



# *The Messenger*

## *May 2025*

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

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

## **FROM PASTOR MUSE**

### **Oesterlen Services for Youth Announces Partnership with The Buckeye Ranch and Strategic Restructuring**

Oesterlen Services for Youth, a leading provider of foster care and residential programs, is pleased to announce that it will associate with The Buckeye Ranch, one of Ohio's largest and most comprehensive child and family mental health and social service organizations, in a strategic alignment and restructuring. The strategic alignment and restructuring will enable both organizations to combine their resources, expertise, and commitment to supporting children and families in need across the state, ensuring the continuity of high-quality care with a focus on individualized treatment and support.

The Buckeye Ranch will integrate Oesterlen's foster care program into its current programming and will provide continued residential services to those youth who meet their admission criteria into their existing residential program to allow for continuity of care for those youth. Oesterlen Services for Youth will restructure and transform its operations into the Oesterlen Foundation, focusing on providing grants to programs and initiatives that benefit children and families, ensuring that Oesterlen's mission of care and support continues in a

new and impactful way. "We are excited about the opportunities the integration with The Buckeye Ranch presents," said Maurice D. Ware, CEO of Oesterlen Services for Youth.

"The Buckeye Ranch shares our values and dedication to the well-being of children and families, and strategic restructuring will allow us to extend our reach and impact even further. At the same time, the formation of the Oesterlen Foundation will ensure that we continue to invest in the future of those we serve."

Vickie Thompson-Sandy, President & CEO of The Buckeye Ranch, echoed this sentiment, saying, "We are honored to welcome Oesterlen's programs into our organization so that youth and families who are receiving services from Oesterlen do not experience disruption. Together, we will be able to offer even more comprehensive services and support to those in need, building on the strong foundation that Oesterlen has established over the years to raise hope and provide healing to families."

The transition, currently underway, is expected to be seamless, with minimal disruption to children and families currently served by Oesterlen. Both organizations are committed to maintaining continuity of care and

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*He is not here  
but has  
Risen.*

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ensuring that the needs of those they serve remain the top priority the top priority.

I share this news as we support the work of Oesterlen and continue to work with them as they transition. The cost of providing in-patient mental health services has become too much for Oesterlen to provide, so this option was the best

way to maintain a Lutheran voice in this work. The three Ohio Synods provide guidance and have supported the transition for the betterment of the services.

*Soli Deo Gloria, Pastor Muse*

### HEALING EVENT TUESDAY, MAY 20TH AT 7:00 PM.

This event will include a sound bath, meditation, Reiki, Hot stones, deep heat, Light therapy, Red Light, and other avenues of healing. All are welcome to attend, and no experience is needed.

### KATIE'S GRADUATION PARTY

Pastor Muse and Pastor Thompson invite each of you to attend Katie Thompson's graduation party on Sunday, May 25th from 2 pm to 4 pm at the church.

Come and help her celebrate this incredible accomplishment.

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## FROM PASTOR THOMPSON

<sup>8</sup> But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. <sup>9</sup> The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. <sup>10</sup> They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." (Ruth 1:8-10)

May is the month we celebrate Mother's Day in the U.S. It is when people honor their mothers. Interestingly, one of the greatest stories of family in the Bible is the story of Ruth and Naomi. Ruth shows us that faithfulness in family is not always about the family you are born into. She faithfully travels and cares for the mother of her deceased husband. Their relationship is legendary.

I always think of this story when people talk about challenging times in their family of origin. I remind them that family is not always about who we are born to, but about life-giving relationships.

One of the changes in our society is that many people don't

live close to their biological families because of work locations. When we broaden our understanding of what makes a family, it is about who shows up when we need them. Who speaks with us, guiding without self-serving intention? These are your family. They may be related to you by blood or marriage, but they can also be the community of care and support we surround ourselves with.

As you plan for Mother's Day, I hope you can rejoice in the family you create and the family to which you were born.

Peace,

*Pastor Diana Thompson*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Our theme for 2024-2025 School year

“Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” *Matthew 11:29*

We have reached the final month of our education program at St. Paul’s for the year. We have classes for all ages. **We thank Trudy Mehl, Diana Cullen and Pastor Muse for their dedication to teaching and guiding our congregation in growing their faith.**

**Bible Study** has resumed on Wednesdays at 10:00 am and 7:00 pm. All are welcome to join.

**Christ in Our Home** devotional books are available on the table in Garnes Hall. If you would like to receive the Daily Devotional email sign up through the web-site or contact the

pastor for assistance.

**Youth Group** is every Wednesday at 5:30 pm. It is open to all youths in 1st grade through 12th grade.

**Our Library** continues to grow and expand. Take the opportunity to visit our collection and see if there is something that speaks to you.

**Vacation Bible School** will be June 23 through June 27. The Theme this year is “Wonder Junction.”

### 2025 GRADUATES

We welcome graduate information. We want to celebrate our 2025 graduates so please get that information to the church office. Any graduations, advancements, certificates, achievements, or other celebrations. You can email them to the church office, [St.PaulsAlliance@outlook.com](mailto:St.PaulsAlliance@outlook.com). You are also welcome to email a picture of your graduate. Please write the announcement out entirely so that the information can be copied directly to the newsletter. You are also welcome to submit a photo.

**The office must have the information by May 18 to include it in the June Messenger.**

### KLUSCH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Now is the time for eligible youth of St. Paul’s to apply for consideration for The Klusch Memorial Scholarships.

**Please use the following guidelines:**

An applicant, in addition to the letter of application, submits a copy of any financial grants, a college or high school transcript, and a listing of registered courses for the next semester. A copy of the student’s financial awards from the school will be requested.

**Requests for scholarship consideration should be made in writing by June 1 .** It is the intent of the Committee to notify applicants by July 1.

**Send to:** Pastor Muse,  
3295 S. Union Ave  
Alliance, Oh 44601

The Klusch Memorial Scholarships are primarily intended to get students initially into school, they can be used for any type of higher education such as trade schools, adult education etc., and after that the amount will depend on the number of applicants and availability of funds. The month of August is designed as Scholarship emphasis month.



## MUSIC & WORSHIP

Music & Worship Committee will meet Sunday, May 4 immediately following the service. Please see Gina Falconer if you are unable to attend.

Pentecost is coming up on **Sunday, June 8. Wear RED** and show we are on fire with the Holy Spirit!

**A BIG THANK YOU** to all those who participated in our singing and ringing choirs this year. As our choir season is

coming to an end, we appreciate your willingness to spend your time and share your talents with us!

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 Muse or Gina Falconer

*The Eternal Flame is given to the glory of God  
In memory of our parents who have passed  
by John and Karen Wolfe.*



## Happy May 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-Bob Lavery	7-Jacob Mellinger	12-Jerry Smith	21-Jacob Rackley
2-Elise Wallace	7-Kay Molnar	13-Doug Tarnovich	22-Cheryl Lundgren
3-Brandon Dimit	8-Pat Lauer	13-Rev. Diana Thompson	22-Jo Dietz
3-James Molnar	8-Kaitlin Holbrook	15-Colin Eggleston	23-Katrina Bergmann
3-Melinda Bailey	9-Reese Ann Hays	16-Andy Pifer	24-Greg Brookes
3-Dominic Falconer	9-Jody Evans	18-Sam Kinnard	26-Emily Owens
3 -Angela Britton	10 -Dick Miller	20-Jacob Campbell	28-Jesse White
4-Bonnie Holland	10-Joe Bilcze	20-Eric Stockli	29-Cody Turner
6-Grace Worley	11-Joanna Waite	20-Brianne Black	29-Becky McGowan
6-Donna Muse	12-Elizabeth Marriner	21-Joshua Rhome	31-Matthew Moore
7-Bergen Rhome	12-Doreen Mathey	21-Samantha Stryffeler	31-Dustin Campbell

## FELLOWSHIP

### PASTOR MUSE CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

Please mark your calendars to reserve **Sunday, May 18**, to join together in celebrating Pastor Tim's 25th anniversary of ordination and his 16th year of being our pastor.

Following worship that day, you are all invited to stay for a catered brunch followed by some light entertainment.

To assist with planning, a sign-up sheet

will be available in Garnes Hall to help us provide an accurate count for the caterer.

We look forward to seeing you there.

## Sunday, May 4, 2025

### Introduction

The disciples make a big splash and eat breakfast with the risen Jesus. Wading in the water (remembering baptism) and eating with Jesus (celebrating holy communion) is our weekly encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus asks us again and again: Do you love me? And Jesus invites us, again and again, to follow him, bringing the Easter life to others.

### Prayer of the Day

Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### Readings and Psalm

**Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]** *Paul's conversion, baptism, and preaching*

**Psalm 30** You have turned my wailing into dancing. (Ps. 30:11) **Revelation 5:11-14**

*The song of the living creatures to the Lamb*

**John 21:1-19** *Jesus appears to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias*

## Sunday, May 11, 2025

### Introduction

The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those “who have come out of the great ordeal” in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

### Prayer of the Day

O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Readings and Psalm

**Acts 9:36-43** *Peter raises Tabitha/Dorcas from the dead*

**Psalm 23** The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1) **Revelation 7:9-17** *A white-robed multitude sings before the Lamb*

**John 10:22-30**

*Jesus promises eternal life to his sheep*

## Sunday, May 18, 2025

### Introduction

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

### Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Readings and Psalm

**Acts 11:1-18** *Peter's vision: God give the Gentiles repentance that leads to life*

**Psalm 148** The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13) **Revelation 21:1-6** *New heaven, new earth: springs of living water in the new Jerusalem*

**John 13:31-35** *Jesus gives a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you*

## Sunday, May 25, 2025

### Introduction

Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. Jesus provides visions of peace that surpasses human understanding and power beyond human imagination.

### Prayer of the Day

Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Readings and Psalm

**Acts 16:9-15** *Lydia and her household are baptized by Paul*

**Psalm 67** Let the nations be glad and sing for joy. (Ps. 67:4)

**Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5**

*The Lamb is the light of the city of God* **John 14:23-29**

*The Father will send the Holy Spirit* **John 5:1-9** (alternate)

*Jesus heals on the Sabbath*

May 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Note: All worship services are available in person and online.				1 4:00 pm Catechism	2 7:00 pm Euchre and Dominoes	3
4 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Sunday School	5 7:00 pm Grief Support	6 7:00 pm Committee Meetings	7 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study	8 4:00 pm Catechism 6:15 pm Joybells 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	9 12:00 pm Deborah's	10
11 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Sunday School	12	13 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	14 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study	15 4:00 pm Catechism 6:15 pm Joybells 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	16	17 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
18 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Brunch Newsletter Items Due	19 7:00 pm Grief Support	20 7:00 pm Meditation and Healing Event	21 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study	22	23	24
25 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 2:00 pm Katie's Graduation Party	26 Memorial Day Church office closed	27 5:30 pm Community Dinner	28 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study	29	30	31

## FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

### FELLOWSHIP

March Coffee Hour Volunteers:

May 4 Greg and Cathy Brookes

May 11 Jeff and Norita Webb

May 18 Pastor Ordination Celebration

May 25 John and Karen Wolfe

### YOUTH GROUP

**EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 5:30 PM**

All youth, regardless of church affiliation, are invited to a time of food, fellowship, games, and learning. **This is open to 1st grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.**

### ADULT EDUCATION

Bible Study Wednesday at 10:00 am and 7:00 pm.

### MID-WEEK EUCHARIST

Join us for a time of prayer, word and Holy Communion. The service begins at noon and lasts about twenty-five minutes.

### EUCHRE AND DOMINOS

Friday, May 2, at 7:00 PM.

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The "Diaper Project" continues through the last Sunday in May. There are two drop off spots available. One under the designated table in the Narthex and the other on the table at the back of Garnes Hall. Look for the bright colored pink and/or blue poster board indicating "Diaper Donations. Any and all sizes and brands are appreciated. If you are unable to shop but would like make a monetary donation, please do so. Either drop it by the office, send it the mail or put it in the offering plate, just make sure it is designated "Diaper Project". Your help is greatly appreciated to make this a success.

### DEBORAH CIRCLE

The Deborah's will meet Friday, May 9 at 12:00 PM.

### MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's Breakfast will be Saturday, May 17 at 8:30 AM.

### THANK YOU

#### 2025 Easter Breakfast

Thank you to all who helped with Easter breakfast. Jill Castina, Jeff and Norita Webb, Greg and Cathy Brookes, Karen Wolfe, Jim Mehl, Austin Mehl, Josh Falconer, Bob Williams as well as all who cleaned up after.

Approximately 75 were served.

Donations totaled \$336.00.

Expenses were \$180.00

\$156.00 was given to the church for kitchen supplies.

Thank you all again for your help, Ron Castina

**ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Alliance, OH 44601

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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

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**JUNE 23 THROUGH JUNE 27.**

The Theme this year is "Wonder Junction."

**ANNUAL SHREDDER EVENT COMING.**  
**JUNE 28, 9 AM—NOON.**

Save your personal documents that need secure shredding. Donations of non-perishable food or cash will go to the Alliance Food Pantry.