

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 27, 2025

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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PRELUDE "Rondeau" Joseph Mouret
Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love
of God.

**For once we were lost and felt so far away;
now we have been found and welcomed home.**
Know that God's love is lavished upon you forever.
We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!
Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of Love.
AMEN!

OPENING PRAYER

**Our hearts are blessed as we gather before you
today, O Lord, for you have given us freedom from
all our transgressions and joy in exchange for heavy
hearts. You are the refuge we seek when we are
troubled and the courage we need when we
venture into our days. Bless us today with your
steadfast love as we declare our trust in you. Amen.**

HYMN "I Need You Every Hour"

#517 NCH (vs. 1-3)

**1 I need you ev'ry hour,
O God of grace;
The peace your voice affords,
I now embrace.**

Refrain:

**I need you, how I need you!
Ev'ry hour I need you;
O bless me now, my Savior,
I come to you.**

**2 I need you ev'ry hour,
In faith or fear;
temptations lose their pow'r
when you are near. [Refrain]**

**3 I need you ev'ry hour,
in joy or pain;
come quickly and abide,
or life is vain. [Refrain]**

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

**We use a lot of words, Gracious God, but do little to
turn them into deeds. Instead of being of one heart
and soul, we choose sides and form groups of folks
just like us. Blessed with great grace, we have
trouble sharing it with those who need it the most.**

**Forgive us, God of love. Forgive us, as we step out
of our shadows into your light. Restore us, as we
reveal our brokenness. Hear us, as we proclaim
Jesus Christ as our Lord and our God. Amen.**

WORDS OF GRACE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

As forgiven and blessed children of God, let us share
with one another signs of peace and love.

One: The Peace of God be with you.
Many: And also with you.

All are invited to greet one another with words such
as "*The peace of Christ be with you,*"
and the response: "*And also with you*".

RESPONSE: "*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*"
#489 W&R

**Lord, listen to your children praying:
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying:
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT *Micah 7:18-20 (The Message)*

¹⁸⁻²⁰ Where is the god who can compare with you—
wiping the slate clean of guilt,
Turning a blind eye, a deaf ear,
to the past sins of your purged and precious
people?

You don't nurse your anger and don't stay angry
long,
for mercy is your specialty. That's what you love
most.

And compassion is on its way to us.

You'll stamp out our wrongdoing.

You'll sink our sins
to the bottom of the ocean.

You'll stay true to your word to Father Jacob
and continue the compassion you showed
Grandfather Abraham—

Everything you promised our ancestors
from a long time ago.

Psalms 32 (The Message)

¹ Count yourself lucky, how happy you must be—
you get a fresh start,
your slate's wiped clean.

² Count yourself lucky—
God holds nothing against you
and you're holding nothing back from him.

³ When I kept it all inside,
my bones turned to powder,
my words became daylong groans.

⁴ The pressure never let up;
all the juices of my life dried up.

⁵ Then I let it all out;
I said, "I'll come clean about my failures to God."

Suddenly the pressure was gone—
my guilt dissolved,
my sin disappeared.

⁶ These things add up. Every one of us needs to pray;
when all hell breaks loose and the dam bursts
we'll be on high ground, untouched.

⁷ God's my island hideaway,
keeps danger far from the shore,
throws garlands of hosannas around my neck.

⁸ Let me give you some good advice;
I'm looking you in the eye
and giving it to you straight:

⁹ "Don't be ornery like a horse or mule
that needs bit and bridle
to stay on track."

¹⁰ God-defiers are always in trouble; God-affirmers
find themselves loved every time they turn around.

¹¹ Celebrate God. Sing together—everyone!

All you honest hearts, raise the roof!

HYMN *"Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"*

#459 NCH (vs 1,3)

**1 Come, O Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing your grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's unfailing love.**

**3 O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it,
Wander from the love I've known:
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for your very own.**

NEW TESTAMENT

Colossians 3:12-14 (The Message)

¹²⁻¹⁴ So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress
in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion,
kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be
even-tempered, content with second place, quick to
forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely
as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what
else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-
purpose garment. Never be without it.

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 18:21-35 (The Message)

²¹ At that point Peter got up the nerve to ask,
"Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or
sister who hurts me? Seven?"

²² Jesus replied, "Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times
seven.

²³⁻²⁵ "The kingdom of God is like a king who decided
to square accounts with his servants. As he got under
way, one servant was brought before him who had
run up a debt of a hundred thousand dollars. He
couldn't pay up, so the king ordered the man, along
with his wife, children, and goods, to be auctioned
off at the slave market.

²⁶⁻²⁷ "The poor wretch threw himself at the king's feet
and begged, 'Give me a chance and I'll pay it all

back.' Touched by his plea, the king let him off, erasing the debt.

²⁸ "The servant was no sooner out of the room when he came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him ten dollars. He seized him by the throat and demanded, 'Pay up. Now!'

²⁹⁻³¹ "The poor wretch threw himself down and begged, 'Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back.' But he wouldn't do it. He had him arrested and put in jail until the debt was paid. When the other servants saw this going on, they were outraged and brought a detailed report to the king.

³²⁻³⁵ "The king summoned the man and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave your entire debt when you begged me for mercy. Shouldn't you be compelled to be merciful to your fellow servant who asked for mercy?' The king was furious and put the screws to the man until he paid back his entire debt. And that's exactly what my Father in heaven is going to do to each one of you who doesn't forgive unconditionally anyone who asks for mercy."

SERMON

"Forgive Us as We Forgive Others" Pastor Julie

HYMN "I Then Shall Live" #372 W&R

1 I then shall live as one who's been forgiven;
I'll walk with joy to know my debts are paid.
I know my name is clear before my Father;
I am his child, and I am not afraid.
So greatly pardoned, I'll forgive another;
The law of love I gladly will obey.

2 I then shall live as one who's learned compassion;
I've been so loved that I'll risk loving, too.
I know how fear builds walls instead of bridges;
I dare to see another's point of view.
And when relationships demand commitment,
Then I'll be there to care and follow through.

3 Your kingdom come around and through and in me,
Your power and glory, let them shine through me;
Your hallowed name, oh, may I bear with honor,
And may your living kingdom come in me.
The Bread of Life oh, may I share with honor,
And may you feed a hungry world through me.

MORNING PRAYERS

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

(The Message translation by Eugene Peterson)

**Our Father in heaven,
Reveal who you are.
Set the world right;
Do what's best—
as above, so below.
Keep us alive with three square meals.
Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.
Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.
You're in charge!
You can do anything you want!
You're ablaze in beauty!
Yes. Yes. Yes.**

THE OFFERING SERVICE

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory "Prayer"

Robert Schuman

Doxology

**Praise God, the Source of life and birth;
Praise God, the Word, who came to earth;
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame;
All glory, honor to God's name!**

Prayer of Dedication

God, whose giving knows no ending, we offer up the treasure that you have entrusted to us; we offer up the skills and time that you have graciously given to us; we offer up ourselves in service and praise. Receive these gifts by your grace. Multiply and use them through the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish Christ's work of love in the world. Amen.

HYMN "Amazing Grace"

#547 NCH (vs. 1-3)

1 Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come:
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

BLESSING

JOYS AND CONCERNS

HYMN "Amazing Grace"

#547 NCH (vs. 4)

**4 My God has promised good to me,
Whose word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.**

COMMISSIONING (All)

Be the church:

Protect the environment

Care for the poor

Forgive often

Reject racism

Fight for the powerless

Share earthly and spiritual resources

Embrace diversity

Love God

Enjoy this life!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Karen Mohr

RADIO BROADCAST

**11 AM Sunday radio broadcast
on WCCN 98.5FM and 1370AM**

This week's radio broadcast is
sponsored by Doris Bakker
in memory of her mother, Elva Bakker.

WELCOME

We welcome you to our service of worship!
We are glad that you have joined us on site,
through the internet or on the radio.

We pray that you will hear God's call,
seek to follow Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit.

YouTube link for Sunday, July 27, 2025
<https://youtube.com/live/H0SF2bQhWYo>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, July 27th

- 9:30 AM Worship

Deacon Host – Janice Miller

Greeter(s) Wendy Sigurdson & grandkids

Usher(s) – Nancy & Kirk Rodman

PowerPoint – Janice Miller

Coffee fellowship after worship -

Sign up on back bulletin board

July 27 – Rodman's

Aug 3 - Wendy, Kelly, Haddie, Amelia

Aug 10 – *Clark County Fair Service*

Aug 17 -

We need people to sign up



Please have all articles in to the church office
by **Monday, July 28th for the August
Newsletter.**



Please join us at the Clark
County Fairgrounds, WCCN
radio tent on **Sunday,
August 10th at – 9 AM** for
a joint worship service with

Calvary Lutheran Church.

ALL ARE WELCOME!!

Refreshments will be served - a Sign-up sheet
for those who would like to bring treats will
be on the back bulletin board.