

## 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

#### MINISTERS

PASTOR

ORGANIST

CHOIR DIRECTOR

ASSISTING MINISTER

LECTOR

USHERS & GREETERS

#### ALTAR CARE

The People of God

Rev. John Shipman

Marvis McNeil

Marty Cantleberry

Esther Kindt

Ann Hardesty

Paul Kieliszewski, Jeff Ciupka

Cathy Kieliszewski, Nancy Smithem

Jan Stafford, Laurie Stafford, Karen Wekwert

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

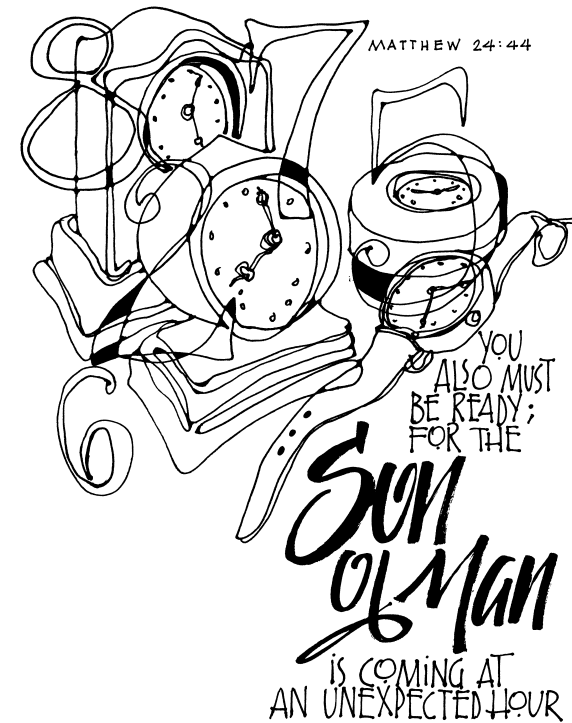
## St. Paul Lutheran Church Liturgical Worship Service celebrates and shares God's love and compassion

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

Phone 989-356-1658

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



*December 1, 2019*

*9:00 a.m.*

**GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**  
**The First Sunday of Advent**  
**December 1, 2019—9:00 a.m.**

*(Congregational responses are printed in bold)*

**Welcome**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**      “A Tiny Child Will Come”

**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**      “My Lord, What a Morning”      (Blue) #627

**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.**

An Advent Book Study will begin on the 4th of December at 6:00 PM and meet every Wednesday until Christmas. The book we are reading and discussing is the Screwtape Letters written by C.S. Lewis. This book is all about preparation for the future and the temptations that assail us. Pastor John has these books in his office and he asks that you read the first 10 letters before our first meeting.

It was decided by the Church Council that the building will be closed whenever Alpena Public Schools have closed because of inclement weather. Therefore, any St. Paul committee meetings, church activities, choir practice, etc. or the events or activities of community groups who regularly use the building will automatically be cancelled. This does not include funerals.

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 354-3851 or Mollie Skiba 356-3936.

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 29th.

**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.

**About St. Paul’s Eucharistic Ministry:** We have trained Eucharistic Ministers who will take communion kits to shut-ins on a regular basis. Questions? Contact Bernie at 595-6835.

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**WEEK AT A GLANCE: DECEMBER 1—8, 2019**

- SUN.**      Worship/HC—9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Worship Service & Sunday School – 10:30 a.m.
- MON.**      Girl Scouts – 6:00 p.m.
- TUES.**      Forget-Me Nots Potluck & Games – 12:30 p.m.; T.O.P.S. – 4:30 p.m.; Prayer Shawl – 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.; Lois Circle at JJs – 11:30 a.m.; Quilt Group – 5:00 p.m.
- SAT.**      Fellowship 4:30; Worship Service/HC – 5:30 p.m.
- SUN.**      Worship/HC—9:00; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Worship Service & Sunday School - 10:30 a.m.

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

**WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:** Shirley Burnham, Trapp Truman, Audrey Reck, Elbert & Audrey Heath, Ed Arthur, Barb Agius, Barb Skaluba, Randy Donakowski, Tim Grossman, Melinda Nordstrand, Suzanne Schmidt, David Usher, Ilse Kuhl, John David Maleport, Norma Smith, Gerry Ludwig, Deb Lange, Dennis Johnson, Jennifer Jones, Cindy Nensewitz, Sally Kosloski, Bernice Menck, Annette Jones, and Karen Wallace. **ARMED SERVICES:** Sawyer Hein, Rachael Mayes, Brandon Sloan, Lauren Hoeksema, Alexander Gould, Christopher Howard, Andrew Hein, Mandy Killingbeck, Michael Yeager, Jacqueline Crimmins, Ashley (Dingman) Grant, Charles Tudor, Abigail Miller, and Justin A. Smith.

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

\* Mamrelund Lutheran Church, Kent City, Rev. Ken Michael Conklin

\* Northwest Washington Synod, Seattle Washington, Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

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

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

			OCT	YTD
Saturday (11/23) 5:30 p.m.	70	Income	36,823.77	226,196.00
Sunday (11/24) 9:00 a.m.	62	Expenses	<u>22,885.76</u>	<u>208,490.23</u>
Sunday 10:30 a.m.	<u>30</u>	Difference	13,938.01	17,705.77
Total	162			

**THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL** (foot of the cross) are given in memory of Robert J. Seguin, can't believe its been five years. Love Kathy, Barb and families.

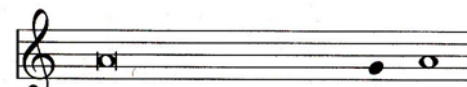
**ADDITIONAL FLOWERS** are given in loving memory of Fannie Diamond from her family.

**This year we will have Advent Services on Wednesdays, December 4, 11 and 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.

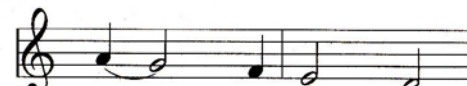
**The Forget-Me-Nots** (formerly the Old Broads) will next meet in the Multi-Purpose Room on Tuesday, **December 3** from 12:30 – 3:00 p.m. for a potluck luncheon and an afternoon of playing board games or cards. We hope you can join us.

**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 in the baskets provided in the Narthex, at the top of the stairs by the side entrance and in the Fellowship hall in the basement.

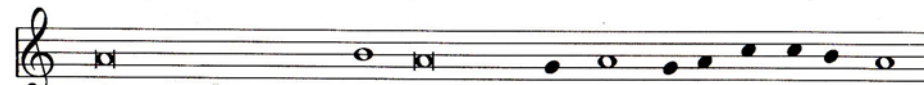
**KYRIE**



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



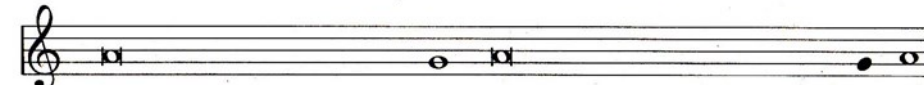
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



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



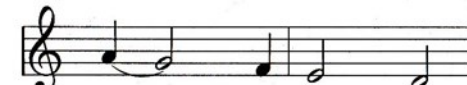
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



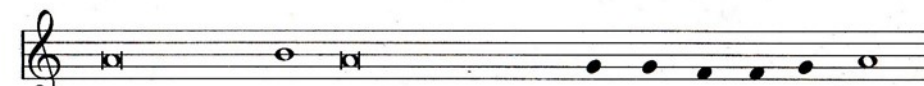
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



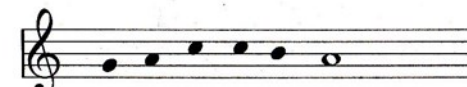
and for the uni-ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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



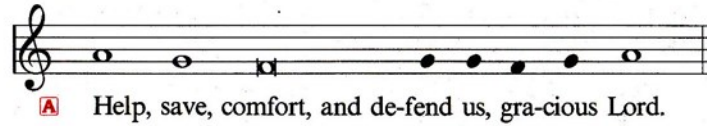
**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



**SERMON NOTES:**



**Prayer of the Day**

**Let us pray.** O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, 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 Jacob, for you promise to transform weapons of war into implements of planting and harvest and to teach us your way of peace; you promise that our night of sin is far gone and that your day of salvation is dawning.

As we light the first candle on this wreath, wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace. O house of Jacob, come,

**People: let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.**

*Light the first candle of hope.*

## BLESSING

May God, who gathers us in love, lead you in pathways of righteousness and justice.  
May God, who knows us more deeply than we know ourselves, lead you in pathways of forgiveness and freedom.  
May God, who fills us with good things, lead you in pathways of equity and abundance.  
The blessing of the holy Trinity, + one God, be upon you and remain with you forever.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

“Soon and Very Soon”

(Blue) #744

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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## FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

<sup>1</sup> The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.  
<sup>2</sup> In days to come the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.  
<sup>3</sup> Many peoples shall come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. <sup>5</sup> O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!”  
**Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.**  
Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together.  
**To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.**  
For there the thrones for judgment were set up, the thrones of the house of David.  
**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you.**  
Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.”  
**For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, “Peace be within you.”**  
For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

## SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

<sup>11</sup> Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup> the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup> let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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 24:36-44**

<sup>36</sup> “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup> For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup> Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup> But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

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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SERMON

“Ready, Set, Go!”

Pastor John Shipman

**POST COMMUNION CANTICLE**

*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.  
 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  
*Refrain*  
 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.

### Sending of Communion

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

HYMN OF THE DAY “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

(Blue) #630

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** “Every Valley”

**“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

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.