

7th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, July 27, 2025

The Lord's Prayer

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Sunday: 07-27-2025 7th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 AM Worship (Nursery with Bob & Kathy McCollow)

Tuesday: 07-29-2025
7:30 AM Men's Bible Study meets in the Global Methodist Church at Crawford and Walnut Streets.

Thursday: 07-31-2025
Noon The Van Wert County Prayer meeting is at the Trinity Global Methodist Church; meet in the "Gate."

Sunday: 08-03-2025 8th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 AM Worship (Nursery with Rex & Lisa Lloyd)

Announcements:

The **Vacation Bible School** theme title this year is: "Give with Your Heart: Serving Jesus by Serving Others!" This VBS teaches kids that what matters most to God is not how much we give, but the heart behind our giving—and that when we help others, we are showing love directly to Jesus. The Mission for VBS is The Haven of Hope Men's Homeless Shelter. Please see the signup form to bring items for "Love Packages" the children will assemble for them. The VBS is **July 29 & July 30, 9:00-11:30 AM**, for ages: 4 years old to 6th grade. Hope to see you and your children there!

Salem gives **Offerings from the Heart for the Salvation Army**. Each month, we collect different items; the food we collect for July is canned fruit and for August, it is Mac & Cheese..

The **Venedocia Lions Club** is activating its yearly recruitment drive. Many Salem men belong to and support the organization. If you're interested, you're welcome to attend a meeting or visit VenedociaLions.org for more information. The next meetings are August 5th and 19th at 7 PM.

Please take photos and contribute updates, recipes, and ideas for the next **Salem newsletter**, "**Sounds of Salem**." Submit them to PastorTomEmery@live.com

Upcoming Birthdays
29th Heather McClure 29th Doug Strickler 31 Kristyn Jones
31st Zach Wise

Upcoming Anniversaries
27th Jeff & Kelly Lloyd 31st Jason & Danielle Lloyd 31st Johnathan & Katie Young



Salem Presbyterian Church

P.O. Box 678, Venedocia, OH 45894

www.SalemChurch.cc | 419-667-4142 Office

secretary@salemchurch.cc

August 27, 2025

Prayer Concerns:

Allen Breece
Tom Burnett (recovering from an accident)
Bill Culver
Pastor Tom Emery (long COVID healing)
Marjorie Eutsler
Millie Fletcher
Ellen Friesner
Shana Fryer
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)
Charlie Good (prostate cancer)
Carla Hillabrand (medical issues) sister to Nancy Breese
Elizabeth Holscher
Jim Lloyd (at Van Wert Manor)
Pete McCollow
Mary Lou Morgan (Eleanor Morgan’s daughter)
David Morris (Zeb)
Steve Muhlenkamp (cancer) Jen Pugh’s stepdad
Ann Rees (in Van Wert Hearth & Home)
Bianca Richards (leukemia)
The area Nursing Homes and their residents

Serving Our Country:

Dillon Ellerbrock (U.S. Marines)
Corbin Evans (U.S. Marine Corps)
Cory McCollow (U.S. Coast Guard)
Butch Eutsler (U.S. Army)
Madison Pugh (U.S. Coast Guard)

Condolences to the family of Carol Sullins (daughter of Dwight and Marjorie Rhoades)

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Rev. Thomas Emery
“Pleasing God” Isaiah 1:1, 10-20
Salem Presbyterian Church
August 27, 2025

In our passage, Yahweh outlines the conditions for hearing prayer and explains His reasoning for rejecting Judah's worship. In their hearts, Judah did not mean what they said to God, nor did their sacrifices to God convey the intended meaning. Their worship was not accompanied by a commitment to Yahweh “to walk the talk.” They were supposed to defend the weak (v. 17), but the needs of the weak in society were often ignored, so the poor struggled to obtain enough to eat, or they lost their land and thus their livelihood. As in our modern world, the well-off lived better than the poor. Statistics regarding health and life expectancy reflected this.

TEACHING POINTS

POINT ONE – *We are all invited to come to God.*

POINT TWO – *It is reasonable to come to God.*

POINT THREE – *What self-denials are destroying your life?*

THIS WEEK’S VERSE

“Come now, let’s settle this,” says the LORD. “Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool (Isaiah 1:18 NLT).

ACTION POINT

In verses 18–20, the point, “reason together,” reminds us that this passage takes place in the context of a suggested court case between Yahweh and Judah. Isaiah calls His congregation to repentance. This could apply at any time to any congregation. We could be so satisfied with our empty religious beliefs that we fail to realize they do not impress the Lord at all. God-given ordinances can so quickly be reduced to mere formality to the point that the Lord rejects them (Isaiah 1:11-15). After all, God tells us repeatedly that obedience is better than sacrifice (1 Samuel 15:22; Hosea 6:6). Man is more interested in outward appearance, but only the LORD looks on the inner heart (cf. 1 Samuel 16:7). Why not consider our faith? Are we living empty religious lives, or do we have a vital faith that has a close walk with the living God? What do we need to do to change?

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