



THE BRIDGE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR
CONGREGATIONS OF THE
SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD, ELCA

CONNECTING THE
CONGREGATIONAL, SYNODICAL, AND
CHURCHWIDE EXPRESSIONS OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH IN AMERICA.



HOW READINGS ARE CHOSEN

From www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Worship/Learning-Center/FAQs/Lectionary.aspx

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) uses a system of readings for Sundays in the church year. Any system of readings from Scripture is called a "lectionary." Lectionaries come in two basic forms: a list or table of the Scripture citations to be read from the Bible, or a book in which each lesson is printed out in full for the purposes of public reading and proclamation in the worship assembly.

The lectionary system authorized for use in the ELCA is called The Revised Common Lectionary. This lectionary was developed by an organization called the Consultation on Common Texts. This ecumenical organization is made up of representatives from several church bodies in North America. Materials prepared by this group are always subject to the adoption of individual church bodies. The ELCA approved the use of this lectionary by action of the Church Council in 1993. Several other church bodies in North America have adopted this lectionary system. The result is that there is an ecumenically shared use of the same readings in a growing number of church bodies each Sunday. You may visit an Episcopal, Presbyterian, United Methodist, or other church where the readings are the same as or similar to those your own congregation is using on Sunday.

The Sunday lectionary readings do not include the whole Bible. They are chosen specifically to highlight the unique and saving ministry of Jesus Christ, and they work with the church year to unfold that reality. These readings do expose Christians assembled for worship to much of the gospels and other New Testament writings. It is a powerful tool for the church's proclamation of Jesus Christ.

The Revised Common Lectionary is divided into three annual cycles of readings. The gospel readings

in year A come primarily from St. Matthew, year B from St. Mark, and year C from St. Luke. St. John is used in all three years. Each cycle begins on the First Sunday in Advent of the church year and continues through out the final Sunday, Christ the King.

The Revised Common Lectionary also provides for two systems of readings from the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament). One is based on lessons that relate to the gospel for the day. The other uses continuous reading from the Hebrew Scriptures. The ELCA has chosen to encourage the use of the related lessons, rather than the continuous reading. However, the lectionaries published by this church that contain full texts for reading provide the continuous track in an appendix.

Besides the Sunday lectionary, the ELCA also provides a daily lectionary. Within the daily lectionary, readings appointed for Thursday through Saturday prepare for the coming Sunday's readings while readings appointed for Monday through Wednesday reflect back on the previous Sunday's readings.

MONTHLY BIBLE VERSE

This Bible verse was selected by Harold Usgaard, bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, for everyone in the synod to study.

"...The word of the Lord endures forever.' That word is the good news that was announced to you."
1 PETER 1:25



ABOUT OUR SYNOD

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod is a faith community of 131,000 baptized people in 185 congregations as well as related institutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Its geographic area includes 15 counties in the southeastern corner of Minnesota.

The Bridge is a monthly publication of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA. For more information, contact the synod office:

SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD, ELCA
1001 14TH ST. NW, SUITE 300
ROCHESTER, MN 55901-2551
(507) 280-9457
WWW.SEMNSYNOD.ORG