

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.	Gail Atkins
	9:00 a.m.	Ann Hardesty
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Patti Byce & Myra Gapske
	9:00 a.m.	Laurie Stafford
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Dennis and Sherry McDonald
	9:00 a.m.	Paul Kieliszewski, Cathy Kieliszewski
		Kathy Burton, Barb Szczesniak
<u>ACOLYTE</u>	5:30 p.m.	Odessa Morrison
	9:00 a.m.	Harley Steinke
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Patti Byce and Carol Kindt

We thank all participants for enriching our worship service.

St. Paul Lutheran Church Worship Service

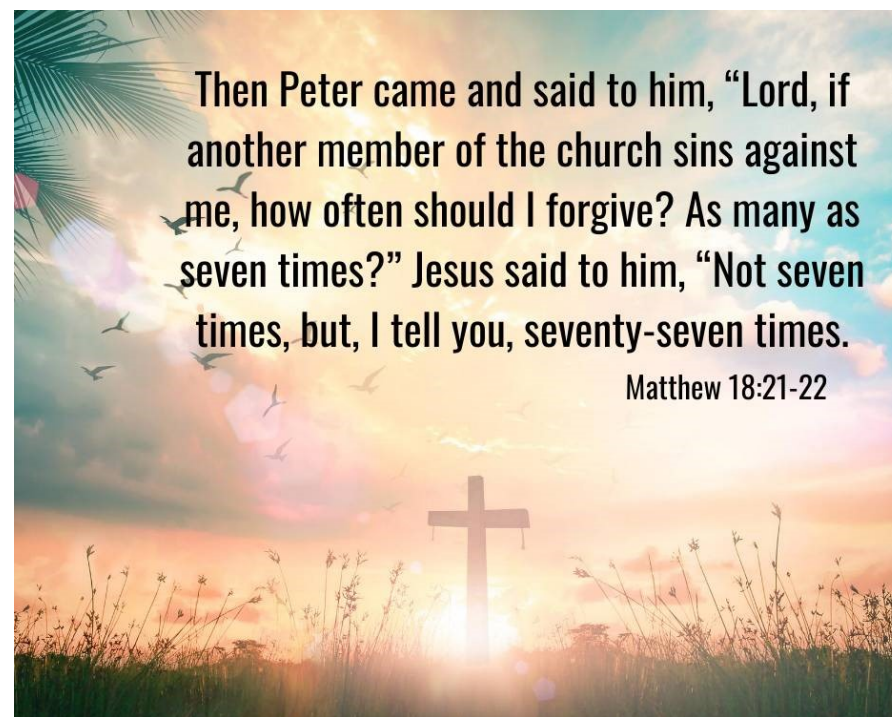
celebrates and shares God’s love and compassion

727 S. 2nd, Alpena, MI 49707

Phone 989-356-1658

www.stpaul.org

A Stephen Ministry Congregation



Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

Matthew 18:21-22

September 16, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.
September 17, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.



GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 16, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.
September 17, 2023 - 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 God, the one who forms us, + Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Steadfast and faithful God,
you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world’s violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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 “You are Holy” (Red) #525

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 September Service Activity is Lincoln Elementary School. Items needed: school supplies, especially composition notebooks and dry erase markers, and children’s clothing, knit pants sizes 5-8 and new underwear size small and medium. Please leave your donations on the altar. Thank you for your generosity.

The next ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY program of our MDOT pick up will be on Sunday, September 24th, at 12:00. Meet at our church to view the video prior to venturing out for the clean up at our location on M-32. Hope you can be there to help with this project! All are welcome!!!

Worship on the Beach on Saturday, September 30 at 7:00 p.m. You are invited to bring a friend, a beverage of choice, a lawn chair, snacks and a joyful spirit. We will carpool from the church after the 5:30 service and travel to the beach property at 6:30. The service and time of fellowship will last from 7:00-9:00

God has blessed some of us with companions that cannot speak, and yet they love and offer us comfort. **Pastor John will offer a blessing on your pet from 10-12 on Saturday, September 30th**, at the church. You do not need to be a member of this church in order to take part in this blessing event.

Next weekend we will start collecting the noisy offering again, and continue to do so the last weekend of every month. The money collected will support children in foster care to attend summer camp. Bring change!

The Singles Retreat is set for October 13th! Come explore the vision of “Living Your Best Single Life in Christ.” The event will take place at 1921 Long Rapids Road at 6:00 and there is no cost associated with this event. We will explore God’s promises for community and fellowship for single Christians, ages 18-100.

There will be a Float planning meeting on September 28th at 1:30 p.m. in the Lounge. Please come join us.

Please note: **Yoga Classes** will begin on October 5th. Chair Yoga at 3:00 p.m. and Recovery Yoga at 5:30 p.m.

We will be taking part in the community **Trunk R Treat** again this year. So, if you would like to donate candy, please drop it off at the church. *Thank you.*

Council packets have been sent out electronically. Printed copies will be available at Tuesday’s meeting.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: SEPTEMBER 17–24, 2023	
SUN.	Sunday Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service and Children’s Church – 10:30 a.m.; The Adventure Club (Lee’s Mini-Golf) – 1:00 p.m.
MON.	Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; E.T.A. – 5:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 6:00 p.m.
TUES.	Senior Leaders – 5:00 p.m.; Air Rifle Team –5:30 p.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Church Council – 6:00 p.m.; Boy Scouts – 6:30 p.m.
WED.	Breakfast Belles (at JJ’s) – 7:30 a.m.; St. John Bible Study (Pastor John) – 1:00 & 5:30 p.m.; “Joshua— Winning the Worry Battle” Study (Nena) – 5:30 p.m.; Choir –6:00 p.m.
THURS.	3M Men’s Breakfast (at JJ’s) – 7:00 a.m.; Air Rifle Team –5:30 p.m.; Harvest Dinner – 5:00 p.m.
FRI.	Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.
SAT.	Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship/HC –5:30 p.m.
SUN.	Sunday Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service and Children’s Church and C.I.A. (Youth) – 10:30 a.m.; Highway Pick-Up – 12:00 p.m.; Fireside Chats – 5:00 p.m.

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

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS: Loccia Fifield, Sue Kaiser, Andy Beagle, Phyllis Robb, Jillian Kerby, Frank, Pat Brodziak, Sarah Moe Melching, Brendia Mantea, Allison Dutcher, Brendon & Heather Maroney, David Hunt, Dolores Libka, David Reeves, Josh Paulsen, Julie Troy, Cathy Moe, Cathy Beigaey, Mary Senchuk, John Wegmeyer, Tom Christou, Geri Hanson, Keeley Knapp, Billiejo Foster, Gus Schultz, Elaine Kingsbury, Sally Barney, Joel Foster, Phyllis Robb, Eugene Brooks, Bodo Hanson, Sutton Badder, Marian Dove, Dolores Sumerix, Audrey Reck, Bernice Menck, and Karen Wallace. *(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: St. John Lutheran Church, Grayling, Supply Pastors

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

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

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Saturday (09/09)	5:30 p.m.	56
Sunday (09/10)	9:00 a.m.	59
	10:30 a.m.	<u>28</u>
Total		143

END OF JUNE

Income	31,148.16
Expenses	<u>27,891.66</u>
Difference	3,256.50

YEAR TO DATE

165,703.26
<u>175,117.05</u>
(9,413.79)

The Soul Sisters will meet for their last Kayaking Adventures on September 26th at 5:30 p.m. For location, borrowing kayaks, or questions please call Sue Robb at 989-354-8673.

The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, October 15th, right after the 9:00 a.m. service. There will be only one service (Sunday 9:00 a.m.) that weekend.

Join the Adventure Club on Sunday, September 17th, at Lee's Miniature Golf, 1:00 p.m. We are going to test our golfing skills and have lots of fun! Please pre-register in the office or on our app. *Thank you.*

Join us for our Autumn Educational Opportunities, which run September 20 through October 25. Pastor John will hold a Bible Study on the Gospel of John and Miss Nena will lead a Book Study on "Joshua—Winning the Worry Battle," by Barb Roose. Each class length will be 1 hour. Pastor John's Class will meet on Wednesdays at 1:00 and 5:30 PM and Miss Nena's class will also meet on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM. Please call the office so we know how to plan/books to order.

Pastor John and Nena are inviting you to come to their house for a Fireside Chat on September 24th from 5:00-7:00. We will sit by the firepit by the river (or in the house or gazebo) and talk about life, hope, grace, and the love of God (no agenda). Come for 15 minutes or for 2 hours.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 103:8-13 (Read Responsively)

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.

He does not deal with us according to our sins nor repay us according to our iniquities.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12 (Sunday 9:00 a.m.)

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

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 -
Hal - le - lu - jah.
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

"On Our Way Rejoicing"

(Red) #537

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

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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 - jice 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. Matthew. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.
²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

(Please be seated)

SERMON

“Matters of the Heart”

Rev John Shipman

(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 Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE
The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

(Please stand)
(Sung at the 9:00 a.m. service.)
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

S 144a

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