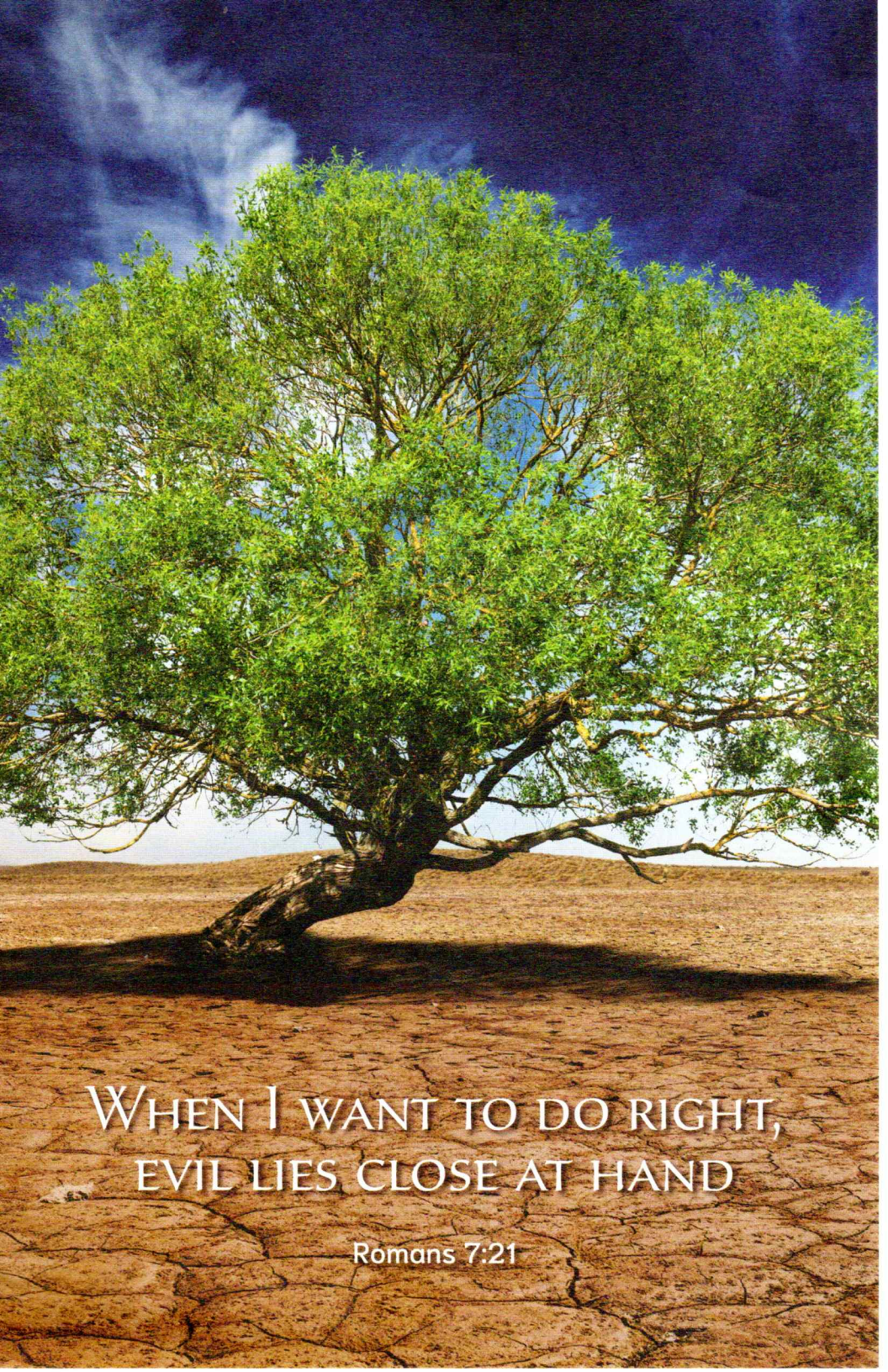




WHEN I WANT TO DO RIGHT,
EVIL LIES CLOSE AT HAND

Romans 7:21

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church (NALC)

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 2026

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*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 Richard & Joyce Schanzenbach in honor of their wedding anniversary.

The first hymn is an insert in the bulletin.

God Squad's Luther Uncorked will be held July 9 at Pete's Café in New Washington. It will begin at 6 P M . All are invited to come for dinner, fellowship and conversation.

Heartfelt thank you for the many prayers and condolences on the death of my husband. Thank you to the Women of the Church for preparing and serving the meal. Special thanks to David and Brandy Robertson for the visits and support. Thank you to Pastor Andrea for her visits, comfort and the service and to Kathy Sheets for the music.

Dana Blankenship and family

Thank you to everyone who brought desserts last Sunday for the lunch. We had many nice compliments.

God Squad

Adult Sunday School will resume next Sunday.

Giving for The Lord's Ministry

June 28, 2026

Benevolence	200.00
Current	3,357.00
Feed Crawford County	180.00
Filling Home	10.00
God Squad	50.00
Lutheran Home of Mercy	10.00
Missionary	110.00
NALC Seminary	100.00
NALC Disaster Relief	425.00
Orphans and Old Folks Home	30.00
Special Projects	190.00
Total	\$4,662 .00
Attendance	

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!

MATERNA. C. M. D.

SAMUEL A. WARD, 1848-1903

With spirit

1. O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, For am - ber waves of grain,
2. O beau - ti - ful for pil - grim feet, Whose stern, im - pas - sioned stress

For pur - ple moun - tain maj - es - ties A - bove the fruit - ed plain!
A thor - ough - fare for free - dom beat A - cross the wil - der - ness!

A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - ery flaw,

And crown thy good with broth - er - hood From sea to shin - ing sea.
Con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, Thy lib - er - ty in law.

3 O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness,
And every gain divine.

4 O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees, beyond the years,
Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.

Katherine Lee Bates, 1859-192

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.

This Week at St. Paul

Sunday Worship/Communion 10 AM
Thursday Luther Uncorked at Pete's Café 6 PM
Sunday Sunday School 9 AM
 Worship 10 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

The Person of Romans 7

Paul admits he is a wretched man. He is at the end of his rope, knowing that the only outcome for such a person is pain, suffering, and then death. He wants to be saved from such harsh consequences. Paul realizes that he has a bad habit, although he wants to quit it. He knows this sinful habit will lead to death.

Reading about the deep anguish that this sin is causing, we can't help but see that Paul has no hope to fix his weakness. He is a weak human who cannot battle this strong sinful desire. For being such a man of God, how can he be in such a deep struggle?

Not knowing his specific problem is intentional. It helps us identify with Paul. We each have our own struggle with something that we should not be doing but we do anyway, just like Paul. We share the same human condition of having a body of death, and we also share the same solution. We have faith in Jesus, who saved us by dying on the cross and taking the punishment for our sins.

Dear Jesus, in our sinful habits, we can only be wretched people, but we praise You for saving us from our sins. Amen.

PORTALS of PRAYER

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



About the Cover: By God's Word, we have new life by faith in Jesus. At the same time, our old sinful nature still presses in upon us. Paul knew the struggle of the Christian life. But there would be no struggle unless the new life of the Gospel had taken root by the work of the Holy Spirit. We must always go back to the source of our new life: Jesus Christ, our crucified and raised Lord, in whom there is "now no condemnation" (Romans 8:1).

The Word of God



Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 2026

Prayer of the Day

O God, you never undermine your purpose, as you perfectly provide for all that you create. Remove from our way all that is harmful and give us what will profit that we may share in your invincible grace; 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: Zechariah 9:9-12

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. ¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. ¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Psalm 145:1-15*

- ¹I will exalt you, O | God my King,*
and bless your name forev- | er and ever.
- ²**Every day | will I bless you***
and praise your Name forev- | er and ever.
- ³Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised;*,
there is no end | to his greatness.
- ⁴**One generation shall praise your works | to another***
and shall de- | clare your power.
- ⁵I will ponder the glorious splendor | of your majesty*
and all your mar- | velous works.
- ⁶**They shall speak of the might of your | wondrous acts,***
and I will tell | of your greatness.
- ⁷They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness;*,
they shall sing of your | righteous deeds.
- ⁸**The LORD is gracious and full | of compassion,***
slow to anger and | of great kindness.
- ⁹The LORD is loving to | everyone*
and his compassion is over | all his works.
- ¹⁰**All your works praise | you, O LORD,***
and your faithful | servants bless you.
- ¹¹They make known the glory | of your kingdom*
and speak | of your power;
- ¹²**That the peoples may know | of your power***
and the glorious splendor | of your kingdom.
- ¹³Your kingdom is an ever- | lasting kingdom;*,
your dominion endures through- | out all ages.
- ¹⁴**The LORD is faithful in | all his words***
and merciful in | all his deeds.
- ¹⁵The LORD upholds all | those who fall; *
he lifts up those who | are bowed down.

Second Reading: Romans 7:14-25a

¹⁴We know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. ¹⁵For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ^{25a}Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! ...

Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30

²⁵Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

For the Mission of the Church

Lord God, thank you for all the faithful saints who live by faith and seek to do your will among us. Guide your Church in faithfully sharing Word and Sacrament, in teaching and in preaching, in caring and in nurturing and encourage your people to serve you as instruments of your love for all. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Those Who Face Persecution

Ever-present God, you sent your prophets and apostles out into a faithless world, that rejects your Word. Be with all who suffer persecution, especially those seeking to bear faithful witness to Christ in places where they face persecution because of their loyalty to Jesus as Lord. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Police and Those Who Serve to Protect Us

Lord and Guardian of our souls, you have established law and order for our sake and the sake of our neighbors. Protect all who dedicate their lives to keeping us safe. We remember especially those serving in law enforcement. Protect our police/sheriff, security officers, and other first responders in our community, and all who work to do good in our community. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Healing

Gracious God and Father, your Son stooped to heal the needs of those who were wounded and weary. Fill with joy the hearts of all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit. Turn their sorrow into joy; their suffering into health; and their cries for help into shouts of praise. Lord in your mercy..

C. Hear our prayer.

Lessons for Next Week: Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13;
Romans 8:12-17; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23