

March 2015 Newsletter

Dear People of St. John's Church,

Some Sunday morning (preferably not during the sermon) grab a copy of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* and turn to page 1121. There you will see something called the Daily Lectionary. You're probably used to the term "lectionary" which we typically use to refer to the set of four readings we get each Sunday morning—a passage from the Hebrew scriptures, a Psalm, a New Testament letter and a passage from one of the four gospels. There is a three-year cycle of these readings, Years A, B and C. Year A tends to focus on Matthew's gospel, Year B on Mark's gospel and Year C from Luke's gospel. Don't worry—John's gospel gets its due in all three reading cycles.

But the Sunday lectionary also has a corollary set of readings known as the Daily Lectionary and that's what you're looking at starting on page 1121 in the ELW. The Daily Lectionary is designed for personal home Bible study, but it also complements each week's Sunday readings.

So now turn to page 1132 where it says Year B. That's the year we're in. Now flip the page over and look at the center column of page 1134. Down at the bottom you'll see a note for Lent 3 and a list of readings for each day, starting with Thursday. Why Thursday? - Because the Daily Lectionary readings are arranged so that what you read on Thursday, Friday and Saturday will prepare you for the upcoming Sunday readings. Then, what you read on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday reflect on the readings that you heard on the past Sunday. It's a pretty cool arrangement, actually.

Now, if you've been coming to the Wednesday noon-time Chapel services, you'll know that we're reading and discussing the readings for each of the Wednesdays in Lent. In other words, if you come to the Chapel service the first week in March, after you receive your Eagle, you'll notice that we'll be reading the Wednesday lessons listed at the end of Lent 2. Each week we'll see if we can find themes in them that relate back to what we heard about and read on Sunday.

I've never done services based around the Daily Lectionary before so this is a new thing, for me, as well as for you. I hope it's fun. I hope it enriches our experience of the Sunday readings and gives us a different perspective on the ways we may read scripture together. So be sure to check out the Daily Lectionary and don't forget to come on Wednesdays. We'll talk, we'll sing, we'll pray. We'll probably do some laughing, too. I really like that part.

See you on Wednesday! See you on Sunday!

In Christ's grace,
Pastor Jo Page