

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 Cantleberry
<u>ASSISTING MINISTER</u>	5:30 p.m.	Iris Arthur
	9:00 a.m.	Barb Szczesniak
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Iris Arthur
	9:00 a.m.	Cathy Kieliszewski
<u>HEAD USHER</u>		Roy Wekwert
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Dennis & Sherry McDonald
	9:00 am.	Jesse & Jessica O'Neil
		Owen Werth, Ryan Panknin
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Sue Robb
	9:00 a.m.	Joanne Huggler, Rita Chase
<u>CHILDREN’S CHURCH LEADERS</u>		Joanne Huggler, Rita Chase
		Jean Johnson, Nena Shipman
<u>LITTLES’ WORSHIP CENTER LEADERS</u>		Ophelia Steinke and Ashley Reed
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Ginger Bohlen, 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



2026 Theme: “Be Our Vision Lord”

February 7, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
February 8, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18th. Please join us to worship that day: 12:25 p.m. worship at St. Paul Lutheran Church, with a Lenten Soup preceding the service at 12:00 p.m. The theme is “Dust and Hope.” The imposition of ashes and Holy Communion will be part of the service. **We are looking for people/groups that will be able to do one of the Lenten lunches.** Call the church office and schedule a Wednesday that works for you/group. There will be Ecumenical Service at Grace Lutheran Ash Wednesday at 6:00. Soup Supper at 5:30 p.m.

Pastor John and Miss Nena’s *Lent Educational Opportunities will run from February 18th through March 25th.* Pastor John’s classes meet on Wednesdays at 1:00 and 5:30 p.m. and Miss Nena’s class meets on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. Pastor John will hold a Book Study on “Psalms – Prayers of the Heart” by Eugene Peterson and Miss Nena will lead a Book Study on “Life Source: 5 Session Course on Prayer for Lent.”

Mexican Night - The Stewardship Committee will again host a Mexican Night on Saturday, February 21, following the 5:30 service. There is a limited number of no-cost tickets, but they are all gone. You may contact the church office to be put on a waiting list. A Free-Will Offering will be collected for the meal. There will be a Chinese raffle and 50/50 raffle. If you would like to help with a dessert or raffle item, please reach out to one of the committee members - or call Dennis at 464-7112 or Lori at 590-8568.

Life Line Screening, the nation’s leading provider of preventive health screenings will offer non-invasive and painless health screenings at St. Paul Lutheran Church on Tuesday, March 24th. Please call 1-800-324-9458 to register or visit LLSA.SOCIAL/HSCA.

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.

We need large ice cream pails with lids. If you have some to donate, please put them in the kitchen. Thanks.

We are looking for teachers and helpers for Children’s Church. You are usually scheduled once a month. Please contact Kathy Burton if interested in serving, 989-464-8943 or kathyburton@yahoo.com.

The First Aid Kits are located in the hallway closet behind the organ (along with an oxygen tank), back of the Narthex and in the kitchen. The **AED machines** are located between the Sanctuary and the Multipurpose Room and in the Dining Room.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: <i>FEBRUARY 8 – 15, 2026</i>	
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC– 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00; Contemporary Service/Children’s Church/C.I.A. - 10:30 a.m.
<u>MON.</u>	AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Line Dancing–2:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts–4:00 p.m.; E.T.A. Group–5:30 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Gratitude Lunches – 9:00 a.m.; Cub Scouts–5:30 p.m.; Scouting America– 6:30 p.m.
<u>WED.</u>	Breakfast Belles – 7:30 a.m.; AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Choir Practice – 4:30 p.m.
<u>THURS.</u>	3M Men’s Breakfast (JJs)- 7:00 a.m.; Open Line Dance— 1:00 p.m.; Chair Yoga – 3:00 p.m.; Stephen Ministry – 3:30 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 6:00 p.m.
<u>FRI.</u>	AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.; Scouting America Spaghetti Dinner – 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.; Dynamic Duo Retreat – 6:00 p.m.
<u>SAT.</u>	AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship Service – 5:30 p.m.
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service/Children’s Church/C.I.A. - 10:30; The Adventure Club Karaoke – 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

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

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

Milt Paquette – health issues	Mary Crockett – health issues	Sally Wong – health issues
Bennett Gilmet – medical issues	Anne Eaton – health issues	Mike H. - illness
Kevin Atkinson – health issues	Alan Marwede– future surgery	Kevin Atkinson – health issues
Lianna Kruttlin – health issues	Storm Yakes – medical issues	Cheryl Daher–awaiting surgery
Kevin Reiser – health issues	Greg Dziesinski- health issues	Lisa Dziesinski-health issue
Cathy Murtha – medical issues	Joel Foster – health issues	Adam Schmidt- health issues
Malary Smith – unspecified	Phyllis Robb-unspecified need	Billie Jo Foster – health issues
Carol Kuhl – health issues	Margaret Lucian – health issues	Lee Werth—health issues
John Wegmeyer– health issues	Ann Martin – medical issues	Dena Stevens – health issues
	Donita M. – health issues	Tina Yeager – 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. Thanks.)

We remember our prayer partners in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod: Faith Lutheran Church, Okemos, Rev. Megan Floyd.

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

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Saturday 01/31	5:30 p.m.	56
Sunday 02/01	9:00 a.m.	58
	10:30 a.m.	<u>37</u>
	Total	151

END OF DECEMBER

Income	87,469.20
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>36,797.80</u>
Difference	50,671.40
Investment Income for 2025	\$28,843.00

YEAR TO DATE

424,363.81
<u>398,945.30</u>
25,418.51

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

The February Service Activity is Hinks Elementary. Items needed: boys’ pants size 6 -12, older boy and older girl shoes size 5 & 6, ChapStick, small bottles of lotion, kid’s shampoo, kid’s conditioner. Please leave your items on the altar. Thank you for your generosity.

The **Dynamic Duo Couples Retreat** will be this Friday, February 13th at 6:00 p.m. Come join us!

Boy Scout Troop 92 invites you to join us for a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser on Friday, February 13th from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Come on out for a delicious meal and support our local Boy Scout Troop.

The Adventure Club will host Karaoke on Sunday, February 15th from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. We will be singing Karaoke and dancing. Come, be part of this wonderful expression of fun within this intergenerational educational experience. The Adventure Club welcomes everyone from 1-105 years old.

The Church will celebrate Shrove Tuesday with a Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 17th from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. We will be serving sausage as well. Everyone is invited and there will be a free will offering.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

The 5th Sunday after Epiphany

February 7, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.

February 8, 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, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice,
you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. 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

“Gather Us In”

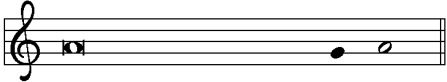
(Red) #532

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.


KYRIE




In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



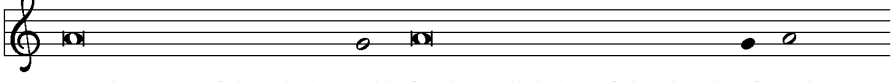
Lord, have mer - cy.




For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.




Lord, have mer - cy.



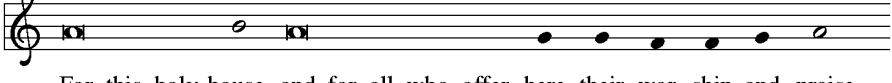
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



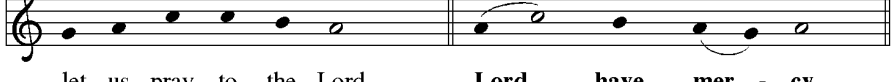
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



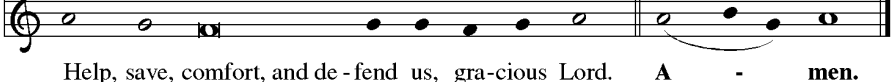
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” (Red) #836

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do Justice. Love mercy.
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”

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.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain
Assisting minister

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

All

1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us
free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and
strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the
hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and
might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-9a

¹Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God. ³‘Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?’ Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 112:1-9 (Read Responsively)

Praise the Lord! Happy are those who fear the Lord, who greatly delight in his commandments.

Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING

LORD'S PRAYER

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

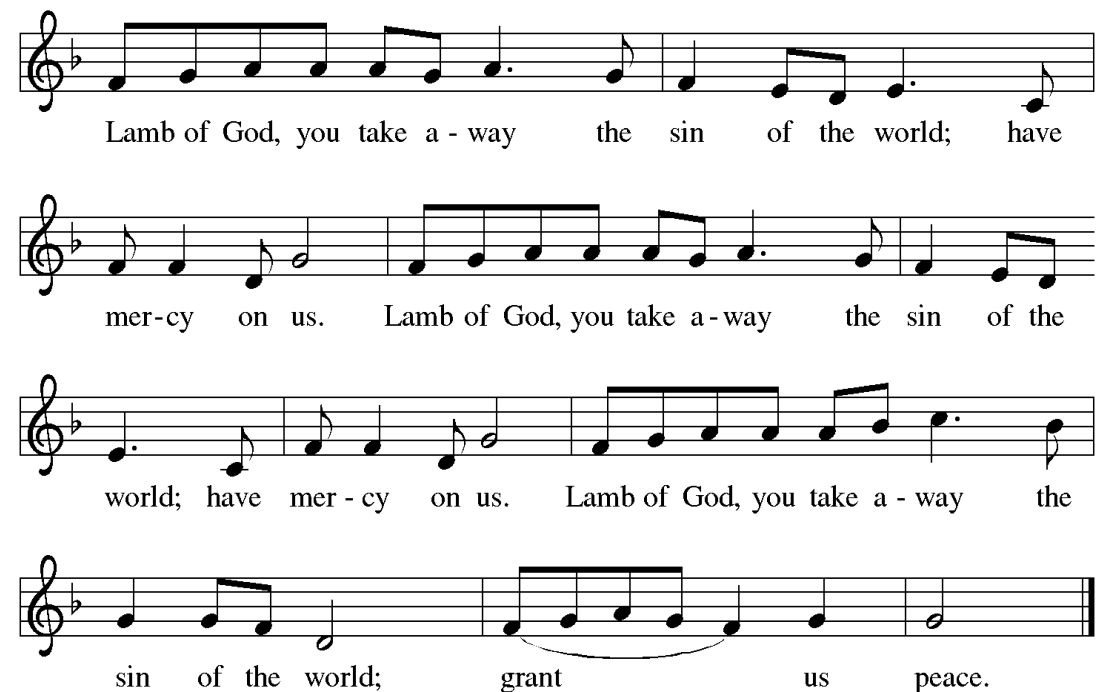
People: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine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



OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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.

Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures for ever.
They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.
It is well with those who deal generously and lend, who conduct their affairs with justice.
For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered for ever.
They are not afraid of evil tidings; their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.
Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.
They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor; their righteousness endures for ever; their horn is exalted in honour.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (Sunday 9:00 a.m.)
¹ When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.
⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. ⁷ But we speak God’s wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written, ‘What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him’— ¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God’s except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)
Gospel Acclamation



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

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-20

¹³ ‘You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ ‘You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ ‘Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.

¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

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

“Let Your Light Shine”

Pastor John Shipman

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Christ, Be Our Light”

(Red) #715

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

Merciful God,

receive our prayers.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING