

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.	Annie Olsen
	9:00 a.m.	Danielle McDonald
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Annie Olsen
	9:00 a.m.	Richard Miller
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Barb Crittenden, Geri Hanson
	9:00 a.m.	Joanne Huggler, Pat Brodziak
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Dennis and Sherry McDonald
	9:00 am.	Nancy St. Onge, Cathy Kieliszewski
		Steve and Andrea Dutcher
<u>ACOLYTE</u>	9:00 a.m.	Cayden Smith
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Laurie Stafford and Patti Byce

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



December 11, 2021 - 5:30 p.m.

December 12, 2021 - 9:00 a.m.

The Adventure Club is a new educational vision that meets twice a month, on the first and third Sundays from 5:30 –6:30 p.m. The will meet next on Sunday, December 19th at 5:30 p.m. The theme will be “The Christmas Crusade.” Join us for fun, adventure, and food within this intergenerational educational experience for ages 1 – 105!

The December Service Activity is Hope Shores Alliance. Items needed: Gift cards for gas or food, any amount appreciated. Please place your items on the altar.

The Forget-Me-Nots will not have a meeting on the first Tuesday of December, but will gather instead on Sunday, December 12 at 2:00 pm for the Civic Theatre performance of “Church Ladies Away in the Basement.” I reserved 27 tickets and we were given a group rate of \$14 per ticket. I have the tickets and you can get your ticket and pay me next time you see me or just before the performance. If you have not ordered a ticket and would like to attend, call the box office between 3:00 and 6:00, Mon. – Thurs. at 989-354-3624. Questions? Call Ann Hardesty at 989-471-5304.

If you would like to serve as an usher, acolyte, or cross-bearer for one of the Christmas Eve services, please sign-up today on the sheet in the Narthex. **Thanks!**

The **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services** will be at 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Friday, December 24th. Holy Communion will be served at all services.

Please join us for our Christmas Day Worship on December 25th at 10:00 a.m.

The Scholarship Committee is very grateful to those that have brought in their bottle returns, we ask that you keep them coming! The bottle returns can be place in the janitorial closet next to the elevator on the Mirre street side. There is a sign on the door for less confusion. Please contact Val Urban 356-4613 if you have questions.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: DECEMBER 12 – 19, 2021	
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Jr/Sr. High Sunday school – 10:30; Contemporary Service & Children’s Church – 10:30 a.m.; Forget-Me-Nots – Civic Theatre – 2:00 p.m.
<u>MON.</u>	Stephen Ministry – 1:00 p.m.; Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 6:00 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Life Line Screening Appointments; Gratitude Lunches – 9:30 a.m.; Stewardship – 5:00 p.m.; Boy Scouts – 6:30 p.m.
<u>WED.</u>	Advent Service and lunch – 12:00 p.m.; Book Study – 1:00 p.m. (<i>Pastor John</i>); Stephen Ministry – 5:30 p.m.; Newsletter Deadline
<u>THURS.</u>	Men’s Fellowship – 7:00 a.m.; Dinner on a Doorknob – 9:00 a.m.; Yoga – 5:30 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 6:00 p.m.; Bible Study (<i>Miss Nena</i>) – 6:30 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.
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00; Fellowship – 10:00; Jr/Sr. High Sunday School – 10:30; Worship & Children’s Church – 10:30 a.m.; Adventure Club – 5:30 p.m.

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

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS: Stacey Mikesch, Tim, Dawn & Mitchel Havercroft, Kenneth and June Sylvester, Gary Rich, Karen Morton, Kelci Ghiata, Skyler Kilcrease, Jim Miller, Erin Sharp, Randy Donakowski, John Tinker, Gladys Kelsey, Nathan LeTourneau, Maryanna Miller, Bodo Hanson, Pete Creguer, Roy Sommerfeld, Howard & Gloria Lumsden, Dorothy Carr, Melissa Smith, Sutton Badder, Marian Dove, Dolores Sumerix, Amy Waite, Charlie Busuttil, Eleanor Schellie, Megan Schleben, Audrey Reck, Tim Grossman, Deb Lange, Bernice Menck, Annette Jones, and Karen Wallace.

We remember our prayer partners in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod: Mamrelund Lutheran Church, Kent City, Rev. Michael Conklin

This week we join in prayer with the other LARCC parishes (Grace Lutheran, Trinity Episcopal, First Congregational UCC, All Saints Parish) for the Prayer Group at Trinity Episcopal Church.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	END OF OCT.		YEAR TO DATE
Saturday (12/04) 5:30 p.m.	Income	26,514.41	252,615.69
Sunday (12/05) 9:00 a.m. 35	Expenses	<u>26,707.26</u>	<u>249,864.70</u>
10:30 a.m. 13	Difference	(192.85)	2,750.99
Total			

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL are given to the glory of God.

Advent is a time of preparation for the arrival of Jesus at Christmas. This year we will have Advent Services on Wednesdays at 12:00 – 12:45 p.m. The remaining services are on December 15 & 22. We begin with a meal at 12:00 and after dining we have a short service at 12:25.

If you would like to donate funds to go toward enhancing decorations for the sanctuary at Christmas as a memorial to loved ones or in honor of someone, forms are available for you to fill out in the Narthex and in the church office. The names of the memorials will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletins. *The deadline to take names and donations is December 15th.*

Pastor John is aware of people who are in need of help during the Christmas season. If you're able to help meet the needs of those in our community, a contribution to the Good Samaritan Fund would be a wonderful and much appreciated way of sharing God's compassion and love with others.

Advent Educational Opportunities started December 1 and will run through the 23. Pastor John's Class meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM and Miss Nena's class meet on Thursdays at 6:30 PM. Both last 1 hour. Pastor John is holding a Book Study on "Letters from Prison" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Miss Nena is leading a Bible Study "She Smiles Without Fear." Please call the office so we know how to plan/books to order. Thank you.

Recovery Yoga is meeting on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. only. Please come join us.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The Third Sunday of Advent
December 11, 2021 - 5:30 p.m.
December 12, 2021 - 9:00 a.m.

Congregational responses are printed in bold; Additional items for the 9:00 a.m. service only are printed in **blue.**)

Welcome! Celebrations of birthdays, Anniversaries and a time to welcome our guests. The offering will be received at the back and front of the church building. We ask that you fill out the communion card and place it in the offering plate in the front or back of the church before you depart the church.

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Please Stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait,

in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace.

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

"Joy to the World"

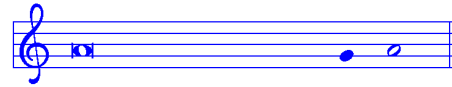
(Red) #267

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.

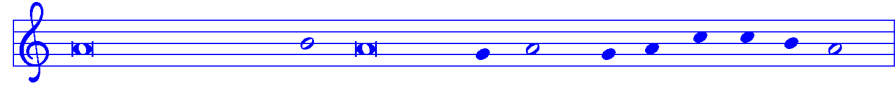
KYRIE



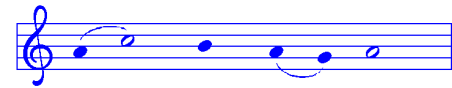
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



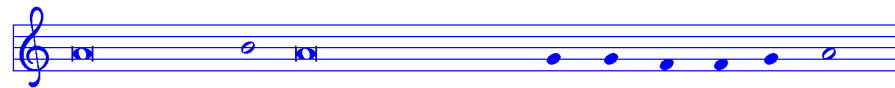
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



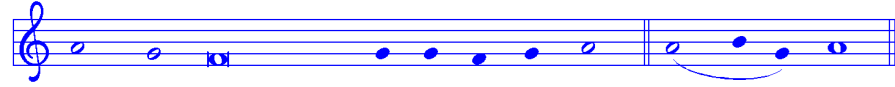
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

SENDING HYMN

“People, Look East”

(Red) #248

DISMISSAL

God in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

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SERMON NOTES

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

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



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.

“Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise”

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. **Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

HYMN OF PRAISE



Refrain
Assisting minister
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All
1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us
free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and
strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the
hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and
might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

Light three candles.

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷ The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸ as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰ At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord
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, 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.

“Lamb of God”

lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. **Amen.**

(Please stand)

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.

(Sung at the 9:00 a.m. service.)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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:

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 G⁷ 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.

fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Isaiah 12:2-6 (Read Responsively)

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.

Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.

Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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.

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

GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹ In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³ He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said

to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

(Please be seated)

SERMON

“”

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” (Red) #242

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 IS BEING RECEIVED IN THE BACK & THE FRONT OF THE CHURCH BUILDING

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our