



The Messenger

April 2025

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

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

FROM PASTOR MUSE

The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen.

Luke 24:5

It will not be long before we hear those words publicly spoken, as we celebrate the resurrection. The wilderness of Lent is fading into the light of the resurrection, and we will lift our voices and sing the song of new life. It will be glorious to hear those words and be reminded of the victory won in the rising of Jesus Christ. Death has lost its hold on us and so we can freely release our hold on it.

The work of God is incredible and life giving, but the work of humans can be something different. We will hear the words of new life, but we can very easily and almost longingly hold on to the old death that resides in us. There is comfort in the old pain and brokenness that we have allowed to grow in us over the years, to the point that releasing it can cause us discomfort or even fear. We have gotten used to the pain and the patterns of brokenness and learned to live our lives around them, so to embrace the true gift of new life we release those places of brokenness. The process of embracing something new means letting go of something old.

The idea of releasing the old patterns may be enticing to us, but the actual process is work and it requires a commitment to love, forgiveness and compassion. We can't fully change by hating something, we come to the place of loving ourselves in our pain and brokenness then out of that love seek to embrace the patterns of new life the stream forth from the divine. God loves us not for what we will become, but for who we are and so we too love ourselves for who we are, then seek to become who God desires us to be.

This process requires forgiveness. We have all made mistakes, tried and failed, saw things through lenses of pain or betrayal, and acted accordingly. This is life in human form, and to better ourselves in light of Christ's rising we seek to forgive ourselves for the brokenness we have caused, as well as those who have hurt us in their own pain and brokenness. We experience forgiveness pouring into us from a loving God and we can use it as an example on how to offer it to ourselves and others.

We hear God say to us, my child, I love you for who you are, and I will be with you as you walk this path of faith. You will stumble and fall, but I am here to be with you. God gives us great compassion and wants us to be compassionate to ourselves, as we try to walk closer to the risen Christ. It can be difficult to let go of

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*He is not here
but has
Risen.*

Cont. from pg 1.

old patterns, even when they don't serve us or our faith. God has compassion for us, so that we can have compassion for ourselves and others who are journeying through life.

You are invited, as you dwell in the joy of Easter, to be a new creation and strive to live into that newness with the power of God. Soon Lent will be over and Easter will begin, when it does you are free to release Lent fully and walk into the light of Christ's rising.

Soli Deo Gloria, Pastor Muse

HEALING EVENT

A healing event will be held on Tuesday, April 15th 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 not experience is needed.

SUPPORT FOR CALIFORNIA WILD FIRES

We will be collecting donations to support the work of Lutheran Disaster Response in California as they help people who suffered from the recent wildfires. The church has committed to matching any funds donated. We will collect funds through the end of March.

FROM PASTOR THOMPSON

A NEW BEGINNING

As a child, one of my favorite traditions for Easter was getting a new dress. I am also old enough to remember getting a new church hat also. The shopping was great fun, my mom and I are master shoppers. You can ask my dad when you see him next.

It wasn't until I was older that I realized the reason for this tradition. New clothes for Easter were one way to acknowledge the new change in our relationship with God. Our "old selves" were gone and we are made "new" because of Christ's death and resurrection.

What are some of the Easter traditions you grew up with? Did they help you and your family remember the new life in Christ? Are you continuing those traditions? Do you have Easter egg hunts? Do you talk about the egg as a reminder of

new life? How about symbols like rabbits and chicks? They are reminders of new life in springtime.

What would be a tradition you would like to start? What would it say about your faith? Would you like to reestablish a tradition for your childhood to share with family and friends? If so, what is stopping you?

Use this Easter as a chance to explore valuable traditions or begin new ones. As we celebrate our new life in Christ, we can celebrate new opportunities to share our faith and traditions.

Peace,
Pastor Diana Thompson

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Our theme for 2024-2025 School year

“Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” *Matthew 11:29*

Spring has arrived and the education program at St. Paul’s continues to help us bloom by offering exciting opportunities. We have classes for all ages. Come be part of the education process here at St. Paul’s. If you are interested in being part of our teaching team, please talk to Pastor Muse.

Bible Study will take time off during Lent. We will pause our study until after Easter. See you in April.

“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 is every Wednesday at 5:30 PM. It is open to all youths in 1st grade through 12th grade.

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

2025 GRADUATES

We welcome graduate information. We want to celebrate our 2025 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 18 to include it in the June Messenger.

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.

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.

Please help us adorn the sanctuary with lilies, tulips and daffodils on Easter Sunday. The order forms were included in the March Messenger or can be picked up and filled out at church.

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

There will be no regular choir rehearsals on Thursday, April 17 or 24

HOLY WEEK SERVICES:

Palm Sunday – April 13 – 9:30AM communion worship

Maundy Thursday – April 17 – 10:30AM communion worship in the chapel 7:00PM communion worship in the sanctuary.

Good Friday – April 18 – 7:00PM worship in the sanctuary

Easter Sunday – April 20 – 9:30AM – communion worship (Easter Breakfast at 8:00)

*The Eternal Flame is given to the glory of God
And for all the blessing he has bestowed on
us. By Celeste Lautzenheiser.*



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
1 - Sue Sanor
7 - Lindsey Campbell
8 - Steven Mathey
8 - Ross Broadwater
9 - Sara Mehl
11 - JoAnn Brenner
11 - Betty Schneider

13 - Megan Mangoagui
15 - Angela Eggleston
15 - Emily Menegay
16 - Betty Lou Kee
16 - Robert Mohr
16 - Michael Wiggs
18 - Paige Worley
19 - Rodney Campbell

20 - Chris Fahnert
22 - Marcus Hoopes
24 - Daniel Eshler
26 - Kevin Hoopes
26 - Bill Lavery
26 - Jackson Raga
26 - Myla Raga
26 - Abbie Guthrie

29 - Seth Turner
30 - John Wolfe



FELLOWSHIP

We will be finishing up the two remaining Lenten Soup Suppers for 2025 on Wednesday, April 2 and April 9. Please plan to join in for great soup, dessert and a special Lenten message.

Easter Sunday, April 20, a breakfast will be held before service starting 8 a.m. We will be serving Ham & Egg Bake, Pancakes, Sausage, Fruit Cup, Coffee, Tea and Juice. There will be a sign-up sheet available on the table at the back of Garnes Hall. So the cooks will know how many to prepare for.

Sunday, April 6, 2025

Introduction Our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading Paul recalls his transformation from the persecutor Saul into an apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.

Prayer of the Day Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through 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 Isaiah 43:16-21 *The LORD gives water in the wilderness to the chosen people* **Psalm 126** Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. (Ps. 126:5) Philippians 3:4b-14 *To know Christ and his resurrection, to share in his sufferings* John 12:1-8 *Mary anoints Jesus for his burial*

Sunday, April 13, 2025

Introduction Today we follow Christ from triumphal entry to the cross, each waypoint of the journey marked by Jesus' compassion for those who would betray, mock, accuse, or do violence to him. Though persecuted and beaten, Jesus the Son of God is not disgraced; instead, he asks forgiveness for those who put him to death. We have walked the Lenten pathway these forty days, each of us invited through baptism to "let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." We enter this holy week accompanying Jesus to the cross with both grief and thanksgiving in our hearts, trusting in God's redeeming love.

Prayer of the Day Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm Isaiah 50:4-9a *The servant of the LORD submits to suffering* **Psalm 31:9-16** Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5) Philippians 2:5-11 *Humbled to the point of death on a cross* Luke 22:14—23:56 *The passion of the Lord*

Thursday, April 17, 2025 Maundy Thursday

Introduction This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. Tonight we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world. Departing worship in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days.

Prayer of the Day Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, 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 Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14

The passover of the LORD **Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19** I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD. (Ps. 116:13) 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 *Proclaim the Lord's death until he comes* John 13:1-17, 31b-35 *The service of Christ: footwashing and meal*

Friday, April 18, 2025 Good Friday

Introduction Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. In John's passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, as Christ's death offers life to all. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life. We depart silently, and we anticipate the culmination of the Three Days in the Easter Vigil.

Prayer of the Day Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.** **Readings and Psalm** Isaiah 52:13—53:12 *The suffering servant* **Psalm 22** My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? (Ps. 22:1) Hebrews 10:16-25 *The way to God is opened by Jesus' death* John 18:1—19:42 *The passion and death of Christ*

Sunday, April 20, 2025 Resurrection of Our Lord:

Introduction "The last enemy to be destroyed is death," Paul writes. Today Christ is risen, and we gather together with astonishment and joy. Christ is risen, and we have been set free from the bonds of death. Christ is risen, and we are forgiven. Christ is risen, and with the women at the tomb and Peter, we are amazed. Let us rejoice: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Prayer of the Day O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm Acts 10:34-43 *God raised Jesus on the third day* Isaiah 65:17-25 (alternate) *New heavens and a new earth* **Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24** This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps. 118:24) 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 *Christ raised from the dead, the first fruits* Luke 24:1-12 *The women proclaim the resurrection*

Sunday, April 27, 2025 Second Sunday of Easter

Introduction In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace. **Prayer of the Day** O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body 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 Psalms Acts 5:27-32 *The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus* **Psalm 118:14-29** You are my God, and I will exalt you. (Ps. 118:28) Revelation 1:4-8 *Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, is coming* John 20:19-31 *Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ*

April 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Note: All worship services are available in person and online. 5th Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Sunday School	7:00 pm Grief Support	1 7:00 pm Committee Meetings	2 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist 5:30 pm Youth Group 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Lenten Worship	3 4:00 pm Catechism 6:15 pm Joybells 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	4 7:00 pm Euchre and Dominoes	5
6 5th Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Sunday School	7 7:00 pm Grief Support	8 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	9 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist 5:30 pm Youth Group 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Lenten Worship	10 4:00 pm Catechism 6:15 pm Joybells 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	11 12:00 pm Deborah's	12
13 Palm Sunday 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Sunday School	14 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	15 7:00 pm Meditation and Healing Event	16 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist 5:30 pm Youth Group	17 Maundy Thursday 10:30 am Chapel Service 7:00 pm Worship Service	18 Good Friday 7:00 pm Worship Service	19 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
20 Easter Sunday 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Easter Breakfast Newsletter Items Due	21 7:00 pm Grief Support Church office closed	22 5:30 pm Community Dinner	23 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study	24 4:00 pm Catechism	25	26
27 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Sunday School	28 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	29	30 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study			

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

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March Coffee Hour Volunteers:

Apr 6 - Paul and Donna Cubick

Apr 13 - Dave and Donna Muse, Diana Cullen

Apr 20 - Easter Sunday

Apr 27 - Bob and Mary Lou Williams, Sue Grove

As you can see we have Sundays that need volunteers to serve. Please consider helping with one of them.

Thank you.

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.

EUCHRE AND DOMINOS

Friday, April 4, at 7:00 PM.

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.**

ADULT EDUCATION

Bible Study will resume on April 23 at 10:00 am and 7:00 pm.

DEBORAH CIRCLE

The Deborah's will meet Friday, April 11 at 12:00 PM.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's Breakfast will be Saturday, April 19 at 8:30 AM.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

We have not had a community outreach project since this past Christmas, so for the months of April and May we will be collecting disposable diapers to give to the Community Food Pantry to have available for distribution to their patrons as needed.

Unfortunately, disposable diapers are not covered by many low income assistance programs, so the need is always present. Any and all sizes, as well as, any brands, are appreciated. There will be a designated area in the Narthex for your donations. If you are unable to shop for these items, but would like to make a monetary donation,

please do so. You can drop it by the church office, put it in the offering plate or send it in the mail. Just make sure it is designated for the "Diaper Project". Thank you in advance for your help to make this project a success.

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

3295 S. Union Ave
Alliance, OH 44601

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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

HOLY WEEK SERVICES:

Palm Sunday – April 13 –

9:30AM communion worship

Maundy Thursday – April 17

10:30AM communion worship in

the chapel, 7:00PM communion

worship in the sanctuary

Good Friday – April 18 –

7:00PM worship in the sanctuary

Easter Sunday – April 20 –

9:30AM – communion worship

Easter Flower orders are due to the church by **April 6, 2025**. If you still need to order please call the church office at 330-823-2285.