

## 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 Pastor Gaunt 308-627-7238.

**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 Pastor Gaunt know beforehand!

**All Guests** should visit with our pastor before coming to the Altar to receive the Lord's Supper. If you do not have opportunity to visit with our Pastor prior to the service, he is more than willing to visit with you during the week.

## Prayers of the Church

**Mourning** + Mabel Schmidt **Hospice, Surgery, or Hospitalization** + Ronda Johnson + Zachary Witt + Allen Glathar + Linda Parsons **Expecting** + Katie Blackwell + Sarah Allen (complications) + Kelli Chandler + Amanda Zeisler **Health Issues** + Kay Krueger + Harold Blazer + Paul Fredricks + Margret Herbert + Randy Russell **Cancer** + Josh Schroetlin + Nickie Shellberg + Morgan Hanson + Kara Nissen + Judy Meier + Maria Gomez + Kent Cohagan + Barbara Classan + Andy Jacques + Marilyn Houston **Military** + Tyler Mars + Ross Peters + Gary Thompson

## In His Service

Minister: Rev. Micah R. Gaunt  
Organist: Dr. Phil Hesterman Cantor: Mr. David Witt A/V: Mr. Tim Yurk  
Altar Guild: Feb. Ruth A., Ethel S. Mar. Jeanne B., Marge O.  
Ushers: Feb. Roger Buck, Mike Nissen Mar. Ron Fullerton  
Elders: 2/16 Kevin H. 402-984-2182 2/23 Roger B. 308-390-3484  
Bus Drivers: 2/16 Gary O. 402-469-9797 2/23 Wes C. 402-984-4650

## Gifts of Time and Treasure

Last Week's Attendance 108  
Last Week's Offering \$ 1,628.55  
Weekly Need \$ 3,475.00  
OTD II Capital Campaign: Remaining Loan Balance as of 12/31/19 is \$.00 balance

For more Financial Information see monthly newsletter.

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

Contact our Treasurer, Jerry Blazer jblazer@imne.com Office Hours: 9a-12p-1p-4p Monday-Friday

## 2020 Theme: All In-Being Present in an Age of Distraction

### 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.

### Pre-Lent

We do not enter into the holy season of Lent and Easter lightly. Therefore, for three Sundays the church prepares herself in what are sometimes referred to as the "Gesima Sundays." These are the Sundays roughly 70, 60, and 50 days before Easter. The first liturgical change that you'll notice is that we abstain from singing "Alleluia" until the time that we sing it again on that joyful Easter morning. Let us begin praying now that we would be present in body, mind, and heart in our Lenten journey with Jesus.

### From the Catechism:

#### Third Commandment

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

### Take Home Questions:

Listen for the words "sower" and "seed." You will hear them more than once. Where else do you hear them?

**Readings for Next Sunday:** Isaiah 35:3-7, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Luke 18:31-43

## The Lord's Week

Sunday, February 16th	9:00am Divine Service - after service join us Parish Hall - Capital Campaign Zero Balance
	10:30am Sunday School & Bible Study
	12:30pm Stewardship Committee
	4:00pm Youth Group
Wednesday, February 19th	6:00pm Choir & Midweek Classes
Saturday, February 22nd	9a-5pm Zone L.W.M.L. Planning Workshop
Sunday, February 23rd	9:00am Divine Service
	10:30am Sunday School & Mr. Timothy Leech Heartland Sunday
	6:00-8pm Pre-Lent Game Night-bring treats to share

Prelude & Ringing of Bells  
Hymn #652  
**Confession & Absolution** p. 184  
**Service of the Word**  
Introit *insert*  
Gloria Patri  
Kyrie  
Gloria in Excelsis  
Salutation and Collect  
Epistle Reading  
Tract  
Holy Gospel  
Nicene Creed p. 191  
Hymn of the Day #824  
Sermon  
Offertory & Offering  
Retirement of the Debt #790  
Verse 1, 2, 5  
Prayer of the Church  
**Service of the Sacrament** p.194  
Preface & Proper Preface  
Sanctus & Lord's Prayer  
The Words of Our Lord  
Pax Domini & Agnus Dei  
Distribution & Hymns  
#630 #578 #589 #806  
Dismissal & Nunc Dimittis  
Thanksgiving & Collect  
Salutation & Benedicamus  
Benediction  
Hymn #577  
Postlude  
Announcements  
P: *Go In Peace*  
C: **Thanks Be To God!**

# News and Notes of Interest

*Please use new Narthex to enter and exit the Sanctuary!*

**Volunteerism:** During the month of February we are thinking about how we steward God's gifts in service to others. While, we serve our neighbor all year round, the Board of Stewardship is inviting you to think and pray more intentionally about how we serve others in love.

**TODAY** we will recognize the completion of the Capital Campaign. Cake Reception and brief Bible Study after the service.

**Heartland Sunday:** Please join us on Sunday, February 23rd during the bible class hour to hear Mr. Timothy Leech talk about what's going on at Heartland Lutheran High School.

**Pre-Lent Game Night!** Join us **Sunday, February 23rd from 6pm - 8pm** in the Parish Hall to enjoy games and fellowship. We will have a pitch tournament for those interested. Otherwise, bring your favorite board game/deck of cards and a snack to share. All ages are invited.

**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:** 2/19 Nadeen Debban 2/20 Jackie Russell 2/21 Arnold Gaunt, Maxine Weseman

**BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES:** 2/16 Aletha Jacobitz, Carrie Lacy 2/17 Vickie Haubold 2/23 Arnold Gaunt, Kay Davis

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:** 2/17 Kevin & Melissa Hart

**PORTALS of PRAYER & HIGHER THINGS DEVOTIONS** available in the Narthex, copies February 2 - 25, 2020. Study Notes for the Christian Layperson in bulletin.

**High School Youth!** Join us **February 28-29**, 8pm-8am for the Winter 2020 Youth Lock-in at Zion Lutheran Church, Hastings. Ingathering for Wellspring Pregnancy Center. For more information contact Pastor Micah Gaunt at 308.627.7238 or revgaunt@gmail.com or Pastor Paul Warneke at 402.519.8924 or pastorwarneke@hotmail.com

**Lutheran Witness** renewals and new orders for the 2020 subscription year are now being accepted. The Lutheran Witness envelope can be added in the offering plate make checks to Peace Lutheran Church or please call the Church Office for any questions. Thanks for supporting LW!

**RED and BLUE**, the Heartland Lutheran High School annual banquet and auction, is Saturday, March 28 at Riverside Country Club in Grand Island. Doors open at 4:30 pm, with silent auction and dinner at 6 pm. This year's theme is **Fire and Ice**. Tickets and sponsorships may be purchased through the school office Monday-Friday from 8:00 am-4:00 pm. If you have questions, please call or email Chief School Administrator Tim Leech at 308-385-3900, [principal@heartlandlutheran.org](mailto:principal@heartlandlutheran.org).

**LIFEQUOTE** "The key to a Christian family living out His love—the mutual love we can only know because God first loved us—is Jesus. In the Christian household where friends, extended family members, and neighbors come together, we love one another and forgive one another. We do this because God loves and forgives us through the life, death, and resurrection of His beloved Son Jesus." *Ron Schlegel, The Lutheran Laymen - A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*

**WHERE CHRISTIANITY MEETS CULTURE...**Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's subjects include: Defending Boyhood, The Academy Awards, The Death of Education, Rebuilding Institutions and more. You can listen live or on-demand at [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org) and on the LPR mobile app.

*Stewardship Focus of the Month: Volunteerism*  
*I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything,*  
*but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do*  
*interfere with what I can do.*

Sexagesima

February 16th  
9:00am



## Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

*The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

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# Wednesdays in Lent

Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever.

Amen.

Service at 7pm  
Supper served from 5:30 – 6:30pm

<u>WORSHIP</u>	<u>READINGS</u>	<u>MEALS</u>
2/26 Ash Wed.	Matthew 6: 5-21 <i>The Lord's Prayer: The Battle Cry of Faith</i>	L.W.M.L
3/4 Lent 1	John 17: 6-19 <i>Hallowed Be Thy Name</i>	Elders
3/11 Lent 2	Luke 11: 5-13 <i>Thy Kingdom Come</i>	Youth
3/18 Lent 3	John 6: 40 <i>Thy Will Be Done on Earth as It Is in Heaven</i>	Alvidrez & Education
3/25 Lent 4	Matthew 6: 31-33 <i>Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread</i>	Council
4/01 Lent 5	Matthew 6:14-15 <i>Forgive Us Our Trespasses As We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us</i>	Open

# Sexagesima

16 February 2020 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.*

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

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

*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!*

### Epistle: Hebrews 4:9-13

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

<sup>11</sup>Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. <sup>12</sup>For 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. <sup>13</sup>And 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

“When a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to [Jesus], he said in a parable: <sup>5</sup>“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. <sup>6</sup>And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. <sup>7</sup>And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. <sup>8</sup>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.” <sup>9</sup>And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, <sup>10</sup>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.’ <sup>11</sup>Now the parable is this: ‘The seed is the word of God. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>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.”

<sup>14</sup> “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).

<sup>15</sup> “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 *grasp 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](http://www.steadfastlutherans.org/parish)



# SEXAGESIMA

*60 days before Easter*

Study Notes for the Christian Layperson

by: Rev. Andrew Richard

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## 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> "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.

<sup>6</sup> "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.

<sup>7</sup> "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.

<sup>8</sup> "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.

<sup>9</sup> And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, <sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> "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.

<sup>12</sup> "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.

<sup>13</sup> "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).