



The Messenger *July 2025*

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

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

"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." — Galatians 5:1

We live in a world that talks a lot about freedom—freedom of speech, freedom of choice, freedom to be ourselves. But as Christians, we understand that not all freedom is the same. Some so-called freedoms can actually enslave us: the pressure to always succeed, the need to prove our worth, the weight of trying to be "good enough." These burdens quietly creep in and rob us of the joy Christ came to give.

Paul's words in Galatians 5:1 are a loud and loving reminder: Christ has already set us free. Not someday. Not if we get our act together. Not if we prove we deserve it. He has already done it—on the cross, in His resurrection, and in the waters of our baptism.

This freedom is at the heart of our faith. We are saved by grace through faith, not by our works (Ephesians 2:8-9). That means our worth, our identity, and our standing before God do not depend on how well we perform, but on what Christ has already done for us. Luther called this being "simul justus et peccator"—at the same time righteous and sinner. We're not perfect, but we are perfectly loved.

Still, the temptation is strong to put the

chains back on. Maybe it's guilt from the past, fear of the future, or the endless striving to please everyone around us. Paul's call is clear: Stand firm. Don't go back. Don't let guilt, shame, or legalism take the place of God's grace.

So what does living in this freedom look like?

- It looks like resting in God's promises, even on the days you feel like a mess.
- It looks like forgiving others because you know how deeply you've been forgiven.
- It looks like waking up each day knowing that your value isn't in your performance but in your Savior.

And it looks like serving others—not out of obligation or to earn anything, but because you're already free to love.

As we walk together in faith, let's remind one another of the freedom we have in Christ. Let's be a church where grace is more than a word—it's our foundation. And let's never forget: in Christ, we are already free. Free to live. Free to love. Free to be God's own.

Stand firm in that freedom—because it's yours, today and always.

Soli deo Gloria, Pastor Muse

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*Be Set
Free in Christ!*

HEALING EVENT TUESDAY, JULY 15 AT 7:00 PM.

A healing event will be held on Tuesday, July 15th 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.

BIBLE STUDY

There will be no Bible Study or Mid-week Eucharist on Wednesday, July 23rd.

FROM PASTOR THOMPSON

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. 2 He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. (Luke 10:1-2)

As we enter the heart of summer, we are starting to see local fruits and vegetables growing. The passage above is part of our readings for July 6. It is an excellent reminder that even though plants produce according to God's design, they cannot provide food if there is no one to harvest them.

Jesus uses the metaphor of harvest and the seventy-two as laborers to remind us that the Word of God needs laborers to harvest the work God has already started. We are the laborers sent into the world to help those whom God has made Godself known. We are not growing the fruit of God's kingdom; we are co-workers with Christ in connecting God's action to people's lives.

God is always at work in the world. We are sharing the Good News to reinforce what God has already done. Millions of people are waiting to know they are loved without condition. They are waiting to hear that hope is genuine and not a fantasy.

We are all called to move from our place of comfort into the work that God has set for all followers of Jesus. Go! Be a laborer in God's world (the fields) so that God's harvest is gathered and plentiful.

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 are currently on summer break for the education program at St. Paul’s. Adult class continues to meet every week following worship 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.

NEWS FROM NEOSWO

The NEOSWO coordinating committee invites ALL units and women to gather on Saturday, September 13, 2025, at 10 AM at Zion Lutheran Church, Youngstown. This gathering will serve as a condensed synodical convention, with business meeting for the purpose of electing voting members for the 2026 Triennial Convention. The 2026 Triennial Convention will be held by Zoom, July 13-14, 2026. The Triennial Gathering will take place July 16-19, 2026 in Des Moines IA. The voting members should plan to meet at a ‘central place’ so everyone is on the same page. More details regarding that will follow later.

Monday, July 13 - July 14, 2026 - TRIENNIAL CONVENTION via Zoom

Thursday, July 16 - July 19, 2026 - TRIENNIAL GATHERING, Des Moines, IA

Anyone interested in serving as a voting member to the 2026 Triennial Convention should submit an application to Cathy Byers by July 30, 2025. We are entitled to 4 voting members. Nomination form and Triennial Grant application is attached.

We’ll review financial reports and election of SWO leadership. Your participation is valued and necessary. In addition to accepting financial reports we will also be electing/affirming synodical leadership. If you’re interested in serving on the Coordinating Committee, an application is attached.

Each unit is eligible to send one voting delegate to the business meeting and encouraged to promote attendance to all their women. Additional details on the program and activities will be finalized and shared in August.

The Coordinating Team

MUSIC & WORSHIP

Music & Worship Committee will NOT meet in the month of July. Please see Gina Falconer if you have anything that needs to be discussed before August. Thank you.

If anyone would like to sing or play an instrument to offer special music during a service this summer, please see Pastor or Gina Falconer.

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



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 – Madge Peters	
2 – Sara Picone	14 - Will Saunders	24 – Allison Castina
2 – Jani Middleton	15 – Danielle Saunier	25 – Tricia George
2 - Whitney Jo Wallace	16 – Jeff Hunter	26 – Ron Castina
3 – Matthew Rill	16 – Paige Burnworth	26 – Gayle Fiegenschuh
4 – Allison Bailey	17 – Ryan Davidson	28 – Dale Boyce
4 – Samuel Hays	18 – Sandi Fiegenschuh	28 – Barbara Hunt
5 – Jacob Kridler	19 – Rodney Campbell	30 – Lorraine Franks
6 – Jacob Craig	20 – Kayleigh Wonner	30 – Pearl Schuller
8 – Kyle Hoopes	22 – Terry Dennis	31- Melissa Sanor
10 – Donna Cubick	22 – Susan Henschen	
10 - Joan Huffman	23 – Cindy Miller	



Sunday, July 6, 2025

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.

Amen.

Readings and Psalm Isaiah 66:10-14 *Jerusalem, a nursing mother giving life to her children* **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** *Do what is right now and reap at the harvest time* **Luke 10:1-11, 16-20** *Jesus sends out seventy disciples into the harvest*

Sunday, July 13, 2025

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.

Amen.

Readings and Psalm

Deuteronomy 30:9-14

The LORD will take delight in your fruitfulness

Psalm 25:1-10 Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths. (Ps. 25:4) **Colossians 1:1-14**

The gospel is growing, bearing fruit in the whole world

Luke 10:25-37 *The parable of the merciful Samaritan*

Sunday, July 20, 2025

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.

Amen.

Readings and Psalm Genesis 18:1-10a *The hospitality of Abraham and Sarah to three visitors of the LORD* **Psalm 15** LORD, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1) **Colossians 1:15-28** *Hymn to Christ, the firstborn of all creation* **Luke 10:38-42** *Jesus says: Martha, your sister Mary has chosen the better part*

Sunday, July 27, 2025

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.

Amen.

Readings and Psalm Genesis 18:20-32 *Abraham bargains with God for the righteous of Sodom and Gomorrah* **Psalm 138** Your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands. (Ps. 138:8) **Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]** *Buried with Christ in baptism, raised with him through faith* **Luke 11:1-13** *Jesus teaches the disciples to pray*

July 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 pm Committee Meetings	2 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online) 7:00 pm Bible Study	3	4 Happy 4th of July Church Office closed	5
6 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Adult Education	7	8	9 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online) 7:00 pm Bible Study	10	11 12:00 pm Deborah's	12 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
13 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Adult Education Newsletter Items Due	14 7:00 pm Grief Support	15 7:00 pm Healing Event	16 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online) 7:00 pm Bible Study	17	18	19
20 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Adult Education	21	22 5:00 PM Community Dinner	23 No Bible Study or Midweek Eucharist	24	25	26
27 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Adult Education	28 7:00 pm Grief Support	29	30 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online) 7:00 pm Bible Study	31		

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

FELLOWSHIP

Coffee hour volunteers for July:

July 6 Jeff and Norita Webb

July 13 TBA

July 20 TBA

July 27 Richard and Cindy Miller,
John and Karen Wolfe

Please consider helping with coffee hour. As you can see we have openings for July and beyond.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

We will have a total to report for the "Change for Life" soon. By the time you read this, hopefully all the bottles taken have been returned. Thank you.

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. No Mid-week Eucharist on July 23rd.

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.

No Bible study on July 23rd.

DEBORAH CIRCLE

The Deborah's will meet Friday, July 11 at 12:00 PM.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's breakfast: Saturday July 12th 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.

EUCHRE AND DOMINOS

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

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

3295 S. Union Ave
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

