

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.

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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>SPECIAL MUSIC</u>	Marvis McNeil, Marty Cantleberry, Duane Beyer
<u>ASSISTING MINISTER</u>	Ann Hardesty
<u>LECTOR</u>	Shirley Jones
<u>USHERS &amp; GREETERS</u>	Owen Werth, Nancy St. Onge Richard Miller, Tim Moggie
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>	Jan Stafford, Laurie Stafford, Karen Wekwert

*We thank all participants for enriching our worship service.*

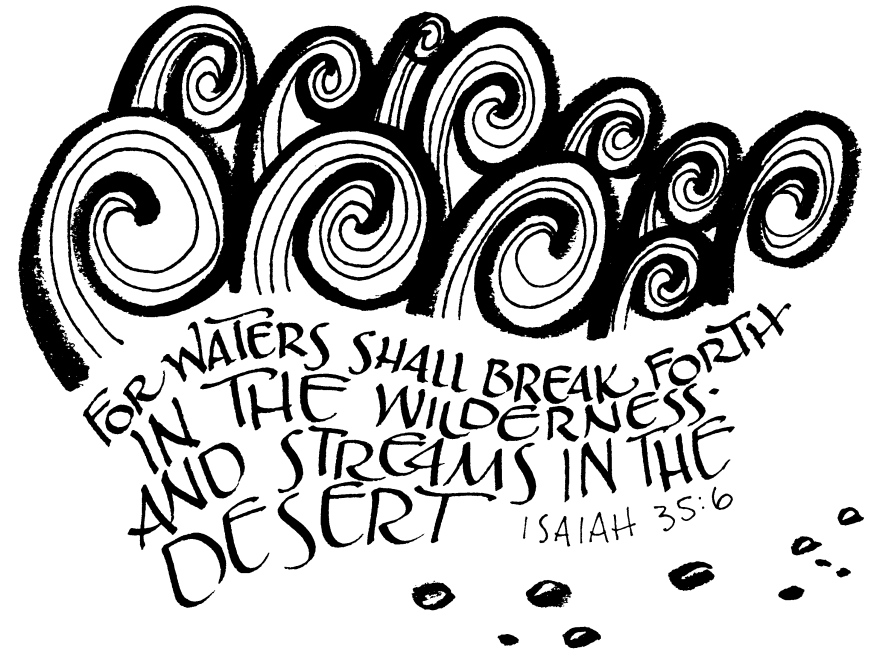
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Liturgical Worship Service  
celebrates and shares God's love and compassion

727 S. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Alpena, MI 49707

Phone 989-356-1658

Fax 989-356-3206

[www.stpaul.org](http://www.stpaul.org)



December 15, 2019

9:00 a.m.

**GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**  
**The Third Sunday of Advent**  
**December 15, 2019—9:00 a.m.**

*(Congregational responses are printed in bold)*

**Welcome**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the parent who rouses us from slumber, the shepherd who gathers us on the holy mountain, the deliverer who sets us free.

**Amen.**

Let us come before the living God in confession.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

As we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation,  
**we open our hearts to you, O God. Search us and know us. Reveal all that we keep inside. To you, O God, we confess our sins, known and unknown. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us in your ways of justice and peace. Make us reflections of the radiant love of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. 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** “Prepare the Royal Highway” (Red) #264

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God from which nothing can separate us, and the life-giving Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

**The Children’s Christmas Program will be on Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at the 5:30 p.m.** service. They will present *The Legend of the Candy Cane* by Lori Walburg. You won’t want to miss it! There will be communion served this evening. A cookie and punch reception will follow the program. Everyone is invited to come.

**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!**

The **Christmas Eve Services** will be at 5:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. Holy Communion will be served at both services.

**Please join us for our Christmas Day Worship** on December 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

**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.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** Our **Epiphany Candlelight Dessert** will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church on *Saturday, January 4, 2020* at 6:30 p.m. If you would like to volunteer to make a dessert or to host a table, please contact Doreen Kriniak at 916-9172. Make plans now to attend and invite a friend. You won’t want to miss it! There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Please sign up by December 31<sup>st</sup> as that will help us with the planning process. *Thank you.*

**We are launching a new Outreach Project** and are looking for a few volunteers to help make it happen. Our plan is to cook and deliver a simple meal to service organizations in the area on a monthly basis. Providing a meal once a month will show appreciation to those who provide essential needs to our community. The Dinner on a Doorknob Ministry will mentor and support this new group. We need 5 volunteers who are willing to donate about 3 hours once a month. If you are interested, please call the church office and leave your name and contact information. For questions call Susan Keyes at 354-3851.

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**WEEK AT A GLANCE: DECEMBER 15– 22, 2019**

- SUN.** Worship/HC–9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Worship Service & Sunday School – 10:30 a.m.; Newsletter Deadline
- MON.** Girl Scouts – 6:00 p.m.
- TUES.** T.O.P.S. – 4:30 p.m.; Church Council – 6:00 p.m.; Boy/Cub Scouts – 6:30 p.m.
- WED.** Advent Service – 12:30 p.m. (Lunch at 12:00); Choir Rehearsal – 5:15 p.m.; Advent Book Study – 6:00 p.m.; Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.
- THURS.** Men’s Fellowship at JJs – 7:00 a.m.; Education Committee - 6:00 p.m.
- SAT.** Fellowship 4:30; Worship Service/HC – 5:30 p.m. (Sunday School Christmas Program) Reception to follow
- SUN.** Worship/HC–9:00; Fellowship–10:00; Contemporary Worship Service–10:30; No Sunday School

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

**WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:** Jamie Shipman, Ron Kelsey, Linda Connon, Shirley Burnham, Trapp Truman, Audrey Reck, Elbert & Audrey Heath, Ed Arthur, Barb Agius, Barb Skaluba, Randy Donakowski, Tim Grossman, Melinda Nordstrand, David Usher, Ilse Kuhl, John David Maleport, Gerry Ludwig, Deb Lange, Dennis Johnson, Jennifer Jones, Cindy Nensewitz, Sally Kosloski, Bernice Menck, Annette Jones, and Karen Wallace.

We remember our prayer partners in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod:

\* Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Lansing, Rev. Matthew Smith and Rev. John Burow

**This week we join in prayer** with the other LARCC parishes (Grace Lutheran, Trinity Episcopal, First Congregational UCC, All Saints Parish) for the Lectors/Eucharistic Ministers at All Saints Parish.

**CONDOLENCES TO:** the family and friends of Norma Smith who joined our Lord in eternity December 6, 2019. Her funeral service was held at McWilliams Funeral Home on Tuesday, December 10, 2019.

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

			OCT	YTD
Saturday (12/07) 5:30 p.m.	106	Income	36,823.77	226,196.00
Sunday (12/08) 9:00 a.m.	70	Expenses	<u>22,885.76</u>	<u>208,490.23</u>
Sunday 10:30 a.m.	30	Difference	13,938.01	17,705.77
Total	206			

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

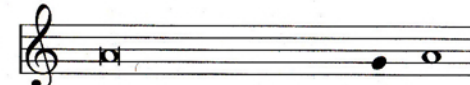
**The Advent Services continue on Wednesday, December 18.** We will begin with a meal at 12:00 and after dining we will have a short service at 12:30. We need volunteers to help prepare a simple meal. If you would like to help please call the church office and volunteer. Thanks.

**Our December Service Activity is the Children's Closet at Wilson School.** Items needed: Boys and girls comfortable pants (leggings/athletic pants) sizes 5 to 10, boys and girls underwear, sizes 5-10, flushable wipes, boys and girl's hygiene kits (deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, body spray), winter gloves and hats. Please leave items on the altar.

**Council recommends an amendment of section C13.03 of the By-Laws , adding the following:** "This committee would be responsible for an Annual Audit of all church accounts, except what is already stated in the Trust Fund Policy." The amendment to the constitution will be voted upon in December after the unity service on December 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Reminder:** Next weekend we collect our Noisy Offering, so don't forget to bring your change!

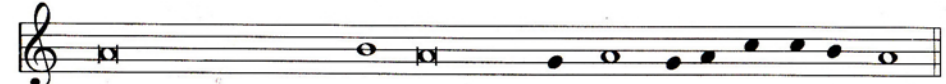
**KYRIE**



**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



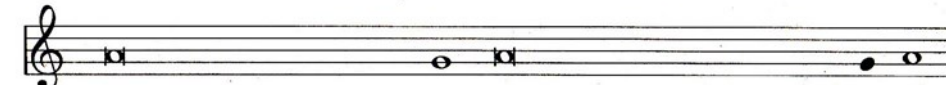
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



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



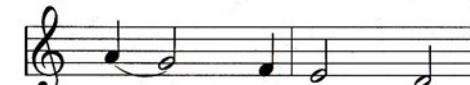
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



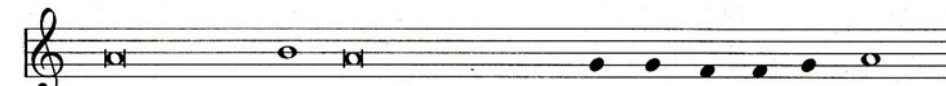
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



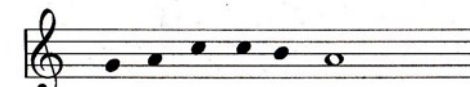
and for the uni-ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



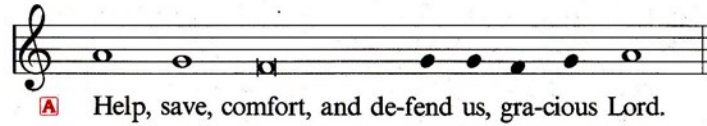
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



**SERMON NOTES:**

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray. Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

Blessed are you, God of might and majesty, for you promise to make the desert rejoice and blossom, to watch over the strangers, and to set the prisoners free.

As we light these candles, satisfy our hunger with your good gifts, open our eyes to the great things you have done for us, and fill us with patience until the coming of the Lord Jesus.

O ransomed people of the Lord, come,  
**let us travel on God's holy way  
and enter into Zion with singing. Amen.**

*Light the third candle.*

## BENEDICTION

### SENDING HYMN

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

(Red) #249

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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### FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. <sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.” <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. <sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM: Psalm 146:5-10

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, **who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;**

who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

**the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.**

The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!**

### SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup>Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(Please Stand)*

**“Gospel Acclamation”**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

**GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11**

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” <sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ <sup>11</sup> Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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

*Refrain*  
As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.  
*Refrain*  
1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,  
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when  
may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray: God of abundance, we give you thanks that in this holy meal you have invited us to feast with you and one another. May the taste of your love remain with us, and may our words and our work in your name invite others into your bountiful grace. Send us from your table to proclaim your presence, even as we await the glorious coming of Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

**MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS**



## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

### LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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.**

### HOLY COMMUNION

“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, grant us peace.

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

### POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

## SERMON

“Hear and See”

Pastor John Shipman

### HYMN OF THE DAY “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

(Red) #242

Confession of Faith: Apostles’ Creed

**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.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH: Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

### SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

#### OFFERING

“Mary’s Song”

#### “LET THE VINEYARDS”

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
 bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
 we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
 all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
 with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Giver of every good thing, we set before you the gifts that you have already given to sustain our lives and to share with others. Help us to be good stewards of the earth and all that is in it, and let our lives be a testimony to the abundant feast you prepare for all who hunger. **Amen.**

**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 Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry.  
 Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who comes  
 in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.