

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. Iris Arthur 9:00 a.m. Esther Kindt
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m. Sue Keyes 9:00 a.m. Cathy Kieliszewski
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m. Anita Laub 9:00 a.m. Justin MacKay, Ashley Reed
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m. Patti Byce 9:00 am. Ryan Panknin, Nancy Smithem Jeff Ciupka, Barb Szczesniak
<u>ACOLYTE</u>	9:00 a.m. Evan Peterson
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>	Marty Cantleberry, Pat Cornelius, 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



November 27, 2021 - 5:30 p.m.
November 28, 2021 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

The First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2021 - 5:30 p.m.

November 28, 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

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

(Red) #244

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.

We thank Pastor Bill Rayment, Danielle McDonald and Michael Lewandowski for leading us in worship this week-end.

On Tuesday, November 30th at 6:00 p.m. the Soul Sisters will be wrapping Christmas presents. St. Paul is sponsoring 6 children through the Christmas Wish List program. The items have already been purchased and we will meet in the classrooms across from the church office to wrap them. We will also be having a cookie walk. If you would like to participate, please bring 2 dozen cookies. Come join us for a festive evening. If you have any questions call Shirley at 989-464-6472.

The November Service Activity is the Thunder Bay Jr. High School - Pride Program. The Pride Program stands for Personal responsibility, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Effort. Items needed: candy, small cans of Pringles, and prizes suitable for a 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. Please place your items on the altar.

This year we will have Advent Services on Wednesdays at 12:00 – 12:45 p.m. on Dec. 1, 8, 15 & 22. We will begin with a meal at 12:00 and after dining we will have a short service at 12:25. Come and share this time of preparation.

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

We are decorating the Sanctuary and Multi-purpose rooms on Wednesday, December 8th at 2:00 p.m. Please join us! We sure hope some men will come help too!

Singles At St. Paul are meeting the first Thursday of every month at 6:00 P.M. in Pastor John’s office. We have a short time of study and then we travel to a local business, restaurant, etc. for some time of relaxed conversation. Please come and be part of this new ministry and invite your friends. It is open to singles from 18–100. **We meet next on December 2nd.**

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.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: NOVEMBER 28—DECEMBER 5, 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.
<u>MON.</u>	Line Dancing—2:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts—6:00 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Soul Sisters Wrapping & Cookie Walk Event – 6:00 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.; Property Committee – 7:00 p.m.
<u>THURS.</u>	Men’s Fellowship— 7:00 a.m.; Yoga – 2:30 & 5:30 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 6:00 p.m.; Singles Group – 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: 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 Busuttill, Eleanor Schellie, Megan Schleben, Audrey Reck, Tim Grossman, Deb Lange, Bernice Menck, Annette Jones, and Karen Wallace. *We also remember our homebound members.* They are: Harriet Burke, Virginia Kraft, Virginia Beaulieu, Deb Lange, and Phyllis Robb.

We remember our prayer partners in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod: Trinity Lutheran Church, Kalamazoo, Rev. Ken Johnson and Rev. Jacob Lehman.

This week we join in prayer with the other LARCC parishes (Grace Lutheran, Trinity Episcopal, First Congregational UCC, All Saints Parish) for the Justice and Peace Efforts at First Congregational UCC.

CONDOLENCES TO: the family and friends of Theresa Stoppa who joined our Lord in eternity November 19, 2021. Her funeral service will be held on Tuesday, November 30th at 11:00 a.m.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE		END OF OCT.	YEAR TO DATE
Saturday (11/20)	5:30 p.m.	52	Income 26,514.41
Sunday (11/21)	9:00 a.m. 85	41	Expenses <u>26,707.26</u>
	10:30 a.m.	<u>20</u>	Difference (192.85)
	Total	113	249,864.70

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL are given in honor of Deanna Spencer on her birthday, November 29th, from Julie and Mike Preuss.

The aprons, dish cloths, jewelry, hot pads, canned items, hats and mittens left from the Christmas bazaar are in the dining room. Please check out the items that would make great Christmas gifts. Everything will be there until the end of the month and the remaining will be stored away for next year. If you would like to pick up the items that you brought, do so by the end of the month. **Thank you** to all who purchased, volunteered, donated or participated in any way in making St. Paul Christmas Bazaar such a huge success! The proceeds for the day were \$12,242.00, which will go to new flooring for the sanctuary. We tithed \$1200.00 to Trinity Episcopal Sunday Supper. God Bless. *The Bazaar Committee*

We are looking for people/groups to do Advent Lunches on December 1, 8, 15 & 22. If you are interested in providing lunch for one of those dates, please call the church office at 356-1658. Thanks.

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.

Pastor John and Miss Nena have planned Advent Educational Opportunities, that will run December 1 – 23. Both classes will last for four weeks and the class length will be 1 hour. Pastor John's Class will meet on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM and Miss Nena's class will meet on Thursdays at 6:30 PM. Pastor John will hold a Book Study on "Letters from Prison" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Miss Nena will lead a Bible Study "She Smiles Without Fear." Please call the office so we know how to plan/books to order.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

Light the first candle of hope.

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴ "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring forth for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

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

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10 (Read Responsively)

To thee, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in thee I trust, let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.

Yea, let none that wait for thee be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths.

Lead me in thy truth, and teach me, for thou art the God of my salvation; for thee I wait all the day long.

Be mindful of thy mercy, O Lord, and of thy steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Remember not the sins of my youth, or my transgressions; according to thy steadfast love remember me, for thy goodness' sake, O Lord!

Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹ For what thanksgiving can we render to God for you, for all the joy which we feel for your sake before our God, ¹⁰ praying earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you; ¹² and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all men, as we do to you, ¹³ so that he may establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

SENDING HYMN

“Fling Wide the Door”

(Red) #259

DISMISSAL

God in peace. Christ is near.

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.

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

GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

²⁵ “And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth distress of nations in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶ men fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ And then they will see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away till all has taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ “But take heed to yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a snare; ³⁵ for it will come upon all who dwell upon the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ But watch at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of man.”

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

(Please be seated)

SERMON

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (Red) #257, vs. 1-4

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 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)

(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"