

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>ORGANIST</u>		Marvis McNeil
<u>CHOIR DIRECTOR</u>		Marty Cantleberry
<u>ASSISTING MINISTER</u>	5:30 p.m.	Carol Kindt
	9:00 a.m.	Phil Wickstrom
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Carol Kindt
	9:00 a.m.	Danielle McDonald
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Sue Robb or Joan Smolinski
	9:00 a.m.	Janice Boboltz
<u>HEAD USHER</u>		Roy Wekwert
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Patti Byce, Jimmy Nensewitz
	9:00 a.m.	Kathy Burton, Tim Moggie
<u>CHILDREN’S CHURCH LEADERS</u>		Paul Kieliszewski, Barb Szczesniak
<u>LITTLES’ WORSHIP CENTER LEADERS</u>		Bonnie Duby, Dawn Yakes, Jean Johnson
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Andrea Dutcher, Evie Bicker
		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 26, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
September 27, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 26, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
September 27, 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 “God Is Here!” (Red) #526

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.

The October newsletter is printed and in the Narthex this weekend. Please stop by the box in the Narthex and pick up yours. 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 and let her know.

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

The Soul Sisters will have a Fun Fall Outing to Knaebe's on Saturday, October 10th. We will depart the church parking lot at 10:30. That way, we can get those that wanted to go to church, back in time! Come and enjoy some fall tasty treats and fellowship!

The Forget-Me-Nots will not be meeting the first Tuesday in October but instead will be attending the matinee performance of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" at the Alpena Civic Theatre on Sunday, October 25. Please call Ann Hardesty (989-590-2055) by Thursday, October 22, if you want a ticket.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, October 18th at 9:00 a.m. Plan now to join us. There will only be one service (Sunday 9:00 a.m.) that weekend. The deadline to get your financial budget for the annual report into the church office is Tuesday, September 8th.

Mark Your Calendars! The Adventure Club is going to have some Fun Fall Activities at the Johnson Camp (10606 Indian Reserve Road) on Sunday, October 18th. There will be pumpkin carving, wagon rides and yummy snacks. Please RSVP by October 11th, to help us plan. The Adventure Club welcomes everyone from 1 to 105 years old.

We have some weekends open for Altar Flowers. If you are interested in putting flowers on the altar in memory or honor of someone or of a special occasion, just put your name on the chart in the Narthex under the date you would like them. Then call the church office and let them know what you would like to have printed in the bulletin. The cost is \$20.00. Thanks.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: SEPTEMBER 27—OCTOBER 3, 2026	
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service/Children’s Church/C.I.A. (Youth) - 10:30 a.m.
<u>MON.</u>	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.
<u>TUES.</u>	Recovery Yoga – 5:00 p.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Scouting America – 6:30 p.m.
<u>WED.</u>	Breakfast Belles – 7:30 a.m.; Stephen Ministry Training – 4:30 p.m.; Choir Practice 4:30 p.m.
<u>THURS.</u>	3M Men’s Breakfast - 7:00 a.m.; Prayer Shawl – 10:30 a.m.; Open Line Dance – 1:00 p.m.; Chair Yoga – 3:00 p.m.; Singles 5:30 p.m.
<u>FRI.</u>	Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.
<u>SAT.</u>	Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship Service/HC– 5:30 p.m.
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00; Fellowship – 10:00; Contemporary Service/Children’s Church/C.I.A. - 10:30 a.m.

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

<u>WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:</u>		
Johnathan O. – health issues	Dena Stevens – health issues	
Kathy Prevo – medical issues	Morgan Kibbe & Baby Colton	Jeff Wittenburg - medical
Alan Courtney – health issues	Luke Boyk— health issues	Mary Boomer-Scott – health
Eleanor Coddington – health issues	Adam Schmidt–health issues	Jesse O’Neil – health issues
Nancy St. Onge – health issues	Ann Martin – medical issues	Yvonne McQuarrie – health
Mollie Skiba – health issue	John Wegmeyer– health issues	Chad Hamill – health issues
Sandra Christopherson – unspecified	Lisa Dziesinski-health issue	Phyllis Robb - unspecified
Joel Foster – health issues	Billie Jo Foster – health issues	Cindy DeRosia – health

We also remember our homebound member, Phyllis Robb. (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. Thanks.)

We remember our prayer partners in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Allegan, Rev. Christopher Laughlin.

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

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL (foot of the cross) are given in memory of my brother Jim, from MaryAnne & Jim Kucharek.

CONDOLENCES TO: the family and friends of Maxine Miller, who joined our Lord in eternity September 15, 2026. Her funeral service was held at St. Paul Lutheran Church on September 18, 2026.

<u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u>			<u>END OF JUNE</u>		<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Saturday 09/19 5:30 a.m.	36		Income	30,413.77	145,880.52
Sunday 09/20 9:00 a.m.	50		G & M Loan	20,000.00	20,000.00
10:30 a.m.	<u>39</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	17,187.95	172,917.68
Total	125		Difference	3,225.82	(27,037.16)

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

The Bazaar/canning ladies are almost out of rings for canning jars. If you have any to donate, please drop them off at the church. *Thank you!*

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.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? ³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is unfair.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is unfair.’ O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

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

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-9 (Read Responsively)

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

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

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

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

Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

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

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your 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.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13 (Sunday 9:00 a.m. service)

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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: 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

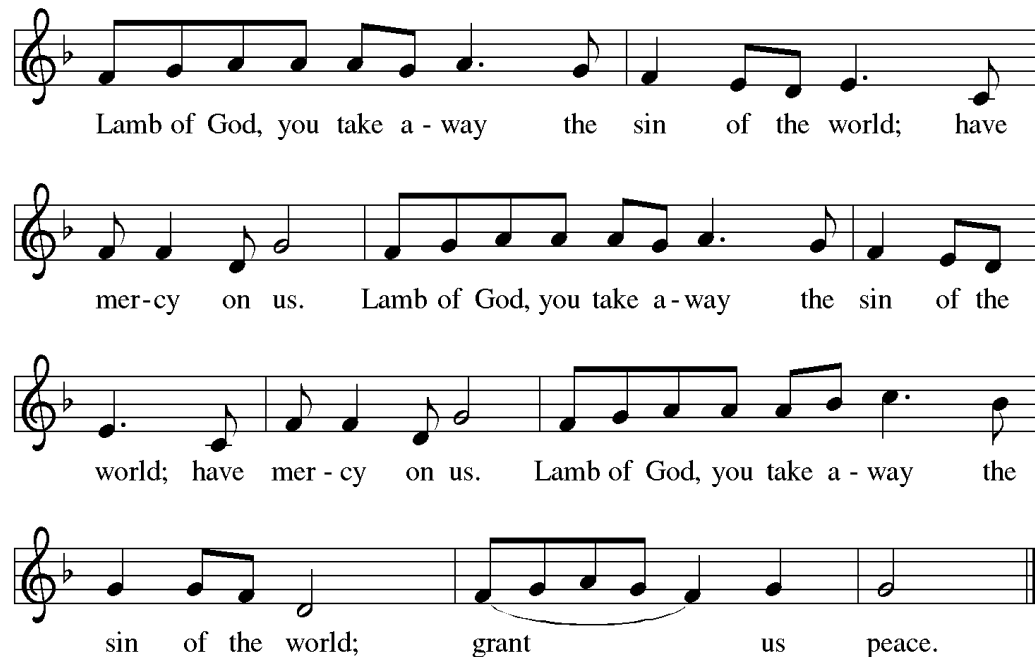
BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN “On Our Way Rejoicing” (Red) #537

DISMISSAL

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

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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”



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

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 21:23-32

²³ When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, ‘By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?’ ²⁴ Jesus said to them, ‘I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?’ And they argued with one another, ‘If we say, “From heaven”, he will say to us, “Why then did you not believe him?”’ ²⁶ But if we say, “Of human origin”, we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.’ ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, ‘We do not know.’ And he said to them, ‘Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸ ‘What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, “Son, go and work in the vineyard today.”’ ²⁹ He answered, “I will not”; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, “I go, sir”; but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?’ They said, ‘The first.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

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 Thomas Mammoser

“Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is”

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“O Master, Let Me Walk with You”

(Red) #818

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.

(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

S 144a

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 un- ending 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

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.

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 in the middle circle for those who prefer it. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.

“Lamb of God”