

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

LECTOR

USHERS & GREETERS

ACOLYTE

ALTAR CARE

The People of God

Rev. John Shipman

Marvis McNeil

Marty Cantleberry

Shirley Jones

Shirley Jones

Steve & Andrea Dutcher

Tim Moggie, Jeff Ciupka

Alayna Krey

Karen Hamann and Sue Robb

We thank all participants for enriching our worship service.

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Worship Service

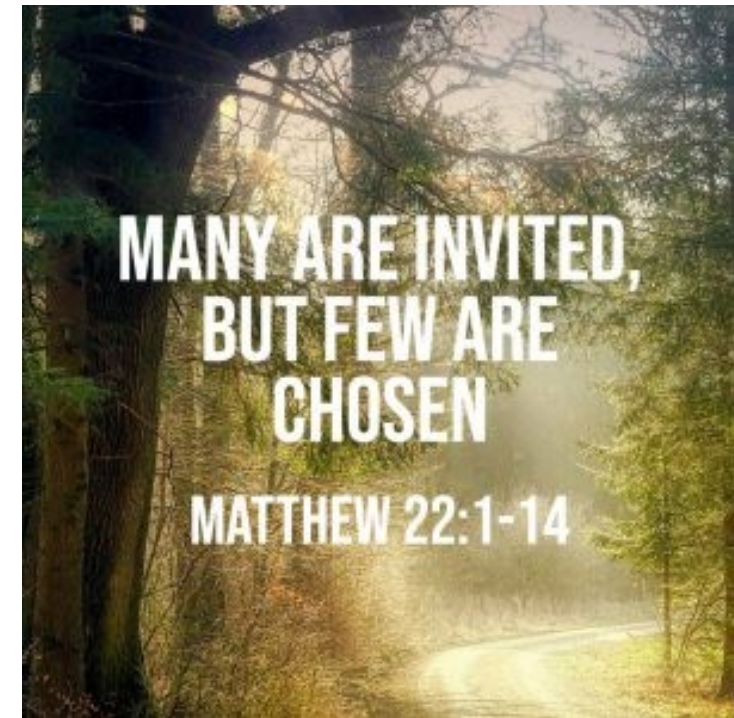
celebrates and shares God's love and compassion

727 S. 2nd, Alpena, MI 49707

Phone 989-356-1658

www.stpaul.org

A Stephen Ministry Congregation



October 15, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.



GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
October 15, 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

“Gather Us In”

(Red) #532

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.

Please note: The water at the church picnic grounds will be turned off for the winter on October 18th.

The Dynamic Duo Ministry is sponsoring a **Progressive Dinner** on Friday, October 20th, at 6:00 p.m. We will be traveling from house to house for different parts of a meal. This event is open to all couples. Come and be part of this new ministry expression. You may sign up online or call the church office.

A Taste from Home group will be assembling packages to Military Members with a Fall theme (apple cider mix, pumpkin cookies, hats, mittens, fall leaves, etc.) on October 23rd. If you would like to donate items please have them to the church by then. Thank you.

Boy Scout Troop 92 invited you to join us for a **Soup & Pie Dinner on Friday, October 27th** from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Prices are \$10 for Adult, \$6 for children (10 and under), \$28 for a family of four and children under 4 are free. You can buy tickets from any of the Boy Scouts or pick them up in the church office on Thursday mornings from Joanne, if possible. Come and enjoy a selection of delicious homemade soups and desserts!

There will be a Men’s Retreat on November 3rd at 6:00 p.m. at 1921 Long Rapids Road. Our theme is “Visions of Leadership for Men. There is no cost associated with this event. We will explore God’s promises for community and fellowship for men. Ages 18 – 100 are invited.

All are invited to our November Video Educational Experience on November 8th at 6:00 p.m. We will be watching “God’s Not Dead” and a meal will be provided with discussion throughout.

The St. Paul Christmas Bazaar is November 4th from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose room, with our famous “Turkey Noodle Casserole” being served from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Tickets for the luncheon are now available for sale either at the church office or bazaar member, or you may get them before or after services this weekend. To honor our former chairperson – Lori Ludwig, we are splitting our “tithe” money between the two places she served graciously for so many years, the Friendship Room at St. Bernards and Trinity Sunday Supper. You may drop off your donated items on Friday, November 3rd from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please call Esther at 989-471-2274.

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

WEEK AT A GLANCE: OCTOBER 15 – 22, 2023	
<u>SUN.</u>	Sunday Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Annual Meeting – 10:00 a.m.; The Adventure Club (5868 Dietz Road) - 1:00–3:00 p.m.; Newsletter Deadline
<u>MON.</u>	Candy Labeling for Trunk R Treat—1:30 and 5:30 p.m.; Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; E.T.A. – 5:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 6:00 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Ray of Sonshine – 5:00 p.m.; Senior Leaders – 5:30 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.
<u>WED.</u>	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.
<u>THURS.</u>	3M Men’s Breakfast (at JJ’s) – 7:00 a.m.; Chair Yoga – 3:00 p.m.; Recovery Yoga – 5:30 p.m.; Air Rifle Team—5:30 p.m.
<u>FRI.</u>	Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.; Dynamic Duo Progressive Dinner – 6:00 p.m.
<u>SAT.</u>	Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship/HC – 5:30 p.m.
<u>SUN.</u>	Sunday Worship/HC – 9:00; Fellowship – 10:00; Contemporary Service & Children’s Church and C.I.A. (Youth) – 10:30 a.m.

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

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS: Doreen Britton, Dixie Prevost-Creveir, Nate Cosbitt, Warren MacNeil, Sue Kaiser, Shirley Kowalski, Barbara Carlson, Marty & Liz Smith, Loccia Fifield, Andy Beagle, John Wegmeyer, Phyllis Robb, Jillian Kerby, Frank, Sarah Moe Melching, Brendia Mantea, Allison Dutcher, David Hunt, Dolores Libka, David Reeves, Julie Troy, Geri Hanson, Billiejo Foster, Gus Schultz, Elaine Kingsbury, Sally Barney, Joel Foster, 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: Trinity Lutheran Church, Hillsdale, Rev. Kara Shaw

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

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

<u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u>			<u>END OF AUGUST</u>		<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Saturday (10/07)	5:30 p.m.	45	Income	26,400.89	213,982.64
Sunday (10/08)	9:00 a.m.	46	Expenses	<u>29,813.22</u>	<u>233,530.17</u>
	10:30 a.m.	<u>25</u>	Difference	(3,412.33)	(19,547.53)
Total		116			

The Annual Meeting is today, right after the 9:00 a.m. service. Please stay and join us.

Join us for our Autumn Educational Opportunities, which run through October 25. Pastor John is holding a Bible Study on the Gospel of John and Miss Nena is leading a Book Study on “Joshua- Winning the Worry Battle,” by Barb Roose. Each class length will be 1 hour. Pastor John’s Class meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 and 5:30 PM and Miss Nena’s class also meets on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

The October Service Activity is Ella White Elementary School. Items needed: Sweatpants/leggings (sizes 6-14), underwear (sizes 6-14), tennis shoes (all kid sizes), and snacks for our students (any type of pre-packaged snack item is beneficial) Please leave your donations on the altar. Thank you for your generosity.

We will be taking part in the community Trunk R Treat again this year, which will be held October 27th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. So, if you would like to donate candy, please drop it off at the church. We will be labeling the candy on Monday, October 16th, at 1:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Come join us. *Thanks.*

Reminder: **The Ray of Sonshine Ministry team** with meet on Tuesday, October 17th at 5:00 p.m.

The Adventure Club will meet on Sunday, October 15 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at 5868 Dietz Road in Alpena. We will have pumpkin carving, cider and cookies, games, and get your picture with a long horn cow. Bring your spirit of adventure and hope as you explore and share your faith through fun and food within this intergenerational educational experience. The Adventure Club welcomes everyone from 1 – 105 years old.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transfer us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:1-9

¹O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. ²For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of foreigners is a city no more; it will never be rebuilt. ³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. ⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, ⁵the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. ⁶On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the covering that is spread over all nations; ⁸he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. ⁹It will be said on that day, “See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

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.

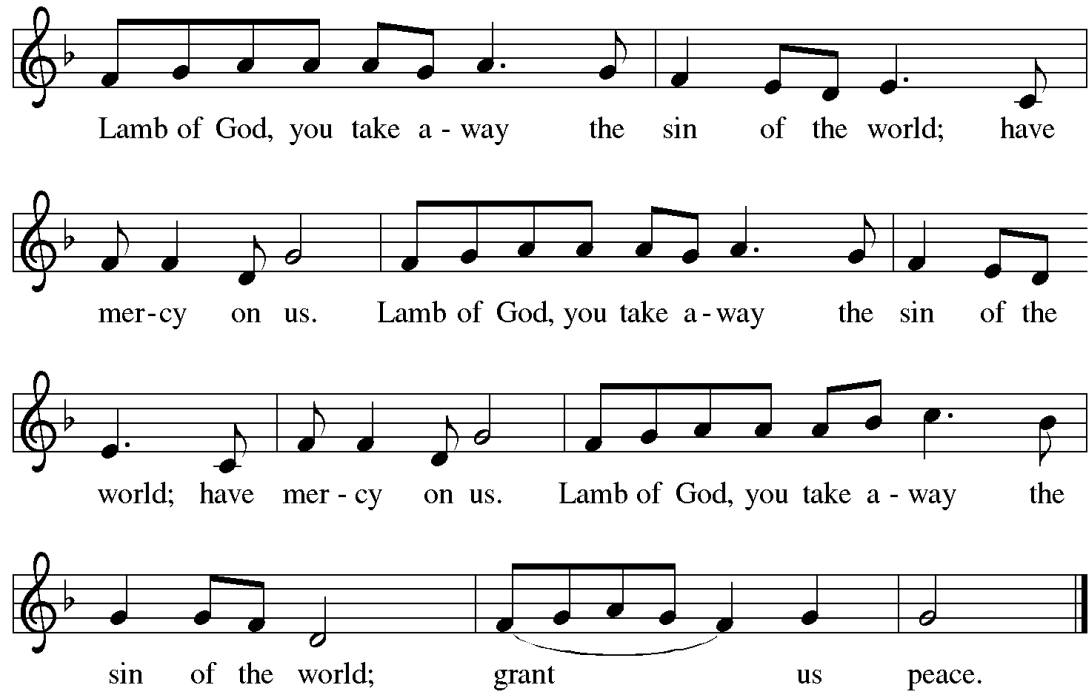
Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

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: Philippians 4:1-9 (Sunday 9:00 a.m.)

¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.



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”



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.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1-14

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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

“Invitation”

Rev John Shipman

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Let Us Go Now to the Banquet”

(Red) #523

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

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

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"