



# *The Messenger*

## *August 2025*

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

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

*"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." — Matthew 11:28*

In the busyness of life, rest can feel like a luxury—something we'll get to "when things settle down." But in Matthew 11:28-29, Jesus calls us to something deeper than sleep or vacation. He invites us to find true rest in Him—a rest that soothes the soul, renews the spirit, and anchors us in God's grace.

Within our Lutheran tradition, rest is not weakness; it is a holy practice, rooted in the understanding that we are not saved by what we do but by what Christ has done for us. Our identity and worth come not from constant productivity, but from being beloved children of God. As Martin Luther reminded us, "This life, therefore, is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness... not rest, but exercise." And yet, even the exercise of faith requires moments of sacred stillness.

Jesus' words, "Take my yoke upon you... and you will find rest for your souls," remind us that we are not carrying life alone. The yoke of Christ is not about burden—it's about shared presence. He walks with us, lifts us, and offers a peace the world cannot give.

In modern life, rest must be intentional. We fill our days with screens, schedules,

and the pressure to stay ahead. But as Christian author and theologian Dallas Willard famously said, "You must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life." Rest is not just physical—it is spiritual resistance to the culture of burnout. Sabbath moments—whether a worship service, a walk in nature, prayer time, or a quiet meal—are ways to say, "God is in control. I don't have to be."

So this summer, may we hear Christ's invitation not just with our ears, but with our hearts. Take time to rest—not in guilt, but in grace. Take time to breathe—not in fear of falling behind, but in trust that God goes before us. And take time to remember that we are human beings, not human doings.

Rest well, dear church, in Christ's loving arms.

*Soli deo Gloria, Pastor Muse*

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*Come to  
Me*

## HEALING EVENT

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 19 AT 7:00 PM.**

A healing event will be held on Tuesday, August 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.

## CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Council Meeting has been moved to Sunday, August 17th following worship service.

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## FROM PASTOR THOMPSON

### Living In a World of Imperfection

*He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"* (Matt 13:24-30)

In a perfect world, everything would be tidy and organized. We do not live in an ideal world. We live in a world where good and evil, beneficial and destructive, live side by side. Sometimes it is difficult to determine what is good/evil, beneficial/destructive. What might seem like a good deed results in a bigger problem. So, how do we navigate this?

First, we acknowledge that we are imperfect as human beings. We can't always determine how our actions will affect others. Yet, we strive to live as faithful disciples of

Jesus so that we are producing actions and attitudes that Jesus calls the wheat in our parable.

Second, we acknowledge that the weeds (evil) are part of our lives. We find ourselves feeling surrounded by things that want to hinder our faithfulness.

The parable of the weeds in the wheat is a reminder that faithfulness is something we work through each day. Evil will be part of this world until Christ's return (the harvest). Will we give in to the threats of evil, or will we be determined to grow to spite it?

The joy of the community of faith is that we have each other to support us in our journey and help us resist the temptations of evil.

Let us grow as wheat, connecting our roots so that the weeds can not stop us from flourishing.

Peace, Pastor Diana Thompson

## 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*

We are gearing up for another great education program at St. Paul's. We will have classes for all ages, so we invite you to come out and grow in your faith. Fall classes will begin on Sunday, September 7th. Adult class continues during the summer for those who would like to attend.

Bible Study gathers 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.

The youth group will take a break for the summer and resume in the fall. Watch for future announcements.

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



Congratulations to the 2025 Klusch Memorial Scholarship Recipients, they will each receive \$1000.00 dollars to use towards their higher education.

Madelyn Bailey

Owen Hoopes

Kyle Hoopes

Jacob Marriner

Owen Marriner

Brady White

Kaitly Waite

Brianna Waite

## MUSIC & WORSHIP

Music & Worship Committee will meet Tuesday, August 5 at 7:00. Please see Gina Falconer if you cannot attend. Thank you.

Choirs will be starting back up in September or October. Please check next month's messenger and bulletins for rehearsal start dates and times.

Thank you to all those who have been willing to lector and usher. The sign-up forms are posted in the hallway by the office. Please feel free to sign up for a Sunday or two. There is no need to wait until you are asked.

Thank you to all who have volunteered to share a special music talent with us through the Summer months. There are still open dates available, if you would like to share music on an upcoming Sunday, please see Gina Falconer.

## THANK YOU

*The Eternal Flame is given to the glory of God  
In loving memory of ur parents, Pete and Flo  
Kline and John and Rose Turk by Bob and  
Shirley Kline.*



We at St. John's, are grateful for your willingness to share your VBS props with our VBS. Sincerely the crew at St. John's New Franklin.

Thank you to Aaron and Mathew Owens, Zach Owens, Jeff and Norita Webb and Dominic Falconer for helping to park cars on July 4th. Your help was greatly appreciated. We collected over \$1,000 in donations. Thank you Josh Falconer

## Happy August 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 - Lisa Wallace	10 - Wendy VanCamp	20 - Tyler Marschinke
2 - Elinore Blasiman	11 - Susan Dimit	21 - Joel Fahnert
2 - Paul Hobe	12 - Brianna Waite	22 - Mark Leforte
3 - Bailey Campbell	12 - John Himes	22 - Aaron Owens
4 - Tom Siegfried	12 - Pastor Muse	23 - Dave Marschinke
6 - Debbie Cosma	14 - Trevor Eshler	24 - Christopher Eggleston
7 - Sandra Roush	16 - Amanda Henschen	24 - Lisa Himes
7 - Katie Thompson	16 - Lindsay Lavery	24 - Annaliese Eshler
8 - Dwight Brenner	17 - Becky Brogan	25 - Sara Dennis
8 - Sandy Pollock	17 - Bob Skropits	26 - Kyle Trainer
9 - Tricia Schmoyer	19 - Morgan Buttermore	30 - Cindy McNemar
10 - Jake Marriner	19 - Cindy Campbell	



## **Sunday, August 3, 2025**

### **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. **Amen.**

### **Readings and Psalm**

**Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23** *Search out wisdom, for all is vanity* **Psalm 49:1-12** *My mouth shall speak of wisdom. (Ps. 49:3)* **Colossians 3:1-11** *Clothed in Christ, your life is hidden with him in God* **Luke 12:13-21** *Jesus says: Be on guard against greed; be rich toward God, your treasure*

## **Sunday, August 10, 2025**

### **Introduction**

Jesus says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." It is God's promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the "little flock" of which we are a part in today's assembly. Faith, God's baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

### **Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **Readings and Psalm**

**Genesis 15:1-6** *God's promise of a child for Abram and Sarai* **Psalm 33:12-22** *Let your lovingkindness be upon us, as we place our hope in you. (Ps. 33:22)* **Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16** *A model for us: Abraham's faith in a new home given by God* **Luke 12:32-40** *God will give you the treasure of the kingdom; sell all that you have*

## **Sunday, August 17, 2025**

### **Introduction**

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great "cloud of witnesses." In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

### **Prayer of the Day**

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to

take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **Readings and Psalm**

**Jeremiah 23:23-29** *God's word is like fire, like a hammer that breaks rocks* **Psalm 82** *Arise, O God, and rule the earth. (Ps. 82:8)* **Hebrews 11:29—12:2** *The faith of the Hebrew people, a great cloud of witnesses* **Luke 12:49-56** *Jesus brings fire on earth and has a baptism with which to be baptized*

## **Sunday, August 24, 2025**

### **Introduction**

Remember the sabbath day. Call the sabbath a delight. This is the Lord's day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.

### **Prayer of the Day**

O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **Readings and Psalm**

**Isaiah 58:9b-14** *Do not trample the sabbath, but feed the hungry* **Psalm 103:1-8** *The LORD crowns you with mercy and steadfast love. (Ps. 103:4)* **Hebrews 12:18-29** *You have come to the city of the living God and to Jesus* **Luke 13:10-17** *Jesus heals a crippled woman on the sabbath and is condemned*

## **Sunday, August 31, 2025**

### **Introduction**

Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ's banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

### **Prayer of the Day**

O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **Readings and Psalm**

**Proverbs 25:6-7a** *Do not put yourself forward* **Sirach 10:12-18** (alternate) *Judgment upon the proud* **Psalm 112** *The righteous are merciful and full of compassion. (Ps. 112:4)* **Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16** *God is with us: let acts of mutual love continue* **Luke 14:1, 7-14** *An image of God's reign: invite the poor, crippled to your banquet*

## August 2025

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 Adult Education	4 7:00 pm Grief Support	5 7:00 pm Committee Meetings	6 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online) 7:00 pm Bible Study	7	8 12:00 pm Deborah's	9 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
10 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Adult Education	11 7:00 pm Grief Support	12	13 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online) 7:00 pm Bible Study	14	15	16
17 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Church Council Meeting Newsletter Items Due	18	19 7:00 pm Healing Event	20 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online) 7:00 pm Bible Study	21	22	23
24 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Adult Education	25 7:00 pm Grief Support	26 5:00 PM Community Dinner	27 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online) 7:00 pm Bible Study	28	29	30
31 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Adult Education						

## FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

### FELLOWSHIP

Coffee hour volunteers for August:

Aug. 3 – Greg and Cathy Brookes

Aug. 10 – Sue and Melissa Sanor

Aug. 17 – TBA

Aug. 24 – Aaron and Zach Owens

Aug. 31 – TBA

Please know you DO NOT have to wait to be asked to help with Coffee Hour. You can simply check with Karen Wolfe, Norita Webb or Cathy Brookes. We will check the schedule and find a Sunday that is open when you can help that will match your schedule. Thanks to all who continue to volunteer.

### EUCHRE AND DOMINOS

Done until Fall. Watch the Messenger for information on when we will return.

### 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

The youth group will take a break for the summer and resume in the fall. Watch for future announcements.

### ADULT EDUCATION

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

### DEBORAH CIRCLE

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

### MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's breakfast: Saturday August 9th at 8:30 AM. Please note this is a shift in weeks from previous months. We look forward to hosting the men of the church.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

It's already time to begin thinking of the new school year. This year we are going to help the Alliance High School stock their "Hygiene Stations". Donations for this project will be accepted during the months of August and September. Please place them in the designated container in the Narthex.

The entire list of items needed is shown below. Trial/travel size or Hotel samples are preferred but they will accept regular size items as well.

Deodorant, Soap, Body wash, Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Lotion, Toothbrushes and Toothpaste, Hand Sanitizer, Chapstick Sanitary Pads, Tissues (On-the-go size), Laundry Detergent (Small)

Most of these travel size items are available at the stores where you shop and are not overly expensive. As always, if you cannot shop yourself but want to donate towards the project. You can put your cash in the offering plate, marking it "Hygiene Project". Mail it to the church or drop it off at the church office indicating the same designation. Your cooperation is always appreciated. The report on the "Change for Life" project we concluded at the end of June is some over \$530. If there are still some baby bottles that have not been turned in, please do not hesitate to bring them to the church and the amount will be added to that already collected. As always thank you for your generosity. The August date for the Community Dinner is Tuesday, the 26th. If you would like to help, please check with Greg Brookes. Thank you.

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

3295 S. Union Ave  
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

