

# First Lutheran – St. John Episcopal

Baptism of Our Lord

January 10, 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, January 10 *Baptism of Our Lord*

We give thanks to God that in our baptism we are joined with the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and welcomed into the community of all believers for a new life of love, service and witness to the good news of the gospel.

### Monday, January 11

Work is being done with local partners in the new nation of South Sudan to establish the Evangelical Lutheran Church Africa Mission. We pray that support will grow for this new ethnically and culturally diverse church, its leaders and ministry programs.

### Tuesday, January 12

Our 132 outdoor ministry sites engage 3,500 staff in service every summer. We ask God's blessings on directors as they begin recruiting young adults to be in ministry with people of all ages and abilities.

### Wednesday, January 13

The wounds and divisions between people in our country seem to be deepening. We plead to God that we will learn how to build new, more resilient bridges of understanding and compassion and be reminded that we were created from the beginning to care for one another.

### Thursday, January 14

We pray that the world may know God's love is steadfast and true, a dependable refuge for all people in every circumstance.

### Friday, January 15

We remember in our prayers care providers and companions who attend to the needs of people with cognitive or physical disabilities, older adults and the ill and ask God that they find the strength, rest and encouragement needed to continue in their work.

### Saturday, January 16

We hold in prayer leaders of nations working together for resolution of conflicts and war, the wellbeing of refugees and immigrants, care for the environment, economic justice and the development of new working partnerships.

## Backpack Program is off and running.....



### THANKS BE TO GOD!

This past Friday the first weekend meals were provided to ten children attending our neighborhood elementary school. Thanks to all who have made this possible by providing \$\$donations, researching existing programs in other communities, filling out paperwork, shopping, packing bags (to be placed into backpacks) and delivering the bagged meals to the school. Because of you, we are off to a great start! If you'd like to help in any way, please talk with Deb Sturgill or Pat Jones.

Annual Meeting Notice: Next Sunday, January 17, we will convene a business meeting of First Lutheran Church at the conclusion of the worship hour. We anticipate the only business being the continuation of that meeting to **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14 FOLLOWING A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY FAITH GUILD**. On February 14 we will accept the Annual Report of the congregation, elect council members and officers, and approve the operating budget for 2016. Please speak with Mary Lee Carlson, Council President, if you have any questions.



# Call Process

The Transition Team submitted the Ministry Site Profile for First Lutheran Church last Sunday, January 3, 2016. It is now being reviewed by the bishop of Southwestern Washington Synod. A copy is posted on the bulletin board in the social hall.

Here are some highlights:

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

*Our financially sound and missional small town congregation seeks a full time pastor with the heart of a shepherd who will feed the current flock and train its members up to feed those lambs who are not part of our congregation. Both "inreach" and "outreach" will be key as First Lutheran has an increasing number of elderly members and a strong desire to carry the Gospel message to all corners of our community.*

**FIVE TOP MINISTRY TASKS:**

- Evangelism/mission*
- Pastoral care and visitation*
- Preaching/worship*
- Ecumenical work*
- Ministry in daily life*

**On the calendar....**

**Birthdays**  
 January 12 ..... Tracy Brown  
 January 14..... Dorothy Hill  
 January 15..... Ralph Turner

*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  
 Diabetic Cooking Class Tuesday 10 AM - 2 PM  
 Maranatha Estudio de la Biblia Tuesdays 7 PM  
 Legacy Food Bank Open Wednesdays 2-5:30 PM

## Gospel Text Illustration

Gregory of Nazianzus wrote about Jesus' baptism, "Jesus comes out of the water, drawing the world with him, as it were, and raising it up when it had hitherto been sunk in the abyss" (*A Christmas Sourcebook* [Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1984], 146).

This idea of Jesus' baptism drowning the whole world in God's love is a beautiful illustration that may help people wrestle with why Jesus, who was without sin, would be baptized. Maybe it was not for him, but for us.

REPRINTED FROM SUNDAYSANDSEASONS.COM WITH PERMISSION

## Season of Epiphany Worship Schedule

*\*introducing a new "Glory to God"      ^introducing new communion liturgical music*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Setting</u>	<u>Musician</u>	<u>Presider</u>	<u>Preacher</u>	<u>Weekly Team Leader</u>
1/10/16	Now the Feast*	Annette O.	Janeen S.	Janeen S.	Deb Sturgill
1/17/16	Now the Feast*	Annette O.	Janeen S.	Patricia N.	Kitty Turner
1/24/16	Now the Feast^	Annette O.	Janeen S.	Janeen S.	Patricia Neve
1/31/16	Now the Feast^	Annette O.	Janeen S.	Janeen S.	5 <sup>th</sup> week – volunteer?
2/7/16	Episcopal/on organ	Mary Lee C.	Gretchen G.	Gretchen G.	Andy Carlson

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10. We will inform you on midweek service times and the schedule as they develop.