

First Lutheran – St. John Episcopal

Transfiguration Sunday

February 7, 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 7 *Transfiguration of Our Lord*

God's glory is great and cannot be contained. We give thanks that God's power, presence and mercy are so clearly revealed through the light of Christ.

Monday, February 8

We remember in our prayers *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* and pray for generous support of new and expanded churchwide ministries and leadership around the world, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Tuesday, February 9

On this Shrove Tuesday, we humble ourselves and pray for forgiveness in God's presence and ask that God create in us generous hearts and caring spirits that consider especially the needs of our neighbors who are hungry and living in poverty.

Wednesday, February 10 *Ash Wednesday*

We come to God in humility and prayer today, drawn by the life and sacrifice of Jesus in whom we find new life and worth.

Thursday, February 11

We give thanks to God for the compassion of congregations providing warm, safe shelter for the homeless and hospitality for those seeking the comfort of welcoming communities in the name of Jesus Christ.

Friday, February 12

For nations entangled in war, we pray for lasting peace and an end to violence and hatred. We also pray for those who have been displaced and driven out that they may return safely, rebuild together and heal.

Saturday, February 13

The new Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities is a collaboration of 26 colleges and universities. We pray that our higher education institutions thrive in serving the academic and spiritual needs of their students and contribute to the enrichment of communities and society.

On the calendar....

Birthdays

February 7 Andrew Carlson

February 7 Audrey Corcoran

February 7 Cecilia Seaman

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 Bible Study Tuesday 10 AM

Maranatha Estudio de la Biblia Tuesdays 7 PM

Ash Wednesday Worship, 12 Noon & 7 PM

Legacy Food Bank Open Wednesdays 2-5:30 PM

Potluck Lunch / Congregational Meeting next Sunday, February 14, following worship



Ash Wednesday

February 10

Please join us for worship at either 12 NOON or 7 PM as we begin our Lenten journey together.



Potluck Meal/Annual Meeting

Next Sunday, February 14, 2016

There will be a potluck meal following worship on **February 14** after which we will hold the annual meeting for First Lutheran Church. You are invited to bring a salad, dessert or a favorite side dish to accompany the ham which Faith Guild is providing. The agenda for the meeting includes 2nd reading and vote on amendment to the constitution concerning council meeting frequency, election of council members and officers, approval of the 2016 operating budget and review of the 2015 reports of the congregation. All members and friends of FLC are welcome to share in the meal and participate in the meeting. We do note that voting members of FLC are the only ones eligible to vote and run for office. If you have a question about your membership status, please speak with Pastor Janeen as soon as possible.



Call Process

Beginning Wednesday, February 17
Lenten Soup Suppers 6 PM
Lenten Worship 6:30 PM

The Transition Team submitted the Ministry Site Profile for First Lutheran Church on January 3, 2016. It has been reviewed by the bishop of Southwestern Washington Synod and approved for submission to the ELCA. A copy is posted on the bulletin board in the social hall. Council elected a 6 member Call Committee (and one alternate member to participate and be available to fill in in the event of an absent member) on January 31.

Some highlights from our Ministry Site Profile:

FIVE ESSENTIAL GIFTS FOR MINISTRY

THAT WE SEEK IN A PASTOR:

- Provide care and nurture
- Be active in visitation of members and non-members
- Be an effective communicator
- Bring joy and good humor to relationships
- Be able to use technology and media

IN ADDITION TO THESE FIVE (ABOVE) IT WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL FOR A PASTOR TO:

- Be an effective teacher
- Work regularly in the development of stewardship growth
- Be active in ecumenical relationships
- Be able to share leadership and work in a team
- Have talents in the areas of music, arts and writing

NEXT WEEK: THE JOB OF THE CALL COMMITTEE

Images in the Transfiguration Readings

The readings include the central biblical images of light and **mountain**. In the Bible, significant religious events occur on a mountain, because according to the ancient cosmology, God was described as dwelling above the earth and, when appearing on earth, coming as far down as the top of the mountain. Still today people speak of “mountain-top experiences.” Even nonreligious hikers describe sensations of transcendence, partly as a result of oxygen deprivation.

Yet God is not only brilliant light, but also **cloud**. Although contemporary people tend to think of clouds as relating to weather conditions, in the Bible the cloud is a mysterious sign of the presence of God. It is as if God covers the earth and brings life, yet suddenly vanishes. Christians can add that from God as cloud rain down the waters of baptism.

The first and second readings refer to a face **veil** that humans need to don were they to be in God’s presence. A recurring claim in biblical Judaism is that one cannot look at God and live—although in one story (Exod. 24:11) the elders not only survive their experience of seeing God, but also eat with God. Religion itself can be thought about as the veil that people don so that with safety they can approach the utter inexplicable presence of spiritual reality. For Luther, convinced of the absolute distance between God and humanity, a veil was indeed necessary, and that veil is Christ. As the Confession and Forgiveness says it, as if we have turned ourselves away from God’s view, we need to be turned again through Christ toward God (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship* p. 95). Many contemporary people who view God as a benign uncle see no need for any veil of any kind.

FROM SUNDAYSANDSEASONS.COM

Worship Schedule					
<u>Date</u>	<u>Setting</u>	<u>Musician</u>	<u>Presider</u>	<u>Preacher</u>	<u>Weekly Team Leader</u>
2/7 Transfiguration	<i>Episcopal Morning Praise</i>	Mary Lee C.	<i>Patricia N.</i>	<i>Patricia N.</i>	Andy Carlson
2/14 Lent 1	Now the Feast [^]	Annette O.	Janeen S.	Janeen S.	Deb Sturgill
2/21 Lent 2	Now the Feast	Annette O.	Janeen S.	Patricia N.	Kitty Turner
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 Sunday	tbd	tbd	shared	tbd	Kitty Turner