

**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.

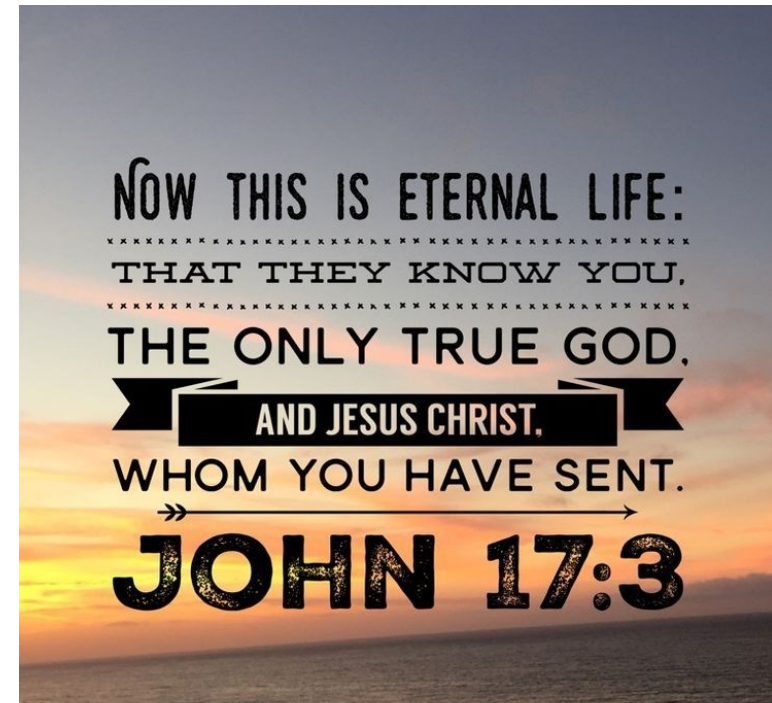
**PARTICIPANTS**

<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.	Barb Szczesniak
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Gail Atkins
	9:00 a.m.	Barb Szczesniak
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Myra Gapske, Patti Byce
	9:00 a.m.	Carla Steinke
<u>HEAD USHER</u>		Roy Wekwert
<u>USHERS &amp; GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Bruce Anschuetz
	9:00 a.m.	Tim Moggie, Cathy Kieliszewski
<u>CHILDREN’S CHURCH LEADERS</u>		Dennis Dziesinski, Ryan Panknin
<u>LITTLES’ WORSHIP CENTER LEADERS</u>		Kathy Burton, Cathy Kieliszewski
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Andrea Dutcher
		Marty Cantleberry 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. 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:  
*Women’s Dynamic Ministry*



**May 16, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**May 17, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.**

**GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**  
**The Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
**May 16, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**May 17, 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**  
 Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!  
**Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.*

Merciful God,  
 you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us (local waters may be named). Blessed are you.  
**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.  
**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.  
**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

The new campground keys for 2026 can be purchased from the office for \$20. If you have an orange key or a green key, please return it to the office. Thank you.

We are looking for a team to help with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade float this year. Please contact the church office if you would like to be part of this ministry vision/outreach.

The Church Rummage Sale dates are set for June 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>! You may start bringing in your items in stackable sealed boxes and leave them on the right side of the storage area off the dining room. Mark your boxes with a general description of what is in them. Please leave bigger stuff until the week of the rummage sale. We will again be accepting clean used clothing and shoes for our sale. If you have any questions, please call Andrea Dutcher at 989-354-3651.

Stephen Ministers are specifically trained Lay Caregivers who offer confidential, one-to-one Christian support to people experiencing a difficult time. We would like to begin another training session. Because we have no male Stephen Ministers, we are especially seeking men who feel called to provide support to other men in our congregation. If you have a compassionate heart and a desire to make a meaningful difference, Stephen Ministry may be right place for you. So, if you feel God nudging you toward this ministry, or if you would like more information, please reach out to either Sue Keyes, Shirley Jones, or any of our active Stephen Ministers.

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.

<b>WEEK AT A GLANCE: MAY 17—24, 2026</b>	
<b>SUN.</b>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service/Children's Church/C.I.A. (Youth) - 10:30 a.m.; Forget-Me-Nots Matinee (Alpena Civic Theater) – 2:00 p.m.
<b>MON.</b>	Line Dancing–2:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts-4:00 p.m.; Feeding Kids Ministry – 5:30 p.m.; E.T.A. Group–5:30 p.m.
<b>TUES.</b>	Recovery Yoga – 5:00 p.m.; Senior Leaders – 5:30 p.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Church Council – 6:00 p.m.; Scouting America – 6:30 p.m.
<b>WED.</b>	Breakfast Belles – 7:30 a.m.
<b>THURS.</b>	3M Men's Breakfast (JJs) - 7:00 a.m.; Stitches of Joy – 10:00 a.m.; Open Line Dance – 1:00 p.m.; Chair Yoga– 3:00 p.m.
<b>FRI.</b>	Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.
<b>SAT.</b>	Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship Service/HC – 5:30 p.m.
<b>SUN.</b>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service/Children's Church/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:**

Lee Szczesniak—medical issues	Patricia Nelson - grief
David McNeil—health issues	Chad Hamill – health issues
Yvonne McQuarrie - health issues	Cameron Elder - unspoken
Chuck Piontkowski – medical issues	Sally Wong - medical issues
Travis Schmidt – health issues	Shelly Hoffmeyer – recovery
Dixie Crevier – health issues	Bruce Miller – unspecified need
Kevin Reiser – health issues	Tina Yeager – health issues
June Sylvester – fractured back	Storm Yakes – medical issues
Margaret Lucian – health issues	Greg Dzieszinski- health issues
Carol Kuhl – health issues	Joel Foster – health issues
John Wegmeyer– health issues	Phyllis Robb-unspecified need
	Malary Smith – unspecified
	Lee Werth—health issues
	Adam Schmidt- health issues
	Ann Martin – medical issues
	Dena Stevens – health issues
	Patricia B. - health issues
	Laura Fair – fell

*(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: Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Saginaw, Supply Pastors.

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

<u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>END OF MARCH</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Saturday 05/09 5:30 a.m. 47	Income 21,747.29	70,629.12
Sunday 05/10 9:00 a.m. 65	Expenses 36,586.18	102,505.74
10:30 a.m. 22	Difference (14,838.89)	(31,876.62)
Total 134		

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

**The May Service Activity is Hope Shores Alliance.** Items needed: Paper products, trash bags (13 gallon thru contractor), laundry detergent, art and crafts sets for children, school supplies, and gift cards. Please see our app, website, newsletter, or flyer on our bulletin boards for a complete list and leave your items on the altar. Thank you for your generosity.

**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 will be packing food for the Feeding Kids Ministry** on Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at the old Sunset School, 1421 Hobbs Drive. Call Sherry if you are willing to help or have any questions, 260-414-3613.

**GATHERING HYMN** “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!” (Red) #634

**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.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray. O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, 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: Acts 1:6-14**

<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” <sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup> They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. <sup>13</sup> When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup> All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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

**PSALM: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 (Read Responsively)**

Let God rise up; let his enemies be scattered; let those who hate him flee before him.

**As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melts before the fire, let the wicked perish before God.**

But let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy.

**Sing to God; sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds his name is the Lord—be exultant before him.**

Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.

**God gives the desolate a home to live in; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious live in a parched land.**

O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness,

**the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; you restored your heritage when it languished;

**your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.**

Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord,

**O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens; listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.**

Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel and whose power is in the skies.

**Awesome is God in his sanctuary, the God of Israel; he gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!**

**SECOND READING: 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11 (Sunday 9:00 a.m. service)**

<sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

<sup>5:6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. <sup>7</sup> Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup> Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. <sup>10</sup> And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup> To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

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 -



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: Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

**MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BENEDICTION**

SENDING HYMN

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

(Red) #855

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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  
 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.**

**POST COMMUNION CANTICLE**

“Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise”

- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -  
 Hal - le - lu - jah.  
 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 17:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup> “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, <sup>8</sup> for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

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

**Children’s Message** “This Little Light of Mine”

This little light of mine  
 I'm gonna let it shine  
 This little light of mine  
 I'm gonna let it shine  
 This little light of mine  
 I'm gonna let it shine  
 Let it shine let it shine let it shine

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*(Please be seated)*

**SERMON**

Pastor Martha Hartman Stuart

*(Please stand)*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Rejoice, for Christ Is King!”

(Red) #430

**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**

Merciful God,  
 receive our prayer.

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more.

Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

*(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 - dore 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.

**EUCHARISTIC 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;**