

TOGETHER IN CHRIST

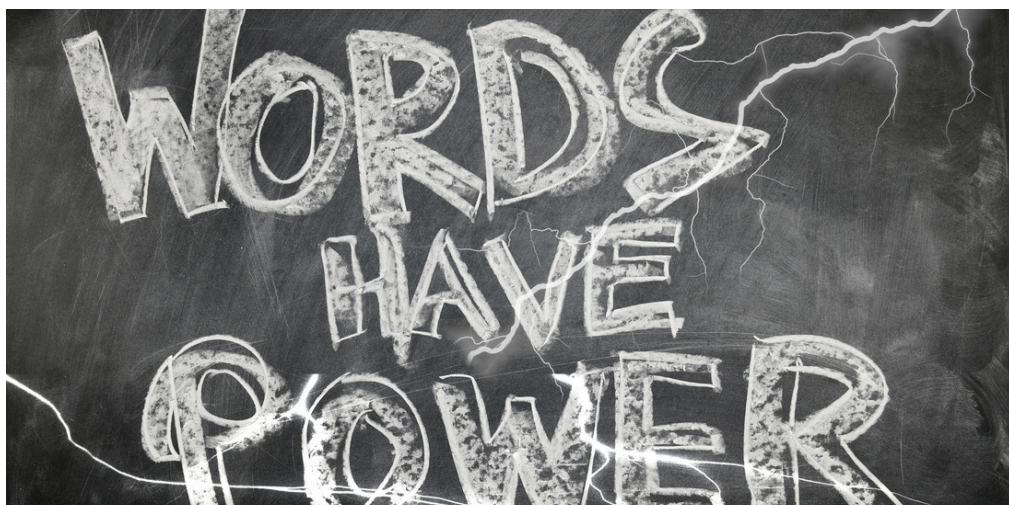


August 13, 2026

God Pause Devotional

Brought to you by alumni of Luther Seminary

By: Nancy Amburn '94 M.Div.



Matthew 15:10-28

Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile." Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon."

This Week at OSLC

Thursday, August 13th

9:00-12:00pm / Parents' Morning Out
10:00-Noon / The Common Cup Coffee Hour

Saturday, August 15th

9:00am / MCVA 2.50K Family Fun Run/Walk
9:00-3:00pm / OSLC Council Retreat

Sunday, August 16th

Start of Children's Church

8:45am / Adult Sunday School
10:00am / Worship with Eucharist
11:15am / Fellowship After Worship
5:30pm / Currents Young Adult Ministry Dinner

Tuesday, August 18th

9:00-12:00pm / Parents' Morning Out
5:30-7:30pm / OSLC @ Iron Tree

Wednesday, August 19th

9:00-12:00pm / Parents' Morning Out
10:30-12:00pm / Weekly Bible Study
2:00-3:30pm / Book Club

Thursday, August 20th

9:00-12:00pm / Parents' Morning Out
10:00-Noon / The Common Cup Coffee Hour
4:30-6:00pm / Dialogue on Race

Sunday, August 23rd

Thrivent Visit and Luncheon

8:45am / Adult Sunday School
10:00am / Worship with Eucharist
11:15am / Fellowship After Worship
TBD / Eklesia & CYP - Hiking Trip

Tuesday, August 25th

9:00-12:00pm / Parents' Morning Out
6:45pm / OSLC Council Meeting

Wednesday, August 26th

9:00-12:00pm / Parents' Morning Out
10:30-12:00pm / Weekly Bible Study
1:00-6:00pm / Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, August 27th

5:00-7:30pm / Eklesia & CYP - Community Table

Friday, August 28th

8:00-9:30am / Mens Bible Study (Zoom)
9:00am / Preacher's 'Tiquers

But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Devotion:

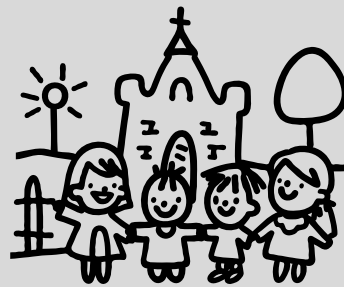
We watch someone walk by, hear a story about someone, read a news article about another country, and we immediately have opinions, sometimes, very strong negative ones. In a split second, we've decided what's bad or wrong or sinful about them, based on surface impressions: Do they have tattoos? What kind of outfit is that? Their skin color is not the same as mine. What strange foods they eat! They don't even speak my language.

Jesus is clear! This external stuff isn't what defiles (makes someone common or unholy). Just as the Pharisees searched for ways to make the disciples appear to be unholy (Matthew 15:1-9), we can all too often find ourselves expressing thoughts that make the other person less than, unholy, or common. It's the hatred that comes out of our heart and out of our mouths that makes us unholy, common, or defiled. Thankfully, it is God's mercy for all people that makes each one of us holy and uncommon.

Prayer:

For our evil intentions, slander, false witness, and more, forgive us, Lord Jesus. Help us to see the holy in the other person. Let what comes out of our hearts and mouths be holy and undefiled. Amen.

OSLC Ministry Corner



Children's Church Starts this Sunday
Sunday, August 16th

Children's Church will be offered immediately following the Children's Sermon every week and the little ones will return to their seats before the prayers of intercession.

Timeline (total 15-20mins):

- Sing Together
- Light an electric candle together
- Read a children's Bible version of a lectionary story
- Do a craft (coloring page, something quick and to the point of the day)
- Pray together

We are excited to make this important resource and opportunity happen for the littlest amongst us!



"The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world that it leaves to its children."

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

For Life's Ups and Downs

"And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant- these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer;"
Isaiah 56:6-7a

Our God announces to the nations, the gentiles, those that love God are grafted into the fold of God's chosen people.

This isn't a hard and fast ultimatum by God. Rather it is an invitation and a reminder that there are no barriers that God cannot transcend.

God does what God does and there's nothing we can do about it.

And luckily what God does is love, relentlessly love.

-PJ

Want to talk or in need Pastoral Care?



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**Our Saviour
Lutheran Church**
Serving God's Community through
Worship, Outreach and Fellowship

Always Remember Who and Whose You Are