

## 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.

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### PARTICIPANTS

#### MINISTERS

#### PASTOR

#### ORGANIST

#### ASSISTING MINISTER

#### LECTOR

#### USHERS & GREETERS

#### ALTAR CARE

The People of God

Rev. John Shipman

Marvis McNeil

Shirley Jones

Kathy Burton

Dennis & Lori Dziesinski, Richard Miller, Nancy St. Onge

Sue Moggie, Jessica O'Neil, Karen Wekwert, Shirley Kowalski

*We thank all participants for enriching our worship service.*

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

727 S. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Alpena, MI 49707

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[www.stpaul.org](http://www.stpaul.org)

*A Stephen Ministry congregation*



*January 1, 2023*

*9:00 a.m.*

**St. Paul's Eucharistic Ministry:** We have trained Eucharistic Ministers who will take communion kits to shut-ins on a regular basis. Questions? Contact Esther Kindt at 471-2274.

**Come join us for weekend Fellowship.** On Saturday Night we meet before the service at 4:30 for coffee and baked goods until 5:20. Fellowship for the 9:00 service and the 10:30 service will occur in-between the service time. Everyone is invited to join us.

**Usher Training sessions are being offered every Saturday and Sunday in January** (*except January 1<sup>st</sup>*). Pastor John will meet with you an hour before the worship service. Come at the time/day that best suits you.

**The Forget-Me-Nots** will meet on Tuesday, January 3 at noon in the multi purpose room for lunch and social time. Please bring your own lunch. Coffee, tea, water and a dessert will be provided.

**There will be an Acolyte Training class** on Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. Anyone interested in serving in this way is welcome to attend.

**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 Nena'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: JANUARY 1–8, 2023**

SUN. Unity Service – 9:00 a.m.  
MON. Tech Talks – 11:00 a.m.; Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 6:00 p.m.  
TUES. Forget-Me-Nots – 12:00 p.m. (church) – 12:00 p.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Air Rifle – 5:30 p.m.; Education–5:30 p.m.; Prayer Shawl – 6:00 p.m.; Boy Scouts – 6:30 p.m.  
WED. Women's Breakfast (at JJ's) – 7:30 a.m.; Property Committee – 5:30 p.m.; Choir – 6:00 p.m.  
THURS. Men's Breakfast – 7:00 a.m.; Chair Yoga – 3:00 p.m.; Air Rifle Team–5:30 p.m.; Recovery Yoga – 5:30 p.m.; Singles@StPaul -6:00 p.m.  
FRI. Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.; Narcotics Anonymous – 6:00 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 and C.I.A. (Youth) – 10:30 a.m.

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

**WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:** Mike Needham, Judy Burley, Keeley Knapp, Don Urban Sr., Billiejo Foster, Donna Burton, Jimmy Abend, Cheryl Rosbeck, George Morley, Steve Zbytowski, Austin Scull, Peter Roznowski, Paula Baker, Lucille Hanna Withum, Philip Donakowski, June Sylvester, Aggie Woloszyk, Jerry Swanson, Annette Wade, Zay, Lisa Hilberg, Sandra Christopherson, Larkin Kerby, William Taylor, John Wegmeyer, Gus Schultz, Elaine Kingsbury, Sally Barney, Joel Foster, Nancy Chrzan, Phyllis Robb, Eugene Brooks, Bodo Hanson, Sutton Badder, Marian Dove, Dolores Sumerix, Audrey Reck, Deb Lange, Bernice Menck, and Karen Wallace. **ARMED SERVICES:** Michael Emington, Dominick Christou, Sawyer Hein, Rachael Mayes, Brandon Sloan, Andrew Hein, Alexander Gould, Mandy Killingbeck, Jacqueline Crimmins, Ashley (Dingman) Grant, Charles Tudor, Justin A. Smith, and Maragely Hein. *(Prayer is the best medicine and we are prepared to pray indefinitely for folks. Would you please help the church office keep our list current? Unless we know otherwise, our normal practice is to remove names after a month. Thank you for your partnership in prayer.)*

**We pray for the Dynamic Ministries here at St. Paul Lutheran Church.** This week we specifically pray for English as a Second Language (ESL), an organization that teaches people to be fluent in English.

**CONDOLENCES TO:** the family and friends of Eleanor Schellie who joined our Lord in eternity December 20<sup>th</sup>. Her funeral service was held December 23<sup>rd</sup> at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

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

**Mark your calendars for our next Women's Retreat on January 27<sup>th</sup>.** Our theme is "Leaders in the Bible and what we can learn from them." The event will take place at 1921 Long Rapids Road and there is no cost associated with this event. We will explore God's promises for community and fellowship for Women. Ages 18 – 100 are invited to discover God's faithfulness in your faith journey.

**Everyone is invited to join us for a January Video Educational Experience on January 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** We will be watching "Courageous" and having discussion afterward. A meal will be provided. Please call the church office if you are coming, which will help us in our planning for food. Thanks.

**Our January Service Activity is Alpena High School.** The items needed are men's belts, women's underwear (sizes small, medium, and large), dry shampoo, deodorants (mens and womens), and hair ties. Please leave your donation items on the altar. Thank you for your generosity.

**GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

1st Sunday in the season of Christmas

Lessons and Carols Unity Service

January 1, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

**WELCOME**

**Call to Worship:** The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, born of Mary, be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

**Gathering Hymn**

"The First Noel"

(Red) #300, vs. 1-3

**CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE**

L: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

L: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**C: We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

L: To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**C: In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

**Prayer of the Day**

L: Let us pray. All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Lessons and Carols**

**FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1–5, 14–18**

“The First Noel”

(Red) #300, vs. 4-5

**SECOND READING: Micah 5:2–5a**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

(Red) #279

**THIRD READING: Luke 1:26–35, 38**

*Of the Father’s Love Begotten*

(Red) #295, vs. 1& 3

**FOURTH READING: Luke 2:1-7**

*Away in a Manger*

(Red) #278

**FIFTH READING: Luke 2:8–14**

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

(Red) #275 (verses 1,2,4)

**SIXTH READING: Luke 2:15-20**

*Silent Night*

(Red) #281

**SEVENTH READING: Matthew 2:1-11**

*What Child Is This*

(Red) #296

**EIGHTH READING: John 1:1–14**

*Joy to the World*

(Red) #267, vs. 1 & 3

**RESPONSIVE PRAYER**

L: Glory to God in the highest,

**C: and peace to God's people on earth.**

L: Blessed are you, Prince of peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

**C: Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.**

L: Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

**C: Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.**

L: Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

**C: Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

L: The peace of the Christ of Bethlehem be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**Offering/Offertory**

**Offertory Prayer**

L: Let us pray: God with us: You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name.

**People: Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

Leader: Gathered into one by the Spirit, let us 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**

**BLESSING**

May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

**Sending Hymn**

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

(Red) #290

**Silent Prayer**

**Dismissal**

L: Christ is with you. Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**