

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.

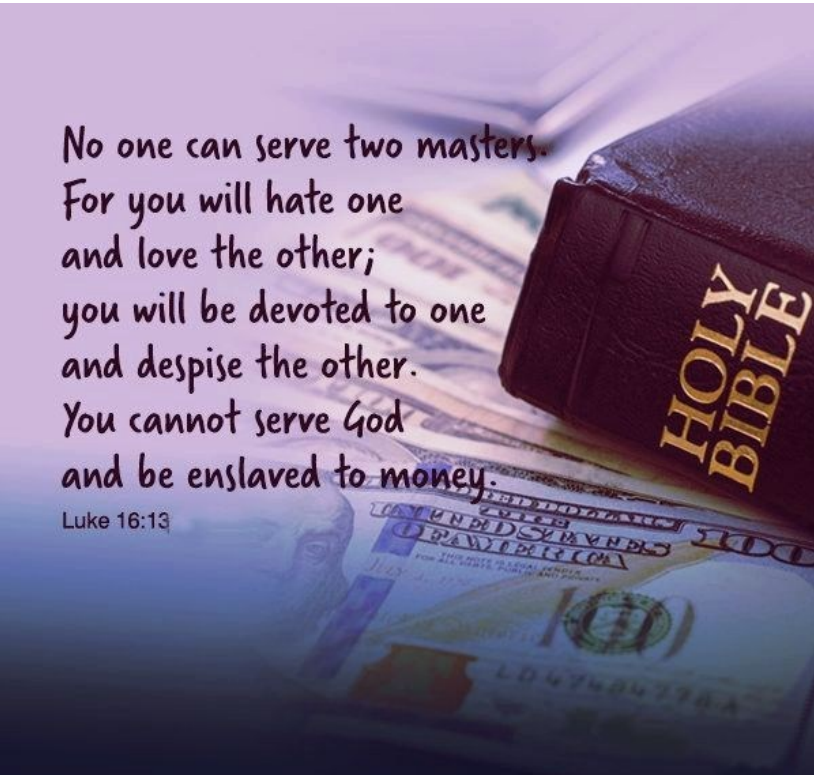
There are **restrooms** located in the basement of this building and on the ground floor of the hallway leading to our fellowship hall and on each floor of the educational building.

<u>PARTICIPANTS</u>		
<u>MINISTERS</u>		The People of God
<u>PASTOR</u>		Rev. John Shipman
<u>ORGANIST</u>		Marvis McNeil
<u>CHOIR DIRECTOR</u>		Marty Cantleberry
<u>ASSISTING MINISTER</u>	5:30 p.m.	Iris Arthur
	9:00 a.m.	Phil Wickstrom
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Myra Gapske
	9:00 a.m.	Danielle McDonald
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Patti Byce, Myra Gapske
	9:00 a.m.	Janice Boboltz
<u>HEAD USHER</u>		Roy Wekwert
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Tim and Barb Smith
	9:00 am.	Roy Wekwert, Ryan Panknin
		Owen Werth, Cathy Kieliszewski
<u>CHILDREN’S CHURCH LEADERS</u>		Ashley MacKay, Bonnie Duby
		Nena Shipman, Cathy Kieliszewski
<u>LITTLES’ WORSHIP CENTER LEADERS</u>		Joanne Huggler, Rita Chase
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Ginger Bohlen 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:
Harvest Dinner



Septem-ber 20,
2025 - 5:30 p.m.
September 21, 2025 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.
September 21, 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 “Son of God, Eternal Savior” (Red) #655

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.

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.

Pastor John and Nena are celebrating their 40th 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.

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

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

The Single’s Retreat is set for October 10th at 6:00 p.m. at 1921 Long Rapids Road. Come explore the vision of “Being Single and having Faith, Hope and Love in a Digital Age.” There is no cost. All singles, ages 18-100, are invited.

Next weekend we will collect the noisy offering which will be used to support the Boys and Girls Club of Alpena, so don’t forget to bring your change!

The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, October 19th, right after the 9:00 a.m. service. Please note: There will be only one service (Sunday 9:00 a.m.) that weekend. Packets will be available by October 5th in the Narthex.

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.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: <i>SEPTEMBER 21—28, 2025</i>	
<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.
<u>MON.</u>	Ray of Sonshine – 1:00 p.m.; Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; E.T.A. – 5:30 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Dinner on a Doorknob – 9:00 a.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Soul Sisters Kayaking – 5:30 p.m.; Scouting America – 6:30 p.m.; Narcotics Anonymous – 8:30 p.m.
<u>WED.</u>	Breakfast Belles – 7:30 a.m.; Pastor John’s Book Study – 1:00 & 5:00 p.m.; Nena’s Bible Study – 5:30 p.m.
<u>THURS.</u>	3M Men’s Breakfast – 7:00 a.m.; Stitched Together – 10:00 a.m.; Open Line Dance – 1:00 p.m.; Chair Yoga – 3:00 p.m.; Choir Practice – 4:30 p.m.; Yoga 101 – 5:00 p.m.; Harvest Dinner 5:00 -7:00 p.m.
<u>FRI.</u>	Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.
<u>SAT.</u>	Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship/HC – 5:30 p.m.; Worship on the Beach – 7:00 p.m.
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service and Children’s Church/C.I.A. – 10:30 a.m.; 40 th Wedding Anniversary Fireside Chat – 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

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

<u>WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:</u>	Bob Christou – knee surgery rec.	Joyce Piper-Ross - healing
Lisa Creguer – cancer treatments	Cody Franklin - leukemia	Sharon Tinker-knee surgery rec.
Chad Hamill – health issues	Carol Kuhl – health issues	David McNeil – health issues
Debra Gapske – health issues	Vicki Carlson – health issues	Alan Marwede—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	

(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.)

We remember our prayer partners in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod: Trinity Lutheran Church, Kal-amazoo, Rev. Ken Johnson and Rev. Kjersten Sullivan.

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

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

St. Paul Harvest Dinner is coming up quick! It will be held on Thursday, September 25th. 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.

The Soul Sisters are kayaking on 23rd. 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.

Everyone is invited to join us for The Adventure Club Fishing Frenzy on Sunday, September 21st. 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. Come and be part of this fun experience.

The September Service Activity is Lincoln Elementary School. Items needed: washable markers, colored pencils, #2 pencils, paper, 2 pocket folders, dry erase markers, glue sticks, Kleenex, and disinfecting wipes. Please leave your donations on the altar. Thank you.

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

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

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Amos 8:4-7

⁴Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, ⁵ saying, ‘When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances, ⁶ buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat.’

⁷ The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

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

PSALM: Psalm 113 (Read Responsively)

Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord; praise the name of the Lord.

Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time on and for evermore.

From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the Lord is to be praised.

The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.

Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high,

who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

He raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people.

He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children. Praise the Lord!

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings should be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶who gave himself a ransom for all —this was attested at the right time. ⁷ For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

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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 -

Hal - le - lu - jah.

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

DISMISSAL
 Go in peace. Do not lose heart.
Thanks be to God.

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

GOSPEL READING: Luke 16:1-13

¹Then Jesus said to the disciples, ‘There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an account of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’’ ³ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’’ ⁵ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’’ ⁶ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’’ ⁷ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’’ ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the

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 “Rise Up, O Saints of God!” (Red) #669

children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes. ¹⁰ ‘Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.’

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 “Decide What To Do” Rev. John Shipman

(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,
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

Sheet music for "The Great Thanksgiving" in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes.

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

Sheet music for "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord" in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. Chords are indicated above the staff.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dore 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.

(Please 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"

Sheet music for "Lamb of God" in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes.

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.