



# The Messenger

## June 2026

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

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

### FROM PASTOR MUSE

*“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.” James 4:10*

There is something in human nature that constantly pushes us toward comparison. We compare our success, our failures, our families, our faith, our possessions, and even our struggles. Modern life encourages us to build ourselves up, promote ourselves, defend ourselves, and prove our worth over and over again. We live in a world that often measures value by visibility, influence, productivity, and achievement. Yet in the middle of all that noise, Scripture speaks a very different word:

*“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.”*

Humility is often misunderstood. Many people hear the word and think it means weakness, insecurity, or thinking poorly of oneself. Biblical humility is none of those things. Humility is not pretending you have no gifts. It is not denying your value. True humility is recognizing who God is and who we are in relationship to Him. It is the understanding that our lives are not self-created, self-sustained, or self-saved. Everything we have ultimately comes from God's grace.

Lutheran theology teaches us that humility begins at the foot of the cross. Martin

Luther often reminded believers that salvation is not something we earn through good works, religious performance, or moral superiority. We are saved by grace through faith because of Christ alone. That truth humbles us because it removes the illusion that we can save ourselves. At the same time, it lifts us up because it reminds us that God loves us completely, even in our weakness and brokenness.

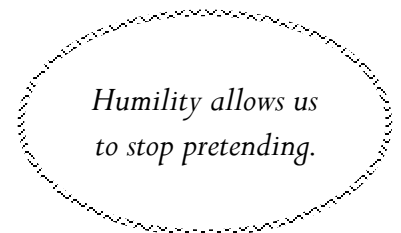
This is deeply important for modern believers. Many people today carry heavy burdens of anxiety, exhaustion, and pressure. We feel the need to constantly prove ourselves—to employers, to family, to society, and sometimes even to God. We worry that if we are not successful enough, strong enough, spiritual enough, or productive enough, we somehow fall short of being worthy.

But James points us toward freedom. Humility allows us to stop pretending. It allows us to admit we need help. It allows us to confess sin without fear because we trust in God's mercy. It allows us to lean on Christ instead of our own strength.

Humility also changes how we treat one another. A humble heart becomes more compassionate, more patient, and more forgiving. When we recognize our own dependence on grace, it becomes harder to look down on others.

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In a culture filled with division, anger, and pride, humble Christians become witnesses to a different way of living. We begin listening more carefully, speaking more gently, and serving more willingly.

This does not mean Christians become passive or silent. Humility is actually a form of strength. Jesus Himself showed us this. Though He was the Son of God, He washed the feet of His disciples. He welcomed children, touched lepers, ate with sinners, and gave Himself fully on the cross. Christ's humility was not weakness—it was sacrificial love.

James also reminds us that God “will exalt you.” Notice that the lifting up comes from God, not from our own striving. The world teaches us to climb higher by pushing harder. The Gospel teaches us that God raises up those who trust in Him. Sometimes that exaltation comes in quiet ways: peace during hardship, hope in grief, strength for another day, reconciliation in broken relationships, or

confidence rooted not in ourselves but in Christ.

As believers, we are invited daily into this posture of humility. We pray. We confess. We serve. We trust. We remember that our identity is not built on status or success, but on the promises of God given to us in Christ.

In a world constantly telling us to make ourselves greater, James gently calls us to kneel before the Lord. And in that kneeling, we discover something beautiful: God meets us there with mercy, grace, and the promise that He will lift us up in His perfect time.

May we live with humble hearts, confident not in ourselves, but in the faithful love of God.

*Soli Deo Gloria, Pastor Muse*



## 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.



## 2026 GRADUATES

### JAKE MARRINER

Jake Marriner graduated from Kent State University with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. While at Kent State, he served as a student leader with the Christian organization Cru and participated in mission trips to Costa Rica and Portugal. During the spring semester, Jake competed in the Spring Pitch Competition, Kent State's version of "Shark Tank," where he earned third place among 35 competing businesses. He is also the founder and owner of Marriner Outdoor, a lawn and landscape company based in Alliance. Jake is engaged to Olivia. They plan to get married in September 2027.



### BERGEN RHOME

Bergen Rhome graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from the University of Akron. He will be working as a RN at Summa Health in Akron. He is the son of Jeremy and Bethany Rhome and Amanda Hennen and grandson of Debbie Rhome and Sue Henschen.

### LOGAN WAITE

Logan Allen Waite, son of Joanna Waite and grandson of Jess and Ann White, graduated with Magna Cum Laude honors from Kent State University with a Major in Environmental Conservation Biology and a Minor in Park Management. He is currently employed by the Alliance city park system.



## 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*

Our education cycle has concluded for the year. Thank you to Trudy Mehl, Diana Cullen and Pastor Muse for sharing their time and talents to teach in our education program. 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 June 24th.

“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 will pause for the summer. Thank you to Jill Mehl, Diana Cullen and Pastor Muse for their leadership and all the youth who participated in the program.

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, JUNE 16 AT 7:00 PM.

A healing event will be held on Tuesday, June 16th 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, June 2. Please see Gina Falconer if you are unable to attend. 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 Denny  
by Debbie Rhome.*



**Thank You**

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, phone calls and prayers during my recent hospital stay. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.  
Blessings, Bob Williams

### Happy June 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 - Karen Ziemke        | 11 - Selma Kennedy     | 23 - Bethany White    |
| 1 - Aubrey Korosy       | 12 - Molly Hayes       | 23 - Lucas Woolf      |
| 3 - Katie Kirk Morrison | 13 - Briana Broadwater | 24 - Jolene Huffman   |
| 5 - Logan Waite         | 17 - Jake Hardin       | 26 - Bill Mehl        |
| 6 - David Lundgren      | 18 - Kyle Zeimke       | 27 - Nathan Ellsworth |
| 6 - Richard Cordingly   | 18 - Lori Zeigler      | 27 - Ed Roller        |
| 7 - Judi Ince           | 18 - Ann White         | 29 - Andy Castina     |
| 7 - Kathy Schafer       | 19 - Laura Lavery      | 30 - Michael Swain    |
| 10 - Kevin Palmer       | 20 - Barbara Caner     | 30 - Lisa Furcolow    |
| 11 - Erin Brookes       | 21 - Sheila Campbell   |                       |



## Sunday, June 7, 2026

### Introduction

Though Jesus was a devout Jew who practiced his faith, he was criticized for eating with tax collectors and sinners—the religiously nonobservant. Jesus criticizes the self-righteous and reminds us that mercy is to be at the heart of our religious practices. God continues to be made known in those on the margins of society, like Matthew the tax collector and the hemorrhaging woman. As we gather each Lord's day we receive the healing that makes us well and sends us forth to be signs of God's mercy for the world.

### Prayer of the Day

O God, you are the source of life and the ground of our being. By the power of your Spirit bring healing to this wounded world, and raise us to the new life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### Readings and Psalm

**Hosea 5:15—6:6** *God desires steadfast love*

**Psalm 50:7-15** Call upon me in the day of trouble, says your God. (*Ps. 50:15*) **Romans 4:13-25** *The promise to those who share Abraham's faith* **Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26** *Christ heals a woman and raises a synagogue leader's daughter*

## Sunday, June 14, 2026

### Introduction

Moses tells the Israelites that they are called to be a priestly kingdom and a holy people. Jesus sends out the disciples as laborers into the harvest. In baptism we too are anointed for ministry, sharing God's compassion with our needy world. From the Lord's table we go forth to proclaim the good news, to heal the sick, and to share our bread with the hungry.

### Prayer of the Day

God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### Readings and Psalm

**Exodus 19:2-8a** *The covenant with Israel at Sinai*

**Psalm 100** We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture. (*Ps. 100:3*) **Romans 5:1-8** *While we were sinners, Christ died for us* **Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23]** *The sending of the Twelve*

## Sunday, June 21, 2026

### Introduction

God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.

### Prayer of the Day

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### Readings and Psalm

**Jeremiah 20:7-13** *The prophet must speak despite opposition* **Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18** Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind. (*Ps. 69:16*) **Romans 6:1b-11** *Buried and raised with Christ by baptism* **Matthew 10:24-39** *The cost of discipleship*

## Sunday, June 28, 2026

### Introduction

The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

### Prayer of the Day

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### Readings and Psalm

**Jeremiah 28:5-9** *The test of a true prophet*

**Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18** Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing. (*Ps. 89:1*) **Romans 6:12-23** *No longer under law but under grace* **Matthew 10:40-42** *Welcome Christ in those he sends*

**June 2026**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:00 pm Grief Support	2 7:00 pm Committee Meetings	3 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online) 7:00 pm Bible Study	4	5 7:00 pm Euchre and Dominoes	6
7 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship	8	9 7:00 pm Church Council meeting	10 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online) 7:00 pm Bible Study	11	12	13 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
14 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship	15 7:00 pm Grief Support	16 7:00 pm Healing Event	17 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online) 7:00 pm Bible Study	18	19	20 9:00 am Shred Event
21 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship Newsletter Items Due	22 9:00 am VBS	23 9:00 am VBS 5:00 pm Community Dinner	24 9:00 am VBS	25 9:00 am VBS	26 9:00 am VBS	27
28 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship	29 7:00 pm Grief Support	30				

## FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

### ADULT EDUCATION

Bible Study Wednesday at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM.  
There will be no Bible Study on June 24th.

### YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group is paused for the summer. See you in September. Thank you to Pastor Muse, Diana Cullen or Jill Mehl for their leadership

### MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's breakfast is on Saturday, June 13th at 8:30 AM. All men of the church are welcome to join this time of fellowship and growth. We conclude at 10:00AM. Please note the change in the weekend for the month of June.

### DEBORAH CIRCLE

Deborah's is paused for the summer.

### 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

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The next community dinner that St. Paul's will host is Scheduled for Tuesday, June 23. The team gathers at 4-4:30p.m. and we begin serving at 5:00p.m. We are normally done serving between 5:30 and 5:45, followed by clean-up. Anyone interested in serving or providing cookies, please contact Greg Brookes (330-806-5153) It is a very worthy outreach project to be involved with.

We are in the process of determining what our next Social Outreach Project will be. We will keep you informed.

### 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 June 24th.

### EUCHRE AND DOMINOS

Friday, June 5, at 7:00 PM.

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

3295 S. Union Ave  
Alliance, OH 44601

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U. S. Postage

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ALLIANCE, OH

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



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Phone: 330-823-2285

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Find us online!

[www.livingbody.org](http://www.livingbody.org)

[www.facebook.com/St.Pauls.Alliance](https://www.facebook.com/St.Pauls.Alliance)

[www.twitter.com/PaulLutheran](https://www.twitter.com/PaulLutheran)

[www.instagram.com/St.PaulsAlliance](https://www.instagram.com/St.PaulsAlliance)

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

Stay informed and sign up for *The Weekly Messenger* email on our website, Facebook page, or text 4STPAULS to 22828.

