

First Lutheran – St. John Episcopal

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2015



Please join us today after worship
For food, music and friendship



Instead of coffee hour after worship we will be having a feast and you are invited!
We hope YOU will stay.



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 6

Throughout Advent we pray that our actions, words and relationships help “prepare the way of the Lord” for those who do not know the good news of Jesus Christ or are longing for lasting forgiveness and hope in their lives.

Monday, December 7

As Paul valued the work of the Christians in Philippi, we also give thanks for our many partners and companion churches and pray that we encourage and complement one another in doing God's work together in the world.

Tuesday, December 8

We give thanks for the unique perspectives of faith and tradition that come with the diversity of cultures in the world and for observances that remind us of how God called and used Mary to fulfill the prophecies of the promised Messiah—Jesus Christ.

Wednesday, December 9

For soldiers on active duty, serving in areas of high risk and separated from family and faith communities, we pray that they find comfort and strength in the cloud of faithful witnesses that surround them, even from afar.

Thursday, December 10

We remember in our prayers all people, especially women and children, who live with the debilitating and wounding effects of poverty and hunger. We pray they will find relief and self-sufficiency and that we will be generous in our support and work to end poverty and hunger everywhere.

Friday, December 11

We remember in our prayers our elders and pray they are surrounded by caring and supportive circles of friends, family and care providers, as well as nurturing communities of faith that value their gifts, life experiences and wisdom in the mission and work of the church.

Saturday, December 12

On this Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, we give thanks to God for the witness and traditions that come from our Latino sisters and brothers in Christ and for the ways in which they make God's presence and work in the world known.

The Lutheran Magazine and Christ in Our Home Devotionals

Because First Lutheran Church has a subscription to *The Lutheran* for each of its members, we are able to get a half-price deal. If you'd like to contribute toward the cost of your receiving *The Lutheran*, a \$10 donation would cover one year; please memo your check "The Lutheran". Similarly, the cost of one year's Christ in Our Home regular size booklets (delivered quarterly) is \$5 and the large print is \$10. Any donations are welcomed. If you are not currently receiving *The Lutheran* in your mail please let us know so we can make sure you are added to our subscription list.

Christmas Services Will Be 7 and 10 PM Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) and 10 AM Christmas Day (Dec. 25)

If you can help out in any way (reading scripture, welcoming guests, bringing treats for hospitality time), please let Pastor Janeen know.

On the calendar....

Birthdays

December 8 SALLY HAMILL
 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 11 DEB & ODIE STURGILL
 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

Sisters in Christ Tuesday, December 8 at 10 AM

Maranatha Estudio de la Biblia Tuesdays 7 PM

Legacy Food Bank Open Wednesdays 2-5:30 PM

Reflection on Today's Gospel Text

In the Middle Eastern desert there is a highway. It is no superhighway, not wide, but it appears well built with a good blacktopped surface. A strange phenomenon that travelers report is that the road seems to end suddenly just ahead, but to resume a hundred feet later, only to disappear for some distance again. It is the constant wind that blows sand over the surface and then reveals the black path ahead. But even when the highway is covered over, it is still there, and this highway stretches out to us in our desert wilderness. Signs of water and a cross point us to the promised land, and along this road we are called to live lives of holiness and godliness until Jesus comes again. We pray the Spirit will blow a clear path, to keep the sand, and all that impedes us, off this highway and to lead us together to the new heavens and the new earth.

—Mikkel Thompson [Mikkel Thompson, in *Homilies for the Christian People*, 182-84.]

REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM SUNDAYSANDSEASONS.COM

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>
12/6	Advent Eucharist	Annette O.	Janeen S.	Janeen S.	Kitty Turner
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