



2025 Prayers
for
St. Mark Lutheran Church
And You

ST MARK LUTHERAN



LOVING GOD

AND

ALL PEOPLE

***Confession, Petition, Vision
(Being, Listening, Doing)***

How thankful we can be that we can enter into three days of prayers with our brothers and sisters in Christ who are also part of LCMC congregations around the country and around the globe!

C- Confession - I am Sorry Praying for Ourselves

It is wise to form the habit of inviting God to search our hearts and reveal “any hurtful way” (Psalm 139:23) within ourselves. Sustained attention to the heart, the wellspring of action, is essential to the spiritual formation process.

Allowing Jesus to examine our intentions and priorities, we open ourselves to His good but often uncomfortable work of exposing sins. ¹ Self-examining prayer and/or journaling in God’s presence over time helps us get past our emotions and actions.

This practice uncovers sinful patterns which require repentance and renewal. Note: this a process of working out our salvation by making us more “Christ-Like” or conforming to His image.

What does this look like?

- Repentance: ask 1) God to reveal your sins, 2) ask forgiveness for your sins and 3) ask for God’s help to change your sinful ways (renewal).

*Search me, O God, and know my heart;
Try me and know my anxious thoughts;
And see if there be any hurtful way in me,
And lead me in the everlasting way.*

Psalm 139:23–24

To assist you, here is a prayer sequence for examination and encouragement that incorporates The Ten Commandments, the Lord’s Prayer, the Beatitudes, the seven deadly sins, the four cardinal and three theological virtues, and the fruit of the Spirit. This can serve as a kind of spiritual diagnostic too. ² See the Appendix for Day 1 Confession



P - Petition- I ask Prayer Points for Myself and Our Church

As God shapes us to be more Christ like, whatever circumstance He allows in our lives are for our good, even though they may not seem so at the time. (Romans 12:2; Romans 8:28-29) This eternal perspective can change the way we pray. Rather than asking God to change our circumstances to suit us, we can ask Him to use our circumstances to change us. Do you not know we are spiritual beings? Do you not know we should receive each day with gratitude from God's hand for it prepares us for our glorious and eternal destiny in his presence.³

³Boa, Ken, Conformed to His Image, Biblical and Practical Approaches to Spiritual Formation, Revised Edition, Zondervan Academic, Grand Rapids, Mich., 2021,2020, p. 294.

See Appendix on Petitions Day 2

Knowing the Importance of Prayer in God's Eternal Work...building up St. Mark Church through prayer during 2025.

St. Mark Church Council Petitions

Stewardship:

C Let us confess our sins to God Almighty and thank Him for His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, who sacrificed His life to take our sins upon Himself for our eternal salvation.

P- Let us repent to those we have harmed in thought, word and actions, that they might find forgiveness for us and let us forgive all those who have harmed us without waiting to hear their repentance.

V- As we get closer to Jesus' second coming, let us share the Glory of God's love to everyone. Thanks be to God.

Finance:

P-For the congregation to joyfully share their financial blessings.

P- Melchizedek, priest of God, received the first tithe from Abram in Genesis 14:20. The Biblical approach to giving is to tithe 10% of income. In 2 Corinthians 9:7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

V- For God to provide St. Mark with disciples sharing their time and talents to aid in His mission.

Parish Education: P- For God to inspire volunteers to staff our educational and training programs. For continued growth in outreach.

V- For God's Word to take root and grow mightily in the hearts of all students

and adults. (Sunday School, Teachers, Confirmation, VBS, High School, Bible Studies, Discipleship). To continue to grow in God's Word.

Youth Ministries

P - the students, their families, and leadership for their daily spiritual growth/ maturity and protection.

Confirmation Ministries

P- the students, their families, the Sunday School program, the Pastor's and students' Biblical learning and teaching. Prayers for their renewal and growing faith.

Elders

Day 1- Confession:

Gracious and loving God, We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do. We love with condition. We judge and condemn,. We cast the first stone and keep the logs in our own eyes. We do not turn to You as the source of our healing. Forgive our sin and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. Amen.

Day 2- Petition/requests:

O Holy God, we know we have fallen short. Help us to embrace rather than turn our backs, listen before we speak; fling open our doors to those in need; seek understanding instead of judging. Forgive us, O God, and help us to continue to grow into the people you created us to be. Amen

Day 3- Plans for the future:

Father, you are the same yesterday, today and forever. You are truly in control of all that happens, not only in our lives but in every corner of the world. Guide, protect and supply the needs of all Your children, Thank You that we do know that our future us secure in You, no matter what may take place in the world. Let us praise Your name every day. Amen.

Congregational Life

- Prayers for all the children who receive the Operation Christmas Child boxes. And the families who received the Thanksgiving dinners.
- Prayers for us who feel the burnout to remember that this is for God that we do our ministries.
- Prayers for our frustration, when we don't get help that we need at times.
- Prayers that all the ministries can work together as a well-oiled machine.

Worship and Music

Day 1- Confession: Dear Lord, We acknowledge that without you, we can do nothing. You are the vine and we are the branches. Forgive us for the times we have tried to do things in our own strength and wisdom, without seeking your guidance. Help us to put aside our personal agenda and to work together in unity for the greater purpose in your kingdom. Amen.

Day 2- Petitions/requests:

Father, May our time of worship be an encounter with You, our living God. We ask that You show Your presence to each person in a unique and personal way. Fill us with joy, show us Your glory and splendor and may we feel closer to You. Amen

Day 3 Looking to the future:

Dear Heavenly Father, You are the Creator, the Sustainer, and Redeemer. As we gather for worship, fill our hearts with your Holy Spirit. We honor and glorify You for who You are. We lift up our voices with all of our hearts, minds and strength. Amen

Call Committee. Our petition for our new pastor:

Dear Heavenly Father, We come before you with humble hearts seeking wisdom for St. Mark's future Pastor. Grant the call committee discernment, endurance, and insight on your plan. Help us, as one body of Christ, to work together and according to Your will. Guide the heart of this chosen person to know without a doubt. St. Mark is their new church home. We thank you for your goodness, love, mercy and perfect timing. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Lord, help each of us to be faithful and obedient to You and Your Word. Especially when we are on the edge of being burnt out; leaning toward being discouraged, as we wait upon your perfect timing. Noting 1 Samuel 13. When Saul, chose to make a burnt offering himself for God's help in battle instead of waiting for Samuel, the priest, as God instructed. We learn it was a test of obedience by God. So we ask for prayers of encouragement and reassurance so to remain steadfast regardless of circumstances until God's time is accomplished.

"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid." ([John 14:27 NLT](#))

Evangelism -

C- We confess that we have become consumed with our own lives and circumstances and have neglected to see those around u that need to know you as Lord and Savior. Forgive us Lord!

P- Help us to be intentional and organic in sharing our faith and hope in you with those with whom we come in contact. Renew us Lord! V- Give us your eyes and your heart to truly see those around us in need of your love and your salvation. Lead us Lord!

Pastors/Staff: C- Thank you God for the many gifts that our staff bring to the Body of Christ here at St. Mark. Grant clarity in this transition. Empower our staff to do Your will in this place. Be present with those faithful staff who have entered new seasons in their lives. **P**-Father, help us to recognize our opportunities to serve and give us a heart for your people. We pray for wisdom, discernment, energy, and endurance to serve in love in all that we do and that you would be glorified.

Property Management

Lord, we thank you for the many gifts you have given St. Mark that allow us to enjoy such wonderful facilities to further your work. We ask that you continue to bless us with the resources to maintain and improve our facilities to meet the needs of our congregation and to support your vision for St. Mark. Give us the wisdom to make good decisions, to ensure the safety and comfort of all and to create a welcoming and serene environment where all who enter can sense your presence. We give thanks for the many volunteers and staff who put countless hours into taking care of our property and buildings. We thank you

for the Columbarium Committee and their generosity in providing a beautiful enhancement to our church and providing a wonderful service to our church community.

Safety and Security

C- Gracious Lord, we confess that we often fall back in that secure thought "It won't happen here." Forgive us and lead us with Your mighty power to keep St. Mark as safe and secure as possible.

P- Please pray for discernment and wisdom as we continue to plan for the safety of the church and its members.

V - Lord, we ask that You open our eyes to see the blind spots in the safety and security system here at St. Mark that they would be revealed so they can be addressed.

Board of Trustees: Gracious Lord, we give You thanks for allowing us the privilege to serve You and the congregation of St. Mark. It is only by the gifts You have given us that we are in any way qualified to perform our duties as Trustees. **C** We confess that without Your help and direction we cannot do the job You have entrusted us to do. **P** Give us wisdom and strength to do the work You have set before us in a manner that will be pleasing to You. We ask Your blessings upon all the initiatives that we are taking on as well as the initiatives of the Elders and each of the committees also serving You. Please give us all open minds, ears, and hearts so that we can work together to accomplish great things for Your church that are pleasing to You. Lord we ask for Your blessing upon this great country we live in, a country in which we enjoy the freedom to worship and praise You openly. We pray for those who are not so fortunate.

Thank You for all of the members of our congregation. They so generously give, not only of their financial resources but of their time and their talents. The countless volunteer hours are invaluable and we ask for Your continued hand of blessing to be upon all volunteers as they serve You.



Appendix
Confession Day 1

To assist you, here is a prayer sequence for examination and encouragement that incorporates The Ten Commandments, the Lord’s Prayer, the Beatitudes, the seven deadly sins, the four cardinal and three theological virtues, and the fruit of the Spirit. This can serve as a kind of spiritual diagnostic too. ²

<p>The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:3-17)</p> <p>You Shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Honor your father and your mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet.</p>	<p>The Lord’s Prayer(Matthew 6:9-13)</p> <p>Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us today our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, ^[a] but deliver us from the evil one. ^[b] ^{13b}for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.</p>	
<p>The Beatitudes (Matthew 5: 3-11)</p> <p>Poverty of Spirit (nothing apart from God’s grace) Mourning (contrition) Gentleness (meekness, humility) Hunger and thirst for righteousness Mercy to others Purity of heart (desiring Christ above all else) Peacemaking Bearing persecution for the sake of righteousness</p>	<p>The Seven Deadly Sins</p> <p>Pride Avarice (covet) Envy Wrath Sloth Lust Gluttony</p>	
<p>The Four Cardinal and Three Theological Virtues</p> <p>Prudence Temperance (moderation, self-control) Justice (fairness, honesty, truthfulness, integrity) Fortitude (courage, conviction) Faith (belief and trust in God’s character and work) Hope (anticipating God’s promises) Love (willing the highest good for others, compassion)</p>	<p>The Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)</p> <p>Love Joy Peace Patience Kindness Goodness Faithfulness Gentleness Self-control</p>	

¹Boa, Ken, Handbook of Spiritual Growth: Twelve Facets of the Spiritual Life, Trinity House Publishers, Inc. Atlanta, Georgia, KenBoa.org., 2008. P.263.

² Boa, Ken, Conformed to His Image, Biblical and Practical Approaches to Spiritual Formation, Revised Edition, Zondervan Academic, Grand Rapids, Mich., 2021,2020, pp.291-293.

Appendix 2 Petitions I Ask...

Knowing the Importance of Prayer in God's Eternal Work... building up St. Mark Church through prayer during 2025

“When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I’ll listen. Jeremiah 29:12

Join in Fellowship to ask God’s blessing for St. Mark Church to:

- continue be a House of Prayer and
- faithfully engaging in the Great Commission.

First note for a believing church to be engaged in God’s eternal work of salvation, restoration, and building up the body of Christ, there are three requirements of the congregation.

- Realizing God’s work through St. Mark Church can only be achieved, if we seek to be energized by the Holy Spirit.
- Praying with prayers of faith to engage God’s heart by seeking the Holy Spirit’s guidance and giving glory to God for the answered prayers.
- Understanding God’s ordained accomplishments for St. Mark Church will be attained, when we as a congregation *depend* on the Holy Spirit and each member *willingly exercise* their Spirit’s gifts.¹

So we:

- **repent** of our sins, individual and corporate (St. Mark Church); *Matthew 4:17*
- ask the Holy Spirit for **revival** within St. Mark Church by; *Mark 16:15-20*
 - the preaching at St. Mark church;
 - conversions by the power of Holy Spirit at St. Mark;
- ask the Holy Spirit for St. Mark Church to continue **reformation** for all believers: *Matthew 28:18-20*
 - practical training and teaching for our soul forming Christian journey,
 - transformation of St. Mark minds - shifting from a temporal to an eternal perspective;
 - making disciples.
- ask the Holy Spirit for St. Mark to be a church of **restoration** *1 Corinthians 13:11*
 - nurturing future pastors to live and teach the Gospel,
 - ⊖ asking the Holy Spirit to embolden each of our St. Mark family to develop new relationships within their own neighborhoods, schools, work;
 - sharing personal stories of the Christian life at St. Mark;
 - ⊖ serving community needs through St. Mark based services.
- conclude with prayers of praise and thanksgiving to the Trinity.

¹Tozer, A.W., Compiled by W. L. Seaver, Communing with God in Everything, Prayer, Moody Press, 2016, pp. 53-55.

Appendix 3 I Act

Realizing we are deep in spiritual warfare, pray on the amour of God every day.
Ephesians 6:10-18. ESV

Living Out MY New Identity

God of glory, majesty, and dominion, You have graciously accepted me as a living member of the Body of Christ, and You have implanted me in the communion of saints that will forever endure. Now that I have received a new identity in Jesus as a holy and beloved part of Your glorious and eternal plan, may I live out that new identity in my thinking, my speech, and my actions. Empower me to be Your ambassador, Your witness of the transforming life that is found in Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. May I love and obey Him and stake everything I have on Him without reservations or conditions. Empower me to live during this brief earthly sojourn in light of Your return and to treasure this as a unique time of opportunity that I will never have again. For it is only on this earth that I can share the gospel and serve people in need. Amen and Amen Boa, Ken, Transforming prayer. 12/29/24

Learning to hear God - a process

Being with God each day -

- meditation, reading/studying scripture, praying,
- nourishing an attitude of humility
- cultivating a listening heart
- learning to hear God through praying back a scripture selection in your own words
- being obedient and faithful
- listening for the still small voice
- integrating the teachings into your daily life. - the doing which reflects your abiding in God's will utilizing your spiritual gifts¹

¹ C.S. Lewis, "How to Hear God." C.S. Lewis Literature. C.S. Lewis Speech
<https://youtu.be/nYoLCD1nljU?si=GS92zmnkR4eo66pS> about 29 minutes.

Theme of Surrendering to God, to realize I am working to be transformed. Heal what is broken; untangle what has been twisted. "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." Galatians 2:20

Our Place before God - Humility

Suggestion read through silently. Next focus on the one the Holy Spirit brings to your heart today.

This is a litany of Humility - Petitions for transformation.

From the desire of being esteemed - Deliver me Jesus;
From the desire of being loved - Deliver me Jesus;
From the desire of being extolled - Deliver me Jesus;
From the desire of being honored - Deliver me Jesus;
From the desire of being praised - Deliver me Jesus;
From the desire of being preferred by others - Deliver me Jesus;
From the desire of being consulted - Deliver me Jesus;
From the desire of being approved - Deliver me Jesus;

From the desire of suffering rebukes - Deliver me Jesus;
From the desire of being humiliated - Deliver me Jesus;
From the desire of being forgotten - Deliver me Jesus;
From the desire of being ridiculed - Deliver me Jesus;
From the desire of being wrong - Deliver me Jesus;
From the desire of being suspected - Deliver me Jesus;

Response - Grant me the grace to desire it.
That others may be loved more than I - Grant me the grace to desire it.
That others may be esteemed more than I - Grant me the grace to desire it.
That in the opinion of the world others may increase, I may decrease -
Grant me the grace to desire it.
That others may be chosen and I set aside - Grant me the grace to desire it.
That others may be praised and I unnoticed - Grant me the grace to desire it.
That others maybe preferred to me in everything - Grant me the grace to desire it.
That others may be holier than I - provided I shall be as holy as I should be.
Amen and Amen

From *Hallow, Day 1 of the Lent 2024 Pray 40: He Leadth Me*

Intercessory Prayer - some suggestions - one a day

- Pray for a spirit of repentance to sweep our state and nation.
- Pray that God and the Word would once again be revered in our culture.
- Pray that the Gospel would be boldly preached and exalted throughout the nation.
- Pray that we would better understand biblical justice and righteousness.
- Pray that God would expose public corruption and root it out.
- Pray that Christians would act on biblical convictions with grace, truth, love and wisdom no matter the cost.
- Pray for a softening of hearts, especially on the issue of abortion.
- Pray that our cultural attitude toward children would reflect God's love, joy and commitment to these small images of the Almighty.
- Pray that the hearts of fathers be turned back toward their children.
- Pray that parents/grandparents would intentionally teach their children from God's Word.
- Pray that Christians of every age would "seek God continually" and develop a biblical worldview on the issues of the day. See <https://breakpoint.org/>
- Pray that the next generation would embrace God-ordained marriage and the idea of a committed life-long union.
- Pray that Christians would be intentional in blessing, honoring and caring for the elder members of our families, churches and communities.
- Pray for the preservation of religious liberty.
- Pray that our witness for Christ in the public square would be untarnished.

Guide us in being good stewards of our mission and vision statements that each will be reflective of You and Your ways. We want to be able to glorify You in all that we do and to be a beacon that shines within the community and to attract others to You. Father God we thank You for Your presence in our lives.