

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.	Phil Wickstrom
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Iris Arthur
	9:00 a.m.	Phil Wickstrom
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Anita Laub
	9:00 a.m.	Cathy Kieliszewski, Kathy Burton
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	John and Linda Snyder
	9:00 am.	Dennis and Lori Dziesinski
		Roy Wekwert, Ryan Panknin
<u>ACOLYTE</u>	5:30 p.m.	Emily Smith
	9:00 a.m.	Alex Wickstrom
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Karen Hamann and Sue Robb

We thank all participants for enriching our worship service.

**St. Paul Lutheran Church
Worship Service**

celebrates and shares God’s love and compassion

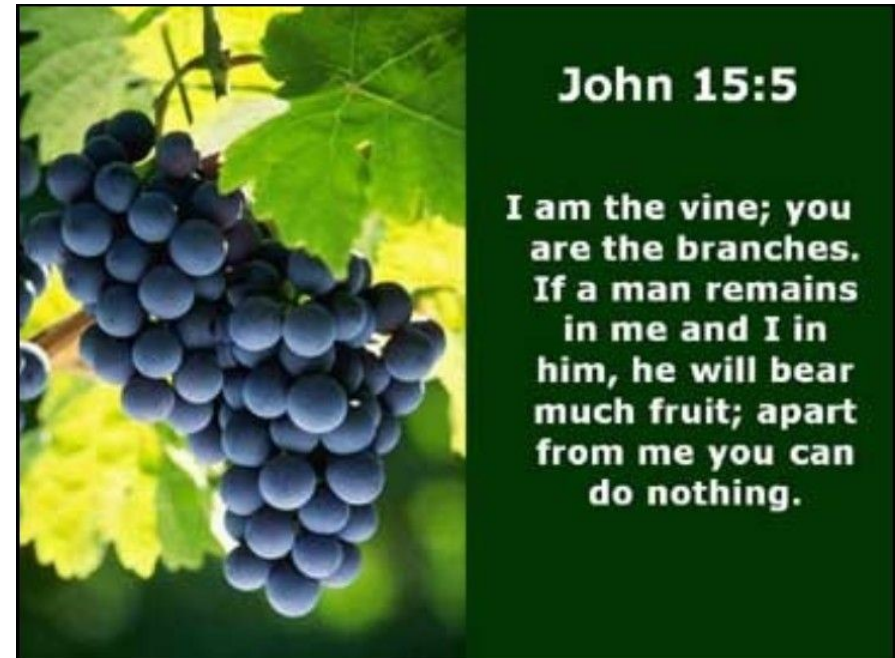
727 S. 2nd, Alpena, MI 49707

Phone 989-356-1658

www.stpaul.org

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Monthly Ministry Highlight:
Outreach



April 27, 2024 - 5:30 p.m.
April 28, 2024 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 27, 2024 - 5:30 p.m.

April 28, 2024 - 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 wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

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

"You Are Holy"

(Red) #525

We are excited to announce that our church's Stephen Ministry is gearing up for training sessions tentatively starting in late April. These 2-1/2 hour classes offer a unique program that equips you with the skills and empathy needed to make a positive impact on the lives of others. There is still time to apply! If you feel drawn to this ministry or have questions, please contact a Stephen Leader - Iris Arthur, Judy Beyer, Sue Keyes, Nena Shipman, or Shirley Jones.

We will hold an Emergency Class which will answer questions and have a CPR procedures class, by a representative from the Alpena Township Fire Department, on April 27th at 6:30 p.m. and April 28th at 10:00 and 11:30 a.m. Plan now to attend.

Everyone is invited to our May Video Educational Experience on May 8th at 6:00 p.m. We will be watching "**Sound of Freedom**" and a meal will be provided with discussion throughout.

The Forget-Me-Nots will attend the matinee performance of The Music Man on Sunday, May 19th. If you are interested in attending, please contact Joanne Huggler (989-356-6532) by Sunday, May 12th. She will pick up the tickets. We also have been invited by Patti Byce to attend a **Noon Tea Party on Saturday, May 18.**

Mark your calendars! **The Church Rummage Sale** dates are set for June 13-15! Start thinking about what items you would like to donate. We will again be accepting clean used clothing and shoes for our sale. If you have any questions, please call Andrea at 989-354-3651.

Come join us for weekend Fellowship. On Saturday Night we meet before the service at 4:30 for coffee and baked goods until 5:20. Fellowship for the 9:00 service and the 10:30 service will occur in-between the service time. Everyone is invited to join us.

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

WEEK AT A GLANCE: APRIL 28—MAY 5, 2024

SUN.	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service and Children's Church - 10:30 a.m.; Emergency Classes at 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.
MON.	Line Dancing – 2:00; E.T.A.—5:30 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 6:00 p.m.
TUES.	Cub Scouts – 5:30; Air Rifle–5:30 p.m.; Boy Scouts– 6:30 p.m.
WED.	Breakfast Belles Women's Breakfast (at JJ's)–7:30; Property Committee – 5:30 p.m.; Choir – 6:00
THURS.	3M Men's Breakfast–7:00; Gentle Yoga–1:30; Chair Yoga–3:00; Air Rifle Team- 5:30 p.m.; Singles – 5:30 p.m.
FRI.	Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.; Alpena Line Dance Club—5:00 p.m.; Dynamic Duo Scavenger Hunt – 6:00 p.m.
SAT.	Bushey/Paquette Wedding; Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship/HC – 5:30 p.m.
SUN.	Worship/HC–9:00; Fellowship–10:00; Contemporary Service and Children's Church- 10:30 a.m.

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

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS: Tim Grossman – health issues Margaret Lucian—health
 Tammy Stoutenburg-unspecified need Annette Wade – medical issues Art Hoffmeyer- heart issues
 Bodo Hanson–health issues Laura Kieliszewski – health Joel Foster – health concerns
 Barb Hoffmeyer – health issues John Wegmeyer – health issues Eugene Brooks–health issues
 Laurie Stafford – health issues Joanne Kindt – health issues Dale Rex – in accident
 Chad Hamill – health issues Marian Dove–unspecified need Phyllis Robb-unspecified need
 Karen Wallace – unspecified need Dolores Libka–unspecified need Taylor Smetak – in accident
 Ryan Duby – healing David Reeves – health issues Dena Stevens – health issues
 Dixie Creiver – health issues Anita Laub – medical issues Marvis McNeil – health issues
 Tom & Beth Mackinnon-health

(Prayer is the best medicine and we are prepared to pray indefinitely for folks. Would you please help the church office keep our list current? Unless we know otherwise, our normal practice is to remove names after a month. Thank you for your partnership in prayer.)

We remember our prayer partners in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod: Bethany Lutheran Church, Northport, Rev. Chrysanne Timm

We pray for the Dynamic Ministries here at St. Paul Lutheran Church. This week we specifically pray for the Community Celebrating and Sharing Dinner

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL (foot of the cross) are given in loving memory of my son Michael Brown from Barb Crittenden.

<u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u>			<u>END OF FEBRUARY</u>		<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Saturday (04/20)	5:30 p.m.	38	Income	24,098.22	44,298.88
Sunday (4/21)	9:00 a.m.		Expenses	31,096.24	59,155.28
	10:30 a.m.	<u>37</u>	Difference	(6,998.02)	(14,856.40)
Total					

The **Scholarship Committee** will be awarding a scholarship to a 2024 graduating senior or current college student. Applications are available in the office and must be returned by April 30.

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.

The **April Service Activity is Wilson Elementary School.** Items needed for recess: footballs, soccer balls, basketballs, nerf footballs, regular jump ropes, Double Dutch jump ropes, ladder toss, giant checkers/Tic Tac Toe mat, and sidewalk chalk. Please leave items on the altar. Thank you for your generosity.

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.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

²⁶ Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over to this chariot and join it.’ ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ ³¹ He replied, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: ‘Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.’

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, ‘About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’ ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?’ ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

PSALM: Psalm 22:25-31 (Read Responsively)

From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live for ever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-22 (Sunday 9:00 a.m. service)

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. ¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

Gospel Acclamation

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.

“Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise”

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

“Let All Things Now Living”

(Red) #881

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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, 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.

“Lamb of God”

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

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

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

GOSPEL READING: John 15:1-8

‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

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

Children's Message/Noisy Offering

"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

"The Vineyard"

Pastor John Shipman

man

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Where Charity and Love Prevail"

(Red) #359

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

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

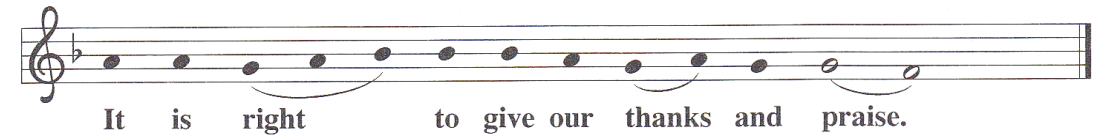
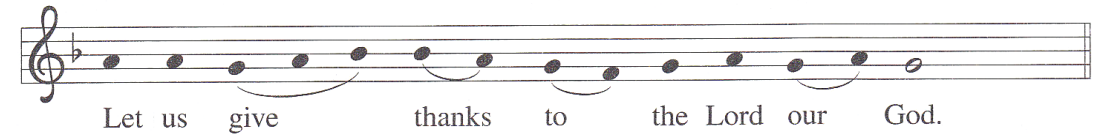
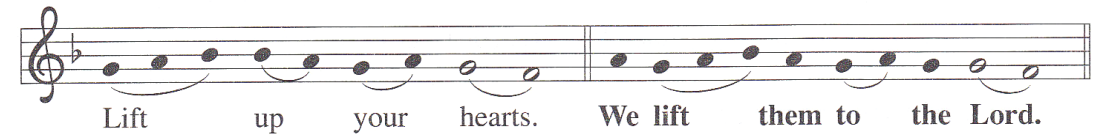
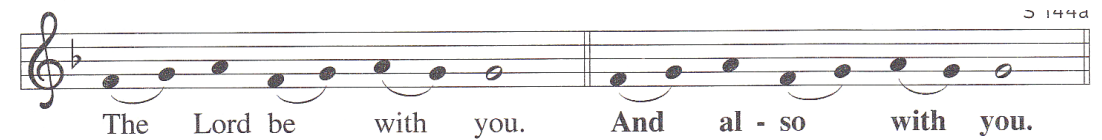
The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**

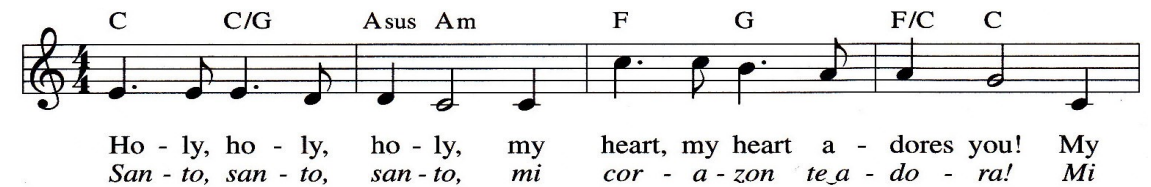
(Please stand)

(Sung at the 9:00 a.m. service.)



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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