



The Messenger

September 2021

**St. Paul's
Evangelical
Lutheran
Church**

3295 S. Union Ave.
Alliance, Ohio 44601
330-823-2285

FROM PASTOR MUSE

"...one puts new wine into fresh wineskins." Mark 2:22

It has been very clear, for quite some time, that we have been living into a new reality. There are many names for the moment we are experiencing; new normal, post-covid, the covid life, the list keeps going and going. I have often said that things are different now. That difference will be reflected in how we live together as a community.

We have been blessed over the past 12 months to come back together and join our voice in song, first with distancing and masking, now with more open expression. It is a joy to be able to be together again and continue to offer our online expression. Word and sacrament are faithfully being presented at St. Paul's.

Yet, as we move forward, we have not seen the same number of in-house worshippers as before the arrival of Covid-19. There are many and various reasons for this. Some may have grown accustomed to worshipping online, others may not feel comfortable coming back together, and still, others may desire a different expression of faith. Each option, made in faith, is valid. We love all who are with us in person and those online. We also love those who have chosen a different road. However, this trend will affect decisions for the future of the ministry.

One such decision has to do with the number of worship services we offer each week. For example, in prior years, our regular worship schedule would reengage on Labor Day weekend, with two worship services offered each Sunday. However, as we have witnessed since the return to public worship, we are more than capable of providing faithful worship and room for all with one service.

One service during the summer has brought people together. Given us the ability to more fully lift our voice together to praise God and feel the energy of the Holy Spirit flow through us. Bringing the two services together has been a beautiful gift. It gives a more complete feel to the communal expression, which we wish to extend.

On the recommendation of the Music and Worship Committee, the Church Council has voted to approve one service on Sunday morning this fall. We will maintain our current worship time of 9:30 am each week. This will be followed by fellowship (see pg. 2) and education (see pg. 3). The community will continue to gather for one service into the foreseeable future. We will monitor the number of people attending worship and the CDC guideline as the pandemic unfolds and shows new

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Meditation Online

Thursday, September 2,
at 10:30 am (online) &
Tuesday, September 21,
at 7:00 pm (online).

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

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variants. If another change needs to be made for the community's health, then we will do what is necessary.

Let us embrace the possibility of what God can do in us. I hope that we find ourselves needing to expand to two services because of the abundant blessings from above.

Soli Deo Gloria, *Pastor Muse*

HOSPITAL ADMITTANCE

The hospitals are no longer informing churches if a member has been admitted. If you or a loved one is in the hospital please inform the church office or the pastor, so that we can be part of the healing.

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE STARTING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12.

WORSHIP

Continues at 9:30 am in-person and online

FELLOWSHIP

10:30 am

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

10:45 am

There is education for children through adults.

FROM PASTOR THOMPSON

FROM CHALLENGE TO RENEWAL

You will see articles about ministries restarting and being reimagined in this newsletter. I invite you to open up your imagination. Where are you joining in? Is there something you haven't been part of before and want to try?

There are volunteer opportunities and ways to participate for everyone. But, like every congregation, following the disruption of COVID-19, we want you to reconnect to the work of God through St. Paul's.

What have you learned about yourself throughout the COVID pandemic? Where is God prodding you to share your skills and talents? Are you unsure about how to use your talent and/or abilities in the congregation's life? Pastor Tim and I are here to help!

Everyone and every organization, including the church, has had to rapidly adapt to the pandemic. Let's use that adaptation to our advantage! Let's use the disruption to put our energy into life-giving work, faith-filled service, and

sharing the Word of God!

We can bemoan the changes or see this as an opportunity to work in new and creative ways. God did not create us to be static, nor the church. The early church went through dynamic changes in its first 300 years. It has had multiple renewals, include the Reformation. We are part of a dynamic system of faith and the expression of God's Word.

Join in this renewal and, in the process, find yourself growing deeper in your own faith life.

Peace, *Pastor Diana Thompson*

ADULT EDUCATION

**In-person Wednesday Midday
Bible Study
10:00 am
*Book of Proverbs.***

10:00 am. We will meet each week outside, weather permitting. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy some time together.

**In-person Wednesday Evening
Bible Study
7:00 pm
*Book of Proverbs***

Starting Wednesday, October 6th. The study will be on the Book of Proverbs, from the beginning.

**Online Wednesday Bible Study
*Paul's Letter to the Romans.***

The series will be posted each Wednesday at 9:00 am and cross post on the church's social media.

**Online Sunday Bible Study
The Gospel of Luke
Sundays at 9:00 am online**

The study will be on Pastor Diana's YouTube channel. A link also will be posted on our social media and website.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Greetings to all of you!

We hope you had a great summer and are ready for another wonderful Sunday School year. First a big thank you to all those who helped at VBS Pastor Tim, Pastor Diana, Brianne, Tre, Diana Cullen, Amanda Henschen, Bergen Rhome, Donna Muse. And to those who came out to be a part of our time, it was such a great experience after so much isolation.

Our Sunday School year is ready to kick off and we hope to see everyone out. Our theme for this year is: "*Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.*" Psalm 25:4. Class time will be at 10:45 each week, following our Sunday worship. There will be a class for K-2nd, 3rd-5th, 6th-8th, High School, and adult class. Come out and be with

other believers as we learn the ways of God together.

Weekly reflections continue to be posted by Pastor Muse, on the youth Facebook page. Make sure to check them out and like the page, so you get notifications.

If you would like to be part of the education program, as a teacher, volunteer, committee member or however your gifts may be used, we would welcome your participation.

Brianne Black and the education committee

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

First communion class will take place on Saturday, October 9th at 10:00 AM. All members 5th grade and above are welcome to come and prepare for their first communion, which will be offered on Sunday, October 10th.

MUSIC & WORSHIP

Music & Worship Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 7th at 7:00. Please see Gina Falconer if you are unable to attend.

SERVICE TIME FOR SEPTEMBER: We will continue with ONE SERVICE at 9:30 am.

We are looking forward to starting back up our choir program. All things are subject to change. If you are interested in participating in one of the choirs, please keep watch in bulletins and online announcements for any change to this plan. Chancel Choir will begin practicing on Thursday, September 23rd. Joybells will begin practicing on Thursday, October 7th. Please see below for times. If you have any questions about our choirs, please see Gina Falconer. (All children and youth choirs are looking to resume later in October).

Joybells (Adult Bell Choir): Practice time **Thursdays 6:15 – 7:00 (starting 10/7)**

Chancel Choir (Adult Singing Choir): Practice time **Thursdays 7:15 – 8:15 (starting 9/23)**

The Singing Angels and KFC Ringers – Grade 2 – 8 and Children’s Choir: Age 3 – Grade 1 will resume at a later date).

WOMEN’S GROUPS

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

From the church women's united local and national president, there will be no meetings for the remainder of 2021.

DEBORAH’S

The Deborah’s will start meeting again on September 10th at 12:00 pm. All women are welcome to join us for lunch and fellowship.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Open date for altar flowers are 9/26. If interested in dedicating altar flowers for this date, please contact Cathy Brookes at 330-581-5811.

*The Eternal Flame is given to the glory of
God and God’s blessings for a healthy
family.
By Sandy Pollock.*



THANK YOU NOTES

Card of thanks for those who prayed for me during a difficult time. Thank you for the prayers and cards sent during my time of loss. Thank you to Pastor Muse for being with my brother at the end.

God’s peace.
Jerry Webb

WE GIVE THANKS FOR YOUR SERVANT HEART!

A big thank you to **Shirley Rill** who has overseen our weekly fellowship for many years. She has decided this is a good time to step aside and allow others to lead.

Also thank you to **John and Diane Linhart** who have faithfully supported the work of fellowship over the years. They too have decided this is a good time to step aside from this work. As well, thanks to Diane Linhart for overseeing and planning all our funeral dinners over the past few years. Many people have been comforted by these meals, and thanks also to John for his dedication in helping to gather the necessary items

SEPTEMBER 2021—The Word of God in Worship

September 5, 2021

TIME AFTER PENTECOST — LECTIONARY 23

INTRODUCTION

James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

READINGS AND PSALM

Isaiah 35:4-7a, Psalm 146, I will praise the LORD as long as I live. (Ps. 146:2), James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17, Mark 7:24-37

September 12, 2021

TIME AFTER PENTECOST — LECTIONARY 24

INTRODUCTION

Three weeks ago we heard Peter's confession of faith as told in John's gospel. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of messiah) in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

READINGS AND PSALM

Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 116:1-9

I will walk in the presence of the LORD. (Ps. 116:9)

James 3:1-12, Mark 8:27-38

September 19, 2021

TIME AFTER PENTECOST — LECTIONARY 25

INTRODUCTION

Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them a flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

READINGS AND PSALM

Jeremiah 11:18-20, Wisdom 1:16—2:1, 12-22

(Alternate), Psalm 54, God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life. (Ps. 54:4), James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a, Mark 9:30-37

September 26, 2021

TIME AFTER PENTECOST — LECTIONARY 26

INTRODUCTION

Someone who isn't part of Jesus' own circle is casting out demons in Jesus' name, and the disciples want him stopped. They appeal to Jesus, as Joshua did to Moses about the elders who prophesied without official authorization. Like Moses, Jesus refuses to see this as a threat. Jesus welcomes good being done in his name, even when it is not under his control. The circle we form around Jesus' word must be able to value good being done in ways we wouldn't do it, by people we can't keep tabs on.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

READINGS AND PSALM

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29, Psalm 19:7-14

The commandment of the LORD gives light to the eyes. (Ps. 19:8), James 5:13-20, Mark 9:38-50

September 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:00 am Adult Bible Study (in-person, outside) 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online)	2 10:30 am Meditation (online)	3	4
5 9:00 am The Gospel of Luke (online) 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online)	6 7:00 pm Grief Support	7 7:00 pm Committee Meetings	8 10:00 am Adult Bible Study (in-person, outside) 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online)	9 7:00 pm Gift & Ministry Support Meeting	10 12:00 pm Deborah's	11
12 9:00 am The Gospel of Luke (online) 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Christian Education	13 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	14 7:00 pm Church Council	15 10:00 am Adult Bible Study (in-person, outside) 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online)	16	17	18
19 9:00 am The Gospel of Luke (online) 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Christian Education	20 7:00 pm Grief Support	21 7:00 pm Meditation with Pastor (online)	22	23 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	24	25
26 9:00 am The Gospel of Luke (online) 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Christian Education	27 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	28 5:00 pm Alliance Community Dinner	29	30		

Happy September 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.

2 - Mark Turner	12 - Jeremy Rhome	17 - Michele Hoopes	27 - Betty Hons
2 - Robert Williams	12 - Eric Dunn	19 - Owen Hoopes	29 - Margi Hoover
2 - Landon Blevins	12 - Julie Blevins	20 - Gary DePrill, Jr	30 - Jackie Edwards
3 - Debbie McGowan	13 - Andrew Grove	20 - Ashley VanCamp	30 - Cindy Garnes
3 - Karl Ziemke	14 - Kathie Menegay	22 - Chelsea Burnworth	
4 - Cherylene Stockert	14 - Leroy Zeigler	24 - Pat Virgil	
8 - Wanda Chidsey	15 - Jim Mehl	24 - Austin Webb	
8 - Greg Paina	16 - Janice Valentine	25 - David Brenner	
9 - Mark Roose	16 - Nicole Pollock	25 - Jack Esterly	
11 - Gina Falconer	16 - Bob Wilson	25 - Linda Stanish	
12 - Luke Ince	17 - Kathryn Paina	25 - Brittany George	



GIFT & MINISTRY SUPPORT COMMITTEE

The Gift & Ministry Support Committee will resume meeting on Thursday, September 9 at 7 pm. This committee is responsible for encouraging the participation of all members in the support of the church through service, donations of financial resources, and gifts of skills and talents.

If you would like to join this committee come to our next meeting or contact Pastor Diana Thompson. If you have someone you think would be a great addition to this committee please share their name with Pastor Diana or Jen May.

God bless you as you serve in God's church and the world.

VITAL OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Coordinator of weekly fellowship following worship—coordinate the purchase of supplies, and schedule volunteers.

Coordinator of funeral dinners offered after funeral services—coordinate the purchase of supplies, contact the family to determine menu and number of guests, coordinate volunteers.

If either of these opportunities are of interest to you, please contact Pastor Muse or Mark Himmelein, Council President, to learn more.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Thank you for your generosity in August as we collected school supplies and personal hygiene items for the Alliance City Schools. If you forgot to drop off our donation you can still bring them to the church. Your gift can help a study feel more confident and give them the tools to success at school.

INK CARTRIDGE RECYCLING

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.

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

3295 S. Union Ave
Alliance, OH 44601

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



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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

Find us online!

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Stay informed and sign up for *The Weekly Messenger* email on our website, Facebook page, or text 4STPAULS to 22828.

WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

Sundays—One Service In-person and online at 9:30 am.

Communion Wafers will be made available on Fridays and Saturdays from 10:30 am to 2:00 pm each week for those who plan to worship from home. The service outline is posted on Pastor Muse's blog site, the Facebook page, and included in the weekly email.

First Saturdays—There will be no first Saturday Worship in September

Wednesday Midweek Eucharist—In-person and online at Noon.

It will be a simple service of word, prayer and Eucharist.

SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP

returns after worship on Sunday, September 12, 2021.