

## This Week at VIC

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
Today 1/21	11:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
	12:00 noon	Fellowship Lunch
Tuesday, 1/23	1:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
Sunday, 1/28	10:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	11:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
	12:00 noon	Fellowship Lunch
	12:45 p.m.	Voters' Meeting

### Weekly Stewardship Focus

**Mark 1:14-15 – "Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.'"** To repent means to turn away from sins and our former way of thinking and turn toward belief in God and His Gospel of grace and mercy. The whole Christian life is one of repentance and faith. Where is God calling you to repent today? How is He calling you to deeper faith?

**Life Quote in the Church Year for January 21** "As Christians, each one of us should be deeply steeped in God's Word. That is where the truth lies. We don't want to be 'right' for our own sake so we can boast in our 'right-ness.' We should want to be 'right' because God is revealing His truth to us, and we have been aligned with His truth. As we labor together in the life arena, let each one of us be so grounded in God's Word that we recognize God's truth and speak it in love." *Barbara Lane Geistfeld, DVM, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

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## Victory in Christ Lutheran Church



*Now after John was arrested,  
Jesus came into Galilee,  
proclaiming the Gospel of God.  
Mark 1:14*

**The Third Sunday after the  
Epiphany  
January 21, 2024  
10:00 a.m.**

Victory in Christ Lutheran Church  
508 Main Street  
Newark, Texas 76071  
817-489-5400

Pastor Philip Schielke

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**WELCOME!** We thank God for you and pray that He will richly bless our worship activity together.

**Communion:** We welcome all of our guests worshiping with us today and pray your faith is strengthened. God's Word declares to us that the bread and wine we receive in the Lord's Supper is the true body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ given for the forgiveness of sins and nourishing of faith (Matt. 26: 26-28; Mark 14: 22-24; Luke 22: 19-21; 1 Cor. 11: 23-26). When receiving His true body and blood, all communicants are to be united in their understanding and confession of Jesus Christ and all of His teaching (Jon. 17: 22; 1 Cor. 1: 10). An unworthy reception of this gift results in one who "eats and drinks judgment on himself" (1 Cor. 11: 29). Therefore, if you are still learning Lutheran doctrine or are not part of a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregation, we invite you forward for a blessing and encourage you to speak with the pastor *before* the service in order to learn more about our teaching on the Lord's Supper.

**Hymn of Invocation:** #688 – "Come, Follow Me,"  
the Savior Spake

**Divine Service Setting Three:** pg. 184

Introit

***Psalm 113:1-2, 4, 7-8; antiphon Psalm 113:3 (ESV)***

<sup>3</sup> From the rising of the sun to its | setting,  
the name of the LORD is | to be praised!

<sup>1</sup> **Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants | of the LORD,  
praise the name | of the LORD!**

<sup>2</sup> Blessed be the name | of the LORD  
from this time forth and for- | evermore!

<sup>4</sup> **The LORD is high above all | nations,  
and his glory above the | heavens!**

<sup>7</sup> He raises the poor | from the dust  
and lifts the needy from the | ash heap,

<sup>8</sup> **to make them sit with | princes,  
with the princes of his | people.  
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

<sup>3</sup> From the rising of the sun to its | setting,  
the name of the LORD is | to be praised!

## Old Testament Reading

***Jonah 3:1-5, 10 (English Standard Version)***

***Jonah Goes to Nineveh***

<sup>1</sup>Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, <sup>2</sup>"Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you." <sup>3</sup>So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" <sup>5</sup>And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. . . .

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

## New Testament Reading

***1 Corinthians 7:29-35 (English Standard Version)***

<sup>29</sup>This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, <sup>30</sup>and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, <sup>31</sup>and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

## Gospel Reading

***Mark 1:14-20 (English Standard Version)***

***Jesus Begins His Ministry***

<sup>14</sup>After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

### ***Jesus Calls the First Disciples***

<sup>16</sup>Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen.

<sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." <sup>18</sup>And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup>And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

**Sermon Hymn: #839 – O Christ, Our True and Only Light**

**Sermon:**

**Communion Hymn: #735 – Have No Fear, Little Flock**

**Closing Hymn: #685 – Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus**

### **Life Thought in the Church Year for January 21 – Epiphany III –**

The size of a people (as in the case of Nineveh, Jonah 3:3-4) makes no difference to their worth. Nor does the height of an individual's status (so says the Psalmist, Psalm 62:9) affect his or her sanctity. The life-giving grace of God measures according to His abundance rather than our scarcities of age, appearance, or ability. May we likewise direct gazes beyond abortion's and assisted suicide's shortsightedness (1 Corinthians 7:30-31).

### **Announcements**

**Church Cleaning** – Scheduled for church cleaning the week of February 4, is the Brad Rohloff family.

**Voters' Meeting** – There will be a voters' meeting on Sunday, January 28, following the noon meal.

**Bible Challenge** – It's not too late. All the members of Victory in Christ are challenged to read through the Bible during 2024. Look in the January newsletter for the readings for each day.

**Offering Envelopes** - The contribution envelopes for 2024 are available for pickup in the Fellowship Hall. Assigned envelope numbers have changed since last year, so please discard any remaining 2023 envelopes to ensure donations are credited to the proper person(s).

**Save the Date** – Our VBS 2024 will be June 10-14, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Clear your calendar now and plan to join us!

### **The Readings for today –**

### **The Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

Jonah 3:1–5, 10

1 Corinthians 7:29–31 (32–35)

Mark 1:14–20

### ***The Lord Calls Us to Himself by the Preaching of Repentance in His Name***

When "*the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time,*" sending him to preach judgment against the great city of Nineveh, "*Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD*" (Jonah 3:1, 3). By this preaching, the people were brought to repentance. Because they "*believed God,*" as He spoke to them through His prophet, "*they turned from their evil way*" and were spared "*the disaster that he had said he would do to them*" (Jonah 3:5, 10). St. Paul also warns that "*the appointed time has grown very short*" (1 Cor. 7:29). Therefore, while we live in this world and deal with it, we are not to cling to it, nor put our trust in it, for "*the present form of this world is passing away*" (1 Cor. 7:31). Rather, give "*your undivided devotion to the Lord*" (1 Cor. 7:35). When our Lord Jesus Christ comes and is proclaimed in the Gospel, "*the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand*" (Mark 1:14–15). Therefore, He still calls men and sends them to become "*fishers of men*" with the net of that Gospel (Mark 1:17).

### **A Look Ahead to Next Sunday –**

### **The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**

Deuteronomy 18:15–20

1 Corinthians 8:1–13

Mark 1:21–28

### ***Our Lord Jesus Christ, True God in the Flesh, Cleanses Our Consciences from Sin***

As He promised, the Lord our God has raised up "*a prophet*" like Moses, namely Jesus, our brother in the flesh. "*To him you shall listen,*" because the Word of the Lord is "*in his mouth*" (Deut. 18:15–18). Indeed, He is more than a prophet and more than a scribe of the Scriptures; He is the incarnate Word, and He speaks "*a new teaching with authority*" (Mark 1:22, 27). He enters "*the synagogue*" of His Church and provides true Sabbath rest, using His authority to silence and cast out "*even the unclean spirits*" (Mark 1:21–27). By His Word of the cross, He removes the accusations of the Law and of the devil, and He cleanses our consciences before God the Father, "*from whom are all things and for whom we exist.*" Hence, we are now set free from bondage and commended to God by the one Lord, Jesus Christ, "*through whom are all things and through whom we exist*" (1 Cor. 8:6). Therefore, use your freedom to care for your brothers and sisters, neither causing them to stumble nor wounding their consciences (1 Cor. 8:9–12), but cleansing and strengthening them with the Gospel.