**Christ Lutheran Church, Marietta, GA**

**Lector Duties**

In Sunday worship, the lector is responsible for either reading the Narrative Lectionary reading or the Revised Common Lectionary lessons and a responsive psalm. At other services, the duties may vary, but they will always involve reading the Scripture. This is one of the most significant parts of any worship service, and it is important to prepare so that you can read well and the lesson is meaningful for those who are in the congregation.

To sign up as lector, please go to the Sunday Servant link found on the bottom of the church’s website clcwestcobb.org. Sign up on your chosen Sunday and follow the prompts. You can sign up for more than one Sunday during the same visit, but please limit yourself to once or twice a month. We have many people who would also like to participate as lector.

If you cannot read on your scheduled date, please delete your name off of the Signup Genius and contact another person from the lector’s list as soon as possible to take your place. If possible, contact the church office no later than the Wednesday before your scheduled Sunday to inform of any changes.

Here are a few tips:

Prior to Sunday

1. Take the time to read the lessons ahead of time. How do you know what the lessons are for your Sunday? The CLC office manager will email you the readings on the Wednesday before the Sunday you read. If you do not receive the readings, please email the office manager at lutherch@bellsouth.net. The next Sunday’s readings are also listed in the bulletins.

2. Practice reading out loud. That way you will be able to divide the phrases properly and find anything that might trip you up.

3. If your reading includes some names that you aren't sure how to pronounce, download the app “Biblical Pronunciations”. The app will say the word out loud and you can repeat it as many times as you like. You can also ask the pastor to pronounce the word for you prior to worship.

4. It is best to read slowly and clearly. If you get lost in the reading, just stop and restart.

5. Pray.

On Sunday

1. Arrive at church 15 minutes prior to worship service. Make sure that the microphone is in the proper position BEFORE the service starts, if possible. Please double check there is a copy of the readings on the pulpit.

2. Look at the bulletin. There may be special music or liturgy prior to you reading the lessons.

3. When it is your time to read, walk up to the front and pause briefly before the altar and bow your head, and proceed to the pulpit. Carefully. Prayerfully.

4. Locate the readings on the pulpit. Pause. Use the time to breathe deeply.

5. Then look up and announce the text loudly, clearly and with gravitas that every verse of the bible deserves. Keep the announcement simple. “A reading from the Colossians” will suffice. The chapter and verse are listed in the bulletin.

6. Following the announcement, pause again using the time to ready the first sentence and allow the assembly to ready themselves for the task of hearing. Begin strong and confident. Read slowly and clearly. If you get lost, just stop locate your place and continue. If you stumble on a word, just correct yourself and carry on (especially with the hard names).

7. When the reading ends, pause again. “This is the Word of the Lord.” This is not a throwaway line. Deliver it with the same energy and commitment applied to the reading. The reader’s earnest ending will elicit a heartfelt response from the assembly: “Thanks be to God!”

8. While reading the psalm (if necessary), please pause between your line and the assembly’s response. Please read the response with them slowly and clearly.

9. After the end of the last reading, please say “Please rise/stand for the Gospel.” Step off the pulpit, walk slowly to the altar and bow your head. Walk slowly back to your seat. Prayerfully and carefully.

During Covid – please wear your mask up to the pulpit. Remove it while reading. Place it back on your face over your nose and mouth while walking towards the altar.