

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.	Esther Kindt
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Carol Kindt
	9:00 a.m.	Ann Hardesty
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Janice Boboltz
	9:00 a.m.	Joanne Huggler
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Cliff Anschuetz
	9:00 a.m.	Dennis & Lori Dzieszinski
		Owen Werth, Ryan Panknin
<u>ACOLYTE</u>	5:30 p.m.	Emily Smith
	9:00 a.m.	Alex Wickstrom
<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 29, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.

July 30, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 29, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.
July 30, 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 “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.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The first Bazaar Start-Up meeting will be on August 7th at 5:30 in the lounge. Everyone is welcome!

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.

The next ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY program of our MDOT pick up will be on Sunday, July 30th, at noon. 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!!!

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.

Come out to the County Fair this year. Pastor John and the president of the Church Council (Scout Brooks) are hoping to have some fun with finding us there. Much like a living “Where’s Waldo,” without glasses or striped shirt. If you find us both you will win an elephant ear. The Fair runs from August 12–19. Pastor will announce when they are there. We hope you will seek and find us there.

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 30—AUGUST 6, 2023	
SUN.	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.
MON.	Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; E.T.A. – 5:00 p.m.
TUES.	Forget-Me-Nots – 12:00 (Picnic Grounds); Air Rifle Team – 5:30 p.m.; Vacation Bible School (Starlite Pavilion) – 6-8; Prayer Shawl – 6:00 p.m.; Boy Scouts – 6:30 p.m.
WED.	Women’s Breakfast (at JJ’s) – 7:30 a.m.; Property Committee – 5:30 p.m.; Vacation Bible School (at Starlite Pavilion) – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
THURS.	Men’s Breakfast (at JJ’s) – 7:00; Air Rifle Team–5:30 p.m.; Singles – 5:30 p.m.; Vacation Bible School (at Starlite Pavilion) – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
FRI.	Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.
SAT.	Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship/HC -5:30 p.m.
SUN.	Sunday Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service & Children’s Church – 10:30 a.m.

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

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS: Allison Dutcher, Brendon & Heather Maroney, David Hunt, Dolores Libka, David Reeves, Josh Paulsen, Julie Troy, Krissy, Carol Grabow, Cathy Moe, Patty Jo (Morton) Wenzel, Logan Spengler, Cathy Beighey, Maxine Miller, William Bushey, Mary Senchuk, John Wegmeyer, Gus Schultz, Tom Christou, Geri Hanson, Keeley Knapp, Don Urban Sr., Billiejo Foster, Elaine Kingsbury, Joel Foster, Sally Barney, Nancy Chrzan, Phyllis Robb, Eugene Brooks, Bodo Hanson, Sutton Badder, Marian Dove, Dolores Sumerix, Audrey Reck, Bernice Menck, and Karen Wallace. We also remember our homebound members. They are: Geraldine Wyman, Harriet Burke, Virginia Kraft, Phyllis Robb, and Norm Dutcher. *(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: Peace Lutheran Church, Gaylord, Rev. Megan Crouch.

We pray for the Dynamic Ministries here at St. Paul Lutheran Church. This week we specifically pray for the Prayer Shawl ministry.

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL (foot of the cross) are given in loving memory of my husband Bruce “Red” Crittenden from Barbara Crittenden.

<u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u>			<u>END OF MAY</u>		<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Saturday (07/22)	5:30 p.m.	50	Income	36,281.79	134,555.10
Sunday (07/23)	9:00 a.m.	41	Expenses	<u>30,323.06</u>	<u>147,225.39</u>
	10:30 a.m.	<u>21</u>	Difference	5,958.73	(12,670.29)
Total		112			

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 Soul Sisters also have Kayaking Adventures planned** on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Tuesday now through September, weather permitting. So, the next adventure is August 8th. For locations, borrowing kayaks, or questions please call Sue Robb, 989-354-8673.

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.

Please contact the office if you would like to study a certain topic or book within the Bible in the fall of 2023. Thank you.

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶ And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?”

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, “Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you.

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

PSALM: Psalm 119:129-136 (Read Responsively)

Your decrees are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.

The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.

With open mouth I pant, because I long for your commandments.

Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your custom toward those who love your name.

Keep my steps steady according to your promise, and never let iniquity have dominion over me.

Redeem me from human oppression, that I may keep your precepts.

Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes.

My eyes shed streams of tears because your law is not kept.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39 (Sunday 9:00 a.m.)

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large

family.³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

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

“Send Forth by God’s Blessing”

(Red) #547

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to 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.

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 13:31-33, 44-52

³¹ He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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

(Please be seated)

SERMON

“Bring Out The Treasure”

Rev John Shipman

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Be Thou My Vision”

(Red) #793

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

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.

EUCHARISTIC 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"