

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.	Carol Kindt
	9:00 a.m.	Phil Wickstrom
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Sue Keyes
	9:00 a.m.	Scott Parkham
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Anita Laub
	9:00 a.m.	Nancy Clark, Angie Parrish
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Patti Byce
	9:00 a.m.	Paul Kieliszewski, Kathy Burton Barb Szczesniak, Jeff Ciupka
<u>ACOLYTE</u>	5:30 p.m.	Evan Peterson
	9:00 a.m.	Alayna Krey
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Marty Cantleberry and Carol Kindt

We thank all participants for enriching our worship service.

St. Paul Lutheran Church Worship Service

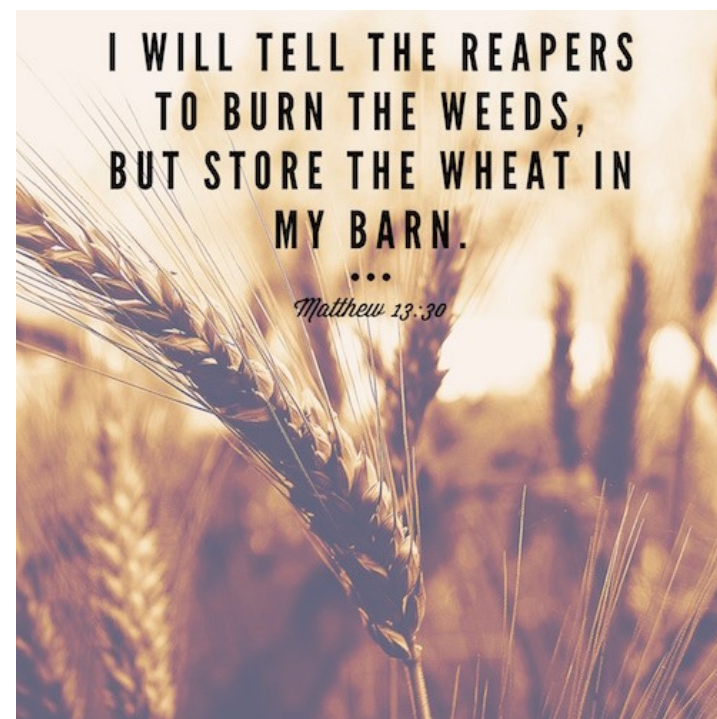
celebrates and shares God's love and compassion

727 S. 2nd, Alpena, MI 49707

Phone 989-356-1658

www.stpaul.org

A Stephen Ministry Congregation



July 22, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.

July 23, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 22, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.
July 23, 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 the holy Trinity,+ one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Righteous God,
we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. We have squandered your blessings. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

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 “Oh, Worship the King” (Red) #842

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.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Worship on the Beach. We will celebrate the final Saturday of each month (July 29, August 26 and 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. Saturday Night services will continue at 5:30. We will carpool from the church and travel to the beach property at 6:30. The service and time of fellowship will last from 7:00 -9:00. If there is rain, we will reschedule.

Pastor John and Nena are inviting you to come to their house for a Fireside Chat on July 30th 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). This is a gift from Nena and I, so nothing is required to be part of this experience. Come for 15 minutes or for 2 hours.

Our July Service Activity is the Little Food Pantry at Grace Lutheran Church/Alpena AND New Life Lutheran Church/Spruce. Nonperishable food items needed along with feminine hygiene products. Please leave items on the altar. Thank you for your generosity.

Save the following dates for an evening Adventure Club Vacation Bible School - “Splash into God’s Word!” On Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday, August 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, St. Paul will be holding an evening VBS from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. It will be held at the Starlite Pavilion (next to the Splash Pad), on Lake Huron- along State Street. Mark your calendars now and think of kids you can invite.

We are looking for a few great servant leaders to help with VBS. Please contact the office to volunteer. Also needed are empty cardboard paper towel holders. Please drop them off at the church.

Also, you are invited to join us for **VBS preparation days on Tuesday, July 25th from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. and 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., and on Thursday, July 27th from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.** We will be preparing craft packets and activities supplies. All helping hands are welcome.

The Forget-Me-Nots next monthly meeting will be on Tuesday, August 1. We will gather at the St. Paul Picnic Grounds at noon, weather permitting. Please bring your picnic lunch, beverage and a lawn chair if you wish.. In case of inclement weather, we will meet at the church. We hope you can join us for these events.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: JULY 23 – 30, 2023	
<u>SUN.</u>	Sunday Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service & Children’s Church and C.I.A. (Youth) – 10:30 a.m.
<u>MON.</u>	Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; E.T.A. – 5:00 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	VBS Preparation – 9:30–11:30 a.m. and 5:30-7:30 p.m.; Senior Leaders – 500 p.m.; Church Council – 6:00 p.m.; Air Rifle Team – 5:30 p.m.; Kayaking – 5:30 p.m.; Boy Scouts – 6:30 p.m.
<u>WED.</u>	Women’s Breakfast (at JJ’s) – 7:30 a.m.; Ray of Sonshine – 5:00 p.m.
<u>THURS.</u>	Men’s Breakfast (at JJ’s) – 7:00 a.m.; Stitched Together – 11:00 a.m.; Air Rifle Team–5:30 p.m.; VBS Preparation – 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
<u>FRI.</u>	Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.
<u>SAT.</u>	Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship/HC -5:30 p.m.; Worship on the Beach – 7:00 p.m.
<u>SUN.</u>	Sunday Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service & Children’s Church – 10:30 a.m.; Highway Pick-Up – 12:00 p.m.; Fireside Chats (at Shipmans) – 5:00 p.m.

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

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS: David Reeves, Dolores Libka, Josh Paulsen, Julie Troy, Krissy, Carol Grabow, Cathy Moe, Patty Jo (Morton) Wenzel, Logan Spengler, Cathy Beigaey, Maxine Miller, William Bushey, Mary Senchuk, Laura Kieliszewski, David Hunt, Bob Laity, Beth Moore, Tom Christou, John Wegmeyer, Geri Hanson, Keeley Knapp, Don Urban Sr., Billiejo Foster, Gus Schultz, Bodo Hanson, Elaine Kingsbury, Sally Barney, Joel Foster, Nancy Chrzan, Phyllis Robb, Eugene Brooks, 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: Edgewood Lutheran Church, Fruitport, Rev. Len Dahlgren

We pray for the Dynamic Ministries here at St. Paul Lutheran Church. This week we specifically pray for the Highway Pick Up team.

CONDOLENCES TO: the family and friends of Marian Bennett, who joined our Lord in eternity July 14, 2023. A private Celebration of Life will be held by the family.

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

<u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u>			<u>END OF APRIL</u>		<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Saturday (07/15)	5:30 p.m.	64	Income	25,356.51	98,273.31
Sunday (07/16)	9:00 a.m.	59	Expenses	<u>23,113.99</u>	<u>116,902.33</u>
	10:30 a.m.	<u>21</u>	Difference	2,242.52	(18,629.02)
Total		144			

The next Soul Sisters Kayaking Adventure will be Tuesday, July 25th. We will meet at the front entrance of the fairgrounds at the dock. If you have any questions, please call Sue Robb at 989-354-8673.

The Soul Sisters are meeting on Wednesday, August 9th, at Nancy Smithem’s house, for her annual *Pool Party*. Bring a snack to share if you like. Nancy will provide lemonade and iced tea. Come any time after 3:00 p.m. This event is open to everyone. Nancy’s address is 121 N. Sheridan Street, Alpena. Come and enjoy this fun and relaxing event.

The next ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY program of our MDOT pick up will be on Sunday, July 30th, at 12:00 p.m. 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!!!

The Ray of Sonshine ministry will meet on Wednesday, July 26th at 5:00 p.m. If you would like to encourage our church family who could use a ray of God’s love, come join us.

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the first, and I am the last; besides me there is no god. ⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it; let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. ⁸Do not fear or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

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

PSALM: Psalm 86:11-17 (Read Responsively)

¹¹Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name. ¹²I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever. ¹³For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol. ¹⁴O God, the insolent rise up against me; a band of ruffians seeks my life, and they do not set you before them. ¹⁵But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. ¹⁶Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant; save the child of your maidservant. ¹⁷Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame, because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25 (Sunday 9:00 a.m.)

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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 - 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.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.

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The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to You, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

²⁴ He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather

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 - 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.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN “For the Fruit of All Creation” (Red) #679

them?’²⁹ But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them.³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.”³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man;³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one,³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age.⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers,⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

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

(Please be seated)
SERMON Saturday Night Service Rev Bill Rayment
 Sunday Morning service Karen Wekwert & Danielle McDonald

(Please stand)
HYMN OF THE DAY “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” (Red) #693

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 Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

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

OFFERING

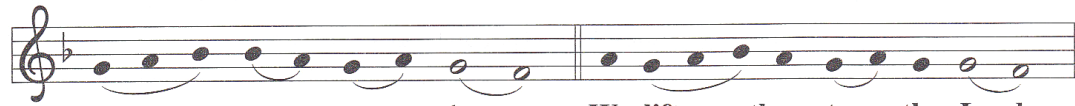
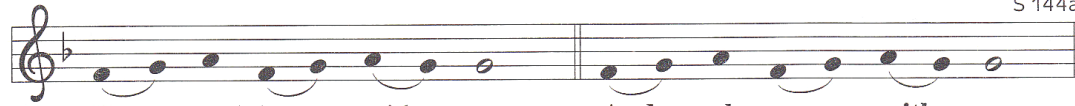
OFFERING PRAYER

(Please stand)

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

S 144a

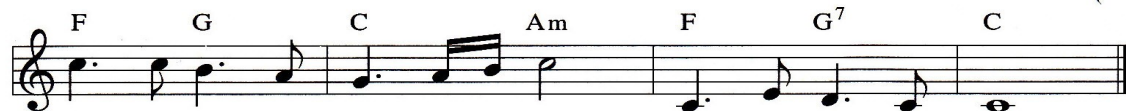


Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise . . . *(concluding)* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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.**

(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"



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