

# First Lutheran – St. John Episcopal

21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2015



## ELCA 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, October 18

Our understanding of power and authority is turned upside down by Jesus. We ask God to teach us humility and sacrifice, and open our hearts to lives of service in the world.

### Monday, October 19

We remember in our prayers the leaders, students and faculty involved in ELCA campus ministry on college and university campuses and with partner congregations across the nation.

### Tuesday, October 20

We pray that God's unwavering presence and hope be known wherever people and communities continue their long-term recovery from devastating natural disasters.

### Wednesday, October 21

Just as Simon Peter learned the humility of being a disciple and the importance of service as he washed the feet of Jesus, we, too, ask God to teach us humility through serving our neighbor and giving all glory to God.

### Thursday, October 22

As brothers and sisters in Christ who know no borders or boundaries to our compassion, we pray that God will strengthen our resolve to care for immigrants and refugees seeking safety, self-sufficiency and places of hope.

### Friday, October 23

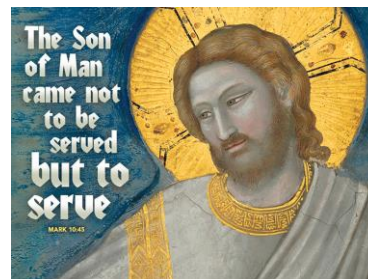
We pray for new college students, that they may find the support and encouragement of a faith community, grow in their faith and discover new opportunities for service.

### Saturday, October 24

Like the blind beggar Bartimaeus, we ask for God's mercy and healing in our lives that we may have the faith and strength to follow and be agents of healing – in the name of Jesus Christ.

## Introduction to Today's Gospel

Mark 10:35-45



Today's gospel starts with disciples obsessing over who's number one, which leads Jesus to say something about God's take on importance and power. Here Jesus makes it explicit that the reversal of values in God's community is a direct challenge to the values of the dominant culture, where wielding power over others is what makes you great. When we pray "your kingdom come" we are praying for an end to tyranny and oppression. We pray this gathered around the cross, a sign of great shame transformed to be the sign of great honor and service.

### more thoughts: *On Being Servant*

James and John are looking for places of honor while Jesus is calling them to servanthood. In the 1970s, Robert Greenleaf introduced the concept of the servant leader to the business world. Much of what he said was surprisingly close to what Jesus says about Christian leadership. "The servant-leader *is* servant first. . . . It begins with the natural feeling that one wants to serve, to serve *first*. Then conscious choice brings one to aspire to lead. That person is sharply different from one who is *leader* first, perhaps because of the need to assuage an unusual power drive or to acquire material possessions" (*Servant Leadership: A Journey into the Nature of Legitimate Power and Greatness* [Paulist Press, 1977], p. 27).

### more thoughts: *Life On The Earth*

We have been baptized to be servants of others. Those "others" include the earth itself, its geological formations, its animals, its vegetation. Churches are beginning to explore what servanthood to the earth might entail.

Reprinted from [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

# 10 AM Monday Bible Study

*Books of Faith Series: Gospel of Mark*

## Schedule of Upcoming Sessions

- Oct 19 Session Five *Mark 9:33-37;10:13-16*  
*Who Is the Greatest?*
- Oct 26 Session Six *Mark 13:1-37*  
*When Is the Ending the Beginning?*
- Nov 2 NO SESSION
- Nov 9 Session Seven *Mark 15:22-39*  
*Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?*
- Nov 16 Session Eight *Mark 16:1-8*  
*Can the End Be Just a Beginning?.....*

...followed by end of study lunch together at a local restaurant – to be determined by participants!

This Bible study can be joined on a week by week basis; please come when your schedule permits.

# On the calendar....

## Birthdays

- October 18.....RANDY FLEMETIS
- October 27 .....HEIDI BALE
- November 1 .....DAN CEARNS

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

## Worship at Alder House 2 PM Today

### Bible Study Monday, Oct. 19 at 10 AM

### 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

## Alder House Worship

First Lutheran Church will be leading worship at Alder House in South Bend today at 2 PM. Please speak with Janeen Smith if you are available to participate. We'd especially like folks to help with singing.

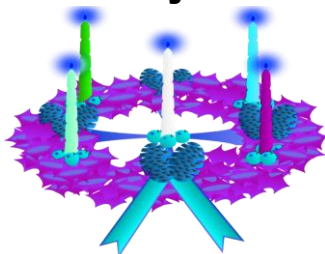
# The Worship Schedule through November 22

*What are we doing and who is serving? (in case you're wondering)*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Church Year</u>	<u>Setting</u>	<u>Musician</u>	<u>Presider</u>	<u>Preacher</u>	<u>Worship Team Leader</u>
10/18	Pentecost 21B (green)	Folk	Randy F.	Janeen S.	Janeen S.	Kitty Turner
10/25	Reformation Sunday (red)	Now the Feast	Annette O.	Janeen S.	Janeen S.	Patricia Neve
11/1	All Saints (white)	Episcopal	Annette O.	Gretchen G.	Gretchen G.	Andy Carlson
11/8	Pentecost 24B (green)	Episcopal	Annette O.	Gretchen G.	Patricia N.	Deb Sturgill
11/15	Pentecost 25B (green)	folk	Randy F.	Janeen S.	Janeen S.	Kitty Turner
11/22	Christ the King (white)	Now the Feast	Annette O.	Janeen S.	Janeen S.	Patricia Neve

## Advent is Coming

**(and a new church year along with it)!**



Beginning November 29 we enter Year C in the church's three year lectionary cycle wherein we hear from gospel writer Luke more Sundays than not. And Luke includes many of our beloved texts for Advent and Christmas. Talk with Pastor Janeen about your expectations and hopes for this season at First Lutheran Church. Chrismons, anyone?



**Ok, so the church commemoration is really *All Saints Day on November 1* but we are also part of our larger local community. Come help us be visible to the children and their families as we participate in Trunk & Treat along with other organizations for a safe, fun trick and treat experience. Costumes encouraged! Talk to Deb Sturgill for details.**