

St. Paul Lutheran Church

3 Days of Prayer

Repentance, Petition, Vision

January 1, 2 and 3



An invitation to pray

God is listening. He really is. God says, “You will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you” (Jeremiah 29:12). This is His promise to each of us. For three days, January 1, 2, and 3 join our congregation and thousands of others around the world from our association (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ) for intentional prayer for ourselves, our churches, and our world. Each day there is a theme and concerns to take to our Lord in prayer. God is knocking on your heart... and he is already listening.

January 1 – Day One: Repentance

Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord!
² O Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleas for mercy!
³ If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?
⁴ But with you there is forgiveness,
that you may be feared.
⁵ I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
⁶ my soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.
⁷ O Israel, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is plentiful redemption.
⁸ And he will redeem Israel
from all her iniquities.



Prayer based on Psalm 130

Gracious Lord, thank you for all your mercy to me throughout this passing year. Though I daily stray from you and fail to obediently serve you in all my thoughts, words, and deeds, you do not abandon me and still you call me your beloved child. Thank you! Search the depths of my soul and cleanse me of all that inhibits true obedience to your

Word. Throughout the new year, cause me not to rush rashly ahead in life but rather to wait upon you for guidance and direction, knowing that you possess all wisdom and knowledge. All this I ask in the name of Jesus, your Son, my Savior. Amen.

A prayer of repentance:

Precious Father, you have claimed us and said 'You shall have no other Gods before me'. Too often we honor other claims and put other relationships above you. Our priorities end up in other things and in other places and not with you where they belong. Help us, Dear Lord; change our ways. Give us wisdom, strength, and courage to trust you and to stand up and confess you as Lord and Master of our lives and our families. Guide us Jesus, to walk in your ways, keeping you before us and before everything else that seeks to separate us from you. When we are tempted to give ourselves to our own projects, travels, or to athletic events instead of coming to your house to worship you, give us joy in our hearts and the desire to come hear your living word and to call on you in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. When we are tired and exhausted, too weary to seek you, stir our hearts to come to you, both at times of worship and in our needy moments during the week, so that we may receive the refreshment and

spiritual healing we so desperately need, which comes only from you. Thy kingdom come Lord, thy will be done; take me to yourself now and every day... that mine may be an example of a life hidden in you. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

Other prayer topics for this day:

addictions

anger, impatience

lack of respect (for God and others)

time management

that at least 70% of our people would confess and demonstrate that, with regard to money and assets: it all belongs to God, we are his managers, and we are to use it his ways for his glory.



January 2 – Day two: Petition

“Petition” means *to ask*. So, we ask the Lord...

Read and pray using Psalm 119; Psalm 119:10, 49-50,105

*With my whole heart I seek you;
let me not wander from your commandments!
⁴⁹Remember your word to your servant,
in which you have made me hope.
⁵⁰This is my comfort in my affliction,
that your promise gives me life.
Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.*

A prayer based on Psalm 119

O Lord, Father in Heaven,
Guide me.
Mold me.
Form me.
Turn me.
Teach me.
Change me.
Get hold of me.
Make me yours.
Show me your Way.
All day let that Way be before me.
In every thought, breath and action
let it be the beacon, the guide, the control,
the path of my life.
Help me follow your Way
to the very end of my days.
May I never stop searching
and desiring your Law.
Thank you for putting me here in your hands.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

Read and pray Psalm 117

Praise the LORD, all nations!

Extol him, all peoples!

*² For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.*

Praise the Lord!

Making room... Let's pray

Gracious and Almighty Father thank you: in Jesus Christ you made room in your house for forgiven sinners like us... and you call us to help more families find their true home in you. So, make room in our hearts now for more people... increase our witness to you outside of our walls... and use our gifts to make room for more people... so they can connect with you and one another, in Jesus name. Amen.

For our preschool: Lord Jesus, grant our preschool teachers and staff an abundance of your wisdom. Give them guidance to teach and love children as each child is learning how to maneuver your world, to communicate and to grow into all that you plan them to be. Give the teachers patience and love in sharing with families as they partner with each of them. When the teachers and staff feel unseen, remind them that no moment goes unnoticed. They are shaping the future in one million small - yet incredibly important - ways every day. Bless them, Lord, and may they see even just a glimpse of how their faithfulness will forever impact generations to come. Also, Lord, you know that good help is always hard to find, so as you see that we need them, please send us appropriately gifted, faithful teachers to work in our preschool. All this we ask in your name, amen.

Other petitions:

The family: your own and others

Our congregation, that we will:

- Promote a culture of family...supporting home prayer & Bible study with parents as key teachers
- Increase our outreach and mission presence outside our walls
- Strive for excellence in spiritual leadership

The persecuted church

The hungry

The unemployed

Those who are sick

The dying

Foreign missionaries

For our nominating committee and for the Lord to continue to call and raise up spiritually mature leaders who will guide us to carry out the mission and ministry entrusted to us by God; it's about His kingdom, not ours.

Making room, Phase 1B of our facility expansion



January 3 – Day 3: Vision

The vision God has given us is that St. Paul Lutheran will be a congregation that engages people in order to help more families follow Jesus.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your 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.⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

Psalm 145:1-7

*I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.*

*² Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.*

*³ Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised,
and his greatness is unsearchable.*

*⁴ One generation shall commend your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.*

*⁵ On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.*

*⁶ They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.*

*⁷ They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.*

Malachi 4:2, 5-6

But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall...

⁵ “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

Luke 1:16-17

“And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷ and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

Ephesians 5:20-24, 25, 6:4

“...giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior... ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... ^{6.4} Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

III John 4

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.”

Prayer:

Gracious and almighty Father, in your Son Jesus you freely give forgiveness, life and salvation to me and to all those with ears to hear. Thank

you! Your blueprint, your design for redeeming the world and making disciples starts with marriage and the family, even with my family. Give men and women ears to hear this calling; give me ears to hear it. Establish and strengthen husband and wife under Christ. Guide parents as the key teachers for their children. Inspire fathers and mothers to read the Bible, teach the catechism, and pray with their families at home and when away. For persons who are single, sustain them in faith in you and in purity. Lead me and our congregation to engage people wherever they are with the love and truth of Jesus Christ. Keep the leaders of our congregation humble, disciplined and focused on our vision to help more families follow you; for your glory and in your name I pray. Amen

Additional petitions:

- That at least 70% of our people would mature in their relationship with the Lord and each other through participation in a healthy small group (Ephesians 4:13-16)
- That the Lord would change our ministry and witness in such a way that each year twelve adults (that's one per month) would be baptized or return to Christ through our congregation.

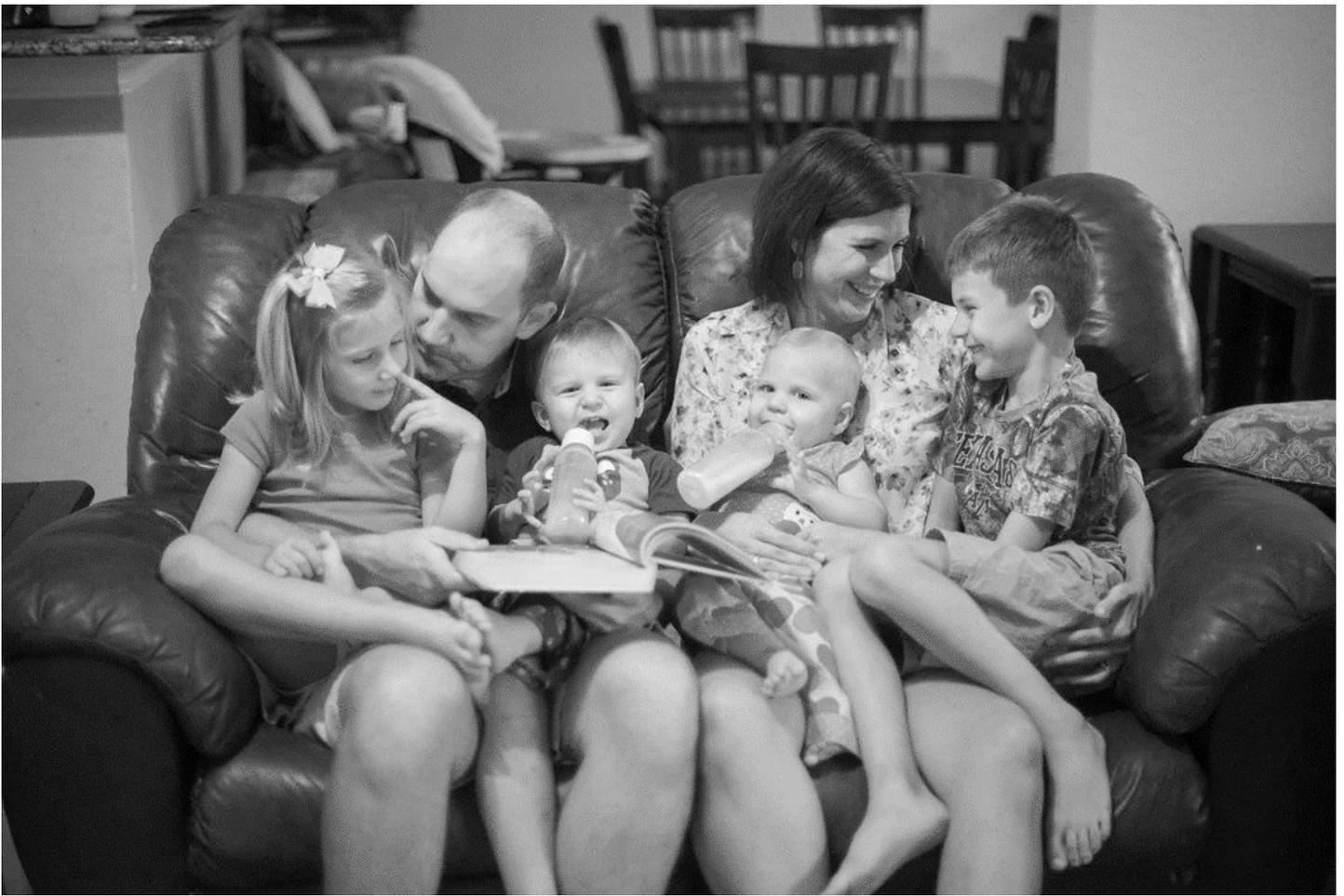
...into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray; trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

To continue in the habit of daily prayer, here are a few resources:

- 1) <http://pastorpaulnb.blogspot.com/>
- 2) *The Small Catechism* (found in the Church Lobby)
- 3) *Portal of Prayer* (found in the Church Lobby)
- 4) *Our Daily Bread* (found in the Church Lobby)







Our Mission: Go and make disciples.

Our Vision: We will be a congregation that engages people to help families follow Jesus.

Our Priorities:

- Promote a culture of family... supporting home prayer & Bible study with parents as key teachers
- Increase weekly worship
- Maintain trust & confidence in leadership
- Raise up the next generation of leaders