



Sermon Summary:

Pastor Tara Beth's sermon calls the church to rediscover corporate prayer as central to who we are, not just something we occasionally do. Drawing from Acts 2:42–47 and stories from Lutheran revival history, Pastor Tara Beth contrasts simply wanting more of God with being truly devoted to seeking Him together. Throughout Scripture and church history, God's people experienced renewal and boldness when ordinary believers gathered persistently to pray. The sermon challenges the idea that God no longer moves powerfully, suggesting instead that the church may have settled for comfort over devotion. Ultimately, the invitation is to become a house of prayer, trusting God to transform His people from the inside out so they can bear faithful witness to the world.

Conversation Starter:

Can you think of a time when stepping outside your normal routine led to growth, clarity, or deeper connection? What made that experience meaningful?

Prayer: Gracious God,

You are present with us whenever Your people gather. As we come together now, quiet our distractions and open our hearts to Your work among us. Where we are tired, meet us with rest; where we are uncertain, meet us with peace; where we are hungry for more, draw us closer to You. Shape our time together by Your Spirit, and help us listen for what You are doing in us and among us as Your church. Amen.

Read Scripture together: Acts 2:42-47, Optional: Psalm 124

3-Question Study Method

Use this method to understand the passage.

1. What is the passage about?
2. What do I learn about God?
3. What is the lesson I learn that I can apply to my life?

Discussion Questions:

- As you read Acts 2:42–47, what words, phrases, or images stand out to you? Why do you think those caught your attention?
- What do these verses tell us about what held the early church together? How do prayer, community, and daily life seem connected here?
- The passage says the believers were “devoted” to prayer and to one another. What do you think devotion looked like for them in real, everyday terms?
- Where do you notice a gap between what this passage describes and how prayer or community often looks in your own life or in the church today?
- Pr. Tara Beth’s sermon noted that prayer together can feel awkward, uncomfortable, or intimidating. What do you think makes corporate prayer difficult for many people, including you?
- If prayer is meant to be part of who we are, not just something we schedule, what might be one small, realistic way this group could lean into that together?
- Optional: The sermon suggested that God often changes His people on the inside before doing something visible on the outside. What might God want to form in us through praying together before asking us to do anything new?

Memory Verse: Acts 2:42 (NIV)

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

Closing Prayer: Gracious God, You have always met Your people when they gather in Your name. We thank You for the gift of community and for inviting us to seek You together. Where we have settled for comfort or routine, awaken in us a deeper devotion to You. Shape us into a church rooted in prayer, not for our own sake alone, but so Your love and mercy might be made known through us. We place our trust in Your faithfulness and go forward in hope. Amen.