

January 14, 2023- Volume 4 - Edition 2

THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

Sunday, January 14

9:30 AM – Worship, Sanctuary
10:00 AM – Resident Worship, Julian Estates
10:45 AM – Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
11:00 AM – Choir Rehearsal
11:30 AM – Confirmation Class
1:30 PM – Resident Worship, Bonaventure
5:00 PM* –Worship, YouTube

Wednesday, January 17

10:00 AM – Living Way Bible Study
12:00 PM – Prayer @ Noon
3:00 PM – Cutoff for Lifeline Information

Sunday, January 21

9:30 AM – Worship, Sanctuary
10:00 AM – Resident Worship, Julian Estates
10:45 AM – Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
11:00 AM – Choir Rehearsal
11:30 AM – Kid's Ministry Planning Lunch
1:30 PM – Resident Worship, Bonaventure
5:00 PM* –Worship, YouTube

Wednesday, January 24

10:00 AM – Living Way Bible Study
12:00 PM – Prayer @ Noon
3:00 PM – Cutoff for Lifeline Information

253-846-1276 – office@LivingWordLutheranChurch.org
<https://LivingWordLutheranChurch.org>

Office Hours: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Monday-Thursday
10515 269th Street East, Graham, WA 98338

***Always the goal, but may be impacted by technology issues beyond our control**

Full Lectionary for January 14, 2024; 2nd Sunday after Epiphany; Year B

First Reading	1 Samuel 3:1-10[11-20]
Psalm	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 6:12-20
Gospel	John 1:43-51 Parament Color: Green

Full Lectionary for January 21, 2024; 3rd Sunday after Epiphany; Year B

First Reading	Jonah 3:1-5,10
Psalm	Psalm 62:5-12
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Gospel	Mark 1:14-20 Parament Color: Green

Men's Breakfast



Plan now to attend the Men's Breakfast on Saturday, January 13 at 9:00 AM.

MUSICAL NOTES

Here are links to the first two songs we are singing this Sunday.

"Holy Forever" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2xcFM9CBiOE>

"We Have Come Into His House" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VEBmKvLDsWg>

CHILDREN'S SERMON



There is a signup sheet on the table in the Narthex if you are interested in giving a children's message or in assisting.

FLOWERS



With a new year there are many empty slots for the chancel flowers. You don't need a special occasion (or spend a lot of money) to bring flowers. Please sign up on the chart in the narthex or email or call the office 253 846-1276 if you want to fill one (or more) of those empty slots. Thank you.

YEAR END GIVING STATEMENTS

Sharlene Parker has been working hard on the year-end giving statements and they are ready. Those who requested paper copies may pick them up at the church this Sunday, to save the cost of mailing.

King of the Jews

[Editors note: We owe a great deal of what we know about Herod to Jewish Historian, Josephus.]

Josephus quoting Herod: "I have advanced the nation of the Jews to a degree of happiness which they never had before."

This quote arose in Herod's speaking as he attempted to grow enthusiasm for improving the temple. He enlarged, improved, and made more magnificent the second temple, erected after return from Babylonian exile. In some ways he was right. Examine Luke 21:5 - "And while some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings..." But the sentiment of the larger Jewish nation probably wasn't so generous. He probably was living in a fantasy of his own ego and imagination.

It was into this waning world of Herod that Jesus arrived. Wisemen would soon come from the east to pay homage to the child, a promised King of the Jews. When Herod got wind of this, he was enraged. This is because Herod – let's call him Herod the Great, as many have, to distinguish him from all his progeny named "Herod" – held the title of "King of the Jews" and held it tightly. He worked hard to persuade the Roman senate to confer upon him that title. He was a schmoozer and schemer like his father, an Idumean governor who, like many Idumeans, decided to convert to Judaism rather than flee. His mother was an Arab princess. This fed an insecurity of not being "A real Jew".

Herod hobnobbed with the rich and powerful of the Roman Empire – Caesar Augustus, Julius Caesar, Mark Antony, Cleopatra, etc. He craved his connections, his lavish lifestyle, and all the trappings of "King". And yet, he was very jealous and fearful that he might lose it all. He also feared losing the adoration of the people and requested that after his death, many mourners be hired to put on a convincing display; it never came to pass.

Herod is said to have detested the Davidic lineage to the throne, probably because it is one thing he did not and could not have. He also had a large ego. He saw threats to his reign all around. And he demanded personal loyalty and meted retribution upon those who challenged him. He wasn't afraid to have people killed. This led to his bizarre response to the birth of a baby in Bethlehem who was being celebrated as "King of the Jews". A baby of the Davidic line who had this title from birth.

Herod often charged his adversaries with plotting to kill him (some of which may have been true), leading them to be executed. He did this to former high priest Hyrcanus II, wife Miriamne, two sons, and many others. The Sanhedrin even called out Herod for his cruelty. The Miriamne just mentioned is Miriamne I (not to be confused with his other wife of the same name, Miriamne II, daughter of high priest Simon Boethus). Herod loved Miriamne I very much but love was not returned as it was *her* two sons Herod had executed. Finally, Herod had *her* executed. The sons referred to were Aristobulus and Alexander. Aristobulus had a daughter named Herodias. After her father was killed, Herod gave Herodias to his son Herod Philip I (her half-uncle, aka Herod II aka Herod of Rome) to raise (if she were underaged) or to marry (possibly even if she were underaged). It is hard to tell which situation has the largest "ick" factor.

Upon visiting his half-brother in Rome, Herod Antipas (also a son of Herod) meets Herodias and steals her away. John the Baptist calls him out on all of this, enraging Herodias resulting in her asking for the head of John the Baptist (Mark 6:17-29).

Jesus was later to come into Herod Antipas' sights (Luke 13:31-33), but it was not yet his time. They finally did meet in Jerusalem as he was facing trial with Pilate (Luke 23:6-12).

When Jesus was facing the cross we hear this exchange in Luke 23:3

So Pilate asked Him, saying, "Are You the King of the Jews?" And He answered him and said, "It is as you say." Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no fault in this Man."

In Luke 23:36-38 we find the final words:

And the soldiers also mocked Him coming and offering Him sour wine, and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself." And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: "THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS".

Dan Owen

PRAYER ROOM

“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.”
James 3:18 (ESV)

Watch over those who put themselves in harm’s way to protect us and grant peace of mind to the families who love and miss them. We praise you for continuing to protect:

Andrew Thompson (Griswold)
Josh Jepsen, USAF Jordan
Richy Vollmer (Vollmer)
Evan Gregory Blodgett
Devlin Durkin (McKenzie)
Elijah Lundberg, USMC Yuma, AZ

Seth Hearl
Michael Elliott
Chris Berentson
Ivan Daubenspeck, USMC Okinawa (Owen)
Owen Daubenspeck, USAF Qatar (Owen)

Comfort those who are bereaved, having lost loved ones recently:

Family and friends of Carole Williams (we do not have any further details)
Al Auge and family of Al’s uncle, Jim Catt

Relieve pain for all who suffer in any way and restore them to good health of body, mind, and spirit. Encourage them and strengthen their caregivers:

Maurice Hedlund
Jon Zavadil
Al Auge

Harold Lawrence
Al Luberts
Jeff Brennan

Rosalynn Gallagher
Amy Cruver
Carolyn Martin

Grant discernment, wisdom, and courage to leaders within the church and world. Raise servants to accomplish Your will. May Your will be evident in all decisions and actions.

Living Word Members
Victims of War in Ukraine and Israel

Living Word Leaders
Elected Government Officials

Persecuted Christians

Praise for healing and continued recovery:

Katie
Harder
Debbi Zavadil

Amy Braafladt
Savvy
Toni Sherman

Darlene Luberts
Errol Lynne Marsh

Diego Huber
Ryan

Dick Sims
Steve Vonderau
Rachel

Thank you, LORD, for hearing and answering our prayers – even when you do so differently than we would prefer. We pray in the holy and mighty name of Jesus, our LORD. Amen

Names in Bold are new additions. Please let the office know if you wish your request to remain on the list otherwise requests are removed after a month.
