

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

<u>MINISTERS</u>		The People of God
<u>PASTOR</u>		Rev. John Shipman
<u>ORGANIST</u>		Marvis McNeil
<u>CHOIR DIRECTOR</u>		Marty Cattleberry
<u>ASSISTING MINISTER</u>	5:30 p.m.	Iris Arthur
	9:00 a.m.	Dawn Grzeskowiak
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Sue Keyes
	9:00 a.m.	Dawn Grzeskowiak
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Myra Gapske, Patti Byce
	9:00 a.m.	Laurie Stafford
<u>HEAD USHER</u>		Roy Wekwert
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Tim and Barb Smith
	9:00 am.	Cathy Kieliszewski, Roy Wekwert
		Tim Moggie, Richard Miller
<u>CHILDREN’S CHURCH LEADERS</u>		Jesse & Jessica O’Neil
		Cathy Kieliszewski, Nena Shipman
<u>LITTLES’ WORSHIP CENTER LEADERS</u>		Joanne Huggler, Rita Chase
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Patti Byce 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

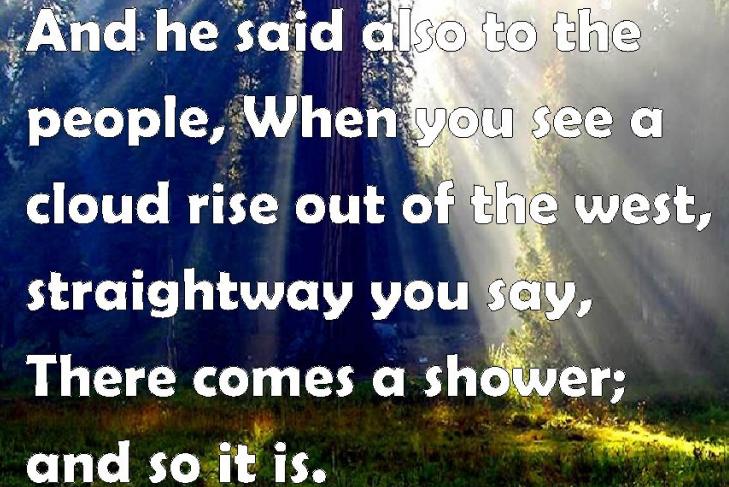
727 S. 2nd, Alpena, MI 49707

Phone 989-356-1658

www.stpaul.org

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Monthly Ministry Highlight:
Personnel Committee



**And he said also to the
people, When you see a
cloud rise out of the west,
straightway you say,
There comes a shower;
and so it is.**

—Luke 12:54

August 16, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.

August 17, 2025 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 16, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.
August 17, 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

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. 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 “How Firm a Foundation” (Red) #796

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.

The Soul Sisters are kayaking on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month this summer. We meet at Sytek Park at 5:30 p.m. So, in August we will meet next on August 26th. All women are invited to join us. If you have any questions, please call Sue Robb at 989-590-7611.

Scouting America Troop 92 is hosting a breakfast on Sunday morning, August 17 from 8:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. It will be a free will offering and it will go to support our Scouting program here. Come down and join us.

Worship on the Beach. We will celebrate 2 more times this summer at our beach property. The last Saturday of each month (August 30 and September 27) at 7:00 p.m. You are invited to bring a friend, a beverage of choice, a lawn chair, snacks and a joyful spirit. Saturday night services will continue at 5:30 p.m. We will carpool from the church and travel to the beach property at 6:30 p.m. The service and time of fellowship will last from 7:00-9:00 p.m. If there is rain, we will reschedule.

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 6th-12th grades are invited to attend.

Join us for a Bowling Event “Strikes Spark Compassion” on Friday, September 12, 2025, at the Thunder Bowl Lanes. Please come out to bowl (\$60) 4-person team, be a lane sponsor (\$75) or an event sponsor (\$100). With the bowling you get a pizza and a pitcher of pop. Chinese Raffle and 50-50 during the event. This is a fund raiser for St. Paul Church for weather-proofing the church with the bid being \$60,000.00. This needs to be done to keep the moisture out of the brick and mortar, which is leaking into the church. Questions? Please contact the church office or Val Urban, 989-916-5560.

Fellowship volunteers are needed to host Fellowship on Sunday mornings. Please call this church office or Janice Boboltz at 989-356-4834 or 989-464-6211 if you are interested in serving on this ministry at our church. We need volunteers!

If you would like to make further donations to the Cancer Center, for patients undergoing treatment we are needing packaged nuts, crackers with peanut butter or cheese, rice crispy treats, candy bars, Jolly Rancher hard candies, oatmeal packets, pudding snacks. Please drop them off at Miss Nena’s office.

The Scholarship Committee is grateful to those that have brought in their bottle returns, we ask that you keep them coming! The bottle returns can be placed in the janitorial closet next to the elevator on the Mirre Street side, there is a sign on the door to prevent confusion.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: <i>AUGUST 17—24, 2025</i>	
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service and Children’s Church – 10:30 a.m.; Scouting America Troop 92 Breakfast—8:00 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.
<u>MON.</u>	Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; E.T.A. Group – 5:30 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Cub Scouts – 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.
<u>THURS.</u>	3M Men’s Breakfast – 7:00 a.m.; Open Line Dance – 1:00 p.m.; Yoga 101 – 5:00 p.m.
<u>FRI.</u>	Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.; Dynamic Duo Wine Tasting Tour – 6:00 p.m.
<u>SAT.</u>	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. – 10:30

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

<u>WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:</u>	Karen Schwochow – strength	George Sneden-health issues
Lisa Creguer – cancer treatments	Gary Lumsden – surgery	Don Barnard—recovery
Debra Gapske – health issues	Vicki Carlson – health issues	Alan Marwede—health issues
Karen Wallace–unspecified need	Annette Wade – medical issues	Dena Stevens – health issues
Lee Werth—health issues	Randy Krebs—health issues	Art Hoffmeyer - heart issues
Joan Smolinski – knee surgery recovery	John Wegmeyer– health issues	Mark Christou – health issues
Adam Schmidt- health issues	Chad Hamill – health issues	Jan Plamondon – grief
Laura Kieliszewski – health issues	Phyllis Robb-unspecified need	Laura Cussen – stroke
Ann Martin – medical issues	Margaret Lucian – health issues	David McNeil – health issues

(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: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Holland, Pastor Jessica Rivera-Walker

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

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE		END OF JUNE	YEAR TO DATE
Saturday (08/09) 5:30 p.m.	40	Income 36,225.99	177,439.06
Sunday (08/10) 9:00 a.m.	43	<u>Expenses 44,453.02</u>	<u>195,632.16</u>
10:30 a.m.	<u>42</u>	Difference (8,227.03)	(18,193.10)
Total	125		

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

The August Service Activity is Besser Elementary School. Items needed: Expo markers, pencils, crayons, colored pencils, markers, notebooks, glue, water bottles, Kleenex, Clorox wipes, headphones, Post-it notes, colored popsicle sticks, manilla folders, Ziploc bags (snack or sandwich size), red pens, pencil cap erasers, brown or white lunch paper bags, stickers, Dum Dums suckers, snacks, Playdough, paper towels, sponges, ice packs, band aids, coffee filters (to hold snacks), Dollar Tree gift cards (used to purchase incentives for the classroom), socks, underwear (all sizes) hair ties, sweat pants (smaller sizes) and plastic folders with three prongs in the center. Please leave your donations on the altar. Thank you.

Join the Dynamic Duo Couple Ministry at the Shipmans (1921 Long Rapids Road) for a Wine Tasting on Friday, August 22nd, from 6:00—8:00 p.m. Bring your favorite bottle of wine (or 2) and an appetizer or dessert to share. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Wekwert or Amy Wickstrom.

Pastor John and Nena are inviting you to come to their house (1921 Long Rapids Road) for a fireside chat on Sunday, August 31st from 5:00-7:00 p.m. We will sit by the firepit near the river (or in the house or gazebo) and talk about life, hope, grace and the love of God (no agenda). This is a gift from Nena and I, so nothing is required to be part of this experience. Come for 15 minutes or for 2 hours.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:23-29

²³Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? ²⁴Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. ²⁵I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, ‘I have dreamed, I have dreamed!’ ²⁶How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. ²⁹Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

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

PSALM: Psalm 82 (Read Responsively)

God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgement: **‘How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked?** Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute. **Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.’** They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk around in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken. **I say, ‘You are gods, children of the Most High, all of you; nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince.’** **Rise up, O God, judge the earth; for all the nations belong to you!**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

²⁹By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. ³²And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— ³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶Others suffered

mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, without us, be made perfect.

^{12:1} Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

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, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” (Red) #815

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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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.
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.

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

GOSPEL READING: Luke 12:49-56

⁴⁹ ‘I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵² From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³ they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.’ ⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, ‘When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, “It is going to rain”; and so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, “There will be scorching heat”; and it happens. ⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?’

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

Children’s Message

“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

“Faith in the Present Age” Rev. John Shipman

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Let the Whole Creation Cry” (Red) #876

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.

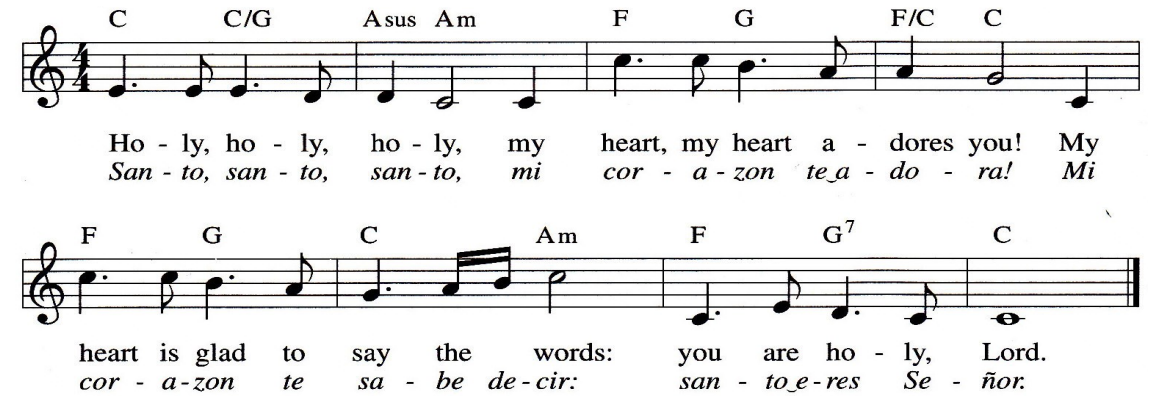
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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



C C/G Asus Am F G F/C C

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

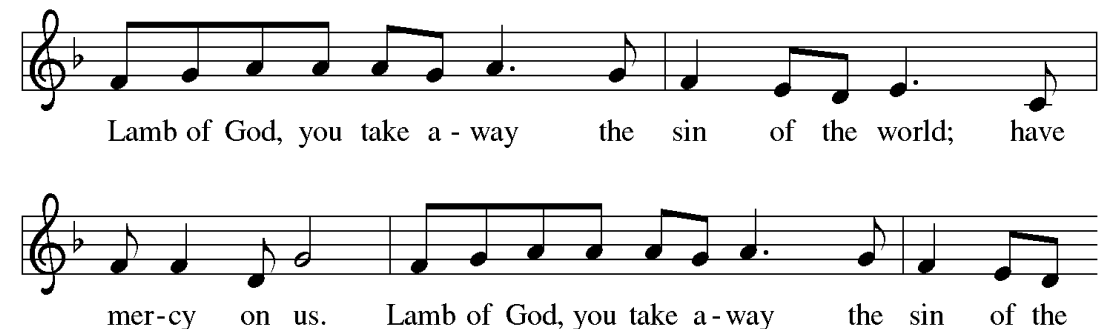
Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

(Please 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"



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