

ST. PAUL'S

LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAUMEE, OHIO

April 1, 2016

To the faithful and obedient,

Jesus was known for teaching through rhetorical question. As he often did, Jesus one day engaged his disciples about the Kingdom of God. He asked, *"What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to?"* He answered: *"It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air perched in its branches."* Again he asked, *"What shall I compare the kingdom of God to?"* To which he continued, *"It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough."* (Lk 13:18–21).

For Jesus, the kingdom of God was (and is everything). He boldly declared, *"I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent"* (Lk 4:43). Jesus' mission should be our mission. We have been co-mission-ed to be about Jesus' mission of expecting God's kingdom to invade this earth, with radical growth. Jesus prayed, *"Your Kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven"* (Luke 11:2). Yes Lord. Make it so!

This month, let us focus our prayers on Jesus' teaching, his activities and his prayers. Let us be about praying about the Kingdom of God as the Lord's kingdom servants. Specifically...

- Pray for those outside our walls, specifically the lost, hurting, brokenhearted, and depressed.
- Pray for those who have abandoned the church, and those who have never set foot in one.
- Pray for the American church in decline (especially the Lutheran church, and us).
- Pray for God to retool, reform, remold, and reinvigorate our mind-set and methods to be about his external mission, versus our inclination to an internal preoccupation.
- Pray not with an attitude of pessimism, but with expectant hearts of optimism.

Through prayer, we can make a difference for the kingdom of God in our city. Our prayers can change people; they can move our church onto mission; and they can transform our city. You are on the front lines and in this "war." Through your prayers of faith in your "war rooms," God can move mountains, and the lost can be found and saved. Make it so, Lord!

In Christ's Love.





APRIL 2016 DAILY PRAYER CARD

1. Father God, increase within us a heart for the lost in our city. Give us an awareness to reach them. Moreover, cause us to be intentional to find those you're showing us, engaging them for the Kingdom.
2. Lord, swell up from within us the desire to form new LIFE Groups. Stir-on groups of people (in all forms: singles, marrieds, intergenerational) who engage one another as LIFE accountability partners.
3. Lord, pull our Sixth Graders into a deeper relationship with you. Through their first communion Lord Jesus, become a growing part of who they are. Develop them into strong, spiritual followers who will share the new life they've been given in you with the world.
4. Father, we lift up those in our city who are suffering from depression—those who think they're lost causes. Build them up according to your grace and mercy. Use us, Lord, as agents of healing who touch lives.
5. God, light a fire in our junior high school students this spring and summer; set them on fire for your Gospel.
6. Father, we pray for the young families in our church and city. Bind them closer together. Guide and strengthen parents and the family unit, through thick and thin—good times and bad.
7. Lord God, reform us as an expectant congregation: a people who envisage and believe you are changing us for the good of your Kingdom—anticipating that from within us you will do great things.
8. Father, build us up as a congregation of encouragers. Put us in the path of those who need to be built-up, spurring us on to respond according to what we're sensing through listening prayer.
9. Father, our church, city and nation needs a "few (more) good men" who are willing to be raised up to be leaders for the sake of your Kingdom. Do that by beginning with us at St. Paul's and in our city.
10. God, you have been creating a stir about "War Room." Bring hundreds to our sanctuary this evening whom you will empower to become a people of prayer—for others, our city, and nation.
11. God, you're calling St. Paul's to become a house of prayer. Spur us on to "send up" prayers on a daily basis for the lost, hurting, homeless, and brokenhearted. Give us hearts for those outside our community. Give us hearts for broken marriages and struggling homes. Give us hearts for the people in our city.
12. Lord, you've designed us to be a people on mission: locally and around the world. Remind us of our mission to seek and bring the lost to Jesus Christ – to be about Jesus' mission to actively usher in your Kingdom.
13. Father, give us ears to hear our leadership and the ways you are guiding them toward your desired future.
14. Lord, it's good to often get out of our own environments to see what you're doing in our city. Expand our outreach into our city by putting us in unfamiliar places where we can observe your movements.
15. God, your creation is colorful, vibrant, with both obvious patterns and unexpected beauties. Make us vibrant too Lord. Help us to "pop" for you, so those in our city sees you in us.
16. God, help us to be strong for one another our city. Fortify us as strong disciples of Jesus Christ who lean upon your Spirit and Word through prayer, so that we can rebuild our city for your Kingdom sake.

17. God, keep us focused on Jesus Christ and his redemptive works in our city. Help us to be less about our inner struggles, and more about Jesus' mission to redeem the lost, hurting, and suffering.
18. Lord, you have ONE church in this world, the church of Jesus Christ. Father, stir within St. Paul's a desire to pray for ALL the congregations in our area who are about your business, for you have us on one joint mission to seek out and save the lost through Jesus Christ.
19. God, how much longer can our nation keep falling into disrepute and disrepair? Rebuild our nation by rebuilding your people and church. Rebuild our house of worship. Rebuild our schools. Rebuild our cities.
20. God, empower our senior high school students to reach their lost and broken friends for Jesus Christ. Empower them. Make them into decisive leaders for Jesus Christ, determined to take their city for God.
21. God, the Lutheran church in America has become an echo of what it once was. We're losing members and congregations at record numbers. Reform us—even us at St. Paul's—to reach the generations today with the spirit of Martin Luther: as bold, determined spirit-filled agents of Kingdom change.
22. Father, help us to be a people who "Speak Peace" to one another. Stir us onto reconciling the world to Jesus Christ as ambassadors of peace. From us, speak peace to those who do not have peace in their hearts.
23. Lord, we pray for all those running in tomorrow's Glass City Marathon. Give all running endurance, encouraging each and every one to strive forward with the goal in mind to finish strong.
24. Father, strengthen us at St. Paul's to run the race for Jesus Christ in the Glass City. Strengthen us. Enlarge our lungs with your Spirit-filled breath. Bring us alongside others as Kingdom athletes and trainers.
25. Lord, makeover our methods to reach the lost, hurting and brokenhearted. Stir within us a desire to retool our ways to minister effectively for those who's abandoned the faith, and for those who know you not.
26. God, fortify our partnerships with local missions and churches, while also forging new relationships that will expand your Kingdom in our city.
27. God, send "scouts" from St. Paul's into the wilderness of our City who will help the needy; encamp in new neighborhoods; and be courageous to merit the badges of Apostles and Disciple-makers in our city.
28. God, you are creating a new dynamic worship at St. Paul's that is ministering to the hearts of many. Encourage our worship teams as you have been doing. Bring healing to others through them, Father.
29. Father, give us eyes to see what you're doing in your city. Make our senses acute to your movements; then cause us to respond in kind to reach-out and minister according to your Holy Spirit's guidance.
30. Father, raise up the next generation of leadership (the young and old alike) at St. Paul's who will reach out and engage our city for your Kingdom, by creating new opportunities of ministry we have yet to envision.