

# May 2015

## PRAYER GUIDE FOR LWML MISSION GRANTS

Prayers for St. Paul Community Lutheran Church - Pontiac, MI

### PRAYER #1

Gracious God, we thank You for the ongoing work of Rev. and Mrs. Dietrick Gladden in their ministry to the community and St. Paul Lutheran Church in Pontiac, Michigan. We ask that with the help of this mission grant new doors and hearts will be opened to hearing and receiving the Good News of the one and only Savior, Jesus Christ. As some of their physical needs are met, may their spiritual needs be nourished by coming together with congregational members and volunteers in this church to give them hope in their desperate surroundings. Amen.

### PRAYER #2

Heavenly Father, be with Pastor Dietrick and Becky Gladden in their mission to reach the people of the Pontiac area with Christ's Good News wherever they are in life. Their surrounding community is of a depressed nature and a great deal of staff time and material resources are required. There are urgent needs for human care – food, medical needs, shelter, homeless and addiction intervention, and spiritual encouragement. In Christ we pray. Amen.

### PRAYER #3

Lord God, let the community of Pontiac open up their hearts to You and learn the Good News through Pastor and Becky Gladden as they and their church members help provide for the daily human care needs of the people. Thank You that local homeless people are attending worship and Bible study. Hundreds have attended the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter events. To You we give all glory for those seeking to learn more about You. In Your son's name we pray, Amen.

### PRAYER #4

Thank You Lord for the continuing growth of the ministry at St. Paul Community Lutheran Church. May this LWML grant help to rehab a church building to create a community youth center. The youth ministry at the center can be a great catalyst for the mission and offer hope to the families. This has the potential to lift youth and their families above the day to day crisis so they can have hope in Jesus and for their future. In Your Holy name we pray. Amen.

[www.lwml.org/missions](http://www.lwml.org/missions)

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FOR DAILY MISSION SUPPORT REMINDERS.

# MISSION GRANT STORY

## ST. PAUL COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - PONTIAC, MI

Pastor Dietrick Gladden and his wife, Becky, are building a vibrant ministry in the city center of Pontiac, Michigan that connects with homeless neighbors, people held captive by addiction and dysfunction, families in need, and children who need a safe place to learn and grow. St. Paul Community Lutheran Church is in the midst of a community just discovering Jesus, and not yet able to form a core of believers or members to help support ministry.

While worship attendance averages around 70 people, it's not unusual for church events to attract far more. Most events provide food for a hungry community, including Wednesday night family dinner and Bible study, Friday youth nights, and Vacation Bible School family breakfast and lunch. Because the need is so great, clothing, furniture, school supplies, and other needs are also met where donations can be found. As newcomers grow exponentially, it becomes more urgent to develop means to connect them to worship and other parts of ministry.

The grant from the Lutheran Women's Missionary League would make it possible for this ministry to continue in three areas: (1) hiring of a part-time music leader to develop a quality of worship that will draw and connect people to Jesus in a deeper way and part-time office staffing to provide vital quality communications with supporters and the church community; (2) refurbishing and bringing the existing community youth center up to code so the youth and their families can find shelter and hope in Jesus from the day-to-day crises in their lives; and (3) funds would provide an electronic church sign to communicate their outreach resources and events.

