



**St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost– July 24, 2022



**Our Focus Today:  
Focused Prayer Claims What God Wants  
For Us, Not What We Want From Him**

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Clintonville, WI 54929  
www.stpaulclintonville.com

**Pastor Caleb Rothfuss**  
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**Welcome Guests...**  
We are honored to have you with us here at St. Paul in Clintonville!

- **Guest Book:** Please sign our guest book near the doors to the worship area.
- **Restrooms:** If you need them, there are bathrooms just to the sides of the main doors.
- **Children:** We are grateful and glad that they are here! If you feel the need to, you can take them to the parent’s room or to the back gathering area. Let us know if there are other ways we can help you focus on the Word.
- **Changing Table:** If needed these are in the parent’s room and downstairs restrooms.
- **Communion:** guests, please talk with our pastor before coming up for communion.

*In a sense, prayer comes naturally to us. We want so we ask. We hurt so we cry out. We are frustrated so we vent. We are blessed so we give thanks. So we sometimes define prayer as “speaking to God from the heart.” Seems so easy. What does not come naturally, however, is the focused prayer God wants for us. We need focus when it comes to the basis of our prayers. Our prayers are based entirely on the unique and unearned relationship with have with God, our Father. We also need focus when it comes to the content of our prayers. Yes, we can speak from the heart and ask for anything we want. But our Father invites us to pray specifically for the things he wants to give us. Prayer is the opportunity to bring our will into conformity with God’s will, not the other way around. We have much to learn about prayer. So, along with Jesus’ disciples, we say, “Lord, teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1).*



**Vision**  
Our passion for the Gospel will make us the chosen place of worship in our community.

**Mission**  
We will share the life giving and inerrant Word of God as written in the Bible.

**Core Values**  
We will proclaim the law and the gospel so that all may have eternal life.



*This church is part of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. [wels.net](http://wels.net)*

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# The Service – Setting One (p. 154)

**Hymn 776** (*st. 1-4*)

**With the Lord Begin Your Task**

*Stand*

**Invocation**

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**Confession** (*beginning with “Blessed are they...”*) & **Declaration of Grace**

(p. 155)

**Lord, Have Mercy** (*sung*)

(p. 156-157)

**Glory Be to God** (*sung*)

(p. 157-159)

## The Word

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O Lord, your ears are always open to the prayers of your humble servants who come to you in Jesus' name. Teach us always to ask according to your will that we may never fail to obtain the blessings you have promised; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

**Genesis 18:20–32**

*Abraham prays on the basis of what he knows about the LORD: that the LORD is a just judge, that the LORD shows mercy, and that the LORD invites us to be bold in our prayers.*

<sup>20</sup>Then the LORD said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous <sup>21</sup>that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know.”

<sup>22</sup>The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the LORD. <sup>23</sup>Then Abraham approached him and said: “Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? <sup>24</sup>What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? <sup>25</sup>Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

<sup>26</sup>The LORD said, “If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

<sup>27</sup>Then Abraham spoke up again: “Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes, <sup>28</sup>what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five people?”

“If I find forty-five there,” he said, “I will not destroy it.”

<sup>29</sup>Once again he spoke to him, “What if only forty are found there?”

He said, “For the sake of forty, I will not do it.”

<sup>30</sup>Then he said, “May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak. What if only thirty can be found there?”

He answered, “I will not do it if I find thirty there.”

<sup>31</sup>Abraham said, “Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, what if only twenty can be found there?”

He said, “For the sake of twenty, I will not destroy it.”

<sup>32</sup>Then he said, “May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?”

He answered, “For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 138**

**Your Praises, God, I’m Bringing**

## Second Reading

**1 Timothy 2:1–7**

*Paul teaches us that the ultimate purpose for everything we ask is that God’s will would be done.*

<sup>1</sup>I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— <sup>2</sup>for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. <sup>3</sup>This is good, and pleases God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time. <sup>7</sup>And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a true and faithful teacher of the Gentiles.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation *(sung by pastor)*

**Luke 11:9**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and / you will find;

knock and the door will be op/ened to you.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

## Gospel

**Luke 11:1–13**

*Jesus teaches us how to pray and how our Father will answer.*

<sup>1</sup>One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”

<sup>2</sup>He said to them, “When you pray, say:

“ ‘Father,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come.

<sup>3</sup>Give us each day our daily bread.

<sup>4</sup>Forgive us our sins,

for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.  
And lead us not into temptation.’ ”

<sup>5</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; <sup>6</sup>a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.’ <sup>7</sup>And suppose the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ <sup>8</sup>I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

<sup>9</sup>“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup>For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

<sup>11</sup>“Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? <sup>12</sup>Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup>If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

**Hymn 720** (st. 1, 4, 6, 3)

**Our Father, Throned in Heaven Above**

**Sermon Text**

**Genesis 18:20–32**

## Don’t Be Afraid to Pray Boldly

*Stand*

**Apostles’ Creed**

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*Be seated*

## Prayer of the Church

(p. 164)

## Offering

(p. 164)

*Our offering is our reaction to God's Word. Do not feel obligated to give here, we are just thankful you are here. Offerings are collected in the golden plates next to the worship area doors. Your offerings here support the ministry here at this church, along with the mission work of our larger synod.*

## Hymn 725 (st. 1-4)

## Hear Us, Father, When We Pray

Stand

## Prayer (beginning with "Blessed Lord...") & Lord's Prayer (traditional)

(p. 171)

## Blessing

(p. 171)

## Hymn 721 (st. 1-3)

## What a Friend We Have in Jesus

## Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## *For Our Guests & Members*

### **We Are Glad You Are Here!**

Stick around after the service and join us for snacks and fellowship. There will be a quick 19-minute bible study today.

### **Sisters In Christ Baby Bottles**

There are baby bottles in the narthex to take home to collect coins for New Beginnings in Milwaukee. We ask that you return these by Labor Day, Sept. 5. New Beginnings provides a loving and supportive place for single mothers to start a new life. This Christian-based home for mothers allows a resident to become a responsible parent by raising her new baby in a caring environment.

### **Council Position: Education Coordinator**

The Elders are looking for someone to fill the recently vacated Education Coordinator position. More information about the position is available in the church newsletter which is in your mailboxes.

### **“Angel Packet” Volunteers**

The Elders are looking for volunteers to help distribute these packets. More information is available in the church newsletter. Contact Dave Schley if you are interested in helping.

**HOLY LAND TOUR:** You are invited to join retired Pastor Eugene Kock on his 28<sup>th</sup> tour of the Holy Land. The dates of the 10-day tour are March 27 – April 5, 2023. Walk where Jesus walked! Sites that will be visited include Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, Sea of Galilee (boat ride), garden of Gethsemane, House of Caiaphas, Garden Tomb and much, much more. After the tour, you will read the Bible like never before! For more information contact [pastorkock@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorkock@yahoo.com).



## *Important Dates to Note*

### **Quarterly Voter's Meeting**

**Date:** Sunday, July 31

**Time:** 10:30 a.m.

### **Ice Cream Social and Game Night**

**Date:** Tuesday, August 9

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

Sign-up sheet in narthex for the evening event.

### **Vacation Bible School**

**Date:** Wednesday – Friday, August 10-12

**Time:** 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

**Who:** Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Cost:** \$5 per participant (\$20 Max per family)

**Register online:** [stpaulclintonville.com/vbs](http://stpaulclintonville.com/vbs)

Sign-up sheet for needed snacks is in the narthex.

### **Vision Committee Meeting**

**Date:** Thursday, August 11 (tentative)

**Time:** 7 p.m.

### **VBS Breakfast**

**Date:** Sunday, August 14

**Time:** 8 a.m.

Sign-up sheet in narthex.

### **WELS/ELS Single Retreat**

**Dates:** Friday, November 11 – Sunday, November 13

**Time:** Arrival on Friday 4 – 7 p.m.

**Where:** Camp Phillip, W9944 Buttercup Ave, Wautoma, Wisconsin

Did you know that November 11 is International Singles Day? This will be a weekend of fun and fellowship. For more information about the event and to register, check out our webpage: [wels-els-singles.com](http://wels-els-singles.com)

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Last Week</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>7/17 Attendance - 79</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Offerings to the Lord</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Needed Weekly - \$3,500</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Offered - \$2,670</b></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Ushers Today</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Nick B. Coulter B. Caleb G.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Parament Colors</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">July 24 – Green July 31 – Green August 7 – Green August 14 – Green August 21 – Green</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Ushers Next Week</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tom G. Fred L. Kelly Z.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Communion</u></b> <b><u>Distribution for August</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tom G.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Clean-Up</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">August 7 – Dawn G., Becky H.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">August 21 – Lizzie B., Jeannie S.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>July Shut-In Visitors</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bob &amp; Karen Petermann</p>	