



The Messenger

August 2026

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

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

FROM PASTOR MUSE

"Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!" — Psalm 27:14

Summer has a different rhythm than the rest of the year. The days are longer. Gardens grow. Children laugh a little louder. Vacation plans fill calendars. Even if life remains busy, something about summer invites us to slow our pace, breathe a little deeper, and notice the beauty that often escapes us during the rest of the year.

Yet waiting has never been easy. We live in a world that prizes speed. We expect instant answers, same-day delivery, and immediate results. We become frustrated when prayers seem unanswered, when healing takes longer than expected, when relationships require patience, or when God appears quiet.

Psalm 27 ends with a simple but profound invitation: "Wait for the Lord." Notice that the psalmist doesn't say, "Wait because nothing is happening." Instead, we wait because God is always at work, even when we cannot yet see the outcome.

Throughout Scripture, waiting is never passive. It is a posture of trust. The Israelites waited for freedom. Hannah waited for a child. The disciples waited for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Even Jesus

often withdrew from the crowds to quiet places for prayer before continuing His ministry. Again and again, God's people discover that holy waiting becomes fertile ground where faith grows deeper.

Perhaps that is one of the hidden gifts of summer. Between vacations, family gatherings, baseball games, and backyard cookouts, there are small moments of pause. Sitting on the porch in the evening. Walking through a park. Watching a sunset. Listening to birds before the day begins. These simple moments remind us that we are creatures before we are workers. We are beloved children of God before we are busy people with endless responsibilities.

In Lutheran theology, we often speak of grace as God's free gift. We do not earn God's love through constant activity or endless productivity. God has already claimed us in Baptism, already called us by name, already embraced us in Christ. Because of that promise, we are free to rest. Rest is not laziness. Rest is an act of faith.

When we pause, we confess that God continues caring for the world even while we sleep. When we step away from our endless to-do lists, we remember that our worth is not measured by our accomplishments but by God's unwavering love. When

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*Throughout
scripture, waiting is
never passive.*

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
In memory of my parents Herman and Helen
Weick, Gene and Carolyn Williams, brother
and wife Richard and Marilyn Weick, and
sister and husband Bill and Peg Simon
by Bob and Mary Lou Williams.*



THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone for their thoughtfulness with cards, visits and food after my shoulder surgery. It was all gratefully appreciated. I am very blessed to have so many caring friends. Blessings to all, Shirley Kline

Thank you to Paul Cubick, Aaron Owens, Matthew Owens, Zach Owens, and Dominic Falconer for helping to park cars for the July 4th fireworks. Your help is greatly appreciated and thank you for volunteering.

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



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Our theme for 2026-2027 School year

“I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”

Philippians 4:13

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 13th. 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.

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HEALING EVENT

A healing event will be held on Tuesday, August 18th 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.

MUSIC & WORSHIP

Music & Worship Committee will not meet in August. 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, August 2, 2026

Introduction

In today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

Prayer of the Day

Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 55:1-5 *Eat and drink that which truly satisfies*

Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. (Ps. 145:16) **Romans 9:1-5**

The glory of God's people Israel **Matthew 14:13-21**
Christ feeding five thousand

Sunday, August 9, 2026

Introduction

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

Prayer of the Day

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm

1 Kings 19:9-18 *The LORD speaks to Elijah on Mount Horeb*

Psalm 85:8-13 I will listen to what the LORD God is saying. (Ps. 85:8) **Romans 10:5-15** *Hearing and confessing the word of faith* **Matthew 14:22-33** *Jesus walking on the sea*

Sunday, August 16, 2026

Introduction

In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

Prayer of the Day

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 *A house of prayer for all peoples*

Psalm 67 Let all the peoples praise you, O God. (Ps. 67:3)

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 *God's mercy to all, Jew and Gentile*

Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28 *The healing of the Canaanite woman's daughter*

Sunday, August 23, 2026

Introduction

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

Prayer of the Day

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 51:1-6 *The enduring foundation of God's salvation*

Psalm 138 O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever. (Ps. 138:8) **Romans 12:1-8** *One body in Christ, with gifts that differ* **Matthew 16:13-20** *The profession of Peter's faith*

Sunday, August 30, 2026

Introduction

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

Prayer of the Day

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Readings and Psalm Jeremiah 15:15-21

God fortifies the prophet against opposition **Psalm 26:1-8**

Your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you. (Ps. 26:3) **Romans 12:9-21** *Live in harmony*

Matthew 16:21-28 *The passion prediction and rebuke to Peter*

August 2026						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship	10 7:00 pm Grief Support	11 7:00 pm Church Council meeting	12 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online) 7:00 pm Bible Study	13	14	15 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship Newsletter Items Due	17	18 7:00 pm Healing Event	19 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online) 7:00 pm Bible Study	20	21	22
9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship	24 7:00 pm Grief Support	25 5:00 pm Community Dinner	26 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online) 7:00 pm Bible Study	27	28	29
30	31					

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

FELLOWSHIP

August 2 - Zach and Aaron Owens
August 9 - Jan Valentine and Lynette Guthrie
August 16 - TBA
August 23 - Richard and Cindy Miller, John and Karen Wolfe
August 30 - NO COFFEE HOUR we will be enjoying the CHURCH PICNIC

Community Dinner will be held Tuesday, August 25. The team usually arrives at Christ United Methodist Church in downtown Alliance to begin preparing the meal around 3:30 p.m. We serve the meal beginning at 5:00 p.m. We're cleaned up and on our way by 6:00 p.m. We serve sloppy joe sandwiches, chips, cookies and punch, coffee and water. We're always looking for volunteers to donate cookies, check with Karen Wolfe about this. If you are interested in helping on the 4th Tuesday of the month, talk with Greg Brookes for details. Thanks for your consideration in of these tasks.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's breakfast: Saturday August 15th 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.

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 Midweek Eucharist on August 5.

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 August 5.

DEBORAH CIRCLE

Deborah's is paused for the summer.

CARD SHOWER

Kathryn Fites Paina is turning 100 years young on her upcoming birthday September 17th. The family is asking to shower her with birthday cards to celebrate her birthday. Please send to following address:

Kathryn Fites Paina
2370 Burton Avenue
Alliance, Oh 44601

EUCHRE AND DOMINOS

Has paused for the summer.

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

3295 S. Union Ave
Alliance, OH 44601

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PAID

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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

Rhonda Shilling- Secretary

Kathy Sloan - Organist

Gina M. Falconer - Director of Music

Gayle B. Fiegenschuh - Communion Minister and Visitation

