

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.

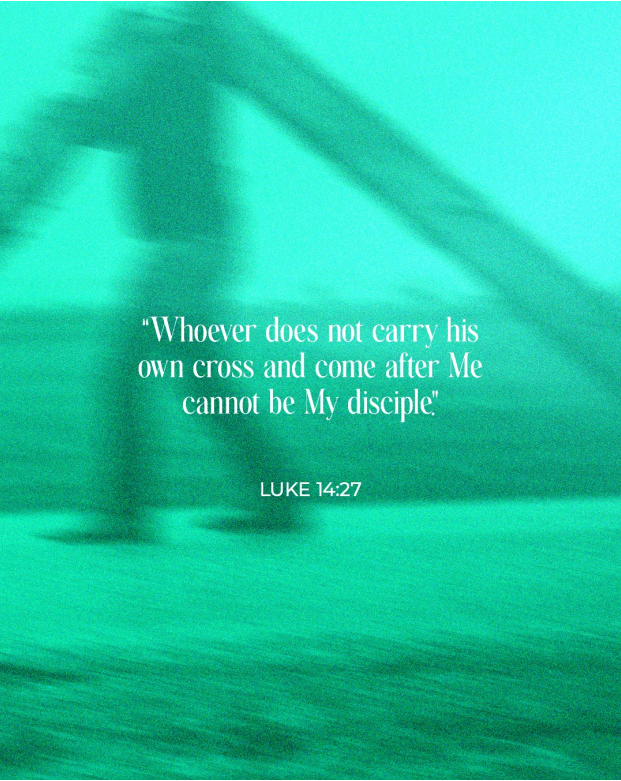
PARTICIPANTS		
MINISTERS		
PASTOR		The People of God
ORGANIST		Rev. John Shipman
CHOIR DIRECTOR		Marvis McNeil
ASSISTING MINISTER	5:30 p.m.	Marty Cantleberry
	9:00 a.m.	Carol Kindt
LECTOR	5:30 p.m.	Scott Parkham
	9:00 a.m.	Carol Kindt
FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS	5:30 p.m.	Scott Parkham
	9:00 a.m.	Sue Robb
HEAD USHER		Janice Boboltz
USHERS & GREETERS	5:30 p.m.	Roy Wekwert
	9:00 am.	Dennis and Sherry McDonald
		Dennis Dziesinski, Ryan Panknin
		Jeff Ciupka, Cathy Kieliszewski
CHILDREN’S CHURCH LEADERS		Karen Wekwert, Dawn Grzeskowiak
		Sue Robb
LITTLES’ WORSHIP CENTER LEADERS		Andrea Dutcher, Evie and Mia Bicker
ALTAR CARE		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



September 6, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.
September 7, 2025 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.
September 7, 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 “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross” (Red) #335

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.

“Strikes for Compassion” Fundraiser will be held on Friday, September 12. See the insert for all the details.

We will be packing food for the Feeding Kids Ministry on Monday, September 15th at the old Sunset School, 1421 Hobbs Drive. Call Sherry McDonald if you are willing to help or have any questions, 989-356-9600.

Attention all men! Mark your calendars for the upcoming “Men’s Night,” which will be held on Wednesday, September 17th at 6:30 p.m. at the church. All men are encouraged to join us for this fun evening.

The Band of Brothers are going to an Alpena High School football game on September 19th against Cadillac. This is a home game, and we will meet at the gate at 6:30 p.m. The game time is 7:00 p.m. Come and be part of this dynamic Men’s Ministry.

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 fall. Join us for fellowship, service and a free lunch.

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.

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 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 will hold a Book Study on “Death and Dying” and Miss Nena will lead a Bible Study on “Reckless Love: Jesus’ Call to love our Neighbor” Each class length will be 1 hour. Pastor John’s Class will meet on Wednesdays at 1:00 and 5:30 p.m. and Miss Nena’s class will meet on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. Call the office to register. Thank you.

St. Paul’s Eucharistic Ministry: We have trained Eucharistic Ministers who will take communion kits to shut-ins on a regular basis. Questions? Contact Esther Kindt at 471-2274.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: <i>SEPTEMBER 7—14, 2025</i>	
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m. (<i>T-Shirt/Bring a Friend</i>); Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service and Children’s Church – 10:30 a.m. (<i>T-Shirt/Bring a Friend</i>); C.I.A. – 10:30 a.m.; God Work. Our Hands; A Stroll through the Tombstones (Evergreen Cemetery) – 6:00 p.m.
<u>MON.</u>	Line Dancing – 2:00 P.M.; E.T.A. – 5:30 p.m.; Christmas Bazaar Planning Meeting – 5:30 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Gratitude Lunches – 9:00 a.m.; Forget-Me-Nots – 12:00 p.m. (Church Picnic Grounds); 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.; Kitchen Krew – 10:00 a.m.
<u>THURS.</u>	3M Men’s Breakfast – 7:00 a.m.; Open Line Dance – 1:00 p.m.; Chair Yoga – 3:00 p.m.; Stephen Ministry – 3:30 p.m.; Outreach – 3:30 p.m.; Choir Practice – 4:30 p.m.; Yoga 101 – 5:00 p.m.
<u>FRI.</u>	Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.; “Strikes” Spark Compassion Event (Thunder Bowl Lanes) – 5:30 p.m.
<u>SAT.</u>	Memorial Service for Mabel Townsend – 12:00 p.m.; Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship/HC – 5:30 p.m.
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service and Children’s Ch./C.I.A. – 10:30

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

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

Lisa Creguer – cancer treatments	Bob Christou – knee surgery rec.	Joyce Piper-Ross - healing
Debra Gapske – health issues	Cody Franklin - leukemia	Sharon Tinker-knee surgery rec.
Karen Wallace–unspecified need	Vicki Carlson – health issues	Alan Marwede—health issues
Lee Werth—health issues	Annette Wade – medical issues	Dena Stevens – health issues
Ric Schmidt – recovery from surgery	Gary Lumsden – surgery	Art Hoffmeyer - heart issues
Adam Schmidt- health issues	John Wegmeyer– health issues	Karen Schwochow – strength
Laura Kieliszewski – health issues	Don Barnard—recovery	George Sneden-health issues
Ann Martin – medical issues	Phyllis Robb-unspecified need	Laura Cussen – stroke
	Margaret Lucian – health issues	David McNeil – health issues

ARMED SERVICES: Katie Copping, Jake Przysiecki, Noah Hardesty, Dominick Christou, Sawyer Hein, Rachael Mayes, Brandon Sloan, Andrew Hein, Justin A. Smith, Maragely Hein, Amelia Berles, Josh Gapske, Nicole Stafford, Chuck Dziedzic, and Dale Kirkendoll. *(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: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Jackson, Rev. Kate Schroder.

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

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE		END OF JUNE		YEAR TO DATE
Saturday (08/30) 5:30 p.m.	59	Income	36,225.99	177,439.06
Sunday (08/31) 9:00 a.m.	37	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>44,453.02</u>	<u>195,632.16</u>
10:30 a.m.	<u>59</u>	Difference	(8,227.03)	(18,193.10)
Total	155			

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

CIA (Christians in Action) will be starting up Sunday September 7th during the 10:30 service. We will meet each week on the 3rd floor in the youth room. All teens in 6th-12th grades are invited to attend.

Pastor John will lead a Stroll through the Tombstones at Evergreen Cemetery on September 7th at 6:00 p.m. Please come with stories to share about loved ones, stories about Alpena and how others shaped our history.

The next Christmas Bazaar Committee Meeting will be on Monday, September 8th, at 5:30 p.m. See you then.

The Soul Sisters are kayaking on September 9th and 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.

The Forget-Me-Nots will meet on Tuesday, September 9th at the church picnic grounds at noon. Please bring a lunch and beverage. If you need a ride, please call Ann Hardesty at 989-590-2055.

The Kitchen Krew will be meeting on Wednesday, September 10th in the Dining Room.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵ See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

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

PSALM: Psalm 1 (Read Responsively)

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;
but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

SECOND READING: Philemon1-21

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, ² to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow-soldier, and to the church in your house: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith towards the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the sharing of

your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ.⁷ I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸ For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty,⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus.¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment.¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me.¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you.¹³ I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel;¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced.¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for ever,¹⁶ no longer as a slave but as more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me.¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account.¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self.²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ.²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

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.

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 “Lift High the Cross” (Red) #660

DISMISSAL

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

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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”

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.

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

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

GOSPEL READING: Luke 14:25-33

²⁵ Now large crowds were travelling with him; and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ ‘Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, “This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.” ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

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

“Discipleship”

Rev. John Shipman

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

(Red) #798

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 PRAYER

(Please stand)
(Sung at the 9:00 a.m. service.)
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



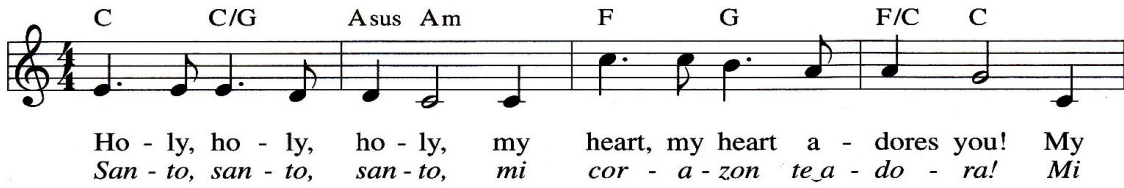
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.




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, my heart, my heart a - dores 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.

(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”