



31

days of prayer

Prayer is the catalyst for God's work and He responds to the prayers of His people. So, if we want to see God do something incredible in us and in our Church, we must pray. We have created this guide to help you draw near to God.

Over the next 31 days, we will focus on specific prayers to God. Besides praying for Great Lakes Church, we will be praying for our community and needs around the world.

As you will see, each day starts with a Scripture. Then the prayers follow. Embrace the truth of the Scriptures. Let them strengthen you and remind you of what God values.

You can pray these prayers any time during the day... even on your lunch break or during the afternoon when toddlers are napping... or before you go to bed. To prepare yourself to pray, stop for a moment and say something like this: ***"Lord, I want to connect with You today. Please quiet my mind, so I can focus on You and these requests. Help me put aside all the tasks I must accomplish and just be with You during the next few moments."*** If you forget a day, don't give up! Continue the next day.

Remember that God hears your prayers. God is with you when you pray. God is with you.

So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor.

Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.

1 PETER 5:6-7

*All Scripture is from the NLT version.



1

*But to all who believed Jesus and accepted him,
he gave the right to become children of God.*

John 1:12

Heavenly Father, I am humbled that you call me child.
Help me to accept all that this means in my life.

God, thank you for the many children and students
who are part of our Great Lakes Church family. Help
us to effectively communicate your love and value to
each of them, so they will want to follow you.

Jesus, help each one of us live like your child...
because we are!

2

*All of you together are Christ's body,
and each of you is a part of it.*

1 Corinthians 12:27

Jesus, thank you for allowing me to be part
of a church family that is focused on you and
that can encourage me on my faith journey.

God, thank you for giving me my Church
family! Help me value each person as a
brother or sister in Christ.

Lord, as you draw more people to Great Lakes
Church, help me to find ways to be a part of
the mission... "People helping people find and
follow Jesus."

3

So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

Hebrews 4:16

Heavenly Father, please increase my awareness of your presence, so I develop the habit of talking with you throughout my day... everyday.

Lord, thank you for your mercy and grace when I am overwhelmed. Thank you for being so good to me!

Holy Spirit, many at Great Lakes Church and in our surrounding community are struggling with very difficult life issues. Show them your mercy and grace. Surprise them with your loving comfort so that their faith grows.

4

I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me.

John 15:15

Jesus, thank you for calling me friend. You are a safe, loving, caring, encouraging and amazing Friend! Please help me grow to trust you more.

Lord, so many people have had difficult religious backgrounds. Help them to understand that you want a relationship with them. Heal their hearts. Show them your unconditional love.

God, as I do life with you and share what's in my heart, please help me point others to you. Help Great Lakes Church impact our surrounding community for you... all for your glory.

5

Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.

Romans 5:1

God, you have made me right and pure because of what Jesus did. Thank you! Let me embrace that freedom, so I can more readily live in total surrender to you.

Holy Spirit, go before each person in our community and nation, drawing them to the truth of what Jesus has done.

Jesus, Make yourself known to the 7.6 billion people in the world. Change hearts so everyone recognizes you as God

6

O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do.

Psalms 139:1-3

My God, it is exciting and nerve-wracking that you know everything about me! Thank you for all the times you have guided me and protected me. Help me to surrender more and more to you.

Lord, help me make 2018 the year when I am more conscious and aware of your presence.

Jesus, help our children to recognize your good, safe, and constant presence in their life.



7

So guard yourselves and God's people. Feed and shepherd God's flock - his church, purchased with his own blood - over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as leaders.

Acts 20:28

Lord, thank you for Great Lakes Church. Please protect our pastors, teachers, leaders, board members and volunteers. Keep us all focused on you so that all our good work is done to glorify you.

Specifically, I want to pray for Pastor Dave Nelson. As the founding and lead pastor, he carries a tremendous passion and burden for our Church. Keep him and all those he loves safe. Keep tenderizing his heart for you and your Church.

Lord, call others to serve you by birthing and establishing Churches around the world. Help their focus be on you, Jesus. Draw people to you so they will follow you with devotion.

8

Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

Ephesians 1:4-5

Lord, these are such amazing words. To know that you find pleasure in me is such a gift! Help me to always remember how much you love me. It changes how I view everything in life.

Jesus, you must smile when Great Lakes Church serves the foster kids at Royal Family Kids Camp. Please instill how much you love them. Please protect each child throughout the rest of the year.

Lord, I am proud of the ways GLC serves our community. Keep blessing the forgotten. Help our vision keep on track with your desires.

But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.
Philippians 3:20-21

Jesus, please put an eternal perspective in my heart and mind. I don't want to lose sight of the fact that someday I will see you face-to-face. Let that knowledge give me hope.

My Lord, I pray for those in our church suffering from medical conditions. Encourage them with different reminders of how one day - in heaven - they will have perfect, heavenly bodies.

Heavenly Father, many at Great Lakes have lost loved ones. Please show your loving comfort as they grieve their loss.

For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.
Philippians 4:13

Remind me of the truth of this Scripture when I struggle, Lord. Thank you in advance for giving me strength.

Jesus, many in our church family struggle with substance abuse. They are self-medicating or already addicted. Help them find freedom in sobriety.

Lord, many struggle in their marriages. Please give them the strength to do all they can to honor their marriage commitments and their spouse. Please guide them to honest, supportive help if they are stuck.

*He (Jesus) said to his disciples, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields."
Matthew 9:37-38*

Lord, help me to live with an awareness of how I can serve others in your name - either at Great Lakes Church or in the community.

Lord, thank you for all Great Lakes' volunteers who are so faithful. May they sense your blessings in their life as they serve others.

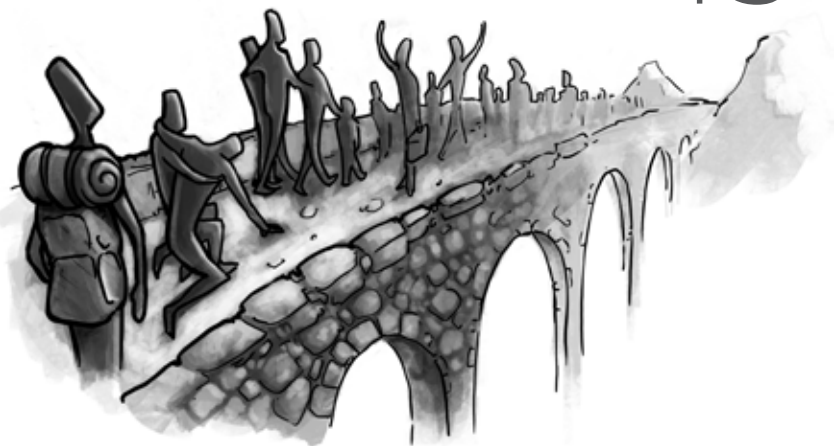
Please raise up more workers to carry out your good work, my Lord. You know who we need on staff, on our board, as Team Leaders and the many behind-the-scenes volunteers.

*Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching.
2 Timothy 4:2*

Jesus, give me the words to use when I share my faith journey with others. Let them see, through my words and actions, how much you have impacted my life.

Heavenly Father, at Great Lakes Church each week, there's an adult talk and several kids and student talks. All have a desire to point to you. Prepare and soften the hearts of each person to receive the truth about you and how to respond to that truth.

Empower our teachers. Use them to teach us all about following Jesus.



Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19

Lord, show me who I should be encouraging on their faith journey.

Please help our Great Lakes Church Group Leaders to care for each person in their groups - to help them become disciples of Jesus.

Lord, we pray a special blessing on the Churches we sponsored in Budapest, Hungary. Let their people grow in their faith and impact others for Jesus.

Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14

Lord, we live in challenging times. Teach me to pray regularly for our nation and those who are in power, rather than criticize.

Let those at every level of government be used by you for your good. Turn their hearts and minds to you. Help them surrender to you, Jesus.

Holy Spirit, heal our nation. May your followers lead the way in honoring you and bringing light everywhere we go.

15

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Ephesians 2:10

Heavenly Father, help me embrace the truth that you value me. I'm your masterpiece! When I am shaken about who loves or values me, let me remember this truth.

Lord, as you know, we value people with special needs. Let each person with special needs know that you love them and that they are your masterpiece. Give each of us your eyes and heart to see people as you see them.

Holy Spirit, prepare our hearts for this year's A Night to Remember Prom. Protect and watch over every person who attends. Let our celebration ripple out to the families and community.

16

You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.

John 15:16

What an amazing truth, Lord Jesus! You chose me! You have a purpose for my life! Thank you.

Lord, help me love you and others more deeply and more purely.

God, please let Great Lakes Church be known for how well we love and serve others. Make this especially true as we reach those who are graduating from High School and in their 20's. Draw them to Great Lakes Church and protect them from ever walking away from their faith.

17

If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you.

James 1:5

Heavenly Father, I ask for extra doses of wisdom. Help all of 2018 be filled with deliberate, wise choices.

Lord, I trust in the wisdom and guidance of our pastors and leaders at Great Lakes Church. Fill them with discernment, too. Let them have your passion as our Church ministers in 2018.

Father, infuse our parents with wisdom as they raise their children. Help the kids grow up honoring you.

18

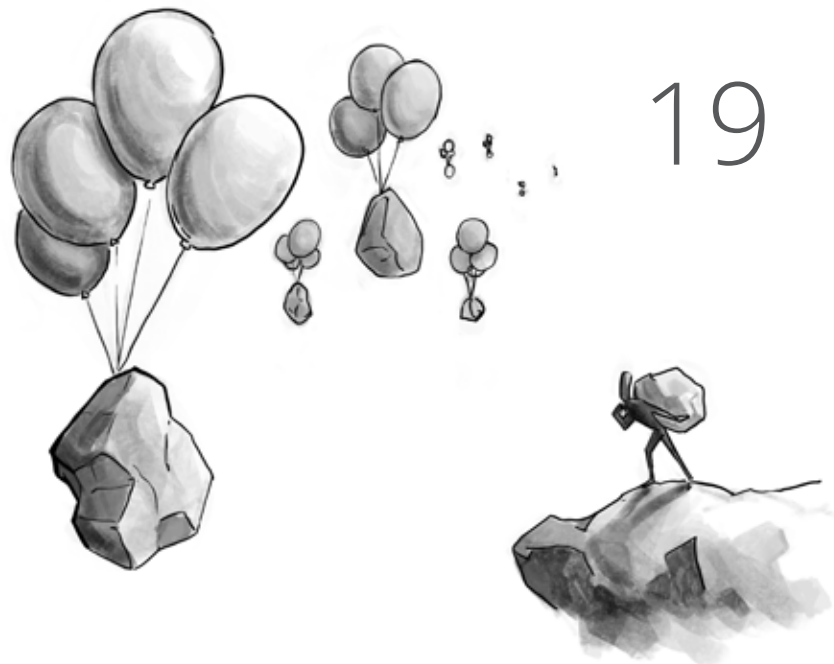
You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.

Psalms 139:16

How special and loved I feel when I read Scripture like this! My loving God, please help me live my life with these words echoing in my mind and heart.

Lord, each person is unique and loved by you. Help me see them that way, too. Let my words build up, not tear down.

Jesus, help all of us who claim to follow you speak with actions of love and kindness. Extinguish any condemning or judgmental verbiage from our conversations.



19

Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28

For today, I will lay these {name them} burdens before you, Jesus. They are too heavy for me to carry, so I will trust you to provide.

Heavenly Father, many of your kids are weary. Life hasn't gone as easily as they had hoped. Please give them your rest and loving comfort.

Lord, there are those around the world who do not have enough daily provisions. Please meet their needs for food, water, shelter, medical help, and safety.

20

For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

Lord, thank you for Jesus's sacrificial death to pay for my sins, so I would be made right with you. Help me to surrender to you in every aspect of my life.

Lord, put an eternity mindset in me.

Jesus, spread the truth of John 3:16 throughout the world. Every day open people's eyes to your love and grace.

*Don't let your hearts be troubled.
Trust in God, and trust also in me.
John 14:1*

Increase my level of trust in you, my God.

Let Great Lakes Church be a place for people to grow in their trust and love of God.

Lord, there are so many moving parts to conduct our church services. Please keep our buildings in good shape, help all the technology work, empower our Teaching Pastors, help volunteers see the significance of their work and keep our atmosphere welcoming to all who attend.

"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

John 14:6

Thank you for this truth, my Jesus. You are my Redeemer, my Provider, my Refuge, my Strength, my Friend, my Constant Companion, my Mighty Mighty God!

Thank you for trusting Great Lakes Church with the message of who you are, Jesus. Thank you for two beautiful campuses. We are humbled by your generosity.

Lord, fill our campuses! We long for all ages to experience the truth of who you are, so we can guide them on their faith journey. It's an awesome responsibility which we humbly accept. We want all we do to bring glory and honor to you.

23

If you love me, obey my commandments.

John 14:15

Lord, you know what sin patterns I struggle with. Forgive me. Help me follow you in every area of my life.

Many of us struggle with secret sins or moral failures. Shine your light and truth on those dark places. Help us long for health - spiritually, emotionally, and relationally.

God, we have a desire that all who come to Great Lakes Church be accepted and loved. We also ask that they accept the challenge to grow. Ignite devotion to Jesus in all who call Great Lakes Church their church.

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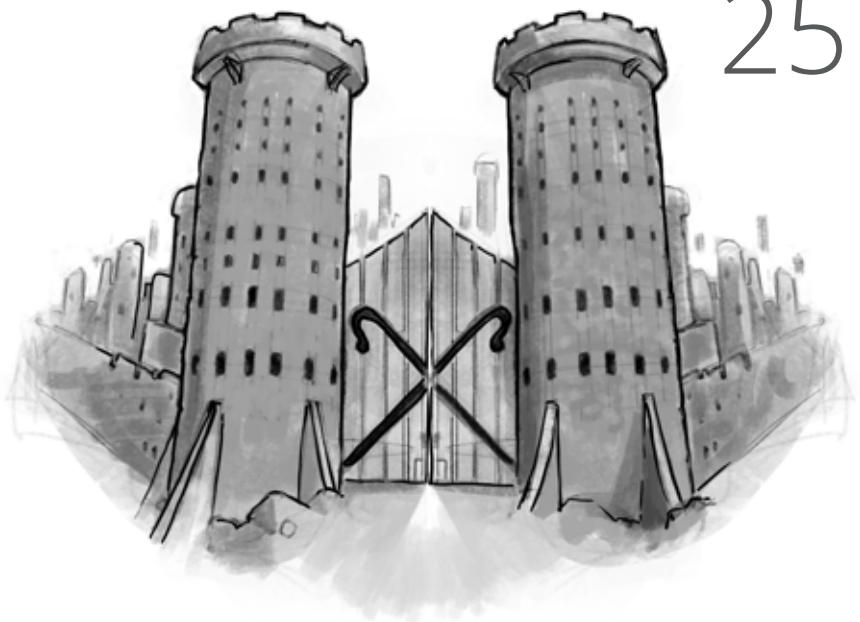
I am leaving you with a gift - peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.

John 14:27

I am weary of the times that I feel troubled and afraid. Help me experience your peace of mind and heart, Lord.

As new people attend Great Lakes Church, let them see your love in us. Help increase our joy so our peaceful countenance will point to you, my God.

Help us find happiness in you alone. Help us look to you alone for peace of mind and heart.



The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.

Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 23:1,6

Thank you for watching over me, Lord!

For everyone who calls Great Lakes Church their home, increase the passion we have for you and for telling others about your goodness and unfailing love.

Help Great Lakes Church impact Southeastern Wisconsin in powerful ways.

Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?

Romans 2:4

Thank you for your patience with me, God! Help me turn away from anything that doesn't honor you.

Lord, you are our role model for kindness and patience. Help us be that way in our families. For the parents of Great Lakes Church, I ask that you bless them with extra amounts of wisdom and discernment, along with kindness and patience.

Many people have values or worldviews contrary to my own. Help me be kind, tolerant and patient with them as you have been with me.

And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is.

Ephesians 3:18

My God, I am in awe of how much you love me! Thank you!

Please increase my understanding of your passionate love for me. It affects my whole life. I don't want to stay the same. I want to grow!

Jesus, please help all of us at Great Lakes to see each person as you do.

You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book.

Psalms 56:8

It comforts me to know you have been by my side all the times I cried or experienced heartache. Thank you, my Lord.

Jesus, many of our friends at Great Lakes Church are in the midst of hard times. Please show your loving presence to them. Remind them that you are with them and that you love them.

Lord, I boldly ask you to break my heart over the same things that break your heart. Please give me your eyes to see others with your love and compassion. Please let me know if I need to walk alongside someone who is in a difficult place.

That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him."

1 Corinthians 2:9

Please put the vision of heaven in my heart, Lord.

Creator God, you fashioned so much variety in life from the Grand Canyon to the oceans to hippopotamuses to anteaters to human DNA to the sound of laughter. Why wouldn't you create heaven as an amazing place?! Help me trust in you as I approach the day when you bring me home.

For those at Great Lakes Church who have lost a loved one, I pray that you will give them the hope of heaven.

And the King will say, "I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!"

Matthew 25:40

Please let me be a servant like you, Jesus!

God, please bless all our volunteers who give numerous hours to carry out the work of our church. Help them remember that you see all they do.

Lord, if you want me to serve others less fortunate than me, please lay that person or charity on my heart.

31

Never stop praying.
1 Thessalonians 5:17

For all of 2018, please remind me to talk with you throughout each day, my Jesus.

Help me to embrace a lifestyle that has margin, so I can reflect on who you are and the next step for me to grow.

Thank you for the privilege of praying with my church family. We desire to continue to be united together to serve and honor you... all for your glory, my God.