



St. Paul
Ann Arbor

Sowing **truth**. Building **faith**. Shining **love**.



Welcome to Worship

November 16, 2025
8:30 AM, Downtown Campus



St. Paul Lutheran
Church of Ann Arbor

At St. Paul Ann Arbor, we equip families and
individuals to know Christ, to discover truth,
and to create meaningful connections.

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, November 16, 2025 (8:30 AM)

One church with two locations:

Downtown Campus
420 W. Liberty St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Worship:
Saturdays @ 6:30 PM
Sundays @ 8:30 AM

Discipleship Hour:
Sundays @ 9:45 AM

Earhart Campus
495 Earhart Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Worship:
Sundays @ 10:45 AM

Discipleship Hour:
Sundays @ 9:45 AM



Welcome to our guests!

We're glad you're here! We ask that you fill out your name and an email or phone number in the black folder at the end of the row so we can connect with you. One of St. Paul's core values is unity so we'd like to help you get connected. On the back page of this worship folder, you'll find groups and events that are for you. May God bless you today!

The flowers in the chancel

The flowers in the chancel have been placed to the glory of God in loving memory of Kay Thunder-Haab, on her birthday.

If you have children

We welcome and encourage all children (yes, babies too!) to worship the Lord at St. Paul. If your child becomes restless during the service, don't worry! We get it. If you'd like to use it, there is a cry room available at the rear of the church and a nursery located below the main worship entrance. Children's bulletins and activity bags are available at each worship entrance. The hospitality team will be happy to assist you.

About Holy Communion

St. Paul is a confessional Lutheran congregation sharing the beliefs and practices of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS). Following the Word of Jesus, we believe that the Lord's Supper is more than a symbol. Jesus gives His people His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins through the bread and wine. In Holy Communion, Jesus not only gives these gifts, He unites us in a confession of faith. We confess that God has given His gift of salvation in baptism. We confess that we are sinners who need the forgiveness that Jesus offers by His death and resurrection. We confess that God speaks in His inspired Word, the Bible. We confess that God is one God, the Father who created all things, the Son Jesus the Savior, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in His people by faith. Alongside this confession of faith, the Holy Spirit is at work in those who receive the Supper to live according to God's Word and remain true to God, even to death, shining Jesus' love inside and outside of God's church. If you share this confession, we invite you to receive Christ's body and blood with us. If you do not share these beliefs, please talk to a pastor before communing though you are invited to come forward during Communion distribution with arms crossed to receive a blessing and the assurance of God's love in Jesus Christ. We're glad you're at St. Paul!

Discipleship Hour & Christ Connections

You're invited to gather after the service for coffee, donuts, fellowship and Bible study for adults and children! Sundays at 9:45 AM. Adults meet in Fellowship Hall (lower-level) and children ages 3 through grade 5 meet in the lower-level preschool classrooms.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELL

WORDS OF WELCOME

HYMN

"Jesus Sinners Doth Receive"



(LSB# 974)

1 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Oh, may all this
2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich
4 I, a sin - ner, come to Thee With a pen - i -
6 Now my con-science is at peace; From the Law I

say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions
grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro -
tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, mer - cy show to
stand ac - quit - ted. Christ hath pur - chased my re -

live And from God and heav - en wan - der! Here is
claim; Here our ills have per - fect heal - ing. Firm - ly
me; Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these
lease And my ev - 'ry sin re - mit - ted. Naught re -

hope for all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
in these words be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
words my soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
mains my soul to grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

WE CALL UPON THE NAME OF GOD

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made in remembrance of your Baptism.

*Invocation
Matthew 28:19b*

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen!**

WE TURN TO GOD, MINDFUL OF OUR SINFULNESS

Confession of Sins

1 John 1:8–9

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

(We observe a moment of quiet reflection as we consider our own sinful condition)

GOD TURNS TO US, EAGER TO FORGIVE

Absolution

John 20:19–23

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you for all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen!**

HYMN OF PRAISE

"This Is the Feast of Victory"

(LSB pg. 171) Revelation 5:12–13; 19:5–9

A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

C Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,

whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.

Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and

hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.

This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God. Al - le -

lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to

God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God,

for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Collect

P: Faithful heavenly Father, when we strayed from Your care, You welcomed us home again and again. You showered us with Your love and grace, rejoicing at our homecoming. Keep us from following our foolish ways, fold us in Your loving arms, and show us how to love and forgive one another, bringing pardon and peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

We Hear the Word of God

FIRST READING ✠ Isaiah 12:1-6

¹ You will say in that day: "I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me. ² Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation." ³ With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴ And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵ Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. ⁶ Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel." (ESV)

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

WE RISE TO THE GOSPEL

Alleluia & Verse
(LSB pg. 173) *John 6:68*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL..... ✠ Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

¹ Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." ³ So he told them this parable: ...

¹¹ "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."' ²⁰ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³ And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹ but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' ³¹ And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'" (ESV)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN

"Today Your Mercy Calls Us"



LSB# 915

MESSAGE

"The Prodigal God"
Rev. Dr. Ted Hopkins

Luke 15:1–3, 11–32

RESPONSE

(Tune: LSB# 915)

**We come as sinful children, our rebel ways to cease,
With hearts so full and needing to hear God's Word of peace.
The mercy of our Father bestows His robe of grace—
Through Jesus, He forgives us; with joy He shall embrace!**

Text: ©2025 Kirchenlied S. Schreiber, b. 1685

We Worship the Lord with Our Offerings

During the Offering, we invite your participation in our Ritual of Friendship. Please fill in the requested information on the Friendship Pad (which is located at the end of the pew at the center aisle) and pass it down the pew. Also, as the pad is returned, please take note of who is worshiping with you in order that you might greet them following the service.

(For electronic and convenient giving options, see the end of this worship folder)

VOLUNTARY

**MILESTONE MINISTRY
WORSHIP BLESSING**

Technology



Milestone Ministry Steps

August – Backpack Blessing
September – 2nd/3rd Grade Bible Presentation
October – Learning to Drive
November – 5th/6th Grade Technology
January – 4th Grade Money Management
February – Infant Faith Chest
March – First Communion
April – Preschoolers Learning to Pray
June – Graduation



The Prayers We Bring to God

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

PRAYERS for THIS DAY

(As prompted) P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

C: **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.**

A Foretaste of the Great Feast in Heaven



CHRIST'S WORDS ESTABLISH THE LORD'S SUPPER

Words of Institution
1 Corinthians 11:23-25

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: *Take, eat; this is ✠ My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me.* In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying: *Drink of it, all of you; this is ✠ My blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.*

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Pax Domini
John 20:19

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: **Amen! The peace of Christ be with us all.**

LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei (LSB pg. 180)
John 1:29

G Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of
God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

WE COME TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Communion Distribution

Please note before receiving Holy Communion: *Please read the brief statement of our beliefs, "About Holy Communion", found at the beginning of our worship folder. Our pastors would be happy to meet with you to discuss our beliefs further, and help prepare you for Communion.*



Hymns: "Children of the Heavenly Father"
"Chief of Sinners Though I Be"
"As Rebels, Lord, Who Foolishly Have Wandered"

LSB# 725

LSB# 611

LSB# 612

WORDS OF PEACE AND JOY

Communicants' Dismissal

P: Now may this Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in ☩ peace!
C: **Amen.**

WE DEPART WITH THANKS AND PRAISE

Post-Communion Canticle
(LSB pg. 181)

C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev - 'ry-one what
He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -
joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-
es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

- P: [The younger son] arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.
- C: **'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'**
- P: But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate.
- C: **For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found! And they began to celebrate."**

WE RECEIVE THE BLESSING OF GOD

Benediction
Numbers 6:24–26

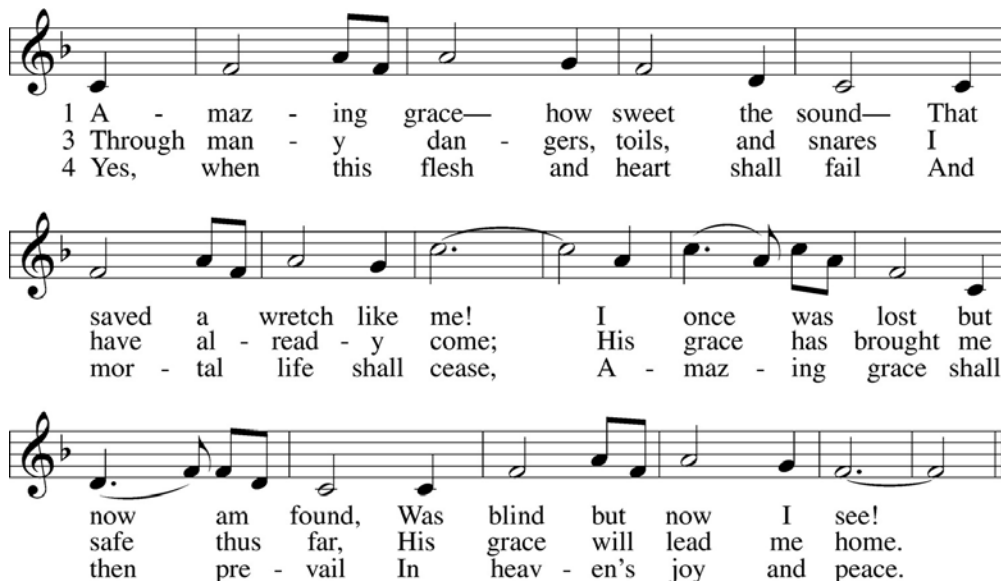
- P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with His favor and ☩ give you peace.
- C: **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

"Amazing Grace"

 (LSB# 744)



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me
mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall

now am found, Was blind but now I see!
safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.

POSTLUDE



Our Worship Servants

Liturgist: Rev. Aaron Roggow
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Ted Hopkins
Lay Reader: Katie Contreras
Director of Music: Dr. John Boonenberg
Family Worship Team: Fred & Laurie Metzger
Hospitality: Julie Burgess
Elder: Jerry Novak

Printed liturgy and hymns from Lutheran Service Book, created by Lutheran Service Builder ©2006 Concordia Publishing House.

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®).

Copyright ©2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

The "ESV" and "English Standard Version" are registered trademarks of Crossway. Use of either trademark requires the permission of Crossway.



St. Paul Stephen Ministry

Are you feeling overwhelmed, grieving a loss, or navigating a health crisis? SPAA is here for you. Our trained Stephen Ministers offer compassionate, confidential, and Christ-centered care, providing the support you need during challenging times. Contact Cherise Callahan at 734-395-8775 to connect with a Stephen Minister who will offer a listening ear and a caring heart.

Our Offerings and Gifts

Looking for different options to financially support the ministry of St. Paul through your regular offerings or one-time gifts?



Just text "GIVE" to **734-436-3634**

(This will also allow you to set up a recurring gift if you choose.)

Online: <https://www.kindridgiving.com/app/giving/stpaulaa>



Mail checks to: St. Paul Lutheran Church
420 W Liberty St
Ann Arbor, MI 48103



For more giving information, go to: <https://www.stpaulannarbor.org/give/>

Month	Attendance	Offering	Budget	Bud. Var.	Prior Year	PY Var.
July	278	\$ 85,561	\$ 103,200	\$ (17,639)	\$ 95,048	\$ (9,487)
August	292	\$ 92,582	\$ 129,100	\$ (36,518)	\$ 87,623	\$ 4,960
September	364	\$ 108,717	\$ 106,200	\$ 2,517	\$ 98,203	\$ 10,514
October	347	\$ 112,763	\$ 106,200	\$ 6,563	\$ 140,243	\$ (27,480)
November	-	\$ -	\$ 132,800	\$ -	\$ 106,819	\$ -
December	-	\$ -	\$ 123,200	\$ -	\$ 157,855	\$ -
January	-	\$ -	\$ 106,200	\$ -	\$ 107,378	\$ -
February	-	\$ -	\$ 107,400	\$ -	\$ 87,936	\$ -
March	-	\$ -	\$ 135,200	\$ -	\$ 118,139	\$ -
April	-	\$ -	\$ 114,900	\$ -	\$ 95,801	\$ -
May	-	\$ -	\$ 132,800	\$ -	\$ 112,259	\$ -
June	-	\$ -	\$ 104,800	\$ -	\$ 122,082	\$ -
YTD	320	\$ 399,623	\$ 1,402,000	\$ (45,077)	\$ 1,329,384	\$ (21,494)



News & Upcoming Events

For more news & events visit our webpage at: www.stpaulannarbor.org

Operation Christmas Child – Shoeboxes are due today!

Your Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are due back this weekend! If you forgot your shoebox, you can still return it to the church office (9am-3pm) by Tuesday, November 18.



Fall UNITY Newsletter – now available!

Don't miss the latest St. Paul quarterly newsletter with ministry updates, Advent & Christmas information and more. Hard copies are available at worship entrances or scan the QR code for a digital copy!



Bach Vespers Recording

If you missed our wonderful Bach Vespers service last Sunday (or if you just want to watch and listen again!) a recording is available on our YouTube channel by scanning the QR code. Mark your calendars for another Bach Vespers, March 22, 2026!

It's your last week to order Poinsettias

Would you like to help beautify our downtown and school campus altars for the Christmas services? Place one or more poinsettias in honor, or in memory of a loved one. We will order them for you at the cost of \$18 per plant. Deadline for orders is [after worship Sunday, Nov. 23rd](#). To place an order see insert in your worship folder.



Congregation Meeting – Sunday, November 23rd @ 12 PM

St. Paul members please plan to attend our next Congregation meeting on Sunday, November 23rd (sign in starts at noon) at our school campus (495 Earhart Rd). This will be an informational meeting – scan the QR code previous meeting minutes and agenda.



Thanksgiving Worship – Thursday, November 27th @ 10am

Join us for worship on Thanksgiving Day at our Downtown Campus (420 W. Liberty St) as we praise God for his bountiful blessings! This year our Thanksgiving offerings will be sent to: **Love Ypsi Mission** - a food and diaper pantry serving both veterans and the working poor in the Ypsilanti community and to **Puerto Rico Mission Support** - supporting the growing mission work of the LCMS church in Puerto Rico and the ministry of our partners Rev. James & Deaconess Christel Neuendorf. Can't be at SPAA for worship on Thanksgiving? You can GIVE NOW by scanning the QR code.