

ANNOUNCEMENTS
WEEK OF FEBRUARY 13, 2022

IN OUR PRAYERS: Jim Cleveland; Carolyn Wilkins; Jack & Lureen Vaught; Tony Sikora; Cindy; Janet Burgland & family

ADULT INSTRUCTION CLASS: Pastor will be holding a class for those interested in joining our church on Sunday mornings between services beginning TODAY! All are highly encouraged to join us for a refresher!

OUR CONDOLENCES are extended to Janet Burgland and her family at the death of her mother, Dolores. The family will receive friends at Sheets & Childs in Churubusco this afternoon from 2:00 – 4:00pm.

“SUPER BOWL” PARTY: the youth group and families will be having a potluck tonight beginning at 6:00pm. Bring a board game or card game if you’d like—above all, come and enjoy fellowship with us! (If you want to watch the football game, too, we’ll be sure to have it on one of the TVs).

WOMEN’S GROUP: our Women’s Group will meet at 8:00am on Saturday, February 26. After that we’re thinking the third Saturday of the month moving forward. Join with sisters in Christ for refreshments, fellowship, and study.

CALENDAR

Sun. Feb. 13 (Septuagesima)	8:00 & 10:00am Divine Service 9:00am Sunday School / Bible Study / Instruction 11:30am Confirmation 6:00pm “Super Bowl” Potluck
Tue. Feb. 15	8:30am Greek Study 3:00pm Bible Study (Psalms)
Wed. Feb. 16	8:30am Matins 9:00am Book of Concord Study 7:00pm Divine Service
Thu. Feb. 17	7:00pm Bible Study (Galatians)
Sun. Feb. 20 (Sexagesima)	8:00 & 10:00am Divine Service 9:00am Sunday School / Bible Study / Instruction 11:30am Confirmation

THE BACK PAGE

You might remember from last week's Back Page that our preparation for Easter takes place in three steps. The first of those is the three "Gesima" Sundays, also called "Gesimatide." The Latin names are a countdown to Good Friday and Easter. These three Sundays before Lent (today and the next two Sundays) are focused on the grace of God and examine that grace from three perspectives:

Septuagesima ("about 70 days")—Grace is undeserved.

The collect for this Sunday implores God to graciously hear us, who are justly punished for our sin, so that we may be delivered by His goodness. The goodness of God is emphasized in the parable of the vineyard workers in the day's Gospel, Matthew 20:1-16. All the laborers receive the reward because of the goodness of the landowner and not because of their own labor or merit. We prepare for Easter by remembering that is good and Christ has borne the heat and burden of the day for us so that we might have that goodness for free.

Sexagesima ("about 60 days")—Grace is passively received.

In the collect for this Sunday we pray that God would see that we put not our trust in anything that we do and that He would mercifully defend us by His power. The parable of the sower is read as the Gospel from Luke 8:4-15. The seed of God's Word is passively received. It transforms bad soil into good and noble hearts. We pray that this would happen this also to and for us.

Quinquagesima ("about 50 days") —Grace is not easily understood.

On the Sunday before Ash Wednesday we hear Jesus predict His passion, death, and resurrection in the Gospel (Luke 18). We also hear that the disciples "understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken." We pray then that God would be gracious and patient with us and grant faith and understanding to us despite our many sins.

The three *Gesima* Sundays take on the character of Lent, but mildly. The *Alleluias* and *Gloria in Excelsis* are dropped, but the color is green and the crosses are still unveiled. This grace-focused season provides a gradual progression and a gentle transition into the more intense services and themes of Lent and Holy Week.