

Weekly Study Guide

The week of January 26, 2014

Daily Readings

Monday	Psalm 78:1-31	Tuesday	Psalm 78:32-72	Wednesday	2 Chronicles 7:11-16
Thursday	Jeremiah 29:10-14	Friday	Ephesians 1:15-23	Saturday	Philippians 1:3-6

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next week is a special Sunday. We just celebrated 125 years of God's past work in us. Now we get to ask, "What's next?" Please join us next Sunday for a time of prayer and dreaming together about the future God wants to write in us.

first lutheran church

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Group Discussion

Connect	When did you first come to First Lutheran? What brought you here? Why have you stayed?
Learn	<p>Psalm 78 was written to help the ancient Israelites (the ancestors of Jesus) remember and learn from their past. Read Psalm 78:1-8.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• According to these verses, why did the Israelites want to remember their past? What's the purpose of looking backward?• Did you learn anything about the history of our church family that seemed especially important to you today? Why does that stand out to you?• As you look back into your own experience with God, are there moments you want to remember and learn from? <p>In worship today we read 2 Chronicles 7:14-15, which you can reread in your group now. God invited his people long ago to be honest about their failures as well as their successes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why might we tend to gloss over the negative parts of our stories? What does this passage say about that?• Why is it important to name and remember our sins and failures? What kinds of things can we learn from the presence of these things in our stories? <p>Read Jeremiah 29:11. God's people were suffering because of their sins, but God promised them a new future. Next week is the church wide launch of First Lutheran's Vision2020 process. We will pray and dream together about the plans that God has for our hope and future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What things about First Lutheran's past and present story are the most important to you?• What are you hopeful about for the future?• There aren't many things that we could predict about the year 2138-39. If Jesus hasn't returned by then, what would you want to be true about First Lutheran in our next 125 years?
Apply	What did you learn today that you want to apply to your life? What next steps will you take?
Pray	In your prayers today, give thanks to God for the faithful Christians who have brought our story to this point, and pray for God to lead our church community in faithful and impactful witness and service to Jesus Christ in our present and future.