

First Lutheran – St. John Episcopal

3rd Sunday in Lent

February 28, 2016



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, February 28

We remember in our prayers the faithful work of pastors Kirsten Fryer and Michael Parker, ELCA missionaries serving in parish ministry and theological education in Egypt.

Monday, February 29

For the sake of Christian unity, sharing the gospel, mutual encouragement and serving our neighbor, we ask God to help us move beyond our apprehensions and further our relationships and conversations with people of other denominations, faiths and traditions.

Tuesday, March 1

We remember in our prayers, especially during spring, congregations and communities subject to severe weather and flooding, that God will guide their emergency preparations, equip them to care for their neighbors and grant them safety.

Wednesday, March 2

We give thanks for the more than \$15 million raised during the ELCA Malaria Campaign and ask God to strengthen and bless the continuing successful efforts of our partners and their health-related projects.

Thursday, March 3

In our Lenten reflections, we are keenly aware of our many troubles, sins and shortcomings, yet we rejoice in God's forgiveness and love that surrounds and upholds us day and night.

Friday, March 4

We remember in our prayers the Gettysburg and Philadelphia Lutheran seminaries as they begin the process of creating a unified school of theology for preparing Christian leaders for the church and world.

Saturday, March 5

We pray for God's blessings on the critical work in HIV and AIDS ministry that Mary Beth and Bayo Oyebade are doing in Nigeria as ELCA missionaries.



Lenten Midweek Soup & Worship

March 2 First Baptist Church – Raymond
March 9 First Lutheran Church
March 16 St. Lawrence Catholic Church

Meet the 2016 Council

President: Scott McDougall, 875-8003
Vice-president: Dianne Fuller, 942-3070
Secretary: Deb Sturgill, 580-1575
Treasurer: Teresa Cearns, 875-5336
Financial Secretary: Mary Lee Carlson, 593-7730
Deacons: Luwana Graham, 875-5951
Jackie Dracobly, 942-5067
Barbara Brunstad, 942-0208
Trustees: Neal Meyer, 875-5288
John Macaras, 875-8292
Ray Johnson, 875-8172

There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-7

On the calendar....

SAL Meeting Monday, 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM
AA Meetings Mondays and Fridays at 12 Noon
Faith Guild Tuesday, March 1, 1:30 PM
Maranatha Estudio de la Biblia Tuesdays 7 PM
Legacy Food Bank Open Wednesdays 2-5:30 PM
Soup Supper Wednesday, March 2, 6 PM
at First Baptist Church, Raymond
Lent Worship Wednesday, March 2, 6:30 PM
at First Baptist Church, Raymond

Holy Week 2016

Palm Sunday / Passion Sunday

March 20 – 10 AM

We celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem at the beginning of the week which will end with his death, burial and (alleluia!) triumphant departure from the tomb. Join us for a palm processional and hear Luke's account of the Passion of Christ.

Maundy Thursday

March 24 – 6 PM

"Just as I have loved you, you should love one another." This is Jesus' command, the mandate (Lat., *mandatum*) for which Maundy Thursday is named. We, along with the first disciples, are entreated to serve and then we share the Lord's Supper. Before we depart this night, the sacramental elements and vessels, linens, paraments, banners, and books are removed from the worship space.

Good Friday

March 25 – 6 PM

In a stripped down worship space we hear the Passion of Christ according to St. John, we pray the ancient bidding prayer of the church, and we center our hearts on the tree of life, the cross.

Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Sunday

March 27 – 10 AM

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!



Legacy

Outreach

Community

Food Bank

is seeking some people to be occasional (as need arises) baggers and helpers on Wednesday afternoons. If you'd like to know more, talk with Laura Michaelson, 360.942.2207, michaelson06@hotmail.com.

Images in Today's Readings

Throughout the Bible, the **fig tree** is cited both for its fruit and for its broad-leaf shade. Other historic literature also uses the fig tree as especially significant: for example, both Augustine and the Buddha were sitting under a fig tree when they came to their enlightenment. In Luke's parable, the gardener is surprisingly merciful to the unproductive fig tree. That the fig tree is in a vineyard would suggest to first-century Jews the tradition of describing Israel as God's vineyard.

Although much in Christian history has used the Bible to condemn Judaism, Paul's hermeneutic exemplifies one original Christian use of the Hebrew Scriptures: the first Testament is interpreted as proclaiming the same divine mercy as was embodied in Christ. So the church fathers wrote of Isaiah's reference to **water, wine, and bread** as helping Christians reflect on baptism and eucharist, and Paul describes the history of Israel using Christian vocabulary of **baptism and spiritual food and drink**. Paul believed that Christians have been incorporated into God's pattern of mercy, thus allowing Christians to use Jewish history, legend, and poetry to illumine the life, death and resurrection of Christ. For this reason, the lectionary illumines the gospel readings with selections from the Old Testament.

Especially since 9/11, the sentence in Luke about the **tower of Siloam** calls us to refrain from blaming the victims of tragedy. God's ways are not our ways. The human desire to find a reason for suffering often leads to conclusions that Christianity cannot support theologically.

FROM SUNDAYSANDSEASONS.COM

The Flame Newsletter

March / April edition

Speaking of Holy Week, Patricia Neve has put together a wonderful collection of the ways Holy Week is commemorated around the world. Be sure to pick up a copy today and read about one practice each day or devour the entire booklet at one sitting. It is fascinating reading-- thanks, Patricia!

Sunday Worship Schedule

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Setting</u> | <u>Musician(s)</u> | <u>Presider</u> | <u>Preacher</u> | <u>Weekly Team Leader</u> |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 2/28 Lent 3 | Now the Feast | Annette O. | Janeen S. | Janeen S. | Patricia Neve |
| 3/6 Lent 4 | Episcopal/on organ | Mary Lee C. | Gretchen G. | Gretchen G. | Andy Carlson |
| 3/13 Lent 5 | Now the Feast | Annette O. | Janeen S. | Janeen S. | Deb Sturgill |
| 3/20 Palm / Passion | Special order | Annette & Mary Lee | shared | Passion Reading | Kitty Turner |
| 3/26 Resurrection | Now the Feast | Annette & Mary Lee | shared | Janeen S. | Patricia Neve |