

We cry,
“Abba!
Father!”

Romans 8:15

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church (NALC)

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2026

Prelude

*Gathering Hymn "Open Now Thy Gates..." **G Hymn #250**

Announcements

*Brief Order of Confession Page 56

*The Apostolic Greeting Page 57

*The Kyrie Page 57

Hymn of Praise Page 58

*The Prayer of the Day Insert

Special Music Tom Bush

First Lesson Isaiah 55:10-13

The Psalm Psalm 65:1-14

The Second Lesson Romans 8:12-17

*The Verse "Alleluia" Page 62

*The Gospel Lesson Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Children's Sermon

*Sermon Hymn "Almighty God..." **G Hymn #234**

Sermon Pastor Andrea Taphorn

Baptism of Marshall & Nora Temple Page 121

Offering

Offertory Psalm Page 75

Prayer/Lord's Prayer Page 76

*Benediction

*Closing Hymn "On Our Way..." **G Hymn #260**

*Stand as you are able

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church. We are glad to have you worship with us today.

Our prayers include those in nursing homes and home bound: Mary Ann McCallister, Helen Lyons, Susie Leonhardt, Edna Armstrong, Servicemen: Andrew Gendron, Brodie Taphorn.

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by Michele Breyley in memory of Gene Morral.

Flowers on the organ are in honor of the baptism of Nora and Marshall Temple by Dwight & Patty Lust.

This morning Elenora Kay and Marshall Allen Temple are being baptized. They are the children of Matthew & Dianna Temple and grandchildren of Dwight & Patty Lust .

Dear Friends of St. Paul,

Thank you for your faithful support of LifeWise Crawford County. Because of your generosity, students are being encouraged to think deeply about their relationship with Christ and how they can respond to His love. Thank you,

LifeWise Crawford County

Giving for The Lord's Ministry July 5, 2026

Benevolence	130.00
Current	6,192.00
Feed Crawford County	75.00
Filling Home	90.00
God Squad	30.00
Lutheran Home of Mercy	45.00
Missionary	55.00
NALC Seminary	50.00
NALC Disaster Relief	580.00
Special Projects	200.00
Total	\$7,447.00
Attendance 83 Communion 77	

Attendance for June 28 103

Anticipated Current Budget needs through June 30, 2026:
\$94,730.00.

Funds collected for current expenses through June 30, 2026:
\$88,062.35

Anyone wanting to donate to the NALC Disaster Response may mark your envelopes accordingly. Donations aid tornado and other natural disaster victims.

Looking to connect with Pastor Andrea? You're always welcome to stop by during office hours: **Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9:00 AM—Noon.** If another time works better for you, feel free to call the church office or reach out directly to Pastor Andrea (614) 256-4318 to set up an appointment. She'd love to hear from you!

This Week at St. Paul

Sunday Sunday School 9 AM
 Worship 10 AM
Sunday Sunday School 9 AM

The St. Paul worship services and sermons are recorded and available to watch on the web page at www.stpaulsulphur.com or on St. Paul Lutheran Church Sulphur Springs, Ohio YouTube. A live feed of the worship service is available downstairs in the high school room.

St. Paul Lutheran Church
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419-562-5858
Pastor Andrea Taphorn
Pastor Brodie Taphorn
Charlie Britt, David Halsey, Jeff Karl Lay Assistants
Organist Kathy Sheets, Assistant Karen Schimpf
Secretary, Joyce Schanzenbach
Choir Director, Roxanne Shipman
Bell Choir, Cindy Hopkins
Church Council President, John Britton
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Heirs with God

An heir receives something from the estate of someone who has died. The inheritance may be something good or bad. We may someday inherit wealth or debts still owed.

In today's Epistle, we are reminded that, as Christians, we also inherit suffering in following Jesus. Jesus suffered for our sins, and we suffer at times for following Him faithfully. Our suffering does not earn our salvation, but it can come with living faithfully for Christ. And we can live with suffering for our faith because Jesus is with us in our suffering.

We are not alone even when it feels as if we are. As the world around us distances itself from God, Christ draws us closer to Him. As we speak to Him in prayer, He feeds our soul with strength for that moment and for all moments of trial and tribulation. Our joy is complete even in suffering for Jesus. That is not to say we enjoy suffering but that we live with it as a way of living faithfully with Him. Someday, our joy will be complete, along with all who have shared the faith in Christ.

Jesus, walk with us always! Amen.



Adapted from *Portals of Prayer* © Concordia Publishing House
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About the Cover: Our upward cries of “Abba, Father” stem not from fear but from the faith created in us by the Holy Spirit through the Word. We have been made the very children of God because Christ, the Son of God, who became our Brother by taking on human flesh, died on our behalf! Since we are the children of God, we are also heirs with Christ and receive what He has already accomplished: forgiveness of sins and resurrection from the dead. Our Father in heaven wants to hear all our prayers.

EXCITING NEWS! Our church council decided it's time for a new church directory! The last one was printed in 2016. Universal Church Directories are going to be taking our pictures and making the directory. Every family that picked up a newsletter last Sunday, got a flyer with all the photo information on. You can go online anytime and confirm your appointment slot, and it is very user friendly. If you have **5 or more** members in your family, fill out 2 slots please. We will also offer a couple of dates in August that we'll be available after church if you'd like help in confirming your date. Email confirmations and also reminders will be sent out to everyone that provides an email. The 2 dates we have assigned for photos are: ***Monday, September 21 & Tuesday, September 22, from 2:00-8:30 p.m. each day.*** Every photo shoot will receive a 8 x 10 picture FREE and if you are a member, 1 directory free. The website to go to is www.ucdir.com; church code, oh2991; and password, member-SPLC. Proofing and ordering will be done at this time too! **If for some reason**, you or a member of your family can't make one of those days, you may submit either a photo or a digital photo (preferred), with a charge of \$15 to be inserted in the directory. OR, you may call the company, 419-522-5011, to see if there are other churches in the area taking pictures and you could go there and have it taken, filling out the paperwork to get it in our directory. Please contact: Deb Feichtner, Jen Rinehart, Pastor Andrea, Rhonda Evak, Dana Blankenship or Joyce Schanzenbach if you have any further questions.

The Word of God



Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2026

Prayer of the Day

Richly inspire us, O Lord, to consider and accomplish what you see is good. For we know that we cannot live without you, but that with you, we shall prevail. And so, we pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹²For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-14*

¹You are to be praised, O | God, in Zion;*
to you shall vows be performed | in Jerusalem.

²To you that hear prayer shall | all flesh come,*
because of | their transgressions.

³Our sins are strong- | er than we are,*
but you will | blot them out.

⁴Happy are they whom you choose
and draw to your | courts to dwell there!*

they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house,
by the holiness | of your temple.

⁵Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness,
O God of | our salvation,*
O Hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the seas that are | far away.

⁶You make fast the mountains | by your power;*
they are girded a- | bout with might.

⁷You still the roaring | of the seas,*
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor | of the peoples.

⁸Those who dwell at the ends of the earth
will tremble at your | marvelous signs;*

you make the dawn and the dusk to | sing for joy.]

⁹You visit the earth and water it abundantly;
you make it | very plenteous;*

the river of God is | full of water.

¹⁰You pre- | pare the grain,*
for so you provide | for the earth.

¹¹You drench the furrows and smooth | out the ridges;*

with heavy rain you soften the ground and | bless its increase.

¹²You crown the year | with your goodness,*
and your paths over- | flow with plenty.

¹³May the fields of the wilderness be | rich for grazing,*
and the hills be | clothed with joy.

¹⁴May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,
and the valleys cloak them- | selves with grain;*

let them shout for | joy and sing.

Second Reading: Romans 8:12-17

¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear."

¹⁸{Jesus said to the disciples,} "Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

For the Larger Church

Lord God, you call us together as the Church—not just as an individual congregation, but as people from around the world who are one in Jesus Christ. We thank you for the opportunity you give us to serve together with one another. Bless our cooperative ministries and the ministries of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Strengthen our work as the body of Christ. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For a Season of Growth

God of creation, you give us the earth to tend and plants for food. In the midst of these summer months we pray for adequate rainfall to support plant growth, so that as the plants flourish the harvest will be plentiful and your children may be fed. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For the Aging

Most gracious God, you have promised to be with us always. To those whom you have given many years, grant that they may continue to join in thanking you for all the bounty of your overflowing love. Continue to uphold them, Lord, with strength and dignity in your loving care. Abide with them, gracious God, that they might continue to bear witness to your unending presence. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear or prayer.

For Remembrance of the Faithfully Departed

We give thanks, everlasting Father, for your servants who have departed this life in faith and now share the joys of your heavenly kingdom. We humbly ask that, with them, we may live in Christ and die in him, and at the last awaken in his likeness in the resurrection to life everlasting. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

Lessons for Next Week: Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 119:57-64;
Romans 8:18-27; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43