

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.

<u>PARTICIPANTS</u>		
<u>MINISTERS</u>		The People of God
<u>PASTOR</u>		Rev. John Shipman
<u>ORGANIST</u>		Marvis McNeil
<u>ASSISTING MINISTER</u>	5:30 p.m.	Carol Kindt
	9:00 a.m.	Alayna Krey
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Iris Arthur
	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.	Cindy Tchorzynski
	9:00 a.m.	Kathy Burton, Tim Moggie Nancy Smithem, Owen Werth
<u>ACOLYTE</u>	9:00 a.m.	Alayna Krey
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Laurie Stafford and Patti Byce

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



And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Luke 1:42

December 18, 2021 - 5:30 p.m.
December 19, 2021 - 9:00 a.m.

The **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services** will be at 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Friday, December 24th. Holy Communion will be served at all services.

Please join us for our Christmas Day Worship on December 25th at 10:00 a.m.

Join us for a Hymn Sing Unity Service on Sunday, December 26th at 9:00 a.m. No other services will be held on Sunday.

The Scholarship Committee is very grateful to those that have brought in their bottle returns, we ask that you keep them coming! The bottle returns can be place in the janitorial closet next to the elevator on the Mirre street side. There is a sign on the door for less confusion. Please contact Val Urban 356-4613 if you have questions.

Please Note: The Church Office closed on Christmas Eve and will remain closed until Monday, January 3, 2022.

The December Service Activity is Hope Shores Alliance. Items needed: Gift cards for gas or food, any amount appreciated. Please place your items on the altar.

If you would like to serve as an usher, acolyte, or cross-bearer for one of the Christmas Eve services, please sign-up today on the sheet in the Narthex. *Thanks!*

Please don't forget to re-cycle the canning jars and rings from this year's bazaar. They can be brought to the "Jar Room" across from the lounge anytime. *Thank you.*

WEEK AT A GLANCE: DECEMBER 19—26, 2021	
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00; Fellowship—10:00 a.m.; Jr/Sr. High Sunday school—10:30; Contemporary Service & Children's Church— 10:30 a.m.; Adventure Club Christmas Caroling – 5:30 p.m.
<u>MON.</u>	Line Dancing—2:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts—6:00 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Boy Scouts – 6:30 p.m.
<u>WED.</u>	Advent Service and lunch – 12:00 p.m.; Book Study – 1:00 p.m. (<i>Pastor John</i>)
<u>THURS.</u>	Men's Fellowship— 7:00 a.m.; Stitched Together - 11:00 a.m.; Yoga – 5:30 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 6:00 p.m.; Bible Study (<i>Miss Nena</i>) – 6:30 p.m.
<u>FRI.</u>	Church Office will close at noon; Christmas Eve Worship Services – 3:30, 5:30, & 8:00 p.m.
<u>SAT.</u>	Christmas Day Worship – 10:00 a.m.
<u>SUN.</u>	Hymn Sing Unity Service - 9:00 a.m.

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

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS: Betty and Donald Kirschner, Stacey Mikesch, Tim, Dawn & Mitchel Havercroft, Kenneth and June Sylvester, Gary Rich, Karen Morton, Kelci Ghiata, Skyler Kilcrease, Jim Miller, Randy Donakowski, John Tinker, Gladys Kelsey, Nathan LeTourneau, Maryanna Miller, Bodo Hanson, Pete Creguer, Roy Sommerfeld, Dorothy Carr, Melissa Smith, Sutton Badder, Marian Dove, Dolores Sumerix, Amy Waite, Charlie Busuttill, Eleanor Schellie, Megan Schleben, Audrey Reck, Tim Grossman, Deb Lange, Bernice Menck, Annette Jones, and Karen Wallace. *We also remember our homebound members.* They are: Harriet Burke, Virginia Kraft, Virginia Beaulieu, Deb Lange, Phyllis Robb, and Delores Stevens.

We remember our prayer partners in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod: Ascension Lutheran Church, Kentwood, Rev. Michael Wernick, Episcopal

This week we join in prayer with the other LARCC parishes (Grace Lutheran, Trinity Episcopal, First Congregational UCC, All Saints Parish) for all who work on Ecumenical and Interfaith Dialogue at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE		END OF OCT.		YEAR TO DATE
Saturday (12/11)	5:30 p.m.	Income	26,514.41	252,615.69
Sunday (12/12)	9:00 a.m. 35	Expenses	<u>26,707.26</u>	<u>249,864.70</u>
	10:30 a.m. <u>13</u>	Difference	(192.85)	2,750.99
Total				

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL are given to the glory of God.

Advent is a time of preparation for the arrival of Jesus at Christmas. This year we will have Advent Services on Wednesdays at 12:00 – 12:45 p.m. The remaining service is December 22. We begin with a meal at 12:00 and after dining we have a short service at 12:25. Please join us.

Pastor John is aware of people who are in need of help during the Christmas season. If you're able to help meet the needs of those in our community, a contribution to the Good Samaritan Fund would be a wonderful and much appreciated way of sharing God's compassion and love with others.

Recovery Yoga is meeting on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. only. Please come join us.

The Adventure Club is a new educational vision that meets twice a month, on the first and third Sundays from 5:30 –6:30 p.m. **We will have a Christmas Caroling Adventure for Everyone on Sunday, December 19th at 5:30 p.m.** We will meet at the church for a quick bite to eat and then head out to share Christ's joy to others.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2021 - 5:30 p.m.
December 19, 2021 - 9:00 a.m.

*Congregational responses are printed in **bold**; Additional items for the 9:00 a.m. service only are printed in **blue**.)*

Welcome! Celebrations of birthdays, Anniversaries and a time to welcome our guests. The offering will be received at the back and front of the church building. We ask that you fill out the communion card and place it in the offering plate in the front or back of the church before you depart the church.

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Please Stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait,

in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace.

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 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

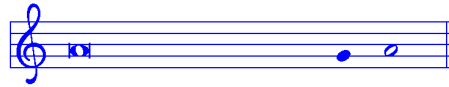
(Red) #254

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.

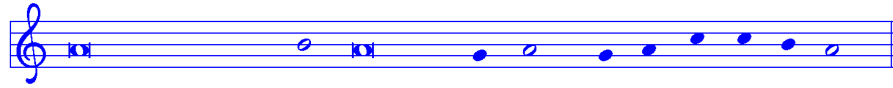
KYRIE



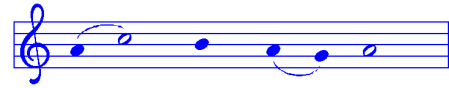
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



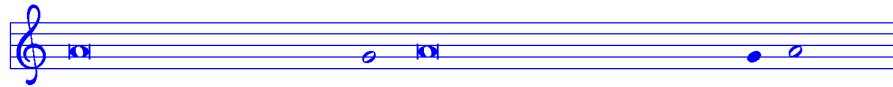
Lord, have mer - cy.



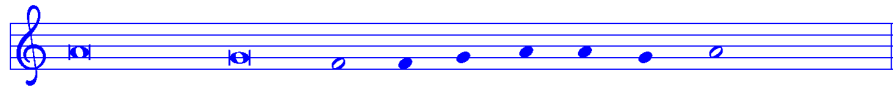
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



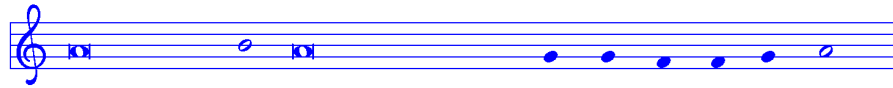
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

DISMISSAL

God in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

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SERMON NOTES

“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.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. **Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

“All Earth Is Hopeful”

(Red) #266

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.



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. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

Light all four candles.

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

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

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7(Read Responsively)

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

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”



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

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.

EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING

LORD'S PRAYER

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

before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.

You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷ Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’ (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

Gospel Acclamation

