

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

MINISTERS

PASTOR

ORGANIST

CHOIR DIRECTOR

ASSISTING MINISTER

5:30 p.m.

9:00 a.m.

LECTOR

5:30 p.m.

9:00 a.m.

HEAD USHER

USHERS & GREETERS

5:30 p.m.

9:00 am.

FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS

5:30 p.m.

9:00 a.m.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS

LITTLES' WORSHIP CENTER LEADERS

ALTAR CARE

Sue Moggie, Jessica O'Neil, Karen Wekwert, Shirley Kowalski

We thank all participants for enriching our worship service.

The People of God

Rev. John Shipman

Marvis McNeil

Marty Cantleberry

Carol Kindt

Shirley Jones

Sue Keyes

Shirley Jones

Roy Wekwert

Tim and Barb Smith

Richard Miller, Ryan Panknin

Paul Kieliszewski, Cathy Kieliszewski

Anita Laub

Janice Boboltz

Jesse and Jessica O'Neil

Kathy Burton, Jean Johnson

Cathy Kieliszewski, Mary Courtney

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Worship Service

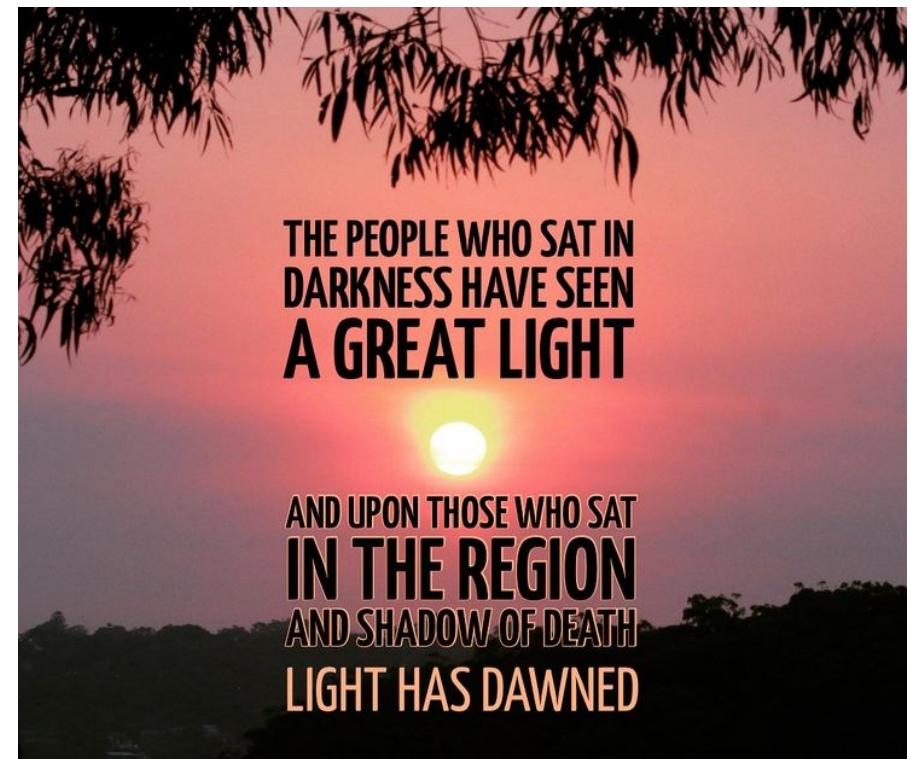
celebrates and shares God's love and compassion

727 S. 2nd, Alpena, MI 49707

Phone 989-356-1658

www.stpaul.org

A Stephen Ministry Congregation



2026 Theme: "Be Our Vision Lord"

January 24, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.

January 25, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.

Save the Date! The next **Dynamic Duo Couples Retreat** will be Friday, February 13th at 6:00 p.m.

We welcome into the kingdom of God through the sacrament of Holy Baptism (Sunday 9:00 a.m.) Kallyn Marie Timm, daughter of Justin and Samantha Timm. Her sponsors are Heather Senske and Jason Timm. May our Lord surround her with His grace as she grows to know Him as Lord and Savior.

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.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18th. There will be two opportunities for you 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." There will also be an Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service at St. Paul Lutheran Church at 7:00 p.m., with a soup supper preceding the service at 5:30 p.m. The imposition of ashes and Holy Communion will be part of both services. **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.

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. (except for Ash Wednesday evening classes, which will meet on Thursday evening, February 19th). 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." Join us!

Mexican Night - The Stewardship Committee will again host a Mexican Night on Saturday, February 21, following the 5:30 service. There will be a limited number of no-cost tickets available (135). Please contact the church office for your tickets. 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.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: JANUARY 25 – FEBRUARY 1, 2026	
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service/Children's Church/C.I.A. – 10:30 a.m.
<u>MON.</u>	Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 4:00 p.m.; E.T.A. Group – 5:30 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Dinner on a Doorknob – 9:00 a.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Scouting America – 6:30
<u>WED.</u>	Breakfast Belles – 7:30 a.m.; Kitchen Krew – 10:00 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.
<u>FRI.</u>	Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.
<u>SAT.</u>	Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship Service – 5:30 p.m.
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00; Contemporary Service/Children's Church/C.I.A. – 10:30

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

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

Milt Paquette – health issues
Bennett Gilmet – medical issues
Cathy Murtha – medical issues
Lianna Krutlin – health issues
Kevin Reiser – health issues
Darlene Ackerman – health issues
Malary Smith – unspecified
Carol Kuhl – health issues
Ric Schmidt – recovery from surgery
Tina Yeager – health issues

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: Trinity Lutheran Church, New Era, Rev. Sarah Samuelson.

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

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Saturday 01/17	5:30 p.m.	47
Sunday 01/18	9:00 a.m.	59
	10:30 a.m.	27
Total		133

END OF DECEMBER

Income	87,469.20	424,363.81
Expenses	36,797.80	398,945.30
Difference	50,671.40	25,418.51
Investment Income for 2025		\$28,843.00

YEAR TO DATE

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

The January Service Activity is Alpena High School. Items needed: mechanical pencils, day planners, men's/women's deodorant, Chapstick, hair ties, men's/women's shampoo, hair brushes, girls leggings (all sizes), unisex hoodies (all sizes), and unisex sweatpants (all sizes). Please leave your items on the altar. Thank you for your generosity.

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

The Forget-Me-Nots will meet on Tuesday, February 3 for lunch and visiting in the church Dining Hall. Please bring your own lunch. Coffee and tea will be available. Hope to see you there.

All are invited to our February Video Educational Experience on Wednesday, February 4th at 6:00 p.m. We will be watching "Ordinary Angels" and a meal will be provided with discussion throughout.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

The 3rd Sunday after Epiphany
January 24, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
January 25, 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

"Thy Strong Word"

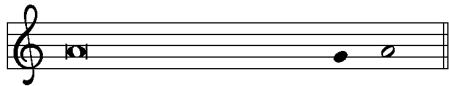
(Red) #511

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.



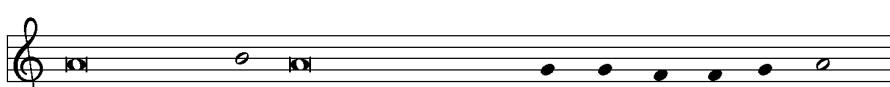
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

SERMON NOTES

Send us with your promises, O God,
and lead us forth in joy with shouts
of thanks-giving. Alleluia.

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.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do Justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

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HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain
Assisting minister

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

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.

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.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain
has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through that cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:1-4

¹But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. ²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 27:1, 4-9 (Read Responsively)

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

‘Come,’ my heart says, ‘seek his face!’ Your face, Lord, do I seek.

Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

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”

C 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.

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

EUCARISTIC 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"

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 (Sunday 9:00 a.m.)

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you should be in agreement and that there should be no divisions among you, but that you should be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, 'I belong to Paul', or 'I belong to Apollos', or 'I belong to Cephas', or 'I belong to Christ.' ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

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 4:12-23

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵ ‘Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.’

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’

¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ And he said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.’ ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. ²³ Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

The Gospel of Our Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message/Noisy Offering

“I Love to Tell the Story”

I love to tell the story
'Twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old old story
Of Jesus and His love

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(Please be seated)

SERMON

“Light Has Dawned”

Pastor John Shipman

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

(Red) #798

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

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 also 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.