

News and Notes of Interest

Please use our new Narthex to enter and exit the Sanctuary!
Divine Service Schedule Change: Divine Service 9:00 A.M. followed by coffee and dessert time at 10:15 A.M. Sunday School and Bible Study will follow beginning at 10:30 A.M. Elders

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND MIDWEEK FAMILY NIGHT

May the Lord richly bless all parents, youth, children, teachers and volunteers as we gather around God's Word, That we may grow together in fear and love of our Lord.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: 2/25 Andrea Fullerton
2/27 Coley Lacy 2/28 Sue Fintel, Amanda Zeisler
3/01 Kelvin Wolzen 3/02 Norma Bosle, Sandy Reese

BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES: 2/24 Ernesto Alvidrez
2/28 Shannon Blakley, Diana Troudt, Maxine Weseman
3/02 Zach Zeisler

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES: 2/25 Jeremy & Megan Shuler

HIGHER THINGS DEVOTIONS & PORTALS OF PRAYER

available in the Narthex February 10-March 5, 2019. Please check in this weeks bulletin for Bulletin Study Notes for the Christian Layperson.

PEACE KEYS: Trustees are trying to find out who has Church, Garage, Parsonage, or Lincoln ST. keys only to better identify who has a key, and it is not our intent to ask you to turn your key in unless you want to. Glen Krueger, Trustee Chairman will be in the Fellowship Hall after Sunday Services.

6:00pm Men's Steak Night - Monday, March 4th. Sign-up Sheet in the Narthex-cooks appreciate all who register early. Thanks!

ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL: "Preparing Students for real life success & for eternity!" Join us for RALLY NIGHT at Zion Lutheran School! Tuesday, March 12 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Meet our Teachers, Free Nacho Bar! www.zionhastings.org or call 402-462-5012 465 South Marian Road, Hastings, NE 68901

FIRE! FIRE! FIRE! The 14th annual FIRE banquet returns on March 2, at the Adams Co. Fairgrounds in Hastings. Doors open at 5 pm; banquet at 6:30 pm with live and silent auctions to follow. Tickets are \$60/person or \$800 for a reserved table of ten. Zion Lutheran (462-5012), Christ Lutheran (744-4991).

LIFEQUOTE: And what about those mothers who acted on their fears and aborted their child? We need to be there for them as well, assuring them of a loving, merciful, forgiving God—reminding them that there is no sin that Jesus did not pay for on the cross!" *Duane Matz, former lay pastor with the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC) and Christian radio announcer. (For those who have made an abortion decision, there is a Word of Hope, Lutherans For Life's post-abortion healing ministry. Call 888.217.8679 or email info@word-of-hope.org.) - A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*

PREMIER CONFERENCE FOR LUTHERAN LAITY...

You're invited to attend the Issues, Etc. "Making the Case" Conference Friday, June 7 and [Saturday, June 8](#) at Concordia University Chicago. Topics include: Secular Progressivism, Christian Joy, The Lord's Supper, The Hippocratic Oath and Conservatism. Speakers include: Matt Harrison, Ross Douthat, Hans Fiene, Wesley Smith, Will Weedon and Aaron Wolf. Early bird registration is \$115 and includes three meals. For more information, visit www.issuesetc.org or call (618) 223-8385.

LCMS (Sexagesima)

Luke 8:11 - "The seed is the word of God." The plant begins as a seed, and everything in the Church begins with the Word. "In the beginning the Word was with God." "He saved us by the regeneration of water and the Word." "The Word of the Lord stands forever." We never outgrow our need to hear the Word of God. We never achieve such greatness that we don't need the blessings of God's Word. Rather the Christian life is one of always striving to conform our lives to God's Word to live out the truth of our Baptisms, that we are God's children by the power of his Word.

Sexagesima

February 24th
9:00am



Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

906 N. California Ave Hastings, NE 68901
402-462-9023

www.peacelutheranhastings.org
peacelutheranhastings@gmail.com

Welcome to Peace!

We are glad that you are here as we gather around the Word and Sacraments of our Lord Jesus Christ! If you have not already done so, we ask that you sign the Guest Book at the entrance to the church. Contact information can be written in the Fellowship Book located in the aisle side of each pew. If you do not have a church home and are interested in becoming a member here at Peace, please contact an Elder.

The Lord's Supper is a Gift . . . and as with all our Lord's gifts, we desire to give and receive them as He intends. The Lord's Supper is for our benefit, but it can be received unworthily. *"Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord"* (1 Corinthians 11:27). Therefore, in faithfulness to our Lord, and in love for you, Peace follows the practice of closed communion. If you are a fellow LCMS member, please let an Elder know beforehand!

All Guests should visit with any of our Elders before coming to the Altar to receive the Lord's Supper. If you do not have opportunity to visit with an Elder prior to the service check with our Head Elder, Roger Buck, during the week, see bottom of page for contact information.

The Divine Service utilizes beautiful Liturgies and Hymns that the Christian Church has passed down for generations, all the while retelling the story of salvation and enacting the work of Christ among us. This bulletin contains an outline to assist you in locating the various parts of the service within our Hymnal. The inserts have the Scriptures & Propers for the Day, as well as Notes about this particular Sunday or Festival of the church year. May God strengthen you today with His Word and Sacrament!

Prayers of the Church

Mourning + Family of Leota Uhri + Family of Ray Fredricks **Newborn** + Conrad Paul Reutzel, son of + Whitney & Kayla, sister, Emma **Hospice, Surgery, or Hospitalization** + Patt Lentfer + Peggy Saddler + Hudson Quandt (Infant) + Rodney Rose + Deb Johnson + Al Kress **Health Issues** + Diane Gundlach + Carol Krause + Lindsay Brettman + Margret Herbert + Jean Thom + Randy Russell **Cancer** + Maria Gomez + Merna Urwin + Kent Cohagan + Angel Adz + Kathy Sneed + Barbara Classan + Andy Jacques + Ed Elshof + Marilyn Houston **Military** + Gary Thompson + Ross Peters

In His Service

Presiding Minister: Rev. John Schmidt
Organist: Dr. Phil Hesterman Cantor: Mr. David Witt A/V: Tim Yurk
Altar Guild: Feb. Ethel S., Ruth A. Mar. Jeanne B., Marge O.
Ushers: 9:00am Harold & Janelle Ham March: Ron F., Roger B.
Elders: 02/24 Don N. 402-460-6430 03/03 Ernesto A. 402-705-3472
Bus Drivers: 02/24 NO BUS 03/03 Harold H. 402-684-9666

For emergencies during the Vacancy please contact Head Elder, Roger Buck at 308-390-3484 or email at personemlz@charter.net.

Gifts of Time and Treasure

Last Week's Attendance 119
Last Week's Offering \$ 3,940.85
Weekly Need \$ 2,250.28

OTD II Capital Campaign *Remaining Loan Balance as of 12/31/18* \$ 115,580

For more Financial Information see monthly newsletter.

A complete accounting of all financials are provided at each Quarterly Voters' Meeting.

Questions? Contact our Bookkeeper, Mrs. Jan Hinze jan@balancedbooksllc.com

The Lord's Week

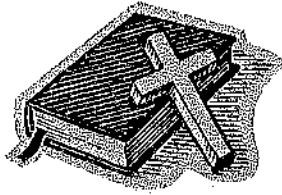
Sunday, February 24th	9:00am	Divine Service
	10:30am	Sunday School & Bible Study
Tuesday, February 26th	9:30am	Bible Study
Wednesday, February 27th	2:30pm	Calling & Caring
	5:30pm	Meal 6:00pm Classes, Choir
	7:00pm	Worship 7:30pm Youth
Sunday, March 3rd	9:00am	Divine Service
	10:30am	Voters' Meeting

Church Office hours are 9:00am to 12:00 noon and 1:00pm to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday. The office may be closed on occasion due to holidays and errands. Our Secretary is Mrs. Jeri Dush, Church Office 402-462-9023 or peacelutheranhastings@gmail.com

Scripture Alone

The Sower sows the seed of His Word (Luke 8:4-15). This Word is living and powerful (Heb. 4:9-13) to conceive new life in those who hear it. But the planting of Christ is attacked by the devil, the world, and the flesh. Satan snatches the Word away from hard hearts. The riches and pleasures of this life choke off faith. Shallow and emotional belief withers in time of temptation and trouble. But see how Christ bears this attack for us! Christ's cross was planted in the hard and rocky soil of Golgotha. A crown of thorns was placed upon His head. Satan and His demons hellishly hounded and devoured Him. Yet, through His dying and rising again, He destroyed these enemies of ours. Jesus is Himself the Seed which fell to the ground and died in order that it might sprout forth to new life and produce much grain. In Him, the weak are strong (2 Cor. 11:19-12:9). He is the Word of the Father which does not return void (Is. 55:10-13) but yields a harvest hundredfold.

Prelude & Ringing of Bells
Hymn #655
Confession & Absolution p.184
Service of the Word
Introit *insert*
Gloria Patri p.186
Kyrie
Gloria in Excelsis
Salutation & Collect
Old Testament Reading
Gradual
Epistle Reading
Gospel
Nicene Creed
Hymn of the Day #824
Sermon Luke 8: 4-15
"Seed, Soil, Savior"
Offertory & Offering p.192
Prayer of the Church
Service of the Sacrament
Preface & Proper Preface p.194
Sanctus & Lord's Prayer
The Words of our Lord
Pax Domini & Agnus Dei
Distribution #630 #578 #589 #806
Dismissal & Nunc Dimittis
Thanksgiving & Collect
Salutation & Benedicamus
Benediction
Hymn #577
Postlude



VOTERS MEETING

In conjunction with the Endowment Committee and the House Ad-Hoc Committee I would like to inform the Congregation of Peace Lutheran Church that there will be a voters meeting held on Sunday March 3rd, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. for the purpose of exercising one of the options put forth on the Lincoln Property. All eligible voters are invited to attend and participate. Information is in the Narthex to familiarize yourself with the options. The senior youth will provide lunch with a freewill offering following the meeting. *(Please contact Brenda Christensen with questions about the lunch.)*

Wes Christensen, President

Sexagesima

24 February 2019 Anno Domini

INTROIT (Ps. 44:1-2, 7-8; antiphon: Ps. 44:23, 25a, 26a)



*Awake! Why are you sleeping, | O Lord?**

Rouse yourself! Do not reject us for- | ever!

*For our soul is bowed down | to the dust.**

Rise up; come | to our help!

*O God, we have heard with our ears, our fathers have | told us,**

what deeds you performed in their days, in the | days of old:

*you with your own hand drove out the nations, but them you | planted;**

you afflicted the peoples, but them you | set free.

But you have saved us | from our foes
and have put to shame those who | hate us.*

*In God we have boasted con- | tinually,**

and we will give thanks to your name for- | ever.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

GRADUAL (Ps. 83:18, 13)

[Let your enemies] know that you alone, whose name | is the LORD,
are the Most High over | all the earth.*

*O my God, make them like | whirling dust,**

like chaff be- | fore the wind.

TRACT (Ps. 60:1-2,5)

*O God, you have rejected us, broken our de- | fences; **

you have been angry; oh, re- | store us.

*You have made the land to quake; you have torn it | open; **

repair its breaches, for it | totters.

*That your beloved ones may be de- | livered, **

give salvation by your right hand and | answer us!

Old Testament: Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹²"For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³"Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

Epistle: Hebrews 4:9-13

⁹So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, ¹⁰for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

¹¹Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. ¹²For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Holy Gospel: Luke 8:4-15

⁴When a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to [Jesus], he said in a parable: ⁵"A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. ⁶And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. ⁷And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. ⁸And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold." As he said these things, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." ⁹And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, ¹⁰he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that 'seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.' ¹¹Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹²The ones along the path are those who have heard. Then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. ¹⁴And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. ¹⁵As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience."

¹⁴ "And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature.

- On this soil the Word has competition: worries, riches, and pleasures. In Mark 4:19, the pleasures are defined as "desires for other things," or in other words: a discontent with the Word of God, as if it wasn't good enough. The Word is choked, meaning faith is smothered.
- "Their fruit does not mature." Faith that does not bear fruit is not faith, because faith always bears fruit. That's just what faith does.
- The fruit could be defined as faith toward God and love toward the neighbor, the two marks of the Christian life (e.g. Ephesians 1:15).

¹⁵ "As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience."

- We cannot take refuge in the fact that we hear God's Word: so does everyone. Hearing the Word, while necessary for salvation, does not guarantee salvation. We do not trust hearing the Word. We trust the One of whom the Word speaks: we trust Jesus. Jesus is the sower who sows on all manner of soil, who would rather His Word be trampled and snatched and scorched and choked than that we poor sinners should be without it. His Word is like Him: Jesus is the Word that was sown on the Stone Pavement as He stood trial before Pilate and was taken away by the devil. Jesus is the Word that was sown on that rocky hill called Golgotha where He sprang up on the cross and withered away. Jesus is the Word that was sown among the thorns of chief priests and scribes and Pharisees and Sadducees, who competed with Jesus out of love for the world. And it was by sowing Himself on our wretched soil, by dying and rising, that He made a little plot of good soil: people who are saved for His sake.
- Luther alludes to this verse in the Large Catechism, commenting on the Third Article of the Creed: "In the first place, he [the Holy Spirit] has a unique community in the world, which is the mother that begets and bears every Christian through the Word of God, which the Holy Spirit reveals and proclaims, through which he illuminates and inflames hearts so that they *gasp and accept it, cling to it, and persevere in it*" (Large Catechism II.42). The Holy Spirit working through the Word is the only one who can make us good soil.



www.steadfastlutherans.org/parish



SEXAGESIMA

60 days before Easter

Study Notes for the Christian Layperson

by: Rev. Andrew Richard

Collect of the Day:

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Introit:

Psalm 44:1-2, 7-8 (antiphon: v. 23, 25a, 26a) — *God has planted his people*

Psalm:

Psalm 84 (antiphon: v. 4) — *Blessed are those who dwell in the house of the LORD*

Old Testament Reading:

Isaiah 55:10-13 — *The Word of God does not return empty, but accomplishes His purpose*

Gradual:

Psalm 83:18, 13 — *A prayer against everything that threatens the increase of God's Word*

Epistle:

2 Corinthians 11:19-12:9 — *Christ's power is made perfect in weakness*

Tract:

Psalm 60:1-2, 5 — *O God, you have rejected us, broken our defenses; you have been angry; oh, restore us. You have made the land to quake; you have torn it open; repair its breaches, for it totters. That your beloved ones may be delivered, give salvation by your right hand and answer us!*

LUKE 8:4-15 ESV

Author and Date:

Written by St. Luke from material that was compiled by him, likely between AD 58-60 while he kept company with St. Paul during Paul's imprisonment in Caesarea. While himself not an eyewitness of Jesus' ministry, he has investigated all things very closely and has his information from eyewitnesses (see the Prologue of Luke's Gospel, Luke 1:1-4). The Parable of the Sower appears also in Matthew 13:1-23 and Mark 4:1-20.

⁴ And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable,

- This great crowd is made up of the four types of soil that Jesus details in the parable.
- "He said." This is the Sower sowing the Word.

⁵ "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it.

- "Went out." Like the owner of the vineyard in last week's parable. This is how the Gospel begins: with Jesus acting, by Him coming to us because we could never come to Him.
- Two things happen on this type of soil: 1) the seed gets trampled, 2) birds eat it.

⁶ "And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture.

- In this account of the parable, Jesus speaks of the lack of moisture. In Matthew's account of this parable, Jesus focuses on the scorching sun. Lack of moisture and scorching sun are a bad combination.

⁷ "And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it.

- This type of soil experiences competition. Thorns fight against the seed for possession of the soil.

⁸ "And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold." As he said these things, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

- The good soil is known by the fact that it produces fruit. As noted in Matthew's and Mark's accounts, some yield thirty, some sixty, some a hundredfold. The amount of fruit is not the point, just that the seed *does* bear fruit.

⁹ And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, ¹⁰ he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that 'seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.'

- The Lord says that the Word that goes out from His mouth "shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11). It is true that God "desires all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 4:2). But it is also true that the Word of God *always* does something: if it is not received in faith, it is received as a hardening of heart, just as the Word of the Lord spoken

through Moses hardened Pharaoh's heart. In this way Jesus carries out the same duty that was given to Isaiah: "Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes" (Isaiah 6:10, Jesus quotes from the same verse here in Luke). Some soils receive God's Word and it results in the strengthening of faith, some receive God's Word and it results in the hardening of their hearts. But it is *always* either one or the other.

¹¹ "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

- Jesus doesn't identify the sower, perhaps because He identifies himself so closely with His Word that He can say whatever happens to the Word happens to Him.
- The seed is the Word. The various types of soil correspond to various ways of hearing or receiving God's Word. Note that all the soils hear the Word of God, so wherever God's Word is spoken, all these types of soil can be found.

¹² "The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.

- The seed on the path would be the Word that goes in one ear and out the other, the one who hears the Word in the pew and leaves it there when he walks out the door. The devil steals the Word by many means: distraction, when one focuses on other things when the Word is being spoken; laziness, when one doesn't want to make any effort to follow along through a sermon or apply God's Word to one's own life or open a Bible at home; boredom, when one doesn't pay attention to the Word "because I've heard it all before." In this way the Word is stolen by the devil and trampled by men.
- Notably the devil can't take the Word from the ears, and ultimately he doesn't have to. He's concerned about the heart, because it's with the *heart* that we believe and are saved. No Word in the heart = damnation.

¹³ "And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away.

- The lack of moisture was the problem when Jesus initially spoke the parable. When He explains it, He focuses on the time of testing (the scorching sun, as in Matthew 13:6). Both are a problem. When the sun beats on a plant the plant can endure when it has plenty of moisture, which in this case would be hearing plenty of God's Word. So times of tribulation are very beneficial for Christians who are receiving enough moisture. A lack of nourishment combined with a scorching sun leads to an initial enthusiasm, but then the person falls away.
- "Fall away." The words "apostatize" and "apostasy" come from the Greek word that's used in this verse: the person believed, but then becomes an unbeliever once more.
- The "times of testing" correspond to tribulations (hard times), persecutions (hatred from the devil and the world toward Christians), and temptations (the struggle against the devil, world, and flesh that seek to deceive us and mislead us into false belief, despair, etc).