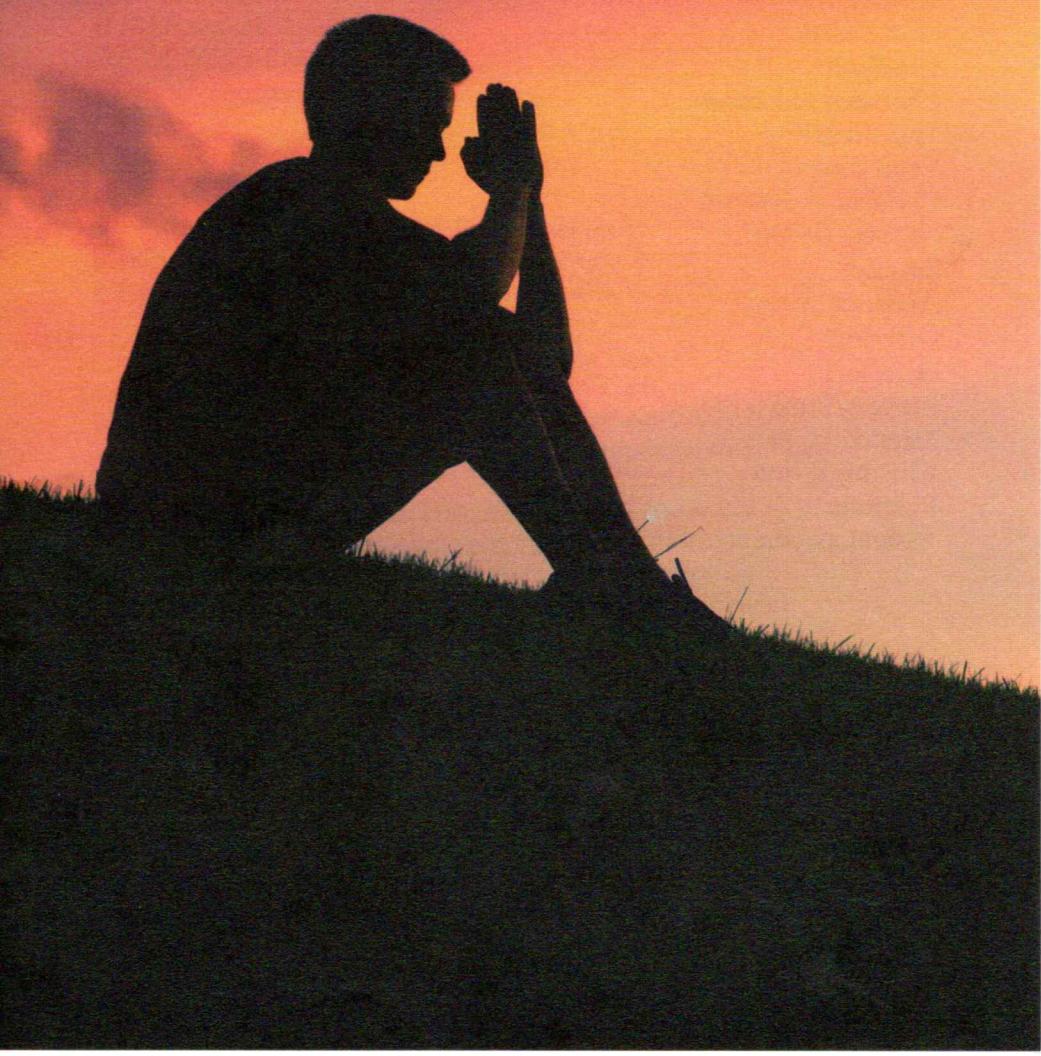


*The Spirit
Himself
intercedes for us*

ROMANS 8:26



St. Paul Lutheran Church (NALC)

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 2026

Gathering Hymn	"Higher Ground"	C Hymn #549
Announcements		
Favorite Hymn	"My Hope is Built"	G Hymn #293
Brief Order of Public 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 44:6-8
The Psalm		Psalms 119: 57-64
The Second Lesson		Romans 8:18-27
The Verse	"Alleluia"	Page 62
*The Gospel		Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
Children's Sermon		
Sermon Hymn	"Praise and..." vs 1-2	G Hymn #409
Sermon		Pastor Andrea Taphorn
Apostles' Creed		Page 65
Offering		
Offertory		
Prayers/Lord's Prayer		Page 76
*Benediction		
Closing Hymn	"Shall We Gather at The River"	B Hymn #690
Postlude		
*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 Marilyn Long in memory of her Mother, Eunice Long.

There has been a prayer chain sign-up placed on the bulletin board. If you'd like to be added to our prayer chain, please add your name and preference of contact by either phone # for a text msg. or email for an email message. If anyone one has a prayer request, please contact Deb Feichtner, Pastor Andrea or Joyce Schanzenbach.

Church Directory—Sundays, August 2nd and August 16 after church, Deb Feichtner and Jen Rinehart will be available in the basement area to help you schedule your photo appointment if you haven't already done it online. Fellowship will also be held with some goodies both Sundays! If those days don't work, please contact them by phone or in person to get scheduled. Reminder...each family receives a free 8x10 photo and a church directory!

“It's a Birthday Bash-Happy Birthday America” The annual outdoor church picnic will be held August 23 at 10:30 am at Au-miller Park. There will be a potluck following the service with meat, drinks and table service provided. We will also hold a live and silent auction. Let's celebrate a day of fellowship, food, and fun. God bless the USA!

Giving for The Lord's Ministry July 12, 2026

Bell Choir	75.00
Benevolence	180.00
Current	2,433.00
Feed Crawford County	75.00
Filling Home	25.00
Lutheran Home of Mercy	50.00
Missionary	40.00
NALC Seminary	35.00
NALC Disaster Relief	160.00
Orphans and Old Folks Home	25.00
Special Projects	40.00
Total	\$3,138.00
Attendance 98	

Noisy Change July 5, 2026 \$69.56

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!

A Spaghetti Dinner Benefit for Beau Foreman, is going to be held on Friday, July 24 from 5-8 PM at the Elks Lodge in Bucyrus. The \$10.00 CARRY-OUT OR DINE-IN meal will include Spaghetti & Meatballs, Salad, Garlic Sticks and Dessert.

Beau was in a serious accident in February and has gone through multiple surgeries and hospital stays to try to repair his left knee and leg. At this time, he is unable to return to work. Friends and family are coming together to help with the overwhelming medical bills.

Beau is the grandson of Ron & Barb (Hildenbrand) Higbie and the nephew of Bev & David Robertson.

If you have any questions, please call Bev at (419) 563-6177. Please keep Beau and his family in your prayers.

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
4707 Ridgeton Rd. Bucyrus, Ohio
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
Sunday School Superintendent, Jill Rittenour
Email: stpaulslutheran@embarqmail.com
Web Page: www.stpaulsulphur.com
Webmaster, Sam Hopkins
samhopkins@columbus.rr.com
Pastor Andrea's number 614-256-4318
Pastor Brodie's number 614-204-3064

Waiting in Hope

Because of sin, we experience suffering of all sorts and types: sickness and disease, both physically and mentally; fractured relationships; economic loss and impoverishment; floods, earthquakes, and drought.

Sometimes suffering—especially when you or your loved one is in its throes—seems interminable, as though it will never end. This poses a question: Are there ever times in your life when you know you must pray for something or someone, but you don't know what to pray? If someone whom you love is sick unto death, do you pray for a miraculous healing or for the Lord to take him quickly? If someone has wronged you, do you pray for justice or for a forgiving heart?

It is wondrous that the Spirit intercedes in our prayer life! For it is the Spirit who knows the will of God. There are many earthly matters about which we don't know God's will, but this we do know: God wants our relationship with Him to be restored. He wants to comfort us throughout times of sorrow and to help us embrace the future rather than fear it.

Lord, give us faith and hope through Your Spirit as we wait for Your will to unfold in our lives. Amen.

PORTALS of PRAYER

Adapted from *Portals of Prayer* © Concordia Publishing House
cph.org/magazines



About the Cover: Sometimes the heartache of this world and our weakness can leave us speechless in our prayers. So we lean on the Word that God continues to speak into our lives, trusting that the "Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words." Jesus has already won for us redemption and eternal life through His cross and resurrection. We wait in eager expectation for His return and the restoration of all creation.

The Word of God



Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 2026

Prayer of the Day

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; that you may hear our petitions. In all things, help us to ask for what will please you; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. ⁷Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. ⁸Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any."

Psalm 119:57-64

- ⁵⁷You only are my por- | tion, O LORD;*
I have promised to | keep your words.
- ⁵⁸I entreat you with | all my heart,*
be merciful to me according | to your promise.
- ⁵⁹I have consi- | dered my ways*
and turned my feet toward | your decrees.
- ⁶⁰I hasten and | do not tarry*
to keep | your commandments.
- ⁶¹Though the cords of the wicked en- | tangle me,*
I do not for- | get your law.
- ⁶²At midnight I will rise to | give you thanks,*
because of your | righteous judgments.
- ⁶³I am a companion of | all who fear you*
and of those who keep | your commandments.
- ⁶⁴The earth, O LORD, is full | of your love;*
instruct me | in your statutes.

Second Reading: Romans 8:18-27

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. ²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

²⁴Jesus put another parable before {the disciples}, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' ²⁸He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, "Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."'"

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴²and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear."

For the Witness of Christ's Church

O Lord, our Rock and Redeemer, there is no one like you, and so, we trust in you alone. As you have called the whole Church to be your witnesses, proclaiming to the world the good news of him who has been prophesied since ancient times, give us all boldness to declare your salvation and sow the gospel seed.

Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For a Faithful Church

Gracious God, turn the concerns of the Church to your Word. Give her a heart for you alone, that she may keep your commandments, and bring you honor so people will know that God is in their land. May they see that you are the God of steadfast love and mercy. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For the Despondent

God of all hope, sometimes it seems like everything is futile. Help us to rely on faith instead of feelings, upon what we know to be true because of your promises instead of the false signals given through the sorrows of this time. Cause us to consider these trials in light of the glory that awaits us through Christ. Give the hopeless courage to wait with patience for what they do not see, yet now to be true because of the witness of your Spirit. Lord in your mercy

C. Hear our prayer.

For Those Who Suffer

God of all righteousness, merciful Lord, being confident that you answer the prayers of your people we humbly ask that you heal the sick, feed the needy, and care for those who grieve. We pray especially for those we name before you now——. Give them and all who are in need, the peace and blessed assurance that on that Day, the righteous in Christ will shine like the sun in the kingdom of his Father. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

Lessons for Next Week: Deuteronomy 7:6-9; Psalm 125;
Romans 8:28-39; Matthew 13:44-52