



The Messenger

February 2025

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

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

FROM PASTOR MUSE

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." John 8:12

Going back to the earliest part of our existence, we are a species that is built on survival. We needed to be aware of our surroundings, our food supply, our closest neighbor, and a massive list of other things, all of which could cause us harm. As we have matured and grown in our awareness and access to resources our concern for such things is far less, but we still have a portion of our being that lives in such a way. It is no longer played out in survival, it is played out in identifying and raising up the wrong, the mistake, or the thing that is out of place. We are far better at seeing the wrong than celebrating the right, because part of our ancestors still resides in us.

The darkness can be such a powerful part of our lives that we can begin to actively seek out the wrong, the broken, the dark and in that reside there in pain, struggle and unhappiness. The darkness can consume us and turn us into people we don't want to be. It can make us people who revel in the darkness, as well as drag others into that darkness. It can have significant detriment on our relationships, our world view, and even our sense of self. And when we choose to lean into that darkness, we are making a choice

against leaning into God. Though God is present in the darkness, God is not defined as darkness, for Jesus tells us I am the light of the world. It is into the darkness of pain, struggle, and brokenness that Jesus brings the light of life.

As believers we are called to lean into the light. We are called to pull away from the darkness of despair, pain, struggle, or judgement, to seek out the light of the world and look at the world through Jesus' eyes. Though our Lord never denied the brokenness of the world, he focused on the gifts of life and the good things around him. He lifted up the lowly, fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and brought the good news to those who needed it, because he saw the light of God not just the darkness of sin. Jesus came and brought the light of hope, so that we would stop looking for the darkness around us.

We are called to this light. We are called to seek this light. We are called to seek out the hope of Christ and raise it up in all circumstances. We are called to be different, transformed by the resurrection of Christ. We are called to be Christ's living body in the world.

Answering this call is not easy. It requires work to learn how to see the light rather than dwell in the darkness. Through

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Look for ways to
keep the light
shining in your faith
journey.

Cont. from pg 1.

studying the scriptures, gathering with our brothers and sisters in worship and in small groups, daily prayer, consistent worship, spiritual friends and mentors, as well as strong discipline to the command of God we learn how to see the light of Christ and we look away from the darkness.

As the light grows in the season of Epiphany and in the lengthening days, let us each commit ourselves to looking

at the light of the world, our Lord and savior, Jesus Christ. Let us commit to seeing ourselves, our faith community and the world around us as Jesus does, loved, important and hope filled. Let us usher the light of Christ into the darkness of the world, as that light has been ushered into us.

Soli Deo Gloria, Pastor Muse

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, February 2, 2025 following worship

FROM PASTOR THOMPSON

LENT BEGINS MARCH 5!

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus’ death and resurrection. ELW Ash Wednesday Service

prayers, and there will be times of silence for you to pray or add your requests to the comments. If you can’t join in at 12:15 pm, you can engage in prayer later in your own time. I have done this at other congregations, and it has been well received.

Peace,

Pastor Diana Thompson

How are you honoring Lent this year? I am here to help if you are not sure what you plan to do.

Beginning on Thursday, March 6, and every Thursday through Lent, I will be offering, Pray Where You Are! (PWYA! For short). I will stream live from 12:15 pm until about 12:30 pm on my YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/@CalledNSent. I will guide us through

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*

As the cold really grips up the education program at St. Paul’s continues warm us 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.

We gather for in-person Bible Study every Wednesday at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM. We are currently studying 2 Corinthians. You can enter into the discussion at any point, so come be part of our dynamic conversation.

“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 youth 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.

FELLOWSHIP

Please mark March 2, 2025 on your calendars now. On that Sunday we will be observing our Renovation Dedication. Following service we will enjoy a Celebratory Brunch for all in attendance. After the many weeks of disruption, it’s time to recognize all that was accomplished and everyone who was involved in this process and thank

them for a job well done. Hope everyone will plan to join us on this joyous occasion.

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 meet on Tuesday, February 4th at 7:00 in Garnes Hall.
Please see Gina Falconer if you are unable to attend.

*The Eternal Flame is given to the glory of God
In honor of all the Saints.
By Pastor Muse*



Happy February 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 – Louis Nagy
- 2 – Morgan Campbell
- 5 – Chris Dennis
- 6 – Kody Ziemke
- 7 – Pete Raga
- 8 – Kaitlyn Waite
- 8 – Donald Hons
- 8 – Carolyn Roller
- 9 – Bob Kline

- 9 – Debbie Rhome
- 9 – Deanna Eshler
- 9 – Charles Shutler
- 13 – Gail Kelly
- 13 – Curtis Lundgren
- 15 – Mike Moretti
- 17 – Joshua O’Neill
- 18 – Jim Ellsworth
- 23 – Benjamin Craig

- 24 – Kevin Cubick
- 24 – Emily Coe
- 25 – Nathan Himes
- 25 – Terry Paina
- 26 – Kyle Zeigler
- 27 – Linda Karns
- 27 – Pat Kinnard
- 27 – Benjamin Johnston
- 27 – Ryan Williams

- 28 – Michelle Stryffeler



KITCHEN SUPPLIES WISH LIST

The Fellowship and Renovation committees have compiled a wish list for the needed kitchen supplies. The list is on Amazon, where you can go to this link <https://bit.ly/3Z3BZwA> and directly purchase the item(s) you would like. You can also scan the **QR Code** posted throughout the church to access the list.

Items can be delivered to the church at 3295 S. Union Ave., Alliance, OH 44601, or to your home.

If you'd prefer to donate money towards an item, that is also welcome. Contact Cathy Brookes, Ron Castina, Paul Cubick, Mark Himmelein, or Norita Webb with donations or questions.

FEBRUARY 2025—The Word of God in Worship

Sunday, February 2, 2025

Introduction

The Presentation of Our Lord is referred to in some corners of the church as Candlemas because of an ancient tradition of blessing all the candles to be used in the church in the coming year at the mass celebrated on that day. It was a way of underscoring the truth of Simeon's confession that this baby Jesus was "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" and a light for glory to Israel. Let the light of every candle in church be a little epiphany of the love of God for all people in the person of God's son, Jesus, the light of the world.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Readings and Psalms

Malachi 3:1-4 *My messenger is a refiner and purifier*

Psalms 84 How dear to me is your dwelling,

O LORD. (Ps. 84:1) **Psalms 24:7-10** (alternate)

Lift up your heads, O gates, that the King of glory may come in. (Ps. 24:7) **Hebrews 2:14-18** *Jesus shares human flesh and sufferings* **Luke 2:22-40** *The child is brought to the temple*

Sunday, February 9, 2025

Introduction

The fifth Sunday after Epiphany continues to highlight unlikely instruments and circumstances appointed to reveal God's glory. "Who will go for us?" God asks. A person of unclean lips, a former persecutor of the church of God, and three fishermen who couldn't catch a thing. More surprising still, perhaps, is that we are also called.

Prayer of the Day

Most holy God, the earth is filled with your glory, and before you angels and saints stand in awe. Enlarge our vision to see your power at work in the world, and by your grace make us heralds of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13] *Isaiah says, Here am I; send me*

Psalms 138 I will bow down toward your holy temple. (Ps. 138:2) **1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

I am the least of the apostles **Luke 5:1-11**

Jesus calls the disciples to fish for people

Sunday, February 16, 2025

Introduction

Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the "blessed are" and the "woe to" are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.

Prayer of the Day

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Readings and Psalm

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Blessed are those who trust the LORD, they are like trees by water

Psalms 1 They are like trees planted by streams of water. (Ps. 1:3) **1 Corinthians 15:12-20**

Christ has been raised, the first fruits of those who have died

Luke 6:17-26 *Jesus speaks blessings on the poor and hungry; woes on the rich and full*

Sunday, February 23, 2025

Introduction

Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.

Prayer of the Day

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Readings and Psalm

Genesis 45:3-11, 15 *Joseph forgives his brothers*

Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40 The lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace. (Ps. 37:11)

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 *The mystery of the resurrection of the body* **Luke 6:27-38**

Love your enemies

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Note: All worship services are available in person and online.</p>						1
<p>9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Annual Congregational Meeting</p>	<p>6:00 pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>7:00 pm Committee Meetings</p>	<p>10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>4:00 pm Catechism 6:15 pm Joybells 7:15 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>7:00 pm Euchre and Dominoes</p>	8
<p>9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Sunday School</p>	<p>4:00 pm and 7:00 pm Grief Support</p>	<p>7:00 PM Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>4:00 pm Catechism 6:15 pm Joybells 7:15 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>12:00 pm Deborah's</p>	15
<p>9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Sunday School Newsletter Items Due</p>	<p>6:00 pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>7:00 pm Meditation and Healing Event</p>	<p>10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>4:00 pm Catechism 6:15 pm Joybells 7:15 pm Chancel Choir</p>		22
<p>9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Sunday School</p>	<p>4:00 pm and 7:00 pm Grief Support</p>	<p>5:30 pm Community Dinner</p>	<p>10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>4:00 pm Catechism 6:15 pm Joybells 7:15 pm Chancel Choir</p>		28

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

FELLOWSHIP

January Coffee Hour Volunteers:
 Feb 2 - Kevin and Michelle Hoopes
 Feb 9 - Owens Family
 Feb 16 - Paul and Sherrie Hobe
 Feb 23 - Jeff and Norita Webb

Please remember, if a schedule change is necessary, please try to find your own replacement and let the church office know so the change can be noted in the Sunday Bulletin, if at all possible. I wish to thank all the folks who take the time on Sunday mornings to help with our refreshments in Garnes Hall following worship. We're currently looking for some new recruits. If you have the time on Sunday following worship to help out please check with Karen Wolfe. I'm usually always in the Fellowship on Sundays. You can get started on a Sunday that fits your schedule.

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

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

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

DEBORAH CIRCLE

The Deborah's will meet Friday, February 14 at 12:00 PM.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's Breakfast will be Saturday, February 15 at 8:30 AM.

EUCHRE AND DOMINOS

Friday, February 7, at 7:00 PM.

THANK YOU

Dear St. Paul's
 I appreciate very much the cards you sent me and the wonderful serenade. You're a wonderful church, and I'm happy to be part of it. *Madge Peters*

Thank you to everyone who donated to our efforts to support Lutheran Disaster Response and their work in the Carolinas. St. Paul's was able to give a combined gift of \$5000.00 plus the generosity of those who sent directly to LDR. Well done good and faithful servants.

Thank you for the Christmas Cards. They were a wonderful gift of love. *Patty Kridler*

Dear Church family, thanks for the many, many Christmas cards, they were beautiful and inspiring. Blessings to everyone for a wonderful New Year! Thanks for thinking of me, *Sandy Roush*

I would like to thank the members of St. Paul's for remembering me at Christmas, the cards were very much appreciated. *Paul Kelly*

It is so good to know I have a whole cheering section keeping tabs on me and lifting me up in prayer to our great God in healing. My heart is full of thanks!!

Linda Baker

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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

ASH WEDNESDAY IS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5TH!

**Congregational
Meeting**



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, February 2, 2025 following worship.