



FEBRUARY 2017

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The "Gesima" Season

Our liturgical preparation for Easter takes place through three distinct periods or steps. The first is the *Gesimas*. These three Sundays before Lent are mainly focused on the grace of God and examine that grace from three perspectives:

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

On the Sunday before Ash Wednesday we hear in the Gospel, Luke 18:34, Jesus predict His passion, death, and resurrection. 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 (34)." 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. This grace-focused season provides a gradual progression and gentle easing into the more intense ceremonies and denials of the other two periods/steps Lent and Passiontide (Holy Week).

Yours In Christ,
Pastor Peck



Ash Wednesday is March 1, 2017

Lutheran Women In Mission

"Buried with Him through baptism that we may live a new life" Romans 6:4



LWML Sunday is February 12th.
The ladies of Wheat Ridge will celebrate the 75th years of LWML
With a Cake reception after the Sunday Service.
Please join in the celebration.



Valentines For Vets

The LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) will have Valentines available on Sunday, January 29 and February 5 for you to send a special note to veterans who are receiving care at the VA Hospital. In some cases your card will be the only good wishes these veterans will receive while in the hospital. Bring a smile to someone who has given so much to our country.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The North Central Zone is busy making plans for upcoming events. Mark your calendars now for:

---April 29 – Spring Workshop at Gethsemane Lutheran, Northglenn. We will have a special program, Bible study, and hands-on project.

---June 24-27 – National LWML Convention in Albuquerque. More worker bees are still needed to help do the many tasks to put on such a big event. www.lwmlrmd.org is the website to find the worker forms. Please help.

---Sept. 16 or 23 – NC Zone Fall Rally to be held at Mt. Zion Lutheran, Denver, and also hosted by Resurrection in the City. Bible Study, Rocky Mt. District reporting, election of officers, a very special program.

Board of Lay Ministry
Wheat Ridge Lutheran Church

Attendance/Communion Count
November 2016

Date	Attendance	Communion
11/6/16	108	98
11/13/16	105	92
11/20/16	110	101
11/23/16 (Thanksgiving Eve)	57	54
11/27/16	99	88
11/30/16 (Advent by Candlelight)	50	N/A
Total for November 2016	529	433

Attendance/Communion Count
December 2016

Date	Attendance	Communion
12/4/16	107	100
12/7/16 (Choirs)	71	N/A
12/11/16	93	83
12/14/16 (Caroling)	20	N/A
12/18/16	93	76
12/24/16 (Christmas Eve 6 PM)	82	72
12/24/16 (Christmas Eve 10 PM)	51	51
12/25/16	89	75
Total for December 2016	606	457

NOTE:

The Board of Lay Ministry is committed to providing information about our Worship Services. It is our intention to publish this information each month into the future.



STEWARDSHIP TODAY: Time is a commodity entrusted to us by God that we cannot hoard in an ownership mentality. Time will fly away even if we try to save it. *“Which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?”* *Matthew 6:27* The Lord has given us time as part of life's resources to be managed for His purposes, and that cannot be debated. How we use our time is indeed a matter of our life of faith. (from: StewardCAST – LCMS)

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REFORMATION



Luther was called to a diet (meeting) at Worms in April 1521. At that meeting he was asked to recant all of his writings. When he refused, Emperor Charles V condemned Luther as a heretic and thus an outlaw with a price on his head. Luther's prince, Frederick the Wise, arranged for Luther to be "kidnapped" while on his way back to Wittenberg and spirited off to the Wartburg, a castle belonging to Fredrick. It was here that Luther grew his hair and beard and was disguised as a knight under the pseudonym Knight George. While in exile, Luther published a dozen books and translated the entire New Testament into German (an act that helped codify the German language). How long was he in exile? Two years? Five? No, only ten months (May 1521–March 1522).