

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>PASTOR</u>		Rev. John Shipman
<u>ORGANIST</u>		Marvis McNeil
<u>CHOIR DIRECTOR</u>		Marty Cantleberry
<u>ASSISTING MINISTER</u>	5:30 p.m.	Iris Arthur
	9:00 a.m.	Scott Parkham
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Sue Keyes
	9:00 a.m.	Danielle McDonald
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Anita Laub
	9:00 a.m.	Nancy Clark
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Patti Byce
	9:00 a.m.	Barb Szczesniak, Roy Wekwert Owen Werth, Ryan Panknin
<u>ACOLYTE</u>	5:30 p.m.	
	9:00 a.m.	Evan Peterson
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Carol Kindt and Marty Cantleberry

We thank all participants for enriching our worship service.

St. Paul Lutheran Church Worship Service

celebrates and shares God’s love and compassion

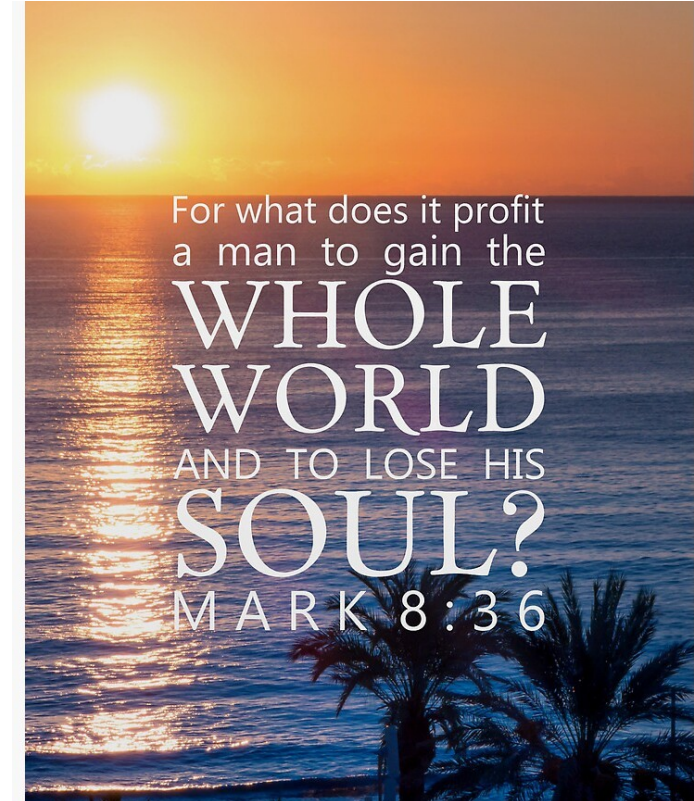
727 S. 2nd, Alpena, MI 49707

Phone 989-356-1658

www.stpaul.org

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Monthly Ministry Highlight:
Christian Education



February 24, 2024 - 5:30 p.m.
February 25, 2024 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The Second Sunday of Lent
February 17, 2024 - 5:30 p.m.
February 18, 2024 - 9:00 a.m.

Congregational responses are printed in bold.

Welcome! Celebrations of birthdays, Anniversaries and a time to welcome our guests. The offering will be received at the back and front of the church building. We ask that you fill out the communion card and place it in the offering plate in the front or back of the church before you depart the church.

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Please Stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus. **Amen.**

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. 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 "How Firm a Foundation" (Red) #796

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.

Wednesday Lent Services continue. There are two opportunities for you to worship on February 28st.

* 12:25 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, with a Lenten Soup preceding the service at 12:00 p.m.

* 7:00 p.m. at the Ecumenical Service at First UCC Church. There will be a soup supper beginning at 6:00 preceding the worship service.

Annie Olsen has transitioned from Medilodge to Touch of Country, which is located at 486 S. Oliver Street. She may have visitors. Please keep her in your prayers during this time of transition.

The Soul Sisters will be going out to dinner on Tuesday, February 27th. Please join us at Mangos at 5:30 p.m. Please call Shirley Jones (989-464-6472) by February 23rd if you are able to join us.

We are hopping towards spring and the Easter Egg Hunt open to the community. Donations of candy and family friendly baskets for the raffle can be dropped at the office. Thank you for your help.

The next meeting of the Forget-Me-Nots will be on Tuesday, March 5, at the 19th Hole Restaurant. Please call Ann at 989-590-2055 to make a reservation by Friday, March 1st. Interest was shown in the Alpena Civic Theatre production of "And Then There Were None." Contact Joanne by Sunday, March 3rd, if you are interested in seeing this play. She will collect the money and purchase tickets for the 2:00pm Sunday, March 10th matinee performance.

Save the Date: **We will again be having our delicious Potato Bake on Saturday, March 16th**, after the Saturday service. Come and enjoy baked potatoes with numerous choices or toppings, and ice cream with toppings. Write this date on your calendar and plan now to attend. Tickets are available at the church office or scan the QR code and sign up online.



Life Line Screening will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at St. Paul Lutheran Church on Friday, March 22nd, 2024. A package of four screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered. The special package pricing for all 4 screenings is \$149. To register for your appointment and to receive the special discount, please call 1-800-640-6307 or visit LLSA.SOCIAL/HC. We currently have one complementary voucher left for these screenings.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: FEBRUARY 25—MARCH 3, 2024	
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service & Children's Church- 10:30 a.m.
<u>MON.</u>	AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; E.T.A. – 5:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 6:00 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Dinner on a Doorknob – 9:00 a.m.; Cub Scouts– 5:30 p.m.; Air Rifle– 5:30 p.m.; Soul Sisters (Mangos) – 5:30 p.m.; Boy Scouts– 6:30 p.m.
<u>WED.</u>	Breakfast Belles Women's Breakfast (at JJ's) – 7:30 a.m.; AARP Taxes- 8:00; Lent Soup & Service – 12:00; Book Study – PJ – 1:00 p.m.; Choir Practice – 4:30 p.m.; Ecumenical Service at First UCC – 7:00 p.m., preceded by a Soup Supper at 6:00 p.m.
<u>THURS.</u>	3M Men's Breakfast–7:00 a.m.; Chair Yoga–3:00 p.m.; Air Rifle Team–5:30; Recovery Yoga– 5:30 p.m.; Book Study– Pastor John – 5:30 p.m.; Book Study – Nena – 5:30 p.m.
<u>FRI.</u>	AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.; Alpena Line Dance Club–5:00 p.m.
<u>SAT.</u>	AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship/HC – 5:30 p.m.
<u>SUN.</u>	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:	Bill Hoppe – health issues	Evelyn Green - surgery
Tammy Stoutenburg-unspecified need	Annette Wade – medical issues	Art Hoffmeyer- heart issues
Danielle Lawrence – health issues	Bodo Hanson–health issues	Tom Woizeschske–health issues
Barb Hoffmeyer – health issues	John Wegmeyer – health issues	Eugene Brooks–health issues
Marty & Liz Smith – home sells	Bill Kimball – health issues	Gary Villeneuve – health issues
Rosalie Turske – health issues	Marian Dove– unspecified need	Phyllis Robb-unspecified need
Karen Wallace – unspecified need	Dolores Libka–unspecified need	Ann Haske – health issues
Cameron – health issues	Karen Wekwert – healing	David Reeves – health issues
Adam Schmidt – health issues	Hazel Bonnard – health issues	Doreen Britton – health issues
Ken Hemming – health issues	Anita Laub – medical issues	Todd Mercure – medical issues
Brandon Urban – health issues	Marvis McNeil – health issues	Halely & Russ First – unspecified
Harriet Burke – unspecified need	Dena Stevens - health issues	Dixie Creiver—health issues

We also remember our homebound members. They are: Harriett Kelm, Dixie Weiler, Elaine Kingsbury, 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: All Saints Lutheran Church, Mason, Rev. Gerald Ferguson

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

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

<u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u>		<u>END OF JANUARY</u>		<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Ash Wednesday (2/14) 12:25 p.m.	57	Income	20,200.66	20,200.66
Saturday (02/17) 5:30 p.m.	58	Expenses	<u>28,059.04</u>	<u>28,059.04</u>
Sunday (02/18) 9:00 a.m.	50	Difference	(7,858.38)	(7,858.38)
	10:30 a.m.			
	<u>39</u>			
Total	204			

The February Service Activity is Hinks Elementary School. Items needed: Girl socks (sizes 10-3), ladies sock (sizes 5-10), Playdoh, red pens, dry erase markers, scotch tape rolls, 3 ring binders (smaller size—1/2” or 3/4”), and Velcro. Thank you for your generosity. Please leave items on the altar.

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) is helping seniors with their taxes. St. Paul Lutheran Church will sponsor their efforts again this year by allowing this agency to use part of our building. You may schedule an appointment by calling 989-278-8104.

Pastor John and Miss Nena have planned Lent Educational Opportunities that run from February 14th – March 20th. Pastor John’s classes meet on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. and Miss Nena’s class meets on Thursdays at 5:30 PM. Pastor John is holding a Book Study on “Let Go, Let God” by John E. Keller and Miss Nena leads a Book Study on “Chasing Vines: Finding Your Way to an Immensely Fruitful Life” DVD by Beth Moore. Please join us.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, ‘I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless.’ ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.’ ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴‘As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

¹⁵God said to Abraham, ‘As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.’

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

PSALM: Psalm 22:23-31 (Read Responsively)

You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.

From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live for ever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

SECOND READING: Romans 4:13-25 (Sunday 9:00 a.m. service)

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶ For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, ‘I have made you the father of many nations’)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become ‘the father of many nations’, according to what was said, ‘So numerous shall your descendants be.’ ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰ No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² Therefore his faith ‘was reckoned to him as righteousness.’ ²³ Now the words, ‘it was reckoned to him’, were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵ who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

Gospel Acclamation

“Return to the Lord”

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”

(Red) #802

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread.

Thanks be to God.

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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.
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. A - men, a - men.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

Glory to You, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING: Mark 8:31-38

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, ‘Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.’

The Gospel of Our Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Children’s Message

“I Love to Tell the Story”

I love to tell the story
'Twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old old story
Of Jesus and His love

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(Please be seated)

SERMON

“Get Behind Jesus”

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

(Red) #798

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 PRAYER
Let us pray. Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name.
Amen.
(Please stand)

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

C C/G Asus Am F G F/C C

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

F G C Am F G⁷ C

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 for those who prefer it.
"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