.

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

| WORSHIP ATTENDANCE         |           | END OF JUNE     |                  | YEAR TO DATE      |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Saturday (09/06) 5:30 p.m. | 56        | Income          | 36,225.99        | 177,439.06        |
| Sunday (09/07) 9:00 a.m.   | 62        | <u>Expenses</u> | <u>44,453.02</u> | <u>195,632.16</u> |
| 10:30 a.m.                 | <u>49</u> | Difference      | (8,227.03)       | (18,193.10)       |
| Total                      | 169       |                 |                  |                   |

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

**We welcome into the kingdom of God**, through the sacrament of Holy Baptism (Sunday 10:30 a.m.) Addison Male, daughter of Thomas and Jessica Male. Her sponsors are Jessica Smith and Tammy Richardson. May the Lord surround her with His grace as she grows to know Him as Lord and Savior.

**We will be packing food for the Feeding Kids Ministry** on Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at the old Sunset School, 1421 Hobbs Drive. Call Sherry McDonald if you are willing to help or have any questions, 989-356-9600.

**Join us for our Autumn Educational Opportunities, which will run September 17 through October 22.** Pastor John will hold a Book Study on “Death and Dying” and Miss Nena will lead a Bible Study on “Reckless Love: Jesus’ Call to love our Neighbor” Each class length will be 1 hour. Pastor John’s Class will meet on Wednesdays at 1:00 and 5:30 p.m. and Miss Nena’s class will meet on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. Call the office to register. Thank you.

**There will be a “Men’s Night”** on Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at the church. If you are attending, please call the church office or sign up online. If possible, bring a dish to pass. All men are invited and bring a friend.

**The Band of Brothers** are going to an Alpena High School football game on September 19<sup>th</sup> against Cadillac. We will meet at the gate at 6:30 p.m. The game time is 7:00 p.m. Come and be part of this dynamic Men’s Ministry.

**Reminder:** Please fill out a Stewardship Commitment Form if you haven’t already. Forms are in the Narthex.

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray. Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

**FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4b-9**

<sup>4:b</sup> but the people became impatient on the way <sup>5</sup> The people spoke against God and against Moses, ‘Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.’ <sup>6</sup> Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup> The people came to Moses and said, ‘We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.’ So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup> And the Lord said to Moses, ‘Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.’ <sup>9</sup> So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

**PSALM: Psalm 98:1-4 (Read Responsively)**

O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gained him victory.

**The Lord has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.**

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

**Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24**

<sup>18</sup> For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written, ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.’

<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of 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 - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

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

**GOSPEL READING: John 3:13-17**

<sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> ‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

**DISMISSAL**  
Go in peace. Do not lose heart.  
**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: O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN “Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus” (Red) #802

<sup>17</sup> ‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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

Children’s Message “Jesus Loves Me”

Jesus loves me this I know  
For the Bible tells me so  
Little ones to Him belong  
They are weak but He is strong  
Yes Jesus loves me. Yes Jesus loves me  
Yes Jesus loves me the Bible tells me so

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(Please be seated)  
SERMON “A Love that Saves” Rev. John Shipman

(Please stand)  
HYMN OF THE DAY “Lift High the Cross” (Red) #660

**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,  
**receive our prayer.**

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

**OFFERING PRAYER**

(Please stand)



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



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

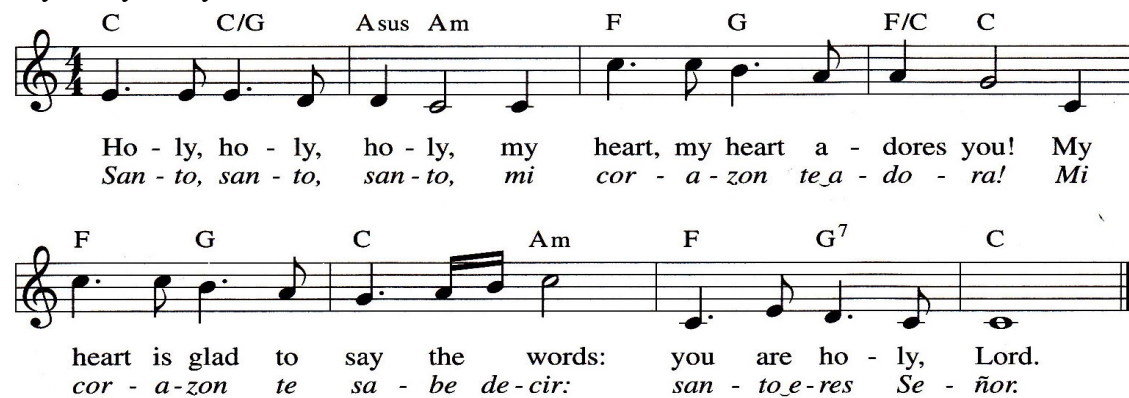
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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*

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:

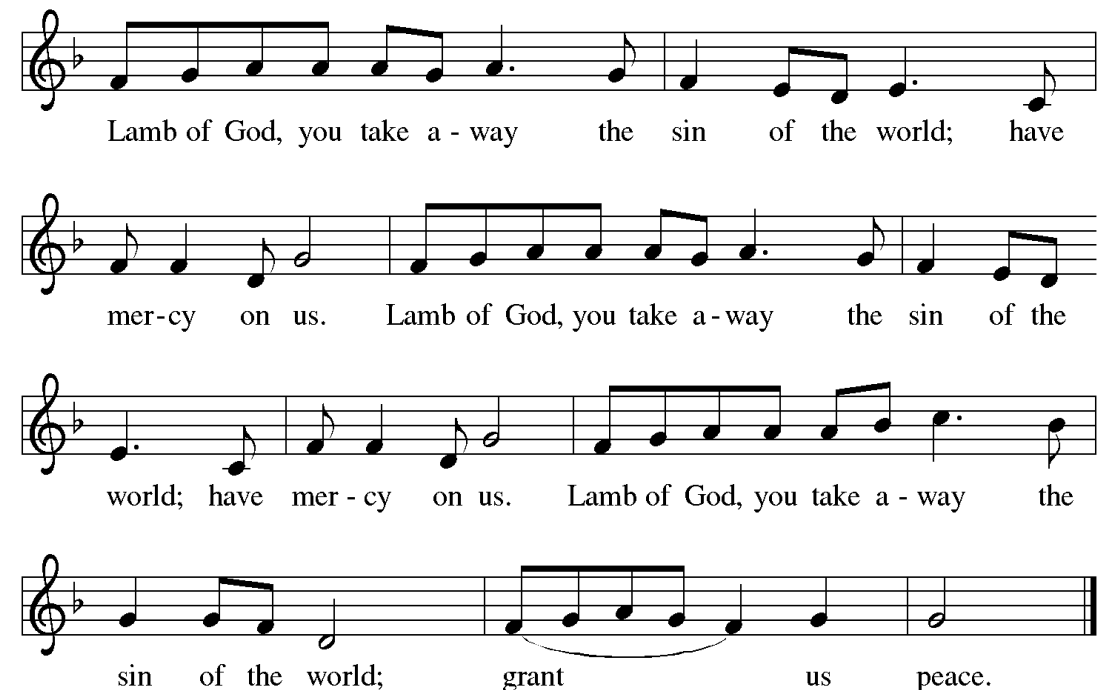
**People:** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
 thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from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

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**