



The Messenger

April 2024

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

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

FROM PASTOR MUSE

"Spring cleaning doesn't have to be a chore. It can be a refreshing time of renewal and growth."
-Peter Walsh

Traditionally this would be the time of year to begin the process of spring cleaning. Overall, this action is done far less than it was in the past, and the intensity has waned. This is mostly due to the fact that we no longer heat our houses with a coal furnace that left the walls, base boards, and curtains covered in a black film. Along with the efficiency of heating, we have better filters that catch the dust and debris before it reaches our living quarters. This all leads to a less intense spring cleaning, though it is nice to open the windows and air out the house. Yet this is a good spiritual image for this time of year.

The winter or wilderness of Lent is over. We have emerged on the other side and are basking in the glory of the resurrection, which fills our very being with the light of life. There is no shadow in the resurrection, there is no part of us that is hidden, so as not to be seen by the savior. Every area, every place, every thought, every moment is exposed by him who died and rose from the dead, so this is the time to do the deep cleaning of our soul, our spirit, our relationship with God. Time to open the windows and let the Spirit of God blow through.

We look into the corners of how we spend our time, how we invest our moments. Time is our greatest

commodity and our most limited resource. What we use our time for is most important to us, so what gets your time? If you were to mark down each minute of the day how would that look? Where would God fit into the chart? Would you be able to see the color on a pie chart or would it be lost among all the other things that get so little? When we are honest then we can know what God knows and begin to clean out the things that take our time and do not deserve it. We can wipe away the grime of the world and focus even if just a little more, on the work of God in and through us.

We look into the corners of how we give our affection. We are all capable of loving those we love and supporting those who align themselves with our identity, but what about those who we struggle to love and support. Those who are different, who think different, maybe even challenge us in our thinking? Those corners where we push those who we disagree with and want to objectify them. Those who Christ tells us are our neighbors, but we don't quite treat the same. We can wipe away the grime of fear and see in them the image of God, as we ourselves reflect it and desire to lift them up to the throne of grace.

We can look into the corners of how we use our money and resources. We are all so blessed in ways we cannot even begin to comprehend. How do we use this blessing, how do we equate these gifts in the eyes of God?

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Meditation

Tuesday, April 16, at 7:00 pm. Join in person or online.

There is no experience needed. Wear comfortable clothes and enjoy a time of peace, quiet, and centering.

Cont. from pg 1.

How do you support the mission of God in the world with your financial and resource support? We can wipe away the grime of scarcity and fear, trusting that what God has given us can be used for the glory of the kingdom and being freer in financially supporting God’s work here in this faith community.

This is a good time to clean out those corners in us, that have accumulated the grime of the world and let the power of the risen Christ fill them with love, hope and grace. May the Spirit of God blow through you and fill you with a cleansing growing hope.

Soli Deo Gloria, Pastor Muse

FROM PASTOR THOMPSON

THERE IS HOPE!

Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. (John 12:23-26)

As you read this, we are moving from Lent through Holy Week, culminating in our Easter Celebrations. We have looked at the theme of “Change” in Lent, and we are now looking at the fulfillment of Jesus’ work—his death and resurrection. Death is part of life, and death is necessary for salvation. There are many

types of dying. Through our “change” theme, each change in our lives is a small death. When letting go of one thing, something else can emerge. Our congregation is constantly changing. This can be anxiety-inducing, but we continuously turn back to God for guidance, wisdom, comfort, and courage.

Letting go of one thing opens the opportunity for something new. This is not to say that grief is not part of the process. Without grief, there is no investment in what was lost. We can grieve and still trust that God will make something new from what has died.

Jesus’ death was necessary to grant our forgiveness of sins. The disciples were lost until the new path was revealed—a path of new life and their appointment to continue Jesus’ work.

Even when going through a time of change, a future unknown, we are resurrected, saved, and appointed people!

As God’s people, our work is about faithfully living our call to share the Word of God, proclaim God’s love, grow in faith, and tell Jesus’ story in our words, actions, and lives.

Our hope comes through Christ! Our hope is the promised salvation and God’s love.

Peace, Pastor Diana Thompson

WELLNESS EVENTS

**MEDITATION
TUESDAY, APRIL 16,
AT 7:00 PM**

There is no experience needed. Wear comfortable clothes and enjoy a time of peace, quiet, and centering. Join Pastor Muse on-line or in-person.

**YOGA
SATURDAY, APRIL 27, AT 9:00 AM**

Join us for yoga. Angela is leading us in a time of refreshment, renewal, flexibility, and connection to our bodies and God. No experience is necessary. Please bring an exercise mat, if you have one. Some mats are available.

INK CARTRIDGE RECYCLING

We continue to collect used ink cartridges and toner cartridges. This is a great way to help offset the cost of office supplies. Our box is running low so please contribute. There is a donation box in Garnes Hall.

HOSPITAL ADMITTANCE

The hospitals are no longer informing churches if a member has been admitted. If you or a loved one is in the hospital please inform the church office or the pastor, so that we can be part of the healing.

THRIVENT

Every person who owns Thrivent Products has access to Thrivent Action Team dollars. If you own Thrivent products and are willing to work with the church to access these funds to support ministry at St. Paul's, please contact the pastor. This is a great way to build the church's mission and work for the betterment of the kingdom.

CONGREGATIONAL DIRECTORY

Please make sure that the church office is aware of any change in your information.

*The Eternal Flame is given to the
glory of God in honor of those who
have passed on before us.
By Celeste Lautzenheiser.*



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Our theme for the 2023 School year

“We will do justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly with God!” Micah 6:8

We have welcomed the resurrection, let us grow in our work of sharing Christ with the world. Come be part of the education process here at St. Paul's. There are classes for everyone, Pre-k through 2nd, 3rd through 5th, 6th through 8th, 9th through 12th and Adult. If you are interested in being part of our teaching team, please talk to Pastor Muse.

Children's Church is blessed with increase. This opportunity is for children up to 5th grade to have their own time that will take place during the Word section of worship. The Children who wish to participate will leave after the Children's Sermon and return during the greeting of peace.

Bible Study, in person will return Wednesday, April 3rd at 10:00 am and 7:00 pm. We will continue on with the book of 1 Corinthians.

Daily Devotionals and scriptures reading 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 weekly youth group is every Wednesday at 5:30 pm. It is open to all youth from 1st grade through 12th grade. We gather for a meal then learn and play games. Come join the fun.

Check out all the wonderful resources our library has to offer. There are many items that can enhance your journey of faith.

We want to celebrate our graduations. Please inform the church office, so we can raise those who have reached this accomplishment.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be Monday June 24th to Friday June 28th. Mark your calendars and invite your friends. The sessions will be 9:00 am to 12:00 pm each day. If you would like to volunteer please see Pastor Muse or Jill Mehl.

MUSIC & WORSHIP

Music & Worship Committee will NOT meet in April. Please see Gina Falconer if you have anything that needs to be discussed before our next meeting.

just sign up for a time you are willing to serve.
Thank you.

We would like to again encourage you to sign up to be a lector, usher! The bulletin board is located in the hallway by the office. Please, you do not have to wait to be asked,

There will **not** be any choir rehearsals on Thursday, April 4.



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.

Send to: Pastor Muse,
3295 S. Union Ave,
Alliance, Oh 44601

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.

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.

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.

Happy April 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 - Christina Castina | 16 - Betty Lou Kee | 26 - Jackson Raga |
| 7 - Lindsey Campbell | 16 - Robert Mohr | 26 - Myla Raga |
| 8 - Steven Mathey | 16 - Michael Wiggs | 26 - Abbie Guthrie |
| 8 - Ross Broadwater | 18 - Paige Worley | 29 - Seth Turner |
| 9 - Sara Mehl | 19 - Rodney Campbell | 30 - John Wolfe |
| 11 - JoAnn Brenner | 20 - Chris Fahnert | |
| 11 - Betty Schneider | 22 - Marcus Hoopes | |
| 13 - Megan Brookes | 24 - Daniel Eshler | |
| 15 - Angela Eggleston | 26 - Kevin Hoopes | |
| 15 - Emily Menegay | 26 - Bill Lavery | |



APRIL 2024—The Word of God in Worship

Sunday, April 7, 2024

Introduction

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Readings and Psalm

Acts 4:32-35 *The believers' common life*

Psalm 133 How good and pleasant it is to live together in unity. (*Ps. 133:1*) **1 John 1:1--2:2** *Walking in the light*

John 20:19-31 *Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ*

Sunday, April 14, 2024

Introduction

The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Sunday. In today's gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples' food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures, the two main elements of our Sunday worship.

Prayer of the Day

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Readings and Psalm

Acts 3:12-19 *Health and forgiveness through the risen Jesus*

Psalm 4 The LORD does wonders for the faithful. (*Ps. 4:3*) **1**

John 3:1-7 *The revealing of the children of God* **Luke 24:36b-48** *Eating with the risen Christ.*

Sunday, April 21, 2024

Introduction

The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

Prayer of the Day

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Readings and Psalm

Acts 4:5-12 *Salvation in the name of Jesus* **Psalm 23**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (*Ps. 23:1*) **1**

John 3:16-24 *Love in truth and action*

John 10:11-18 *Christ the shepherd*

Sunday, April 28, 2024

Introduction

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

Prayer of the Day

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Readings and Psalm

Acts 8:26-40 *Philip teaches and baptizes an Ethiopian*

Psalm 22:25-31 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. (*Ps. 22:27*) **1** **John 4:7-21**

God's love perfected in love for one another **John 15:1-8**
Christ the vine.

April 2024

April 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Note: All worship services are available in person and online.</p> <p>7 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Christian Education</p>	<p>1 Church office closed 7:00 pm Grief Support</p>	<p>2 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>3 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>4 4:30 pm Catechism No Choir practices</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>14 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Christian Education</p>	<p>8 6:00 pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>9 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>10 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>11 4:30 pm Catechism 6:15 pm Joybells 7:15 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>12 12:00 pm Deborah's 7:00 pm Euchre</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>21 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Christian Education Newsletter Items Due</p>	<p>15 7:00 pm Grief Support</p>	<p>16 7:00 pm Meditation</p>	<p>17 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>18 4:30 pm Catechism 6:15 pm Joybells 7:15 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 8:30 am Men's Breakfast</p>
<p>28 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Christian Education</p>	<p>22 6:00 pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>23 5:00 pm Alliance Community Dinner</p>	<p>24 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>25 4:30 pm Catechism 6:15 pm Joybells 7:15 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 9:00 am Yoga</p>
<p>29 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Christian Education</p>	<p>29 7:00 pm Grief Support</p>	<p>30</p>				

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

COFFEE HOUR

April 7 - Paul and Sherrie Hobe

April 14 - Betsy Goshorn, Gail Kelly, Pat Nelson

April 21 - Art and Cindy Garnes

April 28 - Jeff and Norita Webb

If there needs to be a change made to the volunteer schedule, please try to find your own replacement and let the church office know what that change is. If you cannot find a replacement, please let me know and I will try to get that replacement for you.

Donations of punch are also always appreciated. Thank you.

EUCHRE

Friday, **April 12 at 7:00 pm** in Garnes Hall. You do not need to know how to play to join us. We will be happy to teach you.

YOUTH GROUP

EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 5:30 PM

All youth, regardless of church affiliation, are invited to a time of food, fellowship, games, and learning. **This is open to 1st grade through 12th grade.**

DEBORAH CIRCLE

The Deborah's will meet on Friday April 12 at Noon in Garnes Hall.

ADULT EDUCATION

Wednesday Bible Studies return! Join us at 10 am or 7 pm to grow in faith through Scripture study.

MID-WEEK EUCHARIST

Join us in the chapel for a time of prayer, word and Holy Communion. The service begins at noon and lasts about twenty-five minutes.

REMINDERS

2024 GRADUATES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

We welcome graduate information. We want to celebrate our 2024 graduates so please get that information to the church office. Any graduations, advancements, certificates, achievements, or other celebrations. You can email them to the church office, St.PaulsAlliance@outlook.com.

You are also welcome to email a picture of your graduate. Please write the announcement out entirely so that the information can be copied directly to the newsletter. You are also welcome to submit a photo.

The office must have the information by May 19 to include it in the June Messenger.

SHREDDER EVENT

JUNE 1, 9 AM-12 PM

Everyone has bills, files, and other papers that need shredding for personal security. Our Annual Shredder Event is Saturday, June 1 from 9 am until Noon.

Shredding is free! Yes, Free! We are accepting donations of money or non-perishable items for our local food pantry.

Start gathering your documents. You don't need to remove staples or paper clips, but please, ring binders.

Invite your friends!

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!*



Email: st.paulsalliance@outlook.com

Phone: 330-823-2285

Fax: 330-823-8399

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www.instagram.com/St.PaulsAlliance

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**Graduation Announcements and
Achievements**

Due to the church office by May 19
(see page 7 for details)

**Klusch Memorial Scholarship
Applications**

Due June 1
(see page 4 for details)

Annual Shredder Event

June 1, 2024, 9 am—12 pm
(see page 7 for details)

Vacation Bible School

June 24-28, 9 am—12 pm
(see page 3 for details)