

## **Readings for the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

### **The Old Testament Reading is Genesis 18:17-33**

The LORD said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what he has promised him.” Then the LORD said, “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know.”

So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. Then Abraham drew near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” And the LORD said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

Abraham answered and said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.” Again he spoke to him and said, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.” He said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.” And the LORD went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

### **The Epistle is Colossians 2:6-19**

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells

bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

### **The Gospel is Luke 11:1-13**

Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” And he said to them,

“When you pray, say: ‘Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.’”

And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’? I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

# The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



## Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

2313 Hanna Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46803 | 260-744-1389

[pastor@zionfw.org](mailto:pastor@zionfw.org), [church@zionfw.org](mailto:church@zionfw.org) | website: [www.zionfw.org](http://www.zionfw.org)

Zion Lutheran Church is the body of Christ at Hanna and Creighton in Fort Wayne, Indiana that:

- Receives Christ's gifts in Word and Sacraments; and
- Responds to God's love in Christ by
  - Reaching out to those who do not know His love; and
  - Revealing His love in acts of kindness and mercy.

### The Pastoral Ministry at Zion

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Douglas D. Punke, MDiv (341-5397)

Field Workers:

Nathaniel Demlow

### The Teaching Staff at Lutheran South Unity

Principal:

Amber Bahr (744-0459; [www.lsusfw.org](http://www.lsusfw.org))

Teachers:

Yvonne Schwantz (8<sup>th</sup>, MS ELA), Michael Cullen (7<sup>th</sup>, MS Science),

Chase Mertz (6<sup>th</sup>, MS Social Studies), Danielle Ramsey (5<sup>th</sup>, Abbey Kohler (4<sup>th</sup>),

Tiffany Scheurich (3<sup>rd</sup>), John Fink (2<sup>nd</sup>), Hannah Fink (1<sup>st</sup>), Rachel Wiegman (K-A),

Michelle Madden (K-B), Natalie Reynolds (Art), Open Position (Music),

Lizzy Hoham (Progress Partners Coach), Cathie Wakeland (Literacy Coach), Lee Buxton (PE)

### The Support Staff

Organist and Director of Parish Music:

Michael Hollman, MM

Church Office Manager:

Melvia Culpher

## **ZION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**EDUCATION HOUR:** Dr. Voelz continues in the Gospel according to St. Mark, in Bauer Hall. Because Pastor Punke is going to be gone all of July, our alternate adult/teenage class is being suspended until after school starts back up (exact date tbd).

**SAVE THE DATE:** on August 3rd after church service at 10:30 AM Congregational Assembly will take place. This meeting includes election of officers and board members, approval of the 25/26 budget and various reports. Also LWML ladies will hold a meeting August 17<sup>th</sup> right after church service to set the agenda for the rest of the year.

**THANKS TO EVERYONE** that has served while Pastor was gone (Today Rev. Dr. Roland Ziegler) – will be preaching.

**REMEMBER THERE IS** a weekday Bible class, in our Bauer Hall every Tuesday at 9:00 AM. Pastor Jim Teasdale is teaching the class. Lutheran adults—both men and women—from any congregation are most welcome; we have recently had regular attendees from five area congregations.

**MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE:** Deuteronomy 6:6-7—“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach then diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise..” Last week’s verse was 1 Corinthians 15:58.

**WE CAN FACE COMPETING PRIORITIES** when we think about planning our estates someday. Will my plans preserve what I have gathered or give it away? Estate planning can be a bit unsettling as it punctuates the finite number of days here in this life. Yet our life in Jesus is eternal, without end. How will decisions in your estate plan keep the focus on things that matter eternally? Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you find that eternal focus. Contact Mark Muehl at 260-241-4845 or [mark.muehl@lfnd.org](mailto:mark.muehl@lfnd.org).

**RLNI:** join in for their pro-life seminar discussing Medical Aid in Dying (MAiD) on **July 28th, from 6:30-8:00 pm** at the RLNI Training Center (3106 Lake Ave, Fort Wayne, IN 46835). MAiD refers to the practice of a healthcare professional providing a terminally ill patient with the means to end their life. Come learn how to address this end-of-life issue, as a Christian who professes that God alone is the Author of Life. RSVP at [ichooselife.org/seminar](http://ichooselife.org/seminar) or email [abigail@ichooselife.org](mailto:abigail@ichooselife.org). Light refreshments will be served. **Also,** You're invited to join Right to Life of Northeast Indiana on Tuesday, October 14th at 5:30 pm at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum for the Fall Banquet with **keynote speaker Kirk Cameron!** Come celebrate our 51st year, as an organization tickets are available for purchase. This event is expected to be a record-breaking size.

**WYNEKEN MEMORIAL LUTHERAN SCHOOL** is seeking a school teacher (4th grade and/or 5th grade) for the 2025-2026 academic year. Individuals who have LCMS synodical and theological training as well as an Indiana teaching license are preferred. In addition, Wyneken has an opening for a part-time teacher's aide. Those interested are asked to submit a resume and cover letter. For additional information, please contact Andrew Gavrun at 260-639-6177 or [principal@wyneken.org](mailto:principal@wyneken.org).

**CTSFW:** invites applications for an Admission Coordinator to assist the Assistant Vice President (AVP) of Admission. This position manages all Admission data in Salesforce (CRM), including the database and the student portal, and provides administrative, organizational, and project management support to the AVP and Admission Counselors. The role also includes coordination of office operations, supervision of student workers, and scheduling of campus visits for prospective students and applicants. For a full position description and to apply, visit [ctsfw.edu/employment](http://ctsfw.edu/employment).

**LSUS:** It's back-to-school time! There are lots of deals on school supplies now.

Please consider helping LSUS Art Classes with donating some items. See the display board in the Great Hall for items needed. (Crayola markers, crayons, Elmer's glue sticks, sharpies, pencils, erasers, scissors) Take a stick and return the item to the designated box by August 17!

Thank you for your partnership with LSUS!

## PRAYERS FOR TODAY

- + For the church, especially those bearing the cross of persecution, including Bishop Juhana Pohjola and Dr. Päivi Räsänen
- + For those who serve our Lord at home and abroad, especially our teachers at the start of another academic year, our fieldworker Nate Demlow, and vicars Matthew Harrison and Paul Mroczenski (Paul vicaring in Puerto Rico)
- + For our nation; for our leaders; for our military, including James Hall
- + For our schools, especially Lutheran South Unity School, Concordia Lutheran High School, and Concordia Theological Seminary.
- + For those who travel
- + For the aged and the homebound
- + For those who are on hospice care
- + For the ill, distressed, and those suffering affliction, including Frank Jackson, Earl Marcel Sisson, Richard Lammert, Phyllis Lattimore, Nate Demlow, Debra Busche, Carl Albersmeyer, Connie Houser, Estella Ramirez, Bill Weinrich, Dwight Bieberich, Willodean Bates, Dick Hollman, Elaine Seifert, Bob Ockree, Joe Harrison, Louisa Porter, Marlow Hogan, Marissia White, Gary Phillips, David Groth, Gary Castle, Ron Rastl, Robert & Jenny Hobby
- + For God's blessing on all godly marriages, especially Rev. George & Lois Lange
- + For the gift of life and for length of days, including Rev. George & Lois Lange
- + For the gift of rebirth by water and the Spirit
- + For those who mourn the death of loved ones
- + In remembrance of the faithful departed, including Clarence Karl Whitt
- + For our communicants and for a fruitful use of the most Blessed Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood

## IN THE SERVICE TODAY

Today is the Divine Service for the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost. The Cross Bowl is given by the children of Reverend George and Lois Lange in thanksgiving for the Lord's gifts of life and family, their 65th wedding anniversary, and their 90th birthdays. The Altar Vases are given in memory of my uncle, Clarence Karl Witt, who died 27 July 1971 at age 69 (born 14 February 1902) by James Crouse. Please complete an attendance communion card, including the names of all children, and indicate if you are communing. Non-members, please read the back of the card.

## CALENDAR

### **July 27, 2025 thru August 2, 2025**

<b>SUN.</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Divine Service</b>	<b>Church</b>
	10:45 AM	Adult Bible Study	Bauer Hall
<b>MON.</b>			
<b>TUES.</b>	9:00 AM	Weekday Bible Study	Bauer Hall
	12 NOON	Administrative Council	Conference Room
<b>WED.</b>		<b>NO WEDNESDAY SERVICE</b>	
<b>THURS.</b>			
<b>FRI.</b>			
<b>SAT.</b>	1:00 PM	Adult Catechesis	Conference Room

### **August 3, 2025**

<b>SUN.</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Divine Service</b>	<b>Church</b>
	10:30 AM	Congregational Assembly	Bauer Hall

## For the family of God's Priestly People at Zion

**God calls His own people a "Royal Priesthood."** God makes us kings and queens, princes and princesses who are bound together by the Holy Spirit in Baptism for the Christian benefit of each other. Priests **PRAY** — They talk to God about their neighbor! Priests **TEACH** — They talk to their neighbor about God! Priests **OFFER SACRIFICES** — They offer to God the sacrifice of broken and contrite hearts; they offer their bodies and work as holy services to God for their neighbors. Join in this priestly work of prayer with your fellow members.

### Morning Prayer

### DAILY LECTIONARY

### Evening Prayer

Luke 11:1-13

**The Seventh Sunday after  
Pentecost**

Genesis 18:17-13

Acts 23:12-25

Monday

1 Samuel 13:1-18

Acts 24:1-23

Tuesday

1 Samuel 14:47-15:9

Acts 24:24-25:12

Wednesday

1 Samuel 15:10-35

Acts 26:1-23

Thursday

1 Samuel 16:1-23

Acts 26:24-27:8

Friday

1 Samuel 17:1-19

Acts 27:9-26

Saturday

1 Samuel 17:20-47

### **THE DAILY PETITIONS OF THE CHURCH**

[Daily] **O Lord, have mercy upon us. O Christ, have mercy upon us. O Lord, have mercy upon us.** Let us pray:

[S] For the joy of the Resurrection among us; for true and godly worship throughout the world; for diligent preaching and hearing of God's Word of Law and Gospel; for our pastors; for the teachers and students of our Sunday School; for our Bible Class leaders and their students; for our catechumens; Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[M] For workers; for the unemployed; for farmers; for seasonable weather; for businesses small and large; for our leaders, federal, state and local; for the economic welfare of the nations on earth; for peace in our world; Lord, in Your mercy, ..... **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[T] For the tempted; for the addicted and despairing; for the tortured and oppressed; for the lonely; for the sick, the hospitalized, and the needy; Lord, in Your mercy, ..... **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[W] For fathers, mothers, and families; for those adults who must rear their children alone; the teachers and students of Lutheran South Unity School and Concordia Lutheran High School; Lord, in Your mercy, ..... **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[T] For the Church and her pastors; for the training of ministers of the Word; for missionaries of the Church; for the leaders of the Church, including Matthew, our synod president, and Richard, our district president; for those who have not heard the Gospel; for the fruitful use of the blessed Sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood; Lord, in Your mercy, ..... **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[F] For the preaching of the Cross; for those persecuted for the sake of Gospel; the confession of the orthodox Lutheran faith in our community; Lord, in Your mercy, ..... **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[Sat] For faithfulness unto life's earthly end; for the revival of those who have withered in the faith or fallen away; for the dying; Lord, in Your mercy, ..... **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[Daily] **The Our Father**

### **TO PREPARE FOR NEXT SUNDAY**

#### **Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-26 Colossians 3:1-11

Luke 12:13-21

# Hymns for the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

## **LSB766 Our Father, Who from Heaven Above**

**Martin Luther**

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1. Our Father, who from heav'n above  
Bids all of us to live in love  
As members of one family  
And pray to You in unity,  
Teach us no thoughtless words to say  
But from our inmost hearts to pray.
2. Your name be hallowed. Help us, Lord,  
In purity to keep Your Word,  
That to the glory of Your name  
We walk before You free from blame.  
Let no false teaching us pervert;  
All poor deluded souls convert.
- W 3. Your kingdom come, Guard Your domain  
And Your eternal righteous reign.  
The Holy Ghost enrich our day  
With gifts attendant on our way.  
Break Satan's pow'r, defeat his rage;  
Preserve Your Church from age to age.
- M 4. Your gracious will on earth be done  
As it is done before Your throne,  
That patiently we may obey  
Throughout our lives all that You say.  
Curb flesh and blood and ev'ry ill  
That sets itself against Your will.
5. Give us this day our daily bread,  
And let us all be clothed and fed.  
Save us from hardship, war, and strife;  
In plague and famine, spare our life,  
That we in honest peace may live,  
To care and greed no entrance give.

6. Forgive our sins, Lord, we implore,  
that they may trouble us no more;  
We, too, will gladly those forgive  
Who hurt us by the way they live.  
Help us in our community  
to serve each other willingly.

*Stanzas 7-9 are sung after the sermon.*

7. Lead not into temptation, Lord,  
Where our grim foe and all his horde  
Would vex our souls on ev'ry hand.  
Help us resist, help us to stand  
Firm in the faith, a mighty host,  
Through comfort of the Holy Ghost.
8. From evil, Lord, deliver us;  
The times and days are perilous.  
Redeem us from eternal death,  
And, when we yield our dying breath,  
Console us, grant us calm release,  
And take our souls to You in peace.
9. Amen, that is, so shall it be.  
Make strong our faith in You, that we  
May doubt not but with trust believe  
That what we ask we shall receive.  
Thus in Your name and at Your Word  
We say, "Amen, O hear us, Lord!"

## **LSB779 Come, My Soul, with Every Care**

**John Newton**

1. Come, my soul, with ev'ry care, Jesus loves to answer prayer;  
He Himself has bid thee pray, Therefore will not turn away.
2. Thou art coming to a King, Large petitions with thee bring;  
For His grace and pow'r are such None can ever ask too much.
3. With my burden I begin: Lord, remove this load of sin;  
Let Thy blood, for sinners spilt, Set my conscience free from guilt.
4. Lord, Thy rest to me impart, Take possession of my heart;  
There Thy blood-bought right maintain And without a rival reign.
5. While I am a pilgrim here, Let Thy love my spirit cheer;  
As my guide, my guard, my friend, Lead me to my journey's end.



6. Show me what is mine to do; Ev'ry hour my strength renew.  
Let me live a life of faith; Let me die Thy people's death.

### **LSB773 Hear Us, Father, When We Pray**

**Chad L. Bird**

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1. Hear us, Father, when we pray, Through Your Son and in Your Spirit.  
By Your Spirit's Word convey All that we through Christ inherit,  
That as baptized heirs we may Truly pray.
2. When we know not what to say And our wounded souls are pleading,  
May Your Spirit, night and day, Groan within us interceding;  
By His sighs, too deep for words, We are heard.
3. Jesus, advocate on high, Sacrificed on Calv'ry's altar,  
Through Your priestly blood we cry: Hear our prayers, though they may falter,  
Place them on Your Father's throne As your own.
4. By Your Spirit now attend To our prayers and supplications,  
As like incense they ascend To Your heav'nly habitations.  
May their fragrance waft above, God of love.

### **LSB919 Abide, O Dearest Jesus**

**Josua Stegmann**

1. Abide, O dearest Jesus, Among us with Your grace  
That Satan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.
2. Abide, O dear Redeemer, Among us with Your Word,  
And thus now and hereafter True peace and joy afford.
3. Abide with heav'nly brightness Among us, precious Light;  
Your truth direct and keep us From error's gloomy night.
4. Abide with richest blessings Among us, bounteous Lord;  
Let us in grace and wisdom Grow daily through Your Word.
5. Abide with Your protection Among us, Lord, our strength,  
Lest world and Satan fell us And overcome at length.
6. Abide, O faithful Savior, Among us with Your love;  
Grant steadfastness and help us To reach our home above.



# What Doctor Luther Says:

## About the Benefit of Corporate Prayer

[W]hen Christians ... come together their prayers are twice as strong as otherwise. One can and one really should pray in every place and every hour; but prayer is nowhere so mighty and strong as when the whole multitude prays together. Thus the dear patriarchs gathered with their families, and anybody else who happened to be with them ... where they talked about Christ, the coming seed who was promised to them, sacrificed together, called upon God, and gave thanks to him. And thus they were always glad to be with the multitude whenever they could, even though they also meditated upon God's Word and promise and prayed by themselves in private.

How often we read in Holy Scriptures that even the prayer of a single man has been very effectual, as in Gen. 18 [:28-38], where Abraham prays to God for the people of Sodom and the adjacent cities and prevails upon him and wins him over to such a degree that he was willing to spare them even if only ten righteous persons were to be found in them; and Christ makes another and even stronger promise in Matt. 18 [:20, 19], that where only two or three are gathered in his name, he would be in the midst of them, and what they agreed upon to pray for together would be done for them by his heavenly Father. How much more, then, should not this assurance comfort a whole congregations [sic] of Christians when they pray together in unity for something in Christ's name? And even if no other fruit came of it, it would still be altogether sufficient that, if two or three or a whole multitude of you were together, Christ himself would be present among you. And there, most certainly, God the Father and the Holy Spirit, too, would not be absent, and the holy angels would not be far away, but the devil and his hellish troops would not willingly be anywhere near.

*Luther's Works*, 51:337-38.



## **It's diaper drive time**

**FACTS: The poorest 20% of Americans who buy diapers spend nearly 14% of their post-tax income on diapers.**

Zion is collecting diapers for the  
community diaper give-a-way event on Sept 6th.

ALL size diapers are needed.

Just bring your diapers to the church and place them into the  
bassinet.

Last day to bring diapers will be August 24th.

**\*Last year we gave away 6500 diapers to the community,  
that's 205 families that got diapers from us.**

**For more information contact  
TruLaine Starks 260-615-1873**