

# First Lutheran – St. John Episcopal

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

January 31, 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 31

We pray that we will remember and follow the word God revealed in Jesus imploring us to serve people in need, especially when we are tempted to keep God's love and blessings to ourselves and treat others as outsiders, nonmembers, undeserving or beneath us.

### Monday, February 1

We remember in our prayers communities and states recovering from or experiencing unexpected flooding and severe weather this winter.

### Tuesday, February 2 *Presentation of Our Lord*

Jesus, our Lord and savior, grew and matured in our midst for our sake and salvation. We pray that we will mature and become strong in faith, filled with wisdom, and that God's love and mercy will be upon us throughout life.

### Wednesday, February 3

We remember in our prayers the ministries of pastors Bradn Buerkle, Ben and Margit Coltvét, and Arden Haug, ELCA missionaries serving in Russia.

### Thursday, February 4

We hold in prayer our leaders gathered for the Conference of Bishops, that they will be inspired and sustained by the Holy Spirit and help guide our church in its mission in a world full of complexity and challenges.

### Friday, February 5

We remember in our prayers all throughout history who have lost their lives for the sake of the gospel and the proliferation of peace and justice.

### Saturday, February 6

Theologians in our church help us reflect on, better understand and apply Scripture and our faith in daily life. We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide, inspire and stir curiosity in their studies and teaching.

## Welcome to Our Congregation

First Lutheran Church welcomes Ray and Susan Johnson into the ministry of the gospel that we share. The Johnsons moved into this area from north of Seattle. Please make them feel welcome!

Address: 114 State Route 105, Raymond, WA 98577

Phone: (360) 875-8172

Email: susnray@truevine.net

## On the calendar....

### Birthdays

February 1 ..... Annette O'Hara

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

Special Council Meeting – today after worship

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

## Potluck Meal/Annual Meeting 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 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and vote on amendment to the constitution concerning council meeting frequency, presentation and vote on a motion to transfer monies from the Endowment Fund the Operating Fund to cover the cash deficit at end of fiscal year 2015, 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

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.

Here are some highlights:

### GIFTEDNESS:

We have a healthy endowment fund and we have willing workers to enable us to become involved in more projects. We have much experience in working with Thrivent and have been very successful in bringing projects to fruition. One obstacle is our aging membership; with the right fit between pastor and congregation we feel we can accomplish a great deal.

### MISSION GOALS:

Be a welcoming church to meet the spiritual needs of an increasingly diverse community by inviting them into our family.

Be "out there" serving others in the community making visible God's love in the places people work and recreate.

### TOP MINISTRY TASKS:

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

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

## Ash Wednesday February 10

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



### More thoughts ...

#### on today's Gospel reading

Religion can be like a hometown: familiar, traditional, unchanging, a constant in a chaotic, fast-loving world. We want religion to stay the same, to look as it looked when we were children. We want to sing hymns with tunes we know: this is the faith of our childhood. We can wrap religion around us like a homemade quilt, assured that God is in heaven and all's right with the world. . . But Jesus had stripped away their quilt. The boundaries around the chosen people would be broken down. And now Jesus comes into our streets, into our sanctuary, saying that the prophet's words are now fulfilled. All sorts of people we'd never invite to dinner are being welcomed to the table, to break bread and drink wine. But, if we stay, an odd thing happens: we feel the quilt grow larger. Still around us, it is also around the one we named outcast. It's not quite the same hometown, but it's a lot more like the dominion of God. —Barbara Lundblad

[Barbara Lundblad, in *Homilies for the Christian People*, pp. 403-406.]

**Did you know** you can see these weekly inserts online? Go to <http://www.harborlutheran.org> and click on the heading "WEEKLY NOTES & NEWS" in the left taskbar.

## Worship Schedule

\*introducing sung *Eucharistic Acclamations*

^introducing *Lamb of God*

#change in schedule since last week's post

<u>Date</u>	<u>Setting</u>	<u>Musician</u>	<u>Presider</u>	<u>Preacher</u>	<u>Weekly Team Leader</u>
1/31 Epiphany 4	Now the Feast*	Annette O.	Janeen S.	Janeen S.	Deb Sturgill
#2/7 Transfiguration	<i>Episcopal Morning Praise</i>	Mary Lee C.	Patricia N.	Patricia N.	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