

May
2026

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

CREATES AND SHARES GOD'S LOVE AND COMPASSION

727 South Second Avenue
Alpena, Michigan 49707

A Stephen Ministry Congregation



*2026 Theme:
Be Our Vision Lord*

**Monthly Ministry Highlight:
Women's Dynamic Ministry**



Phone: 989-356-1658

www.stpaul.org

Facebook Page: St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church - Alpena

YouTube: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Alpena, Michigan

May 2026

Special points of interest:

- "God created women to fill a caring and nurturing role in his world, gathering people together in community."
- "They use their God-given talents to fuel our community."
- "Women, food, and nourishmentall God-given blessings to this world!"

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St. Paul Epistle

Women's Dynamic Ministry



Each May we celebrate women and the amazing women's groups at St. Paul. We all likely know the Soul Sisters, Forget-Me-Nots, and Breakfast Belles - with their Lunch and Learns, canoe trips, game nights, and so much more.

God created women to fill a caring and nurturing role in his world, gathering people together in community. This calling also leads to the development of quieter women's groups that operate almost in the background, but are still mighty groups that serve our community. I would like to shine a spotlight on a few this month.

Gratitude Lunches is a group of ladies with mad culinary skills. They use their



God-given talents to fuel our community. They have heard God's call to encourage and uplift community groups that grow Alpena.

Another group of culinary specialists is our Dinner on a Doorknob group. These ladies have heard God's calling to bring healing to our community through nourishment and gentle love.

One last group I want to highlight this month is the Funeral Dinner ministry.



While not just made up of women, this group again focuses on

feeding our community during a time of need. Grief is a heavy burden and this ministry helps ease that just a little bit.

Women, food, and nourishmentall God-given blessings to this world! These 3 groups are only a fraction of the amazing women's ministries we have here at St Paul that care for and uplift our community. Please be in prayer for our women and if you feel a calling to join or start a ministry, we would be happy to support you!



Danielle McDonald
Council Member

Call Process Update

As we complete the first Chapter of the Call Process of “Closure - Our Pastor is Leaving,” we should all take the time to reflect on the time we had with Pastor John and start to pray for what we, as a congregation, will be looking for in our next Pastor to serve at St. Paul proclaiming God’s Love for all. With the absence of the pastor, we all need to work together.



The next step in the Call Process is “Preparing for the Work Ahead.” This period should not be rushed as it is an important time during this transition period. There is going to be a Call Committee formed of 6 members of the congregation.

The goal of this selection by the Council is to include all demographics of our congregation. We are envisioning this committee to represent our different worship styles, new members, old members and young family members and to be able to lead us in this search and look for the good of the future of the church.

This committee is a confidential committee that works directly with the Synod while going through this process. Pastor Scott Torkko is guiding us through this process and has been very supportive and understanding with all our questions.

Over the next month the people that have shown interest in the Call Committee will be approached by a council member to have a conversation that will help them

better understand the responsibilities of this committee. If you are interested in learning more about the committee, please contact me through email or phone. We can set a time to meet and sit down and discuss the responsibilities of the committee and see if it’s something you would want to do.

I will be putting updates in the newsletter monthly so the congregation can be informed as to where we are in the Call Process. If anyone has any questions or recommendations, please reach out to me by phone or email. I am open to having a conversation and trying to assist in any questions or concerns anyone has during this time.

Jessica O’Neil
Council President



CHURCH COUNCIL

- Jessica O’Neil - President (Education)
- Andrea Dutcher - Vice-President (Personnel)
- Donna Kensa - Secretary (Property)
- Bernadine Wagner - Treasurer
- Scott Brooks (Outreach)
- Dawn Grzeskowiak
- Cathy Kieliszewski (Worship)
- Danielle McDonald (Small Group Ministry - Women)
- Scott Parkham (Property)
- Phil Wickstrom (Small Group Ministry - Men)
- Cayden Smith—Youth Member

Their area of responsibility is in parentheses.

Church Council monthly reports are available in the office.

Miss Cheesy’s Corner

With spring in the air, new flowers beginning to bloom, and the unpredictable weather we’ve been experiencing, we are reminded of God’s grace—and that there is always light at the end of the tunnel. I cannot express enough gratitude to everyone who has said hello and made me feel so welcomed.

As we embrace this season of renewal, let us take time

to step outside, enjoy the sunshine, open a window for some fresh spring air, and appreciate God’s many gifts. And remember, April showers truly do bring May flowers. If you’d like, please feel free to stop in for a cup of coffee and learn more about what’s happening in and around the church.



With Pastor John being gone and AARP no longer meeting here, the office has been much quieter and foot traffic has slowed. We truly miss seeing familiar and new faces alike—so please stop in and say hello! Your presence is always a blessing.





"My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."
Psalm 73:26



Adam's Advice Hub (AHH)

St. Paul is blessed with many groups and ministries that serve, teach, and bring people together throughout the year. If your ministry has an upcoming event, special program, meeting, or outreach idea, I would be glad to help you share that information with the congregation and community.

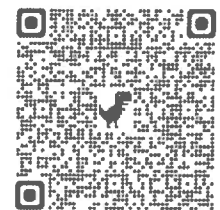
I can assist with creating announcements, preparing Facebook posts,

setting up boosted Facebook ads, and helping with event sign-ups or registrations. Whether your group is planning a small gathering or a larger community event, clear communication can help more people learn about it and participate.

If your ministry would like assistance, please reach out early so we have time to prepare and promote your event well.

You can contact me by email at media@stpaul.org

stpaul.org, by calling the church office, or by scheduling an appointment using the QR code available on my office door, newsletter, and around the building. I look forward to helping our ministries connect, invite, and grow through good communication.



Jackie's Jump Start

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" - Ephesians 2:10.

One of the things I start thinking about in the church office in May, is all our soon to be high school and college graduates. We want to honor and acknowledge them in the June newsletter. So, if you have a family

member or know of a church member who has or will be graduating from High School, College or with an Advanced Degree in 2026 please let me know. Please send me their name,

the school they are graduating from, area of study/degree, date of graduation, and their plans for the future. Please email me this information by May 15th, at jackie@stpaul.org. That way the



details can be shared with all our church family, and we can celebrate them and rejoice together in their accomplishments and be praying for God's direction and blessings on their future.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me via email, see above, or call me at the office at (989) 356-1658.



Welcome Lindsey

My name is Lindsey Roberts, and I'm excited to be working with St. Paul Lutheran Church. I live here in Alpena with my husband of 12 years and our 10-year-old son, Dominic, who definitely keeps me on my toes (and occasionally humble). We moved here from Phoenix about eight years ago. While the winters were definitely an adjustment (I'm still negotiating with them every year, and so far I'm losing), I've come to really love small-town life - the sense of community, familiar faces, and a slower pace that you just don't get in a big city. I own a small bookkeeping business here in the area and have been



working in bookkeeping for several years, which keeps me busy and allows me to work with a variety of local organizations. Most of my days are spent balancing that work with family life,

which keeps me busy in the best way. When I do get some downtime, I enjoy getting lost in a good fantasy book, usually something a little whimsical or adventurous. I also have a bit of a soft spot for Disney (okay, more than a bit) which started with a college internship at Walt Disney World



in Florida. It has stuck with me ever since. I still love to visit whenever I can, especially when I can make it fit in the budget (which is a whole adventure of its own). I'm grateful for the opportunity to support St. Paul in a behind-the-scenes role and be part of a community that means so much to so many. I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone and being part of all the good things happening here.

Warmly,
Lindsey

Women's Tea - "Run for the Roses"

Dust off your tea party hat! The Women's Tea will be held from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 2nd. Please RSVP to Patti at 989-335-0336. An online registration is



available or you can call the church office. Mark your calendars now and invite a friend.



Mark Your Calendar

Bishop Julie E. Schneider-Thomas is coming to visit on June 18th-21st. Be sure to mark your calendar!



Church Office Closed



Please note: The church office will be closed on Memorial Day, Monday - May 25th.



Stewardship
a way of life



Baptisms

What a very special day in worship on Easter Sunday as Colton Francisco, Chase Francisco, and Genevieve Berry were baptized at the 10:30 a.m. service. Please keep them in your prayers.



Confirmed

Easter Sunday and Confirmation Sunday for Aiden and Conner Olsen. Justified by God's grace and called to serve and build up the Kingdom of God right here and now...thank you for your commitment and faithfulness.



Welcome New Member



Happy Easter - truly a special day as Laurie Kuchnicki joined the congregation as a member. Please keep her in prayer.



"So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another."
Romans 12:5

May Video Educational Experience

For May, we will be watching the movie “Sound of Hope, The Story of Possum Trot”

It will be shown on May 6th at 6:00 p.m.



A Meal is provided and discussion. All are invited.



May Service Activity

The May Service Activity is Hope Shores Alliance.

Items needed: Paper towels, toilet paper, cups, plates, napkins, sealable bags, foil wrap, plastic wrap, trash bags (large 13 gallon thru contractor bags), laundry detergent, dryer sheets, blankets, comforters, laundry baskets, cleaning supplies, art and crafts sets for children, colored pencils, markers, hoodies or pullover sweat shirts (men’s, women’s, teens, and children—especially xl), underwear and socks (men’s, wom-

en’s, girls and boys—all sizes), sports bras, manicure sets, bath loofahs, body wash, hand soap, shampoo, conditioner, dry shampoo, deodorant, tampons/pads, lip balm, hair ties, shave cream and razors (men and women), bottles (new only), diapers and toddler training pants, Tylenol/Ibuprofen, phone chargers, Visa, Amazon Gift Cards, cash or check donations.



Please leave items on the altar. Thank you so much

for your generosity.

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.



Church Float

We are looking for a team to help with the 4th of July Parade float this year. Each year our float is wonderful and this year can be even more so. Please contact the

church office if you would like to be part of this ministry vision/outreach. Past leaders are available for questions and support. They are Patti Byce,

Joanne Huggler, Mike or Linda Collins.





Rummage Sale

The Church Rummage Sale dates are set for June 11th – 13th! You may start bringing in your items in stackable sealed boxes, and leave them on

the right side of the storage area off the dining room. Please leave bigger stuff until the week of the rummage sale. We will again be accepting

clean used clothing and shoes for our sale. If you have any questions, please call Andrea Dutcher at 989-354-3651.



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. 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.) If you submit 5 photos you will be given a tee shirt.

Ray of Sonshine

Do you have a few minutes to brighten someone else's day? Do you have a desire to share God's love? Please consider being part

of the "Ray of Sonshine Ministry" team. We send out encouraging notes, make phone calls or a personal visit to those in

need of fellowship/connection. Please contact the office to become part of this important ministry.



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 will go with the Children's Church leaders for Children's Church. This learning 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.

Kid's Korner

Children's Church was a celebration. The kids were having lots of fun decorating lunch bags, which proclaimed God's love, for Dinner on a Door knob. Great job, kids!





May Anniversaries



Synod Assembly

The 2026 North/West Lower Michigan Synod Assembly will be held in-person on May 15-16, 2026, at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Portage, MI under the theme "CONNECTED" which is based on the message John provided in Revelation 5:13;

"Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them singing, "To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"



We are thrilled to announce that we will be hosting Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry this year at assembly! Bishop Curry will be giving the keynote address on Friday, preside at worship on Saturday and make a presentation during the business session on Saturday.

Please be in prayer for this event and for Sue Robb and Jared Bicker who will be attending from our church.



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!

"The Forget Me Nots" (Women 70 and older) will be meeting on Tuesday, May 5th at

noon at JJ's. Please call Ann Hardesty at (989-590-2055) if you plan to attend or have any questions.

"The Soul Sisters" (Women 50-70) will meet soon. Please watch your bulletin and Facebook for details.

"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.



SMALL GROUPS
Sharing Life, Living Christ's Love

Small Group—Men



The Men of St. Paul and friends are still meeting at JJ's at 7:00 a.m. This has been a great time of discussion and celebration of God at work in the church. Come and be part of this gospel expression.

Band of Brothers is currently meeting quarterly.

This is for men who are 18-45. We are looking to connect and strengthen the faith of young men through activities



and studies that will be a beacon of hope.

BoB (Band of Brothers) 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.

Singles

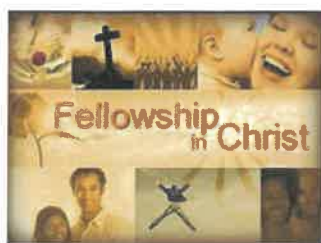


S@SP (Singles At St. Paul) meet the first Thursday of every month.

In May they will meet on May 7th at 5:30 p.m. at Thunder Bowl Lanes. If you have any questions

contact Sue Robb at 989-590-7611. We hope you join us!

Fellowship



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

service and the 10:30 service will occur in-between the service times. Come and share your life with the people with whom you worship. This minis-

try is a celebration and I ask that you help by leading a fellowship time.



Seminary

On April 12th, Jared took his first steps toward seminary.

Please keep him in your prayers as he begins this journey.



Thank YOU

We would like to thank the businesses and everyone who donated candy, eggs and baskets for our Easter Egg Hunt. Also, thanks to everyone who worked at the event. It was a wonderful time of celebration. We appreciate you all so much!



Girl Scout News



(Left) The Younk family visited St. Paul Girl Scouts to pick up gifts for their daughter Audrey. Audrey was born on March 12th at Alpena General Hospital and became our Girl Scout Baby. March 12th is the official birthday of Girl Scouts and for over 20 years St. Paul Girl Scouts have given a basket of gifts away to a baby girl born on March 12th. Of course, a box of Girl Scout cookies was in the basket!! (Right) Girl Scouts of St. Paul invited Rebekah Stockdale, Alpena Groove Instructor, to a meeting. Rebekah shared about how dance benefits the brain as well as the body. She also shared the 5 Groove Truths which focus on being the best version of yourself. The Scouts enjoyed the dancing and the teaching. Alpena Groove classes are open to the public at Trinity Episcopal Church at 4:45 on Tuesday and the Senior Center 5:30 on Wednesday. We appreciated the fun and the teaching.



Pastoral Acts



Condolences to the family and friends of Arthur Cochrane who joined our Lord in eternity January 19, 2026. His memorial service will be held at a later date.

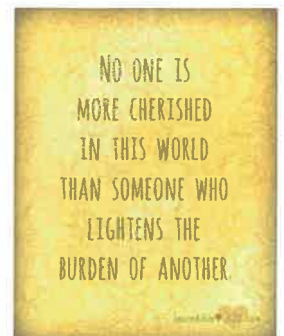
Condolences to the family and friends of Doris A. Siegert who joined our Lord in eternity April 9, 2026. Her memorial service was held at St. Paul Lutheran Church on April 18th with Pastor Mary Hughes officiating.



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

Arthur Cochrane
Camelo & Diane Busuttill

Doris Siegert
Mary Kuhl
Esther Kieliszewski
Bruce & Susan Blaquiere
Carole Cadarette
Susan Robb
Joe & Debra Meske





Community Outreach
...Building Bridges of Hope



Wow! Again I say Wow! Fourth annual Egg Hunt. What a celebration of the miracle of Easter. Thanks to the Education Committee for their hard work and everyone who participated.



(Left) Ryan stopped by the office on his way to bowling with Dakota. We always enjoy a visit and wish him good luck on the lanes!
(Right) Thanks for helping out, Ava! We are grateful for you.



Izzy's art work was picked to be displayed in the "Art In The Loft" YOUNG ARTIST SHOW! Congratulations Izzy!

Dennis Dzieszinski presents a donation to Josh Krey from proceeds raised during St. Paul Lutheran Church's Mexican Night, sponsored by the Stewardship Committee. The funds were given to assist the Krey family after the loss of their home in a fire.



A donation to the Crafters was presented from proceeds raised during the Men's Potato Night in support of their ministry and ongoing projects at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

The 3M Ministry of St. Paul gathered at JJ's for the Men's Breakfast. The group discussed recognizing Christ walking with us, even in the midst of our trials. All men are invited to join us Thursday mornings at 7:00 a.m.



The Breakfast Belles celebrated as they showed up in force. What a wonderful conversation on the faithful understanding that we are never alone.



(Left) Sue wished Carla a "Happy Birthday" on behalf of the RACKM group at St. Paul Lutheran Church. She was wished a joyful day and many blessings in the year ahead!



God's Love in action! The Gratitude Lunch group delivered lunches to Wolverine Credit Union at both the main branch on Bagley Street and the Chisholm Street locations.

This week CIA decorated bags for the Dinner on a Doorknob ministry. We pray that these bags and meals bring light and healing to those they are delivered to.

A big thank you to our amazing volunteers who made this weekend's Hygiene Closet a success! This is what being the hands and feet of Christ looks like in action.

MAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Date & Service	Assisting Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Fellowship Volunteer	Children's Church and Little's Worship Workers
MAY 2 & 3					
5:30 p.m.	Carol Kindt	Carol Kindt	John & Linda Snyder	Sue Robb	Children's Church: Jessica O'Neil, Karen Wekwert, Sue Robb Little's Worship: Cathy Kieliszewski Mary Courtney
9:00 a.m.	Shirley Jones	Cathy Kieliszewski	Richard Miller Owen Werth Ryan Panknin Jeff Ciupka	Mary Courtney	
10:30 a.m.			Janet Freeman		
MAY 9 & 10					
5:30 p.m.	Iris Arthur	Iris Arthur	Tim & Barb Smith	Joan Smolinski	Children's Church: Joanne Huggler, Rita Chase, Kathy Burton, Amy DeRosia Little's Worship: Jesse & Jessica O'Neil
9:00 a.m.	Dawn Grzeskowiak	Dawn Grzeskowiak	Roy Wekwert Jesse O'Neil Jessica O'Neil Barb Szczesniak	Joanne Huggler Rita Chase	
10:30 a.m.			Carla Steinke		
MAY 16 & 17					
5:30 p.m.	Carol Kindt	Gail Atkins	Bruce Anschuetz	Patti Byce Myra Gapske	Children's Church: Ashley Reed, Kathy Burton, Cathy Kieliszewski Little's Worship: Andrea Dutcher Evie Bicker
9:00 a.m.	Barb Szczesniak	Barb Szczesniak	Tim Moggie Cathy Kieliszewski Dennis Dzieszinski Ryan Panknin	Carla Steinke	
10:30 a.m.			Karen Wekwert		
MAY 23 & 24					
5:30 p.m.	Iris Arthur	Myra Gapske	Patti Byce Jimmy Nensewitz	Anita Laub	Children's Church: Jean Johnson, Bonnie Duby, Kathy Burton, Sue Robb Little's Worship: Joanne Huggler Rita Chase
9:00 a.m.	Phil Wickstrom	Danielle McDonald	Kathy Burton Richard Miller Paul Kieliszewski Barb Szczesniak	Janice Boboltz	
10:30 a.m.			Connie Sims		
MAY 30 & 31					
5:30 p.m.	Carol Kindt	Sue Keyes	Dennis & Sherry McDonald	Sue Robb or Joan Smolinski	Children's Church: Jessica O'Neil Jesse O'Neil, Katelyn Sims Little's Worship: Ophelia Steinke Ashley Reed
9:00 a.m.	Scott Parkham	Scott Parkham	Owen Werth Ryan Panknin Jesse & Jessica O'Neil	Janice Boboltz	
10:30 a.m.			Karen Wekwert		

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 May – Marty Cantleberry and Carol Kindt.



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



2026



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.

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