

# The Messenger February 2020

## FROM PASTOR MUSE

<sup>6</sup> The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.
2 Corinthians 9:6

One of the stories I enjoy reading to my daughter is "Button Soup." The premise of the story is a young girl goes to visit her very frugal (cheap) uncle who, though is well resourced, refuses to share them in any way. During the visit, which he is not very pleased about, she proposes to make soup to eat. He retorts that there is nothing in he house to make soup with, so she pulls out a button. She says she will make Button Soup. Into a pot of water goes the button, and she then proceeds to tell her very cheap uncle that when she made it for the state fair that it had salt and pepper. Her uncle then produces salt and pepper. Then carrots and onion, celery and beef bone, potatoes and milk. For each thing she mentioned, the uncle provided, and the soup, from one button, was made. And everyone in the town, after some reluctant coercing, ate this excellent soup, made from just one button.

Now there are so many avenues and areas to draw from in this story. The one I want to emphasize is the reluctance of the very well-resourced uncle, to release those resources even for his own benefit. The uncle wanted to sow very little, actually wanted to give nothing at all. He wanted to keep all that he had for some future turn, some future need, when in fact, it was needed in the present moment. Yet he wanted to eat a fine soup. He wanted to sow small and reap big. He saw his resources as something to save, protect, and store and would not even reach into them for the sake of his niece and her company. He was coming from a place of scarcity, and the story ends with a message of scarcity, the soup was just "one button." Yet he did enjoy the abundance of the soup while being convinced it did not cost him anything to make.

It is easy to think, even be convinced that this is a reality, invest a little get a lot. However that is not usually the case, sowing small and reaping big rarely happens. This is magical thinking coming from a scarcity stand point. God does not acting from the stance of scarcity. God has blessed each of us richly. Perhaps not with money or material resources, as we compare it to our counterparts. But God has poured forth many blessings on us. Our gifts, skills, love, abilities, experiences, education, time, talents, and finances are all gifts we have received. It is these very blessings that the community, this community, St. Paul's,

Continues on page 2.

#### **Meditation Groups**

Thursday, February 6 at 10:30 am & Tuesday, February 18 at 7:00 pm.

There is no experience needed. Come in comfortable clothes and enjoy a time of peace, quiet, and centering.

## St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

3295 S. Union Ave. PO Box 3830 Alliance, Ohio 44601

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From Pastor Muse Cont. From Pastor Thompson	2
Christian Education Lent Emergency closings Fellowship Crossing Worship	3
Continuing Events & Activities Birthdays Castina Benefit Dinner	4
Music & Worship Youth Group Matter of Balance Community Service Sunday 2020 Church Council	5
Deborah's Church Women United Quilting/WELCA News Thank You Notes Gifts and Ministry	6
February Calendar	7
Lectionary Readings for February	8
February Worship Assistants Eternal Flame Dedication	9
Palms for Ashes Ash Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers	10



#### THE MESSENGER FEBRUARY 2020

Continued from page 1.

depends on to do the work God has called us to do in the world. It is these gifts that we depend on to live and breathe and have our being. We exist by the grace of God and the generosity of the saints past and present. There is no other resource we tap into for our daily existence. So, this ministry reaps sparing or abundantly based on the sowing of the membership.

Part of loving your church and living into this symbiotic relationship we so cherish is being generous with the gifts God has imparted to you. Generosity with our finances is essential to the operation of the church, and being generous with everything else is crucial to the growth of the church and the

#### kingdom.

Giving our time. Praying for or with each other. Using our skills to saw, hammer, cook, sew, bake, or rake are gifts that build up the world of the kingdom. Sharing our stories, education and experiences are how the next generation learns what it means to be Christ in the world. Showing peace, compassion, and hope are gifts that recognize the humanity of those who are wrapped in fear isolation hopelessness. These gifts are essential to who we are as a community. To love this community means freely sharing them. To give back to God what God has entrusted you with.

Loving your church is giving to it, like any other relationship in our lives.

When we don't provide a fire fuel, it will burn out. When we fail to give a plant water, it will dry up. When we give our community just enough, it will only do what it can with what it has, just enough. For us to reap abundantly, love abundantly, proclaim God abundantly; we give abundantly from the gifts we have first received. Just as we ask God to give to us abundantly! Let us love our church and fall into abundant thinking because our God has more then we can ever imagine or use. God will not leave us without, and God asks us not to expect the body of Christ to be abundant with scarcity in sowing.

Soli Deo Gloria, **Pastor Muse** 

## FROM PASTOR THOMPSON THEY SPENT MUCH TIME TOGETHER

In the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:6-47), we read about the new community of Jesus' disciples after Peter and the Apostles received the Holy Spirit.

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Gathering together as disciples of Jesus is vital to our spiritual health and the health of the Church. Thom S. Rainer, a church consultant and researcher, wrote about this in a December 2019 blog, *Nine Good Reasons to Attend Church Weekly*. <u>https://</u>

<u>thomrainer.com/2019/12/nine-good-</u> <u>reasons-to-attend-church-weekly</u>

His first two reasons are:

#### 1. The local church was God's

**plan in the New Testament.** From the founding of the first local church in Jerusalem to the growth of new congregations throughout the Roman Empire, the New Testament is clear. God wanted His people gathering regularly and faithfully. And lest we forget, all of these congregations had problems. All of these churches had problem people. Hypocrisy was real and pervasive, but it was not a valid excuse to give up the local church.

## 2. The Bible speaks clearly about the priority of local

**congregations.** If you read the New Testament from Acts to Revelation, you will see that a gathered church was not just one important factor for the Christian, it was one of the highest priorities. After the ascension of Jesus, the local church was truly "the body of Christ."

Please take a few moments and think about each of these reasons. Do you hear your reasons for coming to or skipping worship being addressed?

Often we talk about following God's will. Did you ever think of attending worship as part of God's plan for you and your family? It places it in a different perspective. Worship is not an obligation to be endured. It is an opportunity to walk in God's plan and seek God's wisdom, comfort, and sometime discomfort, courage, and Word of God.

Pastor Muse spending this year writing about the need to invest in the congregation. Thom speaks to this in his blog post also. I invite you to follow the link to the rest of Thom's blog post to read the seven other reasons he gives for attending church weekly.

Peace, Tastor Diana Thompson

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Encourage one another and build each other up. 1Thessalonians 5:11

### Greetings to All!

I hope everyone is having a great start to the new year! We are back in full swing of Sunday school! We look forward to seeing each of you weekly! As a reminder, Sunday school runs 9:45am to 10:45am.

The Kid's Church schedule for this month is February 2, 9, and 23! We will continue to learn lessons about Jesus, have the opportunity to build relationships, and enjoy crafts and games! We will continue to make crafts for our shut-ins bimonthly!

As we prepare for our winter, spring, and summer schedule, please feel free to share ideas with me for Christian Education projects and activities!

Spring and summer will be here before we know it. We are already planning VBS. Our VBS will take place in early June! We are in need of all your help in order to have success! Please consider helping by volunteering in the evenings with our youth, donating meals, or donating other items as we get further along with our plans!

With God's Love, Brianne Black

### **MEN'S BREAKFAST**

There will be no breakfast in February.

## LENT

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2019.

We will continue our tradition of two services on Ash Wednesday, 10:30 AM and 7:00 PM.

Starting March 4 through April 1 we will gather midweek for dinner at 6 pm and worship at 7 pm.

## **EMERGENCY CLOSING**

The church is registered at WKYC (iAlert) and WHBC to provide closing or delay information.

The iAlert program is comprehensive and covers many local stations. We are also covered by WHBC 1480 AM and MIX 94.1. You can always check the Social Media feeds, website, or call the church office for updates as well.

## FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship will continue with the paper cups and adjusting amounts of coffee to make.

See page 10 for information about the Lenten Soup Suppers.

## FIRST SATURDAY MEAL AT THE "CROSS"ING

Join us at the "Cross"ing on Saturday, February 1 at 5:00 pm for our casual worship service in Garnes Hall.

Following the service, we will have our first Saturday meal and fellowship time. This month our menu is pizza. Tableware and beverage will be provided.

Come share in this unique worship experience.

## **CONTINUING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

## PASTOR'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Pastor Muse leads an adult class every Sunday morning. It is in the room next to the bathrooms on the main floor, room #3. Everyone is invited to be part of the class time.

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Sign up for *The Weekly Messenger* on our website www.livingbody.org or text 4STPAULS to 22828.

## **MEDITATION WITH PASTOR**

Join Pastor Muse for meditation each month, on the 1st Thursday at 10:30 am and/or the 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 pm. No experience necessary.

### **BIBLE STUDY**

Weekly Bible Study continues every Wednesday at 10:30 am and 7:00 pm. We welcome you to join in this dynamic conversation and study. We will gather in the welcome center for this time of study.

## **MID-WEEK EUCHARIST**

We continue to gather every Wednesday at noon in the Chapel for mid-week Eucharist. This is a brief, casual service of Word, prayer and communion. You are invited to come partake in God's presence in the middle of the week.

## **REMINDER OF HOSPITAL ADMITTANCE**

Due to the change in confidentiality regulations the hospital is no longer allowed to contact churches when a member is admitted. If you are admitted to the hospital please make sure you indicate you are a member of St. Paul's and contact the church office so we know of your time in the hospital.

## **INK CARTRIDGES**

We continue to collect used ink cartridges and toner cartridges. This is a great way to help offset the cost of office supplies. Our box is running low so please contribute. There is a donation box in Garnes Hall.

## CASTINA BENEFIT DINNER

### February 22, 2020 4-7 pm

### At St. Paul's

We will be hosting a Benefit Dinner and Basket Raffle for Ron Castina on February 22, 2020, from 4:00 -7:00 pm. This is to help Ron and Jill while he recovers from the Double Lung Transplant he had on December 8, 2019.

The Dinner will consist of rigatoni, salad, bread, dessert, and beverage. It will be by donation only.

If you would like to **help with Dinner**, please see Josh and Gina Falconer.

We are asking for **donations of desserts** from the congregation. If you would like to donate a dessert, please sign up on the sheet in Garnes Hall. We are asking for Cakes, Pies, Cupcakes, Brownies or Cookies. (Please no desserts that need to be refrigerated.)

If you would like to **donate a basket or help with the Basket Raffle**, please see Jody Saunier Evans.

## HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

May you enjoy many more and may God bless each one of you in many ways as you enjoy another year in God's grace.

- 1 Donald Boyce
- 1 Louis Nagy
- 2 Morgan Campbell
- 5 Chris Dennis
- 6 Kody Ziemke
- 7 Pete Raga
- 8 Kaitlyn Waite
- 8 Donald Hons
- 8 Carolyn Roller
- 9 Bob Kline
- 9 Debbie Rhome
- 9 Deanna Eshler
- 9 Charles Shutler
- 10 Janice Rackley
- 13 Gail Kelly
- 13 Curtis Lundgren
- 15 Mike Moretti
- 17 Joshua O'Neill

- 18 Jim Ellsworth
- 19 Joan Boyce
- 23 Benjamin Craig
- 24 Kevin Cubick
- 24 Emily Mehl
- 25 Nathan Himes
- 25 Terry Paina
- 26 Kyle Zeigler
- 27 Linda Karns
- 27 Pat Kinnard
- 27 1 at Killiard
- 27 Benjamin Johnston
- 27 Ryan Williams
- 28 Michelle Stryffeler
- 28 Sally Schuller



## **MUSIC & WORSHIP**

Music & Worship Committee will meet on Tuesday, February 4 at **7:00 pm** in Garnes Hall. Please see Gina Falconer if you are unable to attend.

All choirs have resumed at their regular times. If you would like to join any of the choirs, you are welcome to come! Please see Sunday bulletins or the monthly calendar for times of rehearsals.

Ash Wednesday is February 26. A chapel service will be held at 10:30 am and an evening service will be held in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm. Please come and prepare your hearts with us for the Lenten season.



The topics for February are as follows:

WEEKLY YOUTH MEETINGS.

Weekly Youth Group meets on Wednesdays from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. All youth grades 5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> are welcome to participate. We eat and have fellowship at 5:30 pm followed by a time of games, learning, and interaction. February 5 Generosity February 12 St. Valentine February 19 Shame February 26 Confession / Ash Wednesday Services following

**YOUTH SUNDAY** There will no youth Sunday in February. Midweek Lenten services will begin on Wednesday, March 4 and will continue until Holy Week. Please join us for a casual worship every Wednesday at 7:00 pm. There is a soup Supper each week at 6:00 pm, prior to worship.

We are in need of Greeters, Ushers and Lectors for Sunday services. You don't have to wait to be asked. Please sign up in the hallway outside the church office.

## A MATTER OF BALANCE

Pastor Muse will be leading an eight-session class on balance and "Managing concerns about falls."

The class is designed to help limit the fear of falling and give guidance on how to decrease the possibility of falls. The class will be **Tuesday and Fridays during February** from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. The first class will Tuesday, February 4.

**Sign up is necessary** so please contact pastor for a spot. You can call him at 330-409-5775 or email at <u>pastormuse@gmail.com</u>. **There is no cost for this class.** 

## COMMUNITY SERVICE SUNDAY, February 10, 1 pm.

We will make Valentine's Day cards and gifts for area shut-ins and nursing homes.

## **2020 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

### **Council Officers**

President—Josh Falconer Vice President - Greg Brookes Lead Pastor – The Rev. Timothy Muse Secretary – Nikki Swiger

Greg Brookes Josh Falconer Racheal Hays Marcus Hoopes Mark Himmelein Lynda Linhart Jennifer May Austin Mehl Kathy Menegay Dick Miller Jeff Webb

*Voice but no Vote* Treasurer – Jan Lauer Dir. of Christian Education – Brianne Black Administrative Pastor – The Rev. Diana Thompson

## **CHURCH WOMEN UNITED**

Church Women United will gather at the Feed My Sheep/ New Beginnings House of God on February 7 at 1:00 pm.

The program will be "Family Health, Physical Medicine," presented by Jeremy Weissing, a case manager.

Members are reminded to take bars of soap for the Alliance Community Pantry. The 2020 \$5.00 individual member dues and the \$10.00 church member dues can be given to Treasurer Betty Rush at the meeting. The Board will meet at 11:30 AM.



## **DEBORAH'S**

NO MEETING for February 2020.

## GIFT & MINISTRY SUPPORT COMMITTEE

The Gift & Ministry Support You can find these on the Committee has been working hard to prepare materials to encourage participation in the congregation and to use to welcome and invite others to St. Paul's.

First, is the full-color brochures you have seen on the tables in Garnes Hall. This is for you to know where you many find a ministry fit and also for you to share with others. Share them with your friends and neighbors with an invitation to one of our events, service projects, or worship.

Second, are the Welcome folders and the magnetic clips and waterdrop stress relievers. Greeters and members are welcome to give these out to the guests who join us for worship or an event or service project. greeter stands in the



Welcome Center.

Third, is the planning of some monthly intergeneration events. These will begin in May and continue through the summer. More details will be shared in future newsletters.

## WELCA/QUILTING

Since it's gotten colder makes a good time to work on quilts again. Two rolls of batting have been ordered and they look pretty massive.

The gals will have met in January and will meet again on February 20 and 21 beginning about 9:30 am.

Anyone wishing to come help putting yarn in and tying or even just to see how we do things are welcome to join us. Also quilts will be out on tables in Garnes Hall to tie on Sundays and during the soup suppers in March. Some take quilts home to tie.

Anyone doing spring house cleaning and have some sheets or light blankets to donate for backs can bring them into the church. Also a flat, twin sheet at Walmart for \$4.97 is a perfect fit for a quilt with a strip left over and those will be sewn together for another back.

## Thank you Notes

Dear Church Family, I just wanted to thank you for all the beautiful Christmas cards. Also thank you to the Sunday School kids. The gift was so clever. I am adding it to my Christmas Tree collection. Thank you everyone, you made my Christmas special. Have a Great New Year and God Bless. Thank you and God Bless, Harriet Fahnert

Dear Gayle, Thanks for being the designated driver to drop off the remembrance's from separate groups of St. Paul's Members. Now, just one other favor, please help me by passing along these words of thanks to the proper persons in charge of the projects. Thank you and have a blessed New Year! Selma Kennedy

To the Kids of St. Paul's who made the special gifts for the shut-ins. I like the pretty "BELIEVE" Pin and the clever S'mores ornament. It must have been fun to make them. Thank you kindly and God Bless each of you now and always. Sincerely, Selma Kennedy

To the members of St. Paul's who signed and sent Christmas cards to shut-ins. It was very thoughtful of you to send cards to again this year. It always feels good to be remembered. My heartfelt thanks and wishes to each of you for a blessed new year. Sincerely, Selma Kennedy

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	FEBRUA	R	Y 2020			1 5:00 pm Crossing Casual Worship 6:00 pm Fellowship Dinner
2 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Fellowship hour 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 12:30 pm Chapel Communion	7:00 pm Grief Support	4 9:30 am Matter of Balance 7:00 pm Committee Meetings	5 10:30 am Open Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist 4:00 pm Catechism 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Open Bible Study	6 10:30 am Meditation with Pastor 5:15 pm Singing Angels 5:30 pm Children's choir 5:45 pm Joybells 6:15 pm Joybells	7 9:30 am Matter of Balance 1:00 pm Church Women United	8 10:00 am Rhome Games Hall
9 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Fellowship hour 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 11:00 pm Community Service Sunday	10 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	11 9:30 am Matter of Balance 7:00 pm Gifts & Ministry Support Committee	12 10:30 am Open Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist 4:00 pm Catechism 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Open Bible Study	13 5:15 pm Singing Angels 5:30 pm Children's choir 5:45 pm KFC Ringers 6:15 pm Joybells 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	14 9:30 am Matter of Balance	5
16 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Fellowship hour 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Newsletter Items Due	17 7:00 pm Grief Support	18 9:30 am Matter of Balance 7:00 pm Meditation with Pastor	19 10:30 am Open Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist 4:00 pm Catechism 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Open Bible Study	20 9:30 am Quilters 5:15 pm Singing Angels 5:30 pm Children's choir 5:45 pm KFC Ringers 6:15 pm Joybells 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	21 9:30 am Matter of Balance 9:30 am Quitters	22 4:00 pm Castina Benefit Dinner
23 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Fellowship hour 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	24 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	25 9:30 am Matter of Balance 4:30 pm Alliance Community Dinner	26 Ash Wednesday 10:30 am Worship (Chapel) 4:00 pm Vouth Group 7:00 pm Worship (Sanctuary)	27 5:15 pm Singing Angels 5:30 pm Children's choir 5:45 pm KFC Ringers 6:15 pm Joybells 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	28 9:30 am Matter of Balance	5

## FEBRUARY 2020-The Word of God in Worship

#### <u>February 2, 2020 - PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD</u> <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

The Presentation of Our Lord is referred to in some corners of the church as Candlemas because of an ancient tradition of blessing all the candles to be used in the church in the coming year at the mass celebrated on that day. It was a way of underscoring the truth of Simeon's confession that this baby Jesus was "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" and a light for glory to Israel. Let the light of every candle in church be a little epiphany of the love of God for all people in the person of God's son, Jesus, the light of the world.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God, your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**READINGS AND PSALM** Malachi 3:1-4, Psalm 84, How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD. (Ps. 84:1), Psalm 24:7-10 (Alternate), Lift up your heads, O gates, that the King of glory may come in. (Ps. 24:7), Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40

#### February 9, 2020 - FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY— LECTIONARY 5 INTRODUCTION

### INTRODUCTION

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**READINGS AND PSALM** Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12], Psalm 112:1-9 [10], Light shines in the darkness for the upright. (Ps. 112:4) 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16], Matthew 5:13-20

#### <u>February 16, 2020 -SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</u> <u>LECTIONARY 6</u> <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

## In today's reading from Deuteronomy we are called to choose life by

loving and obeying God. Much of today's gospel reading echoes portions of the Ten Commandments. Jesus' instructions to the crowd reveal a pattern of behavior that honors both God and the neighbor, resulting in life and health for the whole community. We too are invited to embrace these commandments, not out of fear of retribution, but because God has promised that to do so means life for us.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**READINGS AND PSALM** Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Sirach 15:15-20 (Alternate), Psalm 119:1-8, Happy are they who follow the teaching of the LORD. (Ps. 119:1), 1 Corinthians 3:1-9, Matthew 5:21-37

#### <u>February 23, 2020 - TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD</u> INTRODUCTION

Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**<u>READINGS AND PSALM</u>** Exodus 24:12-18, Psalm 2, You are my son; this day have I begotten you. (Ps. 2:7),Psalm 99 (Alternate) Proclaim the greatness of the LORD; worship upon God's holy hill. (Ps. 99:9), 2 Peter 1:16-21, Matthew 17:1-9

#### February 26, 2020 ASH WEDNESDAY INTRODUCTION

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that "now is the day of salvation." Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**READINGS AND PSALM** Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Isaiah 58:1-12 (Alternate), Psalm 51:1-17, *Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. (Ps. 51:1)*, 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Lectors	8:30	11:00	Acolytes	8:30	11:00
February 2	Sue G	Mark H	February 2	Kyle H Owen H	Karen G Abigale G
February 9	Logan W	Deb G	February 9	Ben C	Owen S
February 16	Art G	Gayle F	February 16	Bergen R	Travis F
February 23	Diana C	Diana C	February 23	Emily O	Katie T
February 26 Ash Wednesday	10:30 am	<b>7:00 pm</b> Mark H	February 26 Ash Wednesday	<b>7:00 pm</b> Mark G	

Greeters	8:30	11:00	Ushers	8:30	11:00
February 2	Bob and Mary Lou W	Debbie R Joyce F	February 2	Joe C Barb C	Aaron O John W
February 9	Pat N Dorothy A	Tim O Debbie O	February 9	Craig H Sue H	Jack E Barb E
February 16	Gail K Diane L	Josh F Dominic F	February 16	Dave K Pat K	Dave M Donna M
February 23	Celeste L Keith B	Donna M Dave M	February 23	Mark H Michael K	Kevin P Adee P
February 26 Ash Wednesday	<b>7:00 pm</b> Debbie R		February 26 Ash Wednesday	<b>7:00 pm</b> Josh & Dominic F	

	Coffee Hour Hosts		
February 2	Art and Cindy G		
February 9	Joan B		
- 001 ddi y 2	Diana C		
February 16	Dick & Cindy M		
February 23	Bob and Mary Lou W, Sue G		

The Eternal Flame is given to the glory of God in memory of my grandparents Otto and Ruth Himmelein by Mark Himmelein.



### ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

3295 S. Union Ave Alliance, OH 44601 Non-Profit Org. U. S. Postage PAID ALLIANCE, OH

## Our purpose is to be the living body of Jesus Christ!

Find us online! <u>www.livingbody.org</u> <u>www.facebook.com/St.Pauls.Alliance</u> <u>www.twitter.com/PaulLutheran</u> <u>www.instagram.com/St.PaulsAlliance</u>

Stay informed and sign up for the weekly email on our website, Facebook page, or text 4STPAULS to 22828.

## Please return your palms to the church by Transfiguration Sunday, February 23.

Palms can be left on the counter in the office or on the table in the Welcome Center. The palms will be gathered and burned for Ash Wednesday.





is Wednesday, February 26 at 10:30 am and 7:00 pm.

## Lenten Soup Suppers

The soup suppers will be on Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, and 25, and April 1.

Lenten soup suppers will begin the first Wednesday of March with the Men's Group providing soup and help. Choir will take the second Wednesday, and Deborah's the third. March 25 and April 1 will be open to whomever will volunteer to make a soup or dessert. The rest of the details will be in the March *Messenger* or ask Shirley Rill.

We need four soups and four desserts per evening and the rest is provided by Fellowship Committee. With this helpful congregation the clean-up is a snap. We will again give the donation money and the extra money from the food donation to Aultman Alliance Hospice.

Email: st.paulsalliance@outlook.com Phone: 330-823-2285 Fax: 330-823-8399

The Reverend Timothy H. Muse - Lead Pastor The Reverend Diana Thompson - Administrative Pastor Rhonda Ferrall - Secretary Kathy Sloan - Organist Gina M. Falconer - Director of Music Brianne L. Black – Director of Christian Education Gayle B. Fiegenschuh - Communion Minister and Visitation