

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>ORGANIST</u>	Marvis McNeil
<u>CHOIR DIRECTOR</u>	Marty Cantleberry
<u>ASSISTING MINISTER</u>	Carol Kindt
	9:00 a.m. Shirley Jones
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m. Carol Kindt
	9:00 a.m. Cathy Kieliszewski
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m. Sue Robb
	9:00 a.m. Mary Courtney
<u>HEAD USHER</u>	Roy Wekwert
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m. John and Linda Snyder
	9:00 a.m. Richard Miller, Owen Werth
	Ryan Panknin, Jeff Ciupka
<u>CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS</u>	Jessica O'Neil, Karen Wekwert, Sue Robb
<u>LITTLES' WORSHIP CENTER LEADERS</u>	Cathy Kieliszewski, Marty Courtney
<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

Monthly Ministry Highlight:
Women's Dynamic Ministry



May 2, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
May 3, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.

May 3, 2026 - 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

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

Amen.

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us (local waters may be named). Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

Amen.

The Property Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, May 6th at 5:30 p.m.

Everyone is invited to our May Video Educational Experience on Wednesday, May 6th at 6:00 p.m. We will be watching “**Sound of Hope, the Story of Possum Trot**” and a meal will be provided with discussion throughout.

The Singles Group meets the first Thursday of every month. In May they will meet on May 7th at 5:30 p.m. at Thunder Bowl Lanes. If you have any questions, contact Sue Robb at 989-590-7611.

We will be packing food for the Feeding Kids Ministry on Monday, May 18th at the old Sunset School, 1421 Hobbs Drive. Call Sherry if you are willing to help or have any questions, 260-414-3613.

The Church Rummage Sale dates are set for June 11th – 13th! You may start bringing in your items in stackable sealed boxes and leave them on the right side of the storage area off the dining room. Mark your boxes with a general description of what is in them. Please leave bigger stuff until the week of the rummage sale. We will again be accepting clean used clothing and shoes for our sale. If you have any questions, please call Andrea Dutcher at 989-354-3651.

We are looking for a team to help with the 4th of July Parade float this year. Please contact the church office if you would like to be part of this ministry vision/outreach.

St. Paul’s Eucharistic Ministry: We have trained Eucharistic Ministers who will take communion kits to shut-ins on a regular basis. Questions? Contact Esther Kindt at 471-2274.

If you would like to make further donations to the Cancer Center, for patients undergoing treatment we are needing packaged nuts, crackers with peanut butter or cheese, rice crispy treats, candy bars, Jolly Rancher hard candies, oatmeal packets, pudding snacks. Please drop them off at Miss Linda’s office.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: MAY 3 – 10, 2026	
SUN.	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service/Children’s Church/ C.I.A. (Youth) - 10:30 a.m.; Highway Clean-Up—12:00 p.m.
MON.	Line Dancing—2:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts-4:00 p.m.; E.T.A. Group—5:30 p.m.
TUES.	Forget-Me-Nots (JJ’s)— 12:00 p.m.; Recovery Yoga – 5:00 p.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Education – 5:30 p.m.; Scouting America – 6:30 p.m.
WED.	Breakfast Belles – 7:30 a.m.; Prayer Shawl – 10:30 a.m.; Choir Practice – 4:30 p.m.; Property Committee – 5:30 p.m.; Movie Night – 6:00 p.m.
THURS.	3M Men’s Breakfast (JJs) - 7:00 a.m.; Open Line Dance – 1:00 p.m.; Chair Yoga– 3:00 p.m.; Singles (Thunder Bowl Lanes) – 5:30 p.m.
FRI.	Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.
SAT.	Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship Service/HC – 5:30 p.m.
SUN.	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service/Children’s Church/ C.I.A. (Youth) - 10:30 a.m.; <i>Happy Mother’s Day</i>

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

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

Patricia Nelson - grief	Lee Szczesniak—medical issues
David McNeil—health issues	Chad Hamill – health issues
Yvonne McQuarrie - health issues	Sally Wong - medical issues
Chuck Piontkowski – medical issues	Bruce Miller – unspecified need
Travis Schmidt – health issues	Storm Yakes – medical issues
Dixie Crevier – health issues	Greg Dzieszinski- health issues
Kevin Reiser – health issues	Joel Foster – health issues
June Sylvester – fractured back	Phyllis Robb-unspecified need
Margaret Lucian – health issues	Lee Werth—health issues
Carol Kuhl – health issues	Ann Martin – medical issues
John Wegmeyer– health issues	Patricia B. - health issues

ARMED SERVICES: Katie Copping, Jake Przysiecki, Noah Hardesty, Dominick Christou, Sawyer Hein, Rachael Mayes, Brandon Sloan, Andrew Hein, Justin A. Smith, Maragely Hein, Amelia Berles, Josh Gapske, Nicole Stafford, Chuck Dziedzic, and Dale Kirkendoll. *We also remember our homebound member, Phyllis Robb. (Prayer is the best medicine and we are prepared to pray indefinitely for folks. Would you help the church office keep our list current? Unless we know otherwise, our normal practice is to remove names after a month. Thanks.)*

We remember our prayer partners in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod: Ascension Lutheran Church, Saginaw, Rev. Julie Bailey.

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

<u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>END OF MARCH</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Saturday 04/25 5:30 a.m. 51	Income 21,747.29	70,629.12
Sunday 04/26 9:00 a.m. 60	<u>Expenses</u> 36,586.18	<u>102,505.74</u>
10:30 a.m. 33	Difference (14,838.89)	(31,876.62)
Total 144		

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

The May Service Activity is Hope Shores Alliance. The *items needed list* is in the newsletter & posted on the bulletin board, in the Narthex. Leave your items on the altar. Thank you for your generosity.

We will resume the ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY program with a kick off of our MDOT clean up on **Sunday, May 3rd** (*this was rescheduled from last Sunday*). We will meet at the church at 12:00 p.m. to view a video before venturing out for the clean-up. Come, join us!

The Forget-Me-Nots next gathering will be on May 5th at 12:00 p.m. at JJ’s. If you will be attending, please call Ann at 989-590-2055. Invite a friend to come with you.

GATHERING HYMN “Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing” (Red) #389

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. Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60

⁵⁵ But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

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

PSALM: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 (Read Responsively)

In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.

Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name’s sake lead me and guide me; **take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.**

Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10 (Sunday 9:00 a.m. service)

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in

God’s sight, and ⁵ like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,”

⁸ and “A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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

(Please Stand)
Gospel Acclamation

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

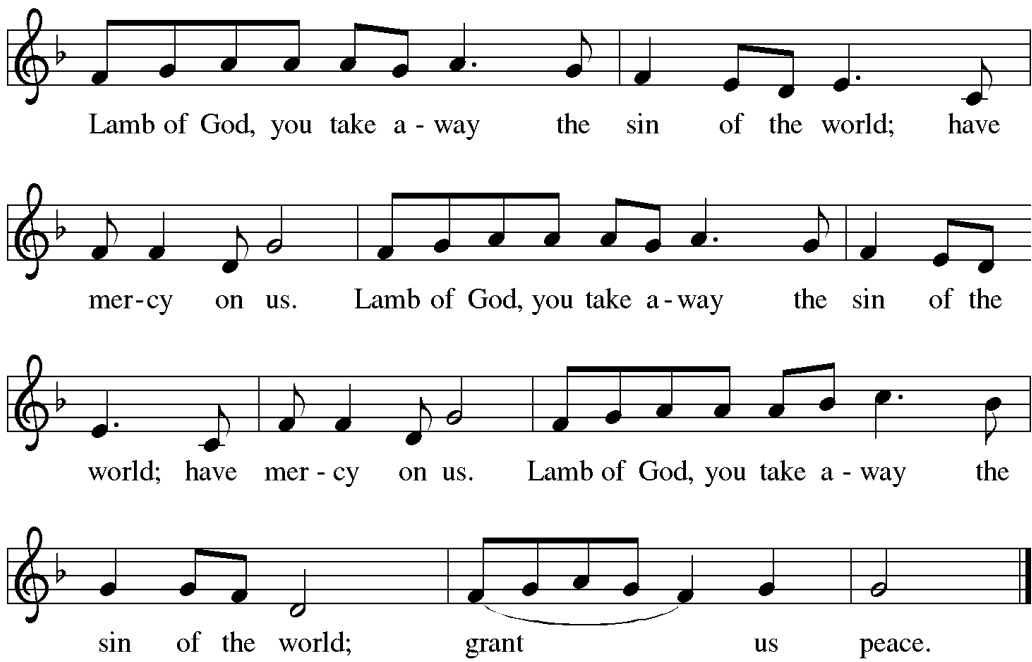
BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN “You Are Holy” (Red) #525

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
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

“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.

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

GOSPEL READING: John 14:1-14

¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

The Gospel of Our Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Children’s Message

“This Little Light of Mine”
This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine let it shine let it shine

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(Please be seated)

SERMON

“Plenty Good Room”

Rev. Rosie Gibson

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

(Red) #810

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.**

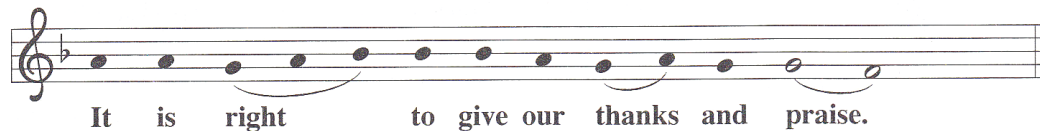
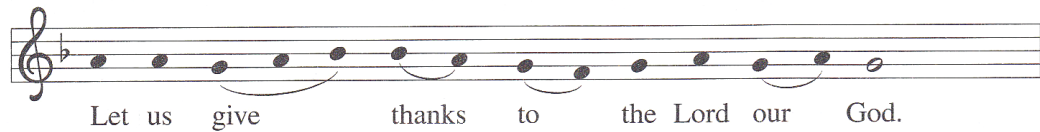
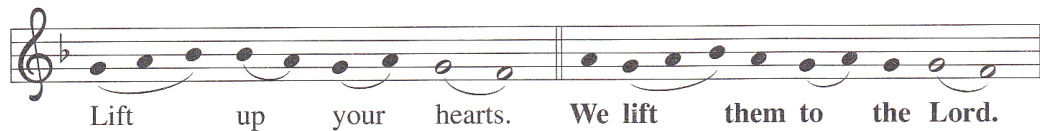
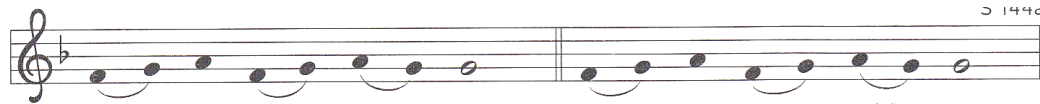
OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

(Please stand)

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

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.

(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 in the middle circle for those who prefer it. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.

"Lamb of God"