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



October 24, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
October 25, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
Reformation Sunday
October 24, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
October 25, 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
Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through + Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (Red) #504

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. Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, 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: Jeremiah 31:31-34

31 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the
house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with
their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a
covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. 33 But this is the
covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put
my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they
shall be my people. 34 No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know
the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord;
for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

PSALM: Psalm 46 (Read Responsively)

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.
Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.
'Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.'
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28 ***(Sunday 9:00 a.m. service)***

19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so
that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.
20 For 'no human being will be justified in his sight' by deeds prescribed by the law, for
through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

[21] But now, irrespective of law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, [22] the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ[a] for all who believe. For there is no distinction, [23] since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; [24] they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, [25] whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement[b] by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; [26] it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. [27] Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. [28] For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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

(Please Stand)

Gospel Acclamation



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

GOSPEL READING: John 8:31-36

31 Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, 'If you continue in my word, you
are truly my disciples; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.' 33
They answered him, 'We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to
anyone. What do you mean by saying, "You will be made free"?'
34 Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.
35 The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there
for ever. 36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

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

Children's Message/Noisy Offering

"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 Bob Case

BAPTISM – Archie Julius Techel *(Saturday 5:30 p.m.)* P. 227

(*Please stand*)
HYMN OF THE DAY "Built on a Rock" (Red) #652

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

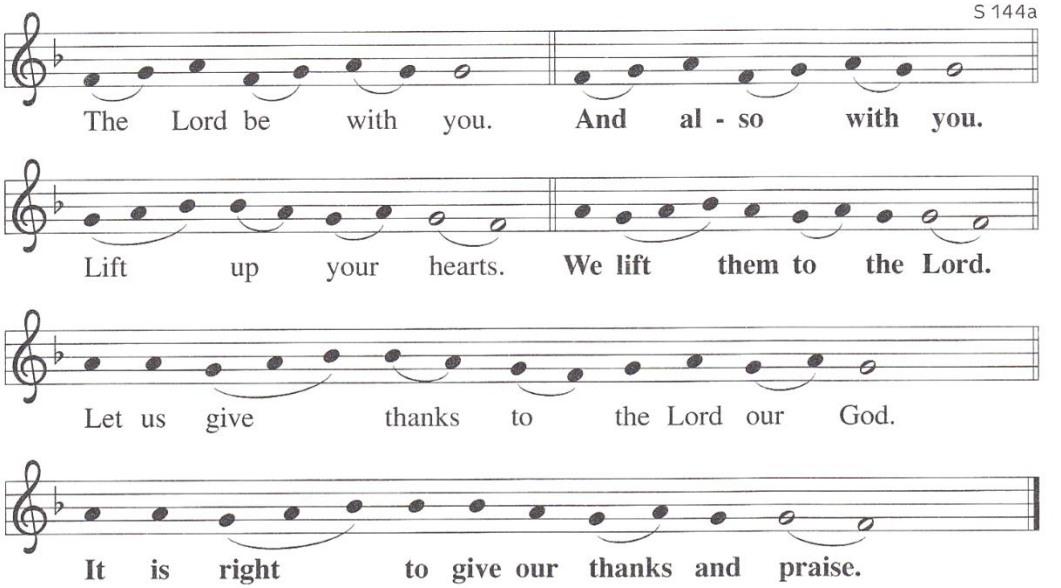
SHARING OF THE PEACE
The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

(Please stand)
OFFERING PRAYER

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **Amen.**

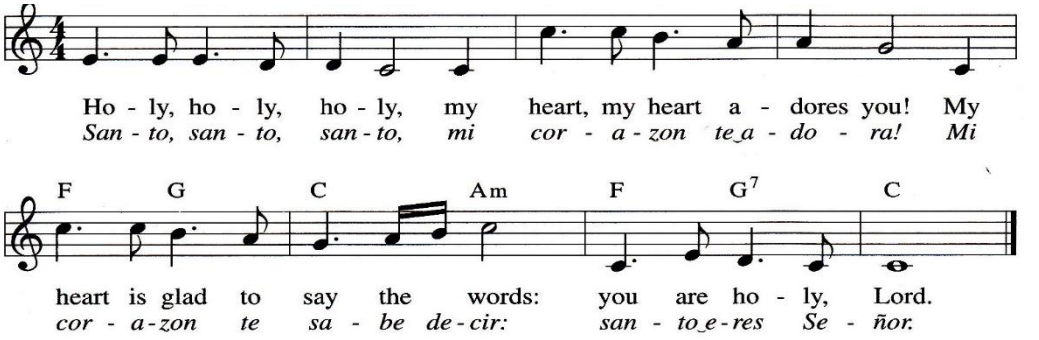
(Sung at the 9:00 a.m. service.)

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:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord



EUCHARISTIC BLESSING

LORD'S PRAYER

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

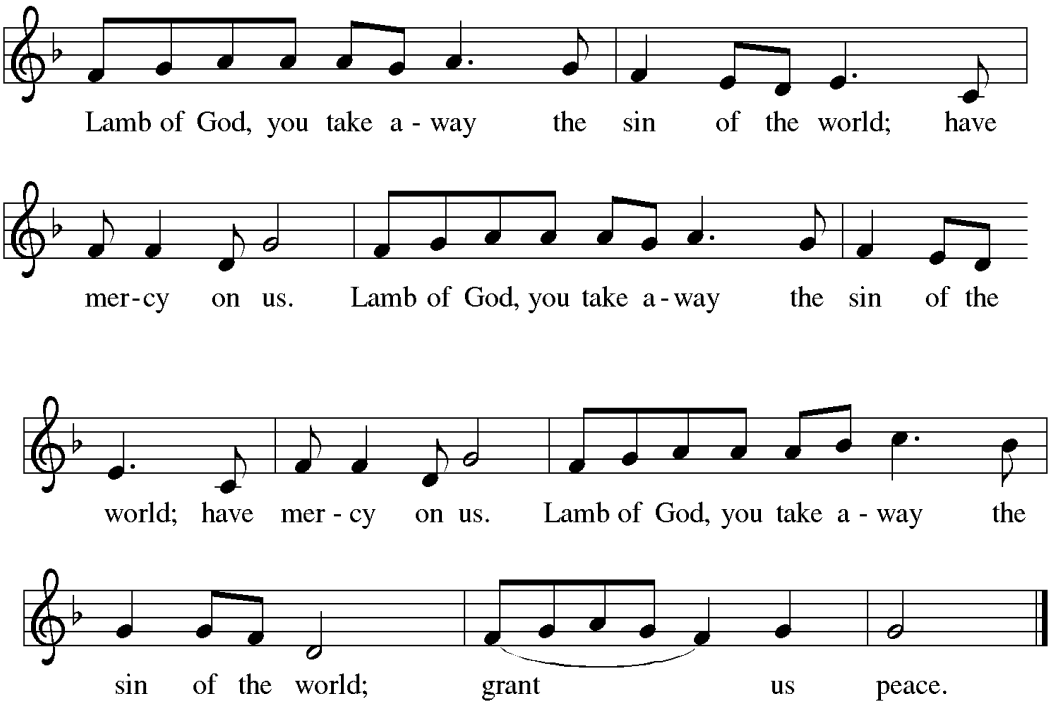
People: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine 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"



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"



POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN "Thy Strong Word" (Red) #511

DISMISSAL
Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
Thanks be to God.

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

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS: Johnathan O. – health issues Dena Stevens – health issues
Morgan Kibbe & Baby Colton Jeff Wittenburg – medical Tom Peters - surgery
Alan Courtney – health issues Ted Sommerfeld – health Mary Boomer-Scott – health
Jesse O'Neil – health issues Chuck Piontkowski – health Ann Martin – medical issues
Yvonne McQuarrie – health issues Joel Foster – health issues Billie Jo Foster–health issues
Mollie Skiba – health issue John Wegmeyer–health issues Phyllis Robb - unspecified
Sandra Christopherson – unspecified Lisa Dziesinski-health issues Luke Boyk—health issues
We also remember our homebound member, Phyllis Robb. *(Prayer is the best medicine and we are prepred 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: St. Peter Lutheran Church, Battle Creek, Rev. Edward Ruble

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

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

ADDITIONAL FLOWERS are given in memory of Howard L. Scull, who passed away October 29th, 2016. We love you, miss you and talk to you daily, from his wife and family.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	**END OF AUGUST**		**YEAR TO DATE**
Sunday 10/18 9:00 a.m.	Income	14,857.87	185,006.29
	G & M Loan	20,000.00	20,000.00
	Expenses	22,395.07	212,156.16
	Difference	(7,537.20)	(27,149.87)

Commitment Cards are available in the back of the church for those who missed getting one on Commitment Weekend. Fill one out and put in the offering plate, or drop off at the church office.

The October Service Activity is Ella White Elementary School. Items needed: Sweatpants/leggings sizes 6-14, underwear – sizes 6-14, tennis shoes – all kids sizes, and snacks for students. Please leave your donations on the altar. Thank you.

Fellowship is in need of cookies to be served before the Saturday Service and between the Sunday services. We thank you for your generous donations in the past and for the future. There is also a need for some gluten free cookies. Also, we are looking for a volunteer to serve as a host for Sunday mornings, once a month.

We welcome into the kingdom of God through the sacrament of Holy Baptism (Saturday 5:30) Archie Julius Techel, son of Philip and Rachael Techel. His sponsors are Jenna Donajakowski and Jackie & Trent Barnes. May our Lord surround him with His grace as he grows to know Him as Lord and Savior.

The Forget-Me-Nots will be attending the matinee performance of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" at the Alpena Civic Theatre on Sunday, October 25. **The Forget-Me-Nots** will meet for lunch at noon on Tuesday, November 3 at JJ's. Please call Ann Hardesty at 989-590-2055, if you are able to join us that day. This helps the staff prepare for our arrival. We hope you can join us.

We will be packing food for the Feeding Kids Ministry on Monday, October 26th at 5:30 p.m. at the old Sunset School, 1421 Hobbs Drive. Call Sherry if you have questions at 260-414-3613.

If you are interested in becoming a new member, please call the church office at 989-356-1658.

The Soul Sisters will be Kayaking on Wednesday October 28th, weather permitting. We will meet at Sytek Park at 5:30 p.m. and launch at 6:00 p.m. On Monday, November 16th, at 6:00 p.m. the Soul Sisters invite you to their annual **Christmas Card Signing**. Water and pop will be available, and feel free to bring a snack!

Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour when going to bed on Saturday, October 31st. Daylight Saving Time ends November 1st.

You will have the opportunity to pick up your November newsletter this Friday, October 30th in the church office. They will also be available next weekend (October 31st/November 1st) at all services, in a box, alphabetically in the Narthex. We are hoping this will cut down on our postage costs. Also, if you would like to be added to the digital list, please email Jackie, jackie@stpaul.org.

Reminder: Next Sunday is Popcorn/Movie Day for Children's Church! Adults can sneak some too.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: OCTOBER 25 – NOVEMBER 1, 2026

SUN.	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) – 2:00 p.m.
MON.	Alpena Peace Community – 1:00 p.m.; Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 4:00 p.m.; E.T.A. Group – 5:30 p.m.; Feeding Kids Ministry – 5:30 p.m.
TUES.	Dinner on a Doorknob – 9:00 a.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Scouting America – 6:30 p.m.
WED.	Breakfast Belles – 7:30 a.m.; Stephen Ministry – 4:30 p.m.; Choir – 4:30 p.m.; Soul Sisters Kayaking – 5:30 p.m.
THURS.	3M Men's Breakfast - 7:00 a.m.; Open Line Dance – 1:00 p.m.; Chair Yoga – 3:15 p.m.
FRI.	Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.
SAT.	Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship/HC – 5:30 p.m.
SUN.	Worship/HC-9:00; Fellowship–10:00; Contemporary Service/Children's Church/C.I.A. - 10:30

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

MINISTERS		The People of God
ORGANIST		Marvis McNeil
CHOIR DIRECTOR		Marty Cantleberry
ASSISTING MINISTER	5:30 p.m.	Phil Wickstrom
	9:00 a.m.	Dawn Yakes
LECTOR	5:30 p.m.	Sue Keyes
	9:00 a.m.	Cathy Kieliszewski
FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS	5:30 p.m.	Anita Laub
	9:00 a.m.	Janice Boboltz
HEAD USHER		Roy Wekwert
USHERS & GREETERS	5:30 p.m.	Patti Byce, MaryAnne Kucharek Bruce Anschuetz
	9:00 a.m.	Dennis Dziesinski, Roy Wekwert Kathy Burton, Ryan Panknin
CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS		Jesse & Jessica O'Neil, Laycie Paquette
ALTAR CARE		Sue Robb and Carol Kindt

We thank all participants for enriching our worship service.