

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.	Carol Kindt
	9:00 a.m.	Shirley Jones
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Myra Gapske
	9:00 a.m.	Shirley Jones
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Myra Gapske, Patti Byce
	9:00 a.m.	Laurie Stafford
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	John and Linda Snyder
	9:00 a.m.	Barb Szczesniak, Paul Kieliszewski Jesse and Jessica O'Neil
<u>ACOLYTE</u>	5:30 p.m.	
	9:00 a.m.	Evan Peterson
<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 20, 2024 - 5:30 p.m.
April 21, 2024 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 20, 2024 - 5:30 p.m.
April 21, 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

“Gather Us In”

(Red) #532

A new group is being formed in honor of Joy "Shirley" Brooks called "Stitches of Joy." This group will gather to sew projects that will be distributed throughout the community in her name. If you would like to join this dynamic ministry, we are meeting for the first time on **April 25** (*Please note the date change!*), at 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Sandy Dee's Quilt Shop and every third Thursday after that, each month. Bring your sewing machine and supplies, your inspiration, a sack lunch and an open heart. If you have any questions contact Karen at 989-464-0204.

The SALT (Sisters Abiding in Light and Truth) young women's group will be meeting for a movie night on Sunday, April 21st at 6:30 p.m. at the Sanctuary Cinema. The movie and popcorn is free. Please contact the church office or sign up online if you plan to attend.

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.

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.

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.

Council packets were sent out electronically. Printed copies will be available at Tuesday's meeting.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: APRIL 21—28, 2024	
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC—9:00; Fellowship—10:00; Contemporary Service and Children's Church- 10:30; The Adventure Club at Plaza Pool 1:00-3:00 p.m.; S.A.L.T. Movie at Sanctuary Cinema – 6:30 p.m.
<u>MON.</u>	Line Dancing – 2:00; E.T.A.—5:30 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 6:00 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Dinner on a Doorknob – 5:00 p.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30; Air Rifle—5:30 p.m.; Senior Leaders –5:30 p.m.; Church Council – 6:00 p.m.; Boy Scouts— 6:30 p.m.
<u>WED.</u>	Breakfast Belles <i>Women's Breakfast</i> (at JJ's)—7:30; Choir – 6:00 p.m.
<u>THURS.</u>	3M Men's Breakfast—7:00; Stitches of Joy – 10:00 a.m. (<i>at Sandy Dee's Quilt Shop</i>); Stitched Together – 11:00 a.m.; Gentle Yoga—1:30; Chair Yoga—3:00; Worship Meeting – 4:00 p.m.; Air Rifle Team - 5:30 p.m.
<u>FRI.</u>	Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.; Alpena Line Dance Club—5:00 p.m.
<u>SAT.</u>	Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship/HC – 5:30 p.m.; Emergency Class – 6:30 p.m.
<u>SUN.</u>	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.

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
Bodo Hanson–health issues	Laura Kieliszewski – health
Barb Hoffmeyer – health issues	John Wegmeyer – health issues
Laurie Stafford – health issues	Joanne Kindt – health issues
Chad Hamill – health issues	Marian Dove–unspecified need
Karen Wallace – unspecified need	Libka–unspecified need
Ryan Duby – healing	David Reeves – health issues
Chris Smetak –health issues	Anita Laub – medical issues
Tom & Beth Mackinnon-health	Dixie Creiver – health issues

(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: 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 Christmas Bazaar.

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

<u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u>			<u>END OF FEBRUARY</u>		<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Saturday (04/13)	5:30 p.m.	38	Income	24,098.22	44,298.88
Sunday (4/14)	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.

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, Nena Shipman, or Shirley Jones.

The Adventure Club has a wonderful time planned to swim at the Alpena Plaza Pool on April 21st from 1:00 – 3:00 PM. Bring your spirit of adventure as you explore and share your faith through fun within this intergenerational educational experience. The Adventure Club welcomes everyone from 1-105 years old.

Next weekend we will collect the noisy offering, which will support children in foster care to attend summer camp. Do not forget to bring your change!

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 Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Acts 4:5-12

⁵ The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶ with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷ When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, ‘By what power or by what name did you do this?’ ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹ if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰ let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹ This Jesus is “the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.”

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

PSALM: Psalm 23 (Read Responsively)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16-24 (Sunday 9:00 a.m. service)

¹⁶ We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷ How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?
¹⁸ Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹ And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before

him ²⁰ whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²² and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³ And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴ All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Glory to You, O Lord.

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

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

(Red) #789

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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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

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.

GOSPEL READING: John 10:11-18

¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

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

Children's Message

"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 Good, Bad and Indifferent" Pastor John Shipman

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" (Red) #502

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 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.

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

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.

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"