

### 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

<u>MINISTERS</u>		The People of God
<u>PASTOR</u>		Rev. John Shipman
<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.	Phil Wickstrom
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Boy Scout
	9:00 a.m.	Boy Scout
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Joan Smolinski
	9:00 a.m.	Joanne Huggler
<u>USHERS &amp; GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Dennis & Sherry McDonald
	9:00 a.m.	Cathy Kieliszewski, Richard Miller
		Jeff Ciupka
<u>ACOLYTE</u>	5:30 p.m.	Emily Smith
	9:00 a.m.	Alex Wickstrom
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Marty Cantleberry, Pat Cornelius, 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. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Alpena, MI 49707

Phone 989-356-1658

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

*A Stephen Ministry Congregation*



**November 11, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**November 12, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.**



**GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**  
**The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**November 11, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**November 12, 2023 - 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, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen.**

Holy One,  
**we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. 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**      “Come, We That Love the Lord”      (Red) #625

**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.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray. O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Everyone is invited to the **Adventure Club Swim Party** on Sunday, November 12, from 1:00—3:00 p.m. at the Plaza Pool. Come and be part of this free, wonderful expression of fun. Bring your spirit of adventure and hope as you explore and share your faith within this intergenerational educational experience. The Adventure Club welcomes everyone from 1-105 years old.

**The Alpena Line Dance Club** is now meeting on Fridays from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room. All are welcome. If you have any questions please call Sara at 515-299-0170.

**St. Paul Ev. Lutheran will be part of the Bolenz Holiday Parade again this year**, which will be held on Friday, November 24 at 5:30 p.m. This annual parade is sponsored by Bolenz Jewelry and hosted by the Alpena Area Chamber of Commerce. So, if you would like to donate candy, please drop it off at the church.

**Pastor John is planning to assemble another Advent Devotional from the people of St. Paul.** A devotional provides daily inspiration through this season of the year. Please write several paragraphs about someone who shined the light of hope into your life and then give that devotional to Pastor John. He needs your information by November 20th.

**Pastor John and Miss Nena are inviting you to a Thanksgiving meal on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November at their house.** Please don't spend the holiday alone. Join with us in this meal of thanksgiving. The event will begin at 1:00 PM and end at 3:30 PM. Come and enjoy some turkey, home made rolls, pie and the rest of this splendid meal. If you would like to bring a family favorite dish to pass, please contact the office.

**There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for the donation of homemade or store-bought pies** for the Thanksgiving Dinner at the Friendship Room. They need 12 pies, but if more are donated they will be welcomed for use with future meals. Pies should be dropped off at St. Paul by 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**The Alpena Peace Community is inviting you to attend a Peace Vigil** on Sunday November 19, 2023 from 7:00pm to 7:30pm, at Grace Lutheran Church, 119 W. Dunbar in Alpena. Meditations and prayers for peace are needed in all parts of our world. Come join us for a brief period of time to focus silently and meditatively on peaceful solutions to the problems the human race is currently experiencing. ALL are welcome!

<b>WEEK AT A GLANCE: NOVEMBER 12—19, 2023</b>	
<b>SUN.</b>	Sunday Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00; Contemporary Service & Children’s Church – 10:30 a.m.; The Adventure Club Swim Party – 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. (Plaza Pool)
<b>MON.</b>	Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; E.T.A. – 5:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 6:00 p.m.
<b>TUES.</b>	Gratitude Lunches – 9:00 a.m.; Stephen Ministry – 10:00 a.m.; Stewardship – 5:00 p.m.; Air Rifle Team – 5:30 p.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Boy Scouts – 6:30 p.m.
<b>WED.</b>	Newsletter Deadline; Breakfast Belles (at JJ’s) – 7:30 a.m.; Choir – 6:00 p.m.
<b>THURS.</b>	3M Men’s Breakfast (at JJ’s) – 7:00 a.m.; Chair Yoga – 3:00 p.m.; Recovery Yoga – 5:30 p.m.; Air Rifle Team – 5:30 p.m.
<b>FRI.</b>	Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.; Alpena Line Dance Club – 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
<b>SAT.</b>	Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship/HC – 5:30 p.m.
<b>SUN.</b>	Sunday Worship/HC – 9:00; Fellowship – 10:00; Contemporary Service & Children’s Church – 10:30 a.m.

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

**WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:** Irma Becker, Annette Wade, Art Hoffmeyer, Doreen Britton, Dixie Prevost-Crevier, Nate Cosbitt, Warren MacNeil, Sue Kaiser, Shirley Kowalski, Barbara Carlson, John Wegmeyer, Marty & Liz Smith, Lorrie Fifield, Andy Beagle, Phyllis Robb, Jillian Kerby, Frank, Sarah Moe Melching, Allison Dutcher, Dolores Libka, David Reeves, Julie Troy, Geri Hanson, Billiejo Foster, Gus Schultz, Elaine Kingsbury, Sally Barney, Joel Foster, Eugene Brooks, Bodo Hanson, Sutton Badder, Marian Dove, Dolores Sumerix, Audrey Reck, Bernice Menck, and Karen Wallace. *(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 remember our prayer partners** in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod: Faith Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, Rev. Kevin Sullivan

**We pray for the Dynamic Ministries here at St. Paul Lutheran Church.** This week we specifically pray for our Pew Fillers.

**THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL** (foot of the cross) are given in memory of our Great-Grandma Marian Bennett on her birthday, love Ava and Alex Wickstrom.

<u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u>			<u>END OF SEPTEMBER</u>		<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Saturday (11/04)	5:30 p.m.	56	Income	25,476.35	240,458.99
Sunday (11/05)	9:00 a.m.	77	Expenses	<u>29,233.48</u>	<u>262,763.65</u>
	10:30 a.m.	<u>25</u>	Difference	(3,757.13)	(22,304.66)
Total		158			

**The November Service Activity is Thunder Bay Jr High School.** Items needed: Small Healthy Snacks (pre-packaged snacks such as granola bars, fruit snacks, crackers, pretzels, etc.), Hygiene products (small shampoos, conditioners, small deodorants, toothpaste and toothbrushes; Clothing (black leggings/sweatpants, tee-shirts-unisex, sweatshirts/warmer sweaters; School Supplies (plain two pocket folders, binders, and notebooks. Please leave items on the altar. Thank you for your generosity.

**The remaining items from the Christmas bazaar are in the dining room until the end of the month.** Please check out the items that would make great Christmas gifts and check out the jams still looking for a good home. If you would like to pick up the items you brought, do so by the end of the month.

**This year we will have Advent Services on Wednesdays** at 12:00 – 1:00 on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, & 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will have a meal at noon followed by a short service at 12:25. Come and share this time of preparation for the Christ Child. We need volunteers to help prepare a simple meal.

**Pastor John and Miss Nena have planned Advent Educational Opportunities, that will run December 6<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>.** Pastor John's Class will meet on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM and 5:30 p.m. and Miss Nena's class will also meet on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM. Pastor John will hold a Bible Study on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> John and Miss Nena will lead a Book Study on "66 Ways God Loves You" by Jennifer Rothschild. Please call the office so we know how to plan/books to order.

*(Please be seated)*

**FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24**

<sup>18</sup> Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light; <sup>19</sup> as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. <sup>20</sup> Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? <sup>21</sup> I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. <sup>22</sup> Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. <sup>23</sup> Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. <sup>24</sup> But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

**PSALM: Psalm 70 (Read Responsively)**

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O Lord, make haste to help me.  
**Let those who seek my life be ashamed and altogether dismayed; let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.**  
Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back, because they are ashamed.  
**Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; let those who love your salvation say for ever, "Great is the Lord!"**  
But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me speedily, O God.  
**You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (Sunday 9:00 a.m.)**

<sup>13</sup> But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

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

**GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13**

<sup>1</sup>“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup> When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, <sup>4</sup> but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup> But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup> Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup> But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup> And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup> Later the other young women came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup> But he replied,

**BENEDICTION**

**SENDING HYMN**

“Soon and Very Soon”

(Red) #439

**DISMISSAL**

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**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”

Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -  
one what God has done. Let all who seek the  
Lord re - jice 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: Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. **Amen.**

### MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup> Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

The Gospel of Our Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Children’s Message**

**“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

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*(Please be seated)*

SERMON

“Readiness”

Rev John Shipman

*(Please stand)*

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

(Red) #244

### 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.**

### OFFERING

## OFFERING PRAYER

*(Please stand)*

*(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

C C/G Asus Am F G F/C C

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 G<sup>7</sup> 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 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.