

ST. PAUL'S

LUTHERAN CHURCH



MAUMEE, OHIO

March 1, 2016

To the Saints in Greater Toledo

Jesus said,

“Remain in me, and I will remain in you.... I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples” (Jn 15:4–8, NIV).

This is a month of remembering that only in Christ can we truly know what it means to be alive and to thrive. Our nation—characterized by the American Church, even us at St. Paul’s—has become like a withering branch. Many within us and outside us are hurting, brokenhearted, and feeling cut-off. Teens are being bullied at record numbers; too many are contemplating suicide. Divisiveness has become rampant, not only in political discourse, but in the church and by Christians. Our nation, our churches, and the people of our land are in desperate need of Jesus and the nourishment he gives. Let us seek him again with penitent hearts.

Our nation’s return to God begin with us: the church, through prayer. How ironic is it that we live in a city once nicknamed “Holy Toledo”—one whose motto is “Laborare est Orare,” which translated means “to work is to pray.” We must endeavor to be a people of prayer. Not to say that we are people of prayer, but truly to be a people who are marked, defined, and known by the Lord as a people who seek the Lord in his house of prayer. We need more prayer warriors who will pray before ALL SERVICES on Sundays and during the midweek. We need more of you to rise to the occasion and pray. In this, let us not just pray for one another and our congregational needs, let us also pray for those outside our walls who are broken and in need Jesus.

You are important. Your prayers are crucial to the healing of our church, and the healing of our land. That healing begins by casting off our ways of internal strife, and to petition the Lord with repentant and prayerful hearts. In this month when we commemorate that in Christ we are forgiven, healed, and reborn, let us seek God for forgiveness, healing and renewal; and let us do the same with one another.

Healing and renewal begins with us. It begins with you; and it begins in pray. Let our work this month be about prayer.

In Christ Alone,





MARCH 2016 DAILY PRAYER CARD

1. God, thank you for the gift of the new piano. We praise you for doing a new thing at St. Paul's—for continually writing the score that you would have us play. As this gift is a sign of renewal, renew us too Lord.
2. Father, tighten the bonds within us through our Lenten soup suppers and evening services.
3. God, raise up more ministers of compassion at St. Paul's, Father, who will extend the arms and love of your Son Jesus to the hurting.
4. Word of God, breath the Spirit of Understanding into us. Make us come alive at the hearing and reading of your Word. Encourage us to DO LIFE with one another and seek you as the nourishment of our souls.
5. Father, stitch us together in your love, compassion, mercy and grace. Knit us together into a beautiful blanket where the brokenhearted find comfort and warmth in the Spirit of your Son Jesus Christ.
6. Father, in our pride, we harbor grudges against one another and sell others out when they don't do as we want them to do. Help us Lord return to you for forgiveness, and to seek reconciliation with another too.
7. God, we worship you for who you are and praise you for what you're doing among us. Fill us with your Holy Spirit. Continue writing a new song at St. Paul's with people who praise you daily for your goodness.
8. God of the nations, build up our Mission Guatemala team. Give provision each missionary with overflowing abundance as they prepare to travel this summer to serve your will abroad.
9. Father, through St. Paul's, may the renewing spirit of Jesus rain-down upon the boys and families of those you're inviting into relationship with you through Troop 103.
10. Lord, you have opened up your storehouses of provision to feed the hungry. Please continue to bless God's Storehouse abundantly so we can continue feeding the brokenhearted and increase our mission outward.
11. Lord, teenagers are under so much pressure these days—many suffering from intense bullying and social pressures. Father, bring renewal to our students. Bring revival Lord, and begin it with those at St. Paul's.
12. God, we need more men in America who will stand up and be counted. Father, renew the men at St. Paul's. Raise up godly men who intentionally gather as men desire—to build one another into leaders and more.
13. Father, with all the division in our world, it's no wonder people are so distressed these days. Father, encourage us, and help us to encourage one another in your mercy, grace, love and forgiveness. Renew us God. Renew us.
14. Father, we pray for all those in our church and city who are empty nesters, retirees, and in their sunset years. God, build them up. Help them see that their still needed and that their gifts are wanted by all.
15. God, we are brokenhearted from all the divisiveness by our governing officials, and those seeking office. Deny those seeking their own agenda. Instill leaders Lord who will help bring healing to our nation.
16. Father, bless mothers and their little children and their families too. Bless St. Paul's Lord with an overflowing abundance of Preschoolers who worship in this great congregation.

17. Father, we lift up every man and woman who is single, divorced, or widowed. Help them feel included and welcomed. We say to them, "You are valued and loved." Help them feel our love, friendship and embrace.
18. God, bless all the parents (and grandparents) at St. Paul's. Help them help their children grow in your love, wisdom and stature as sons and daughters of God who bring healing to the world in witness of Christ Jesus.
19. Lord, make Toledo holy again in your sight, Father, as a city who labors to pray for redemption, renewal and healing for all who reside here in the power of your Holy Spirit.
20. Lord Father, forgive us if we have ever mocked Jesus or made a mockery of our faith. Give us a deeper appreciation for the King of Kings and Lord of Lords: Jesus, the savior of our souls and healer of our hearts.
21. Lord, we lift up LCMC. Bring renewal to Lutheranism in America. Fulfill LCMC's vision to plant 1000 churches in the next decade as those who share your gospel with millions who are yet to know you.
22. Lord of the city, bless Salem Church and Mosaic Ministries. Through them both, feed the hungry, cloth the naked, and give shelter to the homeless. Bring healing to the brokenhearted through them God.
23. God, you are doing a new thing at St. Paul's with prayer ministries. Raise up an army of prayer warriors at St. Paul's Father who will pray for our city, the lost and the brokenhearted in your mercy and grace.
24. Father, help us to remain in Christ and to be nourished by him. Keep us firmly rooted to you Lord and one another, as a growing, organic body that produces much fruit for the whole world to see and taste.
25. God Almighty, forgive us when we betray you and one another. Forgive us for not loving you and one another; nor caring for the brokenhearted. Cleanse us from our unrighteousness, and take not your Holy Spirit from us.
26. Father, bless the little children today as they go Easter egg hunting. Let laughter resound, and bring joy to their hearts. As they grow in years, help these children find you and taste your goodness in Christ Jesus.
27. God, on this Easter Sunday, renew your church. Rejuvenate and reanimate us as a center of renewal, prayer, new life, and healing for all those burdened, weary, and feeling drained by life.
28. Lord, so many people are on the go, almost non-stop these days. Help us in America re-prioritize our time and relationships. Return our hearts back to you, and give us rest in you.
29. Father, bless our junior high school students. Many are weary, bullied, and confused. Comfort them in their brokenness. Fill them afresh in the power of your Holy Spirit.
30. Father, our high school students are under immense pressure. Calm them amid their strife. Heal them in their brokenness. Give them strength to stand in your Holy Spirit against the pressures and temptations they face daily.
31. Lord, anoint our children to be bearers of the good news in their schools and neighborhoods. Bear much fruit through them. In them, may we all see what it truly means to live as Children of God who love you and others without condition.