

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 6, 2022

IN OUR PRAYERS: Jim Cleveland; Carolyn Wilkins; Jack & Lureen Vaught; Tony Sikora; Cindy; Aiden Snyder

ELDERS & CHURCH COUNCIL meet this Tuesday, Feb. 8, at 6:00 & 7:00pm.

MEN'S GROUP: we will meet at 8:00am this Saturday, February 12. We'll have breakfast, a short bible study, and time for fellowship. Join us!

ADULT INSTRUCTION CLASS: Pastor will be holding a class for those interested in joining our church on Sunday mornings between services beginning **next Sunday, February 13**. All are highly encouraged to join us for a refresher! It's also a good way to welcome our newcomers! Please pass this info around to any who might be interested!!

WOMEN'S GROUP: our Women's Group will meet at 8:00am on Saturday, February 26. After that we're thinking the third Saturday of the month moving forward. Join with sisters in Christ for refreshments, fellowship, and study.

CALENDAR

Sun. Feb. 6 (Transfiguration)	8:00 & 10:00am Divine Service 9:00am Sunday School / Bible Study 11:30am Confirmation
Tue. Feb. 8	8:30am Greek Study 3:00pm Bible Study (Psalms) 6:00 / 7:00pm Elders / Church Council
Wed. Feb. 9	8:30am Matins 9:00am Book of Concord Study 7:00pm Divine Service
Thu. Feb. 10	7:00pm Bible Study (Galatians)
Sat. Feb. 12	8:00am Men's Group
Sun. Feb. 13 (Septuagesima)	8:00 & 10:00am Divine Service 9:00am Sunday School / Bible Study / Instruction 11:30am Confirmation 6:00pm Youth Group

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Today we celebrate the Transfiguration of Our Lord, glimpsing Jesus' glory on the mountain with Peter, James, and John. The Epiphany Season reaches its climax. The various events and miracles that revealed Jesus to us now culminate in our Lord's Transfiguration. All these serve to remind us of who Jesus is: God with us.

The Transfiguration also marks a turning point. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all connect the Transfiguration to Jesus' prediction of His own suffering and death. In Luke 9, we read that shortly after the Transfiguration Jesus "sets His face toward Jerusalem." So it is for us even today. Transfiguration marks the time in the church year after which we, too, set our faces toward Jerusalem, toward Holy Week, toward the suffering and death of our Savior.

This part of the Church Year prepares us for the death and resurrection of our Lord in stages, helping us transition from the glory of Epiphany and Transfiguration to the solemn celebrations of Holy Week and finally to the joy of Easter:

1. The next three Sundays, you might remember, are called Pre-Lent or Gesimatide. The readings and hymns are focused on God's grace for us sinners, offering a short "season" of reflection and thanksgiving. The color is green, a subtle shift away from the joyful white of Epiphany. The "alleluias" are not sung, another reminder of our transition toward the penitential season of Lent.
2. Ash Wednesday and Lent come next. The color is now violet, a color of royalty for our King who comes to die but also a color of repentance and even sorrow. The readings and hymns deal with spiritual warfare, repentance, and forgiveness. The alleluias are still absent.
3. The last two weeks of Lent (Holy Week and the week before) are the most intense of all. The liturgy itself becomes shorter and simpler. Alleluias are gone, and now even "Glory" is absent. The crosses are veiled, obscured from our sight until Good Friday.

As I said, this all serves to prepare us for the celebration of Easter. The increasing intensity of Gesimatide, Lent, and Holy Week gives way at long last to the exuberant cries of "Christ is risen! Alleluia!" on Easter morning. I pray these coming weeks will be for you a time of growth and encouragement as we set our faces to Jerusalem and look forward to the day when we rejoice in the resurrection. God's peace to you!