

- 
- Lastly, please read from the lectern Bible. Reading from a Bible “communicates the importance of scripture” as compared to using the paper bulletin inserts which can “give the impression that God’s word is a disposable thing with little lasting significance.” The assigned readings for the day will be tabbed ahead of time so you can easily find them. Should you have any questions about this please see Pastor Chad or a member of the worship committee.

*Note:* The Psalm of the day printed in the bulletin insert may be slightly different than that of the lectern Bible. This is due to the fact the Psalms on the insert are taken from the ELW Hymnal and in some cases have been altered so they may more easily be sung. Therefore, in an effort to make certain people can follow along a copy of the Psalm from the bulletin insert will be placed in the lectern Bible near the Old Testament reading.



---

### Bethany Lutheran Church

235 S. 2nd St.  
PO Box 236  
West Branch, IA 52358  
319-643-5998  
<http://www.wbbethany.org>

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

### Bethany Lutheran Church

## GUIDELINES FOR MINISTERS OF PROCLAMATION (LECTORS)





## GUIDELINES FOR MINISTERS OF PROCLAMATION

---

*“As Lutherans, ELCA members believe that the Bible is the written Word of God. It creates and nurtures faith through the work of the Holy Spirit and points us to Jesus Christ, the living Word and center of our faith. And in reading the Bible, we are invited into a relationship with God that both challenges us and promises us new life.”* ELCA Website ([www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org))

Thank you very much for assisting in worship as a reader. Being a reader of God’s word is not only a wonderful experience but an awesome responsibility. We are blessed by the gifts you share with us as a reader and hope this guide helps as you prepare through the week and proclaim God’s word during worship.

Gerald Spice writes in *Assisting Ministers and Readers*, “The public reading of scripture is proclamation more than it is reading.” Additionally, “By taking great care with the task of reading, the assisting minister becomes an agent of the Holy Spirit in the midst of the assembly.” Each of you in proclaiming the scripture are ministers of God’s word. Again, thank you very much and may the Spirit be with you!

### Important Information

- Read the appointed texts prior to Sunday out loud even in front of a mirror or another person. Additionally, you are welcome to come and practice at church during the week or before worship.
  - Pay careful attention to words where you are in doubt about the pronunciation. Pastor Chad has a pronunciation guide in his office for biblical names that is available for use. Additionally, there are many Internet resources available to help that provide phonetic pronunciation. (e.g., <http://betterdaysarecoming.com/bible/pronunciation.html>)
  - Practice pace, pitch, projection, use of pauses, and emphasis upon significant words that helps convey the meaning of the text.
  - Breathe deeply and relax! No one is perfect and we all mess up and it’s alright. Find your place, start a word or sentence over, and trust in the Spirit’s presence to see you through. You will do great!
- Prior to reading the text simply state, “A reading from name of book, the xx chapter. (e.g., A reading from Isaiah, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter) After that take a brief pause and begin the reading.
  - At the conclusion of the text, look at the assembly and say, “The word of the Lord.” The assembly will then respond by saying, “Thanks be to God.”
  - Psalms – You are entrusted with deciding how to read the appointed Psalm. Traditionally, as a worshipping community, we have read the Psalms in dialogue with one another. For example, as the reader you may read the odd number verses while the assembly reads the even number verses or men read and then women. There are many possibilities and we are always open to trying new things. If you desire to try something new please visit with Pastor Chad ahead of time.