LECTOR

JOB DESCRIPTION

2016

The lector reads the First and Second Lessons during the worship service. In order to be able to interpret the Scriptures correctly it is important that the Lector read them ahead of time. They will be e-mailed to you early in the week from the church office. Though the reading is always done word-for-word from a reliable translation of the scripture, in a way the reading on a Sunday morning is like a fresh retelling of the story. That means the reader must understand the passage and be familiar with its mood and rhythms to communicate it effectively.

**Scheduling and Assignments**

The church secretary prepares a monthly schedule and lists the Readers and the dates of their service in the ***Redeemer Ringer***. Each week in the bulletin there is a reminder of who will serve as Partners in Ministry for the following week; this includes who will be Lector. If you cannot read on your scheduled date, try to trade with another reader, and notify the church office of the change. If it is a last minute (Sunday morning) problem, call and let the Pastor know so that arrangements can be made.

**Preparing to read**

First of all, do plan on some preparation time. Look at the lessons several days in advance. Here are some questions to consider as you study the lessons you will read:

1. What is the main point of this lesson? (You may need to read the verses around the lesson to understand the context.) What words seem especially important? How will you give them emphasis?
2. Are there words that you do not know how to pronounce?
3. What does this lesson sound like if you read it out loud? A passage always “sounds” different when read silently than when read aloud. Some ideas from experienced readers:
* Practice where to pause and where to take breaths; mark these on your copy of the lesson if you wish.
* Remember to adjust your pace to the mood and complexity of the passage.
* Listeners need time to comprehend difficult ideas and long sentences; **slow down for these**.
* Notice the acoustics in the sanctuary. It is a large room with challenging sound issues, and it seems to require slower, clearer speaking than needed in regular conversation.

**Where and when to sit and stand**

Readers may sit anywhere. You might want to choose a seat near the front, perhaps near an aisle.

The lessons follow the Prayer of the Day. After the prayer, the congregation is seated, and you then walk up to the pulpit. If you need to adjust the microphone, do so.

After the first lesson, the Psalm is sung or read responsively. If you are the psalmist, pause momentarily after the first lesson and announce the Psalm of the day. If you are not leading the psalm, conclude saying, “The Word of the Lord” and be seated in a seat next to the pastor. At the end of the Psalm, return to the pulpit for the second lesson, returning to the congregation after the conclusion of the second reading.

**Introductions and conclusions**

You may introduce the lesson in several ways,

1. “The first lesson is from the 10th Chapter of Deuteronomy, beginning with the 14th verse.”
2. “Deuteronomy 10, verses 14-23.”
3. “The first lesson is from Deuteronomy.”

There is no one right way to do this. Use the words that are most comfortable for you.

At the end of the lesson, pause and say, “The Word of the Lord,” or whatever conclusion is printed in the bulletin.

If you are concerned about being nervous:

Recognize that feeling nervous is normal. Probably the best way to control nervousness is to prepare well and then concentrate on the story you want to communicate to the congregation. If you can immerse yourself in the passage and try to convey it to others, you will be less self-conscious.