

ANNOUNCEMENTS
WEEK OF FEBRUARY 7, 2021

IN OUR PRAYERS: Ed Clifford; Ashlyn; Jim Lambert; Chuck Kellogg; Stan & Priscilla Peters; Jim Cleveland; Mason Salomon; Jerry & Rebecca Gump

THE RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE is this Thurs., Feb. 11, from 1-6 pm.

YOUTH GROUP RETREAT! Friday and Saturday, February 26-27, for all 6th – 12th grade youth. Cost is \$20 per person. Feel free to invite friends! See Pastor or Sem. Marks to register or for more information.

LENTEN POTLUCKS will be every Wednesday at 6:00pm beginning February 17. The last potluck supper will be March 24. Join us!

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES will focus on the story of salvation in five major Old Testament passages. Join us for the stories of Creation, the Flood, the Crossing of the Red Sea, Jonah, and the Fiery Furnace.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: Old Testament highlights

THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY: The Book of Isaiah

CALENDAR

Sun. Feb. 7 (Sexagesima)	8:00 & 10:00am Holy Communion 9:00am Bible Study / Sunday School 11:30am Confirmation
Wed. Feb. 10	11:00am Holy Communion (mask req'd.) 7:00pm Holy Communion
Thu. Feb. 11	1:00-6:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive 7:00pm Bible Study
Sun. Feb. 14 (Quinquagesima)	8:00 & 10:00am Worship 9:00am Sunday School / Bible Study 11:30am Confirmation (NO YOUTH GROUP)

FAITH PRAYS

These suggestions can help you and your family stay connected to the church year and focus on what we hear, sing, and pray together on Sunday. Sundays form, shape, and lead us Christians into the week. Pick three days this week to reflect on Sunday's readings, prayers, and hymns. Each day you might do this:

1. Read one reading and the "Thinking About." How do the readings fit together? What themes do you see?
2. Sing or read the hymn. Ask Pr. Mullet to borrow a hymnal. You should be able to find it on YouTube if it's unfamiliar!
3. Pray the Collect of the Day and the Lord's Prayer.

THE WEEK OF SEXAGESIMA (FEB. 7)

OT: Isaiah 55:10-13

GOSPEL: Luke 8:4-15

EPISTLE: Hebrews 4:9-13

HYMN: LSB 586

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.

THINKING ABOUT THE READINGS

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. He is the Word of the Father which does not return void (Is. 55:10-13) but yields a harvest hundredfold.