



The Messenger November 2025

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

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

FROM PASTOR MUSE

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints..' Ephesians 6:18

The Saints Around Us

When we hear the word saints, we often think of stained glass—holy figures with halos who lived long ago and far away. But Saint Paul reminds us in Ephesians that the saints are not just those canonized by history; they are all believers—the community of faith that surrounds us every day. Our understanding of the “communion of saints” expands this idea beautifully: we are not isolated individuals trying to live the Christian life alone, but members of one body, joined together in Christ through baptism, faith, and love.

In the church, the phrase “the communion of saints” in the Apostles’ Creed refers not only to the saints in heaven but to all believers in Christ, living and departed. Martin Luther wrote that this communion means “a mutual sharing of all blessings, which Christ has brought us.” When one member suffers, the body suffers; when one rejoices, the body rejoices (1 Corinthians 12:26). It is a living fellowship held together by the Holy Spirit, sustained by grace rather than human perfection.

Saints, then, are not perfect people—they

are forgiven people. They are the grandmother who prays daily for her church, the youth who volunteers quietly without recognition, the friend who shows up with a meal when life feels heavy. They are people like you and me, clothed not in halos but in Christ’s righteousness.

In our hurried and individualistic world, it is easy to forget that we are surrounded by saints. The teacher who cares for every child as if they were her own, the nurse who offers comfort in a midnight hospital room, the neighbor who checks on the lonely—all participate in God’s ongoing work of grace. Their prayers, kindness, and faithfulness are glimpses of the Kingdom breaking into our ordinary days.

Paul’s call in Ephesians 6:18—“to pray for all the saints”—invites us into this shared life of faith. Prayer connects us to others, even when we are apart. It lifts our eyes beyond our own needs to the needs of the community. Each time we pray for another person, we become part of the communion of saints in action. It is through prayer that the Spirit binds our hearts together across generations, experiences, and places.

To live as part of the communion of saints is both a gift and a calling. It means recognizing that faith is not a solo project but a shared journey.

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*Pray for all
the
saints...*

Cont. from pg. 1

We are called to build one another up, to forgive as we have been forgiven, and to hold one another in prayer. Luther often emphasized that God works through people—that our neighbors are the instruments of God’s care. When we serve and pray for others, God’s grace flows through us into the world.

In times of grief, the communion of saints reminds us we are never alone. Those who have gone before us in faith are still part of that great fellowship. Each time we gather for worship, we join not just with the people beside us in the pews but with “all the company of heaven.” In the Lord’s Supper, heaven and earth meet—one table, one Savior, one body united in grace.

As you go about your journey, pause to notice the saints around you. Offer a prayer for the ones who encourage your faith, for those struggling silently, and for the generations who have handed down the faith to you. Consider writing a note of gratitude or speaking a word of blessing to someone who has been a quiet saint in your life.

And remember—you, too, are one of the saints. God is working through your words, your prayers, and your presence in ways you may never see. The world still needs saints—ordinary people doing extraordinary things through the *power of God’s grace*.

Soli deo Gloria, Pastor Muse

HEALING EVENT TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT 7:00 PM.

A healing event will be held on Tuesday, November 18th 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.

From Pastor Thompson:

Opportunities for New Life

Even as the trees, grass, and flowers go dormant for the winter, we are always looking for new ways to bring life and hope. November is the month when we celebrate Thanksgiving in the United States. Many people use this month as a time to become more intentional about expressing gratitude to God and others through writing or speaking.

If you have never kept a gratitude journal, this may be a great time to start. Each day, write down three specific things you are grateful for that day. Specificity is the key to reflection. Not just writing nice weather, but what makes it nice weather for you. If it is a person you are grateful for, don’t just write their name, but what exactly they did or said that made you thankful.

If you don’t want to keep a journal, I have seen great ideas for writing your gratitude on slips of paper and collecting them in a jar. When you need spiritual or emotional encouragement, open the jar and read some of the gratitude statements.

I am also encouraging each of you to practice gratitude.

May the peace of God surround you and help you to see the good things that God has done, is doing, and will continue to do. Amen

Peace, Pastor Diana

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

Our education time continues to offer vital lessons on faith and growth. We have classes for all ages, so we invite you to come out and grow in faith. If you would like to participate in the teaching team, please see Pastor Muse.

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 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 meets every Wednesday. We gather at 5:30 for a meal and conclude at 7:00 PM. Our leaders are Pastor Muse, Pastor Thompson, Diana Cullen and Jill Mehl.

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

QUILTS

We blessed and delivered 132 quilts to Lutheran world Relief. It is truly a wonderful blessing to see such commitment and love given to those who need support.

FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Fall congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, November 16th following worship. The agenda for the meeting is the approval of the Spending Guide for 2026 and election of new council members to start in 2026.

MUSIC & WORSHIP

Music & Worship Committee will meet on Tuesday, November 4th at 7:00 PM in Garnes Hall. Please see Gina Falconer if you are unable to attend

A REMINDER: On November 2 (All Saints Sunday), we would like to honor the Saints in our lives. Please bring a photo of a Saint from your life. During the service you will have an opportunity to bring the photo forward to honor them.

There will be a Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 26 at 7:00 PM. Please join us in giving thanks to God for all our blessings.

Come get in the Christmas spirit! We will be decorating Garnes Hall on Monday, November 24 at 6:00 PM. Please

come and help us prepare for the Christmas season! Many hands make light work!

We will be decorating the sanctuary on Tuesday, December 2 at 6:00 PM. Please come and help us decorate the worship space for Advent and Christmas!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: The Annual Around the Table Carol Sing will be held the first Sunday in Advent, November 30, 2025. We will gather at 5:00 PM and eat at 5:30 PM. Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share (recommend 1 dish for every 2 people). Dinner rolls and drinks will be provided. Please bring your own table settings. Come out and enjoy the fellowship and time to prepare our hearts for the birth of our Savior!

Apostle Build 2025

We have been invited into the fall 2025 Apostle Build program. This is a unique opportunity for the church to partner with Habitat for Humanity to help provide a house for a family. We are blessed to be one of ten churches in this process. We invite you support in this program. There are three ways you can support this work.

1) Prayer. As you come before God in prayer, lift up this program that it will have success. 2) Volunteer. This program involved an investment of time. Either working on the site at the house or making lunch for a work day. If you are interested in this, please see Greg Brookes. 3) Financial donation. We do have a financial investment in this program and would welcome any support and participation from the community. You can make a direct donation through the offering plate, there will be a change collection container in Garnes Hall by the Piano, and there will be an ornament tree in the welcome center during the Holiday Season. Please consider donation, even in a small way to this incredible project.

Dear Church family,

We are so grateful for all of your hygiene supplies that you donated to Alliance High School. This meets a lot of needs for our students. May God you for all your kindness.

Love, Teresa McMillan

P.S. Thank you Cathy Brookes for all you do as well.

*The Eternal Flame is given to the glory of God
In memory of Gary Pfau, Mary Cirelli Fawcett
and Richard "Pie" Feters
by Cindy McClarren.*



Happy November 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 - Brian Marschinke	10 - Vicki Swain	17 - Harry Scott	27 - Helene Heindel
2 - Mike Mohr	11 - Paul Cubick	17 - Suzanne Scott	27 - Lukas Black
2 - Josh Falconer	11 - Kathy Sloan	19 - Taylor Wolfe	28 - Barbara Gorby
3 - Jan Lauer	12 - Karen Campbell	19 - Bonnie Schott	28 - Mary Lou Williams
3 - Paul Kelly	14 - Karen Guthrie	19 - John Leforte	29 - Kyle Kirk
3 - Brett Marriner	15 - Matthew Owens	20 - Susan Grove	29 - Dan Miller
4 - Chris Starkweather	15 - Sydney Starkweather	21 - Joshua McCullough	30 - Art Garnes
4 - Jonathan Stock	15 - Dorothy Starvaggi	22 - Anne Marie Johnston	30 - Mary Beth Hunter
6 - Jodie Turner	16 - Daryll Gorby	23 - Karen Dunn	
8 - Sally Lavery	16 - Geoff Hobe	23 - Courtney Jones	
9 - Jill Castina	16 - Trudy Miller	24 - Owen Blevins	



Sunday, November 2, 2025 All Saints Sunday

Introduction

In holy baptism God makes saints out of sinners. In holy communion God forgives the sins of all the saints. In worship today we give thanks for all the saints “who from their labors rest.” In the same breath we petition our God for the strength to hear and to heed the admonitions of Jesus in today’s gospel. Sealed by the Spirit and sustained by the Savior’s body and blood, we live with joy as God gives us breath, to the praise of God’s glory.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, 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 Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18 *The holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom* **Psalm 149** Sing the LORD’s praise in the assembly of the faithful. (Ps. 149:1) **Ephesians 1:11-23** *God raised Christ from the dead and made him head over all the church* **Luke 6:20-31** *Jesus speaks blessings and woes*

Sunday, November 9, 2025

Introduction

We worship on the first day of the week because Jesus was raised on that day. Every Sunday is a little Easter. This Sunday feels more like Easter than many as the appointed texts celebrate the reality of the resurrection. Live it up this Lord’s day. Our God is the God of the living.

Prayer of the Day

O God, our eternal redeemer, by the presence of your Spirit you renew and direct our hearts. Keep always in our mind the end of all things and the day of judgment. Inspire us for a holy life here, and bring us to the joy of the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm Job 19:23-27a *I know that my Redeemer lives and I shall see God* **Psalm 17:1-9** Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me under the shadow of your wings. (Ps. 17:8) **2Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17** *The coming of the Lord Jesus* **Luke 20:27-38** *Jesus speaks of the resurrection; the God of the living*

Sunday, November 16, 2025

Introduction

The end is near. There is no doubt about it. The warnings are dire. The tone of today’s texts is ominous. But the baptized know how to live in the meantime. The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in word and sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the apostle: “Do not be weary in doing what is right.”

Prayer of the Day

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm Malachi 4:1-2a *A day of blistering heat for the arrogant; a day of healing sun for the righteous* **Psalm 98** In righteousness will the LORD judge the world. (Ps. 98:9) **2Thessalonians 3:6-13** *Do not be idle, but do what is right for the sake of Christ* **Luke 21:5-19** *Jesus speaks of wars, endurance, betrayal, and suffering for his sake*

Sunday, November 23, 2025 Christ the King

Introduction

Jeremiah’s promise of the execution of “justice and righteousness in the land” finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with a criminal. This victory appears for all the world as humiliating defeat. Yet through the gate of death Jesus opens the door to paradise.

Prayer of the Day

O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, 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 Jeremiah 23:1-6 *Coming of the shepherd and righteous Branch who will execute justice* **Psalm 46** I will be exalted among the nations. (Ps. 46:10) **Colossians 1:11-20** *Hymn to Christ, firstborn of all creation; peace through his blood* **Luke 23:33-43** *Jesus is crucified between two thieves; you will be with me in Paradise*

Thursday, November 27, 2025 Day of Thanksgiving

Introduction

Every gathering for worship has elements of thanksgiving. When we are nourished with God’s bounty in holy communion, when we partake of Jesus’ word that gives life to the world, and even when two or three of us simply join our hearts in prayer to make our requests known to God, we do so “with thanksgiving.” Let us give thanks to God, who is good and whose mercy endures forever.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm Deuteronomy 26:1-11 *The offering of the first fruits* **Psalm 100** Enter God’s gates with thanksgiving. (Ps. 100:4) **Philippians 4:4-9** *Do not worry about anything* **John 6:25-35** *Jesus is the bread of life*

Sunday, November 30, 2025

Introduction

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today’s readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord’s coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm Isaiah 2:1-5 *Weapons of war transformed into instruments of peace* **Psalm 122** I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD.” (Ps. 122:1) **Romans 13:11-14** *Salvation is near; time to wake from sleep* **Matthew 24:36-44** *The sudden coming of the Son of Man*

November 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
All Saints Sunday 9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Christian Education	3	4 7:00 pm Committee Meetings	5 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online) 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study	6 6:15 pm Joy Bells 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	7 7:00 pm Euchre and Dominoes	8
9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Christian Education	10 7:00 pm Grief Support	11 7:00 pm Church Council	12 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online) 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study	13 6:15 pm Joy Bells 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	14 12:00 pm Deborah's	15 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Fall Congregational Meeting Newsletter Items Due	17 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	18 7:00 pm Healing Event	19 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online) 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study	20 6:15 pm Joy Bells 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	21	22
9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Christian Education	24 6:00 pm Decorate Games Hall 7:00 pm Grief Support	25 5:00 PM Community Dinner	26 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist (in-person and online) 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Thanksgiving Eve Service	27 Happy Thanksgiving Church Office closed	28 Church Office closed	29
9:30 am Worship (in-person and online) 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Christian Education 5:00 pm Around the Table Carol Sing						

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

FELLOWSHIP

On Sunday, November 16th following worship and the Congregational Meeting we will be enjoying a brunch together. We're asking you to consider bringing a favorite dish you would like to share. Please check with Cathy Brookes, Norita Webb or Karen Wolfe with any questions. Beverages and rolls, as well as, plates, napkins and utensils will be provided.

Coffee hour hosts for November.

November 2: Rod and Sandy Garver

November 9: Greg and Cathy Brookes

November 16: Jan Valentine and Lynette Guthrie

November 23: Will and Judy Saunders/ Scott and Jackie Middleton

November 30: Paul and Donna Cubick

Thanks to all of you who continue to volunteer.

PLEASE NOTE: Only clear water should be used in the Bunn Coffeemaker. DO NOT pour already brewed coffee back into the coffeemaker, please use the microwave available in the kitchen to rewarm coffee. Thanks so much.

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.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The "Hygiene Items Collection" that recently concluded was a great success. Alliance schools were very appreciative of all items collected. Thank you to all who contributed.

We recently took over 140 items to the Salvation Army for their Food Pantry. These donations are always greatly appreciated.

YOUTH GROUP

Youth group has returned. We meet every Wednesday at 5:30 PM. We have a meal, fellowship, lesson and games. All youth of the church 1st grade and up are invited to join. Contact Pastor Muse, Diana Cullen or Jill Mehl.

ADULT EDUCATION

Bible Study Wednesday at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM.

DEBORAH CIRCLE

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

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's breakfast will be Saturday, November 15 at 8:30 AM. All men of the church are welcome to join this time of fellowship and growth. We conclude at 10:00AM. Please note the date change.

EUCHRE AND DOMINOS

Euchre, Friday, November 7, 2025 at 7:00 PM and will continue on the first Friday of each month thereafter.

The Mitten Tree will be in the Welcome Center on November 1st. This year along with the mittens, gloves, hats, etc. that have been collected in the past. The Salvation Army is asking for all sizes of coats (children and adult). They can be new or gently worn. The need is greater than ever.

We continue to take our turn serving the Community Dinner the 4th Tuesday of each month at Christ United Methodist Church on Broadway Ave. in downtown Alliance. We recently lost a couple members of the group, do to relocation. If you would like to consider being a part of this mission, please check with Greg or Cathy Brookes

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

3295 S. Union Ave
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

Poinsettia Order Form



Poinsettia Cost: \$12.00

Last Day to Order:

December 8, 2025

How Many? _____

In Memory Of _____

Thankoffering For _____

By Whom _____

By Mail: You can fill in the above form, and along with your check, place in an envelope and mail to St. Paul's, 3295 S. Union Ave., Alliance, OH 44601.

At the Church: Forms will also be available on the table in Garnes Hall. Place your order and check or money in the box provided.