



The Messenger

May 2026

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

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

FROM PASTOR MUSE

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me." (Exodus 20:2-3)

These words come just before the giving of the Ten Commandments. Before God asks anything of the people, God reminds them who He is—and what He has already done. "I am the Lord your God... who brought you out." It is a statement of relationship, of rescue, of grace. And then comes the invitation: "You shall have no other gods before me." This is not simply a command—it is a call to center our lives around the One who has already claimed us in love.

So often, it is easy to let faith become something that fits neatly into a few hours on Sunday morning. We gather, we sing, we pray, we hear the Word, and then we return to the rhythms and responsibilities of the week. But God's words in Exodus remind us that faith is not meant to be a compartment of life—it is meant to be the foundation of it.

God does not say, "I am the Lord your God for one day a week." God says, "I am the Lord your God"—always. And

because of that, the question becomes: What holds first place in our lives?

When God says, "You shall have no other gods before me," it is not about limiting us—it is about freeing us. Just as God freed the Israelites from slavery, God continues to free us from the things that compete for our attention, our identity, and our trust. Work, success, schedules, worries, even our own expectations—these can quietly become the "other gods" that shape our lives. But God gently calls us back.

To invest in faith, then, is not simply about showing up—it is about allowing our relationship with God to shape how we live, think, love, and serve each day. It is about choosing, again and again, to place God at the center.

This kind of investment often begins with small, faithful steps like taking a few moments each morning to pray or read Scripture. Pausing in the middle of a busy day to remember God's presence. Choosing grace in a difficult conversation. Offering time or gifts to support the work of the church. Encouraging someone who is struggling. Being

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Affirmation of Baptism	2
Christian Education Healing Event Annual Shred Event Music & Worship	3
Scholarship information Eternal Flame 2026 Graduate's May Birthdays	4
Lectionary Readings for May	5
May Calendar	6
Fellowship Youth Group Adult Education Deborah's Men's Breakfast Community Outreach Midweek Eucharist	7
Vacation Bible School	8

*You shall
have no other
gods before
me...*

Cont. from pg. 1

present—not just physically, but spiritually—in our worship and community life. These are not grand gestures. They are quiet acts of trust. And over time, they shape us.

In many ways, investing in faith is like tending a garden. If we only water it once a week, we cannot expect it to flourish. But when we care for it consistently—through daily attention and intention—it begins to grow, often in ways we do not immediately see. The same is true for our life with God.

And as we invest in our faith, we also invest in the life of the church. The church is not just a building or a Sunday gathering—it is a living community, a body of people being shaped by God’s grace and sent into the world to share that grace with others.

When we invest in the church—through our presence, our service, our generosity—we are participating in something much bigger than ourselves. We are helping create a space where others can encounter hope, healing, and the love of Christ. And yet, it is important to remember: this is not about pressure or perfection.

God’s relationship with us does not depend on how much we do, but on what God has already done. “I am the Lord your God... who brought you out.” That promise comes first and always. Our investment in faith is simply our response to that promise. It is a way of saying, “God, because you have been faithful to me, I want to walk with you more closely. I want my life to reflect your love—not just on Sunday, but every day.”

So wherever you are right now in your journey of faith, I invite you to take one small step this week. Not out of obligation, but out of love. Not out of fear, but out of trust. Let your faith move beyond a moment and become a rhythm. Let your relationship with God be something that shapes your whole life—not just a few hours of it. And as we walk this path together, may we continue to grow—not only as individuals, but as a community rooted in grace, grounded in love, and centered on the One who says: “I am the Lord your God... you shall have no other gods before me.

“Soli deo Gloria, Pastor Muse

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Pentecost Sunday we will witness three young people making their Affirmation of Baptism.

Myla Alise Raga

Jackson Lawrence Raga

Jacob Michael Lee Bailey

They will complete their Catechetical training and will profess their faith before God and the church on Sunday, May 24th. We celebrate with them as they begin a new chapter in their life of faith.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Our theme for 2025-2026 School year

“Great are the works of the Lord; they are studied by all who delight in them.”

Psalm 111:2

As we approach the end of our education cycle, be part of the finish, that it will be strong and faithful. We have classes for all ages, so we invite you to come out and grow in faith. If you would like to participate in the teaching team, please see Pastor Muse.

Bible Study meets every Wednesday at the church. We gather at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM to study the book of 2 Peter.

“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.

The youth group meets every Wednesday. We gather at 5:30 PM for a meal and conclude at 7:00 PM. Our leaders are Pastor Muse, Diana Cullen and Jill Mehl.

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

HEALING EVENT TUESDAY, MAY 19 AT 7:00 PM.

A healing event will be held on Tuesday, May 19th 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.

SHRED EVENT THE NEXT ANNUAL SHRED EVENT WILL BE HELD June 20th from 9:00 to 12:00

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

MUSIC & WORSHIP

Music & Worship Committee will not be meeting in May. Please see Gina Falconer if you have something that needs to be discussed before our next meeting.

Wear RED on Sunday, May 24 for Pentecost. Let us be “On Fire” with the Holy Spirit!
Choirs are winding down. Thank you to all who participated in our choirs this season. Your time and dedication is appreciated.

With choirs taking a break over the summer, we are looking for anyone who would like to share a musical talent with the congregation this summer. If you would like to sing or play a musical instrument to provide special music during a summer worship service, please see Gina Falconer.

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.

*The Eternal Flame is given to the glory of God
In loving memory of my husband Ralph
by Dorothy Aiello.*



2026 GRADUATES

We welcome graduate information. We want to celebrate our 2026 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. 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 17 to include it in the June Messenger.**

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 |



Sunday, May 3, 2026

Introduction As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm Acts 7:55-60 *The martyrdom of Stephen*

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5) **1 Peter 2:2-10** *God's people chosen to proclaim God's mighty acts* **John 14:1-14** *Christ the way, truth, and life*

Sunday, May 10, 2026

Introduction Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, 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 17:22-31 *Paul's message to the Athenians*

Psalm 66:8-20 Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard. (Ps. 66:8) **1 Peter 3:13-22**
The days of Noah, a sign of baptism **John 14:15-21**
Christ our advocate

Sunday, May 17, 2026

Introduction In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

Prayer of the Day O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, 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 1:6-14 *Jesus' companions at prayer after his departure* **Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35** Sing to God, who rides upon the clouds. (Ps. 68:4) **1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11**

God will sustain and restore those who suffer **John 17:1-11**
Christ's prayer for his disciples

Sunday, May 24, 2026

Introduction Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. In Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God's presence to all people. Paul reminds us that though we each have different capacities, we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God's redeeming love to all the world.

Prayer of the Day

O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm Acts 2:1-21 *Filled with the Spirit to tell God's deeds* **Numbers 11:24-30** (alternate) *The Spirit comes upon the elders of Israel* **Psalm 104:24-34, 35b**

Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. (Ps. 104:30) **1 Corinthians 12:3b-13** *Varieties of gifts from the same Spirit* **Acts 2:1-21** (alternate) *Filled with the Spirit to tell God's deeds* **John 20:19-23**
The Spirit poured out **John 7:37-39** (alternate) *The Spirit will provide living water*

Sunday, May 31, 2026

Introduction Though the word *trinity* is not found in the scriptures, today's second reading includes the apostolic greeting that begins the liturgy: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. In the gospel Jesus sends his disciples forth to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. More than a doctrine, the Trinity expresses the heart of our faith: we have experienced the God of creation made known in Jesus Christ and with us always through the Holy Spirit. We celebrate the mystery of the Holy Trinity in word and sacrament, as we profess the creed, and as we are sent into the world to bear witness to our faith.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm Genesis 1:1—2:4a

The creation of the heavens and the earth

Psalm 8 How majestic is your name in all the earth! (Ps. 8:1) **2 Corinthians 13:11-13**

Paul's farewell to the church at Corinth **Matthew 28:16-20**
Living in the community of the Trinity

May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 7:00 pm Euchre and Dominoes	2
3 Easter 8:00 am Easter Breakfast 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online)	4	5 7:00 pm Committee Meetings	6 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online) 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study	7 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	8 12:00 pm Deborah's	9
10 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Christian Education	11 7:00 pm Grief Support	12	13	14 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	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 Church Council Meeting Newsletter Items Due	18	19 5:00 pm Catechism 7:00 pm Healing Event	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 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	22	23 11:00 am Confirmation Rehearsal
24 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Christian Education	25 Memorial Day Church office closed	26 5:00 PM Community Dinner	27 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online) 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study	28	29	30
31 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Christian Education						

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

FELLOWSHIP

I'm sure by now most of you heard or participated in the "Fish Fry" held March 27 in Garnes Hall. To say it was a success, is somewhat of an understatement. Thanks to everyone who made it happen. It was a long day but it was fun to see how it all came together. With donations for the meal and the tickets sold for the Raffle Baskets we made a total of \$2983 before expenses. This amount will go toward satisfying our \$5,000 commitment for the Habitat Build this Spring and Summer. If you were not able to take part in this event, you can still contribute to the Cash bottle in the Narthex. Know that all contributions are appreciated.

Basket winners from the church family were:

Mexican Basket – Mark Miller (Dick Miller's son)

Snack Basket – Pat Lauer

Coffee Basket – Paul Hobe

Reikki Session – Deb Garrett

Sound Bath Session – Norita Webb

Sun & Fun Basket – Gayle Fiegenschuh

Baker's Basket – Sherrie Hobe

Garden Basket – Sue Grove

Kid's Easter Fun Basket – Jesse White

Bird Lover's Basket – Janet Hartzell

Lotto Basket – The Hoopes Family

Thanks to all who participated in this Fun Event.

We also enjoyed a wonderful breakfast before service on Easter Sunday. Thanks to the crew who prepared, served and cleaned up. Your continued willingness to do this is greatly appreciated.

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.

YOUTH GROUP

Youth meets every Wednesday at 5:30 PM. We have a meal, fellowship, lesson and games. All youth of the church 1st grade and up are invited to join. Contact Pastor Muse, Diana Cullen or Jill Mehl.

ADULT EDUCATION

Bible Study Wednesday at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM.

DEBORAH CIRCLE

The Deborah's will meet Friday, May 8 at 12:00 PM.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's breakfast is Saturday, May 16th at 8:30 AM. All men of the church are welcome to join this time of fellowship and growth. We conclude at 10:00AM.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The "Diaper Collection Project" continued through the last Sunday in April. We truly had a wonderful response from our church family to help this cause at the Alliance Community Pantry. With the boxes of diapers given, they will receive a total of 704 diapers in various sizes plus a large box of 1,080 wipes. They will be truly appreciated. The May Community Dinner will happen on Tuesday, May 26. We gather around 4:30p.m. to get set up. Serve from 5:00 p.m. until we run out of food which is normally by 5:45p.m. at the latest. Then clean up and we're normally done shortly after 6:00p.m. It's a very satisfying couple of hours. We get lots of smiles and "thank you" as the folks leave after being fed.

EUCHRE AND DOMINOS

Friday, May 1, at 7:00 PM.

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

3295 S. Union Ave
Alliance, OH 44601

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ALLIANCE, OH

*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

Rhonda Shilling- Secretary

Kathy Sloan - Organist

Gina M. Falconer - Director of Music

Gayle B. Fiegenschuh - Communion Minister and Visitation



**Church office will be closed
Monday May 25, 2026.**



**Reminder we need all
graduate information to
the church office by
May 17, 2026.**

VBS

“Snowball Mountain Challenge”

Monday June 22 to Friday June 26th 9:00 AM to
12:00 PM Program and lunch provided Registration
material in Garnes Hall and on the website.

