

A Healthy Church Prayer Guide



30 days of Prayer

Scripture gives many principles, truths, and stories that illustrate the church thriving and flourishing. This prayer guide is broken up into different themes and topics found in Scripture that relate to church health.

- Abiding in Christ/Being Discipled by Jesus
- Healthy Pastors, Elders, Deacons (Servant Leaders) & Structures
- Passionate Spirituality & Worship (being led by the Spirit in life and worship)
- Healthy Groups & Gatherings
- Loving/Reaching Non-Believers
- Loving Relationships in the Church

Read through the passages and pray through the Scriptures as related to the body of Christ at Northside. There will be suggestions and specific prayer requests that you can pray for but allow the Scriptures to guide your prayers.

1. Abiding in Christ / Being Discipled by Jesus

When the body of Christ is abiding in Him, God bears fruit in us. When the body of Christ follows Jesus and dwells on his love and work for us, God's people will be transformed.

Read:

John 15:1-11 -- *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*

1 John 1:5-10 - *⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse*

us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Colossians 2:6-7 - ⁶ Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

John 10:11-15 - ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

Philippians 3:7-11 - ⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Pray:

1. for the Lord to give you a heart that cherishes his everlasting love for you.
2. against the distractions and vices that keep you from abiding in Christ.
3. that Northside will be a people known for holding Christ preeminent in all things.
4. for faithfulness in spending time in the Word and in prayer to know Jesus more.
5. for the children, youth, and young adults to understand that church and their faith is about knowing Jesus and making Him known.

2. Healthy Servant Leaders (Pastors, Elders, Deacons, Coordinators, Teachers)

God calls his people to use their gifts, abilities, and passions in the many roles of the church. When the church's servant leaders are healthy, the church will thrive and flourish as God intends. When God's servant leaders are unified in Christ, the church is meant to flourish. When there is clarity on roles and tasks, the church can thrive.

Read:

Ephesians 4:11-16 -- ¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

¹⁵Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Romans 12:3-8 - ³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

1 Timothy 3:1-7 - The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer(elder), he desires a noble task. ²Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, ⁵for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? ⁶He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. ⁷Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

1 Timothy 3:8-13 - ⁸Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. ⁹They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. ¹¹Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. ¹²Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. ¹³For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

1 Peter 5:1-5 - So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: ²shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; ³not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. ⁴And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. ⁵Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Pray:

1. for your pastor, your elders, your deacons, those coordinating, those teaching to be directed by Christ and his Word in all that they do.
2. for the servant leaders to minister with joy and hope.
3. for the church members and regular guests to be shepherded well, to know that they are cared for.
4. for the Lord to bring unity around Christ's mission for the church.
5. for every person at Northside to be using their gifts and abilities.
6. that we will be a people that value one another and work together for Christ's mission.

3. Passionate Spirituality & Worship (being led by the Spirit in life & worship)

God calls us to love Him with all our heart, our mind, our soul, and body. All our faculties are meant to be directed by the Word of God but empowered by the Holy Spirit. Passionate spirituality is when the heart is engaged in our ministry and it fuels our outward actions.

Read:

Deuteronomy 6:5 – ⁴ “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.

Romans 12:11-12 - ¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.
¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

Philippians 4:8-9 - ⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Romans 8:9-11 - ⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Titus 2:11-14 - ¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem

us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Pray:

1. that the Lord will warm your heart towards Him and give you a godly passion and zeal to serve Him.
2. that you recognize your fleshly desires and turn to God's Spirit to lead your heart, mind, and actions
3. for a heart and mind of true worship for all of God's people at Northside as we participate in corporate worship together on Sundays
4. against a cold and dutiful heart and actions as we carry out the ministry of the church

4. Healthy Groups & Gatherings

God has always gathered his people together to learn more about Him and His word, to develop deep fellowship, to hold each other accountable in love, to meet one another's needs, and to be a light for the lost world who watches. When bible study groups, devotional groups, and smaller groups love the Lord and each other, the church can thrive.

Acts 2:42-47- ⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

1 John 1: 1-4 - That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ² the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— ³ **that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us;** and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And we are writing these things so that **our** joy may be complete.

Hebrews 10:23-25 - ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 - ⁹ Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. ¹⁰ For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! ¹¹ Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? ¹² And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Colossians 3:16-17 - ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Pray:

1. that our bible study groups, devotional groups, and others will seek to know the Lord deeper, will exhibit true love for each other, and be a safe place for all.
2. pray for deep fellowship and trust to be built within our groups.
3. pray that real and biblical application will flow out of the groups (that we will hear the word and carry it out).
4. for our groups to be welcoming to new people and that we develop a continuous mindset to invite others
5. for an exploratory group to start for those who have questions about Jesus or who do not believe yet

5. Loving & Reaching Non-Believers

God has given a clear mission to every believer, to make Him known to others who do not abide in His grace. This rightly happens by proclaiming the good news of Jesus and meeting the needs of our friends, family members, neighbors, and co-workers who need to know Jesus. When evangelism is absent, the church can become weak and ineffective.

Matthew 28:18-20 – ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 9:35-38 – ³⁵ And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Acts 1:8 – ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

John 17:17-26 - ²⁰ “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

Acts 2:36-41 - ³⁶ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Pray:

1. that we will be a people who build relationships with the lost and share with them the love of Christ
2. for the spouses and family members of those at Northside, who do not believe yet in Christ, to be changed by the truth and love of the Gospel
3. for children in the Good News Club at Holsenbeck Elementary to come to know Jesus, as well as their families
4. for the children and families of Trail Life/AHG to believe in Christ and to be connected to a healthy church
5. that we would see our interactions with people as divine appointments, opportunities to show and to share the love of Christ
6. that baptisms will take place this new year ahead; for babies and adults

6. Loving Relationships in the Church

When God's people understand the love that Christ has for us, even as great sinners, we begin to extend love and forgiveness toward one another. It is no doubt that we will sin against others in the body and be sinned against. A healthy church is one that loves one another in the strength and power of Christ's love. A healthy church is a safe environment for sinners like you and me because we extend grace and love yet still holding each other accountable because we love.

Colossians 3:12-15 - ¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

John 13:34-35 - ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Romans 12:9-13 - ⁹ Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

1 John 4:7-12 - ⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

1 Thessalonians 3:11-13 - ¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, ¹² and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³ so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Pray:

1. that we will truly dwell on the love of Christ for us, his forgiveness extended to us and extend that very same love to one another
2. that we would learn to trust each other
3. that we would be hospitable, invite one another into our lives and our homes

4. that we would share our needs with one another and take care of one another
5. that our differences would not become stumbling blocks or platforms to cast judgment on one another, but seen as God building a diverse people for his name.
6. that we would hold each other accountable with grace and love