



The Messenger

April 2026

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

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

“Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.” — Psalm 30:5

As we move deeper into this holy season, we are drawn once again into the powerful rhythm of the Christian story—a rhythm that does not rush past suffering but walks straight through it. It is a rhythm that reminds us of a truth we sometimes resist: there is no Easter without Good Friday.

We live in a world that prefers to skip ahead. We want resurrection without crucifixion, victory without sacrifice, joy without sorrow. Yet the Gospel does not allow us to bypass the cross. Before the empty tomb, there is a borrowed grave. Before the alleluias of Easter morning, there is the silence of Holy Saturday. Before the light breaks, there is darkness.

Psalm 30:5 speaks honestly into this reality: “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.” Notice the order weeping first, then joy. It is night first, then morning. This is not just the story of Jesus—it is also the story of our lives.

Good Friday is not merely a historical remembrance; it is a mirror. It reflects the brokenness of our world and the burdens we carry. Grief that lingers longer than we expected. Relationships that strain or break. Anxiety that keeps us awake at

night. Regret over things we cannot undo. Questions that seem to have no answers. Good Friday tells us something profoundly important: God does not ignore our suffering—He enters into it.

In Jesus, God does not stand at a distance. He walks the road of pain. He feels abandonment. He carries the weight of sin. He breathes His last. And in doing so, He sanctifies even our darkest moments. There is no place so broken, no night so deep, that Christ has not already been there.

As people of faith, we live in the tension between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. We are people of resurrection hope—but we still experience crucifixion realities. This means two things are true at the same time: we still weep and we still hope. Faith does not deny the night—it trusts that morning is coming.

This is especially important in our modern lives. We are often told to “stay positive” or “move on quickly,” but Scripture invites us into something deeper. It gives us permission to lament, to sit in the tension, and to trust God in the middle of it. Even Jesus did not rush past Good Friday.

And yet—this is not the end of the story. Psalm 30:5 does not stop with weeping. It points us forward: “joy

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*... There is no
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comes in the morning.” Easter is God’s declaration that suffering does not have the final word. Death does not win. Darkness does not last forever. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is not just a miracle—it is a promise. Broken things can be made whole. Lost hope can be restored. Sin can be forgiven. Death itself can be defeated. Easter tells us that God is always at work—even when we cannot see it. Even in the silence of Saturday. Even in the depths of despair.

So what does this mean for us, here and now? It means that whatever “Good Friday” you are experiencing in your life, you are not alone—and it is not the end of your story. If you are walking through grief, God is with you. If you are carrying burdens, Christ has carried them too. If you feel stuck in the night, hold on—morning is coming. But it also means we are called to walk faithfully through the journey. We do not skip the cross—but we also do not lose sight of the empty tomb.

As a church, we are invited to be a community that holds space for both sorrow and hope. We walk with one another through difficult seasons. We proclaim the promise of resurrection in a hurting world.

This Holy Week, I invite you to fully enter the story. Come to Good Friday. Sit in the weight of the cross. Reflect on the depth of Christ’s love poured out for you. And then come to Easter—ready to rejoice, ready to celebrate, ready to proclaim that Christ is risen! The truth is there is no Easter without Good Friday, and because of Good Friday, Easter is certain. And because Easter is certain, hope is never lost. May you trust God in the night. May you cling to His promises in the waiting. And may you rejoice when the morning comes.

Soli deo Gloria, Pastor Muse

HOLY WEEK:
MAUNDY THURSDAY:
10:30 AM AND 7:00 PM
GOOD FRIDAY:
7:00 PM
EASTER SUNDAY:
9:30 AM

Apostle Build 2025

We have been invited into the 2025—2026 Apostle Build program. This is a unique opportunity for the church to partner with Habitat for Humanity to help provide a house for a family. We are blessed to be one of ten churches in this process. We invite you support in this program. There are three ways you can support this work. 1) Prayer. As you come before God in prayer, lift up this program that it will have success. 2) Volunteer. This program involves an investment of time. Either working on the site at the house or making lunch for a work day. More information will be brought forward in the spring. 3) Financial donation. We do have a financial investment in this program and would welcome any support and participation from the community. You can make a direct donation through the offering plate, there will be a change collection container in the welcome center. Please consider a donation, even in a small way to this incredible project.

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.”

Psalms 111:2

Spring has come and it is a great time to grow in faith as the flowers grow around us. Let our education program be part of that growth. 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 will return Wednesday, April 15th. We will gather at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM to bring 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, APRIL 21 AT 7:00 PM.

A healing event will be held on Tuesday, April 21st 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 meet on Tuesday, April 7 at 7:00 PM. Please see Gina Falconer if you are unable to attend.

If you are willing to lector, usher, greet or help lead the singing for online worship, please let Pastor or Gina Falconer know. Your service would be greatly appreciated. There will be no regular choir rehearsals on Thursday, April 2 or 9.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES:

Maundy Thursday – April 2 – 10:30 AM communion worship in the chapel 7:00 PM communion worship in the sanctuary

Good Friday – April 3 – 7:00 PM worship in the sanctuary
Easter Sunday – April 5 – 9:30 AM – communion worship (Easter Breakfast at 8:00 AM)

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 thankfulness and memory of my parents
Donald and Joan Boyce, for my grandmother
Juanita Shutler and for my sister Dawn Boyce
who are all deeply missed and very much
loved by Diana Cullen.*



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 April 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 - Christina Castina | 15 - Emily Hughes | 26 - Bill Lavery |
| 1- Sue Sanor | 16 - Betty Lou Kee | 26 - Jackson Raga |
| 7 - Lindsey Campbell | 16 - Robert Mohr | 26 - Myla Raga |
| 8 - Steven Mathey | 16 - Michael Wiggs | 26 - Abbie Guthrie |
| 8 - Ross Broadwater | 18 - Paige Worley | 29 - Seth Turner |
| 9 - Sara Mehl | 19 - Rodney Campbell | 30 - John Wolfe |
| 11 - JoAnn Brenner | 20 - Chris Fahnert | |
| 11 - Betty Schneider | 22 - Marcus Hoopes | |
| 13 - Megan Mangoagui | 24 - Daniel Eshler | |
| 15 - Angela Eggleston | 26 - Kevin Hoopes | |



Sunday, April 5, 2026

Introduction

This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, “God shows no partiality” (Acts 10:34): Christ’s resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God’s faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God’s endless love.

Prayer of the Day

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Readings and Psalm

Acts 10:34-43 *God raised Jesus on the third day*

Jeremiah 31:1-6 (alternate) *Joy at the restoration of God’s people*

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps. 118:24) Colossians 3:1-4

Raised with Christ to seek the higher things Acts 10:34-43 (alternate) *God raised Jesus on the third day* Matthew 28:1-10 *Proclaim the resurrection* John 20:1-18 (alternate) *Seeing the risen Christ*

Sunday, April 12, 2026

Introduction

In today’s gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives.

Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ’s blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Readings and Psalm

Acts 2:14a, 22-32 *Christ’s resurrection: the fulfillment of God’s promise to David* Psalm 16 In your presence there is fullness of joy. (Ps. 16:11) 1 Peter 1:3-9 *New birth to a living hope through the resurrection* John 20:19-31 *Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ*

Sunday, April 19, 2026

Introduction

Today’s gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord’s day.

Prayer of the Day

O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Readings and Psalm

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 *Receiving God’s promise through baptism*

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 I will call on the name of the LORD. (Ps. 116:13) 1 Peter 1:17-23

Born anew through the living word of God Luke 24:13-35 *Eating with the risen Christ*

Sunday, April 26, 2026

Introduction

Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.

Prayer of the Day

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, 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 2:42-47 *The believers’ common life*

Psalm 23 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1) 1 Peter 2:19-25 *Follow the shepherd, even in suffering* John 10:1-10 *Christ the shepherd*

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online)	2 10:30 am Maundy Thursday Chapel service 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Sanctuary service	3 7:00 pm Good Friday service	4
5 Easter 8:00 am Easter Breakfast 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online)	6 Easter Monday Church office closed	7 7:00 pm Committee Meetings	8 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online) 5:30 pm Youth Group	9	10 12:00 pm Deborah's	11
12 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Christian Education	13 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm Grief Support	14 5:00 pm Catechism 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	15 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online) 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study	16 6:15 pm Joy Bells 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	17	18 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
19 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Christian Education Newsletter Items Due	20 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	21 5:00 pm Catechism 7:00 pm Healing Event	22 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online) 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study	23 6:15 pm Joy Bells 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	24	25
26 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Christian Education	27 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm Grief Support	28 5:00 pm Catechism 5:00 pm Community Dinner	29 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online) 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study	30 6:15 pm Joy Bells 7:15 pm Chancel Choir		

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

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Coffee Hour Hosts for February
 Apr. 5 - Easter Breakfast
 Apr. 12 - Mark Himmelein, Joyce Falconer
 Apr. 19 - Jan Valentine, Lynette Guthrie
 Apr. 26 - Rod and Sandy Garver

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

There will be no Euchre Night for the month of April.

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.
Bible study will resume April 15.

DEBORAH CIRCLE

The Deborah's will meet Friday, April 10 at 12:00 PM.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's breakfast is Saturday, April 18th 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

For the months of March and April, our mission will be gathering BABY DIAPERS to be distributed at the Alliance Community Pantry. They are always in need of diapers, as the supplemental cards available to use will not cover this need. I was told their greatest need is for sizes 4,5,6,7 and 8, also 4/5 size pull-ups. However, any size will be appreciated. Also, if you are not able to shop yourself, please know cash donations are always welcome, as are coupons. You can mail your donations to the church, just indicate that the amount is to be used for the "Diaper" mission or see Karen Wolfe and give her your donation directly. Many ways to help out. The Community Dinners continue on the 4th Tuesday of each month. In January we had some new volunteers show up to help and we thank them for choosing to do so. Hopefully they will be able to come again. We all have a good time and the folks that come in for a meal are always appreciative. It gives you a good feeling that you helped out.

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The Reverend Timothy H. Muse - Lead Pastor

Rhonda Ferrall - Secretary

Kathy Sloan - Organist

Gina M. Falconer - Director of Music

Gayle B. Fiegenschuh - Communion Minister and Visitation

