

First Lutheran – St. John Episcopal

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2015



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Prayer Ventures

These petitions – one for each day this week – are offered as a guide for your own prayer life as together we pray for the needs of the world and give thanks for the ministries of our church.

Sunday, December 13

Our baptism is a sign of repentance, newness and belonging, and a call to a life of service and witness. We pray the Holy Spirit will guide and enliven our service and witness with others, especially when we grow weary or hesitant.

Monday, December 14

As John the Baptist was fearless and persistent in proclaiming the coming Messiah, we pray that we, too, may be eager and bold in our witness of the good news with our family, friends, neighbors and coworkers.

Tuesday, December 15

The holiday season is often consumed with buying gifts, sending cards, decorating and parties, but we ask God to also put reminders in our days of what it means to prepare our hearts and minds for Christmas—the birth of our Savior.

Wednesday, December 16

The days grow shorter and colder and more unforgiving for those without shelter and warmth. We ask God to help us be instruments of compassion and relief and to help us find and create safe shelter for people who are homeless or face the threat of becoming homeless.

Thursday, December 17

We remember and give thanks for pastors, youth ministers, teachers and all leaders of the church and pray that they will find time for physical and spiritual rest and renewal during this busy season of the church.

Friday, December 18

We remember in our prayers men, women and youth who are in jail or prison and ask that they not be forgotten or excluded from hearing and celebrating the promises of God's mercy, forgiveness and salvation.

Saturday, December 19

We pray that God will have mercy on us, lead us, restore us, show us steadfast love and be patient with us.



WORSHIP WITH US

CHRISTMAS EVE

7 & 10 PM

CANDLELIGHT EUCHARIST



CHRISTMAS DAY 10 AM

FESTIVAL EUCHARIST

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord.

LUKE 2:11

Here is a great opportunity for you to be an evangelist; that is, one who announces the GOOD NEWS. You are invited to bring your family and friends to Christmas worship and let them experience the good news for themselves in Word and music. 🎵 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing: Glory to the Newborn King!* 🎵



Comments from the Cloud of Witnesses

What needs to be born in you, in us, this Christmas? Have we, as a community, given up on a noble mission because our courage or stamina failed? Has the fervor of our hope in the kingdom already arrived and is now cooling? "The Lord is at hand . . . the peace of God keep you." There is no person frozen in destructive patterns that the Lord cannot free. Zephaniah's prophecy commands us to hope: "The Lord is in your midst." Have confidence. Look into the darkness for the light. It may not resemble the Easter sun; it might be the fragile, yet stable light of a star in the night sky. Christ is our hope even in the face of intimidating, paralyzing odds. He has baptized us in fire, as John prophesied in Luke. We, the holy people of God, can dream of new birth because God's Spirit dwells in us, powering us to always try anew.

—Lawrence Madden, S.J.

[Lawrence Madden, S.J., in *Homilies for the Christian People*, 374-75.]

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On the calendar....

Birthdays

December 23 DAVID WALKER
 December 25 ESTHER WESTERBACK
 December 26 BRUCE OGREN
 December 27 GEORGE MICHAELSON
 December 28 SUSIE BORG
 December 29 MARY LEE CARLSON
 December 31 JANEEN SMITH

Anniversaries

December 14 PAT & RON JONES
 December 24 ANDY & VIRGINIA CARLSON

Are we missing your birthday or anniversary? Please let us know and we will update our directory.

AA Meetings Mondays and Fridays at 12 Noon

Maranatha Estudio de la Biblia Tuesdays 7 PM

Legacy Food Bank Open Wednesdays 2-5:30 PM

Friday, December 18 Council Meeting 3 PM

Did you know that December 13 is ALSO Saint Lucy Day? According to Wikipedia:

Saint Lucy is one of the few saints celebrated by the overwhelmingly Lutheran Nordic people: Danes; Swedes; Finns and Norwegians but also in USA and Canada and Italy. The St. Lucy's Day celebrations retain many indigenous Germanic pagan, pre-Christian midwinter elements. Some of the practices associated with the day predate the adoption of Christianity in Scandinavia, and like much of Scandinavian folklore and even religiosity, is centered on the annual struggle between light and darkness.

The Nordic observation of St. Lucy is first attested in the Middle Ages, and continued after the Protestant Reformation in the 1520s and 1530s, although the modern celebration is only about 200 years old. It is likely that tradition owes its popularity in the Nordic countries to the extreme change in daylight hours between the seasons in this region.

Note from Pastor Janeen: it's pretty dark where we live this time of year- how many of you have celebrated the feast of Saint Lucy or Santa Lucia? Did you know that girls wore candles on head and boys dressed as stars as well?

Advent and *Christmas Worship Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Setting</u>	<u>Musician</u>	<u>Presider</u>	<u>Preacher</u>	<u>Weekly Team Leader</u>
12/13	Advent Eucharist	Annette O.	Gretchen G.	Gretchen G.	Deb Sturgill
12/20	Advent Eucharist	Randy F.	Janeen S.	Patricia N.	Andy Carlson
THURS 12/24, 7 PM	Candlelight Eucharist	Annette O.	Janeen S.	Janeen S.	volunteers needed
THURS 12/24, 10 PM	Candlelight Eucharist	Mary Lee C.	Janeen S.	Janeen S.	volunteers needed
FRI 12/25, 10 AM	Christmas Eucharist	Mary Lee C.	Janeen S.	Janeen S.	volunteers needed
12/27	Lessons, Carols, Eucharist	Annette O.	Gretchen G.	N/A	Patricia Neve
1/3/16	Episcopal	Annette O.	Gretchen G.	Gretchen G.	Andy Carlson

*the Christmas season continues through the Day of Epiphany, January 6