

November  
2025

# St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

CREATES AND SHARES GOD'S LOVE AND COMPASSION

727 South Second Avenue  
Alpena, Michigan 49707  
*A Stephen Ministry Congregation*



*2025 Theme:*  
*Lord Lead Us in Faith*

**Monthly Ministry Highlight:**  
**Scholarship Ministry**



Phone: 989-356-1658

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

Facebook Page: St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church - Alpena

YouTube: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Alpena, Michigan

November 2025

### Special points of interest:

- "How many people do you know that can see but have no vision? Or have a heart and have no compassion?"
- "God has given you eyes to see and hearts to love."

### Inside this Issue:

|                              |       |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Emergency Equipment Location | 3     |
| Christmas Bazaar             | 6     |
| Thanksgiving Meal            | 7     |
| Upcoming Retreats            | 8     |
| Prayer Chain                 | 11    |
| Advent Services              | 12    |
| Outreach/Fellowship Photos   | 15-18 |

# St. Paul Epistle

## Eyes to See

People of God at Saint Paul,

We read in the book of Mark 10:48-50 about a blind man named Bartimaeus shouting out to Jesus. This person of God

wants to see the world differently and his voice carries his request above those who tell him to be silent. Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." There is blindness and ignorance all around and Jesus is calling you to take heart.

Close your eyes... and see the darkness. Pause for a moment and see the darkness and consider how important your ability to see is in this life. When a survey asked, "What is the most important of the five senses?" 77% of people said their sight. How many people do you know that can see but have no vision? Or have a heart and have no compassion?

My great grandfather was blind, and my father spoke of how he was his

grandfather's seeing eye boy. My great grandfather's blindness was the result of cataracts that slowly took away his vision. My father led his grandfather around to the places he needed to go on the farm. This experience/

expression wasn't derogatory... it was necessary. My father and his grandfather became inseparable because they depended on each other. My father led him to the outhouse, and to his chair, to the closet to get clothes and on a walk for exercise. My father heard stories, jokes, silence and the warmth of a loving hand that appreciated the gift of family. When surgery became available in rural central Wisconsin, my great grandfather was tentative and yet he went forward with the procedure to remove

the cataract. The doctor scheduled one to be removed and a later date to remove the second. When the first cataract was removed, my great-grandfather was able to see for the first time in a long

time. It was the first time he saw the boy, now 6-7 years old, who had been his companion for years, who had led him around and kept him from harm. The boy who he depended on for his life was no longer needed in that capacity because his eye was truly open to the world, its colors, and beauty. Their connection was never really severed because of the life, the stories, the laughter and the insights they shared. The doctor scheduled the next operation and my grandfather said with vision, "One eye is enough, and I am blessed to be able to see God's creation again."

When vision is taken away...it is a blessing when it is restored. In October we gathered in the presence of God and had our Annual Meeting, and we set our sights on the future we desire. Let us take heart, cast away

blindness and ignorance, so our desire will be that everyone will know and understand the hope proclaimed in welcome/belonging. So, they too may take heart and give thanks when they journey into this sacred



## Eyes to See *Continued*

In this sacred time of November, we will vote, honor Veterans and celebrate Thanksgiving Day. Each day of this month I pray that you will honor and give thanks for family

and friends as you invite them into God's presence. God has given you eyes to see and hearts to love. Let these senses be heightened as we come to the final Sunday of the Church year. I also

pray that you will remember Bartimaeus and what happens when you take heart. You will see the Savior, and know the hope of salvation. Be great and help others be greater.

-Pastor John



# CHURCH COUNCIL

Saints of St. Paul, The prophet Jeremiah wrote in 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." The prophet Jeremiah reminds us to trust and follow him so we will have a future. As I look back at 2024/2025, I can see it was a wonderful year to be a member here and see fresh faces and familiar faces, people from diverse cultures, young and old alike celebrating together.

The beacon of hope we offered our community during the ice storm will always be the highlight of our ministry in 2025. During one of the darkest moments in Alpena history, our willingness to offer help and vision was profound. The interaction

between St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church, the State, our Synod and Rubicon proclaimed the Gospel where our faith met the needs of people in a powerful expression of love and hope while setting a new standard for faithful care.



The Property Committee are constantly at work ensuring the building is kept worship/meeting ready. The Outreach Ministry continues to reach out to 24 different missions and our area schools throughout the year. We are connecting with businesses and individuals with the word of God as we transform our community.

Education is pivotal and essential for our growth. Children's

Church for our young people, quarterly education events for the adults, the Movie Ministry, Vacation Bible School, the "Little's Worship Center," and the Adventure Club are all based on learning about Christ through the combination of education and fun.

Our Small Group ministry at St. Paul is highly active and friendly. These groups connect people outside of worship to inspire faithful lives.

The Ministry at St. Paul is a celebration because of the spirit in which these gifts are offered and received. All God's Children are truly welcome at St. Paul Lutheran Church of Alpena. As we move into 2026, I ask that you continue to pray for and rejoice with Pastor John, myself, your council members, and the church staff.

Jessica O'Neil  
Council President

## CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jessica O'Neil - President (Education)  
Val Urban - Vice-President (Stewardship)  
Donna Kensa - Secretary (Property)  
Bernadine Wagner - Treasurer  
Andrea Dutcher (Personnel)  
Scott Brooks (Outreach)  
Cathy Kieliszewski (Worship)  
Danielle McDonald (Small Group Ministry - Women)  
Scott Parkham (Property)  
Phil Wickstrom (Small Group Ministry - Men)

*Their area of responsibility is in parentheses.*

**Church Council monthly reports are available in the office.**







## Nena's Notes

In November I am being intentional to take time to give thanks for what God has given me. Sometimes life gets so busy with tasks and responsibilities, and I do not take the time to appreciate all I have. I have a warm house, food to eat, clothes to wear, friends and family to love. I am so very blessed.

There are so many in our community that do not



have a warm house, food to eat, clean sturdy clothes to wear, and people to love them in a healthy way. I encourage you to look at your circumstances, thank God for what God has given you, and see beyond yourself to reach out to those in our community who are praying that God will provide their basic needs. You may be the person to answer their prayers. Listen to God's leading on how you can help spread

God's love through your actions to those in our community and beyond.

I am thankful for St. Paul and your desire to reach out to our community in love and compassion. Contact the office if you would like ideas or to share your own on how to reach out to the community in specific ways.

*Below are the locations of our emergency equipment that I mentioned in last month's newsletter.*



## Locations of the Fire Extinguishers

**Basement** - Bottom of steps under Narthex (by the Mirre St. Entrance); Dining Room - Doors by back entrance and Doors by Main entrance; Storage Area off Dining Room - On end of old work bench and Inside Entrance Door on right hand side under light switch; Elevator - inside both control/pump

rooms on lower level; Kitchen - Next to Oven, Next to Dishwasher Counter, and Next to Men's Bathroom Entrance; New Boiler Room by entrance from Hallway on the left; Education Rooms - across from Kitchen by the Yellow Education Room.

**Second Floor** - End of Edu-



cation Hallway by Pastor's Office; Entrance at Mirre Street middle door by elevator; Narthex by double door entrance from 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave; Sanctuary entrance from Mirre Street Door.

**Third Floor** - Education Hallway at Mirre Street End on Right hand side.

## Locations of the AED Machines

Multi-Purpose Room - Mirre Street Entrance, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor - Between the

Worship Area & the Multipurpose Room Lower level in the



Dining Room on the far wall adjacent to the Kitchen.

## Locations of the First Aid Kits

In hallway closet between the Worship Center and Multipurpose Room. Between doors that lead out of Sanctuary and before

door by organ.

In the back of the Narthex, when facing sanctuary in right hand cabinet below glass window to sanctuary.

In kitchen cabinet below Microwave next to large metal refrigerator.



Have you ever noticed how certain posts online seem designed to make you angry or worried? That is not an accident. It is part of how the modern digital world works.

Social media platforms and news sites use algorithms (computer programs that decide what you see first) to keep your attention as long as possible. These algorithms study what makes people click, comment, or share. And studies show that engagement is highest when content sparks strong emotions, especially anger or fear.

The result? Posts that stir outrage or anxiety often surface to the top of our feeds, while calm, thoughtful voices are buried below. This does



not mean the most popular post or influencer is the most truthful one, it just means they have mastered the art of getting reactions.

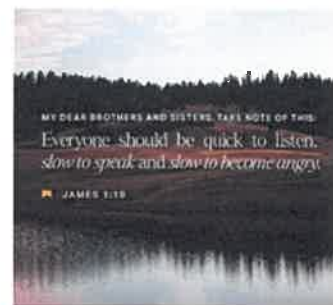
Think about how news programs become the most-watched in our country. Its popularity does not automatically mean it provides the most balanced or accurate reporting. The same principle applies to the internet: popularity is not proof of truth.

As Christians, we are called to be discerning. Scripture tells us to be "quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry" (James 1:19). When we feel our negative emotions growing by what we see online, that is the perfect time to

pause, pray, and seek truth before reacting or sharing.

The digital world rewards outrage, but God calls us to peace, patience, and wisdom. Let us be people who resist being swept along by the algorithm and instead stay rooted in Christ, who

is "the way, the truth, and the life." (John 14:6)



## Jackie's Jump Start



"Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations." Psalm 100:4-5. As we celebrate Thanksgiving at the end of this month, I am so thankful for Him... his salvation, forgiveness, healing, and all the blessings he has given me, starting with my family and friends.

Of course, Advent is just around the corner after Thanksgiving (November 30th to be exact). So, my jump start this month is the Advent Devotional.

Pastor John will again be compiling a Devotional from the people of St. Paul. After you send him your stories, it is my job to format those pages and get them all printed out and in the Narthex for all to read and enjoy for the Advent season. I am blessed when I read the daily devotional and inspired by the stories that you share. This year the theme will be, "Inspired Lives."

Prayerfully consider a person who inspired your faith and write a couple paragraphs for the devotional and give it to Pastor John. This will invigorate and help us all as we prepare for Jesus' coming. Thank

you for your time and willingness to encourage your brothers and sisters here at St. Paul by sharing your stories of faith.

Pastor John will need your information by November 19th. If you have any questions, you may contact me via email, jackie@stpaul.org, or call me at the office (989) 356-1658.



**Please Note:** There will be an early **December newsletter** deadline.

Please have your items into the office for the December newsletter by Monday, November 10th. *Thank you.*







## October Servant Leaders



Judy and Tom Brown



Zane DeRosia  
Youth Servant Leader

Judy and Tom Brown offered their insight into the grant application from the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan in support of our building (The Sealant of building project). For their efforts I named them servant leaders of the month for October.

Our Servant leaders of the month are very special, and they inspire the church to greater heights. We celebrate with Zane DeRosia, our youth servant leader for October. They all received a special coin to celebrate the moments. Please keep these servant leaders in prayer.



## New Member Classes

New Members Classes will take place as needed/requested. We rejoice in the people who want to join

our congregation and take a greater role in leading this congregation forward into God's future. Please

call the church office to make an appointment to speak with Pastor John.

## Children's Church

During the Contemporary, 10:30 service we have Children's Church (another name for Sunday School). Parents and children are invited to the 10:30 service and after a prayer and a song, the children go with the Children's Church

Team. This opportunity is a time of learning, celebration, and fun while allowing parents to worship. The children will meet for about 40 minutes and then return to the 10:30 service for

the final song. Please pray for this ministry and support this outreach effort with your time and effort and by sharing it with your friends and family.



## Kids Korner

Wonderful gifts were given, and I celebrate in each one. Kaylee,

Franny, Kendall and Owen are such a wonderful blessing.



## Christmas Bazaar

**November 8th, 2025**

**10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.**

Have you purchased your luncheon ticket yet? Don't wait until the last minute or you may be out of luck! Tickets are on sale now at the church office, or Bazaar member, or before and after church on Sunday morning in the Narthex.



**Price:** \$14.00 Adults  
Children under 5 are free

### Menu:

Turkey Casserole & Roll  
Cranberry Salad  
Chocolate Parfait

**Time:** Serving 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Continuous Serving

Keep working on those projects by making all those wonderful crafts and goodies. Baked and canned goods ALWAYS sell very well. And, of course, those scrumptious COOKIES for the famous "Boxed Cookie Sale." All donated items can be dropped off on Friday, November 7th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the multi-

purpose room.

Our proceeds this year will be put in a fund to go towards the sealant for the exterior of our building. We will also tithe 10% of the proceeds of that day's bazaar sales. The bazaar, which is sponsored by St. Paul Church, is a very big endeavor for such a small group of people. Won't you stop and consider what hidden talent you may have to help contribute to your church??? Please call Esther at 989-471-2274. Bring a friend to lunch! SEE YOU AT THE BAZAAR!



## Ministry Highlight— Scholarship

To date we have awarded 7 scholarships since 2020! I would like to thank the Schultz Family for their donation, the Scholarship Committee members



over the years for their service and the wisdom they gave me in and through

this process: former members, Don Cantleberry, Mollie Skiba, Becky Hawks, Tim Moggie and our current committee members: Roy Wekwert, Barb Szczesniak, and Tim Moggie. I would also like to acknowledge Pat Smith for his continued service of

returning the bottles. Please feel free to ask any questions to the Scholarship committee members. Thank you very much for your continued support and donations.

God's Peace,  
Val Urban



## Spotlight on Stephen Ministry

Save the Date for the Dementia Symposium on Wednesday, January 14th, 2026 at 5:30 p.m., in the multi-purpose room. It is sponsored by your Stephen Ministry Team. This beneficial event will be led by representa-

tives from the Senior Center. Several Stephen Ministers have already attended this conference and felt it would be valuable for all age groups in our community...so we are better equipped to help

families as they face this challenge.

Training for new Stephen Ministers will begin in January. There is still space available, if you would like to join us, please contact Sue Keyes, Shirley Jones, or Nena Shipman.



# Welcome!

## Welcome New Members



We celebrate with Julie and Paul Ott as they became new members of our congregation on October 12th in the 9:00 service. Please keep them in your prayers.

## Crocks Needed

The Christmas Bazaar Committee is looking for 2 medium sized stone-ware crocks. Do you have any you would like to donate? If so, please call the church office and let them know.

Thank you.



## Blessing of Hunters/Veterans/First Responders

The Blessing of Hunters/Veterans/First Responders will be on the weekend of 1st and 2nd of November at all of the worship services at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

All hunters are asked to wear Blaze orange and to leave their weapons at home. The service of blessing is a reminder of God's hope found in camaraderie, sportsman-

ship, and servant leadership knowing that the world is filled with dangers. Come and know God's blessing during this special time in God's creation.

## November Service Activity

The November Service Activity is Thunder Bay Jr. High School.

Items needed: Small Healthy Snacks—prepackaged snacks such as granola bars, fruit snacks, crackers, pretzels, etc.

Hygiene Products—small shampoos, conditioners, small deodorants, toothpaste and toothbrushes

Clothing—black leggings/sweatpants, t-shirts—unisex, sweatshirts/warmer sweaters.

School Supplies—plain two pocket folders, binders, and notebooks.

Please leave items on the altar. Thanks you. for your generosity.



## Kitchen Krew

The Kitchen Krew leadership is looking for individuals to take the ServSafe Food Protec-

tion Manager Certification Course and be available to oversee the kitchen



when we have events open to the public. Please contact the office if interested.

## Thanksgiving Meal

Pastor John and Miss Nena are inviting you to a Thanksgiving meal on the 27th of November. Please don't spend the holiday alone. Join with us in this

meal of Thanksgiving. The event will begin at 1:00 p.m. and end at 4:00 p.m. Come and enjoy some turkey, home made rolls, pie and the

rest of this splendid meal. If you would like to bring a family favorite dish to pass, please contact the church office.





## November Birthdays

Page 8



## November Anniversaries



*"Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action."*

1 John 3:18

## Upcoming Retreats

### Men's

Mark your calendars for our next Men's Retreat on November 1st – our theme is "Being a Man and having Faith, Hope

and Love in a Digital Age." The event will take place at 1921 Long Rapids Road and there is no cost associated with this event. We will

explore God's promises for community and fellowship. Men, ages 18 – 100 are invited to discover God's faithfulness in your faith journey.



### Women's

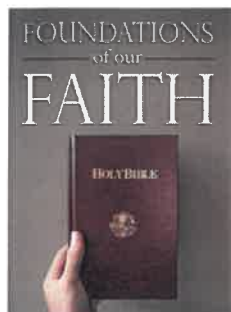
Mark your calendars for our next Women's Retreat on January 24th – our



theme is "Being a Woman and having Faith, Hope and Love in a Digital Age." The event will take place at 1921 Long Rapids Road and there is no cost associated

with this event. We will explore God's promises for community and fellowship for Women. Ages 18 – 100 are invited to discover God's faithfulness in your faith journey.





*"Let the wise also hear and gain in learning, and the discerning acquire skill."*

Proverbs 1:5



## Adult Education Opportunities

Pastor John and Miss Nena planned for adult education opportunities in 2025-2026; Bible studies and book studies to inspire your faith walk throughout the coming school year. Each class will last for six weeks (or less) and the class length will be 1 hour. Pastor John's class will meet on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. and Miss Nena's class will meet on the same day (Wednesday) at 5:30 p.m. The class size will determine where the class will meet. Please call the office so we know how to plan/books to order. Sign up for one or all these opportunities to grow in faith.

### NOVEMBER VIDEO EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

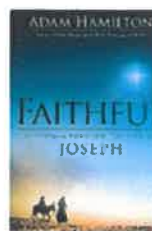
**"Overcomer"**  
November 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. A meal is provided and discussion throughout – All are invited.

### Advent Educational Opportunities December 3<sup>rd</sup> – December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Pastor John – Bible Study – A Long Obedience in the Same Direction – Eugene Peterson



Miss Nena – Bible Study "Faithful – Christmas Through Joseph's Eyes"



### JANUARY VIDEO EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### **"Unsung Hero"**

January 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. A meal is provided and discussion – All are invited.



### FEBRUARY VIDEO EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

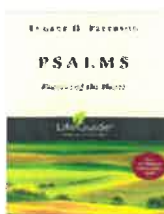
#### **"Ordinary Angels"**

February 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. A meal is provided and discussion – All are invited.



### Lenten Educational Opportunities (6 Weeks) February 19<sup>th</sup> – March 25<sup>th</sup>

Pastor John – "Psalms, Prayers of the Heart," by Eugene Peterson



Miss Nena Bible Study "Life Source, Prayers for Lent"



### APRIL VIDEO EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### **"The Passion"**

April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. A meal is provided and discussion – All are invited.



### MAY VIDEO EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### **"Sound of Hope, The Story of Possum Trot"**

May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. A meal is provided and discussion – All are invited.



### Summer Educational Opportunities (4/6 Weeks) June 3<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>

Pastor John Bible Study "Run with the Horses: The Quest for Life at Its Best" – Eugene Peterson



Miss Nena Study – "Undaunted Joy—The Revolutionary Act of Cultivating Delight" by Shemaiah Gonzalez





**SMALL GROUPS**  
Sharing Life, Living Christ's Love



## Small Group - Women



**The Breakfast Belles** meet each week at JJ's. All women are invited to be at JJ's, on Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m. Remember the first breakfast is free!

## Small Group—Men

**The Men of St. Paul** and friends are still meeting at JJ's at 7:00 a.m. on Thursdays. Come and be part of this gospel expression.

## Singles S@SP

(Singles At St. Paul) are meeting the first Thursday of every month (November 6th) at 5:30 p.m. in Pastor

**"The Forget Me Nots"** (Women 70 and older) will be going out for lunch at JJ's on Tuesday, November 4 at 12:00. Please call Ann Hardesty to let her know if you plan to attend. This helps the staff prepare our table. Thank you.

**BoB (Band of Brothers)** will meet soon. Please watch your bulletin and Facebook for details.



**"The Soul Sisters"** (Women 50-70) and **"SALT" Sisters Adoring Light and Truth** (Women 18-45) will meet soon. Please watch your bulletin and Facebook for details.

***Come and be inspired, share your ideas and be open to God's possibilities.***

***Come and be inspired, share your ideas and be open to God's possibilities.***

## Dynamic Duo—Couples

The Dynamic Duo Ministry (Couples Focused Small group events) will meet each quarter to have fun together as couples. Mark your cal-

endars for our Couple's Events throughout the year.

Friday February 13th, 2026 - Couples retreat

May 29th, 2026 - Scavenger Hunt

August 21st, 2026 - Beer Tasting tour

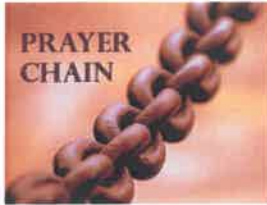
## Thank YOU

Thanks to the committee, those that donated raffles items, the volunteers that worked the event, and to those that came down to have fun

at the Strikes Spark Compassion fundraiser! The final total we raised was \$6,717.93 for the Building Sealant Project.







## Prayer Chain

Prayer Warriors, the Prayer Chain at St. Paul Lutheran is looking for some new members. Perhaps you were not aware that our Prayer Chain as a Ministry exists. Yes, our Prayer Chain members actively pray daily for any request for prayers, from members, of course, but we

pray diligently for whatever is requested by anyone. Our prayers usually are repeated for one month with an occasional exception where we pray for a longer period of time.

Confidentiality is of prime importance in our Prayer Chain Ministry. So we share, just briefly, information about the request for prayers with the next

person on the chain. We do not share this information with anyone outside of the chain and the request is never shared on any media.

If this Ministry seems to fit you, please call Iris Arthur at 989-354-2553. I will be happy to discuss the Prayer Chain with you and answer any questions you might have. We need you.



## The Annual Meeting

The following members were voted in at our Annual Meeting, October 19th. Karen Wekwert was voted in to serve a

3 year term on the Trust Fund Committee. Jared Bicker and Sue Robb were voted to be our Synod Representatives for 2026. We

thank you all for your willingness to serve. Their terms will start January 1, 2026.

## Thank YOU

I never seem to get over the generosity that the congregation of St. Paul has and the amount they continue to give; whether it be their time, money or donations. Once again, the Harvest Dinner was a sell out and a complete success.

A special thank you goes out to Lori Dziesinski and her great group of servers, to Joanne Huggler and Joan Smolinski for being ticket takers, to Jared Bicker who helped

with the seating and to our hostess Kathy Burton for keeping things organized in the dining room. We also can not forget the great team of cleanup with Jim Nensewitz and Dennis McDonald heading the team. Then there were all the pie makers and Esther Kindt was overseeing this. We had people come in who peeled potatoes, cleaned squash and helped with all the work that goes into putting this dinner together.

After expenses, the Harvest Dinner made a profit of \$4,387.36. Of that, \$250.00 will go to the kitchen fund, \$750.00 to the general fund, \$1000.00 to Toys for Kids and the remainder, \$2387.46 to the restoration fund.

*Donna Kensa and Andrea Dutcher, co-chairs*



## Church Decorating

Come join the celebration. We will be decorating the Sanctuary and Multi-Purpose Rooms for the Advent and Christmas

Season on Monday, December 1st beginning at 2:00 p.m. Please come and join us! You may contact Donna Kensa if you

can help or have any questions. Thanks!

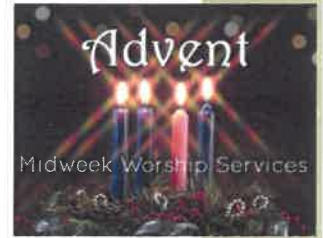


## Advent Services

Advent is a time of preparation for the arrival of Jesus at Christmas. This year we will have Advent Services on Wednesdays at 12:00-1:00 (December 3rd, 10th, & 17th ).

We will begin with a meal at 12:00 and after dining we will have a short service at 12:25. Come and share this special time of preparation for the Christ Child. We need volunteers to help prepare a simple meal. If you

would like to help please call the church office and volunteer for this special service.



## Advent Devotional

Pastor John will again be compiling an Advent Devotional from the people of St. Paul. This year's



theme will be "Inspired Lives." Write a couple paragraphs on a person who inspired your faith and send



in your information to Pastor John by November 19th.

Thank you.

## The Adventure Club

The Adventure Club will meet on Sunday, November 16th from 1:00—3:00 p.m. for a tour of the Alpena Fire Station.



Please check your weekly bulletin or check our website or Facebook for additional information.

Bring your spirit of adventure and hope as you explore and share your

faith through fun, and exploration within this intergenerational educational experience. The Adventure Club welcomes everyone from 1-105 years old.

## Pastoral Acts

Harry Victor

Werth joined our Lord in eternity October 9, 2025. A graveside service will be held at a later date.

Thank you to the following people for their donation in memory of:

Annette Wade

Julie Troy

Dennis Diamond

Genie Diamond

Harry Werth

Janice Boboltz  
Juliana Specht



## Memorials

Mabel Townsend

Sue Robb  
Annette Trelfa  
Jerry & Bonnie Gougeon  
Clarence Cross  
Julie Troy  
Bob & Iris Arthur

Additional donations were given in honor of Pastor John and Nena Shipman on their 40th Wedding Anniversary, from:

Janice Boboltz  
Barbara Crittenden  
Juliana Specht  
Myra Gapske  
Pastor John and Nena also made a donation to the Good Samaritan fund.



## Baptism



What a very special day in worship, Sunday, September 14th. The Baptism of Addison Male was a wonderful expression of God's love. Please keep her and her family in prayer as Addison grows in faith.





## Bolenz Jewelry Holiday Parade

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran will be part of this parade this year on Friday, November 28th. We are looking for a servant leader to guide our team forward to assemble the float. Please speak with Pastor John if you are interested. This annual parade is sponsored by Bolenz Jewelry and host-

ed by the Alpena Area Chamber of Commerce. It is held every year on the day after Thanksgiving at 5:30 p.m. The parade begins at the Annex building parking lot at the corner of Chisholm and Ninth Street. The parade route begins by turning left onto Chisholm, left onto Second Avenue, right onto

Water Street, and ends in the parking lot behind City Hall. No early departures from the route. The Christmas/Holiday idea will be the dominating influence/effect.



## Home Visits

Pastor John would like to visit with you in your home. He has visited many people already and now he wants you to call the office and schedule a time for him to come to your house.

The visit is usually no more than an hour. This is a special time to talk about whatever is upon your heart and mind. Our administrative assistants have Pastor John's calendar and they will work with

you to find a time. Pastor John will meet with you in the afternoon or early evening as well. Pastor John looks forward to time together with you.



## Fellowship

The Fellowship for the Saturday Night 5:30 service meets at 4:30 for drinks and baked goods until 5:20. The Fellowship for the 9:00 Service

and the 10:30 service will occur in-between the service time. Come and share your life with the people



with whom you worship. This ministry is a celebration and I ask that you help by leading a fellowship time.

## Engage Your Enthusiasm

E.Y.E. (Engage Your Enthusiasm) ministry - Everyone has a vision for the



ministry at St. Paul. I hope you will share the events of the church through your eyes via a picture. Please appoint an

E.Y.E. representative for each event so nothing will be missed and your event will be promoted on our various digital sites (Facebook, Twitter, etc).

## Hope Shores Alliance

Hope Shores Alliance is an agency in Alpena that helps in our community, supporting of people who

have experienced violence in their homes or lives. St. Paul Lutheran has opened our doors to be a drop off

point for this organization (on the third floor). Thanks to everyone who is part of this important ministry.





# NOVEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

Page 14

| Date & Service              | Assisting Ministers | Lectors            | Ushers                                                                 | Fellowship Volunteer                         | Children's Church and Little's Worship Workers                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>NOVEMBER 1 &amp; 2</b>   |                     |                    |                                                                        |                                              | <b>10:30</b>                                                                                                                                          |
| 5:30 p.m.                   | Iris Arthur         | Carol Kindt        | Tim & Barb Smith                                                       | Sue Robb                                     | <b>Children's Church:</b><br>Karen Wekwert,<br>Sue Robb<br><b>Little's Worship:</b><br>Andrea Dutcher & Evie Bicker                                   |
| 9:00 a.m.                   | Scott Parkham       | Scott Parkham      | Richard Miller<br>Owen Werth<br>Jeff Ciupka<br>Ryan Panknin            | Sandra Christopher<br>son<br>Zully Dameworth |                                                                                                                                                       |
| 10:30 a.m.                  |                     |                    | Karen Wekwert                                                          |                                              |                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>NOVEMBER 8 &amp; 9</b>   |                     |                    |                                                                        |                                              |                                                                                                                                                       |
| 5:30 p.m.                   | Carol Kindt         | Sue Keyes          | John and Linda Snyder                                                  | Joan Smolinski                               | <b>Children's Church:</b><br>Joanne Huggler, Rita Chase, Nena Shipman, Jean Johnson<br><b>Little's Worship:</b><br>Cathy Kieliszewski & Mary Courtney |
| 9:00 a.m.                   | Phil Wickstrom      | Cathy Kieliszewski | Jesse & Jessica O'Neil<br>Barb Szczesniak<br>Roy Wekwert               | Joanne Huggler<br>Rita Chase                 |                                                                                                                                                       |
| 10:30 a.m.                  |                     |                    | Janet Freeman                                                          |                                              |                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>NOVEMBER 15 &amp; 16</b> |                     |                    |                                                                        |                                              |                                                                                                                                                       |
| 5:30 p.m.                   | Iris Arthur         | Iris Arthur        | Jimmy Nensewitz                                                        | Patti Byce<br>Myra Gapske                    | <b>Children's Church:</b><br>Ashley MacKay<br>Bonnie Duby, Sue Robb<br>Cathy Kieliszewski<br><b>Little's Worship:</b><br>Joanne Huggler & Rita Chase  |
| 9:00 a.m.                   | Barb Szczesniak     | Danielle McDonald  | Cathy Kieliszewski<br>Dennis Dziesinski<br>Ryan Panknin<br>Tim Moggie  | Carla Steinke                                |                                                                                                                                                       |
| 10:30 a.m.                  |                     |                    | Carla Steinke                                                          |                                              |                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>NOVEMBER 22 &amp; 23</b> |                     |                    |                                                                        |                                              |                                                                                                                                                       |
| 5:30 p.m.                   | Carol Kindt         | Carol Kindt        | Dennis & Sherry McDonald                                               | Anita Laub                                   | <b>Children's Church:</b><br>Jesse & Jessica O'Neil<br>Sue Robb<br>Kathy Burton<br><b>Little's Worship:</b><br>Ophelia Steinke & Ashley MacKay        |
| 9:00 a.m.                   | Scott Parkham       | Phil Wickstrom     | Kathy Burton<br>Richard Miller<br>Paul Kieliszewski<br>Barb Szczesniak | Janice Boboltz                               |                                                                                                                                                       |
| 10:30 a.m.                  |                     |                    | Saydee Cline                                                           |                                              |                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>NOVEMBER 29 &amp; 30</b> |                     |                    |                                                                        |                                              |                                                                                                                                                       |
| 5:30 p.m.                   | Iris Arthur         | Gail Atkins        | Patti Byce and Jimmy Nensewitz                                         |                                              | <b>Children's Church:</b><br>Nena Shipman, Ashley MacKay, Bonnie Duby<br>Cathy Kieliszewski<br><b>Little's Worship:</b><br>Jessica & Jesse O'Neil     |
| 9:00 a.m.                   | Dawn Grzeskowiak    | Dawn Grzeskowiak   | Roy Wekwert<br>Ryan Panknin<br>Jesse & Jessica O'Neil                  | Janice Boboltz                               |                                                                                                                                                       |
| 10:30 a.m.                  |                     |                    | Saydee Cline                                                           |                                              |                                                                                                                                                       |

*We are looking for Assisting Ministers and Lectors, Acolytes and Ushers for our worship services. If you are interested in serving at either service, please contact the church office at (989) 356-1658.*

**Altar Care for the month of November** – Marty Cantleberry and Carol Kindt.







**Community Outreach**  
...Building Bridges of Hope



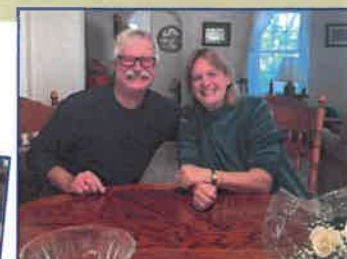
Visited with Jamie Treinen, the leader of the Feed the Kids Ministry program. We presented her with a check for \$500.00. These monies were given through our Trust and Endowment Fund as an outreach effort in our community.



Visited Lincoln Elementary School and met with Principal Scott Henwood and the School Success liaison, Sarah Benjamin. A special thank you to everyone at St. Paul who contributed to this outreach ministry, helping children to have a better life with gifts of clothing, shoes, and school supplies.



We celebrate with Cheri Fletcher who designed and created this stain glass work of art. She donated this precious gift to St Paul.



The RACK M (Random Acts of Caring/Kindness Ministry) rejoices again. This time with Liz Smith as she celebrates 70 years. Wish her a happy birthday. Thanks to Liz and Marty for their time, sharing a small portion of their lives.



Jessica O'Neil (President of the Church Council) and I celebrated with Bradley Somers, his staff, and the children as we presented a check for \$1400.00 in support of the Boys and Girls Club. Thanks to everyone who gave to the noisy offering during the past six months.



Wonderful to see Aria. I thank God that she helped lead worship by helping us sing God's praise.

3M (Men in Motion for Ministry) gathered for supper. The evening was filled with great food, stories and laughter that filled the dining room.



The Forget-Me-Nots had lots of fun on their outing to Knaebe's Apple Farm. Beautiful day for a fall drive and picnic featuring pizza, donuts and beverages.



This awesome Harvest Dinner reminded people about community that only happens around a special meal.



Was invited to the "Hometown Heroes," event in Alcona County-Alcona High School to offer an opening prayer. I was presented a coin by the captain of the football team last year and I charge him with the words, "Be Great." Evan remembered the words and he made the plaque.



Met with the Chamber of Commerce at the Alpena Public Safety Facility Garage at 501 W. Chisholm Street. I was able to share a part of our story with a few agencies/ people and hear some testimonials about our community.



Lee Szczesniak and I celebrated with Norma Alexander and Marlo Broad as we presented a check of \$500 in support of the Alpena Library.



The S@SP (Singles at St Paul) celebrated a retreat in October "Being Single and Having Faith, Hope and Love in a Digital Age." Please keep our singles in your prayers.



I had a wonderful time visiting with members recently and sharing sacred moments. Please continue to pray for them as they grow in strength and courage.

Steve and  
Norm Dutcher

Tom & Connie  
Stafford

Dorothy Carr

Had a sacred visit with David McNeil. Met with Marvis and Debbie as well. Debbie presented me with a beautiful arrangement.

Dinner on a Doorknob spent a wonderful morning in the kitchen with laughter and celebration as they prepared meals to deliver in our community. (RIGHT) Too cute!!! Kyllian's mom (Beatrice) said that the soup from DOD was delicious!

Bunny  
Kelm

Had a sacred meeting with Jared Bicker as he continues his faithful journey toward the pastorate/pastoral formation.

Phyllis  
Robb

Gere  
Romel

Ryan Panknin - Thanks to Julie Troy for her efforts to make Ryan 2 new hats.

Paul stopped  
by with Josie  
and Rowan

Connie and Riley

It was wonderful to see your special furry friends for these sacred moments during the Blessing of the Animals event on October 4th at St. Paul.

Janet and  
Axel

Janie and  
Bert

Dennis  
and Max

Dick and  
Cooper

Jamie and Lana

Wonderful night to celebrate a gift that was given years ago. Great to have Al as our guide in seeing these majestic animals then to have a wonderful meal.

Andrameda

Marion  
and Kiltie

Nena and I were invited to Mike and Dawn's farm. What a blessing.

Bernie and Suzy stopped by with Toby and Charlie.

Charlie  
and Max

Joanne and Lily

Kari, Max and Maver-





The faithful Servant Leaders of our Newsletter Team arrived ensuring the St. Paul Lutheran Newsletter would be delivered, on time, through the mail.



The Adventure Club celebrated with a Fishing Frenzy at Paxton Quarry. So much fun was had by all.



Sue was having a cookie break as she prepared fellowship items. She is a great servant leader.



A huge shout out to Pat, Nancy, Cat, Craig, Alicia, Carly and Jake for their efforts today supporting our MDOT highway trash pickup on M-32.

We celebrate the Friendship Room Ministry, and the many people fed 6 days a week. Thanks to Christina Kihn for leading this ministry and for stopping at St Paul to pick up the remaining food from the Harvest Dinner.



I was invited to the ordination of Matthew Roney to the sacred order of Priests. A sacred moment to celebrate. Please keep him, his family and Trinity Episcopal Church in your prayers.



The Fall Fresh-Up made our building cleaner/brighter for all who enter/worship here. Thanks to all who helped.



Bob (Band of Brothers) met for the football game in September.



Met with Bill Rayment for lunch. Great fellowship with this faithful leader at the Presbyterian Church.



Miss Nena's class is called, "Reckless Love, Jesus' Call to Love Our Neighbor." The class was filled with wonder, loving conversation, laughter and the wonder of the Gospel.



Visited with Paul Stephan. Please keep this community leader in your prayers.



The class "On Death and Dying" gave life and hope. Thanks to everyone who participated, shared their story, and contributed to enhance this class as we discussed depression.



The Rainbow Bridge was built by members of St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Girl Scout Troop 1033, Anna Leddy and Kenna Mousseau, as a project to earn their girl scout silver award. They were assisted by Mr. Larry Bussey. The Rainbow Bridge was constructed using lumber that was reclaimed from trees that fell in Alpena County during the ice storm.



Outreach Committee met recently. Please thank them and keep them in prayer for all they are doing to make our relationship with our community Christ centered.



Bishop Julie Schneider-Thomas gathered with the Sunrise Side Conference of the NWLM Synod this morning at Grace Lutheran Church.

Val Urban attended the Girl Scouts of St. Paul Ev Lutheran meeting and worked with the Scouts on rock painting. She generously supplied the paint and the rocks she collected on Lake Superior. The Scouts were able to take a rock home and also painted ones for Pastor John to use as gifts while visiting shut-ins.





The Gratitude Lunch Ministry Team did amazing things in our community. We visited Turning Brook and shared with them a meal and a prayer. We celebrate and pray for all these gifted leaders who help our community meet the challenges and celebrations of elder care.



We celebrated Joanne's birthday. She does so much for our congregation!



Thanks to Dennis Dziesinski for his efforts today for edging the sidewalks and making the property beautiful.



The Veterans of Alpena gathered and shared stories, we laughed, and we enjoyed our time in community.



The S@SP (Singles at St Paul) gathered to learn, share stories and build community. Come and join the faithful conversation.



Staff meeting is held weekly. Please keep the leaders in your prayers.



The great trail adventure was tons of fun!



A shout out to Rickie and Esther Kindt for the gift/blessing of crosses.

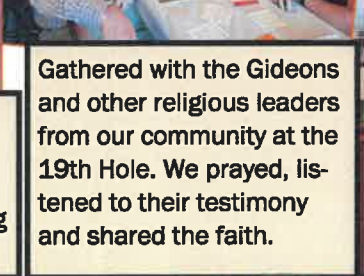


Gathered with the Gideons and other religious leaders from our community at the 19th Hole. We prayed, listened to their testimony and shared the faith.

Jimmy and Dennis have set their sights on a new project. Shelving for the jar room. Please keep them in prayer.



3M (Men in Motion for Ministry) gathered for breakfast, and we spoke about being the one and only and what unites or divides us. Please join the faithful conversation at JJs on Thursday mornings at 7:00 a.m.



Thank you to the people of God who made time on this beautiful day to celebrate with Nena and me on our 40th anniversary.



David McNeil was honored by the Fraternal Order of Police as the associate Member of the Year, on October 4th. A great honor for a great man.



The Breakfast Belles met and I was humbled and blessed by the women who gathered. We spoke about blessings and giving thanks. Women, come and join us on Wednesdays at JJs, 7:30 a.m.



Saints at St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church,

The Apostle Paul defined who a steward is/was in the book of First Corinthians with one word/requirement, "Faithfulness." The vision of Stewardship at St. Paul Ev. Lutheran continues to change and the people living and serving here are generous with their time, talents, and treasures. Our Stewardship Committee (Dennis, Lori, Val, Donna, & Karen ) worked diligently on our behalf, this past year, and I rejoice in their vision for 2025/2026.

By definition, a steward is given the ability to make decisions over the blessings entrusted to his/her care. We are/were blessed that our family for over 150 years, met the challenges at St. Paul and moved us forward in faith



until today. They taught, shared, gave, loved, and proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus in word and deed. Now in 2025 the church is alive, and people are talking about how dynamic St. Paul Lutheran Church is and how some want to be even more involved. We celebrate our small group ministry (Forget-Me-Nots, Soul Sisters, 3M (Men in Motion for Ministry), Breakfast Belles, Appreciation Dinners, Random Acts of Caring/Kindness Ministry,

Fireside chats, Singles@St Paul, the Dynamic Duo (couples ministry), and our new small groups call S.A.L.T. (Sisters Adoring Light and Truth), and Band of Brothers. We are reaching out through television, FACEBOOK, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, Bible and Book studies, and Live Streaming. People are laughing, rejoicing, and praying for the ministry to continue with hopes of greater celebration, while letting hope abound in God's love in Alpena and to the world.

I ask, as your Pastor, to consider your blessings as one of God's stewards of St. Paul. Below is a commitment form, which will provide the leadership of St. Paul information to plan for our future ministry endeavors, outreach activities, & caring responses. Please complete the form and return it to the Church office or place it on the Altar in the month of September. I ask if you are unwilling/unable to make a monetary commitment, that you fill it out and state that you are willing to give as you are able. Be great and help others be greater. Pax – Pastor John and your Stewardship Committee



## Fulfilling God's Purpose!

### Renewal Campaign

#### 2026 Commitment Form

## Stewardship



*A Way of Life*

Through faith, I understand that God has created me and recreated me through Baptism. As a new person in Christ, he has entrusted me with time, talent, and treasures to be used to serve him by serving others and his church. He equips me and empowers me to fulfill his purpose.

As a steward of my/our material resources, my/our commitment for the upcoming year will be:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ weekly or \$ \_\_\_\_\_ annually.

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

St. Paul Lutheran Church

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
**727 S. Second Ave.**  
**Alpena, Michigan 49707**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**NOVEMBER 2025**



**ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH**

727 S. SECOND AVE.

ALPENA, MICHIGAN

(OFFICE) (989) 356-1658

**SATURDAY EVENING TRADITIONAL WORSHIP AT 5:30 p.m.**

**SUNDAY LITURGICAL WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.**

**SUNDAY CONTEMPORARY SERVICE AT 10:30 a.m.**

*CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY ♦ 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.*

*E-MAIL ADDRESSES*

[pastor@stpaul.org](mailto:pastor@stpaul.org)

Pastor John Shipman (989) 884-2084

*[nenastpaul.org](mailto:nenastpaul.org)*  
(920) 279-9657

*[jackiestpaul.org](mailto:jackiestpaul.org)*  
(989) 356-1658  
[www.stpaul.org](http://www.stpaul.org)

*[mediastpaul.org](mailto:mediastpaul.org)*  
(989) 356-1658