

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

CHOIR DIRECTOR

SPECIAL MUSIC

ASSISTING MINISTER

LECTOR

USHERS & GREETERS

ALTAR CARE

The People of God  
Rev. John Shipman  
Marvis McNeil  
Marty Cantleberry  
Choir  
Esther Kindt  
Kathy Burton  
Nancy Smithem, Jeff Ciupka  
Cathy Kieliszewski, Mary Jo Beck  
Jan Stafford, Laurie Stafford, Karen Wekwert

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

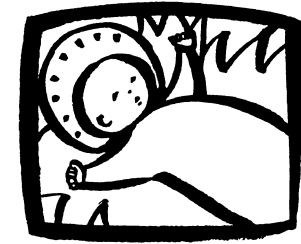
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Liturgical Worship Service  
celebrates and shares God's love and compassion

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

Phone 989-356-1658

Fax 989-356-3206

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



she will  
bear a son  
and you are  
to name him  
Jesus. for he  
will save  
his people  
from their sins.

M A T T H E W 1:21

December 22, 2019  
9:00 a.m.

**GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**  
**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**December 22, 2019—9:00 a.m.**

*(Congregational responses are printed in bold)*

**Welcome**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**      “Come Child of Light”

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the parent who rouses us from slumber, the shepherd who gathers us on the holy mountain, the deliverer who sets us free.

**Amen.**

Let us come before the living God in confession.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

As we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation,  
**we open our hearts to you, O God. Search us and know us. Reveal all that we keep inside. To you, O God, we confess our sins, known and unknown. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us in your ways of justice and peace. Make us reflections of the radiant love of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. 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**      “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”      (Red) #257, vs. 1-4

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God from which nothing can separate us, and the life-giving Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

**The Christmas Eve Services** will be at 5:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. Holy Communion will be served at both services.

**Please join us for our Christmas Day Worship** on December 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

**The Bazaar Committee recently met to disperse funds from the 2019 Christmas Bazaar.** We are donating \$12,209.12 to the church. \$6650.00 to the General Fund and \$4434.00 for repairs and maintenance of the church., and we tithed \$562.50 each to the Samaritas Fund to send foster kids to camp and a local woman recovering from an auto accident. Thank you to all who purchased, volunteered, donated or participated in any way in making St. Paul 2019 Christmas Bazaar such a huge success. God Bless! *The Bazaar Committee*

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** Our **Epiphany Candlelight Dessert** will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church on *Saturday, January 4, 2020* at 6:30 p.m. If you would like to volunteer to make a dessert or to host a table, please contact Doreen Kriniak at 916-9172. Make plans now to attend and invite a friend. You won't want to miss it! There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Please sign up by December 31<sup>st</sup> as that will help us with the planning process. *Thank you.*

**We are launching a new Outreach Project** and are looking for a few volunteers to help make it happen. Our plan is to cook and deliver a simple meal to service organizations in the area on a monthly basis. Providing a meal once a month will show appreciation to those who provide essential needs to our community. The Dinner on a Doorknob Ministry will mentor and support this new group. We need 5 volunteers who are willing to donate about 3 hours once a month. If you are interested, please call the church office and leave your name and contact information. For questions call Susan Keyes 354-3851.

**Council recommends an amendment of section C13.03 of the By-Laws, adding the following:** “This committee would be responsible for an Annual Audit of all church accounts, except what is already stated in the Trust Fund Policy.” The amendment to the constitution will be voted upon in December after the unity service on December 29<sup>th</sup>.

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**WEEK AT A GLANCE: DECEMBER 22—29, 2019**

- SUN.    Worship/HC—9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Worship Service – 10:30 a.m.; No Sunday School
- MON.    Girl Scouts – 6:00 p.m.
- TUES.    Church Office will close at Noon; Christmas Eve Candlelight Services – 5:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
- WED.    Christmas Worship – 10:00 a.m.
- THURS.    Men's Fellowship at JJs – 7:00 a.m.; Church Office Closed today – through January 1.
- SAT.    No Service (Hymn Sing Unity Service tomorrow at 9:00 a.m.)
- SUN.    Unity Hymn Sing Service – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship—10:00; No Sunday School

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

**WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:** Allen Ludwig, Theresa Stoppa, Logan McAlpine, Ken Hole, Doug McDonald, Jamie Shipman, Ron Kelsey, Linda Connon, Shirley Burnham, Trapp Truman, Audrey Reck, Elbert & Audrey Heath, Ed Arthur, Barb Agius, Barb Skaluba, Randy Donakowski, Tim Grossman, Melinda Nordstrand, David Usher, Ilse Kuhl, John David Maleport, Gerry Ludwig, Deb Lange, Jennifer Jones, Cindy Nensewitz, Sally Kosloski, Bernice Menck, Annette Jones, and Karen Wallace.

We remember our prayer partners in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod:

\* Calvary Lutheran Church, Lansing, Supply Pastors

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

**CONDOLENCES TO:** The family and friends of Jeffrey Dehring who joined our Lord in eternity Monday, December 16, 2019. His funeral serviced was held on December 21 at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

**CONDOLENCES TO:** The family and friends of Dennis Johnson who joined our Lord in eternity December 17, 2019. His funeral service will be held on Monday, December 23 at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

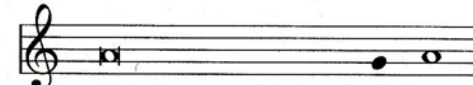
			NOV	YTD
Saturday (12/14) 5:30 p.m.	101	Income	29,997.00	255,360.00
Sunday (12/15) 9:00 a.m.	82	Expenses	<u>32,659.26</u>	<u>242,222.13</u>
Sunday 10:30 a.m.	<u>25</u>	Difference	(2,662.26)	13,137.87
Total	208			

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

**Our December Service Activity is the Children's Closet at Wilson School.** Items needed: Boys and girls comfortable pants (leggings/athletic pants) sizes 5 to 10, boys and girls underwear, sizes 5-10, flushable wipes, boys and girl's hygiene kits (deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, body spray), winter gloves and hats. Please leave items on the altar.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!** The **Stewardship Annual Dinner** will be held on Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, following the 5:30 p.m. service. Plan now to attend.

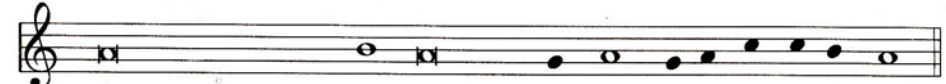
**KYRIE**



**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



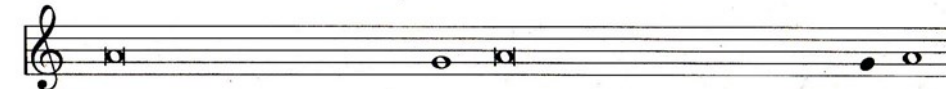
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



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



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



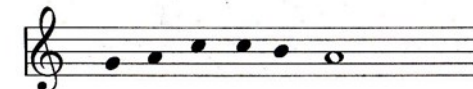
and for the uni-ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



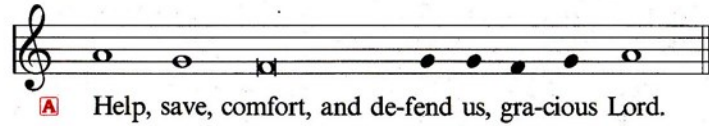
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord.



## SERMON NOTES:

### **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin.

As we light these candles, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved.

O house of David, come,  
**let us rejoice, for the Son of God, Emmanuel,  
comes to be with us. Amen.**

*Light the fourth candle.*

**BENEDICTION**

SENDING HYMN

“Joy to the World”

(Red) #267

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16**

<sup>10</sup> Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup> Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. <sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth  
**before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!**

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

**O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people’s prayers?**

You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.

**You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.**

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

**But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.**

Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

**Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

**SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup> the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup> including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, <sup>7</sup> To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(Please Stand)*  
**“Gospel Acclamation”**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
 You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

**GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25**

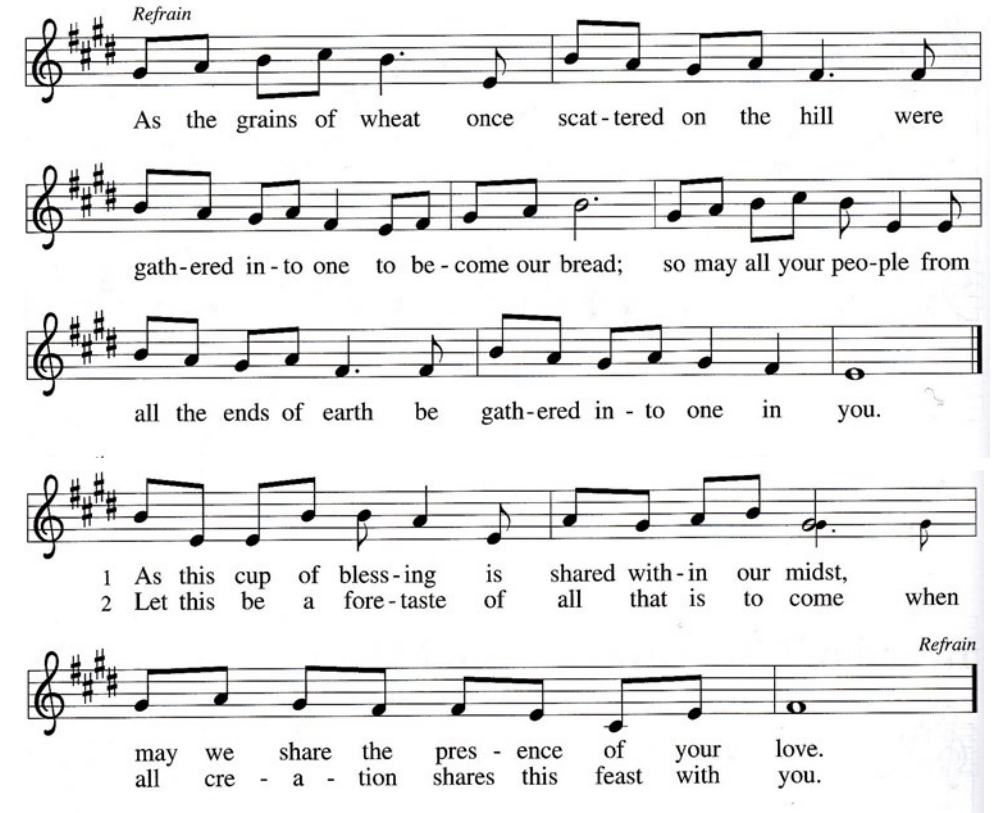
<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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



*Refrain*  
 As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
 gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
 all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.  
 1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,  
 2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when  
*Refrain*  
 may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
 all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray: God of abundance, we give you thanks that in this holy meal you have invited us to feast with you and one another. May the taste of your love remain with us, and may our words and our work in your name invite others into your bountiful grace. Send us from your table to proclaim your presence, even as we await the glorious coming of Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

**MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS**



**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

“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, grant us peace.

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

**POST COMMUNION CANTICLE**

SERMON

“Answering the Call”

Pastor John Shipman

HYMN OF THE DAY

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

(Red) #257, vs. 5-8

Confession of Faith: Apostles’ Creed

**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.**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:** Lord, in your mercy,  
hear our prayer.

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**OFFERING**

“Prepare Ye!”

**“LET THE VINEYARDS”**

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
 blessing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
 we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
 all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble  
 with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Giver of every good thing, we set before you the gifts that you have already given to sustain our lives and to share with others. Help us to be good stewards of the earth and all that is in it, and let our lives be a testimony to the abundant feast you prepare for all who hunger. **Amen.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.