

# First Lutheran – St. John Episcopal

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2015



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.

### November 29 *First Sunday of Advent*

We remember in our prayers this Advent season the prophecies and promises God has fulfilled in the gift of Jesus Christ, son of God, son of man – our salvation.

### Monday, November 30 *St. Andrew's Day*

Just as Andrew risked everything and left everything familiar to follow Jesus, we too pray for the faith and trust to follow Jesus and live our baptismal calling every day.

### Tuesday, December 1 *World AIDS Day*

We pray that our work in collaboration with our global partners and companion churches will further develop and expand ministries of HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and advocacy where they are needed most.

### Wednesday, December 2

Recalling God's promises to us throughout history, we pray that during Advent we are immersed in the hope, expectation and new life given and fulfilled in the gift of Jesus Christ, son of God.

### Thursday, December 3

We remember as we watch the glowing light of the Advent wreath to give thanks to God for bringing the light and hope of Christ into the world.

### Friday, December 4

Many states continue to recover from flooding and the threat of more floods. We pray for the safety and recovery of those most affected, especially families, people living in poverty, older adults, economically distressed communities and small businesses.

### Saturday, December 5

We remember times and situations of darkness and despair in the world—in the present and throughout history—and give thanks that God breaks into the darkness with the light of Jesus Christ, bringing healing, hope, new life and the reassurance of God's presence and love for us.

## Serving Today

**Music Leader:** Annette O'Hara

**Preacher & Celebrant:** Janeen Smith,  
Transition Minister

(cell phone: 253.209.5774;

email: [neenigal@gmail.com](mailto:neenigal@gmail.com))

**Worship Team Leader:** Patricia Neve

**Scripture Reader:** Scott McDougall

Speaking of serving....I am hoping to involve a few more people in reading scripture. I always find that varying voices can help me hear the Word in new and surprising ways. I don't want to lose those of you who are reading at present; that is not my intent, rather, I'd like to increase your numbers. I will develop a schedule based upon how many respond. ~ Janeen

## **We hope you will join us!**

### **Next Sunday, December 6**

*For food, music and friendship*

♪ Fa la la la la ♪ la la la la ♪

Instead of coffee hour after worship we will be having a feast next Sunday. Wear festive clothes if you like and bring your Christmas caroling voices – we will sing some favorite songs and share a ham dinner. We will have a bit of a contest so brush up on your carol knowledge.

Faith Guild is providing the ham. Please bring a side dish (salad, rolls, dessert, vegetables), if you are able to do so, and drop it off in the kitchen before worship. And won't you invite your friends?

To help us estimate the amount of ham we need, will you indicate on the friendship pamphlet "yes" or "no" if you know whether or not you can attend? And the number of people? If you don't know yet, that's fine; just write "?".

## 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

### Anniversaries

November 29 ..... RALPH & KITTY TURNER

December 3 ..... DAN & SUSIE BORG

*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**

**Maranatha Estudio de la Biblia Tuesdays 7 PM**

**Legacy Food Bank Open Wednesdays 2-5:30 PM**

**Next Sunday, Dec 6 following worship:**

**Carol singing and ham dinner! Be sure to come!**



Oops –we are sad because some of your birthdates were accidentally printed in the last directory. It was unintentional – we do value your privacy and will help to safeguard it. All new prints will omit EVERYONE'S birth year. We are sincerely sorry for this goof up.

## Images in Today's Readings

The four gospels repeatedly speak of the Jewish apocalyptic figure called the **Son of Man**, a mysterious human-like judge who as part of the cosmic upheaval at the end of time will appear in the sky to represent God to the people and the people to God. The figure probably developed from speculation about the vision in Daniel 7. Despite popular misunderstanding that contrasts Son of God with Son of Man, "Son of Man" is not referring to Jesus as the human son of Mary. Today's several readings describe the end of the world with the arrival of the Son of Man in both frightening and comforting language. Luke's description of the apocalypse emphasizes people's terror: the day will be like a trap. Yet the summer promises new life.

There are many biblical references to the **fig tree**. An image in ancient myth and literature for male fertility, the fig tree provided both food and shade for Israelites, and even clothing in the story of the fall. In Luke 21 the fig tree is a positive image for the arrival of God. What is now in bud will see its fruition.

It was common in the ancient Near East to depict a monarchy as a tree of life. The idea was that the virility of the king ensured the health and wealth of the nation. Also the Old Testament includes descriptions of David as the tree, and the future messiah as a **branch**. For Christians, Christ is that branch, and through him we all share the life of God's true tree.

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## Advent Worship Theme: Hope and Expectation

<u>Date</u>	<u>Setting</u>	<u>Musician</u>	<u>Presider</u>	<u>Preacher</u>	<u>Weekly Team Leader</u>
11/29	Advent Eucharist	Annette O.	Janeen S.	Janeen S.	Patricia Neve*
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*

\*updated from last week