

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 18:20-33 (ESV)

²⁰ Then the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, ²¹ 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." ²² So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. ²³ Then Abraham drew near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ 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? ²⁵ 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?" ²⁶ And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake." ²⁷ Abraham answered and said, "Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸ 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." ²⁹ Again he spoke to him and said, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰ 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." ³¹ 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." ³² 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." ³³ And the LORD went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

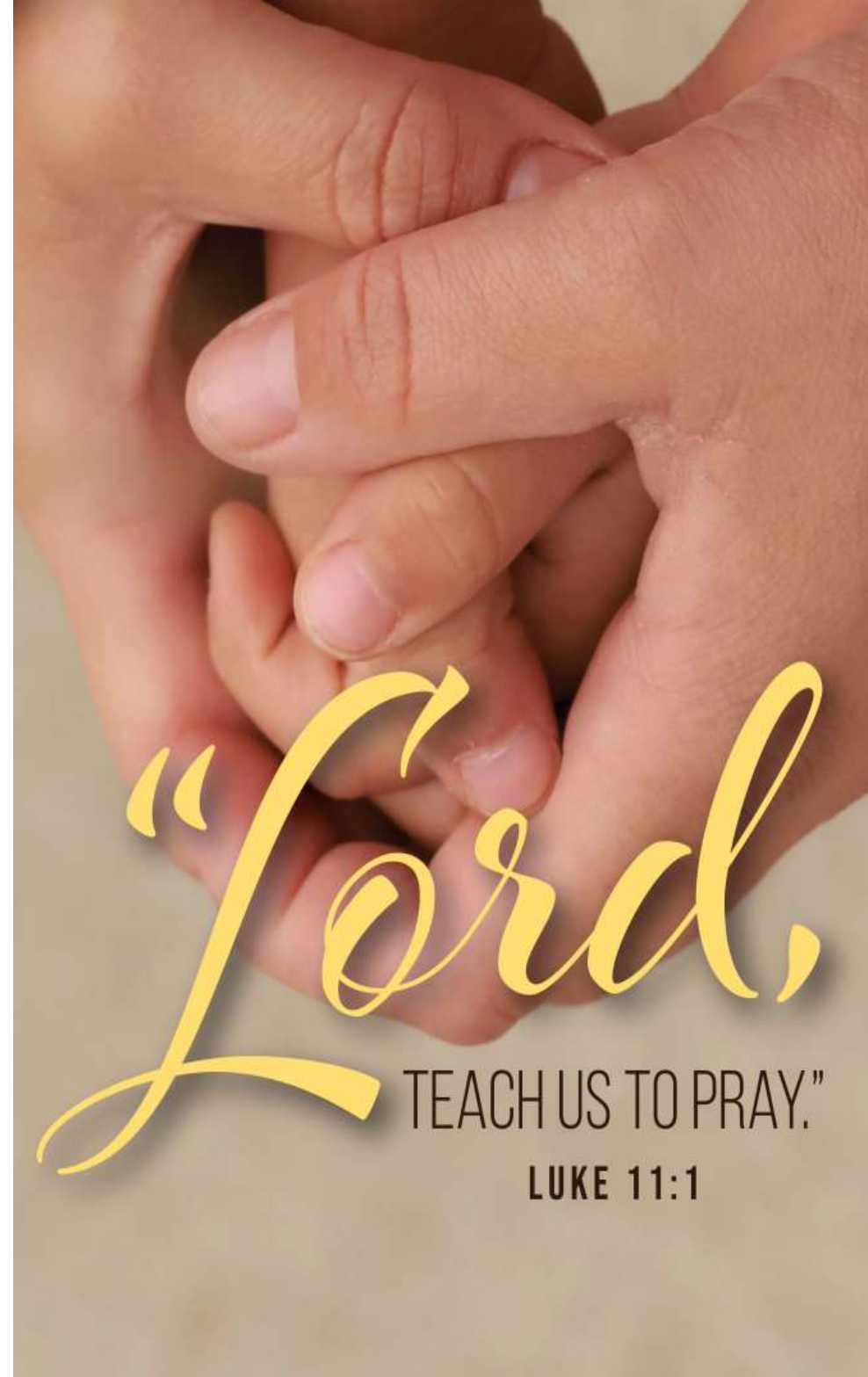
Colossians 2:6-15 (ESV)

⁶ Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. ⁸ 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. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹ 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, ¹² 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. ¹³ 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, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Luke 11:1-13 (ESV)

¹¹ 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." ² And he said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. ³ Give us each day our daily bread, ⁴ and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.' ⁵ 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, ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; ⁷ 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'? ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹ What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹² or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ 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!"



July 27, 2025
7th Sunday after Pentecost
Zion Lutheran Church, 17927 Dice Road, Hemlock, MI 48626
www.zionhemlock.org ~ Church Office 642-5909

✠ In the Name of Jesus ✠

As We Gather ~ *The Prayer of the Church Is the Voice of Faith.* Jesus catechizes His disciples in the way of faith by teaching them how to pray. He promises us: “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you” (Luke 11:9). If earthly fathers know how to give good gifts to their children, “how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him” (Luke 11:13). Thus, father Abraham was bold in his prayer because he believed the gracious promise of the Lord, that he would “surely become a great and mighty nation” (Gen. 18:18). When we pray in Jesus’ name, we also hold “fast to the Head” (Col. 2:19), “rooted and built up in him and established in the faith” (Col. 2:6–7).

ORDER OF SERVICE	Service of Prayer and Preaching	260
OPENING HYMN	“Come My Soul, with Every Care”	779
HYMN	“All People That on Earth Do Dwell”	791
SERMON HYMN	“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”	821
SERMON	“Pray!”	Luke 11:1-13
HYMN	“O Bless the Lord, My Soul”	814
CLOSING HYMN	“What a Friend We have in Jesus”	770

Pastor	Larry Warsinski
Organist	Carolyn Laurenz
Elder/Reader	Dale Rohde
A/V	Mark Richardson
Ushers	Paul Bohn and Roger Kade
Altar Guild	Connie Richardson

Our Measure of Love and Gifts

Attendance last week – 51 Needed for The Lord’s Work at Zion \$4,316 ~ Received for the Lord’s Work \$1,729; Capital Projects \$30; God’s Helping Hands \$70.

Please pray for your fellow Christians on their birthday: July 28- Clark Davis (his 88th), Dennis Kreger; July 29- Mary Lou Garner (her 80th), Jo Ann Kreger; July 30- Josh Hodges, Roselynn LaLonde; July 31- Brandon Wietfeldt.

Today’s Memory Verse ~ “And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to you 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” Deuteronomy 6:6-7

For many people, relaxing by a campfire is a favorite summer activity. Nestling into the surrounding darkness while gazing into dancing flames, we sense God’s love and let the day’s chaos go. In contrast, Exodus 24:17 describes, “Now the appearance of the glory of God was like a devouring fire.” Pastor Steve Garnaas-Holmes offers another take, writing about God using flames to change us. (The full poem is here: unfoldinglight.net/2025/02/24/fire)

God, your presence is like a consuming fire —
not destructive, but transformative,
not the fire of anger but the flame of love,
the fire of glassblowers and bakers
the grace to make us more beautiful, strong and
useful.

Your glory is no tame campfire
where we sit and make s’mores.
It burns out of our control.
The furnace of your love
roars about our hearts, remaking us
Teach us to be unafraid. ...

When you bask in firelight glow — and maybe eat some s’mores! — ponder how God is transforming you with love, and for the sake of love.

