



The Messenger

July 2026

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

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

FROM PASTOR MUSE

"There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours." — Psalm 86:8

One of the most important questions we can ask ourselves is this: How big is your God?

Not how big is your church, your faith, your Bible knowledge, or even your prayer life. The deeper question is whether the God you trust is truly as big as the God revealed in Scripture.

King David asks us to consider this in Psalm 86. Surrounded by enemies, facing uncertainty, and carrying the burdens of leadership, David does not focus on the size of his problems. Instead, he focuses on the greatness of God. He declares, "There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours." What David understood is something we often forget: our view of God shapes the way we live.

When our God becomes small, our fears become large. When our God becomes small, every challenge appears overwhelming, every setback feels permanent, and every uncertainty becomes a reason for anxiety. We begin to place our trust in our own abilities, our bank accounts, our plans, or even other people. Yet all of these things eventually disappoint us because none of them are

big enough to carry the weight of our lives.

Martin Luther once wrote that whatever we fear, love, and trust above all things is our god. That means we are always tempted to create smaller gods—gods of success, security, politics, possessions, or personal achievement. These gods promise much but deliver little. They cannot forgive sins, conquer death, or offer eternal hope. The God revealed in Jesus Christ is different.

Our God is big enough to create the universe and yet loving enough to know each of us by name. God is powerful enough to overcome death and compassionate enough to hear the quiet prayers spoken in the middle of the night. He is faithful through every season of life—through moments of joy, times of grief, periods of uncertainty, and even those days when our faith feels weak.

As Lutherans, we confess that our confidence is not found in the strength of our faith but in the strength of the One in whom we place our faith. There are days when our trust wavers, when our prayers seem small, and when our hearts are burdened. Yet God's promises remain unchanged. God's grace remains sufficient. God's love remains steadfast..

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*How big is your
God?*

This is why the cross stands at the center of our faith. At the cross, God demonstrates just how big His love truly is. In Jesus, God enters our broken world, bears our sin, suffers our pain, and defeats death itself. The resurrection proclaims that nothing—not even the grave—can separate us from God's love.

So perhaps the question for each of us this month is simple: How big is your God?

Is He only big enough for Sunday mornings? Or is He big enough for your Monday struggles, your family concerns, your health challenges, and your uncertain future? David reminds us that there is no one like our God. His works are unmatched. His mercy is endless. His promises are sure.

As we move through the days ahead, may we lift our eyes above our problems and once again see the greatness of the God who has claimed us in Baptism, redeemed us through Christ, and continues to guide us by the Holy Spirit.

Our circumstances may change. Our world may feel uncertain. But our God remains the same—yesterday, today, and forever. And that is very good news.

Soli Deo Gloria, Pastor Muse

*The Eternal Flame is given to the glory of God
For the blessings of three new grandchildren
by Celeste Lautzenheiser.*



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	10 – Donna Cubick	20 – Kayleigh Wonner	30 – Lorraine Franks
2 – Sara Picone	10 - Joan Huffman	22 – Terry Dennis	31- Melissa Sanor
2 – Jani Middleton	13 – Madge Peters	22 – Susan Henschen	
2 - Whitney Jo Wallace	14 - Will Saunders	23 – Cindy Miller	
3 – Matthew Rill	15 – Danielle Saunier	24 – Allison Castina	
4 – Allison Bailey	16 – Jeff Hunter	25 – Tricia George	
4 – Samuel Hays	16 – Paige Burnworth	26 – Ron Castina	
5 – Jacob Kridler	17 – Ryan Davidson	26 – Gayle Fiegenschuh	
6 – Jacob Craig	18 – Sandi Fiegenschuh	28 – Dale Boyce	
8 – Kyle Hoopes	19 – Rodney Campbell	28 – Barbara Hunt	



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

Adult classes will continue through the summer months.

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. There will be no Bible Study on Wednesday, July 22.

“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 paused for the summer.

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

**THERE WILL BE NO HEALING
EVENT IN JULY. THE EVENT WILL
RETURN IN AUGUST.**

MUSIC & WORSHIP

Music & Worship Committee will not meet in July. 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.



Sunday, July 5, 2026

Introduction

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

Prayer of the Day

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm, Zechariah 9:9-12 *The king will come in humility and peace* **Psalm 145:8-14** The LORD is gracious and full of compassion. (Ps. 145:8) **Romans 7:15-25a** *The struggle within the self* **Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30** *The yoke of discipleship*

Sunday, July 12, 2026

Introduction

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm, Isaiah 55:10-13 *The growth of the word to accomplish God's purpose* **Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13** Your paths overflow with plenty. (Ps. 65:11) **Romans 8:1-11** *Live according to the Spirit* **Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23** *The parable of the sower and the seed*

Sunday, July 19, 2026

Introduction

It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

Prayer of the Day

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm, Isaiah 44:6-8 *There is no other God than the LORD* **Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19** (alternate) *God's sovereignty: both righteous and forbearing* **Psalm 86:11-17** Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth. (Ps. 86:11) **Romans 8:12-25** *The revealing of the children of God* **Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43** *The parable of the weeds*

Sunday, July 26, 2026

Introduction

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

Prayer of the Day

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm, 1 Kings 3:5-12 *Solomon's prayer for wisdom* **Psalm 119:129-136** When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. (Ps. 119:130) **Romans 8:26-39** *Nothing can separate us from God's love* **Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52** *Parables of the reign of heaven*

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online) 7:00 pm Bible Study	2	3 Church office closed	4 Happy 4th of July
5 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship	6	7	8 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online) 7:00 pm Bible Study	9	10	11 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
12 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship	13 7:00 pm Grief Support	14	15 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online) 7:00 pm Bible Study	16	17	18
19 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship Newsletter Items Due	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship	27 7:00 pm Grief Support	28 5:00 pm Community Dinner	29 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online) 7:00 pm Bible Study	30	31	

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

FELLOWSHIP

Our Church Family recently received this "Thank You" note that needs to be shared.

Thanks so much to the generous people of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The May 5 donation of diapers and baby wipes is a blessing to our many families who struggle to make ends meet. We sincerely appreciate your support. Gratefully,
Alliance Community Pantry

Coffee Hour Hosts for July are:

July 5 – Kevin and Michele Hoopes

July 12 – Judy Saunders and Jackie &
Scott Middleton

July 19 – Rod and Sandy Garver

July 26 – Jan Valentine and Lynette Guthrie

The coffee hour list is usually always available in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings. If you can help out on a Sunday, please see me and put your name on the list. Thanks, Karen Wolfe

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's breakfast is on Saturday, July 11th at 8:30 AM. All men of the church are welcome to join this time of fellowship and growth. We conclude at 10:00 AM. Please note the change in the weekend for the month of July.

4TH OF JULY

We will be parking cars in the Church Parking Lot for the 4th of July Fireworks. If you would like to help please contact Josh Falconer

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. There will be no mid-week Eucharist on July 22.

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group is paused for the summer. See you in September.

ADULT EDUCATION

Bible Study Wednesday at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM.
No bible study on July 22.

DEBORAH CIRCLE

Deborah's is paused for the summer.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

CLOTHED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS is a mission located on Main St. in downtown Alliance. They continually serve the less fortunate of our community.

During the Summer months the donations given to C.I.R. are less than at other times of the year. Throughout the month of July, lets gather the items that were suggested that can be distributed among those who stop by their facility and can take them when they leave.

Some Suggestions: Bottles water, Peanut Butter Crackers, Cheese Crackers, Pull Tab Cans of Vienna Sausages or Sardines, Fruit Cups, Jello or Pudding Cups, Protein Bars. ETC. All items should be in wrapped packages or single serving sizes, ready to consume. There will be a hand-out of these suggested items available in the weekly bulletin during the month of July. Please consider picking up a few items and bring them to the church. We will make a delivery in early August. Thank you for considering this cause.

EUCHRE AND DOMINOS

Has paused for the summer.

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

3295 S. Union Ave
Alliance, OH 44601

Non-Profit Org.

U. S. Postage

PAID

ALLIANCE, OH

*Our purpose is to
be the living body
of Jesus Christ!*



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Find us online!

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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

