



The Messenger

July 2022

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

3295 S. Union Ave.
Alliance, Ohio 44601
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FROM PASTOR MUSE

I remember early in my ministry one of the weekly Bible Study participants telling me a story. They were getting ready to come to Bible Study when their spouse asked them why they go, since they read through the whole Bible already. The reply was beautiful; “Yes”, they said “the words were the same, but I was different.”

There are two distinct views of the Bible and its impact in the world. The first states that the Bible is a closed book and that its words are no longer alive. It is just a document written centuries ago that has no real bearing or weight on the world today. This also means that its teaching, though they may be relevant to certain situations, are only relevant by coincidence and should not be read too deeply. There are those who believe this and teach this understanding of the Bible.

The second view of the Bible, one held by us as Lutherans, is that the Bible is a living document, that is still breathing life into us today. Yes, the Bible has been closed, as the previous belief structure would indicate, there will be no additions to or subtractions from the words of the holy book, but that closure does not indicate death. Just because there will be no alteration to the text, does not mean the book stops speaking. This is because every time we read it,

we are different.

When we open the Bible, we are different people. We are in different places, experiencing different emotions, facing different challenges. Every day, if we are honest with ourselves, we are different in certain aspects because the word around us is different. It may be a slight shift from yesterday or a massive swath from the week before, so when the book is opened, we come to it with different eyes. We read it with a sense of wonder or hope for direction in a certain moment. We seek in its pages guidance to deal with relationship issues or words of encouragement when we are down. We look to it for wisdom or peace when we are confused. We come to this book different each day, so we should come to the book each day.

The Bible has words to speak into every circumstance we face. It may not be a direct receipt for success, but it will offer a framework to deal with what every we face. We just have to seek it out every day. Dwelling in the Word will open us to the wisdom and guidance it brings to all circumstances.

I believe we should search the scriptures when we need specific direction, for God has given us such a gift, but we

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Meditation

Join us on Thursday, July 7, at 10:30 am (online only) and Tuesday, July 19, at 7:00 pm (in-person & online).

Wear comfortable clothes and enjoy a time of peace, quiet, and centering.

Continued from page 1.

should also dwell daily in the scriptures asking God to speak into us in all circumstances. There is great power and great calm in being in the scriptures daily. Perhaps this is a good month to try a daily journey in the scriptures.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Pastor Muse

MEN'S BREAKFAST

We will plan to have our monthly Men's Breakfast on Saturday, July 16th at 8:30 AM. All men are welcome to join in a time of food, fellowship, and learning. We will conclude by 10:00 AM.

PRAYER BOARD

The prayer board will continue to be available through the summer months. Please take a moment to engage this ministry opportunity.

FROM PASTOR THOMPSON

FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE(S)

Do you have a favorite Bible verse? Or maybe a couple of beloved Bible verses? Have you considered why it/they are your favorites?

When did you learn it? What did it mean for you at the time? What does it say to you now? Have your favorites changed over time?

The joy of God's Word is the diversity and complexity of the stories and messages. There are stories and verses that connect to every human emotion. The more time we spend reading the Bible, the more we see the work of God. We can connect the emotions and experiences of the people in the Bible to our life today.

The beloved stories and verses of our youth don't stop being valuable but instead take on deeper meaning. We also connect to new stories and verse that speak to the changes and responsibilities of life.

If you are already reading a daily devotion (connected to Scripture) or daily reading the Bible, congratulations! If you are not, I ask you to take 5 minutes a day to read a daily devotion or a passage from the Bible. Even 5 minutes a day will connect you to God. If you are not a reader, how about

listening to the Bible?

Do it at the time of day that works best for you. For me, it is in the morning or during lunch. If I wait until bedtime, it isn't going to happen.

Will it seem difficult at first? Possibly. Making a new habit and starting a new commitment will take some adjustment. Like any life-giving habit, scripture reading may feel awkward. Over time it will feel as natural as the time you make to brush your teeth or get ready for the day.

Not sure where or how to start? I would start with Mathew, Mark, or Luke. The joy of the Bible is you have a whole library in one place. What book sounds the most interesting to you? Start there!

Do you still have questions? That is ok. Come talk to me. I am happy to help you find a ritual that works for you.

Peace, *Pastor Diana Thompson*

Let us pray. God, you sent us your Word. Help each of us to enter more deeply into the Bible. May we be guided, strengthened, and encouraged by it. In Jesus' name. Amen

ADULT EDUCATION

In-person Bible Studies

Bible Study meets on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM. We will be studying the Book of Proverbs.

Online Bible Studies

The Book of Acts is posted each Saturday at 9:00 am by Pastor Diana on the church's Facebook page.

The Gospel of John will be posted each Wednesday at 10:00 am on the Facebook page by Pastor Muse.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

“Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.” *Psalm 25:4.*

Adult Sunday School will continue through the summer. Please plan to attend. Bible study continues on Wednesday at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM.

The online Bible Study on the Book of Acts, led by Pastor Thompson, continues to be posted on Saturday morning. The online Bible Study on the Gospel of John, led by Pastor Muse, will post each Wednesday at 10:00 AM.

Weekly messages for the youth will continue to be posted on the church's youth Facebook page. If you are not following the youth page, please contact Pastor Muse for an invitation.

VBS was an incredible success, and we thank everyone who had a hand in making it so. God truly moved through this

place during our “Food Truck Party” themed event. We averaged 37 younglings each day and almost as many helpers to make the week a blast. God truly was praised during our time together and we are blessed to have the chance to be part of the kingdom work.

As we grow together,
The Education Committee

There will be no Bible Study on Wednesday, July 6th and 27th.

There will be no Mid-week Eucharist on Wednesday, July 6th or 27th

MUSIC & WORSHIP

There will be NO July meeting.

Special music will be offered throughout the summer months. If you would like to sing or play an instrument to offer special music during a service this summer, please see Pastor or Gina Falconer.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

We've begun once again to serve the community dinner as a sit down meal. We started with the dinner on Tues, June 28. Each time we serve the meal we will need 8-10 volunteers to help the dinner run smoothly. Serving time usually starts about 5p.m. and clean-up about 5:45. Please check with Greg Brookes (330-805-5153) or Karen Wolfe (330-206-9758) if you are interested in helping with this project. The dinner is served cafeteria style, to accommodate that we need 5-6 servers to manage the table. Also we have two drink stations, coffee and punch. A person at each of those is very helpful. If you do not wish to serve but have time to help clean up, that would be very

helpful too. **Last but not least we always need cookies.** Thanks in advance for your consideration to help.

Regardless of the message in the JUNE Messenger. We will continue to collect bottle caps going forward. After the success of the past school year, it has been decided that collection will continue toward more benches. So keep those caps coming!!!

Happy July 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 – Linda McClarren	13 – Howard Pifer	25 – Tricia George
2 – Sara Picone	15 – Danielle Saunier	26 – Ron Castina
2 – Jani Middleton	16 – Jeff Hunter	26 – Gayle Fiegenschuh
2 - Whitney Jo Wallace	16 – Paige Burnworth	28 – Dale Boyce
3 – Matthew Rill	17 – Ryan Davidson	28 – Barbara Hunt
4 – Allison Bailey	18 – Sandi Fiegenschuh	30 – Lorraine Franks
4 – Samuel Hays	19 – Rodney Campbell	30 – Pearl Schuller
5 – Jacob Kridler	20 – Kayleigh Wonner	
6 – Jacob Craig	22 – Terry Dennis	
8 – Kyle Hoopes	22 – Susan Henschen	
10 – Donna Cubick	23 – Cindy Miller	
10 - Joan Huffman	23 – Ruby Garroway	
13 – Madge Peters	24 – Allison Castina	



JULY 2022—The Word of God in Worship

July 3, 2022

TIME AFTER PENTECOST—LECTIONARY 14

INTRODUCTION

God is the source of our nourishment. Jesus' invitation to "take and eat . . . take and drink" is a repeated one. In holy communion, in the word read and proclaimed, in the assembly of the people of God, the dominion of God has come near. Rejoice! Your name is written in heaven.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, you are the city that shelters us, the mother who comforts us. With your Spirit accompany us on our life's journey, that we may spread your peace in all the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

READINGS AND PSALM Isaiah 66:10-14, Psalm 66:1-9
All the earth bows down before you and sings out your name. (Ps. 66:4), Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16, Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 10, 2022

TIME AFTER PENTECOST—LECTIONARY 15

INTRODUCTION

To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind is to reflect God's mercy in responding to one's neighbor. That mercy found its most profound expression in the "gospel that has come to you"—namely the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That gospel mercy comes to us again today: at the font, at the table, and from the pulpit. It is very near to you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

READINGS AND PSALM Deuteronomy 30:9-14
Psalm 25:1-10, *Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths. (Ps. 25:4), Colossians 1:1-14, Luke 10:25-37*

July 17, 2022

TIME AFTER PENTECOST—LECTIONARY 16

INTRODUCTION

Perhaps the church, at its best, is "all ears." God urges the faithful, again and again, to "listen up!"—to heed the word that gives life. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Martha, and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the word of life.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

READINGS AND PSALM Genesis 18:1-10a

Psalm 15, *LORD, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)*
Colossians 1:15-28, Luke 10:38-42

July 24, 2022

TIME AFTER PENTECOST—LECTIONARY 17

INTRODUCTION

Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God's own. "When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me."

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

READINGS AND PSALM Genesis 18:20-32, Psalm 138
Your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands. (Ps. 138:8), Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19], Luke 11:1-13

July 31, 2022

TIME AFTER PENTECOST—LECTIONARY 18

INTRODUCTION

Today's texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the "things that are above." To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord's supper and the encouragement of God's word.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

READINGS AND PSALM Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23, Psalm 49:1-12, *My mouth shall speak of wisdom. (Ps. 49:3)*
Colossians 3:1-11, Luke 12:13-21

July 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Christian Education (adult class)	4 Happy 4th of July Church office closed	5 7:00 pm Committee Meetings	6 5:30 pm Youth Group	7 10:00 am Meditation (online only)	8	9
10 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Christian Education (adult class)	11	12 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	13 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online) 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study	14	15	16 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
17 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Christian Education (adult class) Newsletter Items Due	18 7:00 pm Grief Support	19 7:00 pm Meditation (in-person and online)	20 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online) 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study	21	22	23
24 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Christian Education (adult class)	25	26 5:00 pm Alliance Community Dinner	27 5:30 pm Youth Group	28	29	30
31 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Christian Education (adult class)						



We would like to thank the church community for all the thoughts, prayers and kindness during Kayann's hospital stay and recent passing, it was very much appreciated by the entire family.

Sincerely, Ed Stockli and family.

WOMEN'S GROUPS DEBORAH'S

No meeting in July or August.

YOUTH GROUP

Weekly Youth Group returns June 1st!!!!!! We will meet every Wednesday at 5:30 PM for a time of food, fellowship, games, and learning. Come out and be part of something special. This is open 5th grade through 12th grade.

The Eternal Flame is given to the glory of God in memory of our parents Herman and Helen Weick, Gene and Carolyn Williams, brother and wife Richard and Marilyn Weick and sister and husband Bill and Peg Simon by Bob and Mary Lou Williams.



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 process.

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

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Alliance, OH 44601

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



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

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
Gayle B. Fiegenschuh - Communion Minister and Visitation

WORSHIP IN JULY

Sundays
One Service in-person and online
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.

Sunday Morning Fellowship
10:30 am

Sunday Morning Education
10:45 am (Adult only)

Wednesday Midweek Eucharist
In-person and online at Noon.

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

COFFEE HOUR

Volunteers for serving at the Refreshment Table in July:

- 7/3/22 Dave and Donna Muse
- 7/10/22 Gail Kelly, Pat Nelson, Becky Goshorn
- 7/17/22 The Owens Family
- 7/24/22 Diana Cullen +
- 7/31/22 Rod and Sandy Garver and Mark Himmelein

Please remember that donations of punch are always appreciated.