



# The Messenger

## July 2024

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

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

### FROM PASTOR MUSE

*"For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you,..."*

*1 Corinthians 11:23*

The summer months usually offer the community of faith a time of rest and renewal. A time when the committees slow down, the leadership meets less, the worship leaders take a breather and the tenor of their ministry slows a bit to offer growth and rejuvenation. We will experience this time as we enter more fully into the summer months, now that Vacation Bible School has ended. And yet as we ease into summer there is electricity that is starting to build within the community and the building.

We have yet to see any dust flying or paint chips hiding in the corners, but the renovation project has begun. The first of our contracts has been signed and the initial products have been ordered. Soon we will see the visual evidence of the work we agreed to a few months ago. This lag in time is not a set back but it was built into the process, as it takes a good deal of front-end time to get items ordered and produced. As we wait for the first of our physical work to begin let us look back for just a breath. Let us be reminded of how we are able to do this project, because faithful saints have given us the resources.

Members of this community, long ensconced in the church triumphant, saw

fit to leave the church a gift. These named the church in their will, which allocated funds to the church for the growth of the kingdom. We have benefited from the fruit of their love through the tenure of my ministrirs and have been capable of doing larger things without in house fund raising. We are here today, on the verge of a major facelift, without the need to borrow money from an outside institution or an internal capital campaign (if you want to donate we would welcome any additional funding) because of the saints who have gone before us. Their generosity is to our benefit and the kingdom's growth.

As we prepare to enter into this project, we celebrate names like Essick, Wagner, and Klusch who donated so generously. They saw the value of remembering their church in their legacy planning. We thank them for these gifts and we learn from them this act of generosity. What they have given has been passed to us to be faithful stewards in this time. It is also the example given of how we can be faithful in gifting those who come after us.

Have you considered where the church fits into your legacy planning? Have you considered naming the church in your will or estate planning, so that your stewardship and love for this community can continue on for generations to come? Have you discussed this with your spouse, family, pastor, or other spiritual advisors?

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*Keep your eyes open  
for the work that is  
going to happen!*

Cont. from pg 1.

We see the fruit of the gifts and we see how each of us, in some small fashion, can make a difference in the years to come. In the coming months there will be more focus on this, as a way to encourage each of us to consider this important ministry commitment.

*Soli Deo Gloria,  
Pastor Muse*




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## BETTER THE DEVIL YOU KNOW THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF SOMETHING NEW.

The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” (Exodus 16:3, *NRSV*)

When it comes to change, it is easier to bear the complex reality of the moment than the risk of change. The descendants of Israel wandered the wilderness for 40 years, waiting for God to fulfill God’s promise. When God is working something new in us, it is easier to fall back into old patterns. When God is working on us, and the results are not immediate, that makes it even more difficult.

Research shows that it takes over 10,000 hours to master a new skill. The fact that we are not automatically proficient, let alone a master of a skill, habit, or thought, is part of the reason change is difficult. When part of our lives change, it will take time to relearn how our lives are.

We naturally want to return to what is known even if we know that is not our best choice. It is the easiest option. A life of faith is filled with change and growth within ourselves and our congregation. We want the familiar, but that is not

always where we need to be.

Think back to a time when you experienced a rapid change in your life—perhaps a positive one, like moving to a new home or getting a promotion at work. It’s likely that you felt a bit disoriented as you adjusted to the new circumstances. You made it through, but it’s also possible that you looked back at where you were and thought, even for a moment, “My life was easier when \_\_\_\_.” It may have seemed more straightforward because it was familiar.

Remember, you couldn’t have lived that experience your entire life. We can’t grow as people or as disciples if we refuse to change. Just as God journeyed with the descendants of Israel, God continues to journey with us, providing the comfort and guidance we need in times of change. God provides what we need but does not deny us the discomfort of growth.

May God’s presence surround you and remind you that growth and change are not to be avoided. Instead, let us embrace all that God has in store for us.

*Peace, Pastor Diana*

## WELLNESS EVENTS

### YOGA TBD

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.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### CAMP FIRELIGHT—IS UNDERWAY

About 30 young people are registered for Camp Firelight from June 24-28.



Our theme for the 2023 School year

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

Our regular education program is on Summer break. The adult class continues to meet each Sunday after service and is walking through the Augsburg Confession.

Bible Study meets at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM. We are the book of 1 Corinthians. All are welcome to attend.

Daily Devotionals 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.

Children’s Church will continue through the summer months.

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

A great big thank you to all who helped with Vacation Bible School. This publication is being printed during VBS week so more information will be printed in the August Messenger.

**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 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 the cards, well wishes and prayers sent to me during my hospital stay. God was surely watching over me and we all know that “prayer Changes things.” Your kindness was appreciated by me and my family.

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



## JULY 2024—The Word of God in Worship

### Sunday, July 7, 2024

#### **Introduction**

Jesus does great deeds of power and gives his disciples authority over demons. Yet none of this power is unilateral; it all must be received by faith. Jesus asks his disciples to go out without money or supplies, so that they will be dependent on how others receive them. When we are sent from the assembly to witness and to heal, we are asked to be vulnerable, to be dependent on the reception of others. The Spirit always operates in the “between”: between Jesus and his Abba, between Jesus and us, between you and me, between us and those to whom we are sent.

#### **Prayer of the Day**

God of the covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

#### **Readings and Psalm**

Ezekiel 2:1-5 *The call of Ezekiel* Psalm 123

Our eyes look to you, O God, until you show us your mercy. (Ps. 123:2) 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

*God's power made perfect in weakness*

Mark 6:1-13 *Sending of the Twelve to preach and heal*

### Sunday, July 14, 2024

#### **Introduction**

When Amos reports his vision of God judging Israel for its mistreatment of the poor, he becomes a threat to the power of the priests and the king. John the Baptist also speaks truth to power, and Herod has him killed. In Herod's fear that Jesus is John returned from the dead, we may hear hope for the oppressed: all the prophets killed through the ages are alive in Jesus. We are called to witness to justice in company with them, and to proclaim God's saving love.

#### **Prayer of the Day**

O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

#### **Readings and Psalm**

Amos 7:7-15 *The sign of the plumb line: God's judgment on Israel* Psalm 85:8-13 I will listen to what the LORD God is saying. (Ps. 85:8) Ephesians 1:3-14

*Chosen in Christ to live to the praise of God's glory*

Mark 6:14-29 *The death of John the Baptist*

### Sunday, July 21, 2024

#### **Introduction**

Mark's gospel makes clear how great is the press of the crowd, with its countless needs to be met, on Jesus and his disciples. Yet in today's gospel Jesus advises his disciples to get away and rest, to take care of themselves. Sometimes we think that when others are in great need we shouldn't think of ourselves at all; but Jesus also honors the caregivers' need. We are sent from Christ's table to care for others and for ourselves.

#### **Prayer of the Day**

O God, powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

#### **Readings and Psalm**

Jeremiah 23:1-6 *From David's line, a righteous shepherd for Israel* Psalm 23 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1) Ephesians 2:11-22

*Reconciled to God through Christ, our peace*

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56 *Christ healing the multitudes*

### Sunday, July 28, 2024

#### **Introduction**

Today is the first of five Sundays with gospel readings from John 6, the first four of which focus on Jesus as bread of life. Today Jesus feeds thousands of people with five loaves and two fish. What we have, what we bring to Jesus' table, seems like it is not nearly enough to meet all the needs we see around us. But it is not the adequacy of our supplies or our skills that finally makes the difference: it is the power of Jesus working in the littlest and least to transform this world into the world God desires, a world where all the hungry are satisfied.

#### **Prayer of the Day**

Gracious God, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven and share this bread with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

#### **Readings and Psalm**

2 Kings 4:42-44 *Elisha feeding a hundred people*

Psalm 145:10-18 You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. (Ps. 145:16)

Ephesians 3:14-21 *Prayer for wisdom, strength, and Christ's indwelling* John 6:1-21 *Christ feeding the five thousand*

<b>July 2024</b>						
<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
<b>Note:</b> All worship services are available in person and online.						
	1	2	3 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study	4 Happy 4th of July Church Office closed	5	6
7 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Adult Education	8 7:00 pm Grief Support	9	10 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study	11	12 12:00 pm Deborah's	13
14 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Adult Education Newsletter Items Due	15	16	17 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study	18	19	20
21 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Adult Education	22 7:00 pm Grief Support	23 5:00 pm Alliance Community Dinner	24 5:30 pm Youth Group	25	26	27
28 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Adult Education	29	30	31 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study			

## FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

### EUCHRE

There will be no Euchre during the summer months, we will continue in the fall.

### 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 12<sup>th</sup> grade.**

### SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP TIME

#### Coffee volunteers for July

July 7: Karen and John Wolfe

July 14: Betsy Goshorn, Gayle Kelly, Pat Nelson

July 21: Paul and Sherry Hobe

July 28: Tim and Deb Owens and family

Donations of Punch are always appreciated!!

### DEBORAH CIRCLE

The Deborah's will meet Friday, July 12 at Noon in Garnes Hall.

### MEN'S BREAKFAST

There will be no Men's Breakfast in July due to Pastor's Vacation. We will return Saturday, August 17th.

## GROWING IN FAITH AND SERVING OTHERS

### ADULT EDUCATION

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

### 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.

### EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

#### The Change 4 Life mission.

The "Change for Life" project is drawing to a close. Many of you have already returned your filled baby bottles and we are grateful for that. If there are those who still intend on returning the bottle you took, please do so as soon as possible. We need to get the change counted and the funds sent to the Alliance Pregnancy Center. When we know a final dollar amount we will publish it so that we all are aware of the congregation's accomplishment. Thank you again for participating in this worthwhile project.

#### Alliance Community Dinner

Dinners continue to run smoothly on the fourth Tuesday of each month. We are thankful for the volunteers who faithfully show up each month to make this happen.

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

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Alliance, OH 44601

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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  
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

**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.

**RENOVATION TASK FORCE**

The Renovation Task Force thanks everyone for the positive vote on May 19th to proceed with the outlined project.

We will continue to update you on expected timelines and developments. It will be an exciting time!

Norita, Cathy, Ron, Paul, Mark & Pastor