



# *The Messenger*

## *September 2025*

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

3295 S. Union Ave.  
Alliance, Ohio 44601  
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## FROM PASTOR MUSE

*"This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful." — Joshua 1:8 (NRSV)*

When God spoke these words to Joshua, Israel stood on the edge of the Promised Land, about to begin a journey filled with uncertainty, challenge, and opportunity. The Lord's counsel was not a detailed military strategy or a motivational pep talk—it was a call to dwell in the Word.

In the Lutheran tradition, "meditating on the Word" is not simply repeating Bible verses until they become familiar. It's an ongoing, Spirit-led conversation between God and us, where Scripture shapes our hearts and directs our lives. Martin Luther often spoke of oratio, meditatio, tentatio—prayer, meditation, and trial—as the rhythm of a Christian's growth. Meditation is not an escape from life's demands but an immersion into God's truth so that we can meet life's demands with faith.

To meditate on God's Word "day and

night" means more than a morning devotion and a bedtime reading—it's weaving the promises, commands, and stories of Scripture into the very fabric of our daily living. We ponder a verse while washing dishes. We recall a psalm on the commute to work. We speak a word of Jesus' comfort to a friend in need. God's Word becomes the soundtrack of our thoughts and the compass for our decisions.

In a world overflowing with noise—social media posts, endless news cycles, and constant notifications—Scripture offers a different kind of voice: steady, true, and life-giving. Meditating on the Word slows us down, roots us in grace, and aligns our perspective with God's promises.

Joshua was told that prosperity and success would come from living according to God's Word. For us, this doesn't mean worldly wealth or an easy road, but a life rich in faith, guided by wisdom, and anchored in God's unchanging love through Jesus Christ.

Choose one verse—perhaps even Joshua 1:8—and keep it before you each day.

Write it on a sticky note

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*...shall  
meditate on  
it day and  
night...*

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at your desk, set it as your phone background, or carry it in your pocket. Let it shape your prayers, influence your decisions, and comfort your heart.

As the psalmist reminds us, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105). When we meditate on God’s Word, we do not walk alone—the Lord walks with us.

*Soli deo Gloria, Pastor Muse*

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## FROM PASTOR THOMPSON

### WHY UPDATES OR EDITIONS OF THE BIBLE?

We all have our favorite translations of the Bible! Some like the King James (KJV) or New King James (NKJV), others like the Common English Version (CEV). In worship we have used the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV). You may or may not have noticed, we are now using the New Revised Standard Version: Update Edition (NRSVue).

#### **I am sure there are questions as to why the change? What is different about the NRSVue?**

From the *To the Reader* notes in the NRSVue: “The goal of the *NRSVue* is to offer a readable and accurate version of the Holy Bible to the global English-speaking community for public worship and personal study, for scholarship and study in classrooms, and for informing faith and action in response to God.” And “The *NRSVue* extends the *New Revised Standard Version’s* (NRSV) purpose to deliver an accurate, readable, up-to-date, and inclusive version of the Bible. It also continues the work of offering a version as free as possible from the gender bias inherent in the English language, which can obscure earlier oral and written renditions.” *New Revised Standard Version: Updated Edition*. (2021). Friendship Press.

The NRSVue is the work of scholars of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. The NRSV is more than

30 years old and reflects biases of the time; additionally, we have gained further insights into the ancient languages, the original texts, and culture of the Bible’s authors. With this new understanding, it was time to review and bring that scholarly work to our translation.

You will hear and read the text with changes. The intention is to bring our new knowledge to a translation that better speaks to our modern understanding of language. Martin Luther was a huge advocate of Scripture being in the language that the ordinary person could hear or read. I believe that our continued changes to our translations, based on scholarly work, are vital to making Scripture more accessible.

Blessing to you as you continue to dive deeply into the Scriptures.

Peace, *Pastor Diana Thompson*

## 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.”

*Psalms 111:2*

The time for education has returned. 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 7th.

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 Barnes Hall.

The youth group will meet on Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, and continue each Wednesday throughout the school year. We will gather at 5:30 PM for a meal and conclude at 7:00 PM.

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

To receive the Daily Devotional email, sign up through the website or contact Pastor Thompson for assistance.

### HEALING EVENT TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 AT 7:00 PM.

A healing event will be held on Tuesday, September 16 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.

### COMMUNION HELP

Do you have 20 or 30 minutes after church? We need a few to help with communion. Please call church office if interested, only one Sunday each month.

## MUSIC & WORSHIP

Music & Worship Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 2nd at 7:00 PM in Garnes Hall. Please see Gina Falconer if you are unable to attend.

Come and sing or play handbells with one of St. Paul's Choirs. **Choir practices are resuming.**

- **Chancel Choir** will begin practicing on Thursday, September 18th at 7:15 PM. This is our vocal choir for High School and Adults.
- **JoyBells** will begin practicing on Thursday, September 25th at 6:15 PM. This our bell choir. Middle School through Adults.

If you have any questions about our choirs, please see Gina Falconer.

Please sign up to **Greet, Usher or Lector on a Sunday.** Sign ups are on the board across from the office. Greeters have been added back as a way to make everyone feel welcome. To be a greeter is easy, all you have to do is pick a Sunday to sign up and stand at the entry doors and say "Good Morning" to people as they come in.

*The Eternal Flame is given to the glory of God  
In thanksgiving for the many blessings God  
has given to me and my family  
by Gayle Fiegenschuh.*



### Happy September 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.

2 - Mark Turner	11 - Gina Falconer	16 - Janice Valentine	24 - Pat Virgil
2 - Robert Williams	12 - Luke Ince	16 - Nicole Pollock	24 - Austin Webb
2 - Landon Blevins	12 - Jeremy Rhome	16 - Bob Wilson	25 - David Brenner
3 - Debbie McGowan	12 - Eric Dunn	17 - Kathryn Paina	25 - Brittany George
3 - Karl Ziemke	12 - Julie Blevins	17 - Michele Hoopes	27 - Betty Hons
4 - Cherylene Stockert	13 - Andrew Grove	19 - Owen Hoopes	29 - Margi Hoover
8 - Wanda Chidsey	14 - Kathie Menegay	20 - Gary DePrill, Jr	30 - Cindy Garnes
8 - Greg Paina	14 - Leroy Zeigler	20 - Ashley VanCamp	
9 - Mark Roose	15 - Jim Mehl	22 - Chelsea Burnworth	



## Sunday, September 7, 2025

### **Introduction**

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.

### **Prayer of the Day**

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **Readings and Psalm**

**Deuteronomy 30:15-20** *Walk in the way of life and hold fast to God* **Psalm 1** They are like trees planted by streams of water. (Ps. 1:3) **Philemon 1-21** Paul says: Receive Onesimus as a coworker **Luke 14:25-33** Jesus says: Disciples, give up your possessions and carry the cross

## Sunday, September 14, 2025

### **Introduction**

The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.

### **Prayer of the Day**

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **Readings and Psalm**

**Exodus 32:7-14** Moses begs the LORD to turn from anger against the Hebrews **Psalm 51:1-10** Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. (Ps. 51:1) **1 Timothy 1:12-17** Christ Jesus came for sinners **Luke 15:1-10** Looking for the lost sheep, silver coin: Jesus eating with sinners

## Sunday, September 21, 2025

### **Introduction**

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. "Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all." Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God's gracious favor we have everything we need.

### **Prayer of the Day**

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Readings and Psalm**

**Amos 8:4-7** Warnings to those who trample on the needy and poor **Psalm 113** The LORD lifts up the poor from the ashes. (Ps. 113:7) **1 Timothy 2:1-7** One God, one mediator—Christ Jesus—who gave himself for all people **Luke 16:1-13** A shrewd manager: faithful in little, faithful in much; serving God / wealth

## Sunday, September 28, 2025

### **Introduction**

Consideration of and care for those in need (especially those "at our gate," visible to us, of whom we are aware) is an essential component of good stewardship. It is in the sharing of wealth that we avoid the snare of wealth. It is the one whom death could not hold—who comes to us risen from the dead—who can free us from the death grip of greed.

### **Prayer of the Day**

O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **Readings and Psalm**

**Amos 6:1a, 4-7** Warnings to those who are comfortable or wealthy **Psalm 146** The LORD gives justice to those who are oppressed. (Ps. 146:7) **1 Timothy 6:6-19** Eager to be rich or eager to pursue richness of God's justice? **Luke 16:19-31** Story of poor Lazarus and the wealthy man

September 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	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	6
7 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Christian Education	8 7:00 pm Grief Support	9 7:00 pm Church Council	10 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online) 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study	11	12 12:00 pm Deborah's	13
14 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Christian Education	15	16 7:00 pm Healing Event	17 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online) 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study	18 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	19	20 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
21 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Christian Education <b>Newsletter Items Due</b>	22 7:00 pm Grief Support	23 5:00 PM Community Dinner	24 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online) 7:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Youth Group	25 6:15 pm Joy Bells 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	26	27
28 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Christian Education	29	30				

## FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

### FELLOWSHIP

Coffee hour volunteers for August:

Sept. 7 – TBA

Sept. 14 – TBA

Sept. 21 – TBA

Sept. 28 – Jeff and Norita Webb

Please know you DO NOT have to wait to be asked to help with Coffee Hour. You can simply check with Karen Wolfe, Norita Webb or Cathy Brookes. We will check the schedule and find a Sunday that is open when you can help that will match your schedule. Thanks to all who continue to volunteer.

### EUCHRE AND DOMINOS

Euchre will begin again October 3, 2025 and will continue on the first Friday of each month thereafter.

### 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.

### YOUTH GROUP

Yeah! Youth group returns on September 10 at 5:30 PM. Join us for dinner, friendship, and learning! Pastor Muse or Jill Mehl will be happy to answer questions.

### ADULT EDUCATION

Bible Study Wednesday at 10:00 am and 7:00 pm.

### DEBORAH CIRCLE

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

### MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's breakfast: Saturday, September 20th at 8:30 AM. We look forward to hosting the men of the church.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The new school year had begun! This year, we are going to help the Alliance **High School stock their "Hygiene Stations"**. Donations for this project will be accepted through September. Please place them in the designated container in the Narthex.

The entire list of items needed is shown below. Trial/travel size or Hotel samples are preferred, but they will accept regular-size items as well.

Deodorant, Soap, Body wash, Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Lotion, Toothbrushes and Toothpaste, Hand

Sanitizer, Chapstick, Sanitary Pads, Tissues (On-the-go size), Laundry Detergent (Small).

Most of these travel-size items are available at the stores where you shop and are not overly expensive. As always, if you're unable to shop but would like to donate towards the project, please do so. You can put your cash in the offering plate, marking it "Hygiene Project". Mail it to the church or drop it off at the church office, indicating the same designation. Your cooperation is always

appreciated.

The report on the **"Change for Life" project**, which we concluded at the end of June, collected over \$530. If you still have baby bottles that haven't been turned in, please bring them to the church, and we'll add the amount to what's already been collected. As always, thank you for your generosity.

The September date for the **Community Dinner** is Tuesday, the 23rd. If you would like to help, please check with Greg Brookes. Thank you

**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!*



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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