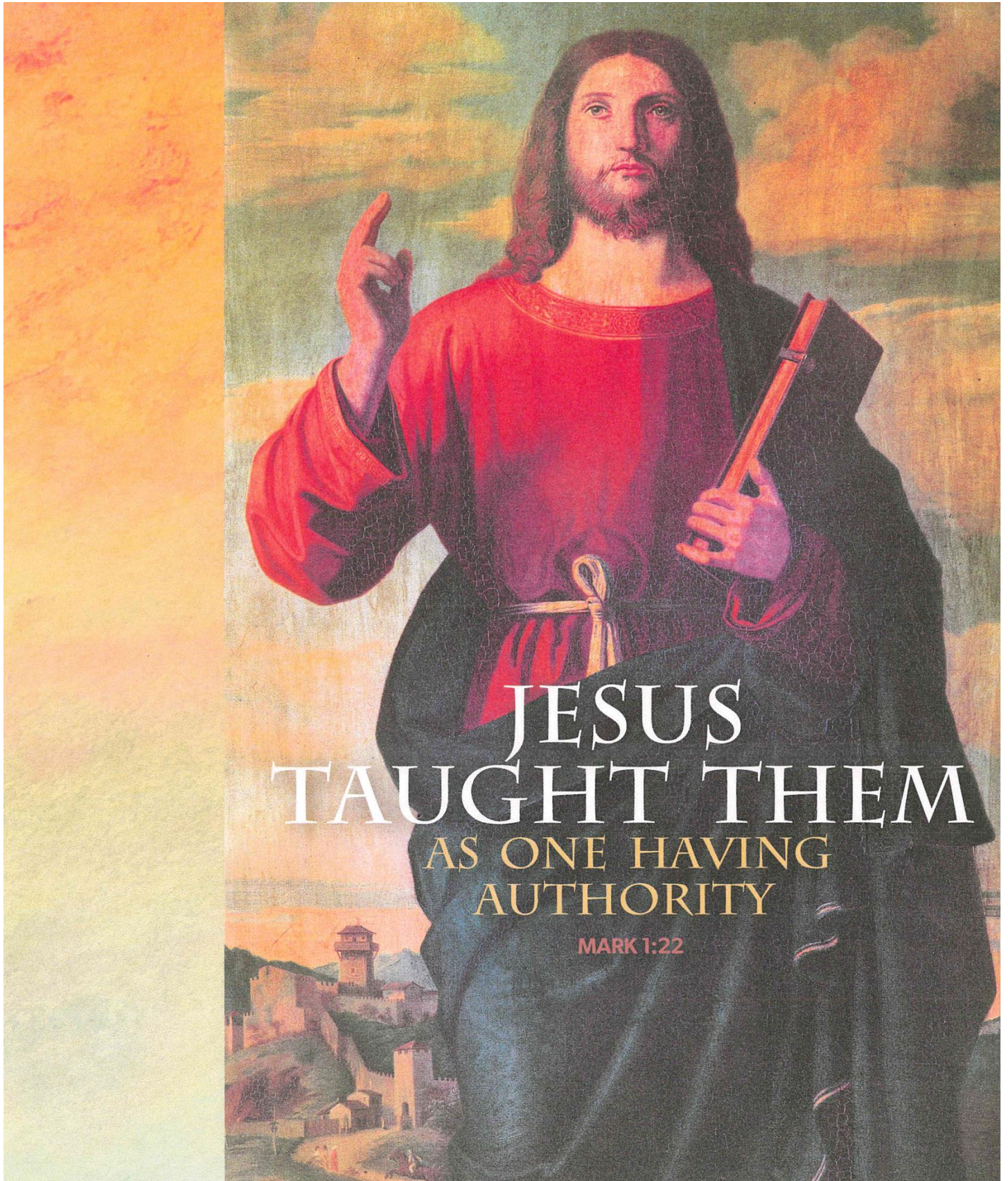


11:00 a.m.

January 28, 2024



Morning Star Lutheran Church

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

11:00 a.m.

12509 Idlewild Road

704.847.4502

Office hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

January 28, 2024

Matthews NC 28105

www.mslcnc.org

WELCOME! We extend a special welcome to those who are single, divorced, married, widowed, LGBTQIA+, nonbinary or straight. We welcome you regardless of your skin tone, hair color, or the language spoken at your kitchen table. We work to be pro-community, anti-racist, pro-relationship, and pro-Jesus; which means you are welcome here. MSLC is a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

INTRODUCTION: In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

Page numbers are found in the front of the cranberry hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

Hymn #s are found in the back of the cranberry hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

*The assembly is invited to respond with the words in **bold print**.*

+ *Standing as able*

* *Kneeling or sitting*

Morning Star Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral land of the Catawba Nation, "Yę iswą" (the people of the river). We acknowledge our indigenous siblings as the first to love, pray, grow, celebrate, drum and sing upon this land we now occupy. We honor the Catawba Nation, their ancestors and descendants, uniting with them in unending song to the Creator. We are grateful for the beauty of the sunsets, the power of the trees, the change of the seasons, the sustenance of the water, the smell of the air, the life in the soil and the comfort of the home this place provides. We open our hearts to the work of healing and justice for all indigenous peoples.

*The music of the prelude is a time to prepare silently for the worship
of Almighty God, the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.*

Prelude

Balm in Gilead
Based on *ELW* #614

setting, Robert J. Powell

Welcome

Ministry Moment

An invitation to SING!

Leigh and Joe Pittman

+Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another either sitting or kneeling as able.

*God, our rock and refuge,
we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved. **Amen.**

+Gathering Hymn #310 *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

SALZBURG

+Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

+Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:5-20

(printed on back of bulletin)

Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

The word of the Lord. OR Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

(printed on back of bulletin)

Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.

The word of the Lord. OR Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

+Gospel Acclamation p. 151

Alleluia

Ronald Nelson

+Holy Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

(printed on back of bulletin)

Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Mr. Mark Hustedt

Sermon

Pastor John Mouritsen

+Hymn of the Day#611 *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

KINGSFOLD

+Affirmation of Faith p. 105 *The Apostles' Creed*

+Prayers of Intercession

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

+The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Offering Scan this QR code to give your tithes and offerings to MSLC:



Offering Anthem

O Christ, Surround Me

Richard Colligan/arr. David Sims

Chancel Choir

+Offertory #184

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Ronald Nelson

+Offering Prayer

+Eucharistic Prayer p. 152

+Sanctus p. 153 *Holy, holy, holy, Lord* Ronald Nelson

+Lord's Prayer (traditional) p. 154

+Invitation to Communion

Agnus Dei p. 154 *Lamb of God* Ronald Nelson

Holy Communion (received by intinction at the front two stations)

Communion Hymn #614 *There Is a Balm in Gilead* BALM IN GILEAD

+Table Blessing

+Prayer after Communion

+Sending Announcements

+Sending Hymn #673 *God, Whose Almighty Word* ITALIAN HYMN

+Blessing

+Dismissal

Postlude *Variations on If You But Trust in God to Guide You* Georg Boehm
Based on *ELW* #769

*All are welcome to come forward and watch the organist play the postlude.
The music of the postlude sends us out to do God's work and will.*

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SERVING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

GREETERS:	9:00 a.m.	Beth Mackinem, Mitch Mackinem
GREETERS:	11:00 a.m.	Amelia Osborne, Tom Eure
USHERS:	9:00 a.m.	Ron Sperlbaum, Della Sperlbaum, Curtis Morehead, Rosie Fuller
USHERS:	11:00 a.m.	Dwight Hollingsworth, Sarah Hollinsworth
COMMUNION:	9:00 a.m.	Beth Mackinem, Mitch Mackinem, Phyllis Medlin, Rosie Fuller, Roger Lyman, Nina Allen, Jan Durr
COMMUNION:	11:00 a.m.	Lucille Brooks, Ray Brooks, Sarah Hollingsworth
READER:	9:00 a.m.	Melanie Covell
READER:	11:00 a.m.	Richard Turner
ALTAR GUILD:	9:00 a.m.	Andy Hunter
ALTAR GUILD:	11:00 a.m.	Linda Turner
COUNTERS:		Rosie Fuller, Alberta Melchiorre

MINISTERS, MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Pastor, Rev. John Mouritsen

Minister of Music, Mr. Edmund Tompkins

Associate Minister of Music, Dr. Katie Ann McCarty

Business Administrator, Mr. Jerry Sutton

AV Technician, Ulric Chadwick

AV Technician, Elizabeth Hollingsworth

Nursery Attendant, Mrs. Chrissy Stublaski

Minister with Youth, Mr. Mark Hustedt

Parish Secretary, Mrs. Janet Kobe

Church Sexton, Mr. William Bauer, Jr.

AV Technician, Victoria Hollingsworth

Chapel Manager, Mrs. Susan Lyttle

Nursery Attendant, Mrs. Teresa Scott

Gallery at Morning Star Curators, Ms. Amelia Osborne and Mr. Tom Eure

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LARGE-PRINT BULLETINS are available from an usher.

THIS WEEK’S prayer concerns list, Taking Faith Home, and children’s bulletins are located on the credenzas in the Narthex. Quarterly devotional booklets are also available. Please take your bulletin home or recycle in the container in the Narthex.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the Narthex. Please take your box even if you use direct deposit. Thank you.

FAITH FORMATION classes for all ages are offered today at 10:15 a.m. Classes for children and youth are in the FLC classrooms. An adult class on Scripture is offered in the Administration Conference Room. An adult class on Integrative Wellness 101 is in the Fellowship Hall.

AM STARS are planning a trip to Savannah, GA from April 29 – May 3. Information sheets are on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please sign up for this fun trip and make final payment by February 18.

THE NEW SHOW for Morning Star Gallery, *Renew*, opens Friday, February 9, with a reception from 6 – 8:30 p.m. The gallery website is www.thegalleryatmorningstar.com for more information.

ROOM IN THE INN help is needed for upcoming hosting dates of Feb. 1, 15 & 29, and March 14 & 28. Below is the link to the Google signup. If you have problems signing up, please text Nikola Taylor at 704-488-1205.

[Room in the Inn Volunteer Signup 2023-2024 - Google Sheets](#)

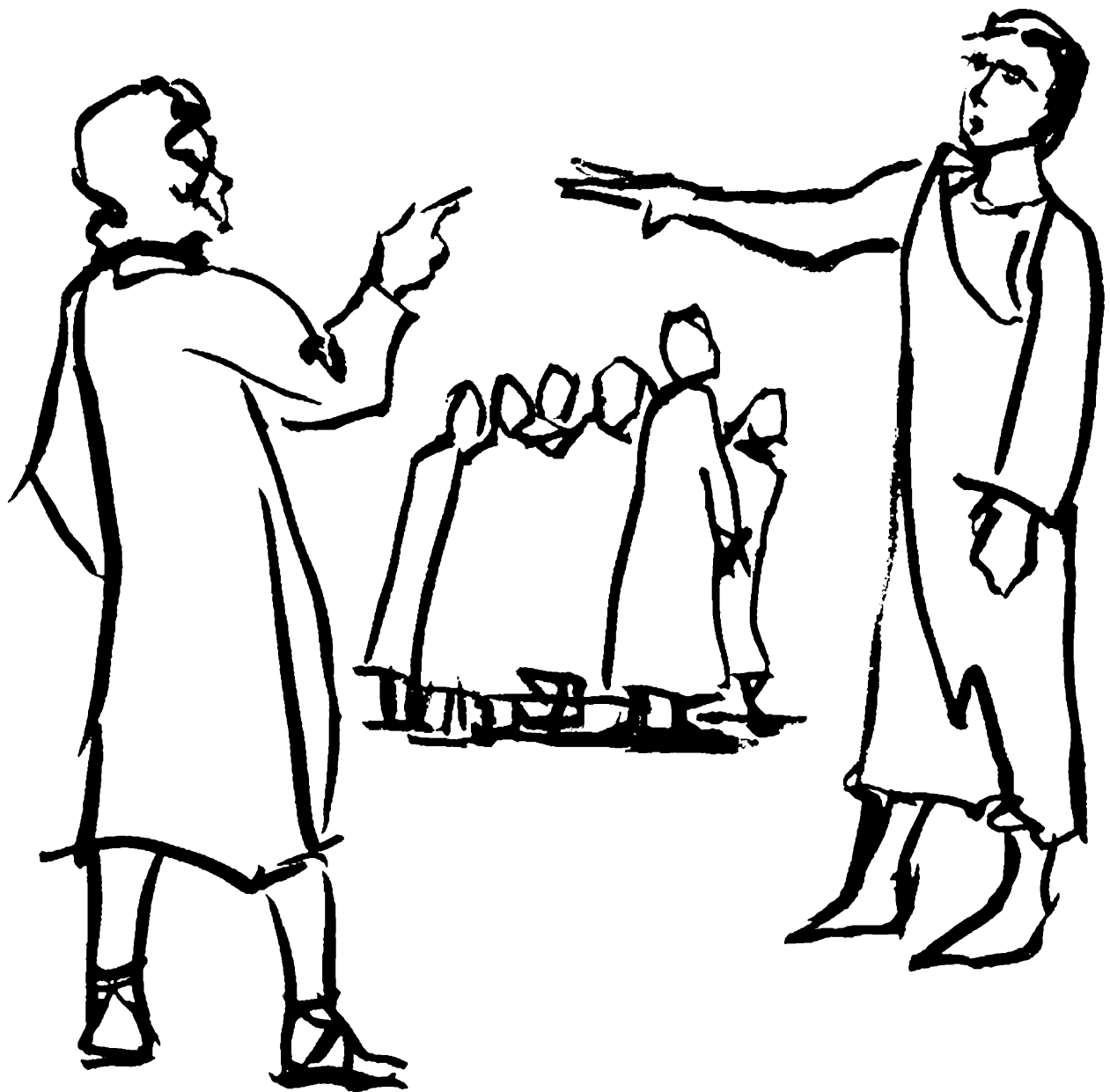
INQUIRERS’/NEW MEMBER CLASS begins on Sunday, February 18. Join Pastor John and other visitors and guests to MSLC on Sunday mornings at 10:15 a.m. in the FLC conference room - by the FLC/Gallery entrance. Meet Feb. 18, 25, March 3 and 10 with new members received on March 17. Talk with Pastor John for more info.

SHROVE TUESDAY pancake supper gifted to the community by the Youth Mission Team will be Tuesday, February 13, from 5:30 – 7 p.m. in the FLC Gym.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES will be offered on Wednesday, February 14, at noon in the Morning Star Chapel at 12900 Idlewild Road and at 7 p.m. in the Worship Center at 12509 Idlewild Road. The evening service will include music by the combined Praise Choir and Chancel Choir.

LENTEN GET-TOGETHERS begin on Wednesday, February 21. Dinner is at 5:15 p.m. followed by classes for all ages at 6 and Holden Evening Prayer with the theme “Created for Community” will be in the Worship Center from 7:15-7:45 p.m.

NOTES



THIS WEEK IN MINISTRY AND MISSION AT MORNING STAR

SUNDAY, January 28

- 9:00 a.m. ~ Non-traditional Worship in the Worship Center (nursery available)
- 10:15 a.m. ~ Faith Formation for children, youth, and adults in FLC classrooms and conference room
- 11:00 a.m. ~ Traditional Worship in the Worship Center (nursery available)
- 12:30 p.m. ~ Monthly Church Council meeting in Fellowship Hall

MONDAY, January 29

- 9:00 a.m. ~ Walkers in the FLC Gym
- 11:00 a.m. ~ Program Staff meeting in Administration Conference Room
- 11:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting in Fellowship Hall and Choir Room

TUESDAY, January 30

- 11:00 a.m. ~ Centering Prayer in FLC Room 134
- 12:00 p.m. ~ The 12 x 12 AA Meeting in Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 p.m. ~ Women's VdC Reunion Prayer meeting in Administration Conference Room
- 6:00 p.m. ~ Men's VdC Reunion Prayer meeting in FLC Conference Room
- 6:15 p.m. ~ Instrumental Ensemble rehearsal in Worship Center
- 7:00 p.m. ~ Radiance Ringers rehearsal in Bell Room
- 7:00 p.m. ~ Bible Quest Study in Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, January 31

- 9:00 a.m. ~ TOPS meeting in FLC Room 108
- 11:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting in Fellowship Hall
- 1:00 p.m. ~ Staff Meeting in Administration Conference Room
- 6:00 p.m. ~ Yoga in Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 p.m. ~ Youth Fellowship Dinner and Program in FLC Gym and Youth Room
- 7:30 p.m. ~ Young Clappers youth handbell rehearsal in Bell Room

THURSDAY, February 1

- 10:00 a.m. ~ Coffee and Bible Study with Pastor John on FB Live
- 10:00 a.m. ~ Women's Book Club in the Administration Conference Room
- 5:00 p.m. ~ Room in the Inn set up and welcome overnight guests in FLC Gym
- 6:00 p.m. ~ Joyful Noise Ringers rehearsal in Bell Room
- 7:05 p.m. ~ Praise Choir and Chancel Choir rehearsal in Choir Room

FRIDAY, February 2

- 9:00 a.m. ~ Walkers in the FLC Gym
- 11:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting in Fellowship Hall and Choir Room

SATURDAY, February 3

- 10:00 a.m. ~ AA Group meeting in the Choir Room

SUNDAY, February 4

- 9:00 a.m. ~ Non-traditional Worship in the Worship Center (nursery available)
- 10:15 a.m. ~ Faith Formation for children, youth, and adults in FLC classrooms and conference room
- 11:00 a.m. ~ Traditional Worship in the Worship Center (nursery available)
- 12:30 p.m. ~ Monthly Church Council meeting in Fellowship Hall

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

[Moses said:] “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

Psalm 111**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13**

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28

[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39.

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Tracks 1 and 2
ELCA-R