

## DAY 29 — UNITY IN LEADERSHIP (PSALM 133)

*Psalm 133* Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! It is like the precious oil on the beard, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes! It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

Pray that the new pastor would be able to work effectively with the elders, church staff, and other ministry leaders that are at Salem.

Pray that they will have the mind of Christ as they work together.

## DAY 30 — CONFIDENCE (PSALM 23)

*Psalm 23* The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Pray for the future pastor and his family to have absolute certainty in his sense of call to our church. He must know God's direction.

## DAY 31 — VISION (PHILIPPIANS 3:13-14)

*Philippians 3:13-14* Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Pray that the new pastor will have a clear vision for what God wants to do at Salem and in our community. Pray that through the ministry at Salem, people will encounter Christ, grow in love for God and others, and go out to live and serve in the power of the Holy Spirit.



# God Answers Prayer

## G.A.P. Prayer Ministry

Salem Church of Ashland, 400 Salem Drive, Ashland, WI 54806

## Bridging the Gap — 31-day Prayer Guide

*Ephesians 3:20-21* Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Thank you for praying with us during this season of transition. We encourage you to use this 31-day prayer guide to continue to pray for our Pastoral Search Team, our Church family, and our next Senior Pastor. Let's continue to lean into the Lord, that He be glorified in this season at Salem!

## DAY 1 — GOD'S GLORY (Psalm 115:1; Matthew 5:16)

*Psalm 115:1* Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

*Matthew 5:16* ...Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

**First**, pray that God's will would be done, and His name would be glorified through the entire process of finding a new pastor for Salem. Pray that God's work would be visible to everyone so that we would continue trusting the One who richly provides. Pray that Salem shines as a light for Christ in our community.

## Pray for the Pastoral Search Team

## DAY 2 – DISCERNMENT (PHILIPPIANS 1:9)

*Philippians 1:9* And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment,

Pray for the Pastoral Search Team to have wisdom and discernment for the unique characteristics and traits most needed for our pastor at Salem.

### DAY 3 – GUIDED BY THE SPIRIT (JOHN 16:13)

*John 16:13* When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

Pray for the fullness of the Holy Spirit in each member of the Pastoral Search Team. Pray this for each person by name—Dave O'Donahue, Cindy Ferrara, Drew Emmert, Sarah Fechter, Adam Larson, Ben Larson, Lydia Larson, Al Lundquist, Lisa Martinsen, Karin Pierce, Cheryl Richardson, Li Wiik.

### DAY 4– UNITY (EPHESIANS 4:1-3)

*Ephesians 4:1-3* I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Pray for powerful unity and oneness in spirit within the Pastoral Search Team.

### DAY 5 – DIRECTION (PSALM 32:8)

*Psalms 32:8* I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Pray for God's clear direction when resumes are examined and interviews are conducted. Ask God to bring the right person to the attention of the Pastoral Search Team.

### DAY 6 – WISDOM (JAMES 1:5-6)

*James 1:5-6* If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.

Pray for the Pastoral Search Team to have God's wisdom in all questions and information they exchange with the prospective pastor.

### DAY 7 – KNOWLEDGE (COLOSSIANS 1:9)

*Colossians 1:9* And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

Pray for God to fill the Pastoral Search Team with knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

### DAY 26 – FERVENCY (ROMANS 12:9-13)

*Romans 12:9-13* Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Pray that God would prepare our new pastor to always have great zeal and passion for serving the Lord in his ministry. Pray for God's strength in his weakness and that he be a faithful servant.

### DAY 27 — TRANSITION (PSALM 139:1-6)

*Psalms 139:1-6* O Lord, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

Pray that the new pastor and his family will be able to smoothly transition to our church. This would include the needs of his wife and children in making new friends and adjusting to a new home.

### DAY 28 – HIS FAMILY (COLOSSIANS 1:9-12)

*Colossians 1:9-12* And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Pray for our next Senior Pastor's family. The new pastor may be married or single, may have children or not. Pray that God would strengthen the new pastor and guide his family as they are led toward ministry at Salem. May they be well loved and cared for by our church body.

**DAY 22 – GUIDANCE AND STRENGTH (ISAIAH 41:10)**

*Isaiah 41:10* fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Pray for guidance and strength for both our new pastor and the church from which our new pastor he comes.

**DAY 23 — LOVE FOR SALEM (PHILIPPIANS 1:3-6,8)**

*Philippians 1:3-6, 8* I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.... For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

Pray that God would give our next pastor a love for our church and the strength to leave his current position to answer God's call. Pray that God would make His will known to the pastor and his family.

**DAY 24 – RELATIONSHIPS (ACTS 20:28)**

*Acts 20:28* Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

Pray that God would protect the new pastor's heart as he prepares to leave his current ministry and move to a new ministry. Pray that the stresses of moving, meeting new people, maintaining relationships, etc. would not interfere with his need to continually pursue his relationship with God.

**DAY 25 — BOLDNESS (2 TIMOTHY 4:1-5)**

*2 Timothy 4:1-5* I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Pray that God would increase our next Senior Pastor's passion for preaching the Word of God and he would boldly and faithfully proclaim the truth.

**DAY 8 – GOD'S TIMING (LAMENTATIONS 3:25)**

*Lamentations 3:25* The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.

Pray for the Pastoral Search Team to have no timetable but God's. They must be determined to wait for God's perfect will in God's perfect time.

**DAY 9 – GOD'S PROTECTION (2 THESSALONIANS 3:3)**

*2 Thessalonians 3:3* But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.

Pray for the prevention of Satan's influence in misleading or rushing the Pastoral Search Team. Pray for a hedge of protection around the Pastoral Search Team and their families.

**DAY 10 – GUIDANCE (PROVERBS 3:5-6)**

*Proverbs 3:5-6* Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Pray for God's guidance in selecting the pastoral candidate and in how the future pastor is presented to the church. Pray that the Search Team be guided by the Holy Spirit every step of the way.

**DAY 11 – GOD'S WILL (ROMANS 12:1-2)**

*Romans 12:1-2* I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Pray that the Pastoral Search Team will seek God's will for the church above their own desires.

**Pray for the Church Family at Salem**

**DAY 12 – SEEKING GOD (MATTHEW 6:33)**

*Matthew 6:33* But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Pray that during this transition time of searching for a pastor, the church learns to seek God Himself, more than just a new pastor. Pray that the church would be drawn closer to Jesus, to obey Him as the true head of the church.

### DAY 13 – CLEANSING AND RENEWAL (JAMES 4:8-10)

*James 4:8-10 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.*

Pray for a powerful move of congregational cleansing and renewal. Pray for God to remove anything that doesn't honor Him.

### Day 14 — PREPARED HEARTS (1 PETER 1:13)

*1 Peter 1:13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

Some churches struggle with wanting a pastor who is like their previous pastor. Others desire someone who is just the opposite. Pray that all would be receptive to God's leading during this new season at Salem and accept His perfect will above our own desires.

### DAY 15 – UNITY (I CORINTHIANS 1:10)

*I CORINTHIANS 1:10 I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.*

Pray for a powerful sense of love and unity among all members of the church. Pray for help to surrender any bitterness or division within our church family and that we have complete agreement in the Lord.

### DAY 16 – PEACE (PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7)

*PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Pray that our church family would not be anxious, but instead have the peace of God as we lift all things in prayer with thankful hearts.

### DAY 17 – PATIENCE (GALATIANS 6:9)

*Galatians 6:9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.*

Pray that we will patiently await God's timing without growing weary and that we settle for nothing less than His perfect will.

### DAY 18 – HUMILITY (PHILIPPIANS 2:1-7a)

*Philippians 2:1-7a So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself by taking the form of a servant....*

Pray that all church members will humbly set aside individual expectations for the new pastor and decide in unity who God has called to lead Salem.

### DAY 19 – TRUST (PSALM 9:10)

*Psalms 9:10 And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you.*

Pray that the church as a whole would trust the Spirit's leading through the Pastoral Search Team and Elders. May we trust the Lord throughout the pastoral search process.

### DAY 20 — CONSISTENCY AND FOCUS (COL. 3:1-2)

*Colossians 3:1-2 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.*

Pray for faithful consistency and focus on God's present ministry at Salem. Pray for God to grant power to Pastor Rod, the elders, ministry leaders and staff that they might continue to seek God and His will.

### Pray for the Next Senior Pastor

### DAY 21 — COMFORT AND DIRECTION FOR HIS CURRENT CHURCH (ACTS 20:37-38)

*ACTS 20:37-38 And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.*

Pray that God would comfort and lead his current church as they say good-bye and begin a new pastoral search of their own.