

December 2008

Anchor Park & East Anchorage United Methodist Churches Bible-in-a-Year Reading Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Galatians 5:1-15 Lamentations 5 Psalm 147	2 Galatians 5:16-26 Ezekiel 1 Psalm 148	3 Galatians 6 Ezekiel 2-3 Psalm 149	4 Ephesians 1 Ezekiel 4-5 Psalm 150	5 Ephesians 2 Ezekiel 6-7 Isaiah 40	6 Ephesians 3 Ezekiel 8-9 Isaiah 41
7 Ephesians 4:1-16 Ezekiel 10-11 Isaiah 42	8 Ephesians 4:17-32 Ezekiel 12-13 Isaiah 43	9 Ephesians 5:1-20 Ezekiel 14-15 Isaiah 44	10 Ephesians 5:21-33 Ezekiel 16 Isaiah 45	11 Ephesians 6 Ezekiel 17 Isaiah 46	12 Philippians 1:1-11 Ezekiel 18 Isaiah 47	13 Philippians 1:12-30 Ezekiel 19 Isaiah 48
14 Philippians 2:1-11 Ezekiel 20 Isaiah 49	15 Philippians 2:12-30 Ezekiel 21-22 Isaiah 50	16 Philippians 3 Ezekiel 23 Isaiah 51	17 Philippians 4 Ezekiel 24 Isaiah 52	18 Colossians 1:1-23 Ezekiel 25-26 Isaiah 53	19 Colossians 1:24-2:19 Ezekiel 27-28 Isaiah 54	20 Colossians 2:20-3:17 Ezekiel 29-30 Isaiah 55
21 Colossians 3:18-4:18 Ezekiel 31-32 Isaiah 56	22 Luke 1:1-25 Ezekiel 33 Isaiah 57	23 Luke 1:26-56 Ezekiel 34 Isaiah 58	24 Luke 1:57-80 Ezekiel 35-36 Isaiah 59	25 Luke 2:1-20 Ezekiel 37 Isaiah 60	26 Luke 2:21-52 Ezekiel 38-39 Isaiah 61	27 Luke 3:1-20 Ezekiel 40-41 Isaiah 62
28 Luke 3:21-38 Ezekiel 42-43 Isaiah 63	29 Luke 4:1-30 Ezekiel 44-45 Isaiah 64	30 Luke 4:31-44 Ezekiel 46-47 Isaiah 65	31 Luke 5:1-26 Ezekiel 48 Isaiah 66			

Bible Reading Resources

Bible Reading Challenge Reaches Its End

It's hard to believe that the journey we began in January is only about 30 days from conclusion. Many in our two congregations have been reading the Bible faithfully as well as a few from Outside who receive our newsletter and have been following along.

As we come to the conclusion of this spiritual journey through Scripture, we invite you to share any stories, reflections, or ways in which this reading challenge has impacted your life. Send your reflections and stories to Pastor Jon at: jdisburg@gmail.com.

The Two Christmas Stories

Take this time to review the two Christmas stories: Matthew 1:18-2:23 and Luke 1:5-2:52. Can you spot some of these differences?

1. Luke focuses on Mary; Matthew focuses on Joseph.
2. Luke has the shepherds; Matthew has the Wise Men.
3. In Luke, the shepherds find Jesus in a manger; in Matthew, the Wise Men find Jesus in a house.
4. Luke describes Jesus' dedication at the Temple; Matthew describes the family's fleeing to Egypt.

Can you find others?

Is the Bible a Part of You?

There's a story of a Rabbi who was quizzing his 3rd graders about the story from Exodus in which Moses brings the Ten Commandments down the mountain.

The Rabbi asked one child how many commandments were on the tablets.

The child hesitated, looked down, stammered and finally answered, "Six?" It was more question than statement.

The Rabbi asked, "How many ears do you have?"

The child said, "Two." "How do you know that?" the Rabbi asked.

"Because they're a part of me," the child responded.

"If the commandments become a part of you, then you'll know how many there are," the Rabbi challenged.

Answering a challenge to read the entire Bible over the period of a year is also opening yourself to the possibility that its contents may become a part of you.

Before you begin reading the passages for the day, pause to seek God in prayer asking for an open heart seeking to be filled and changed by what you will read so that it may become a part of who you

Paul's Letters

This month we read **Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians**. It's easy for these letters to lose their distinctive character and purposes. Here are some "hooks" to hang some of the characteristics that make these letters unique.

Ephesians:

1. The church is described more as an organism and less as an institution in this letter. The relationships within the community of faith are the building blocks of God's will.
2. Those who follow Jesus Christ have a new identity by grace through faith.
3. Mutual submission and servanthood are the hallmarks of the church.

Philippians:

1. This letter describes finding joy in the midst of dire circumstances.
2. Perseverance in living for Christ is essential.
3. This letter also gives a description of imitating Christ.
4. This letter is often treated as a devotional, to be read repeatedly.

Colossians:

1. This letter describes the struggle to remain faithful in the midst of false teachings.
2. "Christ in you" is described as the source of power and authority.